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## Again? Gov. Quinn Proposes Tax Hike in Illinois

*Governor pushes \$1.00 per pack cigarette tax hike*

Washington, D.C. – On Tuesday, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn proposed yet another tax hike—this time on cigarettes. The proposal comes on the heels of a series of state tax hikes aimed at paying for part of Illinois' Capital Plan. In July, the governor signed a bill raising taxes on distilled spirits, wine, and beer into law which was eventually implemented on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Included in the new increases were tax hikes on soft drinks and candy that, in total, will cost taxpayers \$31 billion.

Gov. Quinn is now proposing a \$1 per pack hike in the cigarette tax, which would take Illinois' state tax on cigarettes from 98 cents to \$1.98 per pack. It is clear that the last thing the people of Illinois need is higher taxes, argues Americans for Tax Reform (ATR). Gov. Quinn has decided to delay any hike in the state income tax until after the state legislative primary in February, but has instead chosen to pursue the cigarette tax hike this fall.

**“Proposing taxes on consumption in order to avoid the controversy of an income tax hike is simply deceptive political maneuvering, with similarly damaging effects. I urge the legislature to reject what is only another of a long line of tax increases”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“The truth is that tobacco taxes are just a placeholder tax. As more people quit, revenues decline. But the new spending is permanent.”**

Over the last 12 years the taxpayers of Illinois have seen over a 60 percent growth in government spending. Taxpayers are calling for the fall session to focus on reforms that reduce wasteful spending and streamline government rather than seeking more taxpayer revenue to maintain outlandish spending. In order to revitalize the economy and remedy the budget crisis facing Illinois, it is essential that legislators rein in wasteful spending and ease the burden placed upon taxpayers.

**“Despite hollow protestations from Gov. Quinn and others, it is obvious that Illinois has a severe over-spending problem. It is unthinkable that the taxpayers of Illinois should have to continue supporting their habit in the form of yet one more new tax.”**

*Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases.  
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