



NEWS

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Virginians Agree: Tax-Hiking Republicans Are Out of Touch

In Richmond's Morning News Poll for Friday September 17, 70% side with ATR

WASHINGTON—This morning on WRVA's morning news poll, 70% of respondents sided with Americans for Tax Reform and said that the tax-hiking Republicans are the ones out of touch, refuting Sen. John Chichester's (R-Stafford) claim that ATR President Grover Norquist is out of touch.

"I'm not surprised that 70% of those who responded to this quick poll think Chichester and his band of tax-hiking Republicans are the ones who are out of touch. Even in Democratic Northern Virginia no one wants their taxes raised. Republicans across Virginia would never have supported their money-grab. That's why they refused let the people vote—they know they're out of touch," said Norquist.

Thursday's Richmond Times-Dispatch attributed the sentiments to Chichester in his response to ATR's "Virginia's Least Wanted" poster. The poster, now in the mail to thousands of Republicans across the country, lists the Republicans who followed Chichester and Gov. Mark Warner (D) into a tax-hike that has proved completely unnecessary. A study released this week by the non-partisan Rockefeller Institute once again confirmed that Virginia's revenue would have spiked in the last two quarters without the tax increase.

"When Ronald Reagan came into the White House in 1981, they didn't get the message. When President George H.W. Bush lost his reelection bid they missed it again," said Norquist. **"When Republicans took over the House in 1994 they still remained lost, and they didn't get it when Northern Virginia defeated the transportation tax referendum. Tax increases aren't Republican. When Republicans vote for tax increases, they lose. When they oppose tax increases they win, and all taxpayers do too. "**

Chichester is expected to become the champion of yet another round of tax increases in the coming months, this time for transportation—the very prospect Virginians recently defeated at the ballot box.

"Virginians are right: Chichester and the others are out of touch—they should be out of the state house too," Norquist concluded.

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 Christopher Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org.

