



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Indiana Legislators Named to Taxpayers' "Hall of Shame"

10 members of the Indiana House of Representatives violated Pledge not to raise taxes.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, has named 10 Illinois state Representatives to its **"Hall of Shame"** for violating a commitment made to the taxpayers of the state.

Since 1986, officials across the country have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a written commitment to **"oppose and vote against/veto any and all efforts to increase taxes."** Currently, President Bush, 42 U.S. Senators, 218 Congressmen, eight governors, and more than 1320 state legislators have signed the Pledge.

"Signing the Pledge is the single most important step a candidate or incumbent can take to demonstrate his or her commitment to taxpayers' interests," said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **"It is a commitment to the people of Indiana to protect their wallets against raids by the big-spenders in Indianapolis. Breaking the Pledge by voting to raise taxes is a betrayal of that commitment, and it reveals an official's anti-tax stand to be little more than election year grandstanding."**

On February 5, 2004, the following legislators violated their commitment to taxpayers by voting for HB 1009, a \$32.9 million tax increase.

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| 1. David Wolkins (H-18) | 5. Robert Cherry (H-53) | 9. Robert Behning (H-91) |
| 2. Jeb Bardon (H-25) | 6. John Frenz (H-64) | 10. David Frizzell (H-93) |
| 3. Gerald P. Torr (H-39) | 7. Winfield Moses (H-81) | |
| 4. Matt Whetstone (H-40) | 8. Jeff Espich (H-82) | |

The House members who signed the Pledge and honored their commitment to taxpayers in 2004 are:

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| 1. Craig Fry (H-5)* | 5. Timothy Brown (H-41) | 9. Charles Burton (H-58) |
| 2. Don Lehe (H-15)* | 6. Timothy Neese (H-48) | 10. Eric Allan Koch (H-65) |
| 3. P. Eric Turner (H-32) | 7. Dennis Kruse (H-51) | 11. Robert Alderman (H-83) |
| 4. James R. Buck (H-38) | 8. Marlin A. Stutzman (H-52) | |

The Senate did not vote on the measure. Senate Pledge signers who honored their commitment in 2004 are:

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| 1. Robert L. Meeks (S-13) | 3. Jeff Drozda (S-21) | 5. R. Michael Young (S-35) |
| 2. Dennis K. Kruse (S-14) | 4. J. Murray Clark (S-29) | 6. John Waterman (S-39) |

*While Craig Fry (H-5) and Don Lehe (H-15) also voted for HB 1009, they did so before they signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.

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. ###