

AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: John Kartch
Patrick Gleason
202-785-0266

11 DECEMBER 2008

Huffman: Only Candidate in TX S-17 Runoff to Rule out Tax Hikes

Candidate for TX Senate signs taxpayer protection pledge

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Joan Huffman, a Republican running for a seat in the TX Senate’s 17th district, has signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge sponsored by Americans for Tax Reform (ATR). In signing the Pledge, Huffman has promised to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.” Chris Bell, Huffman’s opponent, has refused to make the same commitment to residents of the Texas Senate’s 17th district.

To date, the President, 41 U.S. senators, and 192 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have signed the Pledge. Additionally, seven Governors and over 1,200 state legislators have signed the Pledge.

“In light of a slowing economy, it’s unfortunate for voters in Texas Senate district 17 that only one candidate has promised to protect their pocket books.” said Grover Norquist, president of ATR. **However, it’s not surprising a candidate as beholden to trial lawyers as Bell is unable to promise that he will not raise taxes. Texans, now more than ever, need leaders committed to fiscal responsibility and pro-growth economic policies. What’s more, it’s important to elect lawmakers that won’t seek to reverse the significant progress the Lone Star State has made in tort reform.”**

Chris Bell, a former U.S. congressman, has received over \$900,000 from the trial bar this election cycle. The runoff will be held next Tuesday, December 16. Early voting is already underway.

“By signing the Pledge, Joan Huffman demonstrates her allegiance and dedication to hardworking taxpayers in Texas. I applaud her for her leadership and dedication to the ideals of limited government.” Norquist continued. **“I strongly encourage every candidate for federal and state elective office to sign the Pledge.”**

Copies of the Pledge are available by calling (202) 785-0266.

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

###