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Everything's Bigger in Texas – Even Fiscal Transparency

Texas Public Policy Foundation Launches Texas Budget Source.com - a one-stop shopping site for information on government spending at state and local level

WASHINGTON, D.C. –Americans for Tax Reform applauds the launch of www.TexasBudgetSource.com, a project unveiled today by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, which will offer Texas taxpayers comprehensive information on how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent at the state and local levels.

With more detail forthcoming, the site already allows for one-stop-shopping for taxpayers interested in comprehensive information on state and local government finance. In addition to a user-friendly state budget breakdown, taxpayers can track local government spending in the 25 largest cities in Texas as well as access information about school district spending.

“On behalf of Texas taxpayers, I congratulate the Texas Public Policy Foundation on the launch of their new fiscal transparency website,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“I am confident that Texas Budget Source will empower taxpayers with necessary tools to track their tax dollars where already possible, and to ask the right questions when dealing with their elected officials in cases where transparency in government spending has not yet taken hold.”**

The Texas Public Policy Foundation and Americans for Tax Reform have been working with Texas stakeholders to enhance fiscal transparency, an effort that culminated last year in passage of legislation and the launch of the ‘Window on State Government,’ hosted by State Comptroller Susan Combs at www.window.state.tx.us/comptrol/expendlist/cashdrill.php. Texas Budget Source, which features a link to the Window on State Government, will complement the comptroller’s site.

“Thomas Jefferson once said: ‘*We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant’s books, so that every members of Congress and every man of any kind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them,*’” continued Norquist. **“Texas Budget Source will put taxpayers in the driver’s seat and allow them to hold government accountable.”**

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

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