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Here they are:

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**"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."**

*A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker*

July 20, 2004



### Oh, Woe is Me...

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espite the fact that Roger Hedgecock **OPPOSED** the passage of Prop. 13 back in 1978, he has become a born-again tax cutter.

Not so his fellow politicians of that era or this era. There is always a poor-mouth cry from the politicians of almost every stripe that government does not have enough money...and usually Prop. 13 gets blamed.

Every year the San Diego County Assessor publishes the numbers...which apparently no one reads except Richard Rider. Richard heads the San Diego Taxfighters, a relatively new organization founded because the established San Diego Taxpayers Association never saw a tax increase it did not like. The SDTA is in the pocket of the downtown business interests and rolls over for any tax increase.

Anyway, the numbers are the numbers...and San Diego County property taxes have increased since 1978 at a rate greater than inflation AND population growth!

In fact, the annual property tax collected by San Diego County is ten times what it was back then...and growing steadily each year. That is because homes are reappraised every time they are sold, and the turnover of homes, matched with heady increases in home values, has guaranteed a boon to the politicians.

O.K. – it is not enough. ALL would not be enough for the politicians because they can find more good things that “need” to be done. Just as in your life, there are always more wants than there is money to cover them...but you must exercise the sort of priority spending that politicians cannot bring themselves to do.

Robert Heinlein had it exactly right when he wrote: “What are the facts? Again and again and again – what are the facts? Shun wishful thinking, ignore divine revelation, forget what ‘the stars foretell,’ avoid opinion, care not what the neighbors think, never mind the unguessable ‘verdict of history’ – what are the facts, and to how many decimal places? You pilot always into an unknown future; facts are your only clue. Get the facts!”

Here they are:

**Commentary**

# History of San Diego County Sales Tax Rates and Collections

by Richard Rider San Diego Tax Fighters

Phone 858-530-3027

Year	Taxable Transactions	Sales Tax Rate	Sales Tax Collected	Annual Increase
1975	\$4,740,460,000	6.00%	\$284,427,600	
1976	\$5,395,786,000	6.00%	\$323,747,160	13.8%
1977	\$6,619,403,000	6.00%	\$397,164,180	22.7%
1978	\$7,564,532,000	6.00%	\$453,871,920	14.3%
1979	\$8,652,093,000	6.00%	\$519,125,580	14.4%
1980	\$9,364,087,000	6.00%	\$561,845,220	8.2%
1981	\$10,463,409,000	6.00%	\$627,804,540	11.7%
1982	\$10,642,530,000	6.00%	\$638,551,800	1.7%
1983	\$11,659,463,000	6.00%	\$699,567,780	9.6%
1984	\$13,685,235,000	6.00%	\$821,114,100	17.4%
1985	\$15,307,319,000	6.00%	\$918,439,140	11.9%
1986	\$16,404,248,000	6.00%	\$984,254,880	7.2%
1987	\$17,897,159,000	6.00%	\$1,073,829,540	9.1%
1988	\$19,381,882,000	6.50%	\$1,259,822,330	17.3%
1989	\$21,271,346,000	7.00%	\$1,488,994,220	18.2%
1990	\$21,751,246,000	7.25%	\$1,576,965,335	5.9%
1991	\$20,836,975,000	8.25%	\$1,719,050,438	9.0%
1992	\$21,357,857,000	7.75%	\$1,655,233,918	-3.7%
1993	\$21,576,327,000	7.75%	\$1,672,165,343	1.0%
1994	\$22,375,143,000	7.00%	\$1,566,260,010	-6.3%
1995	\$23,434,043,000	7.75%	\$1,816,138,333	16.0%
1996	\$25,138,565,000	7.75%	\$1,948,238,788	7.3%
1997	\$27,408,526,000	7.75%	\$2,124,160,765	9.0%
1998	\$29,616,004,000	7.75%	\$2,295,240,310	8.1%
1999	\$32,752,405,000	7.75%	\$2,538,311,388	10.6%
2000	\$36,245,418,000	7.75%	\$2,809,019,895	10.7%
2001	\$37,699,333,000	7.50%	\$2,827,449,975	0.7%
2002	\$38,595,547,000	7.75%	\$2,991,154,893	5.8%
2003	\$39,984,987,000	7.75%	\$3,098,836,493	3.6%

**Note that the sales tax collections since 1975 have grown TENFOLD, far faster than the rate of inflation.**

Note also that the sales tax PERCENTAGE rates are not exact for each year, as some years the tax changed

during the year. These figures were provided by the California Board of Equalization. Contact:

Wun-chi Wang Research and Statistics Section phone 916-445-0840

The 2003 figures are an estimate, based on the first 6 month sales tax in 2002 vs. the 1st 6 months of 2003

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