

Tax Hikes Again Confront Alabama

Alabama workers and businesses are looking at more taxes after the state legislature convenes in Montgomery February 3, if a recent poll is accurate.

A survey conducted by Capital Survey Research Center, a division of the Alabama Education Association, showed by 68.5 per cent of voters polled favor increased state revenue to support schools. As a result of a large budget hole, schools and other state agencies are facing dramatic cuts.

Alabama voters in September overwhelmingly rejected Gov. Bob Riley's proposed package that included \$1.2 billion in new tax revenue. Now voters seem to be saying "go back to the drawing board."

So where would the revenue be generated?

Some 80 per cent said increase corporations tax to the southeast average. Do the same for timberland, said 73 per cent. Raise sales taxes, but remove the food tax, responded 74 per cent.

A majority of the people polled called for increased cigarette taxes, a state lottery, and taxes on video gambling at dog tracks.

Rep. Mike Hubbard, Auburn Republican and floor leader for Gov. Riley, said he is working with the governor to come up with proposals for the legislature.
