



**Hartzler: ‘We already pay too many taxes. Who doesn’t know this?’  
Nixes Tax Hike Plans of Her Two Opponents, Skelton and Stouffer  
Skelton’s Lead GOP challenger on taxes: ‘Don’t raise any!’**

---

Republican Vicky Hartzler, the first candidate to challenge 33-year incumbent Congressman Democrat Ike Skelton (D), is speaking out on the many tax increases sought by the President, House Speaker Pelosi, Skelton, and other Washington liberals.

Hartzler addressed the recent tax hike exchanges between Representative Skelton and State Sen. Bill Stouffer. She stated:

“My answer is, ‘Don’t raise any taxes. High-tax thinking is the problem, not the solution. I know the people of Fourth District strongly agree, in a broad and bipartisan way. Americans want solutions. So do the many Missourians I have met in town hall meetings across the district.

“I never voted for a tax increase while I was in Jefferson City. I won’t vote for one in Washington, D.C. Unlike my opponents, I believe Americans need lower taxes, not higher taxes.”

When Missouri State Senator Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, later joined Hartzler as a candidate for the GOP nomination, Skelton backers at the state Democratic Party attacked Stouffer’s Senate bill for \$7.2 billion in higher sales and use taxes (SB 310, 2007).

Lexington Democrat Skelton, who has been in Congress since 1977, voted ‘Yes’ for a Pelosi-Al Gore “carbon tax,” the so-called cap-and-trade plan recently approved by the House. Skelton was one of four deciding votes to pass the measure.

In recent days, Stouffer and Skelton have traded criticisms on their tax plans and various other matters. Hartzler today addressed the Skelton and Stouffer tax positions:

“With great personal respect, I strongly disagree with both gentlemen. Taxes are too

high, not too low. The National Energy Tax Congressman Skelton voted for would devastate family budgets, kill jobs and harm agriculture throughout the Fourth District. His vote reflected Nancy Pelosi thinking; not Missouri values.”

“In the Fourth Congressional District opposition to more taxes is ‘good government’ for Republicans, Independents, and most Democrats. I certainly am part of this consensus, and have been my whole life. As to higher taxes, this district voted 78% against the seven-cent increase in the Missouri’s excise tax on motor fuels in August 2002. I stand with the people on this issue.”

“When Bill Stouffer was elected to the State Senate, he proposed a bill to raise the state sales tax by 1 percent for 10 years. I think raising taxes is the wrong way to solve problems.

“Principled disagreements will occur, as on this issue. When important differences do occur with Senator Stouffer or Congressman Skelton, I will state my position clearly and will strive to deal with vital issues in a way that is respectful at all times.

“My campaign will continue to be strongly people-oriented. We will focus on talking with citizens throughout the Fourth District about their ideas and solutions for better health care, a stronger economy, and a sound energy policy. Together we will advance ideas that reflect the common sense ideas and values of the people of this district.”

Hartzler served Cass County and Johnson County in the Missouri House of Representatives 1995-2001. While there, she advanced ideas to lower taxes, strengthen education, protect children, promote adoption, and empower small business job creation.

Prior to serving as a lawmaker Vicky was a classroom teacher at the junior high and high school levels in Lebanon and Belton. She and her husband, Lowell, run a diversified farming operation in Cass County and are co-owners of Hartzler Equipment Company, with store locations in Harrisonville, Lamar and Nevada.

###

Paid for by Vicky Hartzler for Congress