

May 29, 2026

To Local and County Officials in the State of Oklahoma,

State Question 832 will be on the June 16 primary ballot. If passed, it would mandate a California-style rapid increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour, as well as mandate a never-ending escalator (based on the cost of living in big cities) to increase the minimum wage every year. The economic fallout will be severe: jobs will be eliminated, hours and/or benefits will be cut, employment opportunities will shrink, and prices will rise for groceries, healthcare, transportation, construction, childcare, housing, education, utilities, and other services that working families and taxpayers rely on.

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose SQ 832.

While state government employees are specifically exempted from SQ 832, municipal and county employees are not. Municipal and county budgets will be directly impacted.

On the surface, it seems like a modest increase in the minimum wage and might not seem like a big deal for your city or county. But, beginning in 2030, the minimum wage will increase each year based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. This is big city price increases (not small-town Oklahoma prices), determining labor costs in Oklahoma. Very quickly, municipal and county budgets will become unsustainable.

You will face many tough choices if SQ 832 passes: which taxes to raise, what services to eliminate, and which employees to let go. In 2024, California raised the minimum wage for fast food workers. Within a year, 18,000 jobs were eliminated. Increases in Washington and Oregon had similar results.

To make matters worse, SQ 832 eliminates Oklahoma's current minimum wage law exemptions for part-time employees, farm workers, and high school students: If passed, it will limit or eliminate opportunities for these currently exempt employees.

The most recent economic data show Oklahoma's economy is growing faster than the national average. That means more jobs and better-paying jobs. In addition, Oklahoma's cost of living is about 15% below the national average. That is why so many people are moving here. This is a great place to live.

To keep that momentum going, we need to let market forces continue to drive wages up, rather than locking in a never-ending minimum wage escalator. Otherwise, businesses will be forced to lay off workers, and communities will be forced to eliminate services.

We urge you to join us in opposition to SQ 832—not only to protect jobs and opportunity in Oklahoma—but also to protect municipal services, county services, and taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted by the undersigned members of the Oklahoma Legislature:



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Oklahoma Speaker of the House



Senator Lonnie Paxton
Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tempore

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