

Congressional Resolution 1801

A Resolution containing issues described by the mayors of Oklahoma as important to the welfare and well-being of the citizens of their respective communities in the subject matter of Municipal Finance.

WHEREAS, the mayors of Oklahoma have determined that Municipal Finance is a critical issue facing Oklahoma municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is the only state in the Union that does not allow municipalities the ability to diversify their tax base outside of sales tax for daily operations and capital obligations; and

WHEREAS, restructuring of the Oklahoma Tax System would enhance the health and vitality of Oklahoma municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the following points have been identified as the most crucial in the subject of Municipal Finance:

1. Strongly support diversification of sources of municipal revenues by:
 - a. Support passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act or other federal legislation that will ensure sales and use taxes already owed from online purchases are fairly and effectively reported, collected and remitted.; and
 - b. Comprehensive review of the state tax exemption policies and determine which are beneficial/detrimental in order to stop the erosion of our tax base and not introduce any new sales tax exemption, specifically on groceries and pharmaceuticals as this is critical to the financial health of communities; and review current sales tax exemptions for sunseting every five years; and place a moratorium on any new sales tax exemptions, credits and incentive programs, unless a fiscal impact statement shows a net positive impact on municipal finances and no sales tax exemption should be passed that will negatively impact municipal finances; and
 - c. Impose penalties for abuse of exemption, credits and incentive programs privileges; and
 - d. Support legislation that removes barriers to allow municipalities to reduce costs, operate efficiently and diversify sources of revenue available to municipalities for operating revenue. Key initiatives include diversifying revenue for funding public safety agencies, streets and other infrastructure improvements; and preserving and

strengthening cities' authority to promote economic development activities within their borders; and

2. Support pension reform that address the impact of the GASB ruling affecting underfunded pension liability without negatively impacting vested employees; and
3. Support the efforts for municipalities to have the ability to assess various sources of revenue including but not limited to ad valorem funds, sales tax and use fees; and
4. Amend the Constitution to allow citizens of municipalities to vote on the diversification of sources of municipal revenues including but not limited to ad valorem taxes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS DURING THE 8TH SESSION OF THE OKLAHOMA CONGRESS OF MAYORS:

THAT the issues contained in this resolution have been ratified by the Oklahoma Mayors Congress and will be forwarded to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the members of the Oklahoma Legislature.

Todd Finley
Mayor Speaker of the House
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Mooreland

Jason Nichols
Mayor Speaker Pro Tempore
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Tahlequah

Congressional Resolution 1802

A Resolution containing issues described by the mayors of Oklahoma as important to the welfare and well-being of the citizens of their respective communities in the subject matter of Transportation and Infrastructure.

WHEREAS, the mayors of Oklahoma have determined that Transportation and Infrastructure are critical issues facing Oklahoma municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the following points have been identified as the most crucial in the subject of transportation, recognizing that approximately forty two percent (42%) of Oklahoma road usage is within Oklahoma municipalities, however, only 3.1% of the road funding is distributed between all municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the following points have been identified as the most crucial in the subject of infrastructure as it pertains to Water and Wastewater issues within Oklahoma:

1. Support legislation and legislative studies that require state agencies dealing with water and wastewater that have an impact on municipal government and economic development to measure, improve and report their financial and operational performance prior to implementing fee increases, rules and regulations on local governments in order to become more efficient, cost-effective, transparent and accountable and justify mandates created by new state or federal regulations; and
2. Support the State to apportion funds for emergency needs of water and wastewater infrastructure in the event of natural disasters; and
3. Prioritize dedicating the fuel tax revenue to transportation projects, which may include state highways, city and county roads and bridges, and public transit.
4. Support regional cost-sharing efforts for infrastructure needs to include but not limited to water, roads, and wastewater; and
5. Support the reassessment of motor fuel and vehicle taxes to more accurately reflect the heavy use of municipal highways, roads and streets. This can be accomplished by an increase of motor fuels tax allocation to municipalities from 3.1% to 5%; and
6. Diesel tax shall be increased from 13.5 to 22 cents a gallon. In addition to the gas tax likewise should be increased to 22 cents a gallon. Off road diesel shall be recommended to remain at the same price. This hereby equates a diesel tax with gas tax.; and

7. Support aviation transportation user fees to be used for transportation purposes to include funding the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission revolving fund, which are funds used for aviation projects and improvements; and
8. Support amending Title 68 to increase the allocation of gross production tax for road and bridge funding for county and municipalities; and
9. Support practical water policy and environmental funding for Department of Environmental Quality and Oklahoma Water Resources Board which monitor water resiliency and quality and ensuring the abundance of water supplies are efficiently developed, used, reused, conserved and financial sustainability for ratepayers, municipalities and rural water districts; and
10. Support cost sharing efforts for infrastructure between cities and counties with a mutual agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS DURING THE 8TH SESSION OF THE OKLAHOMA CONGRESS OF MAYORS:

THAT the issues contained in this resolution have been ratified by the Oklahoma Mayors Congress and will be forwarded to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the members of the Oklahoma Legislature.

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Congressional Resolution 1803

A Resolution containing issues described by the mayors of Oklahoma as important to the welfare and well-being of the citizens of their respective communities in the subject matter of Municipal Operations.

WHEREAS, the mayors of Oklahoma have determined that the fiscal sustainability of Municipal Operations is a critical issue facing Oklahoma municipalities and that democratic principles should allow municipalities to respond to local citizen demands; and

WHEREAS, the following points have been identified as the most crucial in the subject of Municipal Operations:

1. Support fully home rule provisions of the state constitution and oppose the further erosion of local control to communities to make their own decisions including but not limited to zoning, rental registration, and sales tax; and
2. Support streamlining statutes defining blighted properties and addressing properties declared public nuisance; and
3. Support measures to allow municipalities to make a last offer to settle after the filing of the commissioners report to increase the amount provided to the citizen and to avoid the cost incurred in a jury trial on condemnation proceedings; and
4. Support a state compact authorizing the Oklahoma Tax Commission to collect and enforce sales tax from tribally owned businesses not located on trust property.
5. Strongly support the state auditor's office restructuring techniques for municipal audits to require a citizen requesting consecutive audits to provide compelling evidence of criminal misconduct/fraud before initiating a petition to audit; and
6. Support legislation to increase the number of required signatures to 20% of voters from the last gubernatorial general election to pass a state audit requested by a citizen; and
7. Oppose any efforts to shift the function of the county treasurers' duty to collect liens to the municipalities. This shift would cause the municipalities the need to add staff and expand local government.
8. NOI Continuing Education

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Congressional Resolution 1804

A Resolution containing issues described by the mayors of Oklahoma as important to the welfare and well-being of the citizens of their respective communities in the subject matter of Community and Economic Development.

WHEREAS, the mayors of Oklahoma have determined that Community and Economic Development are critical issues facing Oklahoma municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the following points have been identified as the most critical issues in the subject of Community and Economic Development:

1. Develop and adopt an E-Fairness act that will allow the state and local municipalities to identify and collect sales and use tax on all internet sales of items being shipped to any location within our state; and
2. Support the proposed \$1.50 cigarette tax increase that would be dedicated to fund healthcare and restore state provider reimbursement rates.
3. Continuation of the REAP program with no changes in population requirements with funding to be restored to historical levels through no less than 10% increase of budget allocation until fully restored; and
4. To direct Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority to simplify and expedite the approval process for disposal of surplus state real property by allowing municipalities to purchase such real property to enhance economic growth and use those funds to supplement the state budget shortfall; and
5. Establish a \$10 million funding level for the Governor's Closing Fund program for mid-sized cities ranging from 7,000 to 35,000 in population; and
6. Oppose any legislation that will restrict a municipality's ability to expand their boundaries to meet the demands of the community's growth; and
7. Require the State Auditor and Inspector to perform a biannual review of all state tax credits to ensure that the return on investments exceeds 100% of the tax credit given. Revoke credits that do not achieve that result by the next tax year. Require a 5 year sunset on all future state tax credits; and
8. To encourage the Oklahoma State Legislature, Oklahoma Healthcare Authority, the State Insurance Commissioner of Oklahoma and the Governor to accept any federal

dollars being proposed to build upon the successful Insure Oklahoma model to support and maintain rural hospitals and healthcare services vital to enhance economic development and growth in rural communities; and

9. Support the efforts of the State Legislature to assist communities in the development of infrastructure assets to support workforce growth; and

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Congressional Resolution 1805

A Resolution containing issues described by the mayors of Oklahoma as important to the welfare and well-being of the citizens of their respective communities in the subject matter of Public Safety.

WHEREAS, the mayors of Oklahoma have determined that Public Safety is a critical issue facing Oklahoma municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the following points have been identified as the most crucial in the subject of Public Safety:

1. Support a measure to allow municipalities to create a Public Safety Protection District, including but not limited to police, fire, EMS and 911 , through an annual assessment of no greater than five (5) mills if approved by citizens within municipal boundaries; and
2. Oppose attempts to reform the Civil Asset Forfeiture law; and
3. Support amending state statutes to allow enforcement of municipal ordinances on real estate owned or leased by a municipality but outside the corporate limits; and
4. Support measure to allow municipalities to place a hold on future vehicle registration instead of issuing a warrant for arrest until the defendant has paid their outstanding fines; and
5. Support a measure that allows a municipality the right to register drones that are flown within the municipalities boundaries; and
6. Support the established State Emergency Management Fund to provide immediate access to matching funds for municipalities for disaster relief; and
7. Mental Health and Drug Courts

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