

# The Bush Tax

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## **George W. Bush never told us about the Bush Tax**

Rather than take responsibility for our common future, Bush has shifted costs to states and communities, who then pass them on to you. That's the Bush Tax.

Across the country, people are seeing their property taxes skyrocket. That's the Bush Tax.

State college tuition at 4-year schools has increased this year by an average of \$579 nationwide. That's the Bush Tax.

State and local governments have cut vital services. That's the Bush Tax.

We're all having to pay more for less. That's the Bush Tax.

## **Even worse, our children and grandchildren will be paying the Bush Tax.**

Bush promised, "I came to this office to solve problems and not pass them on to future presidents and future generations." Yet as a direct consequence of his tax policy, over the course of six years, an American family of four will take on \$52,000 more in its share of the national debt. That's the Bush Tax.

Bush is largely to blame for the fiscal crisis that has forced states and communities to raise taxes and slash services. According to the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "A conservative estimate suggests that federal policies are costing states and localities about \$185 billion over the four-year course of the state fiscal crisis." As a result, states have struggled to close deficits that have totaled approximately \$190 billion over the past three years.

Bush has shifted health costs to states and failed to own up to his responsibility to pay for homeland security, election reform, and education.

The Bush Tax is huge - many times greater than most people's tax refunds. And it'll be here for a long time to come. We'll be paying the Bush Tax for decades, and most likely, so will our children and grandchildren.

**As President, Howard Dean will repeal the Bush Tax. He will provide genuine relief to the states though his Fund to Restore America and restore sound fiscal management of the nation's finances.**

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### Sources:

- \* College Board, "Trends in College Pricing 2003," 10/21/03
- \* Citizens for Tax Justice, "We're Paying Dearly for Bush's Tax Cuts," 9/23/03
- \* Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, "Federal Policies Contribute to the Severity of the State Fiscal Crisis," 12/3/03

For more information, visit <http://www.deanforamerica.com> and <http://www.bushtax.com>

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# **The Bush Tax - How Much Is It Costing You?**

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## ***South Carolina***

The people of South Carolina are paying more in taxes and it's George Bush's fault.

### **Here are some examples of the Bush Tax in South Carolina:**

- **Property Taxes Soar:** South Carolina residents saw an increase of 10% in their local property tax rates in 2003. [Wall Street Journal, "States Tap Real Estate to Bridge Budget Gaps," 11/27/03]
- **College Costs Skyrocket:** Tuition this year at Clemson University increased \$1100 to \$6,934, an increase of 18.8%. Tuition this year at USC Beaufort went up \$4,008. [National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, "Changes in Annual Tuition and Fees Charges at NASULGC Institutions," 11/14/03; The Beaufort Gazette, "USC Beaufort Students Face Tuition Hike," 11/13/03]
- **After-School Programs Cut:** In 2003, \$10 million was cut from after-school programs, eliminating 8,000 slots for low-income school children. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "States are Cutting TANF and Child Care Programs," 6/3/03]
- **Unfunded Homeland Security Mandates:** The Bush Administration has shortchanged the first responders - emergency personnel, firefighters, and police officers - in the state of South Carolina by \$22.3 million. [Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's website, 12/16/03]

### **CBO: Failing to Act Could Result in Economic Crisis**

The AP reports on a **Congressional Budget Office report** released December 19, 2003, that reveals the damage done to America's long-term economic outlook by Bush's reckless tax cuts (excerpts follow):

Congress' nonpartisan fiscal analyst offered possible combinations of tax and spending changes, all of which would leave lawmakers choosing among politically unpalatable options. . . .Some still would leave the government in fiscal peril. Yet, **failing to act** would drive the accumulated federal debt to **unsustainable levels**, said the study. . . ."Taken to the extreme, such a path could result in an economic crisis," including the possibilities that foreign investors would pull out, the dollar's value plunge, interest rates and prices soar and stock markets collapse. . . ."The longer that lawmakers delay acting to counter an unsustainable budgetary situation, the larger the spending cuts or tax increases will eventually have to be," the 60-page study warned.

**Even as George W. Bush drives the country toward a fiscal train wreck, the average American is left to pay the Bush Tax. How much is it costing you?**

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