

2025 – THE YEAR OF TAX RELIEF?

“What at first was plunder assumed the softer name of revenue.” - Thomas Paine

2024 ELECTION IS OVER

No surprises in Tennessee. We remain a solidly Republican state. Our Republican legislature and governor have proven their conservatism on social issues. This year, we would hope to see the same conservative principles applied to tax relief for Tennesseans.

President Trump has proposed several items to provide tax relief at the federal level. Elimination of taxes on tips and Social Security. He has also spoken of eliminating the Personal Income Tax. President Trump and his team have come to realize these taxes are a burden on the wealth and prosperity of our citizens. They are not needed to fund the government but are used as a means of “control” and wealth re-distribution.

BACKGROUND

According to a study published by Self Financial in April 2024, Tennesseans pay 28.7% of their earnings in taxes each year. This includes Federal, State, and Local taxes. It is a substantial amount, when you consider God only asks for 10%.

Tennessee does not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem.

NO, WE DO NOT WANT A STATE INCOME TAX

This is the question you will hear from elected officials every time tax relief is discussed. As if we cannot reduce one tax without adding another. This merely shifts the tax burden from my “right-hand” pocket to my “left-hand” pocket. The money still comes from the same “pair of pants”.

WHAT SERVICES SHOULD WE CUT?

This is always the next question. The short answer is NONE!! We can discuss later what services are essential and needed, but no one can claim there is not waste to be eliminated in our current spending. This is the place to start. Perhaps it is time for a state Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), as President Trump has created.

HEAVY LIFTING REQUIRED

Is this not what we send people to Nashville for? To do the “hard work”? To figure out how to provide services while cutting costs. No one thinks it will be easy, but it can be done. The question is whether our current leadership is willing to step up to the task.

Since 2011, we have put \$1.4 Billion into our state’s “Rainy Day Fund”. We have “Sales Tax Holidays” focused on certain purchases, and in 2024 we revised our Franchise Tax, refunding \$1.5 Billion to corporations. It is apparent Tennessee does not need all the tax revenue collected.

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ELIMINATE THE SALES TAX ON GROCERIES

This will help the most people, reducing every household’s expenses for food. House and Senate Bills to do this have been introduced for the 2025 legislative session. Contact your Legislators and urge them to support.

FIX THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT

In a time of high inflation, the latest property re-assessment hit a lot of us hard. The assessed value of our property is increased, property taxes go up, and there is no one to hold accountable. This is a bureaucratic process that does not reflect reality. True value of any property is what someone is willing to pay for it.

The assessment value on real-estate should be fixed at the price paid for the property when last purchased. Most states already do this.

If local government feels the need for more revenue, justify it to the voters and let us vote on it. This is how a democracy is supposed to work.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

Let them know YOUR priorities for 2025!!

Find your Legislator here:

<https://capitol.tn.gov/legislators/>

Let’s make 2025 the “Year of Tax Reform” in Tennessee