

★
**FREEDOM
FOUNDATION
OF MINNESOTA**
★

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The State of Minnesota is out of money. Year after year, our state runs up multi-billion dollar budget deficits, passes pork barrel “bonding bills” that saddle future generations with huge debt, and sees its public employee pension obligations grow out of control. Next year, if current projections hold, we will be faced with the biggest budget deficit in our state’s history.

On the local level, the picture is just as bleak. For many Minnesotans, property taxes continue to rise despite their own property’s plummeting value. City-owned liquor stores and golf courses continue to lose money year after year, forcing Minnesotans to subsidize someone else’s recreation. And our local governments continue to spend your tax dollars on lobbyists who go to the State Capitol to lobby for even more of your tax dollars.

So what’s the solution? Well, if you ask your legislator or local city councilman, too often the answer involves higher taxes, additional fees, and more regulation.

Just take a look at the recently concluded legislative session in St. Paul. Both the State House and State Senate passed a huge, \$430 million income tax hike that would have stifled job creation at a time when we need it most, while punishing those who create jobs in this state. Thankfully, Governor Pawlenty vetoed the job-killing bill.

But the fact remains: liberal leaders in this state want bigger government and more spending, and that means higher taxes.

At the Freedom Foundation of Minnesota, we believe there’s a better way. And we can prove it.

WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP MOVING OUT OF MINNESOTA?

Earlier this year, we released a report showing exactly what happens when Minnesota's state and local governments raise taxes: people leave. The report, *Minnesota's Out-Migration Compounds State Budget Woes*, shows in stark detail what has happened when Minnesotans "vote with their feet" and move to states with lower or non-existent personal income taxes.

As you will learn from the report, between 2002 and 2009, Minnesota lost 54,113 residents to other states. These former Minnesotans also take their incomes with them. The total amount of tax dollars leaving the state was at least \$3.7 billion. Had this income stayed in Minnesota, state and local governments would have collected an estimated \$423 million in additional taxes.

Of course, when someone leaves, state and local governments don't just lose income and taxes for one year, but for all future years as well. Compounding these figures over the thirteen years assessed in our recent study, Minnesota has lost \$22,703,034,000 in net income and \$2,548,131,000 in state and local tax revenue due to out-migration. Surely these higher tax collections would have helped Minnesota's state and local governments during the current economic downturn.

RESEARCH THAT GETS RESULTS...

We released our tax migration report at a packed Capitol news conference. The timeliness of this report was evident – we had six television cameras recording the event and virtually every other credentialed member of the Capitol news corps.

In addition to receiving extraordinary media attention and sparking a long-overdue debate about the devastating economic consequences of Minnesota's high taxes, the Freedom Foundation's tax migration report has raised the ire of liberal attack dogs.

A liberal think tank – founded by a former legislator – attacked our report immediately upon its release and spread misinformation about our findings. Our report obviously struck a nerve with those who want to raise your taxes.

Our goal at the Freedom Foundation is simple: to make Minnesota a better place in which to raise a family and run a business.

Never has this mission been more important than it is now. Liberals in St. Paul are spending taxpayer money at an unprecedented pace and are calling for massive tax increases in order to advance their narrow, big government agenda.

In short, by supporting the Freedom Foundation of Minnesota, **you make an impact everywhere from the halls of the State Capitol to your local city hall.**

SUPPORT THE FREEDOM FOUNDATION'S INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

In addition to timely, groundbreaking reports, the Freedom Foundation pushes for your conservative, free market principles through a variety of exciting and innovative programs such as:

- **Investigative reporting** – The Freedom Foundation's combination of high quality public policy research with old-fashioned investigative reporting has yielded great results. *KSTP's Eyewitness News* has featured our government investigations in over a dozen statewide television stories. We have also been featured in numerous national stories by John Stossel, Glenn Beck, CNN, and others.
- **Open the Books MN website** – Our goal, quite simply, is to get every budget from all 854 cities in Minnesota online and viewable in plain English, so taxpayers know how their money is being spent. But we won't stop there. Our forthcoming website, Open the Books Minnesota, will allow users to see how our state government spends its money; everything from state employee payroll data to payments to each of the state's many vendors. As the website's name suggests, we are opening the books of government for all taxpayers to see.
- **FFM Internship Program** – As part of our mission to train the next generation of conservative leaders, the Freedom Foundation actively recruits current college and graduate students to assist in all aspects of Foundation operations. This wildly successful program has played a crucial role in virtually all of the Freedom Foundation's most important projects, and provides an outstanding opportunity for college students interested in advancing conservative public policy.
- **Ronald Reagan High School Essay Contest** – The Freedom Foundation offers current high school students a unique and exciting opportunity to explore our 40th president's legacy of leadership and the lasting effects of his presidential policies. We offer this contest, with its \$5,000 grand prize, with the hope that Minnesota's next generation of leaders will discover and value the leadership qualities that shaped the ideology and conviction of Ronald Reagan.
- **Benjamin Rush Society** – This Fall, the Freedom Foundation is launching a chapter of the Benjamin Rush Society at the University of Minnesota medical school. This organization brings together doctors, residents, and medical students who believe that the profession of medicine calls its practitioners to serve their patients rather than the government.

As you can see, one of our top priorities is developing the next generation of committed conservative leaders for our great state. Whether we're fostering the personal growth of college students through our internship program, promoting free market health care with future medical professionals, or teaching the legacy of President Ronald Wilson Reagan to our state's high school students, the Freedom Foundation is always working to ensure that the next generation of conservative, free market leaders in Minnesota is even stronger than those that preceded them. With your help, we will continue this critical work.

With your partnership today, we will continue to fight for free markets, smaller government, and lower taxes. We will shine a light on government and hold our elected officials accountable. And we will continue to be a strong line of defense against a liberal movement that is intent on growing government and spending more of your money.

Your tax-deductible gift of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, or \$100 will not only help send a strong message to policymakers, but as the Freedom Foundation has demonstrated time and again, it will also get results. Please join us today with a generous tax-deductible gift so we can continue pushing for your values from City Hall to the State Capitol.

Sincerely,



Annette Meeks
CEO

P.S. Your \$100 tax-deductible contribution will provide you with Freedom Foundation membership privileges, including advance copies of Freedom Foundation reports and free invitations to our quarterly gatherings. We'll also send you a copy of *Minnesota's Out-Migration Compounds State Budget Woes* as well as other exclusive Freedom Foundation research.

P.P.S. A generous \$1,000 tax-deductible contribution will earn you Freedom Foundation Charter Member status, with free attendance at each of our small, private receptions throughout the year. These events have previously featured such luminaries as Mitt Romney, Karl Rove, Vin Weber, and others.



Reply to:
Annette Meeks
CEO

I agree that **liberals in Minnesota are intent on growing government**, and spending even more taxpayer money! It is important that we shine a bright light on what is happening in our government and hold all of our elected officials accountable.

And I agree that in order to stop this out of control spending we need organizations like the Freedom Foundation of Minnesota to **expose liberalism's flaws and promote government transparency**.

I support the efforts of the Freedom Foundation in **fighting for free markets, smaller government, and lower taxes**. I want to make an impact from the halls of the State Capitol to my local city hall. I am pleased to partner with the Freedom Foundation and am enclosing my tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$5,000** \$2,500** \$1,000 Charter Membership** \$500*
- \$250* \$100 Membership* \$50 Other \$___

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Signature: _____

*Contributors giving \$100 or more become members of the Freedom Foundation and will receive a copy of the report, *Minnesota's Out-Migration Compounds State Budget Woes*. Additionally, you will receive advanced copies of all future reports, newsletters, and free invitations to our quarterly gatherings.

** For gifts of \$1,000 or more, contributors receive additional benefits including invitations to our exclusive events that have featured leaders like Governor Tim Pawlenty, Governor Mitt Romney, Karl Rove, and Congressman Vin Weber.

The Freedom Foundation of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization.
This non-profit organization was incorporated by the State of Minnesota on August 22, 2006.
No goods or services were received in consideration of this contribution.