**Summary of Select News and Commentary from Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)**

**April 1, 2013-December 31, 2013**

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# National Media Hits

[**Women’s, retiree groups ask voters to take sequester remedy action on Dec. 12**](http://www.examiner.com/article/women-s-retiree-groups-ask-voters-to-take-sequester-remedy-action-on-dec-12)*The Examiner*, Laura Gabbay, 12/8/2013

On December 12, several prominent community advocacy organizations, including the **National Women’s Law Center**, the **Alliance for Retired Americans**, the National Disability Rights Network, **9to5**, the **AFL-CIO** and **Americans for Tax Fairness**, are asking voters to take action across this nation and contact their elected officials in Washington, D.C. The request to our representatives is to tell them to address the next round of expected 2014

federal sequester cuts . First started this past March, the sequester cuts are, some say, ham-handed, across-the-board cuts to federal spending and hit Latinos and women the hardest.

There is little debate that the effects of the sequestration cuts are not good for the country, adversely impacting everything from Head Start programs for low-income children to health care research. Due to sequestration cuts, the National Institutes of Health has been forced to cut $1.75 billion from its budget, for example.

According to the **National Women’s Law Center** today,

“Congress can fix this! Closing tax loopholes will raise the revenue needed to end the sequester and protect programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from the chopping block. That’s why we’re joining forces with other organizations to tell Congress to end the sequester and close corporate tax loopholes.”

[**Small Business Saturday Is Under Attack (From Small Business)**](http://boss.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/27/small-business-saturday-is-under-attack-from-small-businesses/)*The New York Times,* Robb Mandelbaum, 11/27/2013

On Tuesday, the **Main Street Alliance**, a left-leaning, locally focused small-business trade association, announced its own campaign — this one aimed at exposing what it termed the “hypocrisy” of American Express. “Every Saturday should be Small Business Saturday, but the irony of American Express being the ones to sponsor Small Business Saturday is glaring,” said Barb Campbell, who owns Wabi Sabi, a Japanese crafts store in Bend, Ore. “Every other day of the year, American Express just puts the squeeze on Main Street merchants.”

In particular, the alliance objects to the card company’s “swipe fees,” the transaction costs billed to the merchant whenever consumers use a card at the register. American Express’s fees are the highest of the card companies; according to the Nilson Report, which tracks the card industry, the average cost of an American Express transaction is 2.22 percent, compared to 2.05 percent for a MasterCard or Visa transaction.

[**American Express attached over Small Business Saturday sponsorship**](http://www.bizjournals.com/bizjournals/washingtonbureau/2013/11/26/american-express-attacked-over-small.html?page=all)*Business Journals*, Kent Hoover, 11/26/2013

**Main Street Alliance**, a left-leaning organization for local business owners across the country, wants Americans to shop at small businesses this Saturday, but they want them to pay for their purchases with cash, not credit cards -- especially not American Express cards.

But Main Street Alliance contends that American Express' sponsorship of Small Business Saturday is a cynical marketing ploy to make consumers think the credit card company is a good partner with small business when it isn't.

"American Express is not the friend of Main Street it claims to be," said Amanda Ballantyne, director of **Main Street Alliance**.

The company charges higher swipe fees to merchants on its card transactions than other credit companies do, it takes longer to settle accounts with merchants, and it's avoiding paying its fair share of taxes by parking billions of dollars in profits offshore, she said.

[**How Much Does Small Business Saturday Boost Main Street?**](http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-11-25/how-much-does-small-business-saturday-boost-main-street)*Bloomberg News,* Patrick Clark, 11/25/2013

American Express Vice President May Ann Fitzmaurice Reilly says measuring the sales impact is difficult because shoppers use different forms of payment. “We couldn’t be more proud and more humbled by how small businesses have taken ownership,” she says. “It’s become a part of the shopping culture, along with Black Friday and Cyber Monday.”

Not everyone is a fan. It’s been argued that the campaign is a bigger coup for American Express than it is for Main Street businesses. And advocacy group **Main Street Alliance** is holding a press conference tomorrow to “denounce the hypocrisy” of American Express promoting small businesses while charging the credit card “industry’s highest” swipe fees and corporate tax strategies.

**Op-Ed:** [**For Democrats, a Tax-the-Rich Road to Victory**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rj-eskow/for-democrats-a-tax-the-r_b_4293916.html)*The Huffington Post,* Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America’s Future**, 11/17/2013

Tax increases are a subject people seem reluctant to mention in the nation's capital. Republicans have convinced everyone inside the Beltway that new tax revenues are politically impossible. The talk on the Hill is that the White House is urging Senate and House Dems to accept a cuts-only budget deal for the next go-round. It seems that the conventional wisdom says tax increases are best left unmentioned.

But the conventional wisdom is wrong.

New polling by Hart Research Associates, conducted for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, confirms and amplifies findings from earlier studies showing that Americans strongly support higher taxes for the wealthy and corporations. And when we say "strongly," we mean very strongly.

[**Democratic pollster: Voters OK with tax increases**](http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/domestic-taxes/190021-democratic-pollster-voters-ok-with-tax-increases)*The Hill,* Bernie Becker, 11/12/2013

Voters want to see Washington to take a deeper look at revenue increases and a broader view in general on the current budget debate, according to new data from a Democratic pollster.

Geoff Garin of Hart Research said newly released data suggests that Democrats have the higher ground politically on the new budget conference, because voters want to see a mix of tax increases and spending cuts replace the sequester.

And after the deficit declined steeply in 2013, people in the U.S. also want budget negotiators to discuss policies that would help spark the economy, as well as get the nation’s books in order.

“Americans do not want to have a debate about the budget that is divorced from the important issue of job creation and continuing the process of putting Americans back to work,” Garin said on a conference call Tuesday.

The new poll from Hart Research found that, by a 56 percent to 39 percent margin, voters want the next budget agreement to include both revenues and cuts.

Independents and swing voters strongly backed that idea, according to the poll conducted for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a liberal group. The poll surveyed 1,009 voters in late October, for a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

[**Poll: Voters back tax hikes to offset spending cuts**](https://www.politicopro.com/story/tax/?id=27877)*Politico Pro,* Rachel Bade, 11/12/2013

Polling by Democratic firm Hart Research Associates found that Americans overwhelmingly want to replace at least some of the automatic spending cuts with tax hikes on large corporations and the wealthy. And that’s true even for independents and some Republicans.

Leading by a 17-point margin, 56 percent of Americans say lawmakers should come up with a budget agreement that includes new tax revenue from either Corporate America or the wealthiest individuals. Thirty-nine percent favored the GOP’s cuts-only approach.

The results hand ammunition to Senate Budget Chairman Patty Murray (D-Wash.), who is pushing to replace the widely unpopular sequester cuts with $1 of new revenue from closing tax loopholes for every $1 of spending cut.

The study was done for the liberal group **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

[**Big Majorities Favor Progressive Tax-and-Spend Policies, Polls Show**](http://www.nationalmemo.com/big-majorities-favor-progressive-tax-and-spend-policies-polls-show/2/)*National Memo,* David Cay Johnston, 11/12/2013

Asked what budget priorities they want Congress to focus on, 68 percent of voters chose strengthening the economy and creating jobs while just 28 percent want deficit reduction and lowering the national debt (the Tea Party platform).

Those figures come from a Hart Research Associates telephone poll of 1,009 registered voters conducted in late October for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of 325 progressive, labor and similar organizations.

While the poll was conducted for progressives, it is consistent with other polls sampling public attitudes about the economy, taxes and federal spending.

Indeed, the latest poll shows that even a quarter of Tea Party Republicans favor some progressive tax and spend policies.

**Op-Ed:** [**Wall Street’s nightmare: Here’s how to really expedite the recovery**](http://www.salon.com/2013/11/07/wall_streets_nightmare_heres_how_to_really_expedite_the_recovery/)*Salon*, George Goehl, **National People’s Action**, 11/7/2013

America has been through economic crises and recessions before, but what we’ve never done is recover through cuts and austerity. Rebuilding our economy means literally rebuilding, investing public money to strengthen our infrastructure, invest in our education system and create jobs that help get our nation back on its feet. It’s time for the next generation of big, bold investments to launch the next great wave of American innovation and prosperity — the kinds of investments that brought us Social Security, a railroad system, cures to disease, and provided jobs and security to generations of Americans and will get us on our feet yet again.

The question, then, is: Who should pay? Are seniors, students, the poor and working class expected to continue to make all the sacrifices? Or will those who benefit the most from the laws — and in many cases lack of laws — of our nation pay their fair share and fully contribute to the rebuilding of this country.

Modest taxes on Wall Street transfers is a chance for America to make game-changing investments in our people and our infrastructure. It is also a means of making sure bankers on Wall Street pay their fair share.

The fact is that I pay a sales tax when I buy clothes for my daughter, but there is no tax on Wall Street trades. All a transaction tax would do is close this loophole exception for Wall Street, which would generate $350 billion that we can invest in projects and programs that help all Americans.

According to a 2013 poll by Hart Research Associates, 62 percent of Americans support a small tax on stock, bond and market trades. The same poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans want corporations to pay more in taxes.

[**Senators Want To Close Tax Loophole After JPMorgan Case, But Banks Will Still Probably Save Billions**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/06/tax-loophole-jpmorgan_n_4228789.html)*The Huffington Post,* Ben Hallman, 11/6/2013

Francisco Enriquez, a tax expert at the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**, a left-leaning group that recently delivered 160,000 signatures to the Justice Department to protest the agency's settlement policy, said his group supports the legislation.

"This is a step in the right direction," he said. "But our position is that in most cases, restitution payments made as a part of a settlement should not be deductible."

**Op-ed:** [**What states can teach DC about fixing the revenue crisis**](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-budget/189459-what-states-can-teach-dc-about-fixing-the-revenue-crisis)*The Hill,* George Goehl, **National People’s Action**, 11/7/2013

Part of the reason Republicans, and some Democrats, objected to raising our government's debt ceiling in the first place is their accusation that "government is broke.” Now that there are reports of what the next sequestration in 2014 will bring — with painful cuts for military families, older Americans, children, and local economies—we can’t kick the revenue can down the road and bury it in politics.

The fact is that we're not broke—we’ve been robbed. There is plenty of money in the United States today, if we know where to look.

American corporations continue to post record profits, even as real wages for workers stagnate. The recovery from the second biggest economic crash in U.S. history — caused by Wall Street recklessness — went to corporate profits while less than 1 percent of that growth went to wages. Big businesses are hoarding anywhere from $1.24 trillion to upwards of $2 trillion in unspent cash. However, corporate tax rates and revenue, both in absolute dollars and percentages, are at an all-time low. Some of the largest corporations in America, including General Electric, Boeing and Verizon, have paid no taxes whatsoever for the last four years. In fact, several received tax rebates directly out of the pockets of taxpayers.

[**Senate bill targets corporations that deduct settlement payouts**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/lawmakers-introduce-bill-to-stop-corporations-from-deducting-settlements/2013/11/06/5fe1c180-4705-11e3-bf0c-cebf37c6f484_story.html)

*The Washington Post,* Danielle Douglas, 11/7/2013

“Ordinary citizens don’t deduct their parking tickets or library fines from their taxes,” said Francisco Enriquez, a tax and budget program associate at the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**. “Corporations like JPMorgan shouldn’t be able to deduct their settlements for wrongdoing, either.”

On Monday, **U.S. PIRG** and **Americans for Tax Fairness** sent a petition signed by 160,000 people to the Justice Department, urging prosecutors to bar JPMorgan from claiming a tax deduction on any part of the pending settlement. The request arrived days after five senators, including Nelson and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), sent a similar letter to Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.

Justice Department and JPMorgan officials declined to comment on the terms of the tentative settlement.

[**Senators urge end to corporate stock-option tax break**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-usa-tax-options-idUSBRE9A519G20131106)*Reauters,* Patrick Temple-West, 11/6/2013

Companies that issue stock options to employees as part of their pay package can take a tax deduction for the difference between what the employee pays for the options and what the stocks are worth when the options are exercised years later.

Stock options are typically a large part of compensation awarded to top corporate executives.

On Tuesday, **Citizens for Tax Justice**, a left-leaning tax activist and research group, said some leading U.S. technology companies have enough stock-option tax breaks to avoid paying billions of dollars in taxes in the next several years.

The group said it analyzed U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission 2012 filings for 11 public technology companies and Twitter, which is planning an initial public offering.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**End worst abuses of offshore tax havens**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jaimie-woo/government-must-shut-down_b_4225537.html)*The Huffington Post,* Jamie Woo, **U.S. PIRG**, 11/6/2013

Since when were vacation spots also hot spots for phony corporate headquarters?

Fortunately, Senator Carl Levin (MI), along with co-sponsors Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), Mark Begich (AK) and Jeanne Shaheen (NH), have introduced the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act. This legislation would close the most deplorable loopholes and save taxpayers $220 billion over ten years, which is more than enough revenue to replace two years of the sequester. This bill not only combats offshore secrecy, but also strengthens corporate transparency and accountability.

**U.S. PIRG**, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, and the **Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency (FACT) Coalition** sent a letter to Congress today calling on lawmakers to support this common sense bill. It was signed by 538 state and national organizations representing tens of millions of Americans, including small business, labor, faith-based, environmental, and tax justice groups.

When wealthy individuals and large corporations abuse offshore tax havens, Americans and small businesses are forced to shoulder the burden. Every dollar that corporations avoid in taxes is balanced by average citizens and responsible small businesses paying higher taxes and coping with cuts to public programs, not to mention a higher federal deficit. That just doesn't seem right.

[**People Are Starting To Get Really Angry That The Huge JPMorgan Settlement is Tax Deductible**](http://finance.yahoo.com/news/people-starting-really-angry-huge-153646326.html)*Business Insider, Yahoo Finance,* Linette Lopez, 11/6/2013

JP Morgan's potential $13 billion settlement with the government hasn't been finalized yet, but already politicians and public interest groups are crying foul because up to $9 billion of the settlement is tax deductible.

That means the bank could write $3 billion off their corporate tax bill as a business expense, according to **Americans for Tax Fairness** and the **U.S. PIRG**, the federation of state Public Interest Research Groups.

On Monday, **Americans for Tax Fairness** and the **U.S. PIRG** presented Congress with a 160,000 signature petition asking the Justice Department to add a provision to the settlement that would stop this from happening, and a bunch of Congressmen have jumped on board, calling U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to do something.

[**Pressure mounts on DOJ over JPMorgan settlement**](http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/finance/189178-pressure-mounts-on-doj-over-jpmorgan-settlement)*The Hill*, Julian Hattem, 11/4/2013

Critics from both sides of the aisle are raising their voices to make sure taxpayers aren’t responsible for footing part of JPMorgan Chase's record $13 billion penalty.

Unions, lawmakers and public interest groups say the department should prevent the bank, which is the country’s largest, from writing off a portion of its settlement as a tax deduction. Letting it deduct billions of dollars would penalize consumers who have already been hurt by the financial crisis, they say.

“As your enforcement actions unfold, it is important that the American people—already victimized once by Wall Street’s malfeasance—not be forced to pick up more of the tab,” a group of 74 organizations wrote to Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday.

Also on Monday, **Americans for Tax Fairness** and the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** delivered to the department a petition with 160,000 signatures asking it to specifically prevent JPMorgan from claiming a tax deduction on the penalty.

[**Will You Have to Pay for JPMorgan’s $13 Billion Fine?**](http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2013/11/04/Will-You-Have-Pay-JPMorgan-s-13-Billion-Fine)*The Fiscal Times,* David Francis, 11/4/2013

Most people think of tax write-offs as a benefit of money given to charity or expenses related to running a small business. Corporations play by a different set of rules. In their world, costs related to financial settlements with the government for wrongdoing can be written off, reducing the real-world effect of the imposed fines and reducing the revenues the government collects.

**The U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG)** and **Americans for Tax Fairness** are trying to make sure the same thing doesn’t happen with JPMorgan Chase’s expected $13 billion settlement with the government. The bank reportedly could claim as much as $4 billion of that total as a tax deduction unless the terms of the agreement prevent it from doing so.

[**Left pushes to trip JPMorgan tax breaks on settlement**](http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/bankingfinancial-institutions/189133-left-pushes-to-trim-jpmorgan-tax-breaks-on)*The Hill,* Peter Schroeder, 11/4/2013

Liberal advocacy groups are mounting pressure on the Justice Department to bar JPMorgan from deducting from the bank’s taxes any portion of a broad government settlement in the works.

The reportedly $13 billion settlement over the bank’s mortgage activities before the financial crisis, which is still being hammered out, would be the largest such settlement in U.S. history. But reports that JPMorgan is seeking use up to $4 billion of the settlement as a tax write-off has led to protests from liberal groups and lawmakers.

On Monday, two groups delivered over 160,000 petitions to the Justice Department calling for barring any potential tax benefit. The groups, **U.S. PIRG** and **Americans for Tax Fairness**, argue it is patently unfair for taxpayers to help subsidize JPMorgan’s fines through the tax code.

[**Democrats Bill Would Block J.P. Morgan Settlement Deductions**](http://blogs.wsj.com/moneybeat/2013/11/01/democrats-bill-would-block-j-p-morgan-settlement-deductions/)*The Wall Street Journal,* Alan Zibel, 11/1/2013

Earlier in the week, Messrs. Welch and Gutierrez wrote to J.P. Morgan Chief Executive James Dimon , asking him to “accept full responsibility for the full payment of any fine related to its conduct in this matter” and not take a tax deduction.

Mr. Welch is a J.P. Morgan shareholder, with shares worth between $1,000 and $15,000 according to his 2012 financial disclosure statement filed with the House clerk’s office. He has traded the stock frequently, he told The Wall Street Journal in December 2011, and pared his holdings from 2010, when he owned between $100,000 and $250,000 in shares.

Pressure on the issue is building. Next week, two advocacy groups — the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** and **Americans for Tax Fairness** — plan to present 150,000 petitions to the Justice Department arguing that it is unfair for J.P. Morgan to reap a “tax windfall” off the settlement.

[**Business as Usual**](http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2013/10/28/131028taco_talk_packer?printable=true&currentPage=all#ixzz2ijlfgBSG)  
*The New Yorker*, George Packer, 10/28/2013

With the extra workload, face-to-face audits have dropped by half since 1992, as have the odds of being convicted for a tax crime. Frank Clemente, the director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, says, “When the I.R.S. doesn’t have the money to do its job, it’s easier for wealthy people and big corporations to cheat the system, especially by hiding profits offshore.” For every dollar added to the I.R.S. budget, the agency is able to collect at least seven dollars in revenue, but in times of austerity that money doesn’t come in—which means that, in recent years, the Treasury has lost billions in taxes, starving government services and increasing the deficit. Another result, Jenny Brown pointed out, is that wait times at the Ogden call center have risen from ten or fifteen minutes a few years ago to an hour or more today. “By the time they get the I.R.S. on the phone, they’re frustrated, and they vent awhile, which takes up more time,” she said.

[**You Won’t Believe Which State Taxes Its Poor the Most**](http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2013/09/23/You-Wont-Believe-Which-State-Taxes-its-Poor-Most)*The Fiscal Times,* Beth Braverman, 9/23/2013

Washington State may have one of the lowest overall tax burdens in the country, but its poorest citizens pay more than residents of any other state.

The poorest 20 percent of Washington residents pay 16.9 percent of their income in taxes, while the top 1 percent (with an average income of more than $1.1 million) pays just 2.8 percent of its income, according to a new study from the left-leaning **Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy**.

The study found that tax policies in every state impose higher effective tax rates on poor families than on their richest residents. The difference is greatest in states that do not levy a personal-income tax, and rely heavily on sales and excise taxes, which take a bigger relative bite out of the budgets of the poor.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cutting corporate tax loopholes is not food for kids**](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/322829-cutting-corporate-tax-loopholes-is-not-food-for-kids)*The Hill,* Deborah Weinstein, **Coalition on Human Needs**, 9/18/2013

Corporate tax dodging goes beyond offshore tax havens. Familiar corporate giants like General Electric, Wells Fargo, and Verizon go years without paying any federal income tax, despite billions of dollars in profits, according to the non-partisan think tank **Citizens for Tax Justice**. Big, profitable corporations pay on average just one-third the official corporate tax rate, the Government Accountability Office has found. And corporate tax receipts as a portion of total federal income is at a 60-year low, the Office of Management and Budget reports.

Members of the House face a profound moral question this week. Will they vote to cut food aid for children, seniors, veterans and the disabled, in the midst of widespread and prolonged unemployment, poverty and economic inequality?

Or will they instead finally turn their attention to the scandal of corporate tax dodging, which destabilizes our public finances, impoverishes our national investments and exacerbates wealth and income gaps? We’ll all sleep better if they make the right choice—including millions of children who won’t go to bed hungry.

[**Tax Reform Advocates Make Their Case At Tax-Evading FedEx**](http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2013/09/09/2588941/fedex-tax-reform-tour/)*Think Progress,* Alan Pyke, 9/9/2013

A legislative listening tour meant to make the case for comprehensive tax reform will stop on Monday at a giant corporation that’s paid a 4.2 percent tax rate on over $9 billion in profits over the past five years.

The tax reform tour, which is the brainchild of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-CA), features a mix of corporate-hosted events and meetings with small businesses. On Monday, the two men will visit the Memphis, Tennessee headquarters of shipping giant FedEx. According to an analysis by **Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ)**, FedEx raked in $9.3 billion in profits from 2008 to 2012, but paid just $395 million in federal taxes. That means the company faced an effective tax rate of 4.2 percent – roughly one-eighth the statutory rate reformers insist is crushing the business community.

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfilling Martin Luther King’s dream**](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/08/opinion-march-washington-john-conyers-martin-luther-king-95978.html)  
*Politico,* Rep. John Coyners, 8/28/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Time to end the dangerous shell game**](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/judicial/318847-time-to-end-the-dangerous-shell-game)  
*The Hill,* Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/28/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

But how many other shell companies are used to financially benefit enemy states because U.S. state laws don’t require the identity of owners to be disclosed? How many are used by drug traffickers, terrorist cells, tax cheats, pimps, arms traders, fraudsters or other criminals to further illegal activity? How many American dollars are secretly sent to groups most of us would never support?

Because of legalized corporate secrecy, we don’t know the answers to these questions.

In many states it is easier to incorporate a business than to get a driver’s license. Very few states require that the ultimate owner or owners of a business be listed on the incorporation form. Imagine applying for a driver’s license without having to reveal your identity. Yet every day in America, businesses are created without any obligation to provide this basic information.

[**Coalition Presses Congress to Close Corporate Tax Loopholes**](http://www.accountingweb.com/article/coalition-presses-congress-close-corporate-tax-loopholes/222276)*Accounting Web*, Jason Bramwell, 8/21/2013

Groups in sixteen states already held or are holding events later this week to demand that Congress close corporate tax loopholes in order to help avoid more deep cuts to essential benefits and services.

The events, which are organized by **Americans for Tax** **Fairness** (ATF), a coalition of more than 325 national and state organizations, are being held in advance of the expected showdown in Congress shortly after Labor Day on budget and tax issues.

"With members of Congress back in their states this August, people are demanding that Congress stop corporate tax dodging and invest in America," ATF Campaign Manager Frank Clemente said in a written statement. "Congress faces a clear choice in September when it debates how to keep the government funded: Continue to whack away at critical services that protect our families and that are needed to grow our economy, or close gaping tax loopholes so that big corporations and the rich pay their fair share of taxes."

[**4 arrested in protest at Verizon Headquarters**](http://online.wsj.com/article/APd4aea7cb6f6c4947a062dd7db375231b.html)*The Wall Street Journal*, Associated Press, 8/21/2013

Four demonstrators have been arrested outside of the Verizon headquarters building in lower Manhattan.

The four briefly stopped traffic on the West Side Highway holding a banner that read, "Verizon Stop Tax Dodging."

Protesters said the demonstration was part of a larger week of action taking place in cities around the U.S. to protest corporate tax evasion. Participants said they hoped to call attention to corporate greed and put pressure on members of Congress to act in favor of poor and middle-class Americans rather than large corporations.

Verizon said in a statement that it complies with all tax laws and pays its fair share of taxes.

Other companies targeted include Bank of America, GE and Macy's.

[**Groups Press Members of Congress to End Corporate Tax Breaks**](http://www.accountingtoday.com/news/Groups-Press-Members-Congress-End-Corporate-Tax-Breaks-67788-1.html)*Accounting Today*, Michael Cohn, 8/20/2013

Ahead of an expected showdown in Congress over budget and tax issues after lawmakers return from their August recess, groups in 16 states are holding 28 events this week to demand that Congress end corporate tax breaks to avoid deeper cuts to spending programs.

The events are being organized by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of more than 325 national and state organizations.

“With members of Congress back in their states this August, people are demanding that Congress stop corporate tax dodging and invest in America,” said Frank Clemente, campaign manager of Americans for Tax Fairness, in a statement. “Congress faces a clear choice in September when it debates how to keep the government funded: continue to whack away at critical services that protect our families and that are needed to grow our economy, or close gaping tax loopholes so that big corporations and the rich pay their fair share of taxes.”

[**Demand an End to Corporate Tax Dodging**](http://billmoyers.com/content/demand-an-end-to-corporate-tax-dodging/)*Moyers and Company,* 8/20/2013

It’s no secret that large corporations are using loopholes to avoid taxes and the federal government is missing out on revenue that could help fund programs on the chopping block in upcoming budget negotiations. Between 2008 and 2012, more than two dozen corporations — Facebook, GE and Verizon among them — managed to avoid paying any income tax at all.

As the Sept. 30 federal budget deadline draws near, a coalition of local and national advocacy groups is asking Congress to end corporate tax avoidance. Here’s how you can help:

* Find out more about inequities in the corporate and individual tax system through **Americans for Tax Fairness**, one of the groups seeking to put pressure on Congress.
* Protests and actions are planned around the country, some of which are listed on the **National People’s Action** website and the **Americans for Tax Fairness** blog. Actions are already planned in New York City, Chicago, Des Moines, Bangor and Los Angeles in the next few days.

[**Corporate Tax Reform and S-Corps**](http://businessfinancemag.com/blog/corporate-tax-reform-and-s-corps)*Business Finance,* Karen Kroll, 8/20/2013

Indeed, the **Main Street Alliance**, a network of small business coalitions, says the study “leads to the conclusion that the goal of tax reform must be to correct unfairness in the U.S. tax code by requiring large corporations to pay their fair share.”

It seems the most effective reform would include all these changes: limiting the deductions that allow the largest companies to pay effective tax rates that are a fraction of their statutory rates, while also looking at the corporate and individual tax structures together, so that those choosing to operate as a pass-through entity aren’t penalized.

[**AFL-CIO boss blasts Obama tax plans**](http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/domestic-taxes/315943-afl-cio-boss-blasts-obama-gop-tax-plans)*The Hill,* Eric Wasson, 8/7/2013

**AFL-CIO** President Richard Trumka blasted President Obama's corporate tax plan on Wednesday.

Trumka said it was wrong to offer a tax plan that wouldn't amount to a hike on corporations and argued that any tax reform should generate revenue for the government.

“At a time when the 1 percent have demanded so much sacrifice from working people in the name of deficit reduction, we must ask something of big corporations. That means 'revenue positive' corporate tax reform that raises significant amounts of new tax revenue,” Trumka said in a statement.

While he did not mention Obama's tax plan or the president by name, he said the union confederation was “concerned that several recent proposals for corporate tax reform do not raise nearly enough revenue because they squander huge sums of money on lowering tax rates for profitable Wall Street corporations.”

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business**](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/315087-obamas-tax-plan-a-bad-bargain-for-small-business)*The Hill*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**President Offers To Give Republicans The Store, They Demand More**](http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/17924-president-offers-to-give-republicans-the-store-they-demand-more)*TruthOut,* Dave Johnson, **Campaign for America’s Future**, 8/1/2013

This week the President offered Republicans a corporate tax reform plan that basically gives them everything they want (before negotiations even begin,) in exchange for please allow We the People to have some jobs and infrastructure and education. The Republican leadership pre-demanded additional tax cuts for the wealthy, while rejecting out-of-hand the idea that government should do anything to help the economy or people. Tea Party Republicans went further, saying taxes are theft and and government is socialism, and demanding an end to or at least drastic reductions in government programs that help people, plus the repeal of Obamacare, or they will both shut down the government and force a default when the debt-ceiling is reached.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Why should Acme Corp. get to pay in taxes less than you?**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-should-acme-corp-get-to-pay-less-than-you/2013/07/12/71d99bba-e80a-11e2-818e-aa29e855f3ab_story.html)*The Washington Post*, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 7/12/13, syndicated by American Forum

Missing from coverage of how little big corporations pay in income taxes [“GAO says profitable U.S. companies paid taxes at a 12.6% rate in 2010,” news, July 2] was an examination of how their tax rates stack up against those of middle-class workers. It’s that comparison that really drives home the need for tax reform that raises more revenue from big firms that aren’t now pulling their weight.

As Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), who requested the Government Accountability Office report, noted, “America’s large, profitable corporations are now paying a lower tax rate than our teachers and firefighters.” He could have added nurses and construction workers: All four of these vital parts of our society pay roughly twice the federal tax rate that big corporations pay, according to the research organization Citizens for Tax Justice.

Tax policy involves choices. Only by recognizing who’s picking up the tab for corporate tax dodging — middle-class workers — can we start to make the right decisions, including closing the loopholes that cost us $600 billion over 10 years in lost corporate revenue.

**Op-Ed:** [**A Popular Movement For Higher Taxes? Now There's a Story**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rj-eskow/a-popular-movement-for-ih_b_3531713.html?utm_hp_ref=politics)

*The Huffington Post,* Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America’s Future**, 7/2/2013

"The American people are on our side," says Rep. Keith Ellison, co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. "The time is now."

Ellison was talking to a small group of writers and activists about higher tax rates for U.S. corporations. Although he was upbeat, Ellison acknowledged that winning those tax increases would be an uphill fight.

That kind of effort can't succeed without widespread public action behind it.

**Op-Ed:** [**13 Mindblowing Facts About America's Tax-Dodging Corporations**](http://www.alternet.org/13-mindblowing-facts-about-americas-tax-dodging-corporations?akid=10642.19127.AlkCsD&rd=1&src=newsletter862731&t=4)

*Alternet,* Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America’s Future**, 6/30/13

1. We’re told we can’t “afford” full Social Security benefits, even though closing corporate tax-haven loopholes would pay for Obama’s “chained CPI” benefit cut *more than ten times over!*

Abusive offshore tax havens cost the US $150 billion in lost tax revenue every year (via the[FACT Coalition](http://tjn-usa.org/storage/documents/FACT_Sheet_By_the_Numbers_Final1112nt.pdf)). That’s $1.5 trillion over the next ten years.

The “chained CPI” cut, proposed by President Obama and supported by Republicans, is projected to “save” a total of $122 billion to $130 billion over the same time period by denying benefits to seniors and disabled people. It’s true. “Serious” politicians and pundits are demanding that ordinary people sacrifice earned benefits, while at the same time allowing corporations to avoid more than 10 times as much in taxes.

2. Corporate tax rates are near their 60-year low, even though *profits are at a 60-year high!*

Need we say more?

(Source: [Americans for Tax Fairness](http://www.ctj.org/corporatetaxdodgers/CorporateTaxDodgersReport.pdf).)

**Op-Ed:** [**“Believe It or Not!”13 Mindblowing Facts About America’s Tax-Dodging Corporations**](http://blog.ourfuture.org/20130628/believe-it-or-not13-mind-blowing-facts-about-tax-evading-corporations)

*Huffington Post,* Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America’s Future**, 6/28/13

1. We’re told we can’t “afford” full Social Security benefits, even though closing corporate tax-haven loopholes would pay for Obama’s “chained CPI” benefit cut *more than ten times over!*

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[**Apple: Bad Model for ‘Tax Reform’ – California, New Tax Thinkers, Chart A Better Way**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roger-hickey/sales-based-corporate-tax_b_3343761.html)

*The Huffington Post,* Roger Hickey, 5/27/2013

Defeat the corporate plans to "reform" corporate taxes. A political mobilization by citizens is clearly necessary to prevent politicians in the Senate and House from embracing the corporate version of corporate tax reform. And coalitions like **Americans for Tax Fairness** are gearing up to make sure that the only kind of corporate tax reform that passes is the kind that produces more -- not less -- tax revenue for both deficit reduction and for the public investment we all need for job growth and corporations need to be successful in America.

**MSNBC’s Up With Steve Kornacki- Frank Clemente Appearance, 5/26/13**

[Part 1](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/46979738/#52006001)

[Part 2](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/46979738/#52005983)

[Part 3](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/46979738/#52005977)

[Part 4](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/46979738/#52005967)

**CNBC’s Kudlow Report- Frank Clemente Appearance, 5/25/13**

[Video here](http://video.cnbc.com/gallery/?play=1&video=3000169973)

[**After Avoiding Billions in Taxes, Apple CEO Seeks More Breaks**](http://peoplesworld.org/after-avoiding-billions-in-taxes-apple-ceo-seeks-more-breaks/)

*People’s World,* John Wojcik, 5/21/2013

Frank Clemente, the campaign manager for **Americans for Tax Fairness**, another tax justice group, told the same press conference yesterday "Apple is acting like a back-alley thief trying to pick the pockets of American taxpayers."

According to CTJ's executive director Bob McIntyre, the situation is even worse than it looks. He said "often the overseas profits are actually profits made in the U.S. that the company is pretending to have made overseas so that it can avoid taxes."

[**Senators Accuse Apple of ‘Highly Questionable’ Billion-Dollar Tax Avoidance Scheme**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2013/may/20/apple-accused-tax-avoidance-billions-scheme)

*The Guardian,* Dominic Rushe, 5/20/2013

"This is one of the most profitable companies in the world, and it has been acting like a back-alley thief trying to pick the pocket of American taxpayers," said **Frank Clemente, campaign manager of pressure group Americans for Tax Fairness.** He said a free repatriation would be "another mugging of the American people".

The committee will report more details of its findings at Tuesday's hearing. The news comes as Apple, Google, Starbucks and others face mounting criticism of their tax avoidance schemes in the UK.

[**Liberal Group Challenges Norquist to Lobbying Duel**](http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/domestic-taxes/299309-liberal-group-challenges-norquist-on-tax-reform#ixzz2TCN6K57h)

*The Hill,* Peter Schroeder, 5/13/2013

A liberal tax group on Monday challenged Americans for Tax Reform's Grover Norquist to a lobbying duel on tax reform.

**Americans for Tax Fairness** offered to compete with Norquist to see who can mount the most visible campaign for overhauling the tax code. “I’m issuing a challenge today to Grover Norquist that we’ll generate more comments from everyday Americans pressing for a more fair tax system — not one favoring the richest two percent and big corporations through special-interest tax loopholes,” said Frank Clemente, the group's campaign manager.

**Politico: Morning Tax**

*Politico,* 5/13/2013

FIRST IN MORNING TAX: **CAN AMERICANS FOR TAX FAIRNESS** #BEATGROVER? The liberal tax group is challenging the nation's preeminent anti-tax lobbyist for the hearts and minds of American taxpayers. Americans for Tax Fairness will launch a social media campaign encouraging taxpayers to press Congress for a tax code rewrite that makes "the rich and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes," according to a release going out later today.

**Op-Ed:** [**A Tax Day Plan for Righting the Republic**](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/04/201342481733582805.html)

*Al Jazeera,* Mattea Kramer, **National Priorities Project**, 4/27/2013

Next on the list: polls show that two-thirds of Americans want the wealthy and corporations to pay more in taxes, and a blockbuster majority of 90 percent wants a simpler tax code. It will not surprise you to learn that the present tax code is a playground for the rich and their talented accountants. **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of 280 organisations (including my employer National Priorities Project), identified 10-year budgetary savings of $2.8 trillion simply by limiting or eliminating a plethora of high-income and corporate tax loopholes.

So far, by following the people’s wisdom, we have managed to invest significant sums in rebuilding education, the country’s infrastructure and energy security, while achieving long-term deficit reduction. Still, one of the biggest challenges remains.

[**Do-Nothing Congress Gives Inertia A Bad Name**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-moyers/do-nothing-congress-gives_b_3165437.html)

*The Huffington Post,* Bill Moyers and Michael Winship, 4/26/2013

*Moyers and Company,* Bill Moyers and Michael Winship, 4/26/2013

Mattea Kramer writes that **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of 280 organizations, has "identified 10-year budgetary savings of $2.8 trillion simply by limiting or eliminating a plethora of high-income and corporate tax loopholes." Congress is busily revising the tax code as we speak but how many of those loopholes and other perks like credits and deductions do you bet will go away?

Not many if the lobbying industry has anything to do with it. The House Ways and Means Committee has eleven working groups considering rewrites and according to the congressional newspaper The Hill, they're quietly meeting with lobbyists and other interests - "deep pocketed players" -- all the time. Keep your eye on who's donating to the re-election campaigns of each of those working group members as we move toward the midterms next year.

[**How Corporations Use Offshore Tax Havens to Avoid Paying Their Taxes**](http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/Corporate-Greed/How-Corporations-Use-Offshore-Havens-to-Avoid-Paying-Their-Taxes)

*AFL-CIO NOW Blog,* Kenneth Quinnell, 4/24/2013

Current laws in the United States allow corporations to use offshore havens to avoid paying their taxes and, if it's up to many in Washington, the problem will only grow larger, particularly if the so-called "territorial" tax system is passed. The details of the use of such tax havens were discussed in a conference call with **Campaign for America's Future (CAF)**, **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)** and **Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ)**.

Current tax laws encourage the offshoring of America's jobs, manufacturing and profit centers, which has led to the hollowing out of the middle class, manufacturing and much of the country, according to Dave Johnson of CAF.

[**Download Your Corporate Tax Dodger Trading Cards**](http://www.globalexchange.org/blogs/peopletopeople/2013/04/24/download-your-corporate-tax-dodger-trading-cards/)

*People to People Blog,* Hillary V Lehr, 4/23/2013

Our friends at Institute for Policy Studies & **Americans for Tax Fairness** have just released 10 \*incredible\* Tax Dodger Trading Cards alongside their new report: “Corporate Tax Dodgers: 10 Companies and Their Tax Loopholes.”Share these eye-catching cards, and let’s work together to make corporate tax dodgers a ‘limited edition.’

[**Reform Leaders Explain Moves to End Corporate Tax Evasion**](http://blog.ourfuture.org/20130423/reform-leaders-explain-moves-to-end-corporate-tax-evasion)

*Campaign for America’s Future Blog,* Richard Long, 4/23/2013

Corporations are shifting more of their money overseas to avoid the taxman in the U.S. and pursuing territorial tax legislation in Congress that would further enshrine that tax evasion into law. At a conference call Monday for progressive writers hosted by the Campaign for America’s Future’s Dave Johnson, leaders of Center for Tax Justice and the **Americans for Tax Fairness** explained the territorial tax proposal and the harm tax havens do to the middle-class economy.

At the beginning of the call (which you can listen to in full), Johnson painted the picture of what American corporate taxation looks like these days. “Corporate tax revenues as a share of GDP have fallen to near historic lows. At 1.7 percent of GDP in 2009, the U.S. has the third-lowest effective corporate burden in the world based on corporate taxes as percentage of GDP.” He followed up describing the how the corporate tax structure sits today, “The top corporate tax rate was 52.8 percent in 1970, 48 percent through that decade, then, in the 1986 tax ‘reform’ phased them down to 35 percent, which is where the top rate is currently.”

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax havens unfair to small businesses**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappWashPost1.pdf)*The Washington Post,* Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council**. 4/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

The latest defecit reduction plan offered by Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson supports the interests of big business at the expense of the United States small businesses by calling for adoption of a territorial tax system. In two recent polls, small-business owners have soundly rejected making abuse of offshore tax havens by multinational organizations legal and permanent.

A March poll sponsored by the **American Sustainable Business Council** and **Main Street Alliance** found that 85 percent of those surveyed, including 67 percent of Republican small-business owners, opposed a territorial tax system that would exempt foreign profits from U.S. taxes.

[**Corporate Tax Dodgers: 10 Companies and Their Tax Loopholes**](http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/04/17-1)

*Common Dreams,* Sarah Anderson, Scott Klinger, and Javier Rojo, 4/17/2013

As the budget battles in Washington continue, corporations have stepped into the fray with some of the most aggressive lobbying we’ve seen in years – calling for cuts to corporate tax rates, a widening of offshore tax loopholes that already cost the U.S. Treasury $90 billion a year, and cuts to government services and benefits, including Social Security and Medicare.

In making their case, corporate executives decry the U.S.’s 35% corporate tax rate claiming it is the highest in the world and makes their businesses uncompetitive globally. The evidence suggests otherwise.

**Op-Ed:** [**Wanna Stop the Cuts? Let’s Talk Corporations**](http://crooksandliars.com/frank-clemente/wanna-stop-cuts-lets-talk-corporati)

*Crooks and Liars,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 4/15/2013

While there is good reason for progressives to fight like hell to protect cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other vital programs following the release of President Obama’s budget, we always seem to find ourselves on defense. It’s time to go on offense to protect vital services and benefits and to promote a more just economy by making sure that big corporations and the richest 2 percent pay their fair share in taxes.

For the past two weeks, **Americans for Tax Fairness** – a coalition representing more than 280 national and state groups co-chaired by the Center for American Progress, AFSCME and National People’s Action – has been stepping up pressure on Congress to raise $ 1 trillion, in part by closing corporate tax loopholes. We’ve been exposing a “Corporate Tax Dodger of the Day” leading into April 15 -- the always stressful “Tax Day.”

[**How Unfair Are Taxes?**](http://downwithtyranny.blogspot.com/2013/04/how-unfair-are-taxes.html)

*Down With Tyranny,* 4/15/2013

Today is tax day. I got mine in on time. Most Americans-- barely most Americans (55%)-- think they pay a fair amount of taxes. That's a decrease from around 60% in recent years. Democrats, independents, liberals and moderates all tend to feel the system is fair. Needless to say, Republicans and conservatives feel they pay too much. An OpEd by James Livingston in Sunday's NY Times made a good suggestion that would make most people feel much better about paying their income taxes: "why not tax corporations as if they were natural persons, in accordance with their newly discovered rights of free speech?"

[**Taxes for me but not for thee**](file:///C:\Users\Khalid%20Pagan\Downloads\digbysblog.blogspot.com\2013\04\taxes-for-me-but-not-for-thee.html)

*Hullabaloo, 4/15/2013*

Here's a guest post from **Americans for Tax Fairness:**

While there is good reason for progressives to fight like hell to protect cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other vital programs following the release of President Obama’s budget, we always seem to find ourselves on defense. It’s time to go on offense to protect vital services and benefits and to promote a more just economy by making sure that big corporations and the richest 2 percent pay their fair share in taxes.

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[**Tax Day Repurposed to “Illuminate” Corporate Tax Evaders**](http://www.prwatch.org/news/2013/04/12058/tax-day-repurposed-illuminate-corporate-tax-evaders)

*PR Watch,* Harriet Rowan, 4/15/2013

With President Obama fielding cynical cuts to Social Security to appease the Fix the Debt crowd and reach a budget deal, groups are teaming up to point out that there would be a lot less concern about the budget deficit if corporate America did what average Americans have to do and actually pay taxes. Taking advantage of loopholes, tricks and deductions, many U.S. companies pay far below the required 35% tax rate, and some, like General Electric have a negative tax rate. New web resources are shining a light on the firms and individuals that manipulate the U.S. tax system to their benefit, putting more of the burden on America's middle class.

A coalition of groups have launched the new website TaxEvaders.net as part of a week of action aimed at bringing attention to an estimated $100 billion per year that U.S. corporations are avoiding in taxes. The website was launched with help and research from the Citizen Engagement Lab, The Other 98%, US Uncut, The Yes Lab, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, U.S. Public Research Interest Group, Occupy Wall St, and the Wisconsin-founded Overpass Light Brigade.

**Op-Ed:** [**The Upside of Taxes**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rj-eskow/the-upside-of-taxes_b_3082295.html)

*The Huffington Post,* Richard Eskow, **Campaign for America’s Future**, 4/14/2013

General Electric. Boeing. Corning. Wells Fargo. They're among the many corporations that have gone at least one or more years without paying any Federal taxes. Together they made $205 billion in pre-tax profits and paid a negative rate over a four-year period.

**Americans for Tax Fairness** has even created "Corporate Tax Dodger" trading cards.

[**A Tax Day Plan for Righting the Republic**](http://billmoyers.com/2013/04/13/a-tax-day-plan-for-righting-the-republic/)

*Moyers and Company,* Mattea Kramer, **National Priorities Project,** 4/13/2013

Next on the list: polls show that two-thirds of Americans want the wealthy and corporations to pay more in taxes, and a blockbuster majority of 90 percent wants a simpler tax code. It will not surprise you to learn that the present tax code is a playground for the rich and their talented accountants. **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a coalition of 280 organisations (including my employer National Priorities Project), identified 10-year budgetary savings of $2.8 trillion simply by limiting or eliminating a plethora of high-income and corporate tax loopholes.

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[**Why More Affluent Americans Pay No Taxes**](http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2013/04/11/Why-More-Affluent-Americans-Pay-No-Taxes.aspx#page1)

*The Fiscal Times,* Steve Yoder, 4/11/2013

These high-income Americans aren’t the only ones not paying income tax, Williams notes. It’s also why 46.4 percent of citizens paid no taxes in 2011, as the center reported (a figure famously rounded up to 47 percent during last year’s presidential race), which includes low-income families who qualify for the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and seniors living off Social Security.

Frank Clemente of the advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness** doesn’t think high-income earners belong in this group. “There are so many loopholes both on the individual side and the corporate side that only wealthy people can take advantage of…”, he says. “This is what you end up with, people who are paying a fraction of what the marginal tax rate is for their income level.”

[**A Tax Day Plan for Righting the Republic**](http://billmoyers.com/2013/04/13/a-tax-day-plan-for-righting-the-republic/)

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[**At the Old Ball Game: Check Out the Corporate Tax Dodger Baseball League**](http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/%28author%29/Americans%20for%20Tax%20Fairness)

*AFL-CIO NOW Blog,* 4/7/2013

Leading up to Tax Day, April 15, **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)** is calling attention to 10 corporations that are dodging paying their fair share of taxes. We are releasing a set of Corporate Tax Dodger Baseball Cards because these companies are as skilled as baseball pros. Be sure to collect all 10 and see what makes these companies professsional tax dodgers.

# Alabama Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Big businesses should pay fair share**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappMontgomery.pdf)*Montgomery Advertiser*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

# Arizona Media Hits

# Arkansas Media Hits

[**Arkansas Politics Pastor/judge urges Tim Griffin to reopen federal government**](http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2013/10/15/pastorjudge-urges-tim-griffin-to-reopen-federal-government)  
*Arkansas Times*, Max Brantley, 10/15/2013

Supporters of Americans for Tax Fairness had announced earlier that they would visit Griffin's office on University at noon today to deliver a letter calling for him to vote to end the government shut down, lift the debt ceiling, end the automatic spending cuts and raise revenue by closing corporate tax loopholes. Several unions, clergy and others partcipated.

[**Fairer Taxes on Wealthy, Corporations Will End Budget Crisis**](http://pbcommercial.com/sections/opinion/columns-and-blogs/fairer-taxes-wealthy-corporations-will-end-budget-crisis.html)

*The Pine Bluff Commercial,* Irene Holcomb, **Arkansas Community Organizing,** 4/30/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Over the years, I’ve seen the Washington budget debate from a lot of angles — as a small business owner, public school teacher and local government official — and any way you look at it, we need more tax revenue if we’re every going to reduce the deficit and make new investments to grow our economy.

Common sense tells me the right place to get that revenue is from wealthy individuals and large corporations. Once they’re paying their fair share, we can finally get beyond all these federal budget crises and move on to the important business of reviving our economy and getting everyone back to work.

[**The Evening Line**](http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2013/04/05/the-evening-line-sen-pryor-retreats-on-gay-choice-comment)

*Arkansas Times,* Max Brantley, 4/5/2013

TAX DODGER EXXON MOBIL: Mad yet about the nasty pipeline oil spill in Mayflower? Mad yet that Exxon is controlling access to the scene, including airways? Mad that Exxon apparently isn't telling the whole truth about spread of oil to Lake Conway waters? Mad that this gunk isn't oil for purposes of being taxed to help finance oil spill cleanup funds of the federal government? Maybe it might make you mad to read an **Americans for Tax Fairness** fact sheet on the incredible tax giveaways enjoyed by Exxon Mobil, maybe the richest corporation in the world.

# California Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**CEOs want *you* – to fix the debt**](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/commentary/la-oe-klinger-ceo-retirement-20131201,0,4800278.story#axzz2mR2FrSdl)*The Los Angeles Times,* Scott Klinger, **Center for Effective Government**, 12/1/2013

Many of the nation's top CEOs have joined forces to "fix the debt." They want to achieve this goal, in part, by reducing Social Security benefits and raising the retirement age to 70.

One of the chief executive officers, David Cote, runs Honeywell . "As an American, I couldn't know about this problem and not try to do something about it," Cote told Wall Street Journal TV. Cote has $134 million in his Honeywell retirement account, according to documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission , and he has worked there only 11 years. That amount could provide him a monthly retirement check of $795,134 once he turns 65. The Social Security retirees whose checks he wants to reduce receive, on average, $1,237 a month.

[**Lawmakers want to outlaw tax deductings for government settlements**](http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-tax-deduction-fine-jpmorgan-settlement-grassley-reed-20131106,0,3966848.story#axzz2jtWlQ6MT)*The Los Angeles Times*, Jim Puzzanghera, 11/6/2013

A report in January by the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** found that even though the law is clear that punitive fines and penalties issued by government agencies are not tax deductible, settlements often are not clear on how much of the payment amount is punitive.

The ambiguity allows companies to deduct the cost of some of the penalties.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that JPMorgan's $5.1-billion settlement with the federal regulator for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would be entirely tax deductible, giving the bank as much as a $1.5-billion write-off.

JPMorgan could get more deductions if other parts of a potential $13-billion settlement with the Justice Department are deemed tax deductible.

That has sparked anger among some lawmakers and consumer advocates.

**U.S. PIRG** and **Americans for Tax Fairness** delivered a petition with 160,000 signatures to the Justice Department on Monday calling for language in any JPMorgan settlement prohibiting a tax write-off for the penalties.

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care**](http://smdp.com/opinion-medical-device-tax-giveaway-would-deny-americans-health-care/128778)  
*Santa Monica Daily Press*, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 11/1/2013

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29-billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

It is also a proposal they are likely to champion during the ongoing budget debate.

When Congress passed the law establishing the Affordable Care Act in 2010, it included mechanisms to help pay for new benefits, like ending denial of services because of pre-existing conditions and extending healthcare to previously uninsured Americans. Among these mechanisms was a 2.3 percent excise tax on medical devices ranging from surgical gloves to MRI machines. The tax would raise $29 billion over 10 years.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelSantaBarbara.pdf)

*Santa Barbara News-Press*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelLaPrensa.pdf)  
*La Prensa San Diego*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersLaPrensa.pdf)  
*La Prensa San Diego,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/6/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappCityT.pdf)

*City Terrace Comet*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappMonterey1.pdf)

*Monterey Park Comet*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappWyvernwoodC.pdf)

*Wyvernwood Chronicle*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappCommerceComet.pdf)

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappNESun.pdf)

*Northeast Sun*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappEastsideSun.pdf)

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappMexicanAm.pdf)

*Mexican American Sun*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappBell.pdf)

*Bell Gardens Sun*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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*Vernon Sun*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappEGP.pdf)

*Eastern Group Publications*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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[**Protestors Rally at Apple’s Developers Conference**](http://www.kqed.org/news/story/2013/06/13/122076/protesters_rally_at_apples_developers_conference?category=bay+area)

KQED, 6/13/2013

Demonstrators protested today outside the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco. The crowd chanted "Bad Apple," and called on the tech giant to pay its fair share of taxes.

Apple avoided paying nine billion dollars in federal taxes last year by keeping money overseas.

[**Protestors Question Apple’s Tax Bill Outside the WWDC**](http://www.demotix.com/news/2151938/protestors-question-apples-tax-bill-outside-wwdc-san-francisco#media-2151916) (Photo set)

*Demotix,* 6/13/2013

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaEGP.pdf)

*Eastern Group Publications,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

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*Northeast Sun,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaLaPrensa.pdf)

*La Presna San Diego,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/10/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaEastLA.pdf)

*Eastern Los Angeles Brooklyn-Belvedere Pilot,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaCommerce.pdf)

*Commerce Comet,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaCityTer.pdf)

*City Terrace Comet,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaWyvernwood.pdf)

*Wyvernwood Chronicle,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Taxes: Wanna Stop the Cuts? Let’s Talk Corporations**](http://www.citywatchla.com/8br-hidden/4896-taxes-wanna-stop-the-cuts-let-s-talk-corporations)

*City Watch LA,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 4/16/2013

HAPPY TAX DAY, Y’ALL - While there is good reason for progressives to fight like hell to protect cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other vital programs following the release of President Obama’s budget, we always seem to find ourselves on defense. It’s time to go on offense to protect vital services and benefits and to promote a more just economy by making sure that big corporations and the richest 2 percent pay their fair share in taxes.

For the past two weeks, **Americans for Tax Fairness** – a coalition representing more than 280 national and state groups co-chaired by the Center for American Progress, AFSCME and National People’s Action – has been stepping up pressure on Congress to raise $ 1 trillion, in part by closing corporate tax loopholes. We’ve been exposing a “Corporate Tax Dodger of the Day” leading into April 15 -- the always stressful “Tax Day.”

# Connecticut Media Hits

**EDITORAL:** [**Congress should close tax loopholes on executive compensation**](http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20130808/editorial-congress-should-close-tax-loopholes-on-executive-compensation)*New Haven Register,* Editorial Board, 8/8/2013

When it returns from recess next month, Congress should pass common-sense legislation, cosponsored by U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Jack Reed, D-R.I., that would limit the tax deductions large public corporations can claim on compensation of executives.

The two New England Democrats proposed the bill, the Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonus Act, last week, just before Congress broke for its summer recess.

It aims to close massive loopholes in a 1993 bill that limited deductibility on certain executives' pay up to $1 million, with exceptions for so-called performance-based compensation. The bill, which President Bill Clinton championed on the campaign trail in the 1992 election, was well-intentioned, but has been a near-complete flop because of corporations' successful efforts to find work-arounds.

# Colorado Media Hits

**Letter to the Editor:** [**A western approach to deficit reduction**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/GibbsMaukCortez.pdf)*Cortez Sentinel,* Dan Gibbs and Tim Mauch, Summit County commissioner and Clear Creek County Commissioner, 4/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

We can raise even more money by making sure giant corporations pay their fair share. Government reports reveal that the portion of federal revenue coming from corporate taxes has fallen by three-quarters over the past 60 years, and that in recent years corporations have paid taxes at only about two-thirds the statutory rate. (In 2011 ir was only one-third the stated rate). Studies co-authored by the respect **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** consistently find household names like General Electric and Wells Fargo frequently get away with paying no federal taxes at all.

Close the principal loophole that makes offshore tax dodging possible, and the joint tax committee of Congress estimates we’d raise nearly $600 billion over 10 years.

# Delaware Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Delaware families want more tax fairness**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20131211/OPINION07/312110010/Delaware-families-want-more-tax-fairness)*The Wilmington News-Journal*, Ezra Temko, **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action**, 12/10/2013

The federal government’s tax and spending policies impact our economy, our services and our lives. Congress needs to focus on policies that grow our economy, protect community investmentsand ensure everyone – including large corporations and the wealthy – contributes their fair share of taxes. There are budget decisions being made in Washington over the next few weeks that could have a big impact on Delaware and the whole nation. It is past time to get rid of the mindless, across-the-board budget cuts known as the “sequester.” This reduction in services has already kicked 57,000 kids off Head Start and eliminated about 350 meals a week for low-income seniors in community nutrition programs across the country. Next year, the sequester will get even worse: As just one example, it’s expected to deny decent housing to 140,000 families.

Meanwhile, many big corporations have become expert at avoiding their responsibilities. Whereas 60 years ago corporate taxes represented one-third of all federal income, now corporations contribute only 10 percent of federal receipts. In several recent years, big, profitable companies like Boeing, Wells Fargo and General Electric have avoided paying any federal taxes at all – some even got refunds. Our own DuPont has been a leading tax dodger.

While Washington continues to be divided about what to do regarding comprehensive tax reform, the sequester cuts continue to impact our communities. But Washington dysfunction should not stand in the way of moderate common-sense reforms like the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act (S. 1533). This bill was crafted to close some of the most egregious and unpopular tax loopholes used by multinational corporations to hide profits and ship jobs overseas. These practices were uncovered in a decade of work by the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, of which our Sen. Carper is a member. Closing these loopholes would be a good first step toward ending corporate tax dodging and would raise $220 billion over 10 years, which could be used to stop some of the sequester cuts and invest in our communities. Struggling families can’t absorb more cuts – and they shouldn’t have to continue to wait on a dysfunctional Congress to come to an agreement on comprehensive reform. It is time to take a pragmatic step forward toward fairer taxes and fairer opportunities.

**Op-Ed:** [**End persistent pverty by ending corporate tax dodging**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20131024/OPINION16/310240001/End-persistent-poverty-by-ending-corporate-tax-dodging)*The Wilmington News-Journal*, Darlene Battle, **Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement**, 10/23/2013

Delaware families are barely treading water in the wake of the Great Recession—and some are drowning. Given the grim picture painted by the latest poverty and income statistics released this week by the Census Bureau, it’s essential that we maintain safety net programs and make the kind of public investments that spur economic growth. But that’s only possible if corporations and the wealthy start to once again pay their fair share of taxes.

I don’t need government statistics to tell me folks are hurting. As director of a social service agency in Wilmington, I witness the struggle: families huddled in homeless shelters, on the brink of being put out; young mothers trying to learn skills to better support their kids while cleaning offices at night. But we as a society aren’t offering the helping hand these families need and deserve. There’s already a two-year wait for subsidized housing (and the across-the-board federal budget cut known as the “sequester” will only make that wait longer). Unemployment is still too high.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**House Republicans pursue the wrong legislative course**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20131007/OPINION10/310070021/House-Republicans-pursue-wrong-legislative-course)*Delaware Online,* Katherine Ware, **Delaware ADA**, 10/6/2013

An Oct. 2 headline was “Some low-income families, federal workers in state first to feel the pain [of the federal government shutdown].” These workers were also the first to feel the pain from the sequester cuts. It’s time for Congress to get their priorities right and stop harming our economy and people’s lives. The House Republicans need to end the government shutdown and stop attempting to obstruct implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

They also need to stop obstructing policies that will help our economy and lift up working America – like raising revenue from closing corporate tax loopholes and using that money to end the sequester and invest in our future. I hope the Senate stands strong against House obstruction. I also hope they pass Sen. Levin’s “Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act,” which would end tax breaks for sending jobs overseas and help end the sequester. I’d like to see what the House Republicans come up with to defend their opposition to that.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**We need to encourage investments in our country**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20131008/OPINION10/310080021/We-need-encourage-investments-our-country)

*Delaware Online,* Katherine Caudle, **Delaware ADA**, 10/7/2013

It concerns me that the Tea Party congressmen responsible for our government shut down are not the ones who are going to suffer as a result. They still get paid and they're certainly not the people who rely on programs like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Over the last three years, Congress has cut about $1 trillion from benefits and services that protect our families and grow our economy. Deep cuts have ranged from school funding to Head Start, investments in new medical cures to finding clean energy sources, and meals for seniors to veterans' mental health care.

We need to stop these cuts and instead invest in our country. Tea Party Congressmen say our country is broke and has no money, but we continue to find money to subsidize corporations through our tax code. For example, Apple, Inc., channels tens of billions of dollars of profits into overseas dummy corporations. There is a box on an IRS form they can check and poof - the profits they made from these subsidiaries simply disappears and is not taxed. I hope Sen. Tom Carper and Sen. Chris Coons sign on to the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act. It would prohibit corporations from participating in some of the most egregious tax dodging practices like the one mentioned above and would raise $220 billion over the next decade that could stop the continued cuts to working families and the middle class.

[**Tax Expert Speaks to Advocacy Group**](http://capegazette.villagesoup.com/p/tax-expert-speaks-to-advocacy-group/1036979)*Delaware Cape Gazette,* Kara Nuzback, 8/7/2013

Fortune 500 companies are using loopholes to legally avoid paying taxes to Delaware and the federal government, a tax expert says.

Matt Gardner, executive director of the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy spoke to a group of about 15 people at an Americans for Democratic Action meeting, July 26, at Bethany Blues in Lewes.

Gardner said he researches tax loopholes that allow corporations, including DuPont, to avoid paying any taxes to the federal or state government. “We need revenue-raising tax reform,” Gardner said. “It has to focus on the corporate side.”

The federal corporate tax rate is 35 percent; Delaware’s corporate tax rate is 8.7 percent. Gardner said the institute investigated three years of annual reports from 280 Fortune 500 companies.

He said 78 companies paid no federal taxes for at least one of the three years, and 30 paid no federal taxes for the entire three-year period.

[**Corporations exploit tax system, hurt working people**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130713/OPINION10/307130002/Corporations-exploit-tax-system-hurt-working-people)

*Delaware Online,* Jerry Northington, 7/12/2013

The News Journal reported on July 4 that furloughs for more than 1,400 Delaware civilians who work for the military began on July 7. This offends me, as a veteran and as a working taxpayer. While Delawareans who serve our country are forced to take unwanted time off, we should stop and think about all the corporations who are taking time off from paying their fair share of income taxes.

With a 20 percent cut in pay, some children will not be able to go on their family summer vacation. Some families will not be able to make important payments, such as rent. The ripple effect will run through the Delaware economy over the next few weeks as we all begin to feel the loss of available spending money in our businesses.

This is the latest illustration of who pays for corporate tax dodging. These furloughs are not necessary! Corporations like Apple, Microsoft and Google along with many others employ loopholes in the American tax system and in that of other nations around the globe to avoid paying taxes. Americans are now feeling the hurt by paying more than their fair share to pick up the slack for lost revenue from these corporate tax dodgers.

It is time to demand that corporations pay their fair share. Congress must put an end to the current situation which allows massive corporations to earn billions and pay nothing at all.

[**Corporations get breaks at workers’ expense**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130711/OPINION10/307110029/Corporations-gets-breaks-workers-expense)

*Delaware Online,* Jenna Fenstermacher, 7/10/2013

I couldn't agree more with a recent writer that "We'd all benefit from a competitive tax rate." Right now the losers in tax policy are working families and the middle class, and domestic small businesses. According to a study by the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**, the federal government loses approximately $150 billion in revenue each year due to offshore accounting schemes by wealthy investors and multinational corporations. So who pays? That $150 billion is the equivalent of each American taxpayer paying an additional $1,026. Similarly, small businesses would each need to pay an additional $3,067 in taxes to shoulder the burden of multinational corporate tax dodging.

According to the Government Accountability Office, large corporations paid an average 12.6 percent tax rate, far below the 35 percent statutory rate. In fact, once a working individual has a taxable income of $18,600, he or she pays a higher effective tax rate than your average large corporation.

Why should working families and the middle class be shouldering a higher tax burden than multinational corporations?

Small businesses, working families and the middle class don't have millions to spend on lobbying to ensure the tax code works for them. But when corporations avoid taxes, Americans are stuck picking up the tab. Hard-working Americans should not have to take the fall for corporate tax dodging.

[**Bring revenue from overseas tax loopholes home**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130707/OPINION10/307070026/Bring-revenue-from-overseas-tax-loopholes-back-home)

*Delaware Online,* Brian Boyle, 7/6/2013

If you marched down Main Street this past Fourth of July, you didn't pass any shops with money stashed in overseas tax havens. Unlike their huge corporate counterparts, small and mid-sized domestic businesses can't play foreign accounting tricks. They need their cash to meet payroll, pay local suppliers, pay off loans from the local bank, and fulfill their tax obligations.

When multinational corporations ship profits and jobs overseas to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, they deprive our communities of revenue needed to invest in schools, roads, research and public safety. They also receive an unfair advantage over their domestic competitors, who patriotically pay their taxes each year.

There's legislation in Congress that would close overseas corporate tax loopholes, raising $600 billion over the next decade for hometown investment and leveling the playing field for small business. Find your member of Congress at the parade this year and urge a vote for corporate tax reform.

[**Be patriotic by supporting corporate tax reform**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130703/OPINION10/307030057/Be-patriotic-by-supporting-corporate-tax-reform?nclick_check=1)

*Delaware Online*, Mary Crowley, 7/3/2013

Love of country is about more than flag pins and fireworks. Look around your community this Fourth of July holiday and spot all the ways we could demonstrate our love with adequate public investment, from better paved roads to better served seniors and kids.

We could afford those investments if huge corporations paid their fair share of taxes, instead of hiding profits and shipping jobs overseas. Many years, household names like General Electric and Verizon use fancy accounting tricks to pay zero federal income taxes. Apple, Inc., has $102 billion in profits stashed overseas, essentially untaxed.

Even as Congress has cut community services like Head Start and Meals on Wheels in the name of fiscal austerity, corporate America has not contributed one dime to deficit reduction. Let's support corporate tax reform legislation that would raise $600 billion over the next decade and allow us to show how much we love our country.

[**Panel Celebrates JFK’s Legacy, Challenges President Obama’s Budget Proposal**](http://delawareway.blogspot.com/2013/05/jfk-birthday-party-celebrates-his.html)

*Delaware Way, Nancy Willing,* 5/30/2013

Forty Delawareans gathered to hear Sha Na Na’s Bowzer and support an event celebrating President John F. Kennedy’s legacy and supporting cuts to corporate tax loopholes over cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

The evening started at 7pm at the Wilmington Senior Center. Delaware ADA volunteer leader Jenna Fenstermacher got the night started, stating, “We are here today because we believe in investing in America and closing offshore tax loopholes, not cutting benefits programs to benefit monied interests.” Jenna also recognized the event’s sponsoring organizations: **Delaware ADA**, NCPSSM, DSEA, Council 81 AFSCME, Delaware NOW, Delaware NAACP, Delaware CBTU, and SEIU 32BJ.

[**Ezra Temko Writes: Tomorrow’s Panel To Challenge Obama’s Budget Proposal**](http://delawareway.blogspot.com/2013/05/ezra-temko-writes-tomorrows-panel-to.html)

*Delaware Way, Nancy Willing,* 5/28/2013

“Corporate income non-patriation and tax manipulation is a problem that I’ve seen with my own eyes,” said Andrew Groff. “Rather than cutting social services, Congress should put a stop to accounting tricks that move profits to offshore tax havens, cut subsidies to the richest corporations on the planet, and end the needless and futile resource wars in the near east.”

**Delaware ADA** and NCPSSM are members of the national coalition **Americans for Tax Fairness**. Additional co-sponsors include DSEA, AFSCME Council 81, Delaware NOW, Delaware NAACP, Delaware DBTU, and SEIU 32BJ.

[**Upcoming Events: Happy Birthday, Mr. President**](http://www.delawareliberal.net/2013/05/23/upcoming-events-happy-birthday-mr-president/)

*Delaware Liberal,* 5/23/2013

This sounds like a cool panel to check out. The Delaware Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare (NCPSSM) are co-hosting an event on the former President’s birthday as a tribute to President John F. Kennedy, who strengthened Social Security, fought for the establishment of Medicare, and advocated for closing the same corporate tax loopholes that corporations still abuse to this day. The speakers will be Wilmington Mayor Dennis P. Williams, retired Delaware Social Security executive Tom Tobin, NCPSSM Grassroots National Director Ernie Powell, and businessman Andrew Groff, and Jon “Bowzer” Bauman, former lead singer of the famous Sha Na Na, will sing Happy Birthday to the President, hopefully not in the Marilyn Monroe style.

What: Event to celebrate JFK’s legacy and learn more about the choice between closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting Social Security or Medicare.

When: Wednesday, May 29, 7pm

Where: Wilmington Senior Center, 1901 N. Market St.

Additional speakers at the event include: **Delaware ADA** and NCPSSM are members of the national coalition **Americans for Tax Fairness**. Additional co-sponsors include DSEA, AFSCME Council 81, Delaware NOW, Delaware NAACP, Delaware DBTU, and SEIU 32BJ.

[**Rally Participants Call for Tax Reform, End of “Tax Dodging”**](http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=50340)

*WDEL 1150 AM,* Tom Lehman, 4/16/2013

Demonstrators call for politicians in Washington to create a tax system that eliminates loopholes and requires big corporations to start paying more.

More than two-dozen demonstrators outside the Newark Post Office Monday afternoon amid a backdrop of many last-minute tax return filers. Ezra Temko, a former Newark City Councilman and coordinator with **Americans for Democratic Action**, says those participating in the rally hoped to draw attention to what they say is an unfair system.

[**Dozens Rally for ‘Fair’ Tax Policy**](http://m.newarkpostonline.com/news/article_8395048a-a65f-11e2-a184-0019bb2963f4.html)

*Newark Post Online,* Al Kemp, 4/16/2013

Chanting “corporate greed has got to go!” and other populist slogans, dozens of angry Delawareans staked their claim to the corner of Library Avenue and Ogletown Road on Monday afternoon, demanding to know “who pays.”

Last-minute tax filers honked in support of the rally, organized by the local chapter of **Americans for Democratic Action.** The rally was co-sponsored by the Delaware AFL-CIO and the Delaware State Education Association.

[**Group Bashes Business Tax Breaks**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130416/NEWS/304160040/Groups-bashes-business-tax-breaks?gcheck=1)

*Delaware Online,* 4/16/2013

People hold a rally Monday to question “Who Pays?” when corporations and the wealthy avoid their fair share of taxes. The event is organized by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)** and co-sponsored by half a dozen other local groups. The gathering at the Newark Post Office coincided with the federal income tax deadline.

[**Tax Day Protest Draws Crowd to Post Office**](http://delawareway.blogspot.com/2013/04/all-riled-up-for-tax-reform.html)

*Delaware Way,* 4/16/2013

NEWARK – Thirty outraged Delaware taxpayers gathered at the Newark Post Office on the deadline for mailing last-minute returns, demanding that huge corporations display the same patriotism as the middle-class families rushing to file their taxes by paying their fair share. The demonstration was organized by **Delaware Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)** and co-sponsored by over half a dozen other local groups.

“Who Pays?” demanded a big sign held aloft by the protestors, who brandished dozens of other signs as well demanding a fair tax system where the wealthy and well-connected pay what they should. The passing rush-hour traffic returned a chorus of supportive honks.

**Op-Ed:** [**Who Pays for Government When the Wealthy Don’t?**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130412/OPINION07/304110005/Who-pays-government-when-wealthy-don-t-?nclick_check=1)

*Delaware Online,* John Kowalko, 4/11/2013

With Tax Day almost here, it’s a good time to consider a serious question.

Who actually “pays” taxes? Not just who pays taxes, but who “pays” when we don’t collect taxes? Despite what some politicians might tell you, when we don’t collect enough revenue, there are always consequences, fewer public services, more public debt or some combination of the two.

# Florida Media Hits

[**Budget deal falls short**](http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20131208/COLUMNIST/312089994/2324/OPINION?template=printpicart)  
*The Sarasota Herald-Tribune,* Thomas Tryon, 12/8/2013

Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, a national organization that espouses progressive taxation, told me Friday that the terms of the deal ignore the will of the people as expressed in the Hart Research Associates poll. (Hart surveys for left-leaning politicians but also some of America's largest corporations and media companies ranging from the Post to the Wall Street Journal.)

ATF has outlined ideas, including those mentioned by Murray and a measure to treat hedge-fund managers' personal profits as earned income, rather than as capital gains taxed at a lower rate.

Clemente described the deal in one word: "disappointing."

Disappointing, but not surprising.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappPanama.pdf)

*Panama City News Herald*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/8/2013, Syndicated for American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Big Corporations, Wealthy Need to Pay Their Fair Share**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/NurseTampa.pdf)Tampa Tribune, Karl Nurse, St. Petersburg City Council, 6/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

While ideologues in Washington fight over pet economic theories, small business owners and community political leaders have to deal with the day-to-day consequences of misguided federal budget policy. As a representative of both groups – as well as someone personally impacted by increased taxes on high incomes – I urge Congress to end the bickering, continue deficit reduction, and most importantly invest in our economy and create jobs by requiring big corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share of taxes

[**Tax Resistance and A Call for Corporations and the Wealthy to Pay Their Fair Share**](http://www.wmnf.org/news_stories/tax-resistance-and-a-call-for-corporations-and-the-wealthy-to-pay-their-fair-share) (Audio)

*WMNF 88.5 FM,* 4/15/2013

[**Tax Day Protests in Tampa and St. Pete Blast Wealthy Corporations that Evade Taxes**](http://www.wmnf.org/news_stories/tax-day-protests-in-tampa-and-st-pete-blast-wealthy-corporations-that-evade-taxes)

*WMNF 88.5 FM,* 4/15/2013

Wealthy corporations have access to tax loopholes that many individuals and small businesses can’t get. Tax Day protests on both sides of the bay this morning had activists lashing out at what they call tax evaders.

About a dozen activists in Tampa were up before the sun to light up the U.S. 301 overpass over I-4. Back-lit posters spelled out the words ‘U paid more taxe$ than Verizon’.

**Op-Ed:** [**Are We Maxed Out on Taxes?**](http://www.floridavoices.com/florida-politics/breezes/are-we-maxed-out-taxes)

*Florida Voices,* Kevin King, Political Director of **PICO United Florida,** 4/8/2013

As the annual April 15 income tax deadline approaches, millions of taxpayers are begrudgingly preparing their tax returns to send off to the IRS. Many are convinced they are paying too much and confused about just what their hard-earned cash is paying for once it’s pooled with millions of other contributions in the national coffers.

While taxes may never be popular, the benefits and services that they pay for are, since most of these are essential benefits and services that families, seniors and children depend on every day. These include Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans’ benefits, science and medical research, education, and national security. All enjoy very broad and consistent public support. Americans might complain about paying taxes, but most of us couldn’t imagine living in a country without roads, bridges, public schools and law enforcement nor do we want our elderly neighbors living in poverty, our kids growing up without learning how to read or our bridges falling down around us.

# Georgia Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelAtlanta.pdf)

*Atlanta Inquirer*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s Tax Plan A Bad Bargain For Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappAtlanta.pdf)

*Atlanta Inquirer*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/31/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

# Illinois Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelSouthtownStar.pdf)

*Southtown Star*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/20/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s dream with fair tax, spending policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersChampaign.pdf)  
*The News Gazette,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/8/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

[**Chicagoans ‘Out’ General Electric for Dodging Taxes, Demand Sen. Durbin Close Loopholes**](http://progressillinois.com/quick-hits/content/2013/08/22/chicagoans-out-general-electric-dodging-taxes-demand-sen-durbin-close-)  
*Progress Illinois,* Ellyn Fortino, 8/22/2013

Chicagoans from across the city rallied downtown Thursday afternoon to “out” General Electric as a corporate tax dodger and to call upon U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) to take charge and make corporations pay their fair share.

Chicago is one of 10 cities taking part in the **National People's Action** campaign this week meant to shine a light on various corporate tax dodgers across the county. According to the protestors, GE received $8.4 billion in federal tax breaks between 2008 and 2010.

“Everyday people are suffering while corporate taxes are at historic lows, even though corporate profits are at an all time high,” said Toby Chow, a leader with **IIRON**.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan bad bargain for small biz**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappSWSub2.pdf)

*Southwest Suburban News-Herald*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappSW1.pdf)

*Southwest News-Herald*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

[**Tax Fairness Advocates Call for an End to Corporate Tax Deferral**](http://progressillinois.com/quick-hits/content/2013/04/24/tax-fairness-advocates-call-end-corporate-tax-deferral)

*Progress Illinois,* Ellyn Fortino, 4/24/2013

It's time for the public to "tap into their anger" and rally against tax loopholes that allow big U.S. corporations to dodge their fair share of American taxes by stashing profits in offshore havens, said leaders from Citizens for Tax Justice and **Americans for Tax Fairness.**

Congress is currently entertaining a number of tax reform proposals that seek to lower corporate taxes and provide incentives for sending jobs and profit centers offshore, putting billions of tax dollars at stake over a 10-year period, Frank Clemente, campaign manager of Americans for Tax Fairness, said on a conference call with reporters.

**Op-Ed:** [**Small Biz opposes Large Corporations’ Tax Shelter**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappSWSub1.pdf)

*Southwest Suburban News-Herald (Oak Lawn-Burbank)*, Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council**, 4/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Accounts of giant businesses like Boeing, General Electric, Pfizer, Microsoft and Honeywell International using offshore tax loopholes to dramatically lower their taxes " often to zero " are all too common. U.S. Public Interest Research Group just released report showing that each of America's small businesses on average picks up the tab for $3,067 to cover the costs of tax avoidance by U.S multinational corporations playing the offshore profit-shifting game.

It is clear to small business owners that the ability of these large corporations to minimize their tax liability through offshore tax loopholes is contributing to our nation's budget problems and is harmful to the small business community. This awareness of multinationals shirking their tax responsibility has resulted in a bipartisan small-business owner consensus on the need of large, multinational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

# Indiana Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**This Christmas, help the unemployed**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeGreensburg.pdf)*Greensburg Daily News,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater.

But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families — and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision — imposed by conservatives — not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

**Op-Ed:** [**Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HodgsonNewsSun.pdf)

*Kendallville News-Sun,* Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A recent study by the **Public Interest Research Group** found that the top 100 tax-dodging corporations collectively shelter almost $1.2 trillion in profit offshore. One company, Bank of America, has 316 subsidiaries in tax haven countries. Call me cynical, but I think it’s unlikely tha the bank has much business in the Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Mauritius, Gibraltar, the Bahamas, Switzerland, Bermuda, Curacao, Monaco and the British Virgin Islands and other well-known tax havens.

This is a shell game only the big guys with teams of lawyers can afford to play. The small businesses I advise plow nearly all of their revenues back into their operations. Never once in more than 20 years of helping businesses thrive have I recommended that an entrepreneur form a dummy corporation in the Caribbean in order to evade a tax bill.

Corporate giants already have enough advantages over the little guys. With their gigantic budgets, huge staffs, national distribution networks, quantity discounts, saturation advertising and pinpoint marketing, they’re already clobbering their small competitors. Why should they get an extra leg up through loopholes in the tax code?

**Op-Ed:** [**Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HodgsonEveningStar.pdf)

*The Evening Star,* Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HodgsonHerald.pdf)

*Herald Republican,* Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HodgsonKendalville.pdf)*KPCNews,* Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 11/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Support small businesses by ending corporate tax dodging**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HodgsonGreensburg.pdf)*Greensburg Daily News,* Gregg Hodgson, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Centers, 10/31/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersGreensburg.pdf)  
*Greensburg Daily News,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/5/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Let’s pledge to do better by our working families**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/FloraSouthbend.pdf)  
*South Bend Tribune*, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013

Incredibly, our tax system provides huge incentives to American companies to shift profits to offshore tax havens where they pay little or no tax. Why should companies get tax breaks to ship our jobs overseas, while the rest of us pick up the tab to make up for what companies don’t contribute? The biggest corporate tax loophole makes this possible. If we close it we can raise $600 billion over the next decade, according to Congress’s Joint Tax Committee.

Wealthy individuals are ducking their fair share, too. If you’re an Indianapolis banker with a million-dollar mansion in the Meridian-Kessler neighborhood, you’re able to deduct almost 40 cents of every dollar you pay in mortgage interest. But a middle-class worker with a home in South Bend can only write off 28 cents or less, depending on annual income. That’s not only unfair, but expensive: we can raise $500 billion over the next decade if we cap tax breaks for the wealthy at the middle-class rate, according to Congress’s tax scorekeeper.

This Labor Day let’s pledge to do better by our working families, by our economy and by our nation. Let’s create jobs, strengthen critical public investments like Social Security and Medicare, and pursue responsible deficit reduction by restoring fair taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

**Op-Ed:** [**Help working families rather than ship jobs overseas**](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/columnists/guest-commentary/guest-commentary-help-working-families-rather-than-ship-jobs-overseas/article_b9e8bab9-ff1c-503d-8fc3-394dfd17c86c.html)  
*Northwest Indiana Times*, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Let’s pledge to do better by our working families**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/FloraTribuneStar.pdf)  
*Tribune Star*, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Help working families**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/FloraMartinsville.pdf)

*The Reporter*, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/2/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Help U.S workers, not the tax-dodgers**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/FloraKokomo.pdf)  
*Kokomo Tribune*, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/1/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Let’s pledge to do better by our working families**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/FloraMuncie.pdf)  
*The Star Press*, Tony Flora, **North Central Indiana AFL-CIO Council**, 9/1/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Public policy can relieve inequality, diminish poverty**](http://www.elkharttruth.com/article/20130819/OPINION/708199944)*The Elkhart Truth,* Judith M. Davis, 8/19/2013

One honest proposal for increasing revenue calls for closing tax loopholes for the huge corporations like Bank of America, Apple and Pfizer that conceal profits and ship jobs overseas. Closing those loopholes would raise nearly $600 billion over the next 10 years. In addition, limiting tax deductions for the wealthiest 2 percent to the same level as that of the middle class would raise another $500 billion during the next decade.

Getting our economy going again calls for a greater contributions from the wealthiest individuals and corporations who have so far dodged paying their share. A tax code that holds them accountable for paying their fair share would provide enough revenue to preserve Social Security and Medicare — and that should be the priority for our elected leaders, including U.S. Sen. Donnelly, who has long been a champion for seniors.

It is time to call on Congress to budget responsibly — not at the expense of those least able to afford it: the widows and widowers, orphans and disabled who depend on Social Security. The lesson of Social Security is that public policy can relieve inequality, diminish poverty and make our country a better place to live. It’s time that Congress learned that lesson and prioritized the needs of people over the greed of corporations.

**Op-Ed:** [**People’s Forum: Sequester’s impact felt fully at local level**](http://www.elkharttruth.com/article/20130730/OPINION/707309922)

*The Elkhart Truth*, Jo Ellen Bernstein, **Goshen**, 7/30/2013

The federal deficit is here and it is real and there is no obvious answer to solve our problems. But, there are some obvious answers that begin to help our economy recover. While a teacher is struggling to give its students the quality of education they deserve, a portion of Americans are not doing anything to help. Big corporations have avoided paying their fair share and it is negatively affecting the individuals of our communities.

We must start to fix this economic problem. I don’t want to see individuals hurting anymore. We need to keep corporations accountable for shipping jobs and profits oversees. We need to end corporate tax loopholes so that these corporations can invest in individuals in our community.

[**Elkhart protesters demonstrate ahead of likely debt-ceiling debate**](http://blogs.etruth.com/county-buzz/2013/07/30/elkhart-protesters-demonstrate-ahead-of-likely-debt-ceiling-debate/)

*The Elkhart Truth*, Tim Vandenak, 7/30/2013

The northern Indiana chapter of **Americans for Democratic Action** sponsored a demonstration there to protest what the critics term tax breaks for oil companies. Their effort was directed at ExxonMobil, which has a station north of the Cassopolis-C.R. 6 crossing.

“ExxonMobil, America’s largest company, has made a killing from rising world oil prices and its investments in fracking, but it has also enjoyed massive taxpayer subsidies from corporate tax loopholes,” a press release from event organizer Jeremy Bernstein said in announcing the event.

The protest was timed ahead of likely national debate on the U.S. debt ceiling, expected to expire in September, according to USA Today (look here). One of the lingering questions regarding the debt issue is whether to address it by spending cuts (favored by the GOP) or via a mix of spending cuts and new revenue, from tax increases and an end to certain tax breaks (the Democratic view).

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaIndiana.pdf)

*Indiana Herald,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

[**Town Hall Meeting Focuses on Tax Fairness and National Debt**](http://www.elkharttruth.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130415/NEWS01/704159863&template=wirelessart)

*The Elkhart Truth,* Emily Pfund, 4/15/2013

ELKHART — The solution to the current national budget crisis is to increase revenue, not cut vital services, Elkhart County residents said Monday at a town hall meeting.

The meeting at the Teamster’s Hall on U.S. 33 in Dunlap was organized by **Americans for Democratic Action** around the theme “Who Pays?” as part of the ADA’s ongoing campaign on tax fairness.

[**Corporations Should Pay Their Fair Share**](http://goshennews.com/letters/x1340806525/Corporations-should-pay-their-fair-share)

*Goshen News,* Jeremy Bernstein, **Americans for Democratic Action,** 4/7/2013

Big corporations work hard to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. The effect on the American people is higher taxes for the rest of us, fewer public investments, more debt, or some combination of the three.

Unlike an average worker or independent business, multinational firms can manipulate the reporting of their income in ways that slash or eliminate their tax bill. They can, for instance, funnel their domestic profits through a dummy subsidiary in a foreign country to make it look like money actually made from the hard work of U.S. employees and the hard-earned purchases of U.S. consumers were actually made in a low- or no-tax haven overseas.

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# Iowa Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress ever get its budget act together?**](http://globegazette.com/will-congress-ever-get-its-budget-act-together/article_111935ca-f041-5996-9b0f-32b8a8071032.html)  
*Globe Gazette*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

# Kentucky Media Hits

**Op-Ed**[**: Obama’s Tax Plan a Bad Bargain**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappFloyd1.pdf)*Floyd County Times*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Apple not alone in tax dodging**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeFloyd.pdf)

*Floyd County Times*, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to “the Cloud.” In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neigher country’s taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland.

Though this was Apples’ most audacious tax-didging scheme, it wasn’t the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on $74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That’s a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down the debt.

# Louisiana Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Loopholes should go in 2014**](http://beta.theadvertiser.com/article/A5/20131226/OPINION02/312260016/Frank-Clemente-Loopholes-should-go-2014?nclick_check=1)*Lafayette Advertiser,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater.

But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families — and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision — imposed by conservatives — not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

**Op-Ed:** [**Taking out the trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyThibodaux.pdf)

*Daily Comet,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Op-Ed:** [**Take out trash to clean up tax code**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyLakeCharles.pdf)

*Lake Charles American Press,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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*Houma Courier,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeThibodaux.pdf)

*Thibodaux Daily Comet,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on $74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That's a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down debt.

**Op-Ed: [Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeHouma.pdf)**

*The Courier,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

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# Maine Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Congress, start 2014 with changes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeFranklin.pdf)*The Franklin Journal,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 12/31/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater.

But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families — and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision — imposed by conservatives — not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

[**Letter to the Editor: Do the right thing**](http://bangordailynews.com/2013/12/18/opinion/thursday-dec-19-2013-media-consolidation-mining-rules-corporate-tax-exemptions/)*Bangor Daily News,* Lorry Fleming, 12/19/2013

Instead of eliminating corporate tax exemptions of various kinds — a fairly easy source for $20 to $40 million — Gov. Paul LePage proposes to cut revenue sharing (from the state), which will only result in increased property taxes throughout Maine. He’s already granted tax cuts to the wealthiest Mainers (unpaid for). Now he wants to help Walmart and Hannaford increase their bottom line, while raising property taxes for the rest of us. This is just not right.

This isn’t just a Maine problem; Congress has a responsibility to close these offshore loopholes, too. In the budget compromise in Washington, members approved a deal that terminated unemployment benefits to the long-term unemployed while giving corporations a pass on offshore tax havens. We need our elected officials at the federal level to support legislation like Levin’s bill on offshore tax havens, which would take a big step in the direction of making sure multinational companies pay their fair share in taxes.

Please tell Sen. Angus King to support legislation on offshore tax havens, and ask your own Maine lawmakers to encourage Maine’s Appropriations Committee to do the right thing. Corporate welfare needs to become a thing of the past.

[**Letter to the Editor: Bipartisanship is good, not so the budget deal**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/Letter_to_the_Editor__Bipartisanship_is_a_good_thing__but_budget_deal_doesn_t_work_for_Maine.html)*Portland Press Herald,* Philemon Dushimire, 12/26/2013

For too long, all of our budget talks have focused on cuts, but there is not much left to cut that does not have huge impacts on our friends and neighbors. We need to start talking about raising revenue. Otherwise, we will never get out of this crisis cycle.

This budget deal reduced some really scary cuts, but it will cut pensions and unemployment benefits to do so. A budget that trades cuts for more cuts isn’t a fair budget, and it isn’t a budget that works in the long term.

In two years, Congress will be back at it again, and the only way we can have a budget that invests in the things that Mainers need and that works for everyone is if we raise revenue by making sure corporations are paying their fair share.

Wall Street has rebounded, but Main Street is still struggling. Isn’t it time corporations stopped shirking their responsibilities and put their tax dollars back to work here in America?

[**Volunteers Sending Cards to Senator Angus King**](http://www.foxbangor.com/news/local-news/3825-volunteers-sending-cards-to-senator-angus-king.html)*WFVX-TV Bangor News,* Jaclyn Cangro, 12/12/2013

Some Mainers are sending independent senator Angus King Christmas cards, but they aren't full of holiday greetings.

Instead, the cards ask Senator King to close corporate tax loopholes, in an attempt to offset spending cuts within congress' budget agreement.

Activists with the **Maine People's Alliance** braved the cold in downtown Bangor and Portland collecting signatures.

"It's a cold day. We're a hearty group of Mainers, and we're pleasantly surprised by how many people are stopping and signing the card," says Phil Bailey.

The **Maine People's Alliance** says closing tax loopholes will benefit students and the unemployed.

[**Christmas Card to Sen. King Focuses on National Budget**](http://wabi.tv/2013/12/12/christmas-card-sen-king-focuses-national-budget/)*WAVI-TV,* Catherine Pegram, 12/12/2013

The **Maine People’s Alliance** wants Senator Angus King to reconsider some of his support for a new two-year budget deal for the country.

So they’re sending him a Christmas card.

Members stood on a corner in downtown Bangor Thursday, gathering signatures for the card.

It’s asking King to close corporate loopholes to help raise some of the $85 billion in projected savings in the budget and avoid spending cuts

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out the trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyFranklin.pdf)

*The Franklin Journal,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 11/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Editorial:** [**Federal budget deal must tackle tax reform**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/Our_View__Federal_budget_deal_must_tackle_tax_reform_.html)*Portland Press Herald,* Editorial Board, 10/19/2013

The appalling tea party shutdown of the U.S. government is over, and there is not much to like about what we have just witnessed. However, it appears to have ended well, and that leaves at least some hope that the national government may be headed in a healthier trajectory.

The radical Republican minorities in the House and Senate – who were willing to scuttle both government and the economy if it gave them leverage to change the Affordable Care Act – were soundly defeated by President Obama and repudiated by responsible members of their own party, including Maine Sen. Susan Collins, who worked to find a bipartisan way out of the crisis.

Now, both houses of Congress have committed to bipartisan budget talks before the government runs out of money again early next year. This is an opportunity to accomplish something that both parties and most Americans agree is needed, but Congress hasn’t been able to tackle politically: tax reform.

The tax code is overly complex, and there are too many loopholes and carve-outs that are available only to the very rich. American companies are rewarded with tax breaks when they move operations and jobs offshore. If Washington is serious about doing something about long-term deficits, these issues will have to be addressed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersFranklin.pdf)  
*The Franklin Journal,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/24/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Small business opposes multinational corporations’ tax avoidance**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappFranklin1.pdf)

*The Franklin Journal*, Frank Knapp, Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 5/28/2013, Syndicated by American Forum, Syndicated by American Forum

Accounts of giant businesses like Boeing, General Electric, Pfizer, Microsoft and Honeywell International using offshore tax loopholes to dramatically lower their taxes " often to zero " are all too common. U.S. Public Interest Research Group just released report showing that each of America's small businesses on average picks up the tab for $3,067 to cover the costs of tax avoidance by U.S multinational corporations playing the offshore profit-shifting game.

It is clear to small business owners that the ability of these large corporations to minimize their tax liability through offshore tax loopholes is contributing to our nation's budget problems and is harmful to the small business community. This awareness of multinationals shirking their tax responsibility has resulted in a bipartisan small-business owner consensus on the need of large, multinational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaFranklin.pdf)

*Franklin Journal,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

**[Portland Demonstration to Treat Taxpayers With Slices](http://www.pressherald.com/news/Portland-demonstration-to-treat-taxpayers-with-slices.html)**

*Associated Press,* 4/15/2013

PORTLAND — Demonstrators will be using pizza slices as props to make their point about tax loopholes on income tax filing day.

On Monday, members of the **Maine People's Alliance** plan to hand out slices of pizza and pie representing what they see as the sliver of revenue generated from the current corporate tax system.

[**Tax Protesters Make Their Point With Pizza**](http://www.wlbz2.com/news/article/239589/3/Tax-protesters-make-their-point-with-pizza)

*WLBZ 2,* Mike Kmack, 4/15/2013

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[**Maine Group Uses Pizza as Props in Tax Events**](http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Maine-group-using-pizza-as-props-in-tax-event-4434630.php)

*CT Post,* 4/15/2013

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[**Maine Consumer Group uses Pizza as Props in Tax Day Event**](http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/2146aa3eb6434df5a92468c2b71e8f8e/ME--Tax-Day)

*The Republic,* 4/15/2013

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[**Portland Activists Use Pizza Giveaway to Help Deliver Tax Day Message Against ‘Corporate Loopholes’**](http://bangordailynews.com/slideshow/portland-activists-use-pizza-giveaway-to-help-deliver-tax-day-message-against-corporate-loopholes/)

*BDN Maine,* Seth Koenig, 4/15/2013

PORTLAND, Maine — Activists from the left-leaning **Maine People’s Alliance** gave out pizza to Mainers mailing in their tax filings Monday to represent what one volunteer called “the tiny slices corporations are paying” in taxes.

While giving out pizza, Maine People’s Alliance volunteers outside Portland’s Forest Avenue post office Monday afternoon also asked passers-by to sign a petition urging Maine’s congressional delegation to support the closure of “corporate tax loopholes” that they say allow major corporations to shelter profits in offshore bank accounts to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

# Maryland Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappDorchester.pdf)

*Dorchester Banner*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**President’s plan doesn’t help small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappHagerstown.pdf)

*Hagerstown Herald-Mail*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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[**Tax Evaders! The Game!**](http://blogs.citypaper.com/index.php/2013/04/tax-evaders-the-game/)

*Baltimore City Paper: The News Hole,* Edward Ericson Jr., 4/12/2013

Tax Evaders is one of the more amus­ing lefty efforts on the national bud­get to come across my email in a long while.

Based on the old Space Invaders game, you blast away cor­po­ra­tions that make bil­lions in prof­its, hold bil­lions of dol­lars off shore, and yet pay lit­tle or no income taxes.

The game is the brain­child of a consortium of the usual suspects with research assistance by—PIRG, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, etc.—and the added fun of provocateurs like the Yes Men and The Other 98%. The game is timed to President Obama’s budget proposal and the coming negotiations with congressional Republicans. That Obama has already con­ceded to cuts in Social Secu­rity (albeit sly, stealthy, and targeted ones) has enraged some of his base.

# Massachusetts Media Hits

[**Letter to the Editor: time to cut offshore tax loopholes**](http://www.tauntongazette.com/newsnow/x529848588/LETTER-Time-to-cut-offshore-tax-loopholes)  
*The Taunton Gazette*, Arthur Kenyon, 11/7/2013

It is not the politician that is going to pass legislation that will make your standard of living go up. It is you. When you know what is causing our government $17.6 trillion debt tell our politicians to do more investigations on off-shore banking by strengthening the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.

Some of our corrupt politicians are trying to get this much needed agency done away with or at least lesson the FATC authority. In Wilmington, Del. nearly 300,000 businesses are registered at a single address.

The **Tax Justice Network** estimated that tax havens collectively held as much as $32 trillion.

Would we have any national debt if these tax havens did not exist?

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersBoston.pdf)  
*Boston Banner,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/12/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

# Michigan Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Create jobs, but ensure the tax system is fair**](http://www.morningstarpublishing.com/articles/2013/12/29/grand_traverse_insider/opinion/doc52c08d2029e9f111711432.txt?viewmode=fullstory)*Grand Traverse Insider,* Mary McGee-Cullen, 12/29/2013

Ask politicians from either political party what their number one concern is and they’ll say “jobs and the economy.” But actions speak louder than words. There are actions members of Congress – including our own Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow – can take in the next few weeks that will speak volumes about their commitment to working families.

It’s been a couple of months since the last Washington budget crisis, so naturally it’s time for another one! But we can’t all just turn away disgusted – there are important decisions on the line. And Levin and Stabenow are right in the middle of the action.

Our recurring budget dramas are caused in large part because large corporations and wealthy households use loopholes and special breaks to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. While middle-class families in Detroit and around the State of Michigan try to figure out how to buy groceries and still afford medication, the wealthy and big business are devising accounting gimmicks that allow them to dodge their taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Loopholes should go in 2014**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeBattleCreek.pdf)*Battle Creek Enquirer,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 12/27/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater.

But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families — and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision — imposed by conservatives — not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax code hurts American businesses**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/McFeeDetroit.pdf)*The Detroit News,* Bruce McFee, Saylor-Beall Manufacturing Co., 12/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

I’m proud to manufacture in America. It’s too bad the tax code rewards my competitors for taking their jobs, investment and profits overseas.

For the past 30 years, my family has been in the business of producing high-quality industrial air compressors. Our group provides good jobs to 260 employees working in four plants in Michigan and Indiana. Our products are sold globally and we compete against some of the world’s largest corporations.

We’re not afraid to compete, but we need a level playing field. The current tax structure gives a substantial tax advantage to multinational corporations that blend U.S. and foreign operations together. But the tax structure is unfair to companies like ours that have only U.S. operations. This tax inequity is also bad for the public, our economy and the middle class.

**Op-Ed:** [**Don’t repeal medical-device tax**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMonroe.pdf)*Monroe Evening News,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelHillsdale.pdf)

*Hillsdale Daily News*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Closing tax loopholes could fix budget crisis**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MosherDetroit.pdf)*The Detroit News*, Eric Mosher, Michigan Public Interest Research Group, 10/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

While a budget battle led to a government shutdown, and a debt ceiling fight looms ahead, Congress has seemingly forgotten about one fair and timely budget solution: Closing the offshore tax haven abuse that costs taxpayers an estimated $150 billion in federal revenue every year.

Tax loopholes aren’t illegal, but they’re not right. By using accounting tricks and taking advantage of our inefficient and loop-hole ridden tax code, many large U.S.-based multinational corporations make their profits appear to be generated offshore, thereby avoiding paying U.S. taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyHillsdale.pdf)

*Hillsdale Daily News,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 10/5/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Op-Ed:** [**Everyone needs more economic rights**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersBattleCreek.pdf)  
*Battle Creek Enquirer,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/8/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

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[**Citizen group pushes for closing tax loopholes**](http://www.miningjournal.net/page/content.detail/id/590090/Citizen-group-pushes-for-closing-tax-loopholes.html?nav=5001)*The Mining Journal,* Jackie Stark, 8/26/2013

The executive director for **Michigan Citizen Actio**n is calling on area residents to contact their legislators in an effort to "end corporate tax breaks."

"The Congress faces a choice - continue trudging down the austerity road of budget cuts and sluggish growth or turn to prosperity built on investing in our people and everyone paying their fair share of taxes," said Linda Teeter during a Wednesday press conference in Marquette. "That choice is what the budget battles in Washington, D.C., will be this fall."

Teeter said her organization - a citizen watchdog group working to ease the tax burden on the middle class - recently released a report titled "The High Price of Tax Loopholes," which details "the sacrifices that working Michiganders have made so large corporations can reap the benefits of big tax breaks."

[**U.P leaders discussing closing corporate tax loopholes**](http://abc10up.com/u-p-leaders-discuss-closing-corporate-tax-loopholes/)*ABC 10*, Rick Tarsitano, 8/22/2013

**Michigan Citizen Action** is one of 325 organizations that make up the national coalition of **Americans for Tax Fairness**. The citizen watchdog group met with Michigan State Representative John Kivela and the Michigan Education Association at Marquette City Hall to discuss the local impact of their most recent report, which found close to $1.2 trillion in tax cuts and credits for America’s largest corporations.

“We’re specifically looking at the corporate tax loopholes that allow corporations to off shore jobs. Those that take jobs from America and go to another country where they can write off all of that expense. When they bring the dollars back to this country, they don’t have to pay taxes. We believe that it would be $600 billion in new revenue to the federal budget, if that one loophole was closed,” said Linda Teeter, the Executive Director of **Michigan Citizen Action**.

**Op-Ed:** [**Bargain Bad for Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappBattle.pdf)*Battle Creek Enquirer*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaCaribbean.pdf)

*Huron County View,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

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[**Tax Day Tussle: Winnie Brinks vs. Joe Haveman on Middle Class and the ‘Greater Good’**](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2013/04/tax_day_tussle_winnie_brinks_v.html)

*Michigan Live,* Matt Vande Bunte, 4/15/2013

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – At a press conference this morning, state Rep. Winnie Brinks talked about a friend whom she said cancelled a fishing trip because he had a 2012 Michigan income-tax liability $1,000 higher than in 2011.

The Grand Rapids Democrat used that as an example of how the Republican-led Legislature's changes to the state income-tax structure might be hurting the middle class.

# Minnesota Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Congress, start 2014 with changes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSt.Cloud.pdf)*St. Cloud Times,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 12/31/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater.

But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families — and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision — imposed by conservatives — not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

**Op-Ed:** [**Congress, This Christmas help the unemployed instead of Wall Street**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeCrookston.pdf)*Crookston Daily Times,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Sequester is hurting children**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelAnnandale.pdf)

*The Annandale Advocate*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 12/4/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical Device Tax giveaway would deny Americans health care**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeGrant1.pdf)*Grant County Herald,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 10/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum  
  
In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Device tax is fair**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeAnnandale.pdf)*The Annandale Advocate,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 10/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum  
  
In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelCrookston.pdf)  
*Crookston Daily Times*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappWaupaca.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeStaples.pdf)

*Staples World,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/20/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on $74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That's a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down debt.

**Op-Ed: [Apple not alone in tax dodging](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeCrookston.pdf)**

*Crookston Daily Times*, Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 6/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaCrookston.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

**[Gap Between CEO and Worker Pay Grows Even Larger](http://www.workdayminnesota.org/index.php?news_6_5502)**

*Workday Minnesota,* Mark Gruenberg, 4/18/2013

General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt, among the top 100 CEOs with $25.8 million last year in pay and perks, led the league in getting his corporation to sock away profits overseas, avoiding U.S. taxes. GE stashed $108 billion away overseas, out of a total for all U.S. firms of $418 billion. A separate report from **Americans for Tax Fairness**, released the same day, showed GE paid 2.4% of its $88 billion in U.S. profits in taxes.

# Mississippi Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Frank Clemente: No tax loophole for industry**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeJackson.pdf)*Clarion-Ledger,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

# Missouri Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax reform needed to support services**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/OxfordSpringfield.pdf)*News-Ledger,* Jeanette Oxford, Missouri Association for Social Welfare, 11/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

We face an ethical choice: Do we allow corporations to keep their tax loopholes, or do we restore the services that strengthen working Americans?

Achieving real tax reform isn’t easy. I should know. When I served in the Missouri legislature, I worked hard to reform a state system that was outdated, unfair and inadequate. I continue that effort now. But the case for restoring federal tax fairness is clear.

[**Letter to the Editor: Tax Havens: Bill would make companies pay**](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20131108/OPINIONS03/311080012/corporate-tax-havens)*Springfield News-Leader*, Robin Acree, **Missouri Grass Roots Organizing**, 11/7/2013

Balancing budgets is easier when you work with both sides of the ledger and everyone pitches in.

Unfortunately, for far too long, huge corporations have been using loopholes and other special breaks to avoid paying their fair share. Big companies like Apple and Microsoft hide cash in offshore tax havens, and in some years profitable corporations like General Electric and Verizon pay no federal incomes taxes at all.

There is a bill in Congress, the Stop Tax Havens Abuse Act, which would end some of the worst offshore corporate tax dodging and raise $220 billion over the next decade.

Passing this bill would make the work of budget leaders like Sens. Blunt and McCaskill a little less difficult. Asking large corporations to pay their fair share should be something we can all agree on.

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeCassville.pdf)*Casville Democrat,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/30/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMonett.pdf)*The Monett Times,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/25/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelGasconade.pdf)  
*Gasconade County Republican*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyMonett.pdf)

*The Monett Times,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 10/4/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

[**Head Start program budget slashed by sequestration cuts**](http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=936448#.Usw68fRDuRO)*Connect Mid-Missouri*, Jessica Quick, 8/20/2013

President Obama announced Monday that 57,000 children across the U.S. will be cut from the Head Start program this school year, out of nearly a million children served.

Mid-Missouri advocates for the program are saying corporate tax dodgers could make up for the $400 million that the program is losing nationwide.

"Invest in U.S." was the theme of a rally held by **Grass Roots Organizing** this morning outside Park Ave. Head Start in Columbia.

About 30 to 40 people spoke about the importance of education in the state of Missouri.

"You can't have it both ways, you can't continue to give tax cuts..tax breaks..to the richest and continue to cut programs that we all count on in the community," said Robin Acree, the director of **GRO**.

**Op-Ed:** [**Fair taxes better for economy than cuts**](http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/fair-taxes-better-for-economy-than-cuts/article_67a04430-ea50-11e2-b10b-10604b9f6eda.html)

*Columbia Daily Tribune,* Op-ed by Gretchen Maune, 7/11/2013

Major profitable corporations must be pressed to do their part and to pay their fair share. If the big corporations would pay their fair share of taxes, then our government would have more than enough money to pay for critical, lifesaving programs. The Fix the Debt campaign, an industry front group that is led by millionaire CEOs, seeks to "fix" our economy by widening corporate tax loopholes and shrinking the budgets of people living on Social Security. They want to create a debt crisis when there is not one.

We must close the corporate loopholes so that we have more revenue to work with. Then we could actually strengthen our vital programs, not make unnecessary, shameful cuts to services.

**Op-Ed: Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**

*Grand City Times Tribune,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

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[**Grass Roots Organizing protests ‘Fix the Debt’ Outside Emerson Library**](http://websterjournal.com/2013/05/01/grass-roots-organizing-protests-fix-the-debt-campaign-outside-emerson-library/)

*The Webster Journal,* Natalie Martinez, 5/1/2013

**Executive Director of GRO Robin Acree** said GSO has followed Fix the Debt for some time and doesn’t agree with both Holden and Bredesen about Fix the Debt.

“(GSO is) trying to draw attention to the fact that this group is nothing but a front group gearing to the mind of voters,” Acree said. “We do not have a debt crisis we have a revenue crisis and a lot of the CEOs on this committee are the biggest tax invaders in this country and if they pay their fair share we wouldn’t have to cut anything especially social security or

our Medicare.”

[**Bowling for Tax Dodgers’ Event Shows Impact of Tax Breaks**](http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/160920/from-readers-bowling-for-tax-dodgers-event-shows-impact-of-tax-breaks/)

*The Columbia Missourian,* Robin Acree, **Grassroots Organizing Missouri**, 4/17/2013

On Monday — the Tax Day deadline — **Grass Roots Organizing** held a ‘Bowling for Tax Dodgers’ action outside of the downtown Columbia post office. The local group used the opportunity to show how tax breaks for the super rich and loopholes for corporations reduce public investment and increase burdens on families and states by forcing cuts in important benefits and services we all rely upon.

Tax Dodger trading cards were placed on bowling pins, and people took them down with a toy bowling ball. Residents wanted to show the economic impact if the big corporations would stop stashing profits in offshore tax havens and actually paid the corporate tax rate of 35%.

**Letter to the Editor**

*The Mexico Ledger,* Robin Acree, **Grasroots Organizing Missouri,** 4/1/2013

# Montana Media Hits

[**Spending deal a good start, groups say**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/spending-deal-a-good-start-groups-say/article_662cf1ae-c42f-5c28-9ed2-06206aa9b34d.html)*The Billings Gazette,* Mike Ferguson, 12/12/2013

Sheena Rice, economic justice organizer with the **Montana Organizing Project**, said legislators from both parties are working to restrict the use of tax havens. The bills would raise up to $220 billion over 10 years — enough to fully replace the automatic spending cuts scheduled over the next 30 months, according to Rice.

Those proposals, she said, would “level the playing field” between large and small businesses by not allowing multinational firms tax subsidies for exporting jobs.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Law Would End Corporate Tax Dodging**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/mailbag/law-would-end-corporate-tax-dodging/article_c1b6505c-b21d-5691-a278-b494fcd47652.html)*The Billings Gazette,* Darrell Johnson, 11/24/2013

Lee Hamilton is right that getting down to the nitty gritty of tax reform takes guts ("Tax reform won't happen till Congress talks specifics," Nov. 10). But one vital part of the process he didn't mention was corporate tax reform. If our political leaders could develop the courage needed to challenge all the special preferences and breaks enjoyed by U.S. multinational corporations, we'd be well on our way to finally solving our ongoing budget dilemma without doing so on the backs of America's working families.

Unlike our economy, corporate tax dodging is hitting on all cylinders. Big names like General Electric, Apple, Verizon, Microsoft and Boeing use a combination of domestic and offshore tax loopholes to avoid billions of dollars of taxes every year.

There's a bill in Congress right now, the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act, that would clamp down on the worst overseas abuses, raising $220 billion and keeping American jobs home in the process! It deserves everyone's support.

[**Groups press lawmakers to reform taxes, protect Social Security, Medicare**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/groups-press-lawmakers-to-reform-taxes-protect-social-security-medicare/article_30dbb27c-3aea-5aca-bb28-806278730ae9.html)*The Billings Gazette,* Tom Lutey, 11/6/2013

Worried about cuts to Social Security and Medicare, advocates on Wednesday pressed Montana’s congressional delegation to close corporate tax loopholes instead.

“The weight of the deficit should not be burdened by the middle- and lower-income classes,” said Gy Moody of the **Montana Small Business Alliance**. “We should end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs and profits offshore. And, we should level the playing field for small businesses that create jobs in America.”

Moody was joined by representatives from **Angela’s Piazza**, the **Montana Organizing Project**, a retired refinery worker and disabled veteran. The group submitted petitions bearing several hundred signatures, which called for overhauling the tax code and investing in infrastructure and an educated workforce.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cut coroporate tax loopholes, not our kids’ future**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/guest/guest-opinion-cut-corporate-tax-loopholes-not-our-kids-future/article_0d2f4da1-a475-5ff4-a31a-34a90d177ef8.html#ixzz2jiVqQr4A)*The Billings Gazette,* Elrae Potts, **Indian People’s Action**, 11/1/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

As a longtime advocate for children in the Native American communities of Montana, I can confidently report that Indian child services are not the place to look for budgetary fat. Yet federal deficit-reduction “sequester” is cutting programs like Head Start and foster care support instead of raising revenue from the folks who have it: huge multinational corporations and unimaginably wealthy households. Until we create a fairer tax system, we’ll never dig our way out of debt or get our economy back in gear.

Tribal communities have historically experienced unemployment and other economic dislocations at a much higher rate than American society as a whole. More than one in four Indians lives in poverty, and one-third lacks health insurance. The Great Recession and long aftermath have only made things worse.

Ultimately, Native kids suffer most. As a social worker, every day I see the effects on children of hard times and inadequate public support.

**Op-Ed:** [**A number of issues Daines could focus on**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/mailbag/a-number-of-issues-daines-could-focus-on/article_86fc2c9d-4d7d-5ea9-8015-11ac2a24ad9c.html)*The Billings Gazette,* Kenneth Crouch, Billings City Council, 10/31/2013

Tax reform: And that means fairness. In a recent three-year period, 30 corporations made $160.7 billion, paid $10.6 billion in taxes and paid lobbyists $475.7 million to receive $67.9 billion in tax subsidies of which $265 million was put in tax havens. (From **Citizens for Tax Justice** and Corporate Taxpayers and Corporate Tax Dodgers, 2008-2010.) Daines should work with Sen. Max Baucus, who is making this a focus.

[**Protesters call for end to government shutdown**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-and-politics/protesters-call-for-end-to-government-shutdown/article_aa208c07-e9eb-5496-bb3b-fe4e8c36780d.html#ixzz2htP0ZjTs)  
*The Billings Gazette*, Ed Kemmick, 10/14/2013

A group of protesters gathered at the Billings office of U.S. Rep. Steve Daines on Monday, urging him to “shut down the shutdown.”

The protest was called by the **Montana Organizing Project**, which advertises itself as a coalition of groups working “for economic, racial and social justice in Montana.”

Lita Pepion, with **Indian Peoples Action**, told Flint that with so many Indian Country programs relying at least in part on federal funding, “everything is hurting.”

“Indian Country was already suffering from extreme poverty,” she said. “I didn’t think it could get any worse.”

Walt Gulick, another protester, chided Daines for aligning himself with the Tea Party faction of the GOP, saying it was wrong for such a small group to hold sway over the larger party. Another protester compared the Tea Partiers to the anarchists of the early 20th century.

Rice said the protest was hastily organized because many leaders of the groups that make up the Montana Organizing Project called her and asked that something be done. Monday was the best day for most of the leaders, Rice said, despite the holiday.

[**Letter to the Editor: Corporate Welfare**](http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20131007/OPINION/310070015/)*The Great Falls Tribune,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/7/2013

The Tribune’s Sept. 28 editorial, “Federal tax reform a laudable goal,” cited my organization’s opposition to corporate tax cuts as too expensive, costing $1.3 trillion over the next decade. But Americans for Tax Fairness has concerns with cutting the top corporate rate from 35 to 25 percent for other reasons. U.S. corporate profits are at 60-year highs while corporate taxes are near 60-year lows. Effective corporate income tax rates — what corporations actually pay — are about 27 percent and fully competitive with those of other advanced nations, according to a study by the Economic Policy Institute.

Its analysis also found no evidence that high corporate tax rates have a negative impact on economic growth.

Big corporations need to be paying their fair share of taxes; that means more not less. They’ve not contributed a dime for deficit reduction.

Sen. Max Baucus should start by closing loopholes that give companies tax breaks when they invest overseas or hide their profits in tax havens.

The Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act (S. 1533) by Sen. Carl Levin would do that, raising $220 billion over 10 years.

**Op-Ed:** [**Still much to address from Rev. King’s ‘I have a dream’ speech**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersWestern.pdf)  
*The Western News,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/10/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning up tax code starts with taking out trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyMissoulian.pdf)

*Missoulian,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**EDITORIAL: Federal tax reform a laudable goal***The Great Falls Tribune,* Editorial Board, 9/28/2013

Trying to lure some business back to America’s shores is a worthy goal through a lowering of the corporate tax rate, although the overall question is hardly a simple one. The advocacy group **Americans for Tax Fairness**, for instance, warns that cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 to 25 percent could cost the federal treasury at least $1.3 trillion over the next decade, according to one estimate from the Congressional Research Service.

[**Baucus Summit: Huge Lovefest for the Rich and the Powerful**](http://helenavigilante.com/archives/11224)*The Helena Vigilante,* Shane Castle, 9/17/2013

Or what about Fred Smith, CEO and founder of FedEx, who treated summit attendees to a folksy platitude about not drinking beer when you need to fix the lawnmower? According to the **Citizens for Tax Justice** study cited above, FedEx enjoyed an effective tax rate of less than one percent on more than $4 billion in profits between 2008 and 2010 . While it might be encouraging for some people to hear how a man started a company himself and built it into a global shipping powerhouse that makes billions a year, all one has to do is look at Smith’s mini biography provided on the summit’s website to get a sense of where he started on the playing field: “Smith founded Federal Express in 1971 with his own money. He started the business with an initial 25-city network and 14 jets.”

**Op-Ed:** [**Time to stop tax loopholes for big biz**](http://mtstandard.com/news/opinion/mailbag/our-readers-speak-time-to-stop-tax-loopholes-for-big/article_59bab3e2-1f6f-11e3-a9c9-001a4bcf887a.html)*The Montana Standard*, Melody Rice, **Montana Organizing Project**, 9/17/2013

A few weeks ago a contingent of Montanans journeyed to Washington, D.C. to experience first hand the ability to have our voices heard. I traveled with the group as a mental health professional and small business owner. The trip was educational, eye-opening and encouraging.

During our visit with Sen. Baucus we talked about tax reform — specifically closing tax loopholes that allow corporations to offshore their profits and avoid paying taxes. The Senator agreed that corporate tax loopholes need to end.

The current tax code needs to change and we need to encourage Sens. Baucus and Tester as they work to change the dramatic imbalance. Hard-working Americans, including small business owners, are paying their fair share and supporting our local communities while corporations are allowed to pay next to nothing! On average corporations pay just 12 percent in taxes while small business owners like myself, pay three times that of wealthy corporations and CEOs.

[**Montana panel offers Baucus tax reform ideas**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/montana-panel-offers-baucus-tax-reform-ideas/article_c8a4cc7c-dfd0-5a1a-9234-a6c9e1fb0bc6.html)

*Billings Gazette*, Associated Press, 8/22/2013

A panel advising U.S. Sen. Max Baucus on his plan to rewrite the nation’s tax code told him Thursday that the government should maintain deductions that benefit the poor, small businesses, education, retirement savings and innovation.

Baucus is working with the chairman of the House, Ways and Means committee, Republican Dave Camp of Michigan, on a plan to get rid of many tax credits, deductions and loopholes viewed as unproductive. They also want to reduce tax rates.

Baucus said he hopes the effort will result in the first major change to the tax code since 1986. He believes the code is disproportionately difficult on small businesses.

The Democrat, retiring at the end of 2014, said one issue remains the way large corporations have been able to identify overseas tax havens and essentially pay no taxes. He said the overall complexity is also hurting the nation’s competitiveness.

“In what way should it be simplified? I hear generally it is way too complicated,” Baucus said.

The advisory council of business, farming and labor leaders said tax benefits for low-income workers and children are important to keep. They highlighted the earned income tax credit and child care tax credit as incentives that have helped the working poor stay out of poverty.

“We’re of the belief that as you tear this down and build it back up you need to put these two provisions back in for families,” said Al Ekblad, with the **Montana State AFL-CIO**. “These are important and we would encourage you to keep.”

**Op-Ed:** [**Restore economic opportunity with corporate tax reform**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/guest/guest-opinion-restore-economic-opportunity-with-corporate-tax-reform/article_7a77857c-f84b-553f-b91c-2d0ec5c19d7b.html)*Billings Gazette,* Ken Crouch, Billings City Council, 8/19/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Ironically, FedEx provides another good example. Between 2008 and 2010, the company earned more than $4 billion, yet paid federal taxes of less than 1 percent, according to a report by the research organization **Citizens for Tax Justice**.

How did the company make so much money but pay so little in taxes? For one thing, it operated at least 21 subsidiaries in overseas tax havens, to which it could transfer profits to avoid paying the taxes.

But FedEx is not the worst offender. The same report found that more than two dozen huge, profitable corporations — including DuPont, Verizon and General Electric — either paid zero federal income taxes over that same three-year period or received refunds.

And while not every company can whittle their taxes down to less than a penny on the dollar, big, profitable corporations are paying at just one-third the official tax rate, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

All that lost revenue makes a difference. Our city council has been warned that under the across-the-board federal spending cuts known as the “sequester,” Billings will have to start laying off Head Start teachers this fall. That means fewer low-income kids getting the early boost they need to succeed in life. There will undoubtedly be other impacts on our quality of life — and even life-saving services — because of cuts that can be traced to corporate tax dodging.

Meanwhile, Montana’s families and small businesses are making up the difference for the tax avoidance of huge corporations. They pay an extra $900 per family each year, $2,100 per business — almost half a billion dollars statewide, according to a study by the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**.

**Op-Ed:** [**Legislature Must Address Big Needs of Oil-Impacted Towns**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/guest/guest-opinion-legislature-must-address-big-needs-of-oil-impacted/article_1973b9be-6008-54d1-9009-fce3e351d47c.html)

*Billings Gazette,* Brandon Schmidt, Baker City Council and **Montana Organizing Project,** 4/8/2013

The tax holiday for oil and gas companies means nearly $100 million in lost state revenue. The companies profiting the most need to pay their fair share. That money should go to repair and upgrade crumbling roads and bridges, to pay for expanded police, fire and ambulance service, to address overcrowded hospitals, and to address the Eastern Montana housing crisis.

Oil companies don't need the financial help. We can no longer afford to shortchange Eastern Montana's roads, schools, hospitals and emergency first responders -- all of which are significantly stressed due to the oil boom. This is why it is so frustrating to see so little movement by the Montana Legislature to reform oil and gas tax revenue to get communities like mine the critical help they need.

# Nebraska Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**William Rice: Help feds rehire public workers**](http://www.omaha.com/article/20130415/NEWS0802/704159997/1677)

*Omaha.com,* William Rice, **Americans for Democratic Action,** 4/15/2013

America’s economy is poised to roar ahead if only Washington would stop holding it back.

Ever since the Great Recession officially ended, the private sector has been adding jobs. What’s kept the economy in low gear and the unemployment rate stubbornly high has been the shrinking of government work forces: cops, teachers and other valuable public employees let go in the face of inadequate tax revenue.

# New Jersey Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Close offshore tax loopholes to fix budget mess**](http://www.nj.com/times-opinion/index.ssf/2013/10/opinion_close_offshore_tax_loo.html)*NewJersey.com,* Jen Kim, **New Jersey Public Interest Research Group**, 10/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

By using accounting tricks and taking advantage of our inefficient and loophole-ridden tax code, many large U.S.-based multinational corporations make their profits appear to be generated offshore, thereby avoiding paying U.S. taxes.

Some glaring examples: Microsoft keeps about $60 billion offshore, on which it would owe nearly $20 billion in U.S. taxes; Pfizer uses accounting gimmicks to shift the location of taxable profits offshore, allowing the company to report no federal taxable income in the U.S. in five years; and Google achieved an effective tax rate of just 2.4 percent on its overseas profits between 2008 and 2010, according to the January report by the **NJ PIRG** Law and Policy Center.

Corporate abuse of offshore tax havens allows corporations to avoid an estimated $90 billion in federal income taxes every year, plus from $40 billion to $70 billion lost to wealthy individuals shifting money offshore.

This tax dodging also deprives state governments of billions of dollars in revenue. Altogether, tax havens cost state governments nearly $40 billion in lost revenue in 2011. In New Jersey alone, the state lost more than $2.8 billion in state revenue due to offshore tax loopholes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical Device Tax giveaway would deny Americans Health Care**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeNJToday.pdf)*New Jersey Today,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 10/10/2013, Syndicated by American Forum  
  
In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash**](http://njtoday.net/2013/09/08/opinion-cleaning-up-the-tax-code-starts-with-taking-out-the-trash/)

*New Jersey Today,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeNJToday.pdf)

*NJ Today,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on $74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That's a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down debt.

**Op-Ed: Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**

*Trenton Times,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaNJToday.pdf)

*NJ Today,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

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**Op-Ed:** [**Corporate Tax Dodging is Simply Unpatriotic**](http://blog.nj.com/njv_guest_blog/2013/04/corporate_tax-dodging_is_simpl.html)

*The Star-Ledger,* Henry Passapera, New Jersey Main Street Alliance,4/25/2013

Take New Jersey’s own Honeywell. Although Honeywell has reported $5 billion in U.S. profits over the past four years, the company had an effective tax rate of just 1 percent. Meanwhile, it has $11.6 billion in profits socked away offshore, including in a subsidiary in Luxembourg — a widely used corporate tax haven according to an **Americans for Tax Fairness** report based on Honeywell’s SEC filings. It’s worth noting that Honeywell lists no plants or other facilities in Luxembourg.

Honeywell is by no means an outlier. A December 2012 report from Citizens for Tax Justice found the majority of Fortune 500 companies have disclosed offshore profit holdings, collectively amassing more than $1.6 trillion overseas.

[**Advocates, Students Confront Taxpayers About Christie’s Corporate Tax Cut Program**](http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20130415/NJNEWS/304150043/Advocates-students-confront-taxpayers-about-Christie-s-corporate-tax-cut-program?gcheck=1)

*My Central Jersey,* 4/16/2013

NEW BRUNSWICK — On Tax Day, representatives of a coalition of labor and community groups staged a demonstration and flyered a downtown post office to raise awareness about how the drastic increase in corporate tax breaks seen under the Christie administration so far has failed to create the jobs New Jersey needs.

Advocates brought a fake giant check for $2.1 billion made out to New Jersey corporations from the taxpayers of New Jersey and “signed” by Gov. Chris Christie. The flyers they handed out to taxpayers at the post office detailed some of the most eye-popping of Christie’s grants, including a $261 million tax cut for the developers of the bankrupt Revel casino, $12.3 million for bailed-out bank Citigroup and $210 million to Prudential Insurance to move four blocks down the street.

**Op-Ed:** [**Small Business Opposes Multinational Corporations’ Tax Avoidance**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappNJToday1.pdf)

*NJ Today,* Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council** 4/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Accounts of giant businesses like Boeing, General Electric, Pfizer, Microsoft and Honeywell International using offshore tax loopholes to dramatically lower their taxes " often to zero " are all too common. U.S. Public Interest Research Group just released report showing that each of America's small businesses on average picks up the tab for $3,067 to cover the costs of tax avoidance by U.S multinational corporations playing the offshore profit-shifting game.

It is clear to small business owners that the ability of these large corporations to minimize their tax liability through offshore tax loopholes is contributing to our nation's budget problems and is harmful to the small business community. This awareness of multinationals shirking their tax responsibility has resulted in a bipartisan small-business owner consensus on the need of large, multinational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

# New Mexico Media Hits

[**Desire to drop device tax not universal**](http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/blog/morning-edition/2013/10/desire-to-drop-device-tax-not-universal.html)  
*Albuquerque Business Journal,* Dennis Domrzalski, 10/16/2013

Not everyone wants Congress to repeal the medical device tax that is supposed to help fund the Affordable Care Act.

More than 100 organizations, including **Americans for Tax Fairness**, **Families USA** and labor unions have sent a letter to Congress urging its members to oppose legislation seeking to repeal the tax.

“This is a modest, 2.3 percent tax that is being assessed on medical devices such as coronary stents, irridation equipment, imaging machines, cardiac devices and orthopedic implants,” the letter said. “It will raise $29 billion over 10 years from a U.S. industry that had nearly $130 billion in sales in 2011 and that will reap significant benefits from health reform. The health insurance coverage of Americans should not be put at risk for the sake of one very profitable industry’s bottom line.”

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaDeming.pdf)

*Deming Headlight,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/08/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

# New York Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn its budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelCaribbean.pdf)  
*Caribbean Life*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelJamestown.pdf)

*The Sunday Post-Journal*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Take the trash out of the tax code, close corporate loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyCaribbean.pdf)

*Caribbean Life,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with fair tax and spending policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersCaribbean.pdf)  
*Caribbean Life,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/12/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Big corporations pay their fair share**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappCaribbean1.pdf)

*Caribbean Life*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/22/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeCaribbean.pdf)

*Caribbean Life,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on $74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That's a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down debt.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaCaribbean.pdf)

*Carribean Life,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaBuffaloNews.pdf)

*Buffalo News,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

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[**Group Says Major Corporations Aren’t Paying Their Fair Share of Taxes**](http://www.wicz.com/news2005/viewarticle.asp?a=27596)

*Fox 40 WICZ,* 4/15/2013

One group says some aren't paying their fair share of taxes - major corporations and top earners - the so-called one-percent.

**Citizen Action of New York** organized a rally at noon Monday in downtown Binghamton to highlight what it says are the major companies that have profits parked offshore to keep from paying taxes on them.

[**Group: Top Earners, Companies Should Pay ‘Fair Share’**](http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Hoping-to-make-the-top-1-pay-203079191.html)

*WBNG Binghamton,* Melissa Fleck, 4/15/2013

(WBNG Mews) As many people finish up their income taxes, members of **Citizen Action** and other local groups rally against larger corporations and tax breaks.

Members of Citizen Action deemed Monday's Tax Day as a time to call on Congress to make the top 1 percent of earners pay what they describe as their fair share.

# North Carolina Media Hits

[**Letter to the Editor: Help military families: Stop the sequester**](http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/12/18/3470477/help-military-families-stop-the.html)*Raleigh News and Observer,* Susan Reynolds, 12/18/2013

Right now, there is a bill called the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act (S. 1533) that would stop corporate tax dodging. This bill would make it harder for companies to hide their profits overseas. If military families are going to lose a vital tax credit that only goes to people who work, corporations shouldn’t get tax benefits by taking their money out of America.

Making sure profitable corporations pay their fair share is a good start, one easy fix that would get us on the right budget track. I’d like to see our federal delegation support efforts to ensure corporations pay their fair share. There’s one more thing we can do. We have to stop pretending that we can keep slashing the budget without harming the future. Yes, we all have to pull together in these economic times. We also have to face that investing in the future – our kids’ education, and families like yours and mine – pays off. To make those investments, we need new revenue.

**Op-Ed:** [**Clean up the tax code and take out trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyOxford.pdf)

*Oxford Public Ledger,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 11/7/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical device tax giveaway denies health care**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeCassville.pdf)*Casville Democrat,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/24/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelSpring.pdf)

*Spring Hope Enterprise*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/10/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelTarboro.pdf)

*Daily Southerner*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappGreensboro.pdf)

*Greensboro Business Journal*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/29/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Bad Bargain for Small Biz**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappCharlotte.pdf)*The Business Journal*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

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**Op-Ed: [Bad idea for corporate taxes](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeAshboro.pdf)**

*The Courier-Tribune,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

We need corporate tax reform, but not the type – like repatriation and territoriality – that encourages, rather than reduces, corporate tax dodging. And we don’t need reform that fails to generate any new revenue from Corporate America (which so far has contributed nothing to deficit reduction), and instead uses any increased collections from closing loopholes to reduce tax rates. A recent study by the Economic Policy Institute found that there was no correlation between lower corporate tax rates and economic growth – if anything, the economy did better when corporate tax rates were higher.

There’s real corporate tax reform legislation in Congress right now that would end off-shore tax loopholes and raise $600 billion over 10 years – money to restore battered public services, rev up our economy and pay down the debt. This is true corporate tax reform that would finally end the accounting magic show and force Apples’ floating subsidiaries back down to earth.

# Ohio Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersCleveland.pdf)  
*Cleveland Call and Post,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/11/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaChillicoathe.pdf)

*Chillicothe Gazette,* Op-ed by Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaCaribbean.pdf)

*Steubenvillle Sunday Herald-Star,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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# Oregon Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaEastOregonian.pdf)

*East Oregonian,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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# Pennsylvania Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelStMarys.pdf)

*St. Mary’s The Daily Press*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelRidgway.pdf)

*Ridgway Record*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersElHispano.pdf)  
*El Hispano,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/18/2013

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**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyKane.pdf)

*The Kane Republican,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

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*The Bucks County Courier Times,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementePocono.pdf)

*Pocono Record,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on $74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That's a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down debt.

**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeKane1.pdf)

*The Kane Republican,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaElHispano.pdf)

*El Hispano,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaScranton.pdf)

*Scranton Times,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaKane.pdf)

*Kane Republican,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaStMarys.pdf)

*St Mary’s Daily Press,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/09/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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# Rhode Island Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappKentCounty.pdf)*The Kent County Daily Times*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelKent.pdf)  
*Kent County Daily Times*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersWesterly.pdf)  
*Westerly Sun,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/7/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

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**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeWesterly.pdf)

*The Westerly Sun,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/18/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

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**Op-Ed:** [**Washington’s ‘Grand Bargain’ is no bargain for most**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaWesterly.pdf)

*The Westerly Sun,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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# Tennessee Media Hits

**Op-Ed: Congress:** [**Loopholes should go in 2014**](http://www.tennessean.com/article/A5/20131226/OPINION02/312260016/Frank-Clemente-Loopholes-should-go-2014)*The Tennessean,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/26/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater.

But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families — and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision — imposed by conservatives — not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelColumbia.pdf)  
*Columbia Daily Herald*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning up the tax code starts with taking out trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyNashville.pdf)

*Nashville Pride,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/20/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

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**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s ‘dream’ with fair tax policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersLaFollette.pdf)  
*La Follette Press,* Rep. John Coyners, 9/12/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

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**Op-Ed:** [**Corporate tax breaks are unfair to communities**](http://www.tennessean.com/article/20130909/OPINION03/309090012)  
*The Tennessean,* MaryAnne Howland, **American Sustainable Business Council**, 9/9/2013

There are dozens of corporate loopholes in the tax code. Many of them have no positive value for our country. Among the most egregious are accounting loopholes that allow American corporations to shift their profits earned in the U.S. to nations that impose little or no taxes on that income. This tax loophole costs the U.S. Treasury an estimated $90 billion a year. That’s nearly $247 million every day of the year.

Many other small-business owners agree with my concerns. Ninety-one percent of small-business owners said that it is a problem when big businesses use accounting gimmicks to avoid paying taxes, according to a national 2012 scientific poll sponsored by the American Sustainable Business Council. A majority of the poll respondents were Republicans.

Big-business tax dodging tilts the playing field against small business and undermines job creation and our communities.

Rather than preventing this tax dodging, some in Congress would rather talk about granting permanent tax incentives for that type of behavior. Chairman Camp, for instance, is a leading advocate for switching to a territorial tax system, which would exempt all offshore earnings from U.S. taxes, including U.S. profits shifted overseas through the magic of accounting tricks. That would open the floodgates to more U.S. profits flowing out of America.

**Op-Ed:** [**Most of us want corporate loopholes shut**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/GardnerMemphis.pdf)*The Commercial Appeal,* Matt Gardner, **Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy**, 9/7/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Democratic Senator Max Baucus and Republican Congressman Dave Camp, the chairmen of the tax committees in the Senate and House of Representatives, are visiting FedEx headquarters in Memphis this week to discuss tax reform, an effort they are leading in Congress. It's an apt, if awkward location for such a conversation.

The venue is apt because FedEx's taxpaying behavior is emblematic of the challenges facing anyone seeking to fix our corporate tax system; it's awkward because FedEx is a heavy feeder on tax breaks enthusiastically supported over many years by bipartisan majorities in Congress.

FedEx's founder and CEO, Frederick W. Smith, holds a view of our corporate tax code that many CEOs share, and has said we should "reduce our corporate tax rate to a worldwide competitive level of 25 percent and we have to go to what's called a territorial tax system."

What Smith does not mention, though, is that FedEx, like many corporations that are household names, has paid hardly anything in federal corporate income taxes in recent years. Yes, the statutory corporate income tax rate is 35 percent. But the effective corporate income tax rate -- the percentage of profits corporations actually pay in income taxes after accounting for various breaks and loopholes -- is much lower for companies like FedEx.

**Op-Ed:** [**Clean Up The Tax Code; Take Out The Trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyMaryville.pdf)

*The Morning Daily News,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/6/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaNashville.pdf)

*Nashville Pride,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaDailyHerald.pdf)

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# Texas Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeWaxahachie1.pdf)*The Waxahachie Daily Light,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/18/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelFocus.pdf)

*Focus Daily News*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Congress gets a failing grade for its education funding**](http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Van-Roekel-Congress-gets-a-failing-grade-for-its-4890777.php)  
*The Houston Chronicle*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Fulfill King’s Dream with Fair Tax and Spending Policies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ConyersBest.pdf)  
*Best Southwest Focus on the News,* Rep. John Coyners, 10/11/2013

But the most obvious failure to achieve equality is in the economic realm. With a few exceptions, U.S. income inequality has consistently worsened since reaching a low in 1968, according to the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Census Bureau. Over that same period, the average African-American household continued to earn about 60 percent of the average white household. The percentage of Americans living in poverty — after dropping to 11 percent in the years immediately following Dr. King’s 1963 speech — was back to 15 percent in 2011.

Wealth disparities are even more glaring. In 2010, the median white household had eight times the assets of the median black household, according to the Urban Institute. These huge discrepancies threaten our democratic institutions because concentrated wealth wields disproportionate political influence.

Although several factors have contributed to these troubling financial disparities, researchers have determined that roughly one-third of this escalating income inequality can be attributed to our skewed tax system and cuts to public services and benefits.

An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan no bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappHuntsville.pdf)

*Huntsville Item*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Small Business opposes corporations’ tax avoidance**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappBestSW.pdf)

*Best Southwest Focus on the News*, Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council**, 4/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Accounts of giant businesses like Boeing, General Electric, Pfizer, Microsoft and Honeywell International using offshore tax loopholes to dramatically lower their taxes " often to zero " are all too common. U.S. Public Interest Research Group just released report showing that each of America's small businesses on average picks up the tab for $3,067 to cover the costs of tax avoidance by U.S multinational corporations playing the offshore profit-shifting game.

It is clear to small business owners that the ability of these large corporations to minimize their tax liability through offshore tax loopholes is contributing to our nation's budget problems and is harmful to the small business community. This awareness of multinationals shirking their tax responsibility has resulted in a bipartisan small-business owner consensus on the need of large, multinational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

# South Carolina Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Plan Bad for Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappLakeWylie.pdf)*Lake Wyle Pilot*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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# Vermont Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Frank Clemente: No tax loophole for industry**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeBurlington.pdf)*Burlington Free Press,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelSpringfield.pdf)

*Springfield Reporter*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

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An unfair budget policy contributes to economic inequality in different ways. First, lower tax rates for the wealthy and numerous tax loopholes for large corporations keep money in the pockets of those who need it least. Then, the resulting decline in tax revenue causes Washington to slash investments in everything from job training to education to mass transit — the very resources American families need to pull through tough times and get ahead over the long-term.

# Virginia Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**This Christmas, help the unemployed, not Wall Street**](http://augustafreepress.com/frank-clemente-christmas-help-unemployed-wall-street/)*Augusta Free Press,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/24/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

When holiday shoppers make a bad choice, the worst result may be an ugly sweater. But Congress recently made a bad choice that will ruin the holidays for over a million families—and will spoil the coming new year for millions more.

That was the decision – imposed by conservatives – not to extend unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless, while maintaining huge tax loopholes for wealthy Wall Streeters and multinational corporations. Congress can reverse its choice in early January, but the clock is ticking.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Budget deal shows more work needed to protect individuals**](http://progress-index.com/news/op-ed/letters/virginia-organizing-budget-deal-shows-more-work-needed-to-protect-individuals-1.1600843)*ProgressIndex.com,* Sandra A. Cook, **Virginia Organizing**, 12/17/2013

Virginia Organizing is thankful for the hard work of members of Congress to reach a budget compromise that will be voted on at the end of the week. Virginia's own U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine were both a part of the conference committee that created the budget deal and we applaud their work.

Virginia Organizing was pleasantly surprised that cuts to Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare were left out of this deal, and thrilled that the budget deal means that deeper spending cuts from the sequester will no longer take effect in the new year. However, Congress missed an opportunity to close corporate tax loopholes that benefit only the wealthiest and most privileged Americans and instead chose to create a budget that penalizes people who are looking for jobs by ending long-term unemployment benefits.

Sen. Warner has repeatedly asked for "entitlement reform," which is an approach to cut important programs that benefit seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income Americans.

Virginia Organizing will continue to call on Sen. Warner to protect these programs and support closing tax loopholes that ship jobs and profits overseas. The profits of the wealthy and big corporations cannot be protected at the expense of individuals and families that need these programs to survive. This deal shows that we still have work to do.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax fairness would Allow Americans to invest again**](http://hamptonroads.com/2013/11/tax-fairness-would-allow-americans-invest-again)*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot,* Maria Fornella, 11/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Paying back taxes is one of the requirements for undocumented workers hoping to join the "pathway to citizenship" included in the immigration reform the U.S. Senate passed this summer.

That won't stop any of the immigrants I've worked with over the years from pursuing their dream of joining the mainstream of society. Many already have payroll and income taxes withheld from their paychecks; some pay taxes voluntarily as independent contractors.

They recognize that taxes help pay for everything they love about America.

If only American corporations were as patriotic. Despite complaints that corporate taxes are too high, corporations on average pay only a third of the official federal income tax rate, according to a recent study by the Government Accountability Office.

As a result, the slice of total federal revenue coming from the corporate income tax is at its lowest level since the 1950s, the Office of Management and Budget found.

How do huge corporations manage to dodge so much of their tax responsibility? Unlike Main Street businesses and domestic manufacturers, multinational firms can play an international shell game with their profits, sheltering cash in dummy corporations they establish in foreign tax havens.

**Op-Ed:** [**Will Congress learn budget lessons?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/VanRoekelRichmond.pdf)

*Richmond Voice*, Dennis Van Roekel, **National Education Association**, 10/15/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Will Congress ever get its act together? That question is likely on the minds of many Americans, but the latest impasse should actually serve as a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to make sure Congress focuses on the right priorities and moves the country forward. As a former educator, I do not believe in giving up on anyone, even a Congress that always seems to be at loggerheads. Here are a few key budget lessons that Congress should heed.

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical Device Tax giveaway would deny Americans healthcare**](http://augustafreepress.com/medical-device-tax-giveaway-deny-americans-healthcare/)*Augusta Free Press,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/14/2013

With some of America’s biggest medical device-makers hiding their profits in tax havens, it’s not surprising that the law requires that this small tax be on sales, not on profits.

A prominent Senate Republican recently floated the idea of repealing the medical-device tax as a “face-saving” measure for House Republican leaders who shut down the government in order to deny Americans health insurance. In essence, he is proposing to make all of us pay for a tax break to a very profitable industry in order to spare politicians some embarrassment. This is yet another sign that Washington’s priorities are seriously out of whack.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax fairness would Allow Americans to invest again**](http://hamptonroads.com/2013/11/tax-fairness-would-allow-americans-invest-again)*Tidewater News,* Maria Fornella, 11/13/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**EDITORIAL:** [**Education Cuts Unfair**](http://www.newsadvance.com/go_dan_river/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_af3e3da2-f0cb-11e2-ba3d-0019bb30f31a.html)

*GoDan River*, Editorial Board, 9/9/2013

The cuts toward educational programs seem very unfair to the children that are in them. The programs are losing money every year. Many have already been cut in the United States and thus cannot start back up. My solution is to get more funding from the government through corporations that aren’t paying taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash**](http://augustafreepress.com/gy-moody-cleaning-tax-code-starts-taking-trash/)

*Augusta Free Press,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/8/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan is not a bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappColonial.pdf)

*Colonial Voice*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad bargain for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappHampton.pdf)

*Hampton Roads Voice*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappPetersburg.pdf)*Petersburg Progress-Index*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/16/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s Tax Plan a Bad Bargain for Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappFauquier.pdf)*Fauquier Times-Democrat*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://augustafreepress.com/frank-clemente-apple-tax-dodging-highlights-need-for-reform/)

*Augusta Free Press,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/14/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Talk about taking your business to "the Cloud." In an ingenious effort to avoid billions of dollars in taxes, Apple, Inc., has been levitating subsidiaries between American and Irish soil, claiming that from a tax-law perspective, they exist in neither country and so are subject to neither country's taxing authority. And, sadly, the scheme has worked: no taxes have been paid to the U.S., a relatively paltry sum was paid to Ireland. Though this was Apple's most audacious tax-dodging scheme, it wasn't the only one.

Congressional investigators recently found that Apple had avoided paying virtually any taxes on $74 billion in offshore profits over the past four years. That's a big loss of revenue needed to hire teachers, build roads or pay down debt.

**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaAugusta.pdf)

*Augusta Free Press,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/23/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.

**Op-Ed: [Small Business Opposes Multinational Corporations’ Tax Avoidance](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappAugusta.pdf)**

*Augusta Free Press,* Frank Knapp, **American Sustainable Business Council** 4/17/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Accounts of giant businesses like Boeing, General Electric, Pfizer, Microsoft and Honeywell International using offshore tax loopholes to dramatically lower their taxes " often to zero " are all too common. U.S. Public Interest Research Group just released report showing that each of America's small businesses on average picks up the tab for $3,067 to cover the costs of tax avoidance by U.S multinational corporations playing the offshore profit-shifting game.

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[**Charlottesville Group Protests Tax Day**](http://www.newsplex.com/home/headlines/Charlottesville-Group-Protests-Tax-Day-203099681.html)

*Newsplex,* 4/15/2013

In Charlottesville, a group of people gathered on the downtown mall to protest how tax dollars are being spent in this country.

"**Virginia Organizing**" wants more money to be spent on schools, health care, and social programs and less money spent on the military.

# Washington Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyGrandCoulee.pdf)

*Grand Coulee Star,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/11/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

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Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Sen. Patty Murray will fight for sustainable budget**](http://blogs.seattletimes.com/northwestvoices/2013/10/26/sen-patty-murray-will-fight-for-sustainable-budget/)

*The Seattle Times,* Joelle Craft, Washington Community Action Network, 9/26/2013

Sen. Patty Murray is brave to be taking on the task of trying to negotiate with Republicans to find a solution to our pending budget crisis.

From shutting down Mount Rainier National Park to threatening benefits of veterans and families of the fallen, the recent closing of our government made the middle class the victim of right-wing Republican ideology.

I hope she will fight for a sustainable solution that focuses on growing our economy through responsible revenue options, rather than cutting Americans’ earned benefits like Social Security, or taking food from hungry children. Big corporations like Microsoft and GE continue to make record profits while avoiding taxes. Many corporations still get a tax break for sending good American jobs overseas. Closing these corporate-tax loopholes is a more responsible approach toward balancing the budget.

Shutdowns, sequesters and other budget crises could be avoided if members of Congress demand that huge multinational companies pay their fair share of taxes. It’s time to change the law, stop the overseas corporate tax dodging, open our government and invest in the U.S. again.

[**Coalition of small businesses urge Microsoft to end its offshore tax dodging**](http://blogs.seattletimes.com/microsoftpri0/2013/09/25/coalition-of-small-businesses-urge-microsoft-to-end-its-offshore-tax-dodging/)  
*The Seattle Times,* Janet I. Tu, 9/25/2013

Hundreds of small business owners are urging Microsoft to end its practice of avoiding certain U.S. taxes by keeping much of its cash hoard overseas.

About a half-dozen members of **Main Street Alliance**, a network of state-based small-business coalitions, went to Microsoft headquarters in Redmond today to deliver an open letter signed by more than 200 local small business owners.

The letter urged Microsoft to “reverse course and join us in calling for an end [to] offshore tax dodging in order to make economy-boosting investments in the U.S.”

Letter writers pointed to a Bloomberg News report that found Microsoft tops the list of corporations with the largest amounts of foreign profits untaxed by the U.S. government: $76.4 billion in 2012 in Microsoft’s case. Following Microsoft were IBM with $44.4 billion, Cisco with $41.3 billion and Apple with $40.4 billion.

Through “complex tax avoidance schemes,” the letter says, Microsoft has lowered its tax bill to well under the top official corporate tax rate of 35 percent. (Most corporations end up paying a lower effective rate.)

By keeping its foreign earnings overseas, companies pay taxes to the host country (which typically has tax rates lower than the U.S.’s). If the companies ever repatriate those earnings, the profits are taxed by the U.S. government.

[**Remake the U.S. tax code without hurting health care**](http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2021551869_deanaknutsenoped07xml.html)*The Seattle Times,* Deana Knutsen, 8/6/2013

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., and his Republican counterpart, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, recently proposed a “blank slate” approach to overhaul the tax code. Senators have essentially been told to assume the existing tax code is scrapped and to make the case for adding back any tax breaks and loopholes.

I hope senators used this opportunity to recommend changes that would restore equity and balance to a tax system that currently favors highly profitable corporations at the expense of everyday people and families.

The pattern we’ve seen over the past few decades has been to lower federal taxes on wealthy households and profitable corporations, leaving working families in Washington and across our nation three equally bad options: pay higher taxes, lose vital services or watch our nation go deeper in debt.

**Op-Ed:** [**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeGrandCoulee.pdf)

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[**Protest outside of Bank of America**](http://ctv4.criticalmention.com/playerpage/player?params=Y2xpcElkPTU3Mzg2MDQmc2xpbT0xJnBvd2VyZWQ9MSZyZXBvcnQ9dHJ1ZSZoaWRlQ2xpcENvbnRyb2xzPTEmbm9oZWFkZXI9MSZub21lbnU9dHJ1ZSZhdXRvUGxheT0xJnBhcnRuZXJUb2tlbj04YTM1OGMxMDNjMmE5ZjM0MDEzZDhhMTk3Nzk3NDQyNQ==) **[Audio]**

# West Virginia Media Hits

[**Editorial: U.S. budget: End loopholes, abuses**](http://www.wvgazette.com/Opinion/Editorials/201311150050)*The Charleston Gazette,* Editorial Board, 11/15/2013

Instead of cutting important government functions that actually nurture future prosperity, the country should tackle its deficit with new revenue. And some of that revenue could come from closing tax law loopholes that are now used and abused. For example:

• Change the law that encourages companies to shift jobs to other shores, said Steve Wamhoff, legislative director of **Citizens for Tax Justice**. American companies are allowed a foreign tax credit -- a credit for taxes they must pay in other countries. More problematic is allowing companies to defer paying taxes on offshore profits for years.

• End accounting tricks that make it appear profits are earned by subsidiaries in other countries, so they are not taxable in America. The IRS knows this is happening a couple ways, Wamhoff said in a recent conversation with the Gazette. One is that the profits American firms report to the IRS earned in Bermuda, for example, amount to 1,000 percent of Bermuda's GDP.

• Tax excess profits from intangible property. A firm may send a patent to Bermuda and then tell the IRS the company has to pay a huge royalty to a Bermuda subsidiary for the patented idea. That fake cost of doing business lowers the company's U.S. tax bill. The nation could collect another $23 billion by ending that practice.

No one is talking about taxing corporations to the point they cannot pay stockholders or invest in future innovations. On the contrary, America works best when everyone works and everyone contributes. The nation is large and complex and has real, legitimate shared expenses, from people who keep microbes out of the food up to sentinels who guard against larger threats.

[**Head Start Cuts – “Budget Mess Means Wealthy Get Tax Breaks While WV Kids Suffer”**](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2013-09-09/childrens-issues/head-start-cuts-budget-mess-means-wealthy-get-tax-breaks-while-wv-kids-suffer/a34401-1)  
*Public News Service*, Don Heyman, 9/9/2013

Sequestration - automatic cuts triggered by Congress's failure to find a budget compromise - have meant cuts to Head Start, with more on the way. Nationally, Head Start is serving 57,000 fewer children this year than last, 500 of them in West Virginia. According to **Americans for Tax Fairness**, the cuts to Head Start are about the same size as a tax break for corporate jets, and just one-tenth the size of a big loophole used by hedge-fund traders.

**Op-Ed:** [**Prosperity Agenda Should Replace Austerity Measures**](http://www.wvgazette.com/Opinion/OpEdCommentaries/201307220059)

*The Charleston Gazette*, Gary Zuckett, **WV Citizen Action**, 7/22/2013

"Across the nation, Head Start programs have ended their school years early, canceled summer programs, cut staff pay and benefits, and have begun to announce reductions in the number of children who will be served in the fall."

Thus begins a letter sent to Congress this week by 146 national social, faith and labor groups, including the Coalition on Human Needs and USAction.org. Five West Virginia groups, in addition to WV Citizen Action have also signed on.

[**Right Budget Choices Are Clear**](http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/594858/Right-budget-choices-are-clear.html?nav=5002)

*Martinsburg Journal,* John Christensen, 5/24/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Sometimes choices are hard-sometimes the right decision is clear. Right now, making the prudent national budget choices seems pretty simple to me.

On the one hand, there's the option of placing the full burden of federal deficit reduction on the backs of the middle class and poor, by undermining bedrock programs like Social Security, Medicare and education assistance. On the other hand, we could spread the burden by asking wealthy individuals and big corporations to contribute more to the common good. Does this seem like a hard choice to you?

[**Wall Street Needs to Pay Its Fair Share**](http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/574207/Wall-Street-needs-to-pay-its-fair-share.html)

*Parkersburg News and Sentinel,* Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizen Action Group,** 5/19/2013

Make Wall Street pay its fair share! Instead of whacking our overtime pay, he could co-sponsor the Wall Street Trading and Speculators Tax Act - which imposes a 0.03 percent (three hundredths of a percent) excise tax on the purchase of securities. We pay taxes on everything - the pack of chewing gum at the 7-Eleven to the used car bought with an income tax check. What taxes do all the million and billionaire Wall Street hustlers pay to buy and sell all that stock? None, there is no sales tax or "transaction tax" on all that paper shuffling they do to make their billions. Why not?

Plug the offshore tax haven loopholes and other ways the tax system is rigged in favor of big, multinational companies who hire stables of lobbyists in Washington. A recent national PIRG report released in West Virginia by our Citizen Action Group showed that the average West Virginia taxpayer in 2012 would have to shoulder an extra $621 in taxes to compensate for the revenue lost due to the use of offshore tax havens. The total cost of making up for this lost revenue in our state was reported as over $490 million. The West Virginia small business would have to pay nearly $2,300 to cover the cost of this loss to the state's treasury.

[**Wall Street Needs to Pay Its Fair Share**](http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/574207/Wall-Street-needs-to-pay-its-fair-share.html)

*Tyler Star News,* Gary Zuckett, **West Virginia Citizen Action Group,** 5/19/2013

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[**Group Says Average Resident Will Pay An Extra $620 in Taxes**](http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201304150183)

*Charleston Gazette,* Paul J. Nyden, 4/15/2013

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**, a partner with **Americans for Tax Fairness,** released information on Monday revealing the average West Virginia taxpayer will pay an extra $621 in taxes for 2012.

That $621 will cover tax revenues that were lost because corporations and wealthy individuals use offshore tax havens, like the Cayman Islands, to avoid paying their taxes.

# Wisconsin Media Hits

**Op-Ed:** [**Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care**](http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/frank-clemente-medical-device-tax-giveaway-would-deny-americans-health/article_9634948d-c489-522c-85c5-ce3948982d9d.html)*The Cap Times,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 10/21/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

In their efforts to defund the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives also demanded a $29 billion tax break for one of the country’s more profitable industries, medical device-makers. When they couldn’t get their way on Obamacare and the tax break, the GOP literally shut down the U.S. government. It was another dramatic example of how far the right wing will go to allow corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

**Op-Ed:** [**Taking out the tax code’s trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyWaupaca.pdf)

*Waupaca County Post West,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/12/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

A poll this year commissioned by the **Main Street Alliance** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** found 85 percent of small business owners oppose the “territorial” tax system pushed by offshore tax dodgers. By a margin of more than two to one, small business owners prefer closing corporate tax loopholes over cuts to education, infrastructure or Social Security and Medicare.

It’s time to end offshore tax dodging and close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations and wealthy special interests. Use the revenue to invest in strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether you’re a small business owner cleaning restaurants in Billings or a U.S. Senator cleaning up the tax code in D.C., the first step is taking out the trash.

**Op-Ed:** [**Cleaning Up The Tax Code Starts With Taking Out The Trash**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/MoodyKane.pdf)

*The Kane Republican,* Gy Moody, **Main Street Alliance**, 9/9/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

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**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan bad for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappWisconsin.pdf)

*Wisconsin Dells Events*, Frank Knapp Jr., **American Sustainable Business Council**, 8/28/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

President Obama is right to address the urgent need to modernize our once grand infrastructure. Unfortunately, the president’s corporate tax reforms would leave us in a deeper hole down the road.

The president’s plan to cut corporate tax rates responds to the tireless mantra of U.S. multinational corporations that America’s tax rates hurt their global competitiveness. In reality, American corporations are enjoying their highest level of profits in 60 years while their federal income taxes are close to the lowest level. The Government Accountability Office recently reported that large profitable U.S. corporations paid an effective federal tax rate of just 12.6 percent in 2010, a rate lower than many small businesses and middle-class families.

**Op-Ed:** [**Obama’s tax plan a bad deal for small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappWaupaca.pdf)

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**Op-Ed:** [**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/TrumkaWisconsin.pdf)

*Wisconsin Dells Events,* Richard Trumka, **AFL-CIO**, 5/25/2013, Syndicated by American Forum

Most voters agree that big corporations and the wealthy should start paying their fair share in taxes. But of course big corporations and the wealthy don't want to do that. They want to pay less, and they are used to getting their way. So what do you do?

Some people in Washington think the answer is a "Grand Bargain." In a "Grand Bargain," Republicans agree to stop protecting millionaires from having to pay a single penny more in taxes. In return, Democrats agree to cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits. That doesn't sound like a bargain to me. It sounds more like working people getting ripped off. Of course big corporations and the wealthy need to start paying their fair share -- but cutting benefits is not the answer.