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Subject: News Release - S.C. Among States w/ Lowest Growth in Spending, says The Tax Foundation

Office of the Speaker
SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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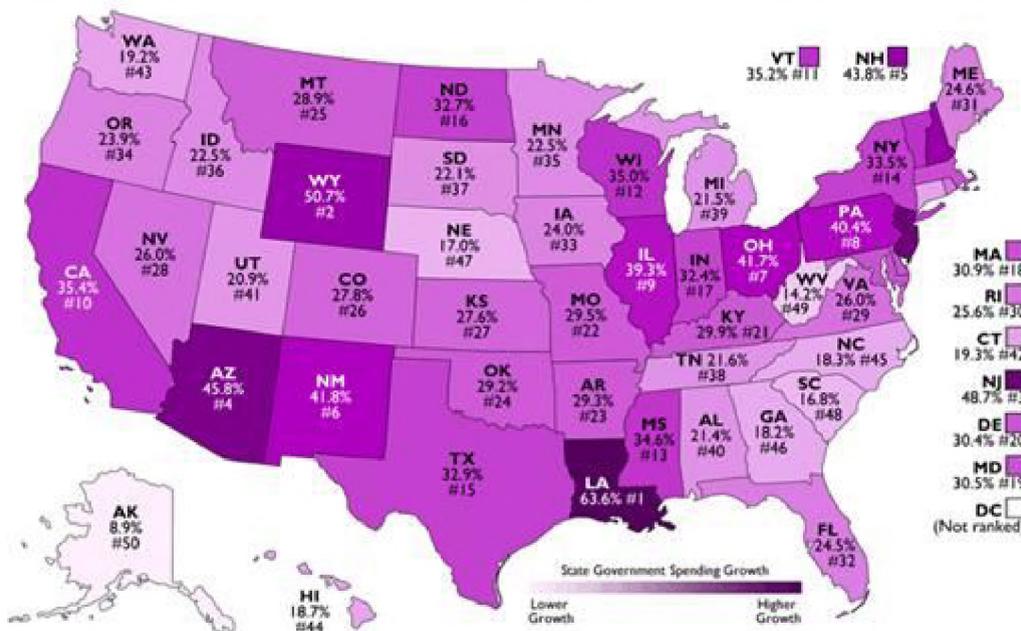
S.C. ranked 3rd Best State for restraining government growth, a national review of state spending from 2001-2011 shows

(Columbia, SC) – Fiscal conservatives in the Palmetto State have yet another reason to celebrate South Carolina’s successful efforts to keep taxes low and limit government growth. A report by a leading national tax analysis organization, [the Tax Foundation](#), demonstrates how South Carolina and other conservative states are helping to set a new national standard for responsible government budgeting. Its review shows state government spending in South Carolina grew just 16.8 percent over ten years, ranking it 48th in a national listing of state government growth amounts.

[House Speaker Bobby Harrell](#) said, “If you believe more of your paycheck should be going into your bank account instead of going to grow government, then South Carolina is the state for you. When other states were raising taxes to deal with budget shortfalls, South Carolina’s fiscally conservative majority stood strong to keep taxes low and to cut spending. The conservative states highlighted in this study should serve as an example for other states – and especially for our deficit-spending Congress – of what lawmakers can accomplish by focusing on core functions of government.”

[House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister](#) said, “With yet another major report showing our state as a national leader on fiscal responsibility, South Carolinians know that the conservative majority they elected is working hard to represent the responsible government values they voted for.”

Growth in State Government Direct Spending Real Dollars per Capita, 2001-2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Tax Foundation
Note: Published July 22, 2013

taxfoundation.org/maps

Only two other states had decade-long growth rates lower than South Carolina's 16.8 percent. In contrast, the state with the highest spending growth rate increased the amount of tax dollars it spent by more than 63 percent.

Speaker Harrell said, "As study after study has consistently revealed, South Carolina isn't just leading the nation in restraining government growth but is helping to set a new national standard for how fiscally conservative states should handle taxpayers' money."

This latest study further supports the growing trend showing South Carolina as a national leader in conservative fiscal policy. In addition to this study, other independent reports show that South Carolina boasts:

- The lowest tax collections in the nation per capita
- \$28.8 billion in tax cuts since 1995; a substantial amount of sustained tax cuts considering our state's average General Fund Budget is below \$7 billion a year
- A much smaller, more efficient state government able to accomplish more with less; taxpayers fund 10,000 fewer state government positions today than they did in 1994
- Significantly increased reserve accounts, reducing the total budget amount that government can spend each year; S.C. is now ranked as having the 10th best state Rainy Day Fund Balance, where in 2007 it was only the 34th best
- The 5th earliest Tax Freedom Day on April 3rd; this marks the theoretical date where a state's population has worked long enough to pay all annual tax obligations, and going forward, keep what they earn
- An additional \$141 million in this year's budget dedicated to road improvements; done without any new taxes and without increasing our state's 47th lowest in the nation gas tax

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