

IAAO Annual Conference

Tampa, Florida
August 28-31, 2016



Get to Know Your Legislators

Getting to know your legislators should begin while they are candidates to become legislators.

Most prospective legislators will campaign in your area. One of the first places they visit is the Courthouse.

You need to be proactive when it comes to introducing yourself and your jurisdiction to these prospective legislators.

What a great opportunity to let them see you in your work environment. Show them around, introduce them to your staff and other offices



Get to Know Your Legislators

“Educate” yourself on the legislator. Get to know them by first name and connect with them on a personal level

If you know their wife and kids’ names, ages, church, civic clubs, you might have some common ground. This will allow you to communicate with them at a much closer level.

Always make a point to introduce the legislator to anyone you are speaking to if the legislator is in attendance.

Example: “Hey John, I would like to introduce my good friend, State Rep. Mike Jackson”.

(they are always campaigning!)



Get to Know Your Legislators

These folks will be “*drinking from a firehose*” when it comes to learning all the issues they will be expected to know. They will need a trusted source when it comes to issues regarding our profession

Everyone want to appear educated on the issues. You can help the new legislator actually accomplish this goal

Remember, you are the expert in the ad valorem arena. If you can prove to them that you are a trusted source, you will be their first phone call or email when an issue arises regarding ad valorem



Get to Know Your Legislators

My local legislators know if legislation contains the words “Ad Valorem”, that means *CALL WADE!*

My legislators *trust* that I will research the issue for them and report back as soon as possible. I believe they trust that I will give them the complete analysis of the bill, *both positive and negative*. I focus on how this legislation might affect the citizens of my county. Remember, it may not be something that you personally like, but it may be beneficial to the taxpayers overall

Try to provide the feedback as soon as possible. The legislation may be on the floor when they call.



The County Assessors Association Supports this Bill

- Amends the 5 Year Manufacturers Exemption, Title 68, 2902.
- Allows a company that previously qualified for the current exemption to reapply in future years if they lost the exemption because they fell below the payroll threshold during any year, due to circumstances beyond their control.
- A company would be allowed to reapply for any years remaining on their current 5 year exemption cycle.
- This bill addresses the issue for any future applicants and is not retroactive.
- Would have no fiscal impact since the company had qualified for the exemption and was counted in the Oklahoma Tax Commission estimates for the full 5 years.
- A small company in Enid had a fire on one of their production lines causing the company to lay off workers until the repairs were made. The layoff caused the payroll to drop below the required level for that year's exemption (year 2). However, the company made the repairs and put the production line back in operation the following year, therefore the payroll went back above the minimum requirement. Because the law does not now allow a company to reapply for remaining exemption years, the company was denied the exemption for years 3, 4, and 5.
- **Please support this bill.**



Get to Know Your Legislators

You never know how your first introduction to these folks will impact the future.

Example:

Scott Pruitt,
Oklahoma Attorney General



Get to Know Your Legislators

- Kids in t-shirts started our relationship
- Lost his bid for Lt. Governor
- I got to introduce him to the Assessor's Association at our annual conference
- Later won the election for Attorney General
- Called my office for advice on legislation and actions before the State BOE.
- Good friend of County Government in Oklahoma
- Open door policy for meetings in OKC



Get to Know Your Legislators

You never know when someone you know may become your legislator.

Example:

State Rep. Mike Jackson,
Speaker Pro Tempore



Get to Know Your Legislators

- Mike and Cara attended church with my family in Enid.
- The former State Rep. had some legal issue and was forced from office, Mike decided to run for the position
- Mike ran and defeated 5 other opponents in the primary and won the general election in 2003
- Rose to Speaker Pro Tempore in 2013-2014
- Carried multiple pieces of legislation for Assessor's Association
- *Was known as the expert legislator on Ad Valorem*
- Now the Senior Vice-President of Political Affairs and Advocacy, Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce



Get to Know Your Legislators

Oklahoma State Board of Equalization Members

- Governor Mary Fallin
- Lt. Governor Todd Lamb
- Attorney General Scott Pruitt
- State Auditor Gary Jones
- Superintendent of Public Education Joy Hofmeister
- State Treasurer Ken Miller

