



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Fact of the Day #4: Franzoni and Firestone Out of Touch with Oregonians Part 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Candidates Hank Franzoni (S-12) and Kathryn Firestone (H-51) have refused to pledge not to raise taxes if elected, and have declined offers to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge:

Here are a few good reasons why they are sending the wrong message to the hard-working families of Oregon:

**President Bush's four tax cuts in four years have brought the national economy back on the right track, and the states are benefiting from it:**

- Nearly 2 million jobs have been created since August 2003, economic growth is at its fastest rate in 20 years. Working Americans have seen their after tax income go up 10%.
- Unemployment is currently at 5.4%, lower than the average rate of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s.
- The homeownership rate in the U.S. is at a record-high of 69.3 percent, and the minority homeownership is also the highest it's ever been.

**When given a chance, taxpayers across the nation have rejected tax hikes at large margins. They do not appreciate having their pocketbooks raided:**

- VA 2002: voters rejected sales tax increase in Tidewater area and Northern Virginia.
- AL 2003, Gov. Riley's \$1.2 billion tax hike voted down by a margin of 68%-32%.
- WA 2003, Seattle residents reject 10 cent tax on every espresso drink.
- CA, 2003, Gov. Gray Davis recalled after tripling car tax and years of fiscal profligacy.
- OR 2004: tax increase passed in 2003 defeated at the ballot box 60%-40%.
- CA 2004: Voters reject proposal to weaken tough supermajority requirement to raise taxes.
- VT 2004: to protest high property taxes, town of Killington votes to secede from Vermont.

**Higher taxes harm a state's competitiveness.**

- Entrepreneurs are more likely to start their businesses in states with a business-friendly tax climate.

**A commitment not to raise taxes should only be the logical conclusion. By not signing the Pledge, Hank Franzoni and Kathryn Firestone show that they are out of touch with taxpayers.**

**Their opponents incumbent Sen. Gary George and Rep. Linda Flores have committed to "oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes."**

*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).*