



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
Sandra Fabry
202-785-0266

2005 Enemies of the Taxpayer

Taxpayer Advocacy Group names friends and enemies of the taxpayer for 2005

WASHINGTON, DC – Americans for Tax Reform today released its 2005 Friend/Enemy of the Taxpayer Roll Call.

The following people were named “Enemy of the Taxpayer”:

JAN: MD legislators who overrode Gov. Ehrlich’s veto of tax increase – MD legislators overrode Gov. Ehrlich’s veto of a 2% tax on HMO premiums, a tax increase of \$400 over four years.

FEB: VA Gov. Warner and Sen. John Chichester – for insulting taxpayers by blasting pro-taxpayer legislators’ efforts to let taxpayers keep more money as ‘creating an entitlement.’

MAR: WA State Senators who voted to weaken spending limit – WA State Senators voted to further weaken the I-601 spending limit, rendering it an empty shell.

APR: WA State Senators Joyce Mulliken and Joseph Zarelli – for voting for a 9.5 cents per gallon gas tax increase.

MAY: LA Gov. Kathleen Blanco – for pushing tax increases against an earlier promise only to raise taxes if Louisiana was to “hit rock bottom”, which clearly was not the case.

JUN: KS State Supreme Court – for legislating from the bench and declaring dedicated funds for schools insufficient, mandating that a huge extra amount be spent by the legislature.

JUL: VA tax hikers campaigning as tax cutters – None of the Republicans who voted for the 2004 tax hike ran on platform that highlighted their vote for higher taxes. They posed as tax cutters instead.

AUG: CO Fear Mongers – Proponents of Referenda C and D were fooling taxpayers by conveying the message that “the sky was falling”.

SEP: US Sen. and candidate for governor Jon Corzine (NJ) – for his hypocrisy – Corzine voted on policy that benefited him personally, but refused to vote for tax cuts, claiming they would only “benefit the wealthy.”

OCT: CO Gov. Bill Owens – Gov. Owens broke his commitment to taxpayers by endorsing Referenda C and D, the measures set to weaken the state’s Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights and amounting to a \$3.7 billion tax hike.

NOV: MI Gov. Jennifer Granholm – for vetoing tax cut legislation, and thereby declaring Michigan closed for business.

DEC: NJ Congressman Robert Menendez – for voting against extending capital gains and dividend tax cuts on the eve of assuming office to represent New Jerseyans in the U.S. Senate.

“Unfortunately, all these people acted against the best interest of taxpayers.” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“In doing what they did, these enemies of the taxpayer undermined pro-taxpayer policies. Luckily, for each enemy of the taxpayer, there is always a friend of the taxpayer fighting to undo the wrongs and standing up for his or her constituents.”**

To see the 2005 ‘Friends of the Taxpayer’, please visit: <http://www.ATR.org/pledge/heroesandenemies/index.html>.

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.

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