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ATR Supports Question 1 *Ballot Measure Would Phase Out State Income Tax*

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today Americans for Tax Reform, a non-profit taxpayer advocacy organization that opposes all tax increases as a matter of principle, officially announced its support for Massachusetts' State Income Tax Repeal Initiative, which will appear on the November ballot as Question 1.

Question 1, if approved, would reduce the state income tax, currently 5.3 percent, to 2.65 percent in 2009. The state income tax would then be eliminated entirely in 2010. The same ballot measure received over 45 percent of the vote when it last appeared on the Massachusetts ballot in 2002. Question 1 faces a highly fund opposition campaign this time around.

“This is perhaps the most important ballot measure in the country this year. Not only can Bay State residents approve a much needed tax cut, they would set a great precedent for other states to follow,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “In times of economic uncertainty it is important that people be allowed to keep as much of their money as possible. Repealing the income tax will save each taxpayer over \$3,000 per year at a time when it is needed most to address skyrocketing food and gas prices.”

A statewide poll shows that Bay State residents believe 41 cents of every dollar spent by the state is wasted. Coincidentally, Question 1 would reduce the state budget by that same percentage. In 2000, Massachusetts voters approved a measure to roll the state income tax back to 5 percent. Legislators subsequently froze the roll back at the current level of 5.3 percent.

“The spending interests that depend on other people’s money are using scare tactics to get people to vote against their own interests. Point of fact, the states that are the most competitive and have the healthiest economies are those with a low tax and regulatory burden such as Texas, Florida, and Nevada, all of which have no income tax and are thriving.” added Norquist. “Massachusetts taxpayers worked 202 days last year to pay for the cost of their government. Passage of Question 1 is the single most effective way to ensure that Massachusetts taxpayers not spend most of the year paying for the cost of their government.”

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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