

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## OPINION

### Arizona Taxpayers Deserve Bill of Rights

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/0319satlets4-191.html>

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Regarding "Bill of wrongs" (Editorial, Sunday):

Last year's state budget produced a \$908 million deficit. Since 2000, Arizona lawmakers have racked up \$1.79 billion in debt. If forced to pay that debt today, every working Arizonan would owe \$776.

Since 1990, state government has grown three times faster than the population. Now is the time to rein in spending, set budget priorities and make tough decisions. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights does just that.

The measure limits the growth of government to inflation plus population. This allows government to meet its current needs and plan for future programs. It also prevents huge budget deficits.

An Arizona Federation of Taxpayers analysis shows the bills' benefits. Had Arizona enacted the measure in 1993, today we would have a \$291 million budget surplus.

TABOR is a huge success in Colorado. State spending on vital programs has increased 72 percent, while Coloradoans have received \$3.2 billion in tax rebates. Every measure of prosperity points to an improved quality of life. Colorado's state GDP, job creation and per-person income have risen significantly.

Compare Colorado with California. California has a tradition of trendy government programs and high taxes. As a result, California ranks in the bottom 12 states in economic growth, and it had a \$38 billion budget deficit.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights limits government to its essential functions of public safety, education and transportation. This frees up capital for investment and lets everyday Arizonans enjoy a higher after-tax income. This bill will help create economic growth and prosperity for all Arizonans.

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