

# STOP Higher Taxes in Oklahoma

Oklahoma can increase teacher pay without increasing sales taxes or adding new taxes.

David Boren's 22% sales tax increase would give Oklahoma the highest sales taxes, 9.7%, in the U.S.

Cost to give every one of Oklahoma's 42,027 current public school teachers a \$5,000 pay raise AND hire 1,000 new classroom teachers:

**\$284.5 million**

Wasteful or non-essential state government spending that can be eliminated without hurting core services like education, roads and bridges, or public safety:

**\$617.3 million**

**WHY** would we increase Oklahoma's state sales tax rate by 22% and force Oklahoma families to pay what would be the **highest average combined state-and-local sales tax rate, 9.7%, in the nation?**

**WHY** would we make it more difficult for cities and towns across Oklahoma to support police, fire safety, utilities and other local services?

**WHY** would we increase Oklahoma's sales tax burden, already the sixth-highest in the nation, and place an **undue burden on low- and middle-income families, single mothers, veterans and senior citizens?**

**THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO INCREASE TEACHER PAY**

## A PLAN FOR ACTION:

- 1** Eliminate some of the \$617.3 million in wasteful or non-essential state government spending (Flip over for more details)
- 2** Give every Oklahoma teacher a \$5,000 pay raise AND hire 1,000 additional classroom teachers

[www.StopHigherTaxesOK.com](http://www.StopHigherTaxesOK.com)

# Some of Oklahoma's wasteful or non-essential state government spending that could be eliminated to fund teacher pay raises:

- Sell the Italian monastery, in **Tuscany**, owned by the Univ. of Oklahoma = \$20 million (or, **\$5,000 salary increase for 4,000 Oklahoma teachers**)
- Stop appropriating tax dollars to state government agencies that are already funded with fees they collect = \$20 million (\$5k salary increase for 4,000 teachers)
- Sell already-identified unused state assets = \$11 million (\$5k salary increase for 2,200 teachers)
- Stop paying association dues for legislators, funding non-critical legislator and state employee travel, paying for unnecessary media advertising and sponsorship of athletic events, and paying for “swag” merchandise = \$39.8 million (\$5k salary increase for 7,960 teachers)
- Utilize best practices for purchasing health insurance coverage for state and education employees, as is done for county and municipal government employees and in the private sector across Oklahoma = \$42 million (\$5k salary increase for 8,400 teachers)
- Perform telecommunications audits as utilized by private employers = \$3 million (\$5k salary increase for 600 teachers)
- Auction the Weitzenhoffer art collection, owned by the Univ. of Oklahoma, containing at least one painting **allegedly stolen by the Nazis during the Holocaust**, plus works by Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir, and others = \$50 million (\$5k salary increase for 10,000 teachers)
- Implement reforms of Oklahoma's Medicaid system like those producing cost savings and improved health outcomes in LA, KS, FL and other states = \$100 million (\$5k salary increase for 20,000 teachers)
- Stop overly subsidizing Career Tech functions when tech centers are **sitting on millions of dollars** in un-used building funds = \$3 million (\$5k salary increase for 600 teachers)
- Stop subsidizing failed attempts at **space travel** = \$300,000 (\$5k salary increase for 60 teachers)
- Stop subsidizing losses on state-owned **golf courses** = \$200,000 (\$5k salary increase for 40 teachers)
- Stop subsidizing **rodeos**, county fairs and museums that charge admission = \$8 million (\$5k salary in-crease for 1,600 teachers)
- Properly allocate state funding for Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System and bill federal government for its full share of funding = \$20 million (\$5k salary increase for 4,000 teachers)
- Sell the Grand River Dam Authority, which could still then provide electrical power to northeast Oklahoma when privately owned = \$300 million (\$5k salary increase for 60,000 teachers)

Total possible savings by cutting wasteful or non-essential Oklahoma state government spending:

**\$617.3 million**

Cost to give every Oklahoma teacher a \$5,000 pay raise AND hire 1,000 new teachers:

**\$284.5 million**