

MEDIA ALERT:

JUNE 16, 2016



Philly Passes Regressive Grocery Tax

Washington, DC – Philadelphia became the first major American city with a soda tax despite massive opposition to the regressive proposal. The City Council gave final approval to a 1.5 cent-per-ounce tax on sugary and diet beverages. Mayor Jim Kenney said the new tax “will help improve education.” However, in the eleventh-hour the Mayor’s office announced that less than half of the projected revenue will be earmarked for education. Instead, millions of taxpayer dollars will be used for special projects and to plug holes in the City’s General Fund. Mayor Kenney sold the tax as a means to fund pre-K. Instead, his false promise proves that the public cannot trust government to do what it says when it comes to targeted taxes.

Capitol Allies remains steadfast in its opposition to such regressive, discriminatory taxation.

Mayor Kenney and the City Council ignored 58 percent of Philadelphians who opposed the regressive, discriminatory tax. A tax that will hit over a thousand grocery items. Capitol Allies has offered commentary stating that the tax is clearly illegal, violating Article VIII, Section 1, of the Pennsylvania Constitution—or uniformity clause.

Capitol Allies and its partners will continue to offer analysis and commentary on the Philly tax so to better inform the public discussion as the anti-tax fight moves to the courts.

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