



NEWS

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Taxpayers Will See Continuous Leadership on their Behalf in California Assembly

Assemblywoman Walters to Succeed Assemblyman Haynes as Taxpayer Protection Caucus Chair in California

WASHINGTON - Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) announced that Assemblywoman Mimi Walters (R-Laguna Niguel) is succeeding Assemblyman Ray Haynes (R-Riverside) as taxpayer protection caucus chair in the California state assembly. Assemblyman Haynes, who served as taxpayer protection caucus chair since February 2003 and was a staunch leader on behalf taxpayers, was term-limited.

To join the caucus, legislators must sign and keep the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, which is a written commitment to their constituents to "oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes." Every state (with the exception of unicameral Nebraska) will have both a senate and house taxpayer protection caucus, consisting of all pledge signers in the legislature. Currently, there are 36 California state Pledge signers, 11 in the senate, and 27 in the house.

"Taxpayers in California can be relieved that the fiscal leadership demonstrated by Ray Haynes on their behalf will be continued with Mimi Walters chairing the assembly taxpayer protection caucus," said Grover Norquist, president of ATR. **"Under Assemblywoman Walters' leadership, the caucus will continue to work and fight for California families and businesses who deserve to keep more of their hard earned money."**

The taxpayer protection caucuses provide a single voice on tax issues among pro-taxpayer legislators, and form entire bodies of legislators that believe in the same principle: no new taxes. Considering the budget battles states are facing across the country, taxes continue to be very high on the radar screen of voters and the media. Journalists will be able to go to the chair of the caucus for comments on tax issues.

"Protecting taxpayers should be the first priority of anyone elected to the state legislature," Norquist continued. **"Ray Haynes and Mimi Walters understand this important notion, and this is why they have chosen to take the lead in an effort to protect California taxpayers' wallets. On behalf of Golden State taxpayers, I thank Assemblyman Haynes for his past efforts and look forward to working with Mimi Walters to keep taxes low and the growth of government in check."**

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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