



NEWS

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Fact of the Day #4: Rep. Demetrius Atsalis Out Of Touch With Taxpayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Demetrius Atsalis signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, and then broke it by voting for a tax increase in 2002.

Here are a few good reasons why he is sending the wrong message to the hard-working families of Massachusetts:

President Bush's four tax cuts in four years have brought the national economy back on the right track, and the states are benefiting from it:

- Nearly 2 million jobs have been created since August 2003, economic growth is at its fastest rate in 20 years. Working Americans have seen their after tax income go up 10%.
- Unemployment is currently at 5.4%, lower than the average rate of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s.
- The homeownership rate in the U.S. is at a record-high of 69.3 percent, and the minority homeownership is also the highest it's ever been.

When given a chance, taxpayers across the nation have rejected tax hikes at large margins. They do not appreciate having their pocketbooks raided:

- VA 2002: voters rejected sales tax increase in Tidewater area and Northern Virginia.
- AL 2003, Gov. Riley's \$1.2 billion tax hike voted down by a margin of 68%-32%.
- WA 2003, Seattle residents reject 10 cent tax on every espresso drink.
- CA, 2003, Gov. Gray Davis recalled after tripling car tax and years of fiscal profligacy.
- OR 2004: tax increase passed in 2003 defeated at the ballot box 60%-40%.
- CA 2004: Voters reject proposal to weaken tough supermajority requirement to raise taxes.
- VT 2004: to protest high property taxes, town of Killington votes to secede from Vermont.

Higher taxes harm a state's competitiveness.

- Entrepreneurs are more likely to start their businesses in states with a business-friendly tax climate.

A commitment not to raise taxes should only be the logical conclusion. But it's worth nothing, if it is not lived up to. By breaking his Pledge, Rep. Atsalis shows that he is out of touch with taxpayers.

His opponent Ann Canedy has committed to "oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes."

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.