



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Michigan Legislators Named to Taxpayers' "Hall of Shame"

11 Michigan lawmakers violated Pledge not to raise taxes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, has named eight Michigan state representatives and three state senators to its **"Hall of Shame"** for violating a commitment made to the taxpayers of the state.

Since 1986, officials across the country have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a written commitment to **"oppose and vote against/veto any and all efforts to increase taxes."** Currently, President Bush, 42 U.S. Senators, 218 Congressmen, eight governors, and more than 1320 state legislators have signed the Pledge.

"Signing the Pledge is the single most important step a candidate or incumbent can take to demonstrate his or her commitment to taxpayers' interests," said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **"It is a commitment to the people of Michigan to protect their wallets against raids by the big-spenders in Lansing. Breaking the Pledge by voting to raise taxes is a betrayal of that commitment, and it reveals an official's anti-tax stand to be little more than election year grandstanding."**

The following legislators broke their commitment by voting for one, two, or all of the following tax increases: the tobacco tax included in HB 5632, an increase on the tax on Detroit casinos (HB 4612), and the advancement of the due date for county tax collections in SB 1111, a tax increase of 16.3% over three years.

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| 1. Wayne Kuipers (S-30) – HB 5632, HB 4612, SB 1111 | 7. Gene DeRossett (H-52) – HB 4612, SB 1111 |
| 2. Jim Barcia (S-31) – HB 4612 | 8. Matt Milosch (H-55) – HB 4612 |
| 3. Michael Goschka (S-32) – HB 4612 | 9. Rick Shaffer (H-59) - HB 4612, SB 1111 |
| 4. John Pappageorge (H-41) – HB 4612 | 10. Glenn Steil (H-72) - HB 4612, SB 1111 |
| 5. Ruth Johnson (H-46) – HB 4612 | 11. Stephen Ehardt (H-83) – HB 4612 |
| 6. David Robertson (H-51) – HB 4612 | |

The following Pledge signers honored their commitment to taxpayers in 2004:

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| 1. Alan Sanborn (S-11) | 5. Jacob W. Hoogendyk (H-61) |
| 2. Michael Bishop (S-12) | 6. Clark Bisbee (H-64) |
| 3. Leon Drolet (H-33) | 7. Kenneth Bradstreet (H-105) |
| 4. John P. Garfield (H-45) | |

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.

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