



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036 •
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

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CONTACT: Christopher Butler
Damon B. Ansell
202-785-0266

Representative John Culberson Named "Hero of the Taxpayer"

*Nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group presents John Culberson with taxpayer-friendly award
based on key votes in 2004*

WASHINGTON—Representative John Culberson was today honored by Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) with its annual "Hero of the Taxpayer" award at a private, informal ceremony in the U.S. Capitol. The taxpayer advocacy organization presents the awards to members of both houses of Congress who vote along with taxpayers on 85 percent of the issues tracked by the ATR government relations team for that purpose.

"These key votes were the most critical for taxpayers in the second session of the 108th Congress," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform and prominent D.C.-based activist. **"Looking at these votes taxpayers back home can tell if they have a friend or an enemy in Washington. As far as John Culberson is concerned, they have a friend."**

Votes rated by ATR this year included votes on tort reform, free trade, spending control, and overtime regulation reform. In the rating for the House, the taxpayer group double-rated a vote to protect taxpayers from the march of the Alternative Minimum Tax, a "bad idea" forcing a tax increase on more and more families every year, and burdening them with onerous paperwork requirements. In the Senate, ATR double-rated a vote on keeping the Internet tax-free.

"During election season, every candidate is apt to allege that he or she will be a friend of taxpayers once in Washington," Norquist said. **"But the proof is in their votes. Constituents deserve to know who has worked for taxpayers' interests, and not the special interests. Representative John Culberson is squarely on the side of taxpayers, and Americans for Tax Reform offers its thanks and congratulations."**

In addition to votes on legislation, ATR counts its "Taxpayer Protection Pledge" as two votes in the group's annual rating. The Pledge is a written promise offered to every incumbent and candidate opposing "any and all tax increases." To date, the President, Vice President, 217 members of the House of Representatives, and 42 Senators have signed the Pledge.

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Christopher Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org.

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