

For Immediate Release

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Georgia Democrats say No Way to 175 New Taxes by Republicans

Republican Tax Plan Undermines Education, Breaks Cities and Counties, and Increases Taxes on Working Families and the Elderly

Atlanta – House and Senate Democrats today announced their strong opposition to HR 1246 and HB 979 which is the Republican Tax Plan that puts 175 new taxes on Georgia's citizens.

“Democrats are not against tax reform. We have our own property tax cut plan but we cannot and will not support tax reform that undermines education, breaks cities and counties, and increases taxes on working families and the elderly in Georgia,” said House Democratic Leader DuBose Porter (D-Dublin). “The Republican Tax Plan puts 175 new taxes on Georgians – from grits to putting you in the grave. The Republican tax plan is not just a new tax on food but a laundry list of 175 new taxes that would include haircuts, auto parts, ATM fees, home improvements – all would be taxed under the Republican Tax Plan.”

According to House Democratic Caucus Chairman Calvin Smyre (D-Columbus), “Right now, Georgia is entering tough economic times. Families are starting to feel the pain of the Republican recession. Republicans in Georgia have been poor stewards of your money, and the only answer they offer is to create 175 new taxes. And what are those taxes? If you go to the barber shop or the beauty shop, you will be taxed. If you go to a lawyer to have a will done, you will be taxed. If you take your car to the shop, you will be taxed. If you have a death in your family, the funeral services, the digging of their grave will be taxed. When you go to get your taxes done, you guessed it, you will be taxed.”

“On behalf of my Democratic colleagues in the Senate, we're pleased to stand here in solidarity with our friends in the House Democratic Caucus,” said Senate Democratic Leader Robert Brown (D-Macon). “We Democrats outlawed taxing groceries nearly a decade ago, and we are not about to allow the Republicans to tax groceries now. The kitchen table should never be taxed.”

New Services Taxed Under Republican Tax Plan

The following services would be subject to state sales and use taxation effective on January 1, 2010.

Accounting Services

- offices of certified public accountants
- tax preparation services
- other accounting services
- real estate credit
- all other non-depository credit intermediation
- mortgage and non-mortgage loan brokers
- financial transactions processing, reserve, and clearing-house activities
- other activities related to credit intermediation
- trust, fiduciary, and custody activities

Automotive Services

- general automotive repair
- automotive exhaust system repair
- automotive transmission repair
- other automotive mechanical and electrical repair and maintenance
- automotive body, paint, and interior repair and maintenance
- automotive glass replacement shops
- automotive oil change and lubrication shops
- car washes
- all other automotive repair and maintenance
- general rental centers

Beauty

- barber shops
- beauty salons
- nail salons

Computer

- wired telecommunications carriers
- wireless telecommunications carriers (except satellite)
- satellite telecommunications
- telecommunications resellers
- all other telecommunications
- data processing, hosting, and related services
- libraries and archives
- internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals
- custom consumer programming services
- computer systems design services
- other computer related services

Contracting Services

- Residential modelers; poured concrete foundation and structure contractors
- structural steel and precast concrete contractors
- framed contractors
- masonry contractors
- glass and glazing contractors
- roofing contractors
- sliding contractors
- other foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors
- electrical contractors and other wiring installation contractors
- plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning contractors
- other building equipment contractors
- drywall and insulation contractors
- painting and wall covering contractors
- flooring contractors
- tile and terrazzo contractors
- finish carpentry contractors
- other building finishing contractors
- site preparation contractors
- all other specialty trade contractors
- used household and office goods moving

Delivery

- couriers and express delivery services

Entertainment

- theater companies
- dinner theaters
- dance companies
- musical groups and artists
- other performing arts companies
- sports teams and clubs
- racetracks; other spectators sports
- independent artists, writers, and performers
- museums
- historical sites
- zoos
- botanical gardens
- nature parks and other similar institutions
- amusement and theme parks
- amusement arcades
- bowling centers
- all other amusement and recreation industries
- RV (recreational vehicle) parks and campgrounds
- recreation and vacation camps (except campgrounds)
- caterers
- mobile food services
- photography studios
- portrait
- motion picture theaters
- drive-in motion picture theaters
- sound recording studios; other sound recording industries

Installation and Repair Services

- security systems services
- locksmiths

Home Repairs/Renovations

- solid waste collection
- hazardous waste collection
- hazardous waste treatment and disposal
- solid waste landfill
- other non-hazardous waste treatment and disposal
- remediation services
- consumer electronics repair and maintenance
- consumer and office machine repair and maintenance
- communication equipment repair and maintenance

Home Services

- architectural services
- landscape architectural services
- engineering services
- drafting services
- interior design services
- graphic design services
- other specialized design services
- cable and other subscription programming
- carpet and upholstery cleaning services; other services to buildings and dwellings
- appliance repair and maintenance
- reupholstery and furniture repair
- other personal and household goods and maintenance
- septic tank and related services
- exterminating and pest control services
- janitorial services

Landscape Services

- building inspection services
- geophysical serving and mapping services
- surveying and mapping services
- testing laboratories
- home and garden equipment repair and maintenance
- landscaping services

Legal Services

- offices of lawyers
- title abstract and settlement offers
- all other legal services

Memberships

- diet and weight reducing centers
- golf courses and country clubs
- marinas
- fitness and recreational sports centers

Personal Services

- personal care services
- photo finishing laboratories (except one-hour)
- one-hour photofinishing
- translation and interpretation services
- consumer electronics and appliance rental
- formal wear and costume rental
- video tape and disc rental
- recreational goods rental
- all other consumer goods rental
- footwear and leather goods repair
- telephone answering services
- private mail centers
- other business service centers (including copy shops)
- travel agencies
- tour operators
- convention and visitors bureaus
- other travel arrangements and reservation services
- scenic and sightseeing for land/water/other
- investigation services
- all other professional, scientific, and technical services
- document preparation services

Pets

- pet care (except veterinary)
- veterinary services

Real Estate

- offices of real estate agents and brokers;
- offices of real estate appraiserS;
- other activities related to real estate
- lessors of nonresidential buildings (except warehouses)

Storage

- local messengers and local delivery
- general warehousing and storage
- refrigerated warehousing and storage
- other warehousing and storage
- packing and crating
- lessors of mini-warehouses and self-storage units

Non Mandatory Tips for Service

- taxi service
- limousine service

Transportation

- passenger car rental
- passenger car leasing
- truck, utility trailer, and RV (residential vehicle) rental and leasing;
- parking lots and garages
- motor vehicle towing

Banking Services

- commercial banking
- savings institutions
- credit unions
- credit card issuing
- sales financing
- consumer lending