



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Seven Legislators Break Pledge to Constituents as Michigan House Abandons Taxpayers

*House passes DOUBLING of tax on Detroit casinos.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, May 12, the Michigan House passed HB 4612, a bill to raise the tax on casinos from 18 percent to 36 percent. The measure would raise \$90 million, on top of the \$90 million in taxes already paid by casinos.

13 Michigan representatives, in addition to 5 state senators and Attorney General Mike Cox, have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a written commitment to an elected official's constituents to **“oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.”** President Bush, 42 U.S. Senators, 216 Congressmen (including Pete Hoekstra, Dave Camp, Fred Upton, Nick Smith, Mike Rogers, Joe Knollenberg, Candice Miller, and Thad McCotter), 9 governors, and over 1250 state legislators have signed a similar Pledge.

Seven Michigan representatives broke their Pledge by voting for this tax increase, and will be listed on Americans for Tax Reform's Hall of Shame (<http://www.ATR.org/hallofshame/index.html>).

**“The people of Michigan got an excellent chance to see which of their legislators they can trust,”** said Grover Norquist, president for Tax Reform. **“Thirteen representatives ruled out tax increases as a matter of principle, and put their commitment in writing. Now we see who meant it, and who was just trying to fool the voters.”**

Earlier this session, the Michigan House killed two tax increase bills, one marking up distilled spirits and one boosting the death tax. But a casino tax hike could endanger thousands of jobs in economically-depressed Detroit, and could derail plans to build new hotels and casino facilities to replace the “temporary” casino buildings operating now.

**“Tax votes can be embarrassingly revealing,”** continued Norquist. **“Michigan's House voted to put at risk economic development in Detroit, and the jobs of thousands of workers, in order to raise funds for their favorite spending projects. And 7 representatives broke their commitment to their constituents, revealing themselves to be political opportunists. The people of Michigan deserve better from their government.”**

Representatives who broke their commitment to taxpayers:

- |                            |                          |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John Pappageorge (H-41) | 4. Gene DeRossett (H-52) | 7. Stephen Ehardt (H-83) |
| 2. Ruth Johnson (H-46)     | 5. Matt Milosch (H-55)   |                          |
| 3. David Robertson (H-51)  | 6. Glenn Steil (H-72)    |                          |

Representatives who kept their commitment to taxpayers:

- |                            |                              |                               |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Leon Drolet (H-33)      | 3. Rick Shaffer (H-59)       | 5. Clark Bisbee (H-64)        |
| 2. John P. Garfield (H-45) | 4. Jacob W. Hoogendyk (H-61) | 6. Kenneth Bradstreet (H-105) |

*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).*