



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036  
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

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CONTACT: Paul Proski  
Sandra Fabry  
202-785-0266

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# Gov. Pawlenty Named “Hero of the Taxpayer”

*-- Americans for Tax Reform names Minnesota Governor Hero of the Taxpayer for his no-tax-hike budget proposal --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Faced with a budget shortfall, many governors these days opt for a quick fix and resort to higher taxes to pour into budget holes. Not so in Minnesota. Gov. Tim Pawlenty - for the second time in a row - has released a budget proposal that erases a budget shortfall without raising taxes.

Last year, the governor faced an enormous deficit of over \$4 billion – the biggest deficit in Minnesota’s history. Pawlenty took on big spenders and proposed a budget that closed the gap by cutting spending and not raising taxes. Aware that Minnesotans greatly approved of his fiscal responsibility, the governor this year stays on message, and refrains from overly burden his constituents by raising taxes.

**“The governor is on a roll, and unlike some of his colleagues, he lives up to his campaign promises: No higher taxes!”** says Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“He understands that it takes spending restraint, not tax increases, to balance a budget, and this is what his constituents expect from him.”**

Gov. Pawlenty’s budget proposal seeks to rein in spending in virtually every area of state government, freezing wages for public sector employees for two years and shifting some spending to future dates. At a time when thousands and thousands of Minnesotans are losing their jobs, the governor does not think it is unreasonable to ask state government to live within a nearly 7-percent growth in revenues.

**“The clear message the Governor sends with his proposal is exactly the kind of leadership constituents deserve on the part of their elected officials: Government should live within its means just as every family has to do.”** continues Norquist. **“Governor Pawlenty deserves praise for his budget proposal. It is a reminder that fiscal sanity does exist. And it has earned him the Hero of the Taxpayer award.”**

*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).*