



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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

WWW.ATR.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
19 May 2004

CONTACT: Jonathan Collegio
202-785-0266

Republican Tax-Hikers Lose Again – This Time, In Oregon

State Sen. Jackie Winters (R), who voted to raise taxes last summer, loses her primary bid against Jim Zupancic, who pledged No New Taxes. In Oregon's 1st District, pledgesigner Goli Ameri wins her primary.

WASHINGTON – The trend against Republicans who hike taxes continues – this time, in Oregon's 5th congressional district, where State Sen. Jackie Winters lost her Republican primary bid to Jim Zupancic.

Winters was one of a sixteen Republican legislators who voted with Democrat Gov. Ted Kulongoski to raise taxes by \$800 million. A previous ballot initiative to raise taxes failed in 2003, and again in February of 2004, when voters repealed the legislature's tax hike.

Winters' loss comes on the heels of a Republican primary in Nebraska's 1st congressional district, where the speaker of the state legislature, Curt Bromm, refused to pledge against tax hikes and lost his primary there – despite being heavily favored to win and the recipient of outgoing Rep. Doug Bereuter's (R) endorsement.

“Republicans who vote to raise taxes have pointed a 12 gauge shotgun at the heads of their careers and pulled the trigger,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, who heads Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) in Washington. **“Republicans even thinking about raising taxes should look at how Sen. Jackie Winters and Speaker Bromm in Nebraska have destroyed their political futures,”** he continued.

Numerous states faced what legislatures liked to call “budget shortfalls” in 2001-2003, adding pressure on legislative bodies, and especially Republicans, to raise taxes. But in cases where Republican governors passed tax increases – most notably Nevada by Gov. Kenny Guinn and Alabama under Gov. Bob Riley – the perpetrators of higher taxes are not expected to run for higher office.

On the other hand, states facing shortfalls that did not raise taxes are often led by Republican governors widely speculated to be in the running for president in 2008. Govs. Bill Owens (Colorado), Jeb Bush (Florida), Mitt Romney (Massachusetts), Rick Perry (Texas), Tim Pawlenty (Minnesota), and Craig Benson (New Hampshire) are all speculated to have ambitions for higher office.

“The fastest way to end a Republican's career is to vote for a tax hike,” continued Norquist. **“And redemption in this business doesn't come easy.”**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.