



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

A major challenge state lawmakers face when debating fiscal policy changes is the argument from the tax-and-spend crowd that they are not paying enough in taxes. One useful tool for lawmakers to address this claim, whether there are tax increases or tax cuts on the table, is the Tax Me More Fund.

There are currently at least 13 states that have proposed creating accounts for voluntary contributions from taxpayers. The fact that these funds were not enacted often reflects hypocrisy on the part of those calling for higher taxes. While big spenders are more than willing to talk the talk, one glance at the calls for Tax Me More Funds reveals that talk, unlike government spending, is cheap.

States with Tax Me More Fund Proposals

- Arizona
 - Sen. Dean Martin introduced a “I Didn’t Pay Enough Fund” in 2006 in response to those who did not want the state to cut taxes – SB 1457
 - Failed in the senate on 3/1/06
 - Several years ago, former Rep Steve May proposed a “Tax Me More Fund”
<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/legtext/45leg/2r/bills/hb2241p.pdf>
- Alaska
 - Failed in the senate on 3/1/06
 - SB 355 would have established an account to receive general gifts, donations, and bequest to Alaska.
 - Died in State Affairs Committee in 2002
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=22&bill=SB355
- California
 - Senator McClintock sponsored the “Tax Me More Act” in 2002 which would have enabled individuals and corporations to pay additional income taxes
 - SB 1288 failed to pass in the Appropriations Committee
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_1288&sess=0102&house=B&author=mcclintock
- Iowa
 - Proposed in 2002
 - Approved by committee, died on unfinished business calendar
 - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/GA/79GA/Legislation/SF/02300/SF02307/Current.html>
- Kansas
 - State legislators, including Taxpayer Protection Caucus Chair Sen. Tim Huelskamp set up fund in 2002
 - Although not written into statute, contributions are still accepted in Kansas

- Maryland
 - In 2004, state senate introduced SB 350 to establish a “Tax Me More Voluntary Account”
 - Would have been added as a check-off option on the individual income tax forms
 - Died in budget and taxation committee after hearing
 - <http://mlis.state.md.us/2004rs/billfile/sb0350.htm>
- Minnesota
 - Rep. Dorman sponsored HF 1105 in 2003 to establish a “tax me more fund” whose proceeds would go towards education, health care, and state parks, among other programs
 - Died in committee on taxes
http://ros.leg.mn/revisor/pages/search_status/status_detail.php?b=House&f=HF1105&ssn=0&y=2003
- Missouri
 - In the 2005-06 session, SB 743, to create “Tax-Me-More Voluntary Fund,” stuck in Ways and Means
 - Sponsored by Sen. Jason Crowell
 - http://www.senate.mo.gov/06info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=220
- Nebraska
 - State had a voluntary income tax check off through 2005.
 - LB1005 (2006) would have extended the voluntary tax check off past 2005.
 - LB1005 was postponed indefinitely on 4/13/06
<http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/scripts/InfoRon.asp>
- New Jersey
 - Sponsored by Assemblyman Merkt, A 3608, to create a “Tax Me More Fund” was introduced in 2003
 - Died in committee on appropriations <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillView.asp>
- Oregon
 - 2003 SB 533 introduced by Sen. George
 - Permits donors to earmark how their contributions may be used
- Pennsylvania
 - In 2003, state Rep. Jeff Coleman introduced a bill to establish a "Tax Me More" fund and organized a "Tax Me More Tour"
 - The bill was created to challenge Gov. Ed Rendell's budget plan, which included raising state income tax by 34 percent, tripling the beer tax and lowering property tax.
- Washington
 - SB 5700 introduced in 2003, died in committee
 - http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2003-04/Senate/5700-5724/5700_02082003.txt