



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM



Talk Radio Alert

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INTERVIEW ALERT:

The Tax Revolution Advances in Maine

Mainers are up in arms against taxes. They shoulder the highest tax burden in the nation, and their businesses face a tax climate that ranks 43rd out of the 50 states (The Tax Foundation, 2003).

A backlash has begun, as Mainers are demanding a less oppressive government and greater economic opportunities. A key component in that backlash is a 1% property tax cap referendum to be voted on November 2.

But an even bigger revolution is coming, if some have their way: A Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR)

A Taxpayers Bill of Rights is a constitutional limit on tax and spending growth, allowing government to grow only as fast as population plus inflation. First passed in Colorado in 1992, it has become a model for budget reform and economic growth. Its successes are clear:

- Colorado passed the model TABOR amendment in 1992, requiring a vote of the people to raise taxes, limiting the growth of spending, and rebating excess funds to taxpayers.
- Colorado avoided the painful budget shortfalls experienced by Wisconsin and most other states.
- From 1995 to 2000, Colorado was #1 in the nation in Gross State Product growth.
- From 1995 to 2000, Colorado was #2 in the nation in personal income growth.
- **Since 1993, the people of Colorado received \$3.2 billion in tax rebates, because spending grew more slowly than tax revenues.**

“As I watch tax developments nationwide, I see that TABOR is the future,” said Grover Norquist, president of American for Tax Reform. **“The states that pass TABOR will lead the nation in growth, investment, and jobs, and those that fail to pass it will become the new Rust Belt. Maine can position itself at the vanguard of this revolution if it adopts TABOR now. Mary Adams is doing a great service to her state by promoting this idea.”**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who support tax simplification and oppose all federal and state 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.

*Harvard-educated and street-smartened by years as a Washington insider, **Norquist** is your show's ultimate guest to discuss the state budget crises. His bio can be found at <http://www.ctr.org/staff>. You can find more information about his organization Americans for Tax Reform at www.ctr.org.*