



# NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Paul Proski

Amanda Serbu

3 DECEMBER 2004

202-785-0266

## Fact of the Day #2: Mayor Daley Seeks to Destroy Retailers and Retail Jobs

Chicago retail already faces high government-imposed costs, including an 8.75% sales tax. Mayor Daley wants to raise that tax rate to 9%, making Chicago's sales tax higher than that in New York, Los Angeles, and the other large cities in the U.S.

In addition, Mayor Daley wants to raise the taxes on tobacco, beer, wine, and spirits. Since many small retailers and convenience stores receive much of their profits from these products, small retailers will be doubly squeezed.

Finally, Mayor Daley wants to raise taxes on downtown parking and hotels, discouraging shoppers from the suburbs and tourists from out of state.

**What is at stake? Thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity.**

- Number of retail businesses affected: 17,318\*
- Number of people employed in retail: 240,539\*
- Retail payroll: \$4,369,920,000\*
- Total retail sales: \$42,547,231,000\*

**Mayor Daley wants to put at risk 240,000 jobs and \$42 billion worth of business to fund his political machine!**

\* Figures from U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census 1997. Data is for Cook County, as City of Chicago data is not available. [http://www.census.gov/epcd/ec97/il/IL031\\_44.HTM](http://www.census.gov/epcd/ec97/il/IL031_44.HTM)

*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 Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [cbutler@atr.org](mailto:cbutler@atr.org).*