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ICYMI: *Sacramento Bee*: Opinion: Tax boosts would also affect poor

(SACRAMENTO)— The 2016 California ballot will include at least one, and possibly several, tax increase measures that will have a negative impact on low-income residents, argued Dan Walters in the *Sacramento Bee* over the weekend. Proposition 30 will likely receive an extension alongside a boost to cigarette taxes, a severance tax on oil production, and a "split roll" that aims to increase taxes on commercial property. At a time when the state has a significant surplus, new taxes are not needed and will just hurt those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

***Sacramento Bee*: Dan Walters: Opinion: Tax boosts would also affect poor**

It's fairly certain that the 2016 California ballot will include at least one, and perhaps several, tax increase measures.

It will be a presidential election with a relatively high turnout of voters, which would increase the odds of passing new taxes.

The centerpiece of what some have dubbed "taxapalooza" is likely to be an extension of the surtax on high-income Californians that was imposed by voters in 2012 via Proposition 30 and is due to expire in 2018.

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However, extending Proposition 30 is not the only tax hike kicking around.

Health groups want to boost cigarette taxes, both to raise revenue and discourage smoking. A new severance tax on oil production is another possibility. And some unions want to modify Proposition 13, California's iconic property tax limit, creating a "split roll" to increase taxes on commercial property.

While impacts of extending the Proposition 30 income surtax would be confined to those at the top of the economic ladder, other looming tax hikes would have a much broader effect and could hit the poor particularly hard, as a new report from the left-leaning California Budget and Policy Center implies.

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The poor pay almost no income taxes, the report notes, but are hit with excise taxes on retail goods, cigarettes and gasoline, and while rarely homeowners with property tax bills, they pay the latter indirectly through rents.

California's housing costs are already among the nation's highest and hit poor renters particularly hard, as multiple studies have confirmed. In larger California cities, rents approach 50 percent of income.

So would a split property tax roll measure, aimed at increasing revenues to schools and local governments, include rental property, thus pushing housing costs for low-income renters even higher?

To read the entire guest piece, please [click here](#).