

Webisode 57DHYAFZZFLHFC March 12 2026 Washington Tax and Ukraine and Cost to US of Iran War

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1 Colorado United States US EPA Air Pollution Advisory Board The Appointed Leader is now an eye doctor with no experience in air pollution The Appointed Leader is not a pulmonologist or cardiologist as has been customary for 50 years This position advises the EPA on what level of air pollutants are safe to breathe **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** KFF Health News March 12 2026 Eye Doctor Tapped As EPA Adviser Despite No Air Pollution Expertise For 50 years the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee that counsels the EPA leadership on scientific evidence about pollutants has filled the obligatory seat for a physician with pulmonologists or cardiologists Now the role will be filled by an ophthalmologist and political commentator The New York Times Eye Doctor Named to Air Pollution Advisory Board Draws Pushback The Trump administration has tapped an eye doctor with no background in air pollution science to advise the Environmental Protection Agency on what levels of air pollutants are safe to breathe The EPA named Brian Joondeph a Colorado based ophthalmologist and political commentator on Monday to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee an influential panel that advises the leadership of the agency on the latest scientific evidence on soot **RAWSEP interjects that soot is another name for particulate matter including PM 2 point 5** smog and other hazardous pollutants Joselow March 12 2026

2 Washington State Wealth Tax along with statewide income tax proposed perhaps similar in one way to the proposed California wealth tax Washington State is currently one of the few US states that have no income tax A State of Wealthy Entrepreneurs Passes a Millionaires Tax It would be the first income tax in Washington affecting an estimated 20000 households Some of the wealthiest are leaving for Florida Washington State does not have a personal or corporate income tax but it does levy other taxes including a capital gains tax on high earners **RAWSEP interjects** As of now the US states that currently have no income tax are Alaska Florida Nevada New Hampshire only taxes interest and dividends South Dakota Tennessee Texas Washington only taxes capital gains Wyoming These states rely on other taxes such as sales and property taxes to generate revenue **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 11 2026 Lawmakers in Washington State have agreed to create an income tax on high earners called a millionaires tax by its supporters that could generate close to 4 billion dollars annually if signed by Governor Bob Ferguson a Democrat who has said he backs the bill Critics worry it could lead to a wealth exodus a concern underlined this week when one of the wealthiest residents of Seattle the former Starbucks chief executive Howard Schultz said on social media that he was moving to Florida following the Amazon founder Jeff Bezos who left Washington in 2023 The measure to create the first income tax for Washington State passed on Wednesday evening one day before the end of the 2026 session It would impose a 9 point 9 percent annual tax on personal earnings over 1 million dollars which is projected to affect about 20 thousand households Washington is one of just nine states that does not tax income and economists have consistently ranked the Washington state current model which relies on sales and

business taxes as among the most regressive in the country. The tax structure also has not kept up with spending and state lawmakers are currently trying to close a budget gap estimated at 10 billion to 12 billion dollars over the next four years. Lawmakers plan to spend the bulk of the money generated by the new tax on core government services. After months of negotiations over the precise details they also agreed to devote 5 percent of the new revenue to child care programs and early learning opportunities and to help ensure the support of the Washington governor to expand a tax credit for lower income families. Wealthy residents and entrepreneurs have long been drawn to Washington because of its lack of an income tax. If a Starbucks or a Boeing or other people start to diminish their presence in Washington State guess what happens? said Andrew Barkis a Republican lawmaker from Thurston County during the State House 24 hour debate on the tax this week. Those high paying jobs? They are going to leave. It is happening. In a LinkedIn post announcing his move Schultz wrote that he hoped Washington will remain a place for business and entrepreneurship to thrive. The millionaires tax would not begin generating revenue until 2029 and even that timeline could slip. Supporters of the tax anticipate an effort to block it by ballot measure and legal challenges. A legal fight could provide a chance to overturn a 1933 decision in which the Washington Supreme Court ruled that income counts as property. That decision has effectively blocked a graduated income tax in the state whose Constitution requires property taxes to be uniform. Voters in Washington have rejected an income tax 10 times since then. But public sentiment in the state has been turning against the wealthy. In 2024 voters refused to overturn a capital gains tax on stock and bond profits over 2 hundred 50 thousand dollars which legislators had created several years earlier. Last fall residents of Seattle and several of its suburbs elected slates of progressive candidates who talked openly of wealth redistribution. During floor debates this week Democratic lawmakers noted that many of the affluent taxpayers of Washington State had benefited from the Trump federal tax cuts. Maybe they will not mind contributing here at home said Brianna Thomas a Democratic State House member from West Seattle. Maybe they will be happy to stay here and invest in the community that has given them the opportunity to thrive.

3 Ukraine Russian war against Ukraine Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The Kiev Independent Thursday March 12 2026 The Russian war against Ukraine A workshop at a meat processing plant in the Shevchenkivskiy district lies destroyed after a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv on March 11 2026 Two employees are killed and seven others are injured in the attack Massive fire reported at Russian metallurgy plant in Tula Oblast Flames engulfed the Kosogorsk Metallurgical Plant in the Tula Oblast in Russia the night of March 11 2026 according to videos and photographs from local residents published on social media Ukraine hits Russian oil depots air defenses in occupied territories military says Ukrainian forces struck oil and fuel depots Buk air defense system and other military targets in Russian occupied territories on March 10 to 11 2026 The Ukraine Armed Forces General Staff and Special Operations Forces SOF said Utility shutoffs in occupied Mariupol used to facilitate property confiscation Ukraine says Ukraine says Russian occupation authorities in Mariupol are

cutting off utilities to apartments as part of a process to identify and seize homes Russia accuses Ukraine of attacking facilities linked to Black Sea gas pipelines The accusations come after Russian President Vladimir Putin warned on February 24 2026 that any sabotage of Black Sea pipelines could derail peace talks Russia blames UK for Storm Shadow strike on military plant threatens 'new level' escalation destruction Britain is ready to take the conflict to a fundamentally new level Russia's Foreign Ministry said The City of Sochi in Russia is under 'unprecedented' 24 hour mass Ukrainian drone attack mayor says The air raids have also closed down the Sochi airport

4 Iran Oil is or was one hundred dollars a barrel Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization March 11 2026 Heather Cox Richardson Iranian officials have rejected two messages from Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff calling for a ceasefire Leaders in Iran sense Iran is not losing the war and the US president is at the minimum feeling the political pressure Iranian officials intend to make the economic political and military costs of the war so high that Trump will not attack Iran again For his part Trump appears to be panicking over yesterday's news that Iran is laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz through which tankers transport about 20 percent of the world's oil through a two mile wide 3 point 2 kilometer shipping channel Twenty percent of the world's oil is about 20 million barrels and a barrel is a unit of measure equal to 42 US gallons or 159 liters Threats from Iran have bottled up oil in the Persian Gulf and suppliers are shutting down operations because their storage facilities are full The average price of gasoline in the US has jumped nearly 60 cents a gallon since Trump launched attacks against Iran Naval mines are cheap as little as a few thousand dollars and can incapacitate or sink a 2 billion dollar US destroyer They can be deployed by small vessels like hard to spot fishing craft at night The US destroyed sixteen inactive Iranian mine laying ships yesterday today three merchant ships sustained minor damage after being struck in or near the strait Get ready for oil to be 2 hundred dollars a barrel because the oil price depends on regional security which the US has destabilized Today Iran struck oil storage facilities in Oman and Bahrain While a few Iranian ships are traversing the strait they are the only ones In today's context sending warships or civilian vessels into the Strait of Hormuz would be suicidal and a ceasefire with Iran would move the situation from suicidal to dangerous At that point escorts of oil vessels by military ships could begin Oil industry analysts say reopening production could take at least a month even if Trump could declare the war over immediately and there is no indication Iran would agree to an instant ceasefire Half of the ships that usually travel through the Strait of Hormuz carry oil but the other half carry raw materials that are made into fertilizer plastics precision instruments machinery electrical parts and electronic components all of which could jump in price The war with Iran boils down to a single question Who can take the pain the longest? For the Iranian regime victory means staying in power and outlasting the bombing It is unclear what victory looks like for the US Tonight Iranian boats full of explosives hit two tankers carrying Iraqi fuel oil and set them ablaze about 30 miles 48 kilometers off the Iraqi coast According to Iraqi state media Iraqi oil ports have completely stopped operations One of the key measures of oil prices Brent crude jumped above 1 hundred dollars a barrel