

Why to Vote No on the New Maps Tax

[Please forward this email to all your friends in OKC. The turnout is traditionally low for city elections. If each person who receives this will get 5 people out to vote NO on Tuesday, December 8, we will win. It is time to send a clear message to the unholy alliance of wealth and political power that enriches itself off the labor of the working people of the city.]

Fact: Now is a terrible time to add a new tax to our citizens.

- We're in a deepening recession/depression within a world-wide financial collapse.
- Gold skyrocketing from \$800 past \$1200 an ounce in a year is a clear signal that rougher times are ahead.
- No reputable economist says we can tax and spend our way out of a depression.
- Unemployment is rising. Oklahoma has lost 50,000 jobs so far. OKC unemployment rose from 4% just 18 months ago to 6.5%.
- The City has had 9 months in a row of falling sales tax revenues. November was down 14%!
- As a result, City government will cut back all expenditures by 2% January 1st, with more to come.
- What's the rush for a new tax? Why can't we wait a few years until we see the economy stabilize and hopefully begin recovery. Then we can vote on selected projects.

Fact: The new Maps Tax is a tax increase.

- Despite what the slick ads say, when the NBA tax expires March 31, sales taxes will go down 1 percent. A new Maps Tax is simply that, a new tax on the people in the middle of a depression.

Fact: What citizens need now is a tax cut. A tax cut will stimulate and build our economy - naturally.

- When the NBA tax expires, each OKC resident will have another \$10 a month to spend on the necessities of life.
- This tax cut will unleash \$80-90 million a year into the local economy. This will stimulate the local, organic economy at no extra expense to taxpayers.
- A better economy means more real jobs, not artificial jobs for government works projects.

Fact: There has been NO public debate on the issues.

- The Mayor and his cronies refuse to hold any public debates. Cornett won't even allow citizens to express their views in City Council meetings. Why are they afraid to debate?
- Proponents of the new Maps Tax appear to be spending at least \$2 million on an extremely, good, but extremely misleading ad campaign.
- The only public forums are stage-managed theatrical productions, with all questions from the audience coming in written form, and pre-screened by handlers.
- If the local media is not in on the deal (OPUBCO, KWTV), they are bought off by massive revenues from campaign ads, as well as losing ads from big spenders like Chesapeake, Devon, OG+E, OK State Fair, etc.
- Two notable exceptions: a. KTOK radio and their courageous talk show host, Mark Shannon. (AM 1000, Mon. - Fri., 4-7 pm) and b., the Oklahoma Gazette which has run a series of in-depth articles to bring up issues that should be discussed.
- The only debate is at a grass roots level, like this. Don't we deserve better?

Fact: Sales taxes are regressive. (See ["The Untold Story of the New Maps Tax."](#)) at KillTheMapsTax.com.

- Proportionally, the sales tax burden is heavier on those with lower incomes.
- The 60% of working people who earn under \$48,000 a year pay 6.6% of their total income in

sales taxes.

- The 5% of the top earners pushing this new tax pay less than 2% of their income.
- The OKC Elite are out of touch with the desperate situation and pressing needs of the working people of the City.
- There's nothing Christian or compassionate about burdening the lower and middle classes to fund the Elite's "Downtown Disneyland."

Fact: All the nice things we've seen with Maps 1 will not go away if the new Maps Tax is defeated.

- Slick TV ads imply that Bricktown will turn into a ghost town and that we will lose our "momentum" if we don't impose a new tax on ourselves. That's preposterous! None of what we have will disappear if we kill the new Maps Tax.

Fact: There is nothing in the grab bag of new Maps Tax projects that are essential to our near future.

- The only "emergency" is for the OKC Elite to keep the extra penny sales tax on the people.
- Hardly any of the new Maps Tax projects would pass if voted on separately. Early polling showed that only sidewalks and trails garnered majority citizen support.
- Maps Tax proponents came up with their list by adding new projects until they thought that they had something for everyone. For example, \$50 million for senior aquatic centers and \$130 million for a 5 mile streetcar system.
- So the most popular projects are used to sell the least popular, like a new convention center.
- We will lose no momentum, and help our working citizens, by voting down the new Maps Tax.

Fact: The projections of raising \$100 million a year are total fabrications.

- The previous high sales tax collections on one-cent of sales tax was \$92.5 million, before the current recession.
- Sales tax collections have fallen for 9 consecutive months.
- The Mayor has refused to show us the basis for his "sophisticated calculations." Why?

Fact: Smaller, more popular projects are likely to get cut first when the budget falls short.

- The new convention center and fair grounds improvements are at the top the Chamber of Commerce list.
- Large, politically-connected projects leave little room for cutting back.
- Smaller projects with diverse, diffused support are easiest to cut back, delay or cancel.

Fact: Multiple conflicts of interest exist through out the City Council, Chamber of Commerce, State Fair Board, downtown property developers, land speculators and more.

- Our compromised media refuses to investigate.
- Good places to start would be land records in and around all Maps projects and the Core to Shore plan, as well as the interlocking directorates on large corporations, trusts like the State Fair Board, media, etc. Most of it is hiding in plain sight.

Fact: The new Maps Tax will create a slush fund to spend on whatever "capital improvements" the well-connected deem worthy.

- There is no statutory language in the ballot binding the City to any specific projects or priorities.
- The Maps Oversight board will be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Mayor. Fox guarding the hen house?
- At any given time, five votes on the council can re-direct any of the Maps Funds. (My guess is that one of the first changes will be to make up the deficit in the NBA tax.)

Fact: A new tax will be forced on Oklahoma County citizens to build a new \$400 million jail.

- The US Justice Department has mandated totally refurbishing or replacing the jail.
- If we don't vote to raise our sales or property taxes to do this, the Fed's can force a property tax increase to fund it.

- Our “courageous” County Commissioners have delayed pressing this issue until after the new Maps Tax vote. Don't ya love 'em? How accommodating to the OKC Elite!
- So if the new Maps Tax passes, we will have a new county tax on top of that!

Fact: We CAN fight City Hall

- The simple fact is that if everyone were to vote, the new Maps Tax would fail.
- The key is to get yourself and your friends out to vote.
- The turnout for this election will be low, so your vote counts even more.
- Killing the New Maps Tax is the perfect way to send a message to our local and national leaders that we are tired of their expensive schemes and dreams that are bankrupting our nation and ruining the future for our children and grandchildren.

For more information see KillTheMapsTax.com