



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
29 OCTOBER 2004

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### Oklahoma Fact of the Day #3

## Question 713: A Matter of Survival for Retailers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Tuesday's vote on ballot question 713 will be about more than just the issue of whether to approve a regressive increase of the tobacco tax by \$150 million. The tax increase in question would not only hurt consumers. For many retailers, it is a matter of survival:

☞ According to the 1997 Economic Census, there are more than 14,300 retail establishments in Oklahoma.

☞ These more than 14,300 establishments employ more than 161,613 people. If Question 713 passes, their jobs are on the line.

The negative impact of tobacco tax increases on retailers is well documented. A study on New York City's cigarette hike of 2002 conducted by the Small Business Survival Committee found the results of the tax increase were a complete disaster for small business:

☞ \$127 million in lost profits for small business

☞ some 10,000 jobs lost

☞ 88 percent of small businesses say they have been hurt by the tax increase

### Oklahoma cannot afford a similar scenario.

### Vote NO on Question 713!

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [cbutler@atr.org](mailto:cbutler@atr.org).*

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