



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Paul Proski

Amanda Serbu

3 DECEMBER 2004

202-785-0266

Fact of the Day #3: Mayor Daley Wants to Tax the Poor to Pay His Cronies

Whether you want to buy a new shirt or a new television, everything in Chicago will be more expensive if Mayor Daley's new budget plan passes, raising the city's sales tax to 9% - higher than New York, Los Angeles, and other big cities. He will then use that money to pay off his political donors and grow his political machine.

In addition to hiking the sales tax, Mayor Daley wants to increase taxes on tobacco, beer, and spirits.

All of these increases will disproportionately hurt the poor in Chicago, taxing nearly every aspect of their life. Mayor Daley's new plan for Chicago will drain the poor, forcing them to give up money that they cannot afford to hand out.

Struggling single parents are going to have to stretch their funds more than they are already forced to in order to make room for increased taxes.

Who will pay for Mayor Daley's tax increases?

- Number of people who live in Chicago: **2,896,016**
- Number of people who live below poverty: **at least 390,962***

Mayor Daley wants to pay his political machine with the money of hundreds of thousands of struggling Chicagoans.

* Figures from U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census 1997. Number is estimated from Cook County poverty rate; City of Chicago number is probably higher. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/17031.html>

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at cbutler@atr.org.