



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Critics Accuse Virginia Governor Warner of Failing to Disclose Estimated Surplus

*No Repeal of a VA Tax Increase even with a Probable \$200 Billion Surplus?*

Washington – The Virginia economy has grown to produce revenues that were up 22.5% from the same months of March and April of last year. Also, revenues for May were up by 7.3%. Since the economy has grown at a faster rate than expected, the state government's surplus is anticipated to swell to \$200-\$250 million dollars.

Republicans are calling for tax cuts in the face of the improved economy. However, Governor Mark Warner and Democrats in the legislature are warning that decisions made regarding the economy should not be based on a couple of months of increased revenues. Nonetheless, the expected surplus has raised questions concerning the purpose of a \$1.4 billion dollar tax increase.

**“Even when there is a surplus- money exceeding the government’s budget-big spenders don’t want to cut taxes. This incident shows that for the big spenders, the purpose of a tax increase is not to meet budgetary needs, but rather to take increasingly more money from the taxpayers in order to be used for wasteful government spending,”** comments Grover Norquist, President of *Americans for Tax Reform*.

The controversy regarding what Governor Warner knew has incurred doubts as to whether his best interests are with the taxpayers of Virginia. **“The true agenda of the Virginia Governor and his big spending buddies has been revealed. For them, tax increases are used to raise money for the state government to spend, not to balance the budget,”** says Norquist.

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 Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at [jcollegio@atr.org](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).