

## Sin Taxes: Sobering Reality

Scott Pattison
Executive Director
NASBO

April 2, 2015



### **Overall**

- Modest Growth (Mirror Economy)
- Most States: Good/Decent
- Tough Decisions
- Some States Very Difficult (Oil prices, etc.)



### **Long Term Spending Pressures:**

- Medicaid and Health Care
- K-12 and Higher Education
- Demographic Changes
- Corrections
- Infrastructure
- Pensions
- Retiree Health Care

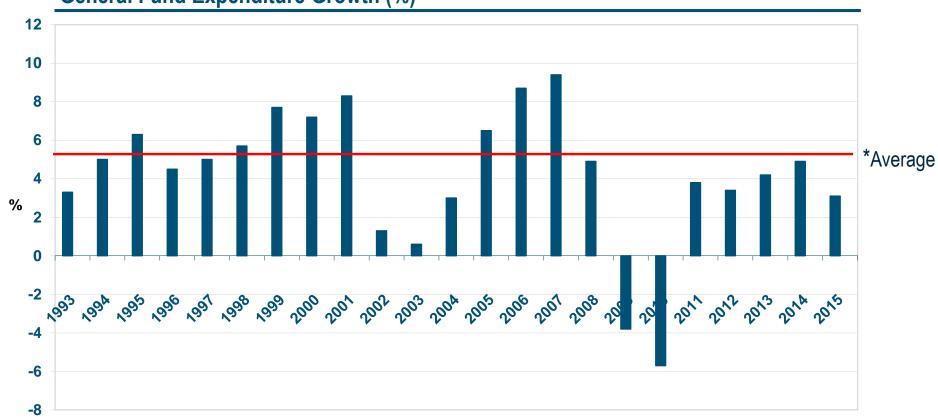






### **Slow Budget Growth Continues**

#### **General Fund Expenditure Growth (%)**



\*37-year historical average annual rate of growth is 5.5 percent Source: NASBO Fall 2014 Fiscal Survey of States \*Fiscal 2015 numbers are enacted



## GF Spending Expected to Grow for 5<sup>th</sup> Straight Year, Although Below Average

### **Annual Percent Change in General Fund Expenditures**



37-year historical average rate of growth is 5.5 percent Source: NASBO Fall 2014 Fiscal Survey of States \*Fiscal 2015 numbers are enacted



#### States Reserves Haven't Reached Peak Levels

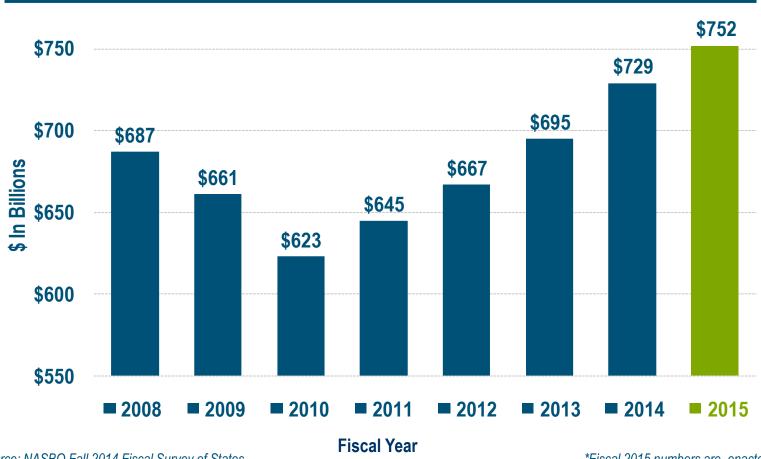
#### **Balances as a Percent of Expenditures**





### **GF Spending Exceeding Pre-Recession Level**

**General Fund Spending: FY 2008-FY 2015** 



Source: NASBO Fall 2014 Fiscal Survey of States

\*Fiscal 2015 numbers are enacted



### GF Spending Still Below Pre-Recession Peak Adjusted for Inflation

### **General Fund Spending: FY 2007-FY 2015**



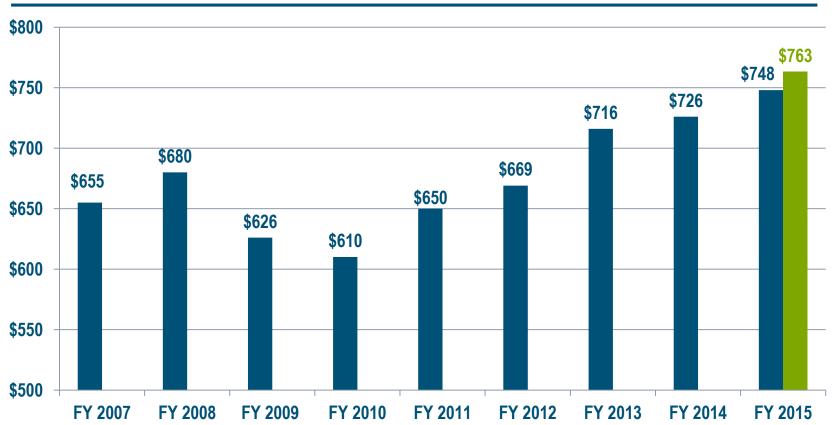
Source: NASBO Fall 2014 Fiscal Survey of States; Fiscal 2015 numbers are enacted

<sup>\*</sup>Aggregate spending levels would need to be at \$771 billion to remain equivalent with real 2008 spending levels.



### **GF Revenue Also Below Pre-Recession Peak Adjusted for Inflation**





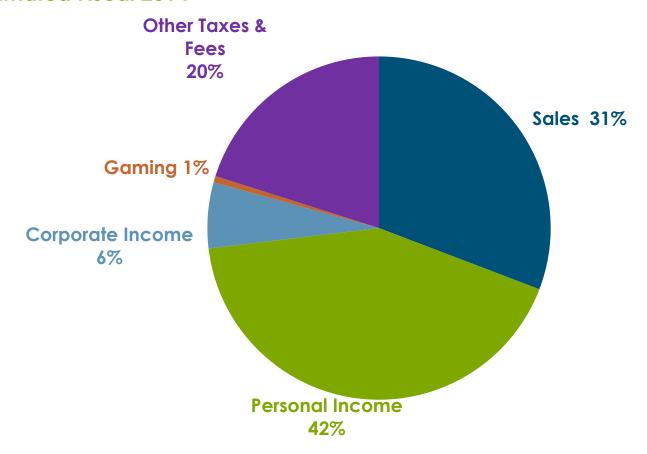
Source: NASBO Fall 2014 Fiscal Survey of States; Fiscal 2015 numbers are enacted

\*Aggregate revenue levels would need to be \$763 billon to remain equivalent with real 2008 revenue levels.



### Revenue Sources in the General Fund (Percentage)

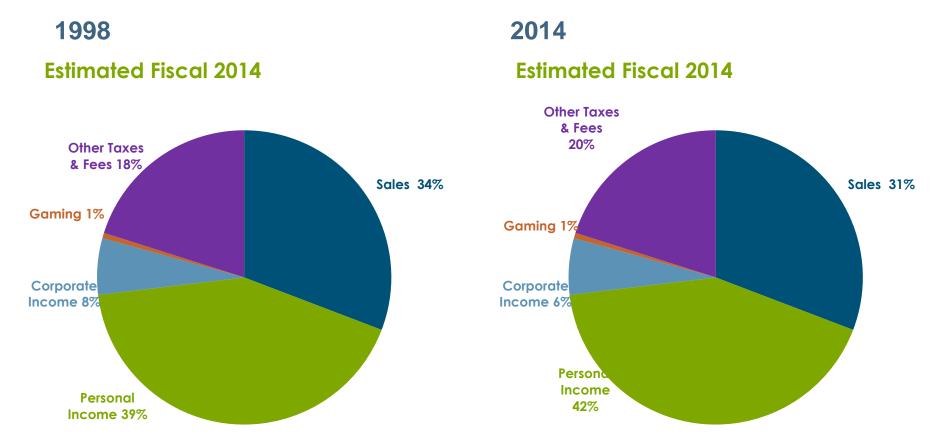
**Estimated Fiscal 2014** 



Source: NASBO State Expenditure Report



### Revenue Sources in GF Relatively Consistent





## Percent Change in FY 2014 and 2015 Collections by Major Tax

- Fiscal 2014 revenues increased by 1.3%, slow growth partly due to federal tax changes
  - PIT grew by 0.9%, sales 4.9%, and CIT 0.7%
- Fiscal 2015 revenues projected to increase by 3.1%
  - PIT projected to increase by 4.7%, sales 4.0%, and CIT 1.7%



### **General Fund Collections Compared to Projections**

### Fiscal 2014

- Revenue collections outpaced projections in 25 states
- Were on target in 5 states
- And came in below estimates in 20 states

### Fiscal 2015

- Revenue collections have outpaced projections in 7 states
- Are on target in 26 states
- Are coming in below estimates in 10 states

<sup>\*</sup>Only 43 states reported collections compared to projections for fiscal 2015.



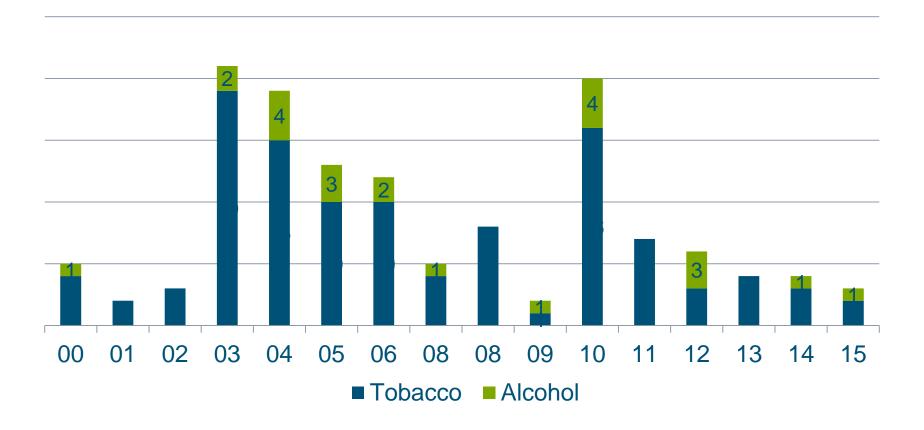
### Fiscal 2015 Enacted Revenue Changes by Major Tax

- Sales Taxes (-\$248M):
   5 states enacted increases,
   13 enacted decreases
- Personal Income (-\$747M):
   1 increase, 14 decreases
- Corporate Income (\$207M):2 increases, 9 decreases

- Cigarettes/Tobacco (\$8M):2 increases
- Motor Fuels (\$33M): 1 increase
- Alcohol (-\$0.2M):1 increase, 1 decrease
- Other Taxes (-\$698M):4 increases, 9 decreases



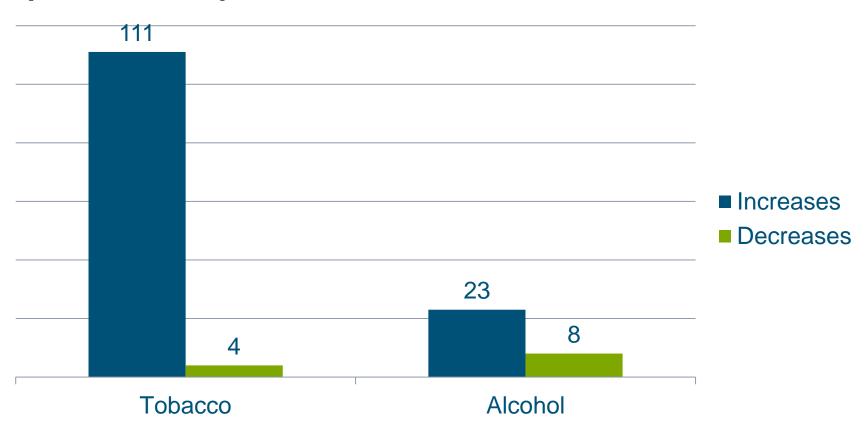
# Number of States Increasing Tobacco & Alcohol Taxes from 2000-2015



Source: NASBO Fiscal Survey of States



# Changes in Tobacco & Alcohol Taxes (2000-2015)



Source: NASBO Fiscal Survey of States

### **Tobacco and Alcohol Revenue**

- According to Census, state and local tobacco tax revenue was \$17.6B in fiscal 2012
- State and local alcohol revenue was \$6.5B
- Total state general fund revenue alone was \$672.8B in fiscal 2012, according to State Expenditure Report



## **State Gambling Revenue**

- Gambling revenue totaled \$27.3 billion in fiscal 2014, according to Rockefeller Institute of Government
  - Lottery \$18.1B, Casino \$5.3B, Racino \$3.2B, Video Gaming \$582M, Pari-mutel \$140.5M
- By comparison, total general fund revenue was \$729.7
   billion, according to State Expenditure Report
- Gambling revenue increased 0.6% in fiscal 2014, but declined 0.8 percent after adjusting for inflation
  - Lotteries grew 0.6%, casinos declined 1.4%



## Colorado Marijuana revenue

- Colorado is projected to receive \$47.7M in medical and retail marijuana revenue in fiscal 2015
  - Original projection was \$134M
- By comparison, Colorado's total projected general fund revenue for fiscal 2015 is \$9.6B
  - Marijuana revenue would then represent 0.5%
- January marijuana sales yielded \$2.3M for schools
  - Colorado spent \$7.9B on K-12 from all fund sources in fiscal 2014

## Washington State Marijuana revenue

- Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council is projecting \$222M in marijuana revenue over the next two-year budget for fiscal 2016-2017
- By comparison, Washington's general fund revenues are projected to be \$16.8B in fiscal 2015 alone



## **Budget View**

- Sin Taxes Not a Solution for <u>Major</u> Budget Problems
- Good for:
  - Some Extra Funds
  - Pay for Regulatory Environment
  - Discourage Use
- Reasons and Justification Should be Discussed
- Distraction from Major Fiscal Challenges
- Marijuana Issue: Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper stated that he thinks legalization was a bad idea (1/23/15 CNBC interview)



## www.nasbo.org

### Scott D. Pattison

Executive Director NASBO 202-624-8804

spattison@nasbo.org









