



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Patrick Ballantine and Bill Cobey Plan to Raise Your Taxes

-- Gubernatorial candidates in North Carolina refuse to rule out tax increases --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Every year, Americans for Tax Reform, the nation’s premier taxpayer advocacy group, asks all candidates for federal and state office to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. The Pledge commits a candidate or office holder to **“oppose and vote against/veto any and all efforts to increase taxes.”**

Richard Vinroot and George Little, Republican candidates for governor, have signed the Pledge, joining President Bush, 42 U.S. senators (including Sen. Elizabeth Dole), 217 Congressmen (including Walter Jones, Richard Burr, Howard Coble, Robin Hayes, Sue Myrick, Cass Ballenger, and Charles Taylor), eight governors, and over 1280 state legislators (including 52 from North Carolina). Patrick Ballantine and Bill Cobey have declined repeated requests to sign the Pledge.

“Since 1986, the Pledge has been the best way for a candidate to make clear his commitment to defend taxpayers against the big-spending interests,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“It is a statement of principle that hard-working families should not have to bear the burden of bigger government by having their pocketbooks raided. It should be a no-brainer for anyone who does not plan to raise taxes.”**

Recently, prominent Republican gubernatorial candidates have claimed during their campaigns that they would not raise taxes, but they refused to sign the Pledge. Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia, Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio, Gov. Bob Riley of Alabama, and Gov. Kenny Guinn of Nevada all refused to sign the Pledge, and all tried to raise taxes once they got into office.

“Taxpayers have been burned too many times,” continued Norquist. **“Campaign rhetoric is cheap. If a candidate refuses to take the Pledge, it usually means he or she plans to raise taxes if elected. North Carolina families and businesses should beware.”**

ATR offers the Taxpayer Protection Pledge to all candidates seeking office at the state and federal levels, and also to sitting incumbents. To obtain a copy of the Pledge, or to learn more about it, please visit www.ATR.org or call Paul Proski or Sandra Fabry at (202) 785-0266.

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.