



NEWS

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Blackwell's Tax and Spending Limit Proposal is Key to Ohio's Future

Secretary of State's constitutional amendment would stem job losses, revitalize state economy.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell (R) has begun the process to place on the ballot a constitutional amendment to limit tax and spending growth at the state and local levels. The amendment would require a two-thirds vote to raise taxes, would limit spending growth to inflation plus population growth, and would prohibit localities from raising taxes without a vote of the people.

If successful, the amendment would put Ohio at the forefront of a nationwide trend. Colorado set the national model with its Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) in 1992, and now states from Maine to Minnesota to Maryland are considering similar proposals.

“Secretary of State Ken Blackwell should be praised for his foresight in proposing this amendment,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Colorado has boomed and Colorado taxpayers have saved billions since TABOR passed. Several states are rushing to pass matching amendments. States that fail to do so will be left behind.”**

Since TABOR took effect in 1995, Colorado has had the highest Gross State Product growth in the nation, and the second highest rate of growth in personal income. At the same time, \$3.2 billion of surplus revenue was rebated to the people of Colorado, because spending was kept under control. And during the economic downturn of the last few years, Colorado avoided the budget crisis faced by most states (as high as \$34 billion in California and \$10 billion in Texas), facing a very minor shortfall.

“The national economy is booming, due in large part to President Bush's tax cuts,” continued Norquist. **“But Ohio is stagnating, and jobs are scarce. We have Bob Taft and his tax increases and overspending to thank for that. Ken Blackwell's proposal will put Ohio back on the path to fiscal sanity, and bring jobs and growth back to the Buckeye State.”**

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.