



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

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CONTACT: Liz Grzych
Jonathan Collegio
202-785-0266

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Will Louisiana Write Blanco a Blank Check?

Gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Blanco (D) considers the possibility of tax increases in Louisiana, while Bobby Jindal (R) rules them out.

Washington, D.C.— Louisiana gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Blanco (D) refuses to sign the Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) Taxpayer Protection Pledge. While she says that raising taxes is not something she “anticipate(s) in these coming years,” governors Gray Davis (D-CA), Bob Riley (R-AL) Jim McGreevey (D-NJ), and Bob Taft (R-OH) all said they would not raise taxes – but attempted to, and in some cases did – by billions of dollars during their time in office.

“Taxpayers should be wary of candidates who say they won’t raise taxes, but refuse to sign the No New Taxes pledge,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, who heads Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) in Washington. **“Saying it and signing your name on it are two completely different things – the first rarely works, while the second usually does.”**

One candidate who has taken the Pledge is Republican Bobby Jindal. Blanco says she is open to raising taxes were the economy to take a serious downturn or if healthcare and education were endangered, while Jindal rules out tax hikes entirely. Were those circumstances to come into play, Jindal says he would push for even lower taxes to stimulate growth, claiming that if people fall on hard times, it seems cruel to inflict more strife upon them by raising their taxes.

“If Ms. Blanco is unwilling to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, she is really saying that she plans to raise taxes,” said Grover Norquist, president of ATR. **“Considering her statements alluding to an undefined increase, Louisiana taxpayers should be aware that another big spender is eyeing their pocketbooks.”**

Since 1986, ATR has urged both federal and state candidates and officeholders to take the Pledge, promising to “oppose and vote against/veto any and all tax increases” in an effort to protect hard-working families across America. To date, eight Governors, four Lieutenant Governors, two Attorney Generals, four Treasurers, four Secretaries of State, and 1218 Legislators have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, as well as 149 members of Congress and President George W. Bush.

“By refusing to sign the Pledge, Blanco fails the taxpayers of Louisiana,” continued Norquist. **“She fails to keep paychecks in Louisiana taxpayers hands, and she fails to reign in state spending, preferring to follow in the footsteps of spendthrifts like Gray Davis and Jim McGreevey.”**