



NEWS

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Massachusetts Fact of the Day #3: Rep. Demetrius Atsalis May Stall the Engine of Growth

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Demetrius Atsalis signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge in 2001. Then, a year later, he broke his commitment to taxpayer and voted for a massive tax increase.

Big spenders will most certainly push for higher taxes in the next legislative session. The options for higher taxes are wide, and may not only affect Massachusetts taxpayers at the personal level, but also the state's business climate. Currently, Massachusetts ranks 41st in the Small Business Survival Index 2004 issued by the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council.

If the tax burden on businesses and residents were increased, the state might embark on a trail that may be dangerous for the state's economy and fiscal health, by putting small business - the backbone of every state's economy - at risk. Already ranking so low, Massachusetts cannot afford higher taxes:

-  According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 75% of all new jobs are created by small business – they are the engine of growth.
-  Thanks to President Bush's tax cutting policies, the national economy has picked up steam and has created almost 2 million jobs since August 2003. The positive momentum has carried over into the states.

Raising taxes would only derail the train of economic recovery, and stall the engine of growth – it should not be an option.

Yet, Rep. Atsalis broke his word once, he may do it again.

His opponent Ann Canedy has signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, and has thereby pledged to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.”