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Hypocritical McGreevey Endorses Dean, Profligate Spending, and Increased Taxes

N.J. governor puts his support behind a candidate whose policies mirror those he has criticized in the past.

WASHINGTON - New Jersey Gov. McGreevey (D) will endorse presidential hopeful Howard Dean tomorrow morning despite the fact that McGreevey has criticized both spending and tax policies that form the platform for Dean's run for the White House. A new report by Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) documents the extreme policy differences between Dean and McGreevey on Dean's major platform.

As Governor, Howard Dean was the nation's most extravagant spender. Upon taking the Governorship in 1991, the average Vermont resident needed to work 60 days to pay for state spending. This was the ninth highest in the country. By the time Dean was finished as Governor, the average Vermont resident needed to work 76.2 days to cover the cost of all state spending, the highest in the entire country. This represented a 30 percent increase. Over the same time period, the average US resident needed to work just 0.5 additional days to pay for state spending and in NJ the average resident had to work 8 fewer days to pay for state spending. Surprisingly, after spending nearly every waking moment in the past five years criticizing former Governor Whitman's spending, McGreevey is now endorsing a Governor who by far outpaced Whitman's spending.

Grover Norquist, President of Americans For Tax Reform, said, "**I find it rather ironic and hypocritical that McGreevey has endorsed someone whose spending record is worse than those Republicans whom he has criticized. Clearly, this endorsement can not be based on what is best for New Jersey taxpayers and more to do with the Governor's ambition for higher office.**"

Similarly, McGreevey recently decided to oppose an increase in the gas tax in New Jersey due to the impact on NJ's economy and to reduce pressure on small businesses and families. However, the candidate to whom he is giving his full support wants to impose a **\$2 trillion tax increase on the taxpayers of America**, including an increased income tax on **every American who pays income taxes**. Not only would this increase hurt the same small businesses and families in New Jersey, but the prosperity that America has just recently begun to enjoy once again would surely be gone.

Norquist continued, "**McGreevey's endorsement of Dean is absurd. His support for Dean is two-faced and duplicitous. With this decision, McGreevey decided to utterly contradict statements of his regarding New Jersey's economy. Neither New Jersey taxpayers nor American voters should give any credit to any endorsement by McGreevey.**"

A copy of the report can be found at: <http://www.ATR.org/pdffiles/121803mcgreevey.pdf>