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Subject: Overarching policies

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https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2022/9/6/mansion-blight-how-the-most-expensive-homes-drain-community-wealth?mc_cid=a19646aa0e&mc_eid=410de2c420

Based on the news article, here are some overarching policies for Vancouver, Washington's Growth Management Act:

- 1. Review and revise property tax assessment formulas: The local government should evaluate and update the formulas used to calculate property values to ensure that they accurately reflect market prices. This will help prevent the erosion of tax assessments caused by property tax breaks for high-value homes.
- 2. Address the disproportionate tax breaks for mansions on large lots: The growth management act should include provisions that address the tax breaks received by mansions on large lots. This could involve reassessing the value of these properties more frequently or implementing a cap on tax breaks for high-value homes.
- 3. Monitor and mitigate the drop in assessed values of mansions: The local government should investigate the reasons behind the significant drop in assessed values of mansions over time. By understanding the causes, they can develop strategies to prevent or minimize such drops and ensure a fair and equitable tax system.
- 4. Consider the impact on community resources: When granting tax breaks or assessing property values, the growth management act should take into account the potential impact on community resources, such as park maintenance, public school funding, and public safety measures. This will help ensure that the tax system supports the overall well-being of the community.
- 5. Encourage diverse housing options: The growth management act should promote the development of diverse housing options, including duplexes and other multi-family housing types. This can help increase tax generation and reduce the concentration of tax breaks on high-value properties.
- 6. Incorporate equity considerations: The growth management act should prioritize equity considerations in property tax assessments and tax breaks. This means ensuring that the tax system does not disproportionately benefit the wealthiest individuals at the expense of other community needs and resources.

7. Enhance transparency and public participation: The local government should improve transparency regarding property tax assessments and tax breaks. This includes providing accessible information about the assessment process and engaging the public in decision-making related to property taxes and growth management policies.

By implementing these policies, Vancouver, Washington can work towards a fair and sustainable growth management system that supports community well-being and equitable resource allocation.