

RESOLUTION NO. 955

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE INSTABILITY AND INSUFFICIENCY OF CURRENT REVENUE SOURCES FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND, SPECIFICALLY, FOR THE BROKEN ARROW, UNION AND BIXBY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT PROVIDE EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO CHILDREN AND RESIDENTS WITHIN ITS CORPORATE LIMITS AND FENCELINE, ENCOURAGING THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, registered voters of the State of Oklahoma will have the opportunity to vote on State Question 779; and

WHEREAS, State Question 779 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would raise the state sales and use tax by one percentage point; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent (60%) of the revenues generated would go to providing a salary increase of no less than \$5,000.00 for public school teachers, 9.5% of the revenues generated would be divided between public schools, 19.25% of the revenues generated would go to higher education, 3.25% of the revenues generated would go to career and technology education, and 8% of the revenues generated would go to early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, the public schools, institutions of higher education and career and technology education, as well as public early childhood education, presently receive funding from the Oklahoma Legislature, *ad valorem* taxation, and other sources; and

WHEREAS, the primary revenue source of Oklahoma municipalities is sales and use taxes; and

WHEREAS, municipalities do not receive general operational appropriations from the Oklahoma Legislature, and *ad valorem* taxes dedicated to municipalities are presently only utilized for municipal judgments, and payment of principal and interest on general obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, municipalities in other states have more stable and reliable sources of revenue such as *ad valorem* taxes, and

WHEREAS, municipal officials are concerned about the ability of municipalities to obtain consent of the voters to increase sales taxes which are imperative to municipal operations such as fire and police protection, provision of water, wastewater, and solid waste services, access to parks and other recreational opportunities, and the repair and improvement of roads, sidewalks, and other public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials are also concerned about the unintended consequence of encouraging residents to shop on-line rather than in brick and mortar establishments that provide necessary revenues for municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, the Broken Arrow City Council is enthusiastically supportive of public education and, in particular of the Broken Arrow, Union, and Bixby Public School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Broken Arrow City Council is also supportive of the Districts' efforts and recognizes the on-going needs of said Districts for operational and capital funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the Broken Arrow City Council encourages the Oklahoma Legislature to exercise their authority and explore alternative, stable, and sufficient funding sources for both public education and municipal operations and capital projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA, THAT concern is hereby expressed about the instability and insufficiency of current revenue sources for municipal operational and capital expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT support is hereby expressed for the City's public education Districts and, specifically, for the Broken Arrow, Union, and Bixby Public School Districts that provide education and opportunities to children and residents within its corporate limits.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Oklahoma Legislature is respectfully encouraged to explore alternative and more sustainable funding sources for public education and municipal operations.

ADOPTED BY THE BROKEN ARROW CITY COUNCIL THIS 1ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2016.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

(seal) City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney