



2015 Priorities for Oklahoma

Together Oklahoma has identified six issues as our coalition's biggest priorities in the upcoming Legislative session. These priorities are practical, politically achievable steps to move us toward lasting, broad-based prosperity.

RESTORE EDUCATION FUNDING



In the last five years, Oklahoma's per pupil investment in common education fell more than twenty percent, the largest percentage drop in the entire nation. As a result of these steep cuts, Oklahoma is seeing a serious teacher shortage, and many of our most talented educators are

leaving for other professions or other states. We must restore our investment in education by at least enough to pay teacher salaries that are competitive with surrounding states in order to be economically prepared for the future

EXPAND HEALTH COVERAGE



Oklahomans get sicker, die sooner, and go without much needed medical care more than almost everyone else in the nation. But today we have a huge opportunity to save lives and protect struggling rural and community health care providers by expanding health coverage to

uninsured low-income workers and their families, at little cost to the state. As long as we continue to refuse federal funds, Oklahomans' tax dollars will be paying for medical care in other states while our citizens go without.

CURB UNNECESSARY TAX BREAKS



Unnecessary and unaffordable tax breaks to businesses have more than doubled over the past four years, even as Oklahoma has slashed funding for education, public safety, and other important services. Oklahoma needs to reign in unnecessary tax breaks and improve oversight

of the tax breaks that remain. If we value our children, safety, infrastructure, health, and economy, we need to stop hollowing out our core state services with wasteful tax subsidies.

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2015 Priorities for Oklahoma (continued)

GET SMART ON CRIME



Oklahoma's policies of long prison sentences and few alternatives to incarceration have become extremely expensive to taxpayers while failing to protect the public. The state's overcrowded, understaffed criminal justice system is at the breaking point. To avert a disaster,

Oklahoma needs to move quickly to reduce the number of non-violent offenders being sent to prison, eliminate barriers to ex-felons who want to do the right thing and rejoin society, and expand evidence-based substance abuse and mental health treatment programs that are our most needed alternatives to prison.

OPPOSE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



A well-funded, nationwide effort is pushing state legislatures to pass resolutions calling for a new constitutional convention to add a balanced budget requirement and make other changes to the U.S. Constitution. Approving such a resolution is dangerous

for two main reasons: (1) A constitutional convention cannot be controlled once it is called, so a runaway convention could make extreme, unexpected changes to our system of government; and (2) a balanced budget amendment could severely damage the economy and prolong recessions.

BOOST ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION



In Oklahoma participation in electoral democracy has reached a historic low, so that important decisions for our state are being made by a small minority of eligible citizens. To counteract this trend, Oklahoma should pursue reforms that make it easier to vote, allow more

choices at the ballot box, and help voters become more informed.

To make it happen, we need your help! Sign up to join the grassroots movement at www.togetherok.org or contact us at info@togetherok.org.