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## Governor Strickland Supporting Tax Hike?

*Proposes postponing tax cuts that are already law is hiking taxes*

Washington, D.C. – Today, Governor Strickland of Ohio is proposing phasing back in part of the 2005 tax cuts passed by Governor Taft and the Republican legislature. He says he wants to take away the tax cuts for two years in order to fund education. The tax cuts were starting to be phased in starting in 2005 and as of January 1, 2009, they have been cut by 21 percent. He has proposed this plan due to the failure of his plan to raise \$851.5 million in slot machine revenue, which the Ohio Supreme Court said would have to be voted on by the people.

The Governor's plan to phase out the tax cut for two years is actually a tax hike that would cost the taxpayers an estimated \$844 million.

**“Proposing a roll back of a tax cut that has already been enacted is a bold-faced tax increase. Governor Strickland should not be disingenuous about this, he is trying to hike income taxes on the people of Ohio,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“The Ohio government needs to learn to live on less, rather than looking to rob the people of more of their hard earned money.”**

Over the next two years, Ohio's FY2010-2011 budget will be growing by 6.3 percent from the past biennium budget. The Governor is facing a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

**“Governor Strickland needs to be finding ways to reduce the tax burden on Ohio's businesses and families rather than increasing taxes. Ohio needs more belt tightening.”**

*Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) 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 John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).*

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