



Governor Fallin and top legislators are seeking to further reduce and eliminate Oklahoma's income tax. The next few months are crucial in this debate with huge implications for rural Oklahoma.

### WHY IT'S CRITICAL FOR RURAL OKLAHOMA TO SAVE THE INCOME TAX

- 1. Higher Property Taxes.** Every state without an income tax pays more in property taxes than we do in Oklahoma. In Texas, property taxes are almost three times higher. per capita. Money to fund core services has to come from somewhere, and in no-income tax states, ranchers and landowners foot a larger portion of that bill.
- 2. Closure and Consolidation of Rural Schools.** Many of Oklahoma's rural schools are barely making ends meet. The income tax is the largest state funding source for education. Eliminating the income tax would cripple the under-funded education budget and force some of these cherished rural schools to close.
- 3. Loss of Rural Economic Development Incentives.** In order to eliminate the income tax, rural Oklahoma will lose valuable economic incentives that help them compete with other areas for jobs.
- 4. Putting Agricultural Sales Tax Exemptions in Jeopardy.** Without an income tax, the sales tax becomes the primary statewide tax. When the state experiences difficult economic times, agricultural sales tax exemptions would be on the chopping block to bring in more revenue to fund core government services.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

- 1. Get Informed.** Resources to learn more about the income tax debate are freely available at <http://okpolicy.org/take-action>.
- 2. Spread the word in your community.** Please speak out in your community at meetings or at your local coffee shop. Write a letter to the editor voicing your concerns. Let us know of any groups who we might reach out to about this issue.
- 3. Contact your legislator.** Legislators do listen to their constituents. Let your voice be heard! Find your legislators' contact information at <http://okpolicy.org/find-your-legislator>. You can also reach the House switchboard at (405) 521-2711 and the Senate switchboard at (405)524-0126.

*Questions or suggestions? Contact OK Policy at (918) 794-3944 or [info@okpolicy.org](mailto:info@okpolicy.org).*