

Letter Published By Falls News Press: Thinks tax cut needs to be postponed

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The Nov.15 issue of the Falls News-Press carried a letter to the editor criticizing State Rep. Mike Moran's support for HB 318. The basic premise of this letter is that Ohio is one of the most highly taxed states and that this delay is not necessary. It appears to me that the sources of the writer's contention may be studies, done by the Tax Foundation, which have been refuted by several organizations.

The Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI) has reported: "Fortunately for Ohio taxpayers, the Tax Foundation rankings are not accurate, at least not by standard and generally accepted methods of comparison." Similar findings were reported by The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: "any given state's ranking has much more to do with the Tax Foundation's methodological adjustments and with fluctuations in the data than it has to do with the actual level of taxes paid by people who live in the state."

In 2004, ETPI, Federation of Tax Administrators, Congressional Quarterly, the Ohio Department of Taxation, and the Ohio Public Expenditure Council all disagreed with the report of the Tax Foundation finding that Ohio ranked about 20th in level of taxation. A 2008 report by the Federation of Tax Administrators found that Ohio ranked 35th in Per Capita tax revenue. Since the 2005 21 percent reduction in taxes, Ohio's tax rates now rank near the bottom third of the nation. In retrospect, we attempted to cut too much, and need to postpone this last cut. Thus I think Rep. Moran's support of HB 318 is completely reasonable. Without this revenue, devastating cuts will have to be made to Ohio's budget in education, social services and economic development.

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