



Policy Summary: Taxpayer's Bill of Rights

Ed Says:

"Since taxation is one of the more oppressive facets of government, it should be controlled by those who pay taxes, not those who spend it."

"Giving a credit card without a limit to politicians is like letting a toddler choose their own bedtime."

The Problem

One of the best ways Idahoans can fight socialist growth in Idaho is to limit the amount of tax dollars that are being used to grow the size of government. Idaho knows:

Nothing chokes economic growth like taking money out of our pockets and using it to create more bureaucracy. Idaho taxpayers need a way to help politicians keep their promises.

The Solution

Government ought to be "by the people, for the people." Consent of the governed is a principle that elevates the power and authority of a citizenry. Since taxation is one of the more oppressive facets of government, it should be controlled by those who pay taxes, not those who spend it.

To preserve the rights of the Idaho taxpayer, Ed promises to enact a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights in the Idaho State Constitution that guarantees that state taxes cannot increase without the approval of voters. Ed believes a Taxpayer Bill of Rights will rein in the growing cost and size of government and return power to the people. A "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" establishes a formula to limit how much tax revenue the government can keep. More importantly, it requires voters to approve tax increases on the ballot. It also establishes when those questions can be put to the ballot.

In 1992, Colorado amended their state constitution to include a Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR.

In the 12 years after passing TABOR, Colorado residents' personal income grew 76% faster than the rest of the nation! And jobs grew 62% faster than the rest of the nation. That is because people had more spending money. More spending money means more business and more business means higher wages and more profits.

Taxpayers should be empowered to choose how much they pay in taxes. If we feel that we don't pay enough, then we can vote to increase them. However, if we are like Ed Humphreys, we want the government to operate inside a budget just like the rest of us.

Bottom line: Ed Humphreys will return power to the people by working to enact a Taxpayer Bill of Rights that limits taxation and the growth of government.

I've never understood why it is greed to keep what you've earned but not greed to take what someone else has earned.

-Thomas Sowell, Economist

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