



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Just Which Sector of the Economy is Susan Brill Willing to Cripple?

Refusal to rule out tax increases by candidate for tomorrow's GOP run-off leaves businesses and families wondering.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The run-off election for the Republican nomination for the 78th House district has come down to a question of principle on the tax issue: candidate Joan Brady has signed a written Pledge to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes;” candidate Susan Brill refuses to sign the Pledge, preferring to keep her options open.

But the option Ms. Brill wants to keep open is the option to raise taxes on the people of South Carolina.

Any new tax will damage some segment of South Carolina society. How might various tax increases affect the state?

- **Raising income taxes** – most small businesses pay the personal income tax rate. Since small businesses create 75% of all new jobs, and hire disproportionately poorer and minority workers, higher income taxes would threaten job creation.
- **Raising gasoline taxes** – raises the cost of every good transported within the state, raising the cost of living for all families. Also raises the cost of all goods transported out of the state, hurting the competitiveness of South Carolina producers.
- **Raising tobacco taxes** – many small retailers are dependent upon tobacco sales to stay in business, threatening the jobs of thousands of workers in the retail industry. In addition, tobacco taxes fall most heavily on those least able to afford them.
- **Raising alcohol taxes** – the hospitality industry depends on beer, wine, and spirits sales to stay in business. Higher alcohol taxes threaten the jobs of those who work in bars, restaurants, hotels, etc.
- **Raising sales taxes** – raises the cost of living for all South Carolina families.
- **Raising death taxes** – destroys family farms and small businesses.

“By signing the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, Joan Brady has committed herself to protecting the jobs and industries of South Carolina,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Susan Brill’s refusal to sign the Pledge indicates her willingness to sacrifice jobs and industries to fund more spending. Ms. Brill should tell South Carolina which jobs and which industries she will threaten in the name of “keeping her options open.”**

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 Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.