The Real Problems With Ohio's State Tax System

a discussion with

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Dampeer Room, Second Floor of Kelvin Smith Library, 11201 Euclid Ave

Taxes are a crucial, poorly understood, and never popular part of public policy. They also are the subject of intense conflict about distribution and near-theological disputes about economic effects.

We see plenty of such disputes in Ohio. On one hand, the Tax Foundation and Buckeye Institute assert that, "Ohio has one of the worst business tax climates in the country," and that municipal income taxes make "Ohio's individual income tax system one of the worst in the country."

On the other hand, Policy Matters Ohio reports that, "Not only does Ohio's state and local tax system fail to produce enough revenue to properly fund schools, child care, transit and more, it's upside down… Ohio ranks 13th in the nation in tax unfairness."

Being especially regressive and anti-business is an impressive "accomplishment" – if true.

Some things are clear – such as that Ohio's sales taxes have risen while state income tax top rates fell over recent decades. Others involve questions of incidence and efficiency that require a public finance specialist to explain. What, for example, is the effect of Ohio's complex of tax credits and exclusions? Or of the specific and unusual ways Ohio taxes businesses?

Join us for expert perspective on the lifeblood of government – anemic though it may be!

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/