

# Rich States, Poor States: a guide to economic prosperity

February 7, 2012 - Testimony Delivered to Senate Committee on Assessment & Taxation

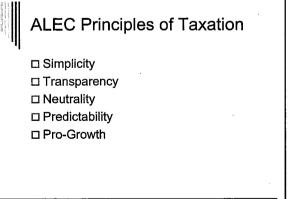
#### Jonathan Williams

Director, Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force Director, Center for State Fiscal Reform American Legislative Exchange Council



### **About ALEC**

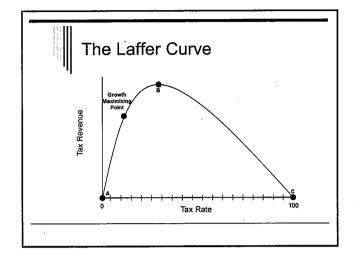
- □ Founded in 1973
- ☐ Largest nonpartisan individual membership organization of state legislators
- ALEC's mission is to advance and promote the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, individual liberty, limited Government, and federalism through our nonpartisan public-private sector partnership of state legislators, members of the private sector, the federal government, and the general public.

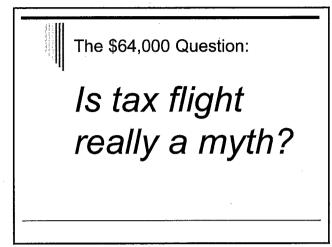


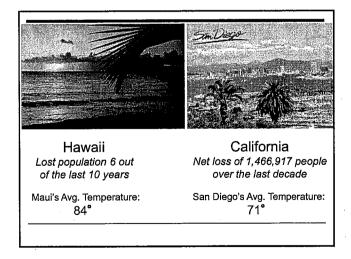


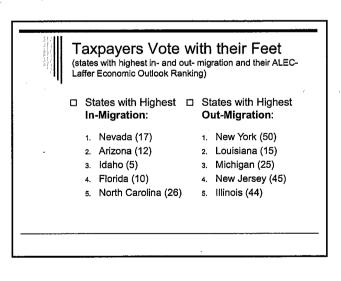
Common Sense or Voodoo Economics?

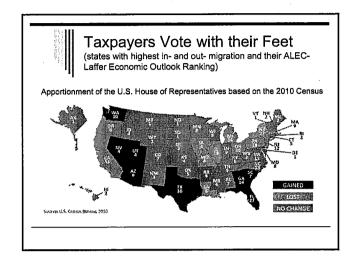
Sn. Assmnt & Tax 2 - 7 - 12

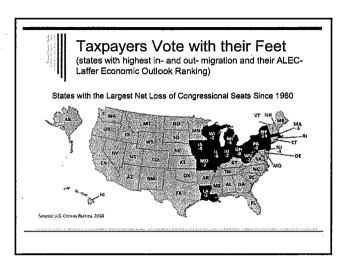


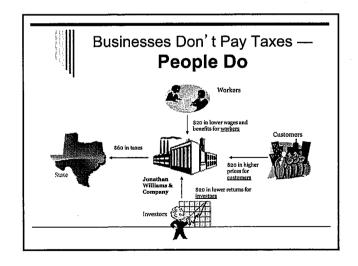


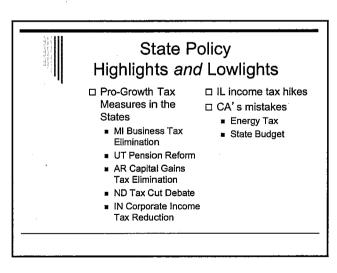








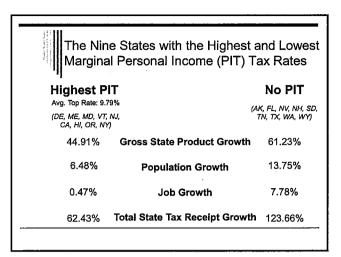






# Pro-Growth Policies in Texas Bring Big Results (read: JOBS)

- ☐ From June 2009 to June 2011, TX Added Half of the Nation's 524,000 Jobs
- ☐ Doctors Applying to Practice in TX increases 60% due to Tort Reform
- □ Right-to-Work State
- □ Population Growth 21% over the Past Decade (more than double U.S. avg.)





### Before and After:

The Damaging Effects of State Income Tax Gross State Product Relative to U.S.

| State         | Prior to Income Tax | 2009  |
|---------------|---------------------|-------|
| Connecticut   | 1.74%               | 1.57% |
| New Jersey    | 3.50%               | 3.41% |
| Ohio          | 5.32%               | 3.32% |
| Rhode Island  | 0.43%               | 0.34% |
| Pennsylvania  | 5.64%               | 3.91% |
| Maine         | 0.38%               | 0.36% |
| Illinois      | 6.37%               | 4.43% |
| Nebraska      | 0.68%               | 0.60% |
| Michigan      | 5.12%               | 2.57% |
| Indiana       | 2.59%               | 1.84% |
| West Virginia | NA                  | 0.44% |



# The Best of the Best: 10 Highest Ranked States

- 1. Utah
- 6. Colorado
- 2. South Dakota
- 7. North Dakota
- 3. Virginia
- 8. Tennessee
- 4. Wyoming
- 9. Missouri
- 5. Idaho
- 10. Florida

# The Worst of the Worst: 10 Lowest Ranked States

50. New York

45. New Jersey

49. Vermont

44. Illinois

48. Maine

43. Oregon

47. California

42. Rhode Island

46. Hawaii

41. Pennsylvania

| The Best <i>versus</i> the Worst |  |                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Top 10<br>States                 | Economic Growth Indicator                    | Bottom<br>States |  |
| 58.5%                            | Gross State Product                          | 41.6%            |  |
| 54.5%                            | Personal Income Growth                       | 39.9%            |  |
| 44.3%                            | Personal Income Per Capita Growth            | 41.2%            |  |
| 12.1%                            | Population Growth                            | 4.5%             |  |
| 3.0%                             | Net Domestic in-Migration as % of Population | -2.4%            |  |
| 6.5%                             | Non-Farm Payroll Employment Growth           | -0.9%            |  |
| 7.9%                             | 2010 Unemployment Rate                       | 9.2%             |  |

# Kansas

Economic Outlook Rank: 27

#### ☐ Highlights:

- No Inheritance Tax
- Right-to-Work State
- Low Workers' Compensation Costs
- Relatively Low Remaining Tax Burden

#### □ Lowlights:

- High Number of Public Employees
- Lack of Tax Expenditure Limits

