

RESOLUTION NO. CC-2016-26

**“A RESOLUTION OF THE STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL  
OPPOSING THE ADOPTION OF STATE QUESTION 779”**

WHEREAS, Stillwater is the home to a major public university, the state vocational technical education system, and a highly ranked elementary and secondary school system; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater strongly supports public education and those who work tirelessly to improve our community through education; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature has repeatedly failed to adequately fund common and higher education in the state; and

WHEREAS, this failure has resulted in SQ 779, a citizen initiated ballot measure that will establish a statewide one cent sales tax to help fund public education; and

WHEREAS, sales tax revenue is a primary source of funding for municipal general fund services such as police, fire, streets and parks; and

WHEREAS, the passage of SQ 779 would increase the aggregate sales tax rate in Stillwater and many other Oklahoma cities and towns to nearly ten percent; and

WHEREAS, SQ 779 will force cities and towns to compete with school districts for available *ad valorem* tax revenues to fund capital improvements such as street construction and repair since sales tax funding of such projects will no longer be a viable option; and

WHEREAS, if this initiative is adopted, Oklahoma will rank first among the fifty states in combined overall sales tax rate, a significant deterrent to future economic development; and

WHEREAS, increased sales tax rates will disproportionately impact those who are economically disadvantaged or survive on a fixed income; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Stillwater City Council opposes State Question 779 and urges the citizens of Stillwater to vote no on SQ 779.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a regular meeting of the City Council and duly signed by the Mayor this 12th day of September, 2016.

CITY OF STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA  
A Municipal Corporation

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GINA J. NOBLE, MAYOR

(SEAL)  
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ELIZABETH CHRZ, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

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JOHN E. DORMAN, CITY ATTORNEY