



NEWS

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President Bush Can't Count on Ellen Bard

When it comes to stopping the automatic tax increase, Bard says "hold off!"

WASHINGTON—U.S. House Candidate Ellen Bard (R-Penn.), thinks your taxes are too low. In a recent statement before a candidates' forum, Bard said she would be willing to let Americans keep the child tax credit and the marriage penalty reduction but favors "holding off" on preserving the rest of the tax cuts. On the other hand, President Bush and Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) have called for making the Bush tax cuts permanent.

ATR President Grover Norquist says he is not surprised that Bard is now advocating tax increases, since she hasn't taken the group's Taxpayer Protection Pledge. "No wonder Ellen Bard didn't sign the Pledge. She wants your taxes to be higher than they are now. We call that a tax increase. Tax-hikers are constantly trying to figure out new euphemisms. To some, tax hikes are 'revenue adjustments,' to others they are 'repeal of tax cuts,' or 'delays in the enactment of tax cuts.' To Ms. Bard, your taxes are going up because we're 'holding off.' Any way you slice it, if you pay more than you did before, that's a tax increase."

Ellen Bard made her troubling comments opposing President Bush's agenda at a forum hosted by the Republican Jewish Coalition. The moderator asked if the tax cuts should be made permanent, as President Bush and ATR have argued. Bard said no, that with a couple of exceptions, we should allow a tax hike "until we make sure that our economic recovery really takes over." Ironically, Ms. Bard stated just moments earlier that the tax cuts "have been very beneficial for the economy and helped to stimulate the economy."

"In one breath, Ellen Bard credits the Bush tax cuts with stimulating the economy, but in the next, she says we need tax hikes until the economy 'takes over.' She sounds like John Kerry, trying to have it both ways. But she only wants your tax bill to go one way—and that's up," said Norquist. "Bard is someone taxpayers can't trust, and President Bush can't count on her to help him with his domestic tax-cutting agenda."

Ellen Bard's opponent in the race, Melissa Brown, has signed ATR's Taxpayer Protection Pledge. The Pledge, now nearing its tenth anniversary, binds lawmakers to oppose any and all tax increases.

"It's easy for Pennsylvanians to see where everyone stands. On one side you have George W. Bush, both GOP candidates for the U.S. Senate, and Melissa Brown who have pledged to protect Pennsylvanians from tax increases. On the other, you have John Kerry and Ellen Bard, who think you should pay more, deigning only to save you a few scraps," concluded Norquist.

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.