



2024-2025 Annual Report

Taxpayer Impact by the Numbers



103 Congressional
press release citations



1,343,608 Total web
impressions



549 Major TV & radio
broadcast appearances



128 Op-eds published



28 Legal briefs filed



152 Letters and legislative
testimony submitted
to state and federal
lawmakers



9,599 Media citations



459 Hill staff in-person
contacts and meetings



President's Report



Dear Friends,

In 2024, whether confronting a divided government or navigating rare moments of bipartisan agreement, NTU and NTUF continued to deliver results for taxpayers. The year proved that persistence and expertise win victories even in the most challenging political climate. We advanced tax relief, championed fiscal discipline, defended constitutional protections, and made certain that taxpayers were heard where it mattered most.

Highlights included passage of the **Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act** in the House, a \$2.1 trillion deficit-reduction marker in the **Fiscal Responsibility Act**, and a major legal victory defending Colorado's **Taxpayer's Bill of Rights**. These successes reflected the teams' tireless work in litigation, coalition building, and direct engagement with policymakers.

Our efforts touched every major taxpayer priority. We advanced spending restraint, built momentum for pro-growth tax relief, and led the charge for IRS reform, setting the stage for the most significant overhaul of tax administration in decades. We fought regulatory excesses that threatened taxpayers, expanded legal protections against government overreach, and equipped state lawmakers with tools to deliver meaningful policy results across the country.

Continued on page 5



President Pete Sepp presented Rep. James Comer (R-KY) with the Taxpayers' Friend Award because of his "A" rating in the NTU Rates Congress annual scorecard.



President Pete Sepp hosted an international contingent of free-market scholars, foreign dignitaries, and representatives of the World Taxpayers Association at a luncheon focused on the global tax landscape at the 2024 International Democratic Union conference. From left, Garret Edwards from Argentina, Carlos Chacon from Colombia, Pete Sepp, and Otieno Igogo from Tanzania

All of these initiatives are paying off with even bigger victories in 2025, but we are only getting started. Implementing the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, passing the most comprehensive IRS reforms in nearly 30 years, finally winning constitutional and statutory budget limits, ushering in more regulatory changes, making more progress in the states, and standing up for taxpayers in court, will all call for NTU's and NTUF's unique, proven capabilities. And none too soon. Never before has every generation of taxpayers—those alive today and those yet to be born—had so much at stake in the success of NTU and NTUF in their missions than they do right now.

As the words that follow mine will attest, NTU and NTUF are stronger than ever and ready for the challenges to come. This strength, and the impact that comes with it, is because of the trust you have placed in us. At the beginning of every day, I give thanks for your unwavering support. You ensure that the Voice of America's Taxpayers is loud, proud, and clear. Forward!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Pete Sepp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pete" and last name "Sepp" clearly distinguishable.

Pete Sepp

Water District Now on Payment Plan Back to Taxpayers

Court Rules Local Governments Can't Ignore Taxpayer Protections

The Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, made up of four counties in northeastern Colorado, doubled property tax collected from residents without voter approval, an obvious violation of the Colorado Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), which requires an affirmative vote of the people before a tax increase.

Taxpayers faced significant effects including:

- Increased property tax bills. Some landowners experienced their annual property tax bill increase from \$70 to \$150, totaling more than \$3 million in unlawful collection districtwide.
- The violation of TABOR meant other districts with the authority to impose property taxes could claim precedent to raise their rates without approval from voters.

Taxpayer Defense Center Takes Action

Residents pursued non-legal methods to challenge the tax increase, attending water district board meetings and asking county commissioners to prevent certification of the property tax increase.

After exhausting their options outside the courtroom, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District taxpayers Jim Aranci, Jack Darnell, William Lauck, Chuck Miller, and Curt Werner partnered with National Taxpayers Union Foundation's Taxpayer Defense Center.

Meet the Plaintiffs and the Taxpayer Defense Center Attorneys



Plaintiffs Chuck Miller, William Lauck, Jack Darnell, and Jim Aranci partnered with the Taxpayer Defense Center, resulting in \$3 million in refunds and interest back to taxpayers in northeast Colorado. Not pictured, plaintiff Curt Werner.*



Taxpayer Defense Center attorney Joe Bishop-Henchman (right) managed the case strategy.



Taxpayer Defense Center attorney Tyler Martinez (right) was the lead litigator for the case, arguing on behalf of taxpayers before the Colorado Court of Appeals.

The purpose was to answer the primary legal question: Can a property tax mill levy be increased without voter approval under **Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)**?

- The lower court initially ruled in favor of the Water District.
- The Colorado Court of Appeals unanimously overturned the lower court's decision and ruled in favor of the taxpayers.
- In October 2024, the Colorado Supreme Court declined to review the case, allowing the appeals court ruling to stand in favor of taxpayers.
- The Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District was ordered to refund more than \$3 million in illegally collected taxes to taxpayers.
- The Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District was ordered to pay attorney's fees.

Victory for Taxpayers

The victory in the case established a clear legal precedent. In Colorado, property tax increases require voter approval under TABOR.

The case offers hope to taxpayers fighting against unlawful and unfair tax increases.

Watch the story now



No Taxpayer Pensions for Corrupt Politicians

Former members of Congress convicted of corruption can no longer collect taxpayer-funded pensions, thanks to research and advocacy from National Taxpayers Union Foundation and National Taxpayers Union.

For decades, loopholes in federal law allowed disgraced lawmakers to receive generous pensions even while serving prison sentences.

In 2016, National Taxpayers Union Foundation's Vice President of Research Demian Brady uncovered a critical flaw in the system: **pensions weren't revoked until all appeals were exhausted, potentially allowing years of payouts after sentencing.**



Biden Signs Bill To Stop Convicted Lawmakers' Pensions

Demian Brady, vice president of research for the National Taxpayers Union Foundation, which has been championing this bill for years, told Law360 Friday that this law will likely impact former Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., who was charged and later convicted on all 16 counts of corruption in July. However, the decision of whether to apply it to Menendez is ultimately up to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the federal government's human resources department. Brady said he is hoping for more transparency from the agency on matters like this.

Lawmakers Can't Collect After Conviction

The education from Demian prompted the introduction of a bill. National Taxpayers Union Executive Vice President Brandon Arnold brought it to House Speaker Mike Johnson's office. It was up for a vote the next week.

The bill passed with strong bipartisan support in the House and unanimously in the Senate.

Thank you to Senators Jacky Rosen and Rick Scott and Representatives Ralph Norman and Claudia Tenney for leadership in their respective chambers.

Corruption will no longer be rewarded with a lifetime government paycheck.

Read more





NTU Executive Vice President Brandon Arnold, House Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO), and NTU President Pete Sepp celebrated the House passage of the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.



NTU Director of the Free Trade Initiative Bryan Riley testifies to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs on the topic of Safeguarding the Homeland: Examining Conflicts of Interest in Federal Contracting to Protect America's Future, September 2024.



Rep. Schweikert (R-AZ) (Left) spoke about IRS reform at the Taxpayers FIRST event, Recommendations for Assessing, Addressing, and Ameliorating the Tax Gap.



NTUF Executive Vice President Joe Bishop-Henchman testifies to the Senate Committee on Finance Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth on the topic of Providing Small Business Relief from Remote Sales Tax Collection, September 2024.

The Taxpayers' Voice on Capitol Hill



In 2024-2025, our federal affairs team engaged in 459 meetings with members of Congress and their staff, ensuring taxpayer perspectives were heard at the highest levels of government. Our outreach efforts built strong relationships with key policymakers and staff in House and Senate Leadership and in the committees where the most impactful laws are being written, like House Ways and Means, Senate Finance, and House Budget. This consistent presence makes NTU one of the most sought-after resources on Capitol Hill and enables us to directly influence legislation.

From Capitol Hill to statehouses to courthouses nationwide, we made 2024 a year of progress for taxpayers. Our wins demonstrate that our voice is trusted, respected, and effective around the country.

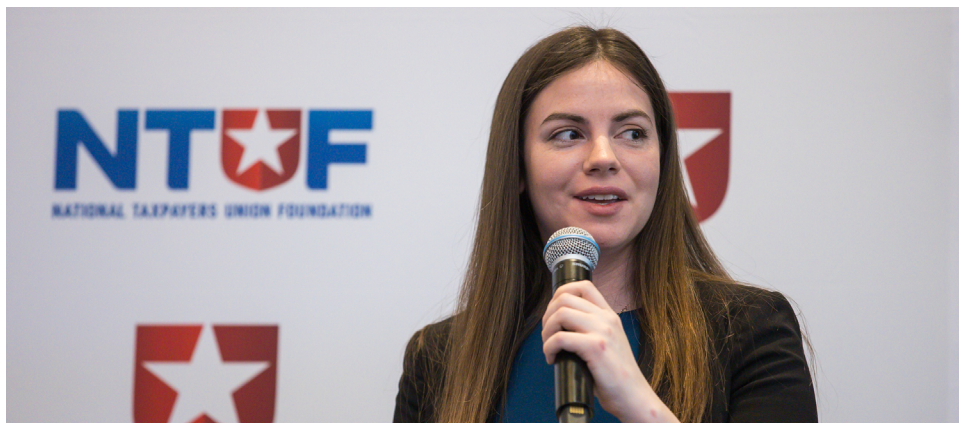
Though we tackled many issues throughout the year, tax policy was always front and center. With major provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act set to expire in 2025, NTU shaped the debate. We strengthened our long-running Tax Reform Working Group, facilitating frank discussions between the nation's top tax policy experts and key figures like House Budget Chair and Ways and Means Member Jodey Arrington and Speaker Mike Johnson's "kitchen cabinet" of staffers.

Through our education and outreach activities, we provided knowledge and tools that shaped the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). NTUF hosted an intensive overnight retreat that educated thirty Hill staff about the history of TCJA and tradeoffs associated with its expiration and extension, and featured over a dozen speakers debating different ideas. NTU was a continual presence on Capitol Hill, meeting with leadership and rank-and-file members to go over policy options and share ideas.

After weeks of rapid response and outreach engagement by our team and many others, the final bill as adopted included permanent full expensing on equipment investments and manufacturing structures, a rollback of green energy subsidies enacted during the Biden Administration, and needed savings to the Medicaid program. While any bill is far from perfect, OBBBA avoids a \$500 billion per year tax increase on the vast majority of Americans.

Ending Pensions for Convicted Members of Congress

Prosecutions of former Representative Chaka Fattah and former Senator Bob Menendez allowed our VP of Research Demian Brady to raise awareness of a loophole that lets convicted members collect their pension while they appeal their case, even if they are in jail. In the final days of the congressional session, we urged House leadership to advance a pro-taxpayer bill that had already



Policy Manager Debbie Jennings moderated a panel on international tax provisions at NTUF's Hill staff retreat, hosted in Cambridge, Maryland. The intensive overnight retreat educated thirty Hill staff about the history of TCJA and tradeoffs associated with its expiration and extension, and featured over a dozen speakers debating different ideas.

passed the Senate. The very next week, the House successfully passed this legislation and sent it to the desk of then-President Joe Biden who signed it into law.

Standing Firm for Free Trade

NTU stood firm for free trade in a year of growing protectionism. At the invitation of Senator Rand Paul, our Free Trade Initiative Director Bryan Riley testified to the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on how open markets benefit American families and businesses. Riley also got attention for debating Oren Cass on protectionism vs. free trade and for calculating the effect of tariffs on Back to School supplies.

Preserving Free Markets in Technology

In 2024, Director of Technology Policy Ryan Nabil distinguished himself as a leading expert on technology with a widely read letter in the *Financial Times* on



The federal affairs team hosted a packed house lunch of congressional staff with Rep. Ron Estes (R-Kan.), focused on tax and fiscal education.

the future of U.S. foreign and economic policy, as well as a 54-page article on artificial intelligence regulation published in the *Journal of Law, Economics, and Policy*.

We advanced free-market solutions through the Competitiveness Coalition, a 25-member alliance chaired by former Senator Scott Brown. The coalition's "Diner Table Economics" video series engaged with leading presidential candidates, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie on the campaign trail in New Hampshire and offered a platform to share their views on competition, regulation, and growth. The series won an award from the New Hampshire Press Association.

Watching over the IRS

We took the lead to challenge and try to overturn a midnight rule issued by the outgoing Biden Administration that redefines IRS "supervisors"—who by law must sign off on penalties on taxpayers—as essentially anyone who works at the IRS. This "interpretation" would shred an important procedural constraint on IRS personnel.

Pete Sepp testified to the U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight, detailing how the IRS has missed opportunities in the past to modernize and how it could begin to serve taxpayers in a more modern way.

NTUF's Taxpayers for IRS Transformation (Taxpayers FIRST) project produced recommendations on taxpayer rights, service, and modernization now informing congressional reform efforts.

Cross-Partisan Results for Taxpayers



“What They Are Saying: Conservatives Rally Behind Speaker Johnson on One-Year Anniversary of Speakership”



CHAIR JODEY ARRINGTON
HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

“House Budget Committee Takes ‘Meaningful Steps’ Toward a More Fiscally Responsible Government”



“WTAS: Dr. Rand Paul Reintroduces ‘Audit the Fed’”



“Rosen, Scott Introduce Bipartisan No Corruption Act To Safeguard Taxpayer Dollars From Corrupt Politicians”



“Thune Leads Effort to Protect Taxpayer Data From the IRS’s High-Risk Bring-Your-Own-Device Program”



“Arrington Introduces Balanced Budget Amendment”



CHUCK GRASSLEY

“Grassley Welcomes Witness Insights On Business Tax Considerations In A ‘Post-Wayfair’ World”



“Spanberger, Moore Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Reduce Improper Payments, Strengthen Confidence in Federal Programs”



“What They Are Saying: Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act Continues Pro-Growth Record of GOP Tax Reform”



“Whip Emmer Builds Coalition of Support for Homeland Security, Defense, and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bills”



“Senators Marshall, Schmitt, GOP Colleagues Introduce Congressional Review Act Aimed at Treasury’s Continued Abuse of COVID Recovery Funds”



MAGGIE HASSAN
UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

“Senator Hassan Presses for Faster Tax Refunds for Granite Staters at Senate Hearing with IRS Commissioner”

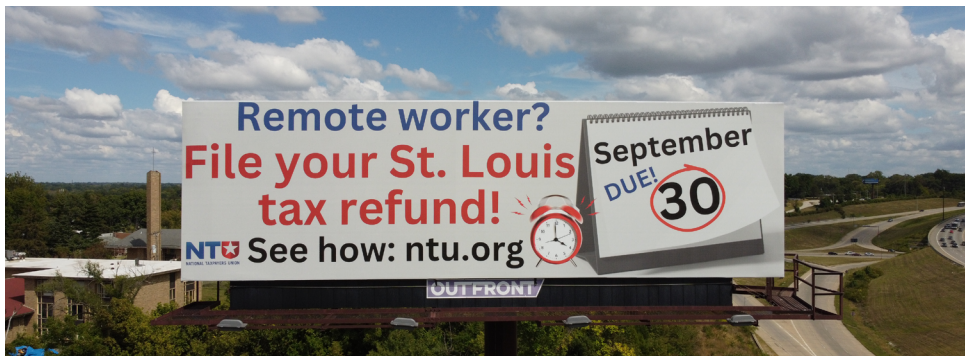
Making Life Less Taxing in the States



In 2024-2025, NTU's state affairs team—Leah Vukmir, Jess Ward, and Mattias Gugel—and NTUF's Joe Bishop-Henchman, Andrew Wilford, and Matt Putnam worked on a broad portfolio of issues to defend taxpayers and advance market-friendly reforms. Their efforts included health care, budgeting, tax policy, and worker flexibility.

Protecting Health and Taxpayers

Leah drove NTU's health care and tobacco harm reduction agenda. As a nurse, she brought a unique perspective in testimony highlighting the risks of unchecked 340B drug discount program expansions and the dangers of expanding access to costly anti-obesity medications without safeguards. NTU also made the case for smarter tobacco harm reduction policies, showing lawmakers that reduced-risk alternatives save lives and lower long-term health care costs. In Michigan,



Approximately 4,262 St. Louis taxpayers applied for refunds because of our public awareness campaign alerting remote workers that the city did not have a legal basis to collect a 1% earnings tax on their income.



As a small business owner, Jess Ward has first-hand experience with payroll taxes and other operational pressures. She warned a gathering of conservative legislators at GOPAC about the dangers of prohibiting interchange fees on sales taxes paid by consumers using credit cards.

Leah built bipartisan momentum for an ocular telehealth bill that would expand access while protecting taxpayers.

Defending Small Businesses and Workers

Jess led the fight against interchange fee price controls, turning Illinois' failed implementation of its law into a national case study on how removing fees on tax amounts would destabilize payment networks, hurt small businesses, and shift costs to consumers. In the two dozen states that introduced these bills in the last two years, not a single one since Illinois has

become law. Drawing on her own experience as a small business owner who runs payroll, Jess deployed NTUF's Payroll Tax Toolkit to show lawmakers how payroll taxes drain wages and complicate hiring.

Andrew's Remote Obligations and Mobility (ROAM) Index motivated states like Indiana and Montana to adopt taxpayer-friendly rules for remote workers. NTUF's Tax Migration Report showed how high-tax states continue to lose residents to low-tax states, underscoring the real-world impact of state policy choices.

Winning Battles on State Budgets and Taxes

Matt led efforts on State Budget Solutions, equipping lawmakers with tools for sound fiscal management. NTUF helped Mississippi design income tax triggers and pushed back against corporate tax hikes in Michigan.

Mattias expanded NTU's fiscal impact across the map. In Oregon, he helped lead opposition to Ballot Measure 118—a gross-receipts style corporate tax disguised as a rebate program—which voters decisively rejected (79% to 21%). In Nebraska, he twice defeated a proposed tax swap. In South Carolina, he blocked corporate tax hikes and defended farmers' access to credit. He also fought digital advertising tax schemes that risked double taxation and higher consumer costs, helped Missouri stop local streaming taxes from being enacted, and promoted portable benefits for gig workers in Wisconsin—advancing a pro-worker, pro-flexibility alternative to forced reclassification.

Building Influence Nationwide

We engaged at influential gatherings of state policymakers such as the National Conference of State Legislatures, Institute for State Policy Leaders, American Legislative Exchange Council (where 139 legislators packed NTU's standing-room-only session on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's state tax impact), GOPAC, and the State Policy Network. These efforts strengthened NTU's reputation with the leaders shaping tomorrow's policies.

2024–25 proved NTU's model works: practical reforms, persuasive advocacy, and principled defense of taxpayers. From Madison to Austin, Tallahassee to Phoenix, our victories reaffirm that NTU is trusted, respected, and indispensable to sound fiscal governance.



Senior Vice President of State Affairs Leah Vukmir presented on health care policy at the ALEC annual meeting. At a separate ALEC conference, 139 legislators packed NTU's standing-room-only session on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's state tax impact.

Fighting for Taxpayers in the Courtroom



After a three-year fight, NTUF won a victory for taxpayers against an illegal doubling of taxes by a Colorado water district. Our Taxpayer Defense Center's Tyler Martinez and Joe Bishop-Henchman won *Aranci v. Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District* on appeal and then successfully opposed an attempt by the Water District to offer refunds only upon request. We have now put the Water District on a payment plan to taxpayers: they must now pay \$3 million over 10 years with 10% interest running until it is all repaid.

Other litigation in California, Nevada, New York, Oregon, and against the IRS aims to set precedents that protect taxpayers into the future. We also inserted the taxpayer voice with 11 amicus briefs in other cases, in defense of donor privacy, against a state law banning listing taxes on receipts, and in favor of reviving the Eighth Amendment's ban on excessive fines.



The Taxpayer Defense Center prevailed in court over the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, a taxing authority that doubled property taxes without approval from voters, a clear violation of the state's Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

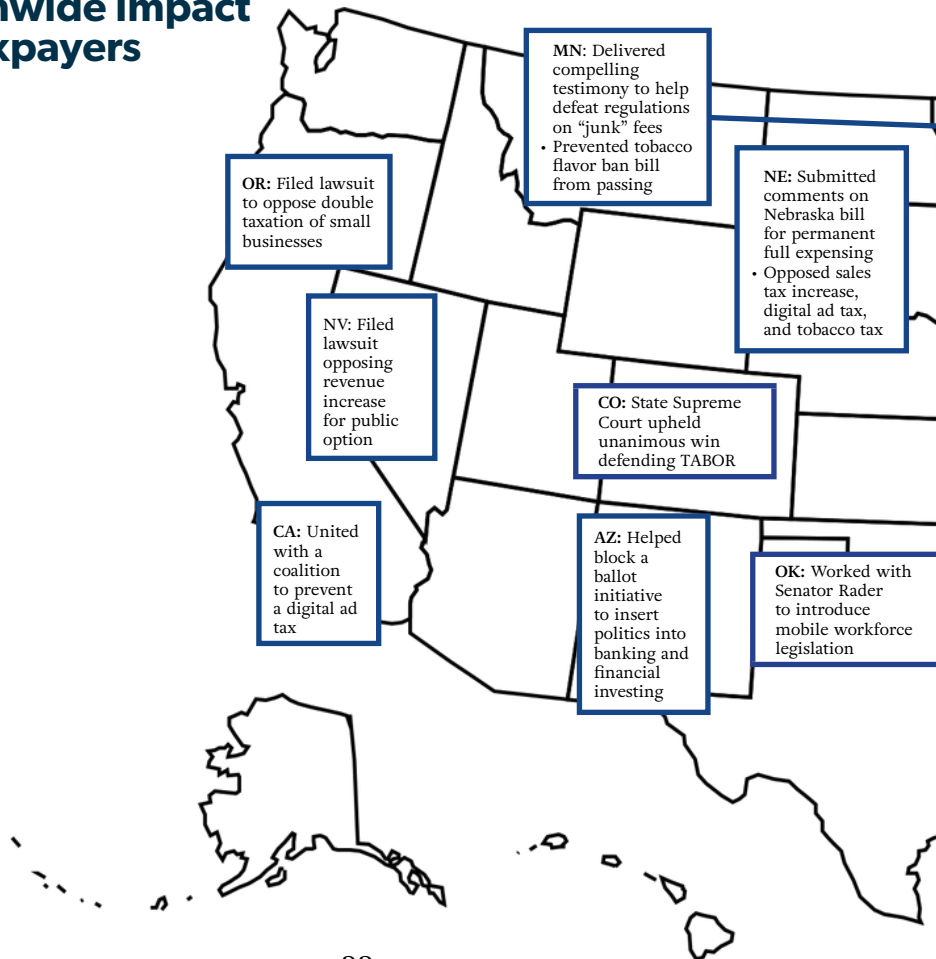


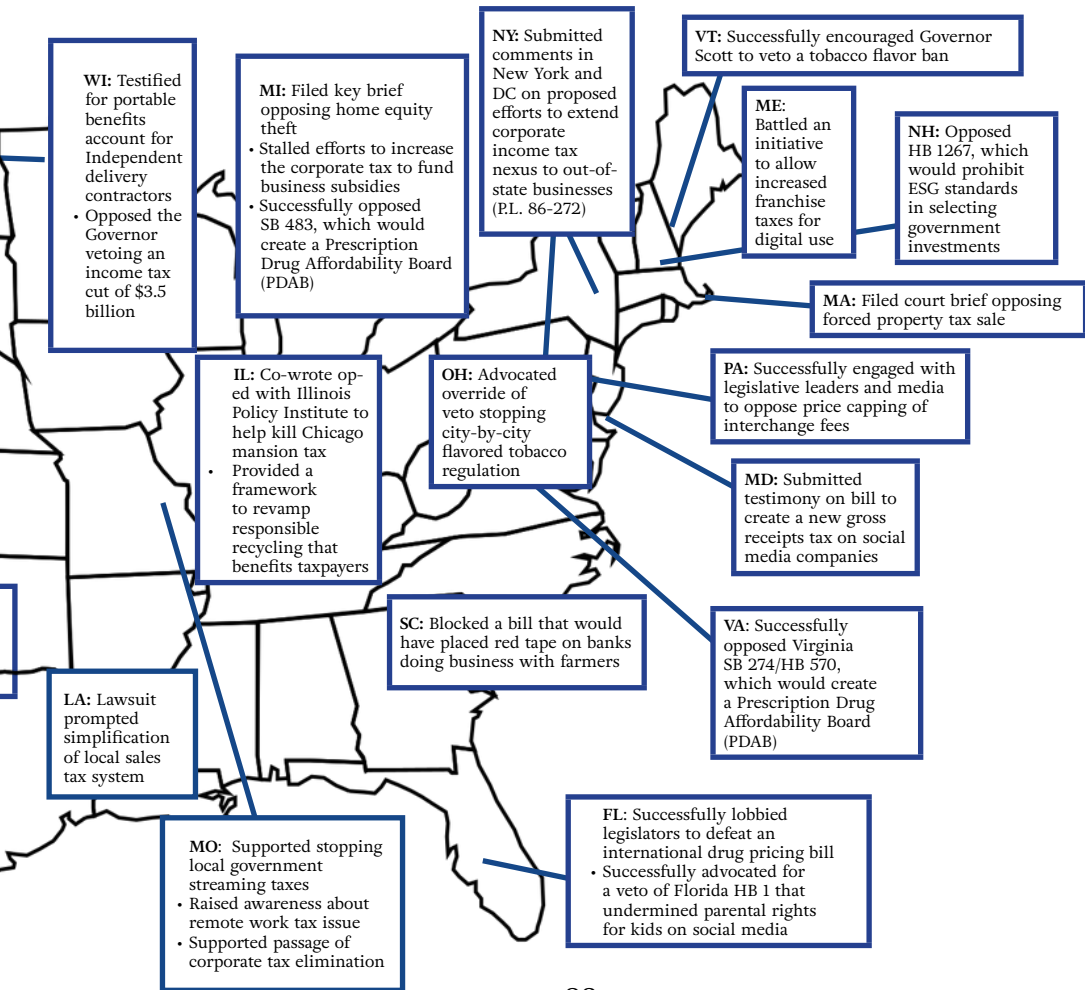
The federal affairs team hosted Federal Trade Commissioner Melissa Holyoak for a Fireside Chat to discuss the future of the FTC and how the agency can return to its core mission objectives.



President Pete Sepp testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means, advocating for IRS enforcement funding to be redirected toward technology modernization.

Nationwide Impact for Taxpayers







In Demand by the Media



**“Nobody Asked For
The New IRS Direct
File Program”**
By Andrew Wilford



**“When Texas starts
acting like California”**
By Brandon Arnold



**“Congress must fix
this looming tax
nightmare”**
By Demian Brady



**“The Most Important
Bill for Lame Duck”**
By Bryan Riley



**“How red-light
camera laws could
help drive federal AI
regulation”**
By Nick Johns



**“Why Congress must
act now to save Iowans’
hard-earned dollars”**
By Mattias Gugel



**“Democrats’ Housing
Proposals Risk
Making Homes Less
Affordable”**
By Ryan Nabil



**“Congress Shouldn’t
Rush OECD Tax
Package, Group Says”**
Debbie Jennings,
Quoted



**“WH Eyes New
Proposal to Cancel
Student Loan Debt”**
TV Interview with
Brandon Arnold



**“Cutting Rates will
Lower Credit Payments
for Consumers”**
TV Interview with
Thomas Aiello



**“The discrepancy in
Pa.’s unemployment
— a call for reform”**
By Jess Ward



**“The Perks of a
Presidential Pension”**
Demian Brady, Quoted



“The Real Tax Gap”
Demian Brady, Quoted



**“Floridians seeking
property tax reform
should look to the
west”**
By Matthew Putnam

“

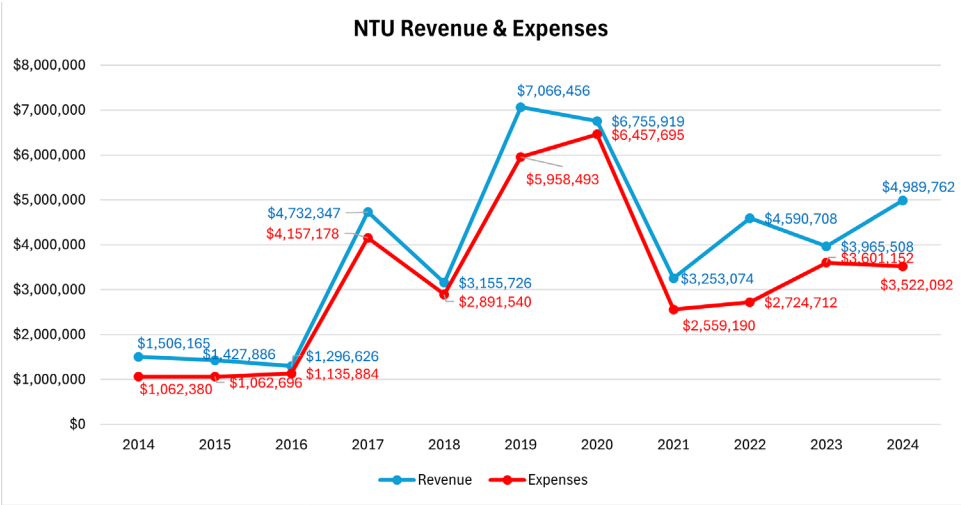
Huge thanks for all your help getting the One Big Beautiful Bill through the House. We couldn't have done it without you!

House Committee on Ways and Means
Senior Advisor

”

Audited NTU Financials

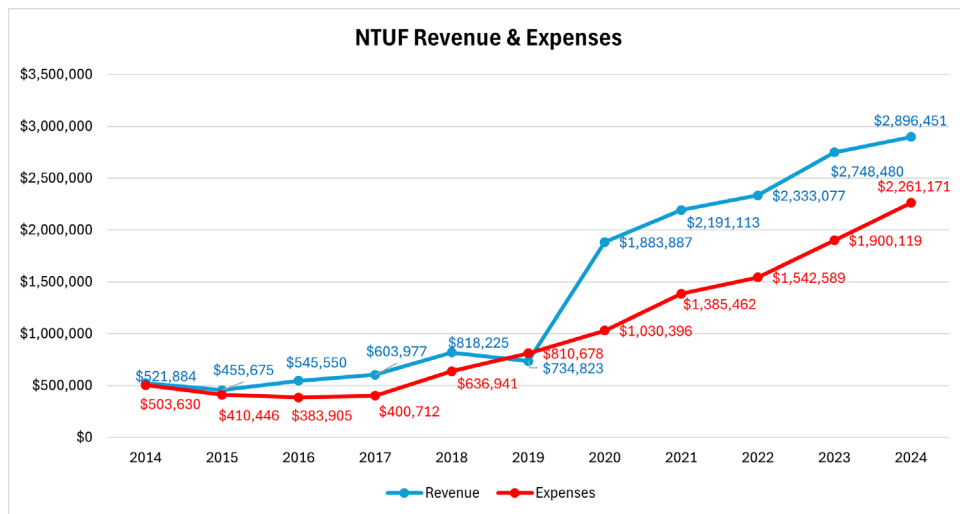
National Taxpayers Union is our 501(c)(4) organization. While NTU's donations and expenses rise and fall with congressional and state legislative activity, the overall revenue base has grown and expense growth has remained sustainable. As of December 31, 2024, NTU's net asset balance was \$8,680,349, compared to \$7,128,667 one year earlier. Donate to help NTU advocate for taxpayers at www.ntu.org/donate or by mail to 122 C Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001.



Editor's note: This annual report covers organizational activities from January 2024 through September 2025. Financial data reflects 2024 only.

Audited NTUF Financials

National Taxpayers Union Foundation is our 501(c)(3) organization. Generous donations to NTUF have enabled us to expand our work, including launching the Taxpayer Defense Center, ROAM remote work taxation project, and Taxpayers FIRST initiative. Expenses have also grown, but in a sustainable way. As of December 31, 2024, NTUF's net asset balance was \$5,463,728, compared to \$4,808,062 one year earlier. Make a tax-deductible gift to help NTUF's work for taxpayers at www.ntu.org/foundation or by mail to 122 C Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001.





Thanks for Your Donation!

Your Donation by Check Is Appreciated

Checks payable to National Taxpayers Union, a 501(c)(4), are **not tax deductible**.

Checks payable to National Taxpayers Union Foundation, a 501(c)(3), **are tax deductible**.

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Donation Amount: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Help Us Make Life Less Taxing

Make a Donation

We are proud to be the only free-market organization for taxpayers that unites effective advocacy with useful research about how to limit taxes, spending, and regulation at every level and branch of government—state, federal, administrative, and judicial.



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Donations are not tax deductible.



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