



NEWS

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Arizona Taxpayers to Face Attack on Freedom and Privacy November 2nd

-Immigration Measure Will Cost Taxpayers Liberty as Well as Dollars -

Washington D.C. – Arizona voters have the choice on November 2nd to stand against a citizen initiative that will increase the overall tax burden and strip basic privacy rights from Arizona citizens.

Proposition 200 would require all Arizonians seeking public benefits to prove they are legal citizens. Proponents of the measure state that it is intended to combat voter fraud and cut social services for undocumented immigrants. The consequences for limited government and liberty would be disastrous, however. An Arizona where every bureaucrat is an apparatchik of the police state is not an Arizona its citizens deserve.

“Taxpayers need to understand that government bureaucrats should never have this much access to private records and documents,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist. **“Arizona DMV employees certainly should not try to pretend they are border guards.”**

In addition to privacy concerns, the impact of the initiative will be to increase the cost of state government-requiring future tax hikes. A state government analysis found that \$20 million per year is needed to cover the basic costs of verifying the immigration papers of individuals seeking public benefits. The potential costs to taxpayers include almost \$11 million for the Department of Environmental Quality to verify citizenship at car emission stations and another \$8 million for the Department of Public Safety to conduct background checks for traffic accident investigations and arrests.

“The passage of Proposition 200 in Arizona will subject the citizens of the state to an increased tax burden with greater government intrusion in their private lives,” continued Norquist. **“Americans for Tax Reform stands alongside the members of the ‘No’ Campaign in their efforts to minimize the threat of government intrusion in the private lives of all Arizonians.”**

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 Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org.