



# NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Tax Hikers are “Virginia’s Least Wanted”

*-- The beat is on for Virginia tax hikers --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In the spring of 2004, Virginians were baffled when legislators, after more than 100 days of bickering, cast their votes for the biggest tax increase in the Commonwealth’s history – price tag: \$1.6 billion over two years. Gov. Mark Warner broke his campaign promise not to raise taxes by calling for a \$1 billion tax increase. The Senate, under the leadership of Finance Committee Chairman John Chichester (R), dwarfed the governor’s plan and called for a \$4 billion tax increase. Ultimately, in late April, Virginians were faced with a \$1.6 billion tax hike approved by the legislature.

Subsequent revenue reports since April have shown that the tax increase was unnecessary. The fiscal year 2004 ended with a surplus of *\$323.8 million!* Even without a tax increase, the Virginia budget was estimated to increase by 11.6% over the biennium. Anger and frustration has grown in Virginia. Disgruntled taxpayers and activists have vowed to rid themselves of the tax hikers. Americans for Tax Reform, the nation’s leading taxpayer advocacy group, is reflecting taxpayers’ outrage in a poster displaying the Republican tax hikers, many of whom ran on a no-new-taxes platform, as “Virginia’s Least Wanted”. The poster was unveiled at a press conference in Richmond on September 14, 2004.

**“These tax-hikers are a dying breed of Republican. They turned against the taxpayers of their state, and past experience has shown that people in the Commonwealth do not appreciate having their wallets raided,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“The last tax hike referendum went down big time, which is why the tax hikers did not take their tax increase to the people this time. These legislators really are ‘Virginia’s Least Wanted’, and they will have to deal with the consequences of their actions in 2005, when voters take to the polls.”**

The poster lists the following tax hikers:

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Gov. Mark Warner            | 13. Sen. Walter A. Stosch         | 25. Del. Daniel W. Marshall, III |
| 2. Sen. Harry Blevins          | 14. Sen. William C. Wampler, Jr.  | 26. Del. Joey T. May             |
| 3. Sen. John H. Chichester     | 15. Sen. John Watkins             | 27. Del. Harvey B. Morgan        |
| 4. Sen. Jeannemarie Devolites  | 16. Sen. Martin E. Williams       | 28. Del. David A. Nutter         |
| 5. Sen. Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  | 17. Del. L. Preston Bryant        | 29. Del. Glenn G. Oder           |
| 6. Sen. Charles W. Hawkins     | 18. Del. Vincent F. Callahan, Jr. | 30. Del. Robert D. Orrock, Sr.   |
| 7. Sen. Bill Mims              | 19. Del. Charles W. Carrico, Sr.  | 31. Del. Harry Parrish           |
| 8. Sen. Thomas K. Norment, Jr. | 20. Del. James H. Dillard, II     | 32. Del. Gary A. Reese           |
| 9. Sen. Russell Potts, Jr.     | 21. Del. William Fralin, Jr.      | 33. Del. Thomas Davis Rust       |
| 10. Sen. Frederick M. Quale    | 22. Del. Robert Hurt              | 34. Del. Edward T. Scott         |
| 11. Sen. Frank M. Ruff, Jr.    | 23. Del. Riley E. Ingram          | 35. Del. Robert Tata             |
| 12. Sen. Kenneth W. Stolle     | 24. Del. S. Chris Jones           |                                  |

*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).*

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