

Congressional Resolution 1601

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. Support a remedy when Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) over withholds sales tax to amortize the sale tax refunds or Tax Commission will give the municipality no less than a 30-day notice and this notice will concern overpayment of taxes and ability to negotiate a time limit up to a 12 month period in order to ease burden of cash flow to local governments; and
2. Strongly support diversification of sources of municipal revenues by:
 - a. Supporting the goals of the Remote Transaction Parity Act to require online retailers to pay local sales taxes just as local brick and mortar businesses do; and supporting federal government efforts to implement and enforce online sales tax collection; and
 - b. Support state legislation to join the 24 states where Amazon collects sales tax by establishing an Amazon presence on adopting affiliate nexus laws which count the retailers in state sales affiliates as a physical presence; to also include all other e-commerce purchases; and
 - c. 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
- d. Impose penalties for abuse of exemption, credits and incentive programs privileges; and
3. Oppose removing all tax exemptions from interest on all bonds and all other state and local governmental obligations, including those of public trusts; and
 4. Oppose the one cent sales tax increase proposal for education with the caveat that OML/MCO supports education and tax reform; and
 5. Support pension reform that address the impact of the GASB ruling affecting underfunded pension liability without negatively impacting vested employees; and
 6. Support an amendment to raise the emergency spending limit on public construction contracts to \$75,000.00 for public trusts, like is now authorized for cities; and
 7. Support Oklahoma Academy priority of municipalities having the ability to assess various sources of revenue including but not limited to ad valorem funds, sales tax and use fees; and
 8. Rescind 2016 state income tax cut and postpone the 2017 state income tax cut; and
 9. Pursue the collection of sales tax from tribal enterprises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS DURING THE 6TH 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.

Kim Peterson
Mayor Speaker of the House
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Guymon

Larry Thoma
Mayor Speaker Pro Tempore
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Elgin

Congressional Resolution 1602

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
2. Support the State to apportion funds for emergency needs of water and wastewater infrastructure in the event of natural disasters or unfunded mandates created by new state or federal regulations; and
3. Limit Rural Water Districts debt to primary projects and not encumber the entire system; and
4. Support regional cost-sharing efforts for infrastructure needs such as water 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%. The diesel tax shall be increased from 13.5 cents a gallon to 16 cents a gallon. This hereby equates a diesel tax with gas tax.; and

6. Support 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
7. Require rural water to utilize municipal standards when making services available to their customers within municipal boundaries with a uniform BSI and flow rate and static pressure determined by the State Fire Marshal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS DURING THE 6TH 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.

Kim Peterson
Mayor Speaker of the House
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Guymon

Larry Thoma
Mayor Speaker Pro Tempore
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Elgin

Congressional Resolution 1603

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 **local control** to communities to make their own decisions including but not limited to e-cigarettes, vapor products, smoking, tobacco prevention and youth access to these products and keep under sales tax; and
2. Support the modernization of the Oklahoma Beverage Laws; and
3. Oppose changes to the Urban Renewal Authority statutes by changing the definition of “blighted areas” and making it more cumbersome for a municipality to do any urban renewal projects inside their municipal boundaries; and
4. Support legislation that will allow cities to increase the fee structure for Open Records requests and electronic requests to match the county fee structure in Title 67, Section 94; and
5. Ask for OML to further research the ability for cities to takeover property when a lien is placed on said property not unlike how counties can auction off properties for lack of paying property tax; and
6. Support of the established State Emergency Management Fund to provide immediate access to matching funds for municipalities for disaster relief; and
7. Support measures that protect the municipalities’ authority to develop inside municipal boundaries that would not take away local control from municipalities; and
8. Support an increase for wireless fees to support E9-1-1 which would provide a statewide 911 director, require fees to be paid to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, require the State Advisory Board to seek out efficiencies; and cost savings; and
9. Strongly support diversification of sources of municipal revenues; and

10. Repeal any law in effect preventing municipalities from regulating actions by any business maintaining any type of drilling activity within the limits of the municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS DURING THE 6TH 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.

Kim Peterson
Mayor Speaker of the House
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Guymon

Larry Thoma
Mayor Speaker Pro Tempore
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Elgin

Congressional Resolution 1604

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 crucial in the subject of Community and Economic Development:

1. Oklahoma being the only state in the United States that does not allow municipalities to assess or collect any form of Ad Valorem tax, we ask the Legislature to change the law to allow municipalities to collect such tax to help fund city services and infrastructure within municipal boundaries; and
2. Continuation of the REAP program with no changes in population requirements with funding to be increased by no less than ten percent (10%) from the previous fiscal year's budget allocation; and
3. Support the funding of the Governor's Closing Fund program for mid-sized cities ranging from 7,000 to 35,000 in population, separate from the REAP program; and
4. Oppose any legislation that will further restrict a municipality's ability to expand their boundaries to meet the demands of the community's growth; and
5. Support the efforts of the State Legislature to assist communities in the development of housing assets to support workforce growth; and
6. 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
7. To direct Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority to simplify the review and 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

8. To encourage the Oklahoma State Legislature, Oklahoma Healthcare Authority, the State Insurance Commissioner of Oklahoma and the Governor to accept the 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS DURING THE 6TH 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.

Kim Peterson
Mayor Speaker of the House
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Guymon

Larry Thoma
Mayor Speaker Pro Tempore
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Elgin

Congressional Resolution 1605

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. Give cities and towns the ability to access property tax to fund city services, including but not limited to police, fire, EMS and 911 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 by a municipality but outside the corporate limits; and
4. Oppose amending state law that prohibits a tenant or business entity that controls an event at a park, recreational area, or fairgrounds from implementing a “no guns” policy at such event, except at a limited number of places specified by statute; and
5. Support the concept of allowing Municipal Courts Not of Record to create Limited Municipal Criminal Courts of Record for violations of ordinances of prohibiting driving, operating or being in the actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONGRESS DURING THE 6TH 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.

Kim Peterson
Mayor Speaker of the House
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Guymon

Larry Thoma
Mayor Speaker Pro Tempore
Mayors Council of
Oklahoma
Mayor, Elgin