

Tax reform forum to be held in BG

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By **Sentinel-Tribune Staff**



Residents will have their chance to weigh in on tax reform matters when the Ohio House of Representatives hosts the third of five statewide forums in Bowling Green.

The Tax Reform Legislative Study Committee will conduct the meeting at 10 a.m. Tuesday in city council chambers, 304 N. Church St., to discuss all state and local tax issues, with the exception of municipal income taxes. That subject that will be the focus of its own forum at the Ohio Statehouse on Sept. 17.

"This is a chance for people to come and ask some very pointed questions of their representatives," said Dale Butland, communications director for Innovation Ohio, a Columbus think tank that opposes many of the tax-related measures in Ohio's recently-approved budget.

Butland said tax-related policy changes will adversely affect middle- and low-income Ohioans, who should begin asking questions.

"I think this is a perfect opportunity for people to express their displeasure, if they feel it, with a tax policy in this state that has shifted the tax burden from the wealthy and onto the backs of everyone else."

Specifically, the group is protesting a decrease in income tax Butland said that, paired with an increase in sales tax, results in a break for those who make the most at the expense of those who earn less.

While the tax changes in the budget are intended to stimulate the economy and create jobs, they'll have the opposite effect on most people, Butland said, noting that Ohioans should be familiar with the trickle-down argument, as it received plenty of attention during the last presidential election.

"What Gov. Kasich is trying to bring to Ohio are the exact same policies that Mitt Romney wanted to bring to America," he said.

Butland said the result of cuts to municipal governments have led to increased local levy attempts that again have a negative impact on most residents.

"I really hope people come and ask why they're not cutting taxes for middle income people."

Those planning to speak are asked to submit a written version of their testimony by noon on Monday to Alex Goodman, legislative aide for State Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville), chair of the committee, at 614-644-7928 or Alex.Goodman@ohiohouse.gov. Segments will be limited to five minutes to allow for questions and conversation.

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