



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036  
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

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CONTACT: John Kartch  
Kelsey Zahourek  
202-785-0266

## Maine Needs a Taxpayer Bill of Rights

*State spending limit offers opportunity for fiscal discipline in the state*

**Washington**—It appears that a Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) measure will come up for approval by Maine voters in 2006. Last week, the Secretary of State, Matt Dunlap (D), announced that proponents had gathered more than enough signatures to put the proposal before voters. The campaign, spearheaded by activist Mary Adams, turned in 51,611 signatures; 50,519 signatures are required for placement on the ballot. Maine is one of nearly two dozen states considering similar tax and expenditure limitations in 2006.

The measure controls state expenditures to grow no faster than the rate of annual population growth plus inflation, and restricts tax increases or spending above the TABOR limit unless approved by voters. Lastly, surplus revenue above the expenditure growth limit will accrue in a Rainy Day fund with a portion returned to the taxpayers.

**“I applaud Mary Adams for her tireless efforts to put TABOR on the ballot,”** stated Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform, **“Across the country, from California to Maine, taxpayers are realizing the reckless spending of state governments, who are unable to live within their means.”**

Maine has consistently had one of the heaviest tax burdens in the nation. According to a study by **Dr. Barry Poulson**, the foremost authority on the issue in the country, “Maine’s state and local tax burden has ranked highest in the nation since 1987. Maine taxpayer’s pay \$4,309 per capita in state and local taxes. Maine’s tax burden is 30% higher than the national average.” The study also finds that had TABOR been enacted in 1988, it would have led to nearly \$5 billion in taxpayer rebates over the last two decades. \*

**“Legislators in state governments around the country are brilliant at spending a dollar, but not at saving one,”** continued Norquist. **“Taxpayers in Maine have had to bear a large tax burden for far too long. Limiting the growth of government is critical to the future of Maine taxpayers and their families.”**

\* “A Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights for Maine” Oct 2005, Dr. Barry Poulson, Americans for Prosperity Distinguished Scholar,  
[http://www.americansforprosperity.org/includes/filemanager/files/pdf/me\\_tabor\\_study1.pdf](http://www.americansforprosperity.org/includes/filemanager/files/pdf/me_tabor_study1.pdf)

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or at [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).