



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
19 FEBRUARY 2003

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Taxpayer Advocacy Group Announces “Taxpayer Protection Caucus” for California Senate

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) creates new caucus, organized by Sen. Dennis Hollingsworth, for California state senators who believe in taxpayers’ rights and are committed to stop tax hikes.

WASHINGTON — Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), America’s leading taxpayer advocacy organization, announced the formation of the “Taxpayer Protection Caucus” for the California Senate. The caucus will be headed by Sen. Dennis Hollingsworth (R) of District 36, and follows the creation of a House Taxpayer Protection Caucus on Feb. 6, which will be headed by Reps. Ray Haynes (R) and John Campbell (R).

The creation of the caucus comes as no surprise, as state after state around the nation have fallen victim to overspending in their capitals and threatened taxpayers with potential tax hikes. Currently, 44 states around the nation are running these potential deficits that threaten taxpayers. California’s shortfall dwarfs every other state.

“Protecting taxpayers should be the first priority of any legislator,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, who heads ATR, which is based in Washington. **“Sen. Hollingsworth has shown bold leadership in fighting against tax hikes in California, and taxpayers all across the state owe him a great debt of gratitude,”** he continued.

To join the caucus, legislators must sign and keep ATR’s Taxpayer Protection Pledge, which is a written promise to their constituents to “oppose any and all efforts to increase taxes.” Every state (with the exception of Nebraska) will have both a Senate and House Taxpayer Protection Caucus, consisting of all pledge signers in the Legislature.

The caucus will seek to provide a single voice on tax issues among pro-taxpayer legislators. For many, it is difficult to be a stand-alone Pledge signer. The caucus will create an entire body of legislators that believe in the same principle – no new taxes. Considering the budget battles all states will face in the upcoming year, taxes will be very high on the radar screen of the media. Journalists will be able to go to the chair or vice chair of the caucus for comments on tax issues.

“It is tremendously important that pro-taxpayer leaders in state houses across the nation are on the same page, not only in terms of rhetoric, but policy as well,” continued Norquist. **“The best thing is that, unless they want to be driven into electoral oblivion, legislative tax-hikers will be left knee-deep in a quagmire. What will they call themselves? The Tax-Me-More-To-Fund-Pork Caucus?”**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who support tax simplification and oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.