



## CIGARETTE TAX POSITION STATEMENT

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### OTPC 2018 & 2019 PRIMARY POLICY OBJECTIVE

#### PUBLIC HEALTH BURDEN OF SMOKING

- Smoking remains the number one preventable cause of disease and death in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
  - 19.6% of Oklahoma adults currently smoke cigarettes.<sup>2</sup>
  - 13.1% of Oklahoma high school students currently smoke cigarettes.<sup>3</sup>
  - 7,500 Oklahomans die each year as a result of cigarette smoking.<sup>3</sup>
  - Nearly 9 out of 10 cigarette smokers tried smoking by age 18.<sup>4</sup>
  - Smoking disproportionately affects American Indians and Alaska Natives in Oklahoma.<sup>5</sup>
- Oklahoma's annual health care costs caused by smoking are \$1.62 billion, including \$264 million in Medicaid.<sup>6</sup>
  - Smokers cost 3 times as much as non-smokers.<sup>7</sup>
  - Smoking caused-productivity losses cost businesses \$2.1 billion.<sup>6</sup>

#### CIGARETTE TAX INCREASE IMPACT

- A \$1.50 per pack cigarette tax increase in Oklahoma will<sup>8</sup>:
  - Keep 28,200 youth from becoming adult smokers, based on all youth under 18 alive today.
  - Motivate 30,400 adult smokers to quit in the first year.
  - Prevent 16,700 premature smoking caused deaths.
  - Reduce smoking-complicated pregnancies and births by 4,900 in first 5 years.
  - First 5-year Medicaid program savings to the state \$3.92 million.
  - Long-term health care cost savings from adult and youth smoking declines equal \$1.22 billion.
- Significantly raising state cigarette tax consistently leads to increased revenue and reduced smoking rates.<sup>9</sup>
  - The Institute of Medicine and the Surgeon General agree that increasing the price of tobacco products is the single most effective way to reduce tobacco consumption.<sup>1,10</sup>
  - According to the Cancer Action Network, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and Tobacconomics, a cigarette price increase will generate more than \$183 million in new revenue in Oklahoma in the first year.<sup>8</sup>
- While the total packs of cigarettes sold declined from 356.8 million in 2004 (year before the last Oklahoma cigarette tax increase) to 309.4 million in FY2006, state revenue still increased from \$55.2 million to \$197 million over the same time period.<sup>11</sup>
- 62% of Oklahoma registered voters surveyed in 2015 supported a \$1.50 cigarette tax increase.<sup>12</sup>

#### CALL TO ACTION

- Sign your partnership, coalition or organization to the [Oklahoma Turning Point Council's Cigarette Tax Letter of Support](#).
- Educate and advocate for policies supporting tobacco prevention and public health.
- [Contact your state elected officials](#) to voice your support for a cigarette tax increase.
- [Join OTPC](#) and create partnerships in your community and state to support effective tobacco prevention policy.
- [Register to vote!](#)
- [Be aware of Oklahoma election deadlines and voting dates!](#)

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