



NEWS

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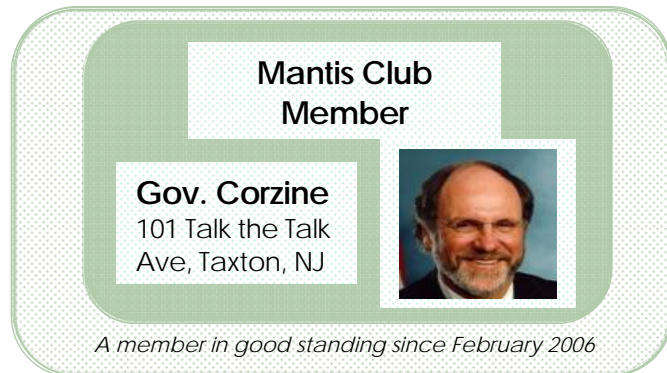
Governor Corzine: Welcome to the Mantis Club

New Jersey's governor enters elite club after breaking promise not to raise taxes

WASHINGTON – Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) welcomed the Garden State's newly elected governor, Jon Corzine (D), to the elite Mantis Club. To qualify for membership to the Mantis Club, a governor must campaign on a promise not to raise taxes and then quickly reverse course once entering office. The Mantis Club is named for the praying mantis, an insect which is easily camouflaged and devours its mate after mating.

Corzine and his fellow members resemble this insect as they seduce voters with promises to not raise taxes if elected, and then quickly eat the taxpayers for lunch once elected to office. The governor joins former state Chief Executives James Florio and James McGreevy, who both vigorously campaigned on promises not to raise taxes but imposed the largest tax increases nationally once coming to office.

“Like a praying mantis, Corzine first camouflaged himself to voters as a taxpayer-friendly governor, and now that he is elected he wants to eat those same voters who elected him into office,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of ATR.



“This should come as no surprise to Garden State voters as the similarities between Corzine and the other two members of club are just striking. All three members have first names which start with the letter J, are Democrats, and all promised the raptorial Trenton spending interests hundreds of billions of taxpayer money in order to get elected,” continued Norquist

On a radio program Wednesday night, Gov. Corzine, stated that he will “probably” be calling for tax hikes and will “explore” imposing a gross receipts tax on businesses. This tax increase comes on top of New Jersey raising taxes more than any other state in the country. During the past four years, each man, woman, and child has paid a cumulative \$1,328 in new taxes, 5.5 times the national average. At the same time, debt has increased \$14 billion and property taxes remain among the highest in the country. **“Clearly, there is no need to raise taxes but rather cut the fat that has piled up on the Democrats’ watch,”** concluded Norquist.

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 John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or jkartch@atr.org

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