

## LETTER TO EDITOR – Property Tax Burden (NOVEMBER 2025)

The rise in property taxes on primary residences in Oklahoma is capped at 3% per year. As properties increase in value, the property tax “owed” increases, usually 3%.

Even when you don’t sell your home and your income stays the same or decreases, you must still pay these increased taxes or risk losing your home. This is a taxation on unrealized gains and is grossly unfair. Over time, it can force some people to sell or lose their home.

When seniors retire, their income is usually reduced at a time when medical expenses increase. And sometimes, the loss of a spouse further reduces the household income. Property taxes, which can be hundreds of dollars a month, become a burden. Seniors may be forced to decide if they can keep their home by cutting day-to-day expenses or if they must sell and move down or move in with relatives. These are people who have already paid property taxes for 40 years or more and they deserve better.

And what about young people who want to buy their first home but can’t qualify for a monthly payment that includes several hundred dollars in property tax?

Yes, I understand taxes are necessary to fund schools and local municipal services. But at what point do you say “Uncle”? Enough is enough.

When property tax becomes such a burden that people are being taxed out of the American Dream, it's time to start looking for efficiencies and alternative sources of revenue, instead of just continuing to automatically increase property taxes every year.