

[Scottsdale Tribune](#)

Paul Giblin

Rep. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., is scheduled to host a group of local financial experts in a round-table discussion today about proposed federal legislation to extend capital gains and estate tax cuts made in 2001 and 2003.

The bill, which Mitchell and Rep. Chris Shays, R-Conn., co-sponsored earlier this year, would permanently reduce the capital gains tax to 15 percent. The rate had been 20 percent before Congress cut it on a temporary basis in 2003.

If it expires as scheduled, Americans would experience a 33 percent increase in the capital gains tax. That change would adversely affect middle-class families, Mitchell said.

"The reality is if we don't act soon, Arizonans are going to see their taxes go up in just a few years," said Mitchell, a freshman who represents Arizona's 5th Congressional District, which takes in Scottsdale, Tempe, Fountain Hills and Ahwatukee Foothills.

Mitchell and Shays' measure also would permanently reduce the estate tax exemption.

Unless Congress acts, the estate tax exemption, presently set at \$2 million, will shrink to \$1 million in 2011.

"Raising capital gains taxes discourages investment and raising the estate tax hurts families who own homes and small businesses. That just doesn't make sense. I'm looking forward to hearing directly from our community leaders on what kind of impact that would have in Arizona," he said in a statement.

The tax measures are intended to benefit an expanding class of residents, including baby boomers, homeowners and small-business owners.

The meeting of financial advisers and business community leaders is set for 10:30 a.m. at the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, 4725 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 210, in Scottsdale.

The discussion will feature Jan Boughty, an independent insurance agent and financial adviser; Ken Lako, a financial adviser with Wells Fargo; Alan Langston, president of Arizona Real Estate Investment Association; Erik Pedersen, a financial adviser with AXA Financial Advisors; and Rick Rives, an accountant and business owner.