



Taxes and Spending

Some people believe the State should spend every dollar we raise, and then raise a few more and spend those, too. However, I support a budget that is balanced, responsible, and restrained. I understand the government doesn't make money nor does it earn money. It takes money from hard working people with the promise to spend it for the benefit of the public, and I believe we have a duty to be responsible with these tax dollars.

When this State was forced to deal with a \$10 billion budget shortfall during my first Session, I said no to the liberals who proposed tax increases, and instead voted to cut spending to balance the budget. And, when this State had a surplus this past Session, I said no to the liberals who wanted to spend every dime, and instead voted to put aside \$7.5 billion to insure future balanced budgets and property tax cuts.

As we approach economic uncertainty that could lead to another budget shortfall, I have a proven track record of fiscal discipline to hold the line on spending rather than raising taxes to balance the budget, and responsible restraint to set aside a surplus for a rainy day.

I voted to reduce school property tax rates by up to one-third, and to hold property appraisals to a true 10% appraisal cap to help hold the line on sharp valuation increases that drive up property tax bills.

I co-sponsored legislation eliminating the unnecessary Telecommunications Infrastructure Fee from your phone bill, and, I will continue to work to restore truth in taxation and see to it that these taxes either fund their intended programs or return the money to the taxpayer.

And, I have a simple message to those looking for a state income tax. If you want an income tax, find a new Senator. An income tax would just open the floodgates of money to the government and once the government gets its hands on your paycheck with automatic deductions, they will never let go.