



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

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TAXPAYER PROTECTION CAUCUS

Mission Statement

What is the Taxpayer Protection Caucus?

This caucus is created to provide identification and cohesion for state legislators who firmly believe in the rights of the taxpayers and are committed to stop tax increases.

Who can belong to the Taxpayer Protection Caucus?

Each member must sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge and keep it in order to belong to the caucus. Each state (with the exception of Nebraska) will have both a Senate and House Taxpayer Protection Caucus, consisting of all pledge signers in the legislature.

What is the purpose of the Taxpayer Protection Caucus?

- A single voice on tax issues. For many legislators, it is difficult for them to be a stand alone pledge signer - and understandably so. The caucus creates an entire body of legislators that believe in the same principle – no new taxes.
- Media outlet. Who can the media go to when it comes to tax issues? The Taxpayer Protection Caucus. Considering the budget battles all states are facing, taxes continue to be very high on the radar screen of the media. This is your opportunity as a legislator to have your voice heard and gain recognition for your stance against taxes.
- Self-monitoring. It is fairly easy for pledge signers to slip through the

cracks or determine that a small tax increase can be forgiven. The caucus provides a forum for discussion behind closed doors and encourages accountability amongst you and your colleagues.

What is the structure of the Taxpayer Protection Caucus?

The caucus will have a chair, who is responsible for recruiting new members (i.e. encouraging fellow-legislators to sign the Pledge), leading the caucus in its message, and lead regular meetings. Beyond that, it is up to each caucus to determine message, establish infrastructure, and engage in debate with those who do not believe in the “no new taxes” principle.

Why belong to the Taxpayer Protection Caucus?

As a pledge signer it is sometimes difficult to argue your position when faced with adversity by those who like to raise taxes. You now have a support group amongst your peers. As always, ATR will provide you with support for holding your ground on taxes, but it is even more important to work with your colleagues who maintain the same ground. Also, in the media's eyes you have become a part of a larger group than just being a single pledge signer. The media now knows who to go to and what the message is.

For more information on the Taxpayer Protection Caucuses please contact Sandra Fabry, state government affairs manager, at sfabry@atr.org.