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At Last: Happy Cost of Government Day!?!

District of Columbia taxpayers finally done paying off the cost of government

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On August 19, 2010, Americans marked the national Cost of Government Day (COGD), the date of the calendar year when the average American finishes paying off his or her share of federal, state and local taxes and regulatory burden. Taxpayers had to work 231 days out of the year just to meet all costs imposed by government.

Unfortunately District of Columbia taxpayers have had to wait even longer, until today, August 29, to “celebrate” their Cost of Government Day.

Cost of Government Day is calculated every year by the Americans for Tax Reform Foundation and the Center for Fiscal Accountability. While other indices look primarily at taxation as a measure of the cost imposed by government, the annual Cost of Government Day Report takes into account the total spending burden as a percentage of GDP coupled with government regulations, an oft-forgotten, but significant burden also borne by the economy.

“As taxpayers struggle to pay for their mortgages, and their gas and grocery bills this year, Cost of Government Day serves as a grim reminder that much of their struggle is a direct result of a government that has grown too big and eats up too much of their hard-earned money,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“This year, the national Cost of Government Day arrived a full 8 later than the revised date of last year’s COGD, which fell on August 11. Sadly, D.C.’s COGD still falls on an even later date.”**

The fact that COGD falls on August 29 for District of Columbia, translates into taxpayers having to work 241 days out of the year to pay for their cost of government. The ongoing federal spending spree that certainly adds to any state’s cost of government, and the strings attached to federal dollars sent to the states, may lead to even later Cost of Government Days in the future.

“As it stands, taxpayers are already getting soaked, with only four states marking COGD later than District of Columbia this year,” continued Norquist. **“But at the rate government has been growing lately, we ain’t seen nothing yet, unless spending restraint and serious reform become a true priority—in District of Columbia, and in Washington, D.C.”**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. The Center for Fiscal Accountability, a project of Americans for Tax Reform, seeks to shed a light on government expenditures, and to promote transparency, accountability, and restraint in government finance. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.