



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Texas Senate Faces Big Decision

*--During the special session addressing school finance reforms, the Senate should pursue revenue-neutral solutions --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Governor Rick Perry has called the legislature to a special session seeking to reform school finances. Governor Perry’s intention was to find a way to avoid burdening taxpayers by committing to seek another source of funding for schools. However, the House has failed to come up with a valid solution to fund public schools, leaving it up to the Senate to come up with the remedy.

The special session addressing education financial reforms will end on May 19th. The Senate is considering funding by either using gambling or instituting a franchise tax, a payroll tax, or a sales tax as the source of revenue.

**“The Senate is in a position where they can have a dramatic influence on the well-being of hard-working people in Texas,”** said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **“Their prime objective should be to work with Governor Perry to improve the efficiency of the school system without raising taxes. The Senate must find a way to institute true reform rather than throwing money at the problem.”**

The legislation passed in the House modified the Governor’s proposal leaving it wide open for large increases in taxes. The House has left out funding details in the proposal, allowing only the shell of the Governor’s school reforms to pass without any means to pay for it. The House’s inability to come up with funding opens the door for big spenders to sneak in large sums of taxes as the source of revenues needed. The Senate must ensure their commitment to protect the hard-working people of Texas by not adding unnecessary taxes.

**“The decision that the Senate makes will determine how much burden the taxpayers will have to carry,”** said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **“We have four Senators who have committed to keep all proposals revenue neutral by opposing and voting against any and all efforts to increase taxes. We encourage all Senators to commit to joining their fight to oppose tax increases.”**

The following Senators have signed the pledge committing to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.”

1. Todd Staples (S-3)
2. Tommy Williams (S-4)
3. Chris Harris (S-9)
4. Kyle Janek (S-17)

*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).*