



NEWS

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Sen. Mary Panzer Fact of the Day #1: Mary Panzer Stalled Taxpayers Bill of Rights, Denying Tax Rebates to Wisconsin

Last June, Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer (R-West Bend) frustrated efforts to pass a Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR). According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (July 28, 2004), Sen. Panzer “refused to schedule a vote on the issue.”

Suddenly, when pro-TABOR and pro-taxpayer Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) announced he would challenge Panzer in Tuesday’s primary, Panzer abruptly announced her support for TABOR.

Sen. Panzer’s last minute conversion seems influenced more by politics than by conviction. Let’s see what Sen. Panzer denied to Wisconsin taxpayers last spring:

- Colorado passed the model TABOR amendment in 1992, requiring a vote of the people to raise taxes, limiting the growth of spending, and rebating excess funds to taxpayers.
- Colorado avoided the painful budget shortfalls experienced by Wisconsin and most other states.
- From 1995 to 2000, Colorado was #1 in the nation in Gross State Product growth.
- From 1995 to 2000, Colorado was #2 in the nation in personal income growth.
- **Since 1993, the people of Colorado received \$3.2 billion in tax rebates, because spending grew more slowly than tax revenues.**

TABOR has shown an ability to slow the growth of government, avoid budget crises, boost economic growth and job creation, and rebate tax money to the people. Yet Mary Panzer stood in the way of TABOR.

Why is Mary Panzer opposed to sound fiscal management, new jobs, and tax rebates?

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 Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at cbutler@atr.org.