



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Kerrys Paid Just 12% in Federal Income Taxes in 2003

*Massachusetts Senator paid skimpy tax bill despite calls for rich to “pay their share”*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – John Kerry has repeatedly called for increasing taxes on the “wealthy” so the affluent “pay their fair share” for the “common good.” Ironically, John and Theresa Heinz Kerry, who comprise one the richest families in the world, pay relatively little income tax.

Last year, John Kerry and his wife paid just 12% of their combined income in income taxes, despite their assertion that the rich should contribute increased amounts to government coffers. In contrast, President and Mrs. Bush, who had a substantially lower income than the Kerry’s, paid over 28% in taxes.

**“John Kerry wants other Americans to pay higher taxes while he and his wife manage to pay a rate lower than most of the middle class,”** said ATR President Grover Norquist. **“Apparently, the Kerrys think everyone else should pay higher taxes but them.”**

In addition to finding loopholes and write-offs to decrease his taxes, John Kerry has declined to pay a small, voluntary tax in his home state. The Massachusetts state income tax code contains a provision allowing payers to contribute an extra .6% of their income to benefit the commonwealth. Kerry has consistently failed to pay the extra money, which would have amounted to \$687 dollars last year.

**“John Kerry thinks other hardworking Americans should pay more taxes while he and his billionaire wife pay as little as possible,”** continued Norquist. **“The hypocrisy John Kerry shows on his own tax return is not indicative of the character and judgment America need in our President.”**