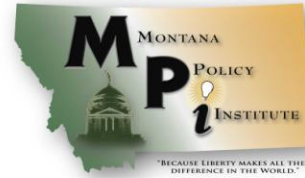


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# Press Release

## **Legislators' Forum to Discuss Transparency and Accountability**

The Montana Policy Institute, partnering with the CATO Institute, Americans for Tax Reform, the Center for Fiscal Accountability, the American Legislative Exchange Council, and the Property & Environment Research Center, will host a Legislator's Government Accountability Forum at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena, 8:30-4:30 on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Forum will provide a hands-on workshop of programs and expert panels on government transparency, fiscal discipline, and property and environmental rights and responsibilities. In addition, Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform, will provide the keynote lunch address.

All morning presentations and the lunch program are open to the public (**and media**). Policy experts will discuss budget and tax proposals that stress fiscal discipline and accountability; success stories in government transparency measures from other states; and property rights issues for maintaining Montana's clean and healthful environment.

Afternoon events are closed-door sessions for state legislators and legislative staff. Hand's-on panels will present nuts and bolts tools and resources to assist our lawmakers in crafting proposals that ensure our government remains transparent and accountable to taxpayers. These will include real world examples from other states' actions that have resulted in concrete benefits to their citizens. Some of these include: Objectives-based budgeting models, tax reform measures, and government transparency web sites.

These "Google for government" web sites have allowed citizens in other states to track their tax dollars from the time they are collected to when they're spent using key word searches and other user-friendly tools. Today's technology allows this level of access to the peoples' data, if only governments have the will to make it available. The Forum will provide concrete examples of just how easy and inexpensive it is.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and events begin at 8:30. Registration is \$25, and includes the morning presentations, lunch, and a keynote address by Grover Norquist. Register online at [www.mtpolicy.org](http://www.mtpolicy.org).

The Montana Policy Institute is dedicated to providing Montana leaders and citizens the information and resources they need to advocate for policies that are based on a respect for individual freedom, an expectation of individual responsibility, and a belief that government intervention should be the avenue of last rather than first resort. For more information visit us on the web at [www.mtpolicy.org](http://www.mtpolicy.org).

**For Immediate Release**