



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Kansas Senate Victorious in Refusing Tax Hikes

*-- Kansas Senate concluded its session for the year refusing to approve tax increases --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Kansas State Senate dealt a blow to big spending interests by ending this year’s session without increasing taxes. The House and the Senate could not reach an agreement, as the Senate stood firm in defending taxpayers from the House, which had sought to raise taxes to increase \$155 million for the school system.

The Senate’s compromise education plan proposal allowed for \$82 million into the general fund without tax increases by transferring money from the state’s highway fund. Seeking a plan in which taxes are increased, the House rejected this plan by a vote of 75-41. However, the Senate proved successful in ending the session without giving way to those seeking to increase the burdens of hard-working Kansas families.

**“I applaud the legislators who have worked so hard to prevent a plan in which taxes would be raised. Throwing money into the general fund does not address the problems of the school system,”** said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **“Those who opposed the tax-free education plan only were seeking higher taxes rather than looking to improve the education system. Their plan to keep money in the general fund, demonstrates they were not committed to improve the school system. It shows they just wanted to move money into a slush fund, in preparation to pay off their special interests.”**

Kansas is already known to have one of the highest per capita tax burdens of all the neighboring states at \$1770.46 per person, while Colorado pays \$1536.25 and Missouri pays \$1529.92 per person. The Senate’s refusal to further burden the taxpayers comes as a magnificent victory to the families of Kansas.

**“Taxpayers in Kansas should be proud of the lawmakers on their side, who are working to protect their interests,”** said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **“This victory is a great first step for Kansas towards controlled spending and revenue-neutral policies. This initial step will lead to economic growth and increased competitiveness.”**

The following legislators voted for the tax-free school finance plan:

- |                     |                    |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Barbara Allen    | 11. Tim Huelskamp* | 21. Derek Schmidt   |
| 2. Jim Barnett      | 12. Dave Jackson*  | 22. Jean Schodorf   |
| 3. Karin Brownlee*  | 13. Nick Jordan    | 23. Mark Taddiken   |
| 4. Pete Brungradt   | 14. Phil Journey*  | 24. Robert Tyson*   |
| 5. Mark Buhler      | 15. Dave Kerr      | 25. Dwayne Umbarger |
| 6. Bill Bunten      | 16. Bob Lyon       | 26. Susan Wagler*   |
| 7. Stan Clark*      | 17. Steve Morris   |                     |
| 8. Dave Corbin      | 18. Kay O'Connor*  |                     |
| 9. Les Donovan      | 19. Ed Pugh*       |                     |
| 10. Jay Scott Emler | 20. Larry Salmans  |                     |

\*Signers of Taxpayer Protection Pledge

*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](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).*