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Jake Merrick Delivers Stand-Out Performance at OK2A Gubernatorial Forum

Audience at Higher Plain Baptist Church erupts repeatedly for Merrick's bold, principled answers on faith, limited government, and ending unchecked toll taxation

EDMOND, OK — At last night's Oklahoma Second Amendment Association (OK2A) Gubernatorial Forum held at Higher Plain Baptist Church, former State Senator Jake Merrick earned sustained, thunderous applause throughout the evening, including two standing ovations that drowned out the moderator.

When asked why Oklahoma maintains two separate agencies for highways and turnpikes and whether they should be combined, Merrick was the only candidate on stage to reject merging the agencies, instead calling for the outright elimination of one: **"No. *One* should be eliminated,"** Merrick said to immediate roaring approval. He continued, **"Because we have a board that goes largely unchecked, rolling out new tolls — a.k.a. taxes — on the people of Oklahoma without legislative oversight and without a vote of the people, I call that taxation without representation."** The sanctuary erupted again in one of the loudest ovations of the night.

Merrick also reminded the packed house why he is running a different kind of campaign: **"I serve a big God. And I believe when I have a big God, I can have a small government."** The line drew an immediate and resounding applause.

"The energy in that room last night was unmistakable," said Merrick. **"Oklahomans are ready for a governor who answers only to them — not to lobbyists, not to corporate PACs, and not to the political class. I remain the only candidate in this race who has pledged to refuse every dollar from political action committees and special-interest groups. That means we won't raise the millions some others will, but with the people of Oklahoma behind us, we won't need to. Grassroots enthusiasm like we saw last night is more powerful than any super-PAC check."**

The full forum is available now on the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association's YouTube channel and Facebook page for Oklahomans to judge for themselves.

Jake Merrick is a former state senator, radio host, businessman, pastor, husband, and father of two running a people-funded campaign for governor on a "Principle over Politics" platform.

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