**Summary of Select News and Commentary from Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF), May 2012-June 26, 2013**

*Press clips included in this report were generated from activities sponsored by ATF, including from the work of national and state field partners. A press clip is included that either in whole or in large part was generated by work supported by ATF and /or by its partner organizations.*

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# National Media Hits

[**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.

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

*Al Jazeera,* Op-Ed by Mattea Kramer, 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.”

[**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.

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

*Crooks and Liars,* Op-Ed by Frank Clemente, 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.

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

*The Huffington Post,* Richard Eskow, 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

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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/)

*The Huffington Post,* Mattea Kramer, **National Priorities Project,** 4/11/2013

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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.

[**Karen Nussbaum: A Working America Message from the field. “Tax Fairness is the Best Answer in Budget Fights”**](http://www.thedemocraticstrategist.org/strategist/2013/03/karen_nussbaum_a_working_ameri.php)

*The Democratic Strategist,* Karen Nussbaum, 3/24/2013

Across the country, we're looking at state and local budget fights, and finding strong support for fair taxes. People want to see corporations and the very wealthy pay their fair share, rather than seeing the tax burden shifted towards working people or having their services cut.

In Philadelphia, our most effective strategy has been to use a message that combines the increase in property taxes with the decrease in city services. For example, our organizers are saying, "We pay more to the city and get less from it while Mayor Michael Nutter hands out huge tax breaks to major corporations like Comcast. It's just not fair."

[**Cliff Deal May Have Set Back Tax Reform for Good**](http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2013/01/09/Cliff-Deal-May-Have-Set-Back-Tax-Reform-for-Good.aspx#page1)

*The Fiscal Times,* Josh Boak, 1/9/2013

Progressive groups like **Americans for Tax Fairness** are planning rallies beginning at the end of the month to push this perspective.

“The Democrats are feeling a confidence on the tax issue that they haven’t felt before,” said Frank Clemente, campaign manager for the advocacy group. “They see it as having been a winning issue electorally.”

[**Beware the Defaults of March**](http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2013/01/09/four-things-that-will-determine-who-wins-the-debt-ceiling-fight-beware-the-defaults-of-march)

*U.S. News and World Report,* Robert Schlesinger, 1/9/2013

Who defines "balance"? Many conservatives see the fiscal cliff deal as a "complete surrender," as winger columnist Charles Krauthammer put it on Fox News last week. He and others cited a Congressional Budget Office scoring of the deal that it had a 41 to 1 ratio of tax hikes to spending cuts. This, they say, means that more tax revenue is now off the table.

Obama and his allies see the deal as part of a continuum. As the liberal group **Americans for Tax Fairness** notes, including the $1.5 trillion in spending restraint enacted last year, the ratio has been more like $2.50 in spending cuts for every dollar of tax increases. And the Center for American Progress released an analysis yesterday showing that of the $2.4 trillion in deficit reduction enacted since the start of fiscal year 2011, three quarters has come from spending cuts.

[**The Fiscal Cliff Deal, By The Numbers**](http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2013/01/02/1384291/the-fiscal-cliff-deal-by-the-numbers/)

*Think Progress,* Pat Garofalo, 1/2/2013

$2.50 in spending cuts for every $1 in revenue. As **Americans for Tax Fairness** noted, “This bill raises $620 billion over 10 years, but $1.5 trillion in budget cuts were already enacted last year; that means for every one dollar in new taxes there have been 2.5 dollars in spending cuts to reduce the deficit.”

[**More Theft Under the Guise of the Fiscal Cliff**](http://truth-out.org/news/item/13619-more-theft-under-the-guise-of-the-fiscal-cliff)

*Truthout,* Kevin Zeese, 12/30/2012

Not all business leaders put their personal gain ahead of what is best for the country. The **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **Main Street Alliance** have [called on Congress and the President to close corporate tax haven loopholes](http://itsoureconomy.us/2012/12/business-leaders-say-time-for-plan-c-big-corporations-should-pay-fair-share-in-fiscal-cliff-deal/) costing the U.S. Treasury $100 billion a year and raise corporate tax revenues above today’s historically low levels. They note corporate taxes accounted for less than 8% of federal tax revenues – way down from 32% in 1952.

“With corporate profits at a 50-year high and corporate taxes as a share of the economy at a 50-year low, now is not the time to lock in low corporate taxes,” said Joseph Magid, president of Gryphon Systems, a management consulting company in Wynnewood, PA. “Our country cannot afford to keep giving tax breaks and loopholes to giant corporations at the expense of smaller businesses. Highly profitable U.S. multinationals should pay their fair share.”

[**Time for Plan C -- Close the Floodgates on Corporate Tax Dodging**](http://www.rollcall.com/news/sklar_and_klinger_time_for_plan_c_close_the_floodgates_on_corporate_tax-220376-1.html)

*Roll Call,* Op-ed by Holly Sklar and Scott Klinger, **Business for Shared Prosperity,** 12/28/2012

America’s small business owners across the political spectrum reject big business attempts to dress up their U.S. profits in Bermuda shorts in order to reduce their tax bills. In a nationwide poll of small business owners earlier this year, 91 percent of those surveyed said it is a problem that U.S. multinational corporations use accounting loopholes to shift their U.S. profits to offshore subsidiaries — often little more than a brass nameplate and a P.O. Box — to avoid taxes.

If Congress is looking for billions, rather than look to retirees or the poor, members should look offshore. Dollars that Congress votes to take from low-income Americans through cuts to food stamps or the Earned Income Tax Credit or from Social Security recipients through adoption of a stingier cost-of-living formula are dollars that will not be spent at corner grocers or other Main Street businesses.

[**Small Biz, the Fiscal Cliff, and the Big, Bad Bank**](http://www3.cfo.com/article/2012/12/credit-capital_fiscal-cliff-small-business-libor-ubs-offshore-profits-taxes-apple-microsoft)

*CFO.com,* David Rosenbaum, 12/27/2012

According to a February 2012 survey sponsored jointly by three small-business advocacy groups, the **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Main Street Alliance**, and **Small Business Majority**, the greatest point of agreement (90%) among the 500 small-business owners they polled (50% self-identifying as Republicans; 32% as Democrats, and 15% as independent) was that [large corporations using loopholes to avoid taxes “that small businesses have to pay” cause their own businesses to suffer.](http://asbcouncil.org/sites/default/files/files/Small_Business_Poll_Summary.pdf)

“Small business,” says David Levine, chief executive officer of the ASBC, believes that “the [tax] rules are rigged against them.” Big companies, Levine says, can register their intellectual property — trademarks, patents, and other creative assets — with offshore entities, charge large fees, take the cash, and send it to tax-favorable jurisdictions such as the Cayman Islands, Liechtenstein, and, of course, Switzerland, and “end up with no [taxable] profit in the U.S. and big [lightly taxed] profits offshore.”

[**A plea for tax fairness from small businesses**](http://www.businessforsharedprosperity.org/content/mcclatchy-tribune-news-service-plea-tax-fairness-small-businesses)

*McClatchy Tribune News Service,* Jim Spencer 12/24/12

WASHINGTON - The plea arrived from the hinterlands as a letter with 626 signatures of small-business executives, owners and operators, including 16 from Minnesota.

A coalition of small businesses assembled by three trade groups -- the **American Sustainable Business Council, Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **Main Street Alliance** -- begged the president and Congress to "make big corporations pay a larger share of taxes" as part of any "grand bargain" to deal with the nation's fiscal cliff and financial deficit.

[**'Fiscal cliff': Is there a Plan C to avoid tax increases, spending cuts?**](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/12/23/Fiscal-cliff-Is-there-a-Plan-C-to-avoid-tax-increases-spending-cuts/UPI-67891356254160/#ixzz2Hgm9xCbM)

*UPI,* Marcella Kreiter, 12/23/2012

By Friday, however, a Plan C was emerging on the left that would sock it to big corporations, whose share of federal tax payments had fallen to less than 8 percent in 2011 from a high of 32 percent in 1952, said the Institute for Public Accuracy, which says it enables progressive and grassroots organizations to get their views before the media.

The institute said more than 600 business owners and executives have signed a letter to Obama and Congress, urging a tax system "that is fair and provides sufficient revenue for the public services and infrastructure that underpin our economy. When powerful, large U.S. corporations avoid their fair share of taxes, they undermine U.S. competitiveness, contribute to the national debt and shift more of the tax burden to domestic businesses, especially small businesses that create most of the new jobs."

[**In tax fight, ‘small business’ is a term with many meanings**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-tax-fight-small-business-is-a-term-with-many-meanings/2012/12/22/d29837e6-489a-11e2-b6f0-e851e741d196_story.html)

*Washington Post*, T.W. Farnam and Tom Hamburger, 12/22/2012

As the battle over tax rates has escalated, the White House has been able to highlight small businesses that back its approach on individual tax rates. For example, the **Main Street Alliance**, which uses the slogan “Small business owners. Small business values,” is an offshoot of the **Alliance for a Just Society**, a foundation that describes its mission as addressing “economic, racial and social inequality” and “strengthening community organizations.”

Another business group allied with the White House, the **American Sustainable Business Council**, only recently began operations as an independent entity. It was formed in 2009 with funding from the nonprofit Environmental Health Fund. The council’s chief executive and co-founder, David Levine, said it was set up in part to represent “a significant group of businesses” who have a different sense of the “bottom line,” meaning that their chief executives believe you can achieve strong profits “while providing social and environmental benefits.”

[**NOW with Alex Wagner**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=205&DateTime=12%2F21%2F2012+12%3A54%3A16&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

MSNBC, 12/21/2012, aired at 12:54 P.M.

“....cannot get a deal and, two, to hold them firm in that protecting low income folks. We’ve always protected low income folks when it comes to making tough budgetary choices, so it's that strategy. We're also continuing on the bus. Yesterday we were rabbis, imams and pastors and nuns on the bus on Capitol Hill. It got a good response, and we got a good reception in various political offices. >> Well, Sister Simone, thank you for sending time with us and telling bus your work. >> Oh, happy to do it. What people need to know, this is about Christmas. This is the best of who we are as a nation. We need to speak up for those who are left out. >> Absolutely. Well, again, thank you. I want to flip it back to the panel for a moment.”

[**Big Trouble for GOP Sacred Cows- Guns and Taxes**](http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2012/12/21/Big-Trouble-for-GOP-Sacred-Cows-Guns-and-Taxes.aspx#page1)

*The Fiscal Times,* Josh Boak and Eric Pianin, 12/21/2012

Americans for Tax Reform, Norquist’s organization, amended its Wednesday statement on the bill, saying it should not be construed as an endorsement. The addendum suggested that Norquist – a Harvard man of piquant sound bites – would rather stay silent on the matter. Not surprisingly, critics of Norquist are louder than ever.

If some forms of tax increases are now acceptable, they reason, then the pledge loses its clout. Norquist becomes a Republican apologist, rather than an enforcer of conservative ideals. “Norquist’s statement is the height of hypocrisy,” said Frank Clemente, campaign manager of the progressive **Americans for Tax Fairness**. “He clearly has a double-standard based on whether it’s a Democrat or Republican proposing to raise taxes.

[**The Progressive Plan B for the Fiscal Cliff**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/12/20/what-progressives-are-pushing-for-now-in-a-fiscal-cliff-deal/)

*The Washington Post (Wonkblog),* Suzy Khimm, 12/20/2012

A coalition of progressive groups is now urging the White House to push for corporate tax reform that would raise additional revenue, rather than revenue-neutral reform that would close loopholes and further lower rates (i.e. “rate-lowering, base-broadening” reform). “Clearly, change is needed to raise more revenue from corporations and to make the corporate tax system fairer, especially to small businesses competing against large companies and domestic companies competing against multinationals,” wrote the campaign, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, in a letter to the White House signed by 500-plus lefty organizations.

The White House, however, has already given strong indications that it would support revenue-neutral reform: Though its own February plan raises $250 billion in new corporate tax revenue, it’s all ultimately offset by lower rates. But even if both parties agree on revenue-neutrality for the tax overhaul, the result will hinge on how “revenue-neutral” is defined.

[**Local Faith Leaders Weigh In On Fiscal Cliff**](http://wamu.org/news/12/12/20/local_faith_leaders_weigh_in_on_fiscal_cliff) **[Audio]**

*WAMU,* Armando Trull, 12/20/2012

Local faith leaders met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill today to highlight priorities in addressing the fiscal cliff. "We're here to stand with those low-income families and seniors in our communities who are suffering already and helping to bring that message to Congress that we don't need to harm them any further by any legislation that might make them suffer more," said Sister Kristin Matthis.

The group traveled to the capitol in a big yellow bus with a sign on the side reading: "Rabbis, Imams, Pastors, and Nuns." The interfaith group is looking to highlight the moral

issues at stake in the debate over the fiscal cliff.

[**‘Revenue-neutral’ tax reform takes hit**](http://www.businessforsharedprosperity.org/content/politico-revenue-neutral-tax-reform-takes-hit)

*Politico,* Lauren Spencer and Joseph Schatz 12/14/12

Some liberals are putting corporations on notice: A tax reform next year could cost you.

Sen. Carl Levin predicted Friday that the Democrat-controlled Senate would not pass a corporate overhaul if it doesn’t raise hundreds of billions of dollars on companies — taking issue with the widely held notion that a corporate tax re-write should be “revenue-neutral.”

[**Sen. Levin, Small Businesses Push for Corporate Tax Hikes**](http://www.nationaljournal.com/blogs/influencealley/2012/12/sen-levin-small-businesses-push-for-corporate-tax-hikes-14)

*National Journal,* Niraj Chokshi, 12/14/2012

Earlier this week, theBusiness Roundtable, a group which counts as members the heads of many of the nation’s largest companies, [called for all options](http://www.nationaljournal.com/blogs/influencealley/2012/12/business-roundtable-defends-new-tax-stance-12) to be put on the table in talks to avert the $500 billion in year-end tax hikes and spending cuts that comprise the fiscal cliff.

Friday's call was hosted by the **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **Main Street Alliance**, which are collecting signatures for a letter to Congress and President Obama to reform the tax system in a way "that is fair and provides sufficient revenue for the public services and infrastructure that underpin our economy."

[**Sen. Levin wants corporate tax revenue in a fiscal cliff deal**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/12/14/fiscal-cliff-deal-could-be-huge-corporate-giveaway-advocates-worry/)

*Washington Post,* Suzy Khimm, 12/14/2012

This week marked the first time that President Obama has explicitly proposed corporate tax reform as part of his offer on the “fiscal cliff” — something that Republicans and large corporations have long been gunning for. But advocates for higher taxes on corporations worry that the White House and Congress will end up passing a fiscal cliff deal that would fail to force big companies to pay their fair share.

“Our nation cannot afford ‘revenue neutral’ corporate tax reform that leaves corporate taxes as a share of our economy at historically low levels,” a coalition of business leaders wrote in a [letter](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/12/14/fiscal-cliff-deal-could-be-huge-corporate-giveaway-advocates-worry/Advocates%20worry%20fiscal%20cliff%20deal%20could%20be%20a%20huge%20corporate%20giveaway) to Congress and the White house, calling for legislators to reject a fiscal cliff compromise “that would lock in today’s historically low levels of corporate tax receipts.

[**Carl Levin: Corporate revenues must be in debt deal**](http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/domestic-taxes/272991-carl-levin-corporate-revenues-must-be-in-debt-deal#ixzz2HxuMgk7D)

*The Hill,* Bernie Becker, 12/14/2012

Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) pushed Friday for including tens of billions of dollars in additional revenues from corporations into any year-end tax-and-spending deal.

On the Friday call, Levin said that he wanted the elimination of corporate tax breaks to be an immediate revenue-raiser in a deal, or that a commitment to end those incentives be part of a broader, long-term deal.

[**Small Business Leaders Urge Closing of Corporate Tax Haven Loopholes**](http://www.accountingtoday.com/news/Business-Leaders-Urge-Closing-Corporate-Tax-Haven-Loopholes-65006-1.html)

*Accounting Today,* Michael Cohn, 12/14/2012

Hundreds of business leaders who are part of a trio of advocacy groups have signed a [**letter**](http://asbcouncil.org/sites/default/files/library/docs/businesscorporatetaxletter121412final.pdf) calling on Congress and President Obama to close corporate tax haven loopholes that cost the U.S. Treasury $100 billion a year.

The letter urges the Obama administration and Congress to reject “revenue neutral” corporate tax reform in a fiscal cliff deal that would have the effect of essentially locking in today’s historically low levels of corporate tax receipts. The business leaders encouraged lawmakers and the President to restore tax revenues lost to corporate tax avoidance and resist lobbying by CEOs to create a territorial tax system that would reward corporations for shifting more U.S. profits and jobs overseas.

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/272051-preserving-the-social-contract#ixzz2H2TRTyjk)

*The Hill,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life**, and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/11/2012

“Faith leaders of the **PICO National Network** are telling our elected officials in no uncertain terms that protecting the poor, preserving the social contract and making the richest Americans pay their fair share are nonnegotiable priorities. This message is particularly important as corporate CEOs intensely lobby both parties to enact an agenda that cuts taxes for rich people and powerful corporations while undermining needed benefits for seniors and working families. Trickle-down economics and austerity benefit only the wealthy and powerful, and the rest of us pay the price.”

[**Fiscal Cliff Spin Wars Show Small-Business Split**](http://www.rollcall.com/news/fiscal_cliff_spin_wars_show_small_business_split-219622-1.html)

*Roll Call,* Eliza Newlin Carney, 12/4/2012

Long dominated by GOP-friendly trade associations such as the National Federation of Independent Business, the small-business advocacy community is increasingly making room for upstart liberal groups. These include the **American Sustainable Business Council**, which [boasted](http://asbcouncil.org/small-business-owners-talk-taxes-pres-obama) that four of its members attended last week’s exclusive White House briefing for 15 small-business leaders.

“For once, we finally have a forum,” said ASBC co-founder and CEO David Levine, who added that his group was founded in part as a counter-weight to the NFIB and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Such groups “were not representing the voices of large numbers of businesses,” he said...

But more moderate small-business groups, including the **American Sustainable Business Council**, the **Main Street Alliance** and the **Small Business Majority**, released their own [survey](http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/small-business-research/regulations/regulations-poll.php) concluding that the majority of small-business owners actually want to see taxes increase for those making $250,000 and above to facilitate job creation and infrastructure investments.

[**Inside What Small-Business Owners Had to Say to Obama About the Fiscal Cliff**](http://www.entrepreneur.com/blog/225119)

*Entrepreneur,* Cheryl Winokur Munk, 11/30/2012

Chris Yura, the CEO and founder of [SustainU](http://www.sustainuclothing.com/), an apparel company in Morgantown, W. Va., which uses only recycled material and American labor, was among those invited to the White House. Here, Yura discusses the meeting and some takeaways for small-business owners.

[**More Taxes for the Rich…and Small Business?**](http://smallbusiness.foxbusiness.com/entrepreneurs/2012/11/29/more-taxes-for-richand-small-business/)

*Fox Business,* 11/29/2012

Lisa Goodbee, president of Goodbee and Associates, started her business in 1994 with her then-newcomer’s sense of optimism and determination. Nineteen years later, she says she considers herself fortunate, with annual company earnings of $400,000. “I worked hard for many years to build a company,” she said. “It’s a success, and there’s a price for success.”

That “price” she speaks of is set to go up when President Obama’s agenda to raise taxes on those who earn more than $250,000 annually kicks in. Because Goodbee and Associates is registered as a sub S Corp., the earnings from her company roll onto Goodbee’s personal taxes. “I can afford it,” she said. “I am fortunate enough, and I don’t think that anyone in that tax bracket will see this make a huge difference.”

[**Fiscal Cliff Follies: Four Myths**](http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnwasik/2012/11/29/fiscal-cliff-follies-four-myths/)

*Forbes,* John Wasik, 11/29/2012

Here are some myths that should be noted in the process of fact checking arguments.

1) **Small businesses will be hurt by income-tax increases.** According to the group [**Business for Shared Prosperity**](http://www.businessforsharedprosperity.org/content/business-leaders-say-end-tax-cuts-top-2-percent-reinvest-main-street-america), (BSP) “the vast majority of small business owners have less than $250,000 in taxable income and receive the middle-class tax cuts, not the extra tax cuts for the wealthy. Less than 3 percent of households with business income are above the $250,000 threshold, and that includes hedge fund managers, corporate lobbyists, big business CEOs paid to sit on the boards of other big corporations, and wealthy people renting out their vacation homes.”

[**Lew Prince Interview [Business for Shared Prosperity]**](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/50011056/ns/msnbc-the_ed_show/t/ed-show-wednesday-november-th/#.UPQ7yeTLQl9)

*MSNBC’s The Ed Show*, 11/28/2012

*Transcript:*

SCHULTZ: Mr. Prince, I was struck by your comment outside the White House yesterday when you said basically raising taxes on the job creators is the wrong thing to do. I think you made a direct hit right there on the Republican philosophy. But to the brass tacks of your business, how does this tax deal affect you and other small businesses?

LEW PRINCE, OWNER, VINTAGE VINYL: Well, to me, the middle class tax cut puts money in the hands of consumers. And our economy is consumer- driven. And the more consumers who have more money, the better it is for small businesses like me.

You know, this puts $2,000 to $3,000 in the hands of regular, ordinary working people who will spend it. The lower taxes on the rich just sends more money outside of our community, outside of our country, to make bankers in the Cayman Islands happy.

[**What Small Business Owners Would Like to See in Fiscal Cliff Deal**](http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/1995646701001/what-small-business-owners-would-like-to-see-in-fiscal-cliff-deal) **[Video]**

*Fox News,* Neil Cavuto, 11/28/2012

Interview with Lew Prince, **Business for Shared Prosperity**.

[**Durbin: 'Fiscal cliff' can be averted**](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/11/27/Durbin-Fiscal-cliff-can-be-averted/UPI-40751354005000/#ixzz2HyGxnXGR)

*UPI,* 11/27/2012

Unless Congress acts, the [George W. Bush](http://www.upi.com/topic/George_W._Bush/)-era tax cuts expire Dec. 31 and deep cuts in defense spending kick in. President Obama advocates raising taxes on those earning more than $250,000 a year and eliminating some deductions. Republicans reject raising taxes but have said they are open to closing loopholes in the tax code as well as slashing discretionary spending.

"Large and growing budget cuts have had a severe impact on business, particularly micro and small business and job creation -- reducing funding for infrastructure improvements, community economic development programs, housing, job training and much more," **American Sustainable Business Council** and **Business for Shared Prosperity** said in a letter to Congress. "America's failing infrastructure is starved of funds and falling further behind our global competitors. ... The high-end tax cuts are hurting our economy. It's time to end them, not extend them. This would be an important step in rebuilding an economy that grows our small businesses and middle class."

[**Obama Keeps Pressure On Congress Over Fiscal Cliff**](http://www.npr.org/2012/11/27/166023482/obama-keeps-pressure-on-congress-over-fiscal-cliff)

*NPR,* Scott Horsley, 11/27/2012

SCOTT HORSLEY, BYLINE: President Obama has not had much luck yet persuading congressional Republicans to adopt his tax proposal. So he's turning instead to the American people in hopes they can move Congress to see things his way. All this week, the administration will be showcasing ordinary Americans who stand to benefit if Congress agrees to keep most tax rates low while raising taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent.

Mr. Obama met today with owners of a trucking company, a construction firm, a microbrewery and Lewis Prince, who owns a vintage record store in St. Louis.

LEW PRINCE: What grows jobs in America are consumers spending money, and the average person needs that $2- or $3,000 a year in his pocket to help drive the economy.

[**Obama Tries to Assuage Small Businesses' Fiscal Fears**](http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-11-27/obama-tries-to-assuage-small-businesses-fiscal-fears)

*Bloomberg,* John Tozzi, 11/27/2012

Ickert, a member of the National Small Business Association, says Obama and his aides indicated that they would try a “two-stage effort,” extending the current tax rates on income under $250,000 before yearend and then tackling thornier problems like simplifying the tax code in 2013.

That, of course, means allowing tax rates to rise for top earners’ income over $250,000 starting on New Year’s Day, a move Republicans have opposed, often portraying it as a tax hike on business owners. “I am in the higher tax bracket and the 3.5 percent is not going to change my world, and it’s certainly not going to drive my business decisions in terms of hiring or firing,” says Lisa Goodbee, president of Colorado engineering firm [Goodbee & Associates](http://www.goodbeeassoc.com/), who was also in the room. “I can’t say for certain that that was everyone’s opinion in the room,” says Goodbee, who supported Obama’s campaign.

[**Who Are the Small Business Owners Obama Hosted?: White House lines up stalwart supporters to counter anti-business image**](http://www.nationaljournal.com/politics/who-are-the-small-business-owners-obama-hosted--20121127)

*National Journal,* Sophie Quinton and Lara Seligman, 11/27/2012

“If you look at the people going into the White House today—none of us are asking for a tax break for ourselves or for our company, or anything personal. We’re here because we’re patriots,” said participant Lew Price, co-founder of Vintage Vinyl, Inc., a store in St. Louis, Missouri.

“We don’t want to be the only generation since World War II to hand the next generation worse infrastructure, and worse schools, and worse communications systems,” Price said. “Basically, the people who are defending the tax cuts for the rich are saying that it’s more important that they take home 70 percent of their profits than that they take home 60 percent of their profits to help the country.”

[**Obama promotes tax agenda, Congress in stand-off**](http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSBRE8A80WV20121127?irpc=932)

*Reuters,* Richard Cowan and Jeff Mason, 11/27/2012

At the White House, small business leaders emerged from a one-hour meeting with Obama to voice support for his goal of extending low tax rates for the middle class beyond the end of the year, while letting rates rise for wealthier taxpayers.

The business owners urged Obama "to fight to keep the middle class tax cuts," said Lew Prince, co-founder of Vintage Vinyl, an independent music store in St. Louis, Mo. "What grows jobs in America is consumers spending money, and the average person needs that two or three thousand dollars a year in his pocket to help drive the economy," Prince told reporters at a news conference outside the White House.

[**Small biz owners show support for ending tax cuts for wealthy**](http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2012/11/27/small-biz-owners-show-support-for.html)

*The Business Journal*, Wendy Strong, 11/27/2012

More than 600 small business owners and executives, including six from Wisconsin, have signaled support for a call to end Bush-era tax cuts for the top 2 percent.

The business owners signed a letter sent by the **American Sustainable Business Council** and **Business for Shared Prosperity** that called on Congress to end the tax cuts and "reinvest in America" as part of efforts to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff."

[**CEOs Flock to Capital to Avert ‘Cliff’**](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324784404578145651462290228.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

*Wall Street Journal,*Damian Paletta and Kristina Peterson, 11/27/2012

On Tuesday afternoon, a half-dozen chief executives stood outside the White House gates in a cold November rain waiting for a meeting with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to discuss how to avert the “fiscal cliff” of tax increases and spending cuts that could short-circuit the economic recovery. At the same time, other CEOs emerged from a meeting with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

Arnulfo Ventura, co-founder of Cobá, a beverage company, was among the 15 businessowners who met the president at the White House. He joined many of his peers in worrying that going over the fiscal cliff could make consumers stop spending money during the holidays. “Our product is a little more of an impulse purchase,” Mr. Ventura said of his drinks, which he said can cost $1.99 or $2.49 a bottle at Whole Foods.

[**At edge of fiscal cliff, everyone fights to protect his bit of budget**](http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2012/11/26/175420_at-edge-of-fiscal-cliff-everyone.html#storylink=cpy)

*McClatchy Newspapers,* Maria Recio and David Lightman, 11/26/2012

Others say the wealthy should shoulder the burden.

Several unions, including the Service Employees International Union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the National Education Association, launched an advertising campaign Tuesday in five states – Alaska, Colorado, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Virginia – urging tax increases on higher incomes. AARP, the massive group of older Americans, is planning a “Lobby Day” next month. And others are mobilizing...

Meanwhile, the **American Sustainable Business Council** and **Business for Shared Prosperity** sent Congress a letter signed by 600 business owners, urging that the top rates go up. “Contrary to what tax-cut defenders claim, job creation is driven by customer demand, not taxes,” said Josh Knauer, president and CEO of Rhiza Labs, a Pittsburgh-based software company.

[**Myth Busted: Poll Shows Entrepreneurs Would let High-Income Tax Cuts Expire**](http://www.mediaforum.org/sof.cfm?ID=3542)

*American Forum,* Op-ed by John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/20/2012

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you.

[**When a small business is not really a small business**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S6vROXJG08VtBVYMHnYBxZPkWATRJueO9gvsOhguxEw/edit)

*The Hill,* Oped by Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the **Montana Small Business Alliance** and the national **Main Street Alliance** business network. 11/20/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum].

[**Fiscal Cliff Letter: Small Business Owners Urge End Of Bush Tax Cuts**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/20/fiscal-cliff-letter-small-business-owners_n_2167229.html)

*Huffington Post,* Zach Carter, 11/20/2012

More than 600 small business owners and executives wrote a letter to every member of Congress urging them to end the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy under any deal brokered to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff."

"As businesses owners, none of us hire more employees simply because someone gives us a tax cut. We hire more employees when our customers demand more of what we have to sell," the letter reads. "When a teacher, firefighter, or construction worker building public infrastructure loses his or her job, many of us also lose a customer."

[**Most Voters Would Blame GOP if All Bush Tax Cuts Expire**](http://fdlaction.firedoglake.com/2012/11/16/most-voters-would-blame-gop-if-all-bush-tax-cuts-expire/)

*Firedoglake,* Jon Walker, 11/16/2012

In the fight over the Bush tax cuts President Obama appears to have the political upper hand. According to a new poll for the **Americans for Tax Fairness**, Obama’s position on the Bush tax cuts is more popular, and if a deal is not reached on the Bush tax cuts most voters will blame the Republicans.

[**ATF poll: Majority will blame Republicans if all Bush tax cuts expire**](http://www.politico.com/blogs/burns-haberman/2012/11/atf-poll-majority-will-blame-republicans-if-all-bush-149727.html?hp=l8)

*Politico,* Maggie Haberman, 11/15/2012

A new poll by Hart Research's Geoff Garin, conducted for **Americans for Tax Fairness** - a group that wants the Bush-era tax cuts on earners over $250,000 to end - found that a majority of voters cited changing the tax system as a key factor in their votes, and that the majority broke for President Obama.

The survey also found that Democrats have changed the landscape on an issue that has eluded them for years - taxes. The survey found that has most want the Bush-era cuts on top earners to expire, but that Republicans will shoulder blame if all of the Bush cuts, including those on the middle class, expire because a deal can't be reached.

[**Business Leaders to Washington: Tax The Rich!**](http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2012/11/business-leaders-letter-congress-tax-rich-fiscal-cliff)

*Mother Jones*, Erika Eichelberger, 11/15/2012

The [**American Sustainable Business Council**](http://asbcouncil.org/) and[**Business for Shared Prosperity**](http://www.businessforsharedprosperity.org/), which represent hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, and managers—[people John Boehner had claimed would be hurt](http://www.teamboehner.com/tag/Jobs) by higher individual tax rates—made their case to Congress in a [letter](http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6269/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=11439). They are urging Congress to let the Bush tax cuts expire on incomes exceeding $250,000 and to "put that money toward programs that help the economy and business."

[**After the Election, a New Mandate - and New "Fiscal Cliff" Math**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rj-eskow/after-the-election-a-new_b_2092831.html)

*Huffington Post,* Richard (RJ) Eskow, 11/08/2012

**Americans for Tax Fairness** [compiled](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/11/07) polling data which showed that 60 percent of voters wanted the Bush tax cuts ended for income of $250,000 and above. Voters said they wanted to see their Social Security and Medicare benefits protected, and the deficit addressed by increasing the rich instead, and they did so by the overwhelming margin of 64 percent to 17 percent. And 62 percent of those polled said that "the message [they] were trying to send to the next president and Congress with [their] votes this year" was: "We should make sure the wealthy start paying their fair share of taxes."

[**Fix the Debt, Destroy the Recovery**](http://prospect.org/article/fix-debt-destroy-recovery)

*The American Prospect,* Robert Kuttner, 10/30/2012

Another splendid case of *chutzpah*, defined in the classic joke as the man who murders his parents and then asks the judge for mercy on grounds that he’s an orphan: Several of the CEOs that lead the Fix the Debt campaign are heads of highly profitable corporations that pay no federal taxes. According to a very helpful analysis by [**Americans for Tax Fairness**](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/), 13 of the corporations whose CEOs are behind this lobby paid zero taxes in recent years.

[**What Small Businesses Really Think About the Issues**](http://thinkprogress.org/progress-report/the-real-voices-of-small-business/)

*Think Progress,* 10/19/2012

Mike Brey, owner of Hobby Works in Fairfax, Va., wants to set the record straight on the Bush tax cuts—cuts on those with income above $250,000. Despite some saying that allowing the cuts to expire will hurt small businesses, the vast majority of small business owners like him simply won’t be affected. Allowing the tax rates to go back to where they were will help bolster the economy and with it, Mike’s customer base—the middle class.

[**Debate fact-checking long overdue - Hooray for Candy!**](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/presidential-campaign/262525-debate-fact-checking-long-overdue-hooray-for-candy)

*The Hill*, Oped by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, **American Sustainable Business Council**,10/17/12 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

Fortunately for whatever reason, the misleading statements about small business and the Bush tax cuts stopped last night. However, the inaccurate information has been put in the public record and needs to be corrected.

While a few of us small-business owners might be considered wealthy, the vast majority of us will not be negatively impacted by allowing the tax cuts on the top two income tax brackets to expire. And all of us will continue making hiring decisions based on consumer demand, not our personal income tax rates.

[**Americans for Tax Fairness, Pew Foundation**](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.blogtalkradio.com%2Fthe-fairness-doctrine%2F2012%2F09%2F25%2Fthe-fairness-doctrine&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFDNIOM-Qi721xQkFW31ia27ROsBQ)**[Audio]**

*Fairness Radio,* 9/25/2012

Should someone making $50 million a year have a lower tax rate than someone making $50K? Sean Crowley of **Americans for Tax Fairness** says NO and lays out his case for tax fairness at 2:08 pm ET.

[**Obama, Yes... and Win the House, Too**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roger-hickey/obama-win-the-house_b_1869171.html?utm_hp_ref=elections-2012)

*Huffington Post,* Roger Hickey **Campaign for America’s Future**, 9/9/2012

House Republicans think making the Bush tax cuts for millionaires permanent is very popular with voters -- but they are very wrong. All but four House Republicans voted for the Ryan budget containing these tax provisions. Many of them were committing political suicide -- if Democrats take them on. Every tax provision in the Ryan budget is wildly unpopular in the minds of the majority of voters who reject the idea of more tax cuts for the super-rich. A June 2012 Peter Hart and Associates poll of likely voters for **Americans for Tax Fairness** found:

* 72 percent favor increasing tax rates on incomes above $250,000 (rolling back the Bush tax cuts).
* 68 percent favor ending tax breaks for corporations shipping jobs overseas.
* 64 percent want to ensure large corporations pay their fair share of taxes.
* And 46 percent want to end the low (capital gains) tax rate on income from stocks and bonds

[**House Republicans Vote to Keep Bush Tax Cuts for the Richest 2%**](http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/Political-Action-Legislation/House-Republicans-Vote-to-Keep-Bush-Tax-Cuts-for-the-Richest-2)

*AFL-CIO blog,* Mike Hall, 8/1/2012

In a reverse of last week’s [Senate action](http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/Political-Action-Legislation/Senate-OKs-End-of-Bush-Tax-Cuts-for-Wealthy-but-House-Will-Block), the U.S. House of Representatives today approved (256-171) a bill (H.R. 8) to extend the Bush tax cuts for the nation’s wealthiest 2%— about $160,000 a year for the average millionaire. The House defeated (257-170) a Democratic alternative amendment to maintain the cuts for the middle class but end the tax breaks for the rich.

In [a letter](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/news/2012/08/01/letter-to-the-u-s-house-of-representatives/) to House members, the coalition **Americans for Tax Fairness**, which includes the AFL-CIO, says “ending the Bush tax cuts would restore some basic fairness to our tax system… Simply put, we cannot afford to continue to give large tax cuts to those who need them the least.”

[**Top two percenters to Congress: Raise our taxes. Please.**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/post/top-two-percenters-to-congress-raise-our-taxes-please/2012/08/01/gJQAn5ACPX_blog.html)*Washington Post,* Greg Sargent, 8/1/2012

With the House set to vote today on dueling plans for the Bush tax cuts, a group of approximately 100 wealthy progressives — all of whom say they are in the top two percent of earners — have signed a letter calling on Congress to raise their taxes immediately.

Notably, the wealthy signatories make the case for higher taxes on themselves by supporting Obama’s “didn’t build that” case, arguing that the role of a smoothly functioning society in enabling their wealth more than justifies the demand that they chip in a bit more to ensure that it continues to provide opportunities to others.

[**End the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent**](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/239969-end-the-bush-tax-cuts-for-the-top-2-percent)

*The Hill,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/25/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first $250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I’m all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

[**Mid-Morning Edition - Ernie Brown**](http://www.americasradionewsnetwork.com/uploads/mp3/arnnmm/ARNNMM_07-24-2012.mp3) **[Audio]**

America’s Radio News Network [300+ affiliates nationwide], 7/24/2012

Live interview with **Americans for Tax Fairness Campaign Director Frank Clemente**

[**Mid-Morning Edition - Ernie Brown**](http://www.americasradionewsnetwork.com/uploads/mp3/arnnmm/ARNNMM_07-10-2012.mp3) **[Audio]**

America’s Radio News Network [300+ affiliates nationwide], 7/10/2012

Live interview with **Americans for Tax Fairness Communications Director Sean Crowley** after [ATF distributed news release in support of President Obama urging Congress to end Bush tax cuts for top 2 percent](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/07/09/president-praised-for-speech-to-end-bush-tax-breaks-for-richest-2/)

[**THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE: LEFT-RIGHT RADIO with Patrick O’Heffernan and Chuck Morse**](http://www.dqrm.com/shows/TFD/2012/wk20/fr-25-th.mp3) **[Audio]**

[Boston] WDIS-1170AM, [Tampa] WWPR-1490AM, [Ashland, Oregon] KSKQ-89.5FM] and airs online at [www.fairnessradio.com](http://www.fairnessradio.com/) and, 6/21/2012

Live interview with **Americans for Tax Fairness Communications Director Sean Crowley**

[**As Poll Shows Public Wants Higher Taxes on the Rich, Conservative Dems Waver**](http://news.firedoglake.com/2012/06/19/as-poll-shows-public-wants-higher-taxes-on-the-rich-conservative-dems-waver/)

*Firedoglake****,*** David Dayen, 6/19/2012

A new poll from the National Journal shows that the principle of raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans by letting the Bush tax cuts expire [remains extremely popular](http://www.nationaljournal.com/daily/poll-don-t-extend-bush-cuts-for-wealthy-20120618), even as some Democrats show trepidation about the idea….

…the plurality supports letting the tax cuts above $250,000 expire. This mirrors the position of the Obama White House and **Americans for Tax Fairness**, the coalition that has sprouted up around the issue.

[**Can A Grand Bargain Be An Opportunity?**](http://www.ourfuture.org/node/73310)

*Campaign for America’s Future* blog, Dave Johnson, 6/10/2012

As I mentioned Friday in [*"Real Jobs At Stake"*](http://www.ourfuture.org/blog-entry/2012062308/real-jobs-stake) I attended a blogger meeting with Rhode Island's Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. The meeting was put together by [**Americans for Tax Fairness**](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/), a new coalition formed to help win the coming fight over the expiring Bush tax cuts.…

[**Take Action News with David Shuster**](http://weactradio.libsyn.com/webpage/take-action-news-with-david-shuster-6-9-2012) **[Audio]**

[Washington, D.C.] 1480AM and airs online at [www.weactradio.com](http://www.weactradio.com/), 6/9/2012

Interview with **Americans for Tax Fairness Communications Director Sean Crowley**

[**Labor Unions and Progressive Groups Launch 'Americans for Tax Fairness'**](http://crooksandliars.com/kenneth-quinnell/labor-unions-and-progressive-grou)

*Crooks and Liars,* Kenneth Quinnell, 5/29/2012

At a time when politicians in both parties send signals that they favor extending the George W. Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy, more than 30 progressive groups have launched **'Americans for Tax Fairness'**, a group dedicated to ending the Bush tax cuts on the upper 2 percent of Americans, those making more than a $250,000 annually.

“We established **Americans for Tax Fairness** to help make the economy work for all,” said **Americans for Tax Fairness Campaign Manager Frank Clemente**. “To achieve this goal, we need adequate levels of investment in critical areas like education and rebuilding infrastructure that create and sustain jobs. We also need a balanced and equitable approach to the federal budget challenges we face, which includes protecting critical services for the middle class and the most vulnerable. This requires that we all pay our fair share of taxes, especially big corporations and the richest 2 percent making more than a quarter of a million dollars a year.”

[**The Bush Tax Cut Fight on the Left: Americans for Tax Fairness Launches**](http://news.firedoglake.com/2012/05/25/the-bush-tax-cut-fight-on-the-left-americans-for-tax-fairness-launches/)

*Firedoglake,* David Dayen, 5/25/2012

….Last night, a new coalition called “**Americans for Tax Fairness**” was formed, composed of nearly 30 labor unions and progressive groups….

“We established **Americans for Tax Fairness** to help make the economy work for all,” said **Americans for Tax Fairness Campaign Manager Frank Clemente**. “To achieve this goal, we need adequate levels of investment in critical areas like education and rebuilding infrastructure that create and sustain jobs. We also need a balanced and equitable approach to the federal budget challenges we face, which includes protecting critical services for the middle class and the most vulnerable. This requires that we all pay our fair share of taxes, especially big corporations and the richest 2 percent making more than a quarter of a million dollars a year.”

[**Union, Liberal Coalition Pushes Obama Tax Plan**](http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2012/05/24/union-liberal-coalition-pushes-obama-tax-plan/)

*Wall Street Journal’s Washington Wire,* John D. McKinnon, 5/24/2012

A coalition of big unions and left-leaning activist groups has formed to support President **Barack Obama**’s proposal to raise tax rates on families earning more than $250,000, amid growing signs that Democratic lawmakers want to limit tax increases to people making $1 million or more.

Organizers of the new coalition, called **Americans for Tax Fairness**, worry that Democratic lawmakers are quietly pushing the threshold for tax increases to $1 million, in an effort to hit fewer households and make the plan more politically appealing. That would generate far less federal revenue, limiting what the government will have to spend, and increasing pressure to cut entitlement programs such as Medicare, coalition members fear.…

# Alabama Media Hits

[**Let tax cuts expire**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerAugusta.pdf)

*Montgomery Advertiser,* Oped by John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/26/2012 [Syndicated by American Forum]

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will

suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling

[**Alabama First News**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=5290&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+23%3A16%3A34&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Columbus] WLTZ-TV, 12/20/2012, aired at 11:16 P.M.

“... Their pressure on Reid and the President not to cut too much spending(sot: Rep. Rosa DeLauro / (d) Connecticut 1:15 - 1:22)"What we should not be doing right now is slashing the benefits of Social Security Medicare and Medicaid" earlier this week a Boehner- Obama compromise looked just a few billion dollars from getting done(sot: Sen. Charles Schumer / (D) New York 1:29 - 1:34)"They are so close! What is the speaker waiting for??? "Tonight Boehner’s waiting for the house to draw a line on tax hikes...”

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerMontgomeryAdvertiser.pdf)

*Montgomery Advertiser***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/15/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum] shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you.

[**Note from a Wealthy American: Oppose GOP’s tax breaks**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterMontgomery.pdf)

*Montgomery Advertiser,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share….

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under $250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerMontgomery.pdf)

*Montgomery Advertiser,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/13/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Arizona Media Hits

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSouthtownStar.pdf)**

*Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 2/28/2013

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanFlorence.pdf)

*Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/27/2012

[**More tax cuts for wealthiest is not right and is not smart**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterFlorence.pdf)

*Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune* *,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share….

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under $250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

# Arkansas Media Hits

[**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.

[**Area Clergy Members Ask Lawmakers for Moral Budget**](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=647262)

*KARK 4 News,* 3/21/2013

LITTLE ROCK, AR -- A group of area clergy members put "Loaves and Fishes Day" into action by delivering loaves of bread and fish to state leaders on Wednesday.

The men and women, along with members of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, urged state leaders to pass a moral federal budget.

[**Groups Rally Against Sequester at State Capitol**](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=642022) **[VIDEO]**

*KARK 4 News,* 3/1/2013

[**Arkansans Ask Congress to Stop Automatic Cuts to Crucial Programs**](http://www.kuar.org/kuarnews/91954-arkansans-ask-congress-to-stop-automatic-cuts-to-crucial-programs.html)

*KUAR,* Malcolm Glover, 2/20/2013

The inability of Congress to reach an agreement on ending the sequester means some programs in Arkansas could suffer if mandatory spending cuts in defense and domestic programs go into effect March 1.

At an event in Little Rock Wednesday, various interest groups rallied together and encouraged lawmakers to act before it’s too late.

Chilly temperatures and freezing rain weren’t going to stop Candis Collins from voicing her concerns about looming federal cuts. She and others gathered outside Martin Luther King

Magnet Elementary School in Little Rock. “It’s freezing, I’m telling you! But this is part of our work no matter hot, 100 degree weather, snow, ice, rain,” Collins said while laughing with supporters.

[**Group Wants Government to Rework Revenue Plan for Social Security, Medicare**](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=633402)

*KARK 4 News,* 1/30/2013

A group wanting to save Social Security and Medicare from being pared down is telling the federal government to rework its revenue plan.

Congress recently approved a tax increase for 1 percent of the country's wealthiest individuals, but that still leaves a shortfall for revenues that lawmakers want to siphon off from Social Security, Medicare, and other social programs.

[**Americans for Tax Fairness Says Congress is Bullying Taxpayers**](http://www.thv11.com/news/article/245852/2/Americans-for-Tax-Fairness-says-Congress-is-bullying-taxpayers)

*THV 11,* Amy Hancock, 1/30/2013

A group of concerned citizens is saying that Congress is bullying taxpayers.

Wednesday, members of a group called **Americans for Tax Fairness** said they are not in agreement with how far Congress has gone to raise revenue to deal with deficit issues.

Candis Collins urged those at the capitol to call their senators and congressman and encourage them to take a better look at cutting federal programs, and she believes that there is another way to raise money.

Some of Collins suggestions are to look at tax codes and closing tax break loopholes that outsource millions of American jobs to foreign countries.

[**THV News at 6:30pm**](http://www.todaysthv.com/news/govt_politics/239822/125/Ark-Interfaith-Alliance-holds-prayer-event) **[Television]**

[Little Rock] KTHV-TV, 12/20/12, aired at 6:36 P.M.

“The **Arkansas Interfaith Alliance** asked the government to protect struggling Americans during the fiscal cliff negotiations. The Alliance held a prayer event in Little Rock Friday as part of a national day of action that included faith led events all over the country. The group said the government must not sacrifice Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security in favor of tax breaks for the upper two percent of Americans. They added that it is important as Congress and the Obama administration continue their fiscal showdown that we don't cheat the programs that protect vulnerable Americans. The Arkansas Interfaith Alliance is a collective group of various faith traditions”

[**Arkansas small business owners respond to the fiscal cliff**](http://www.todaysthv.com/news/article/239783/2/Arkansas-small-business-owners-respond-to-fiscal-cliff)

*THTV2,* Dustin Wilson, 12/20/12

Blevins, along with two other business owners in Little Rock, spoke out about the fiscal cliff debate Thursday and all agree the government should seek tax reform for the middle class. They said their success or failure hinges on the wallets of the group.

"Back when things were good, I had six locations and 48 employees. I now have two locations and nine employees," said Jay Orsi, owner of Three Rivers Title Service.

[**Arkansas Interfaith Alliance holds prayer event for fiscal negotiations**](http://www.todaysthv.com/news/article/239822/2/Ark-Interfaith-Alliance-holds-prayer-event)

*THTV2,* Amy Hancock, 12/20/12

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (KTHV) - The **Arkansas Interfaith Alliance** asked the government to protect struggling Americans during the fiscal cliff negotiations.

The Alliance held a prayer event in Little Rock Friday as part of a national day of action that included faith led events all over the country.

[**Beware of CEO Debt 'Fixers'**](http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2012/11/14/the-morning-report-abortion-lottery-bonuses-for-elected-officials)

*Arkansas Times’ Morning Report,* Max Brantley, 11/14/2012

Be warned. There's a movement afoot, through a Fix the Debt committee, depicting itself as a compromise solution for the U.S. fiscal situation. [It's nothing but a bunch of corporate CEOs looking for more tax windfalls](http://www.ips-dc.org/reports/ceo-campaign-to-fix-the-debt/).

**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**

*Jonesboro Sun,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# California Media Hits

[**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.

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

*Eastern Group Publications,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/23/2013

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.

**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**

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

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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[**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

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

*Eastern Lost Angeles Brooklyn-Belvedere Pilot,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*Vernon Sun,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*Commerce Comet,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*City Terrace Comet,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*Montebello Comet,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*Montebello Comet,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*Monterey Park Comet,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*Wyvernwood Chronicle,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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.

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

*Mexican American Sun,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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.

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

*Eastside Sun,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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

*Bell Gardens Sun,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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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[**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,* Op-ed by **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.”

[**Opinion: Stop Sequestering Our Kids**](http://www.rocklintoday.com/news/templates/community_news.asp?articleid=11426&zoneid=4)

*Rocklin Today,* Patrick Stelmach, 3/6/2013

Contrary to Rep. McClintock's views, the public overwhelming believes that corporations have an obligation to help balance the budget. A February 2013 poll by the national coalition **Americans for Tax Fairness** found that 64 percent of voters believe that corporations should pay more in taxes. The same study found that 80 percent of voters believe that closing corporate tax loopholes that benefit big corporations is an important budget goal.

It is not too late for Rep. McClintock to do the right thing. Every day until Congress cancels the sequester and reverse these cuts, California Fair Share will make sure that citizens have the chance to voice their disappointment directly to their members of Congress. We will make sure Congress hears from the teachers whose jobs are threatened, the law enforcement officers and food safety inspectors who keep us safe, and the small businesses that will struggle to get the loans they need to expand.

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanLaPrensa.pdf)

*La Presna San Diego,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/21/2012

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanEGP.pdf)

*Eastern Group Publications,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/19/2012

[**How your small business can avoid its own ‘fiscal cliff’**](http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/13444124-how-your-small-business-can-avoid-its-own-fiscal-cliff)

*AllVoices.com*, John J. Egan, 11/20/2012

The nation’s capital is buzzing about the looming “fiscal cliff.” If President Obama and Congress can’t agree on a budget deal by Jan. 1, billions of dollars in federal tax hikes and spending cuts will kick in. Advocates warn that falling off the “fiscal cliff” will result in bigger tax bills for small businesses, as well as considerable cutbacks in hiring and spending.

“As businesses owners, none of us hire more employees simply because someone gives

us a tax cut. We hire more employees when our customers demand more of what we have to sell,” hundreds of small business owners wrote in a recent letter to Congress. The letter was organized by the **American Sustainable Business Council** and **Business for Shared Prosperity**, two groups that support small businesses.

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattBellGardens.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Bells Gardens Sun* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called “job creators” will have an adverse effect on the economy….

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattCityTerrace.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] City Terrace Comet* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattComerceComet.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Commerce Comet* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattEastLA.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] East Los Angeles Brooklyn Belvedere Comet* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattEastsideSun.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Eastside Sun* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattMexicanAmerican.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Mexican-American Sun* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattMontebello.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Montebello Comet* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattMonterey.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Monterey Park Comet* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattNESun.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Northeast Sun* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattVernon.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Vernon Sun* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattWyvernwood.pdf)

*[Los Angeles] Wyvernwood Chronicle* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member,

**Voices for Progress**, 11/1/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

**Investing in Progress**

*Compton Bulletin***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent...Like Me**](http://www.thecomptonbulletin.com/news/2012-09-05/Opinion/Congress_should_end_Bush_tax_cuts_for_richest_2_pe.html)

*Compton Bulletin,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**The KPFA Evening News (Weekend)**](http://www.kpfa.org/archive/id/83265) **[Audio]**

[Berkeley] KPFA 94.1FM,8/11/2012

Story on taxes: **Americans for Tax Fairness Communications Director Sean Crowley** is interviewed about Romney-Ryan budget between 0:47 and 3.15 minutes.

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerMexican.pdf)

*Mexican American Sun,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerMontebello.pdf)

*Montebello Comet,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerCityTerrace.pdf)

*City Terrace Comet,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerWyvernwood.pdf)

*Wyvernwood Chronicle,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerMonterey.pdf)

*Monterey Park Comet,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerNortheastSun.pdf)

*Northeast Sun,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerEastLA.pdf)

*East Los Angeles Brooklyn-Belvedere Comet,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerCommerce.pdf)

*Commerce Comet,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerVernon.pdf)

*Vernon Sun,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerEastside.pdf)

*Eastside Sun,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerBell.pdf)

*Bell Gardens Sun,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Colorado Media Hits

[**Guest Opinion: Protect Survivors of Violence**](http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci_22673766/guest-opinion-protect-survivors-violence)

*Daily Camera,* Op-Ed by Anne Tapp, 2/27/2013

Congress is playing its usual partisan games of "chicken" with the federal budget, pitting the needs of the most vulnerable against tax breaks and loopholes for the very rich and profitable corporations. Those of us working with adult and child survivors of violence are hoping for the best but planning for the worst when it comes to federal funding for domestic violence programs.

In 2011, there were more than 13,384 reports of domestic violence crimes filed with Colorado law enforcement agencies, including 11,381 assaults, 905 kidnappings, 305 sexual offenses and 23 homicides. About 1,700 of those cases are in Boulder County every year.

[**Colorado’s working families need an economic rescue**](http://blogs.denverpost.com/opinion/2013/01/03/colorados-working-families-economic-rescue/31780/)

*The Denver Post,* Sam Gary, 1/3/2013

Colorado’s working families didn’t get much attention in the midst of the “fiscal cliff” debate in Washington, though they had the most at stake. While much of the debate centered on whether to extend the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy, I’m pleased that Congress recognized the equally pressing need to protect the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), proven investments in our nation’s future when they came to agreement.

[**Small Businesses: Majority Would let High-Income Tax Cuts Expire at End of Year**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/GaudetteColoradoan.pdf)

*Fort Collins Coloradoan,* Tim Gaudette 12/30/2012

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked in Colorado and across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year....

**Blog:** [**Fiscal Cliff Protests Target Michael Bennet and Mark Udall -- all day long**](http://blogs.westword.com/latestword/2012/12/fiscall_cliff_protests_michael_bennet_mark_udall_photos.php)

*Denver Westward,* Sam Levin, 12/11/2012

[**Middle-class taxpayers need a break now**](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_22141355/guest-commentary-middle-class-taxpayers-need-break-now)

*The Denver Post,* Op-ed by Jeanne May, 12/9/2012

When middle-class people like me voted on Election Day, there was one thing most of us agreed on: It's time to make the rich pay their fair share of taxes again. Even some people who didn't vote for President Obama agreed that it's not right to force the middle class to cover the fallout from an economic crisis that we didn't cause.

[**Millionaires for fairer taxes**](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_22141456/guest-commentary-millionaires-fairer-taxes)

*Denver Post,* Op-ed by Jerome Schroeder and Brad Armstrong, 12/9/2012

We are both part of the so-called "2 percent," and we believe we are not asked to pay our fair share of taxes. Yes, you read that right. We agree that the well-off in the United States should be willing to pay more in taxes.

Taxes are an investment in the public infrastructure that allows us all to have equal opportunity for success and growth. They fund the things that 100 percent of us value: public schools, parks, roads, police, fire protection, libraries, universities, military, transportation safety, food inspection, clean air and water. These form the foundation of our free and civil society.

The middle class has more than paid its dues. It's time for the richest 2 percent to step up and strengthen our country. We often say, "A rising tide lifts all boats." But if the boats we're talking about are the large yachts owned by people like us and leaky rafts for everyone else, when the storm comes we'll end up with a lot of expensive boats floating in an otherwise empty sea.

**Blog:** [**Why ‘Fix The Debt’ Is Not Your Friend**](http://coloradopols.com/diary/18996/why-fix-the-debt-is-not-your-friend)

*Colorado Polls,* Colorado Polls, 12/6/2012

That’s right; the solution from the “bipartisan” Fix The Debt group, and all the Colorado business leaders who signed on including a number of **at least nominal Democrats**, is nothing more than **John Boehner’s** [**vague suggestion**](http://www.coloradopols.com/diary/18995/its-time-to-get-serious-is-it)to “reform” (meaning cut) Medicare and Social Security, and “tax reform” that *lowers tax rates.* For context, a [**new Quinnipiac poll**](http://www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes-centers/polling-institute/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=1821) today says 65% of Americans want tax rates increased on income over $250,000 per year–and only 31% oppose.

[**Where are those “More Tax Cuts for Millionaires!” Protests?**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jason-salzman/tax-cut-protests_b_2239129.html)

*The Huffington Post,* John Salzman, 12/5/2012

Whether this impresses you or not, you'd agree that what you do *not* see are the top two percent in the streets, with signs like, "More Tax Cuts for Millionaires Now!" "What's Good for the Top 2% Is Good For YOU," "Keep On Tricklin'", "Another Yacht, for the Good of the People," or "Why Own Just One House When You Can Have Five?"

The fact that you don't see *those folks* demonstrating *at all* adds news value to the protests by the folks like Colorado Fair Share and Protect Your Care, who were among the organizers of the protest in Aurora. Yet, Saturday's demonstration got zero news coverage in Denver, as far as I can tell.

[**Small Business Owners Rally Tax Cuts**](http://www.krextv.com/news/around-the-region/Small-Business-Owners-Rally-Tax-Cuts-181705471.html)

*KREX News Room*, Courtney Griffin, 12/1/2012

Residents rallying had two messages. One, to support the middle class continuation of the Bush Tax Cuts, which would ease the tax burden for folks making less than $250,000 a year. Two, ending the Bush Tax Cuts for those making $250,000 a year or more; ultimately raising their taxes by nearly four percent.

"The middle class are the ones who support this country and they need to stand and say, 'get this bill passed'," said Maria Keenan, owner of Keenan Construction.

[**"Nuns on the Bus" tour Front Range to protect poor against budget cuts**](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_21983289/nuns-bus-tour-front-range-protect-poor-against)

*The Denver Post*, Electa Draper, 11/13/2012 (also picked up by [*The Daily Camera*](http://www.dailycamera.com/news/boulder/ci_21983384/nuns-bus-tour-boulder-=shelter-bid-protect-poor))

*Note: ATF’s Colorado partner played a leading role in organizing the Colorado Nuns on the Bus tour.*

Nuns on the Bus" toured Front Range cities Monday to denounce tax cuts for America's richest 2 percent and budget cuts they say would devastate the poorest Americans.

[**Nuns on the**](http://www.krdo.com/news/-Nuns-on-the-Bus-Tours-Colorado-Springs/-/417220/17377514/-/rc4q5az/-/index.html) **Bus Tours Colorado Springs**

*KRDO.com*, 11/12/2012

Sister Simone Campbell leads her fellow Catholic sisters in a two-day tour of Colorado bringing attention to the need to end tax breaks for the wealthy.

[**Nuns hit the road to support aid programs**](http://www.dailycamera.com/religion/ci_21969308/megan-quinn-nuns-hit-road-support-aid-programs)

*Daily Camera,* Megan Quinn, 11/9/2012

Nuns on the Bus, a group of Catholic nuns who tour the country to advocate for tax reform, will make a stop in Boulder on Monday as part of a three-city Colorado tour.

The nuns are part of a left-leaning social activism group that advocates for a budget plan that avoids cuts for programs that assists the homeless, low-income earners and seniors on a fixed income.

**Radio and TV Coverage of Nuns on the Bus, funded in part by Faith and Public Life, included (no links):**

KWGN (CW) - Denver, CO (Channel 2 News at 7P)

KCEC (Univision) - Denver, CO (Amor bravío)

KWGN (CW) - Denver, CO (Channel 2 News at 7P)

KCNC-DEN (CBS) - Denver, CO (CBS4 News at 6)

KCNC-DEN (CBS) - Denver, CO (CBS4 News at 6) – 2 stories

KDVR-DEN (FOX) - Denver, CO (CBS4 News at 6)

KMGH-DEN (ABC) - Denver, CO (7 News)

KCEC (Univision) - Denver, CO (Primer impacto)

KRDO (ABC) - Colorado Springs, CO (Good Morning Colorado)

KRDO (ABC) - Colorado Springs, CO (GMC: Early Edition at 4:30a)

KRDO (ABC) - Colorado Springs, CO (NEWSCHANNEL 13 at 5)

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerBerthodRecorder.pdf)

*Berthod Recorder***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/11/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Sequestration's other victims**](http://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/sequestrations-other-victims/Content?oid=2571505)

*Colorado Springs Independent,* Megan Sheppard, 10/10/2012

Now is not the time to leave even more children and schools behind with sequestration budget cuts. It's not right that Congress is cutting middle-class priorities like education while giving the richest Americans and huge corporations large tax breaks. The wealthy and multinational companies can afford to pay their fair share so we can prepare our most at-risk children for brighter futures. I think it's reasonable to do away with the Bush policies for these taxpayers and allow their rates to return to Clinton-era rates, when millionaires and the middle class alike prospered.

[**Budget Battle Brewing**](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/28302-1) **[Audio]**

*Public News Service,* Kathleen Ryan, 9/10/2012

Tax policy analyst Ali Mickelson of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy says those automatic cuts, known as sequestration, would be bad, but the alternative could be worse.

"If we have, in response to avoiding sequestration, sort of a rushed one-sided budget that goes through, that could potentially cost more jobs, more services; that could be bigger cuts."

The CCLP has issued a [report](http://www.cclponline.org/publication_library/pub/single/1194/sequestration-and-the-colorado-budget) on its analysis of possible effects of sequestration in Colorado, and found the state would lose about $65 million in non-defense programs and more than $1 billion in federal defense funding. Colorado receives about a quarter of its state funding from the federal government.

Mickelson says the non-defense cuts would mostly affect education, and she fears partisan politics in an election year could prevent a workable solution.

[**Budget cuts would be devastating**](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_21467288/budget-cuts-would-be-devastating)

*Denver Post,* Oped by Michele Conroy,teacher at Sandrock Elementary School in Craig, 9/5/2012

In dealing with the fiscal hangover from two wars, the Bush tax cuts and the effects of the worst recession since the Great Depression, Congress agreed to an automatic $1.2 trillion budget cut if a deal to reduce the deficit hadn't been found by the end of the year. Guess what? They still haven't found a budget solution, and the cuts are coming our way at the end of the semester.

While it is clear that we have to deal with our collective federal budget crisis, shortsighted budget cuts for education put Colorado, our kids and ultimately our future economy at risk. If we are going to protect education for the middle class and make investments that strengthen our economy, we are going to have to ask for a "fair share" tax plan.

**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**

*Salida Mountain Mail,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/7/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**End the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2%**](http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/article_434455ac-da5e-11e1-b24b-0019bb30f31a.html)

*The [Salida] Mountain Mail*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/30/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Colorado Media Hits**

**Opinion:** [**Coffman wrong for the 6th Congressional District**](http://blogs.denverpost.com/opinion/2012/10/15/coffman-wrong-6th-congressional-district/27104/#more-27104)

*Denver Post,* Corrine Fowler, 10/15/2012

On fiscal issues, Coffman has voted to support an extension of the Bush tax cuts (House Resolution 8). Those cuts would give people making over $250,000 — 2 percent of Coloradans — huge tax breaks that gave millionaires $150,000 per year during the last decade’s economic downturn. But in order to do that it would have raised taxes on 25 million working Americans by an average of $1,000, ending a tax credit that helps make college affordable (the American Opportunity Tax Credit) and ending improvements to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Those are credits many in his district need as they strive for the American Dream.

With many of those in his district unemployed or underemployed, Coffman has backed the Ryan Budget, and in doing so continue his support of the failed concept of trickle-down economics. That plan would not only provide $250,000 in tax cuts for the wealthiest among us while cutting tax exemptions like the child tax credit, education credits, and mortgage deduction credits that will cost the average family an additional $3,000 a year, but would see 800,000 jobs outsourced to a foreign country through the elimination of U.S. taxes on foreign profits of American companies.

# Connecticut Media Hits

[**NBC CT News at 5:30pm**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=1270&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+17%3A44%3A45&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Hartford-New Haven] WVIT-HFD, 12/20/2012, aired at 5:44 P.M.

# Delaware Media Hits

[**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.

[**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,* Op-Ed by 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.

**Op-ed:** [**There’s more than the sequester left to resolve**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130301/opinion07/303010008)

*Delaware Online,* Michael A. Beghatto, 2/28/2013

The “fiscal cliff”’ avoided with a last-minute New Year’s Day deal was unfortunately not the end of federal budget dramatics. Over the next few months, three more financial challenges to our government and economy will arise – challenges that can only be met if we make increased revenues from those best able to supply it central to our fiscal strategy.

It’s true that the cliff-averting deal began to bring revenue into the process: It raised tax rates on the richest pinnacle of American households (fewer than 1 percent), raising $620 billion over the next decade. But this was the first revenue boost in the two-year history of debt deals, after $1.5 trillion in spending cuts. That’s not balanced deficit reduction – that’s a two-and-a-half-to-one imbalance.

**Op-ed:** [**Big business must pay its fair share in future deals**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130227/OPINION/302270008/Big-business-must-pay-its-fair-share-future-deals)

*Delaware Online,* Jason Scott 2/27/2013

Corporate tax avoiders in recent years have included some of the best-known names in business: General Electric, Bank of America, Boeing, Verizon – even Delaware’s own DuPont. Between 2008 and 2010, according to another report, co-authored by PIRG and Citizens for Tax Justice, these five plus 25 other big corporations (the “Dirty Thirty”) had combined profits of $163 billion, and not only didn’t pay any federal income tax on that profit, but actually received more than $10 billion in refunds. DuPont alone made more than $10 billion in profit, and got $72 million in refunds.

I’m not anti-business. I couldn’t very well be, since I own one. And I’m not even opposed to big business. I just believe that we should all play by the same rules. And I believe that we shouldn’t raise middle-class and small-business taxes; or cut important public investments like education, health care and highway repair; or go deeper in public debt, all in order to allow huge, profitable corporations to continue to shirk their tax-paying responsibilities.

[**Delawareans Worry About Looming Sequester Cuts**](http://www.delawareonline.com/videonetwork/2178488649001/Delawareans-worry-about-looming-sequester-cuts?BCNextUpID=42498973001_0)

*Delaware Online, 2/21/2013*

Local residents worried about possible cuts to services through sequestration held a rally Wednesday in Dover to express their concerns.

[**Join the Fight to Force Congress to Balance the Deficit By Raising Revenue Along With the Cuts in Spending**](http://delawareway.blogspot.com/2013/02/join-fight-to-force-congress-to-balance.html)

*Delaware Way,* Nancy Willing, 2/20/2013

DOVER – Concerned Delawareans today at a Capitol press conference organized by **Americans for Democratic Action** (ADA) denounced devastating federal budget cuts scheduled to take place in just nine days, calling instead for fair taxes on the wealthy and large corporations.

“What is fair and just? What really matters?” were the questions we should be asking about federal tax and spending decisions, according to the Rev. Greg Chute, minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware in Dover.

[**Delaware Needs More than Two Tiers of Income Tax**](http://www.delawareliberal.net/2013/02/18/delaware-needs-more-than-two-tiers-of-income-tax/)

*Delaware Liberal,* Delaware Dem, 2/18/2013

On the issue of basic fairness, and also because we need to raise more revenue than our basically flat income tax rate allows, it is time for Delaware for add a few more tiers to its progressive tax structure. As it stands now, Delaware has two tax rates it taxes you at. If you make under $60,000, you are taxed at one percentage. If you make over $60,000, you are taxed at another percentage. The unfairness and ridiculousness of this system cannot be overstated. Someone making poverty level wages (i.e. under $18k) is taxed the same rate as someone making $55k. And someone making $14 million a year is taxed the same as someone making $90k.

Delaware has a $63 million budget shortfall, and we cannot make that shortfall up and deal with the cost of Medicaid simply with spending cuts. It is time that Delaware adds more tax rate tiers above and below the 60k dividing line. If you agree, [please consider signing this petition](http://signon.org/sign/make-our-income-tax-more?mailing_id=9131&source=s.icn.em.cr&r_by=6985307). And thank you.

[**Americans for Democratic Action: Delaware Fights Against March 1st Automatic Federal Spending Cuts**](http://delawareway.blogspot.com/2013/02/americans-for-democratic-action_14.html)

*Delaware Way,* Nancy Willing, 2/14/2013

DOVER – Linking Delaware’s budget health and prosperity with looming automatic federal spending reductions, concerned citizens will gather for a press conference organized by Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) at the state capitol in Dover Wednesday, February 20, at 10 a.m. to denounce the drastic cuts set to kick in nine days later. February 20 will also see scheduled legislative hearings on the state’s proposed social services budget, which offers assistance to the state’s most vulnerable residents—the same residents threatened by the auto-pilot federal cuts set for March 1.

“Despite its best intentions, Delaware cannot adequately serve those with the greatest needs without an effective federal partner,” explained Ezra Temko, ADA’s Delaware organizer. “As just one example of the local effect of these massive automatic federal cuts, Delaware will lose $1.7 million in special education grant funding, which will impact over 800 students. We’re calling on Senators Carper and Coons and Representative Carney to fight to replace these unfair and unwise cuts with higher revenues raised from wealthy individuals and multinational corporations.”

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Carney was wrong on Simpson-Bowles vote**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20121206/OPINION07/312060013/Carney-wrong-Simpson-Bowles-vote)

*Delaware Online*, Ezra Temko, **Americans for Democratic Action,** December 5, 2012

In a recent Delaware Voice column, our state’s U.S. Rep. John Carney called for a reasonable approach to federal deficit reduction, and cited the Simpson-Bowles plan as an example. While Rep. Carney is to be commended for his desire to find a practical way to avoid the “fiscal cliff” of automatic tax hikes and indiscriminate spending cuts slated for the end of this year, Simpson-Bowles is not the right model to follow.

President Obama offers a better way forward. He achieves $4 trillion dollars in deficit reduction through a judicious balance of targeted spending cuts and equitable tax-rate increases on those who can best afford them.

A central component of his plan is to allow tax cuts to expire on the 2 percent of American households with more than $250,000 in annual income. This would raise a trillion dollars in revenue over the next decade, and unlike under Simpson Bowles, none of it would come from middle-income taxpayers and none of it would be spent lowering tax rates for billionaires and multinational corporations. In fact, tax cuts would be extended for the 98 percent of us who make less than $200,000 a year.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**End tax breaks for the rich**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20121128/OPINION07/311280023/End-tax-breaks-rich?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7COpinion%7Cp)

*Delaware Online*, Ed Osienski, 11/28/2012

The movement in question is for fairer taxes on the wealthy as part of federal budget reform.

Recent polling shows that 60 percent of Americans support higher taxes on our most fortunate households as one part of a balanced plan for getting our national budget deficits under control.

President Obama ran for re-election with such fair tax reform as a central part of his platform and won a resounding victory nationwide – and by an even larger margin in Delaware. The state’s entire Congressional delegation supports the inclusion of fair taxes in any deficit-reduction plan.

Specifically, our campaign advocates allowing tax cuts to expire on the 2 percent of American households with over $250,000 in annual income. By returning these taxpayers making more than a quarter million dollars a year to the more reasonable rates of the Clinton administration – a time of unprecedented prosperity for everyone, including the wealthy – we as a people would raise more than a trillion dollars in revenue over the next decade.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Rally organization a ‘venerable’ group**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20121127/OPINION10/311270003/Rally-organization-venerable-group?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CHome%7Cs)

*Delaware Online*, Peter Schott, 11/27/2012

Having attended the rally for fair taxes in Newark this past Veterans Day, I was amazed to see it described in a recent News Journal op-ed by the defeated Tea Party candidate, Evan Queitsch, as a gathering of “radical left-wing activists.”

It was a gathering of working people, parents, teachers and retirees who believe the budget deal that emerges from the current “fiscal cliff” negotiations must include revenue increases as well as spending cuts. Wealthy corporations and multimillionaires can afford to contribute a fairer share of taxes, allowing us to pay down debt while strengthening middle-class programs like Medicare and public education. The rally was organized by **Americans for Democratic Action**, a venerable progressive organization founded by American patriots like Eleanor Roosevelt, and on whose board I proudly served for 34 years.

[**New Poll Shows Tax Fairness was Important Consideration for 2/3 of Voters**](http://delawareway.blogspot.com/2012/11/2012-exit-polling-shows-supermajority.html)

*Delaware Way*, Nancy Willing, 11/17/2012

Two-thirds of voters (67 percent) say “making the tax system more fair” was a “very” or “fairly important consideration in making [their] voting decisions this year,” according to a [new poll released today by Hart Research Associates on behalf of **Americans for Tax Fairness**](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/post-election-poll-resources/).

[**At Newark rally, tax hikes on rich urged**](http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20121113/NEWS02/311130044/At-Newark-rally-tax-hikes-rich-urged?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7C&gcheck=1&nclick_check=1)

*The News-Journal*, Wade Malcolm, 11/13/2012

Former Newark city Councilman Ezra Temko organized the gathering for **Americans for Democratic Action**, and the group argued the country cannot solve its fiscal woes by slashing programs serving poor and middle-class families. They called on U.S. Sens. Tom Carper and Chris Coons, both Democrats, to fight for a deal that would increase taxes on wealthier Americans.

"The place the money is, is the place to get money," said Will Rice, a tax fairness specialist for **Americans for Democratic Action**. "Not from people who are struggling to get by."

[**Delawareans Ask for Fairer Taxes (audio)**](http://wp.wgmd.com/?p=73669)

*WGMD 92.7 The Talk of Delmarva*, 11/13/2012

**Americans for Democratic Action Delaware** met Monday to send a message to Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons about their part in helping to resolve the “fiscal cliff” as they return to a lame duck session of Congress today. Ezra Temko of ADA tells WGMD.

[**Del. lawmakers urged to support tax hike on rich**](http://www.westport-news.com/news/article/Del-lawmakers-urged-to-support-tax-hike-on-rich-4028768.php)

*Westport-News, Associated Press*, 11/12/2012

A liberal advocacy group is urging members of Delaware's congressional delegation to support President Obama's call for higher taxes on wealthier Americans. **Americans for Democratic Action** wants Sens. [Tom Carper](http://www.westport-news.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Tom+Carper%22) and [Chris Coons](http://www.westport-news.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Chris+Coons%22) to continue their support for allowing Bush-era tax cuts to expire on the top 2 percent of American households, those making over $250,000 a year.

# District of Columbia Media Hits

[**Interfaith clergy urge moral solution to Congress**](http://washingtonjewishweek.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=18605&SectionID=4&SubSectionID=4&S=1)

*Washington Jewish Week*, Eric Hal Schwartz, 12/26/12

By highlighting what they see as the moral priorities, the interfaith clergy hoped to persuade congressional leaders that programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid have to be kept funded lest the working poor, seniors and other vulnerable groups get pushed into even more desperate circumstances. "Our budget is a moral document. Where, when, how and for whom we spend our taxes speaks to who we are as a people," said Bishop Don Williams, associate director for African American Church Relations of Bread for the World. The group agrees that some of the revenue for these programs should come from those who have benefited from the tax cuts that favor the wealthiest top 2 percent. "Those that have the most should contribute the most," Campbell said.

[**Local Faith Leaders Weigh In On Fiscal Cliff**](http://wamu.org/news/12/12/20/local_faith_leaders_weigh_in_on_fiscal_cliff) **[Audio]**

*[Washington, D.C.] 88.5 WAMU*, 12/20/12

The interfaith group is looking to highlight the moral issues at stake in the debate over the fiscal cliff. "We need a more equitable and just tax system for all Americans," says Rabbi Esther Lederman. "And that the time is now to do something. We're in a crisis situation, and we as the faith community have the power and want the strength of the United States government to look at our government as a moral document."

# Florida Media Hits

[**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’.

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

*Florida Voices,* Op-Ed by 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.

[**Poor Kids Need Food More Than the Rich Need Tax Break**](http://www.floridavoices.com/myturn/poor-kids-need-food-more-rich-need-tax-breaks)

*Florida Voices,* Op-Ed by Rev. Errol Thompson, Chairman of **PICO United Florida**, 3/21/2013

Over the next week, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate will vote on competing budget resolutions with vastly different priorities and visions for our country’s future. While many Americans are rightly fatigued by what feels like never-ending budget crises in Washington, it is vital for religious leaders to step into the breach to remind us that budgets are moral documents that should be judged by how they treat the most vulnerable.

In the House, Rep. Paul Ryan’s budget proposal takes a “spending cuts only” approach to deficit reduction, slashing $4.6 billion over 10 years from many programs that Floridians rely on like Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, school lunches and college loans. Rather than raise adequate revenue to ensure the future of these vital programs, his plan reduces the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations.

[**South Florida Leaders Sound Off on Sequester**](http://www.610wiod.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=122821&article=11020217)

*WIOD-AM*, 3/4/2013

### Affected Floridians tell Congress it's not too late to stop cuts to services by closing corporate tax loopholes and limiting tax breaks for the rich.

No solution in sight for the sequester, which is taking a toll on South Florida students, military members and TSA employees.

[**Castor Supports Bill Nelson’s Legislation for Congress to Take Same Pay Cuts As Furloughed Federal Workers**](http://cltampa.com/dailyloaf/archives/2013/03/04/castor-supports-bill-nelsons-legislation-for-congress-to-take-same-pay-cuts-as-furloughed-federal-workers#.UTd9X-vwLNF)

*Creative Loafing (Tampa Bay),* Mitch Perry, 3/4/2013

Last week, Florida Sen. Bill Nelson announced legislation, which according to this Huffington Post story, will "reduce Congress's pay by the greatest percentage of any federal worker furloughed as a result of the sequester." He's calling it the Congressional Overspending Pay Accountability Act; This morning in Tampa, Congresswoman Kathy Castor supported the idea.

"It's not right to be furloughing others in the federal government without asking members of Congress (to do the same)," she told CL after leaving a news conference in front of Tampa General Hospital.

Shortly after Castor spoke in Tampa, activists with **PICO United Florida** held a conference where a number of people spoke about the deleterious affect that sequestration might have in the near future, particularly for low-income people.

[**Oakridge Students Speak Out Against Budget Cuts**](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/videogallery/74504506/Oakridge-students-speak-out-against-budget-cuts)

*Orlando Sentinel, 2/20/2013*

Students from Oak Ridge High School and local church leaders gather for a press conference to speak out against the automatic massive budget cuts that would accompany a Congressional sequester.

[**Tampa Protestors: Save the Middle Class**](http://tbo.com/news/tampa-protesters-save-the-middle-class-620921)

*Tampa Bay Online,* Jose Patino Girona, 1/20/2013

Participants urged lawmakers not to cut programs that support the middle class and poor. Similar events organized by the **Americans for Tax Fairness** were held around the country.

Kevin King, political director for the Clearwater office of PICO United Florida, said he's concerned about the federal debt. But any action by lawmakers to reduce the national debt shouldn't overly impact the nation's workers, he said.

"We have to be sensible," King said. "Decreasing our deficit shouldn't come at the expense of the middle class."

[**Group to air grievances at Connie Mack's Cape Coral office**](http://www.news-press.com/article/20120815/NEWS0107/120815003/1075/NEWS0107/Group-air-grievances-Connie-Mack-s-Cape-Coral-office?odyssey=nav%7Chead)

*[Southwest] News-Press*, 8/15/2012

Lee County residents who say they are unhappy with U.S. Rep. Connie Mack's votes to support Bush-era tax cuts are expected to show up at his district office at 11 a.m. today, according to a news release from an organization called Protect Your Care.

Darden Rice, communications director, said the group plans to deliver a report to Mack titled, “[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: Florida Can’t Afford to Extend the Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/07/31/florida-press-release/),” authored by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, **Citizens for Tax Justice** and the **National Women’s Law Center**.

# Georgia Media Hits

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For The Richest 2 Percent**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterAtlanta.pdf)

*Atlanta Inquirer,* Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 10/13/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Stand Up for the Good Name of Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserAtlantaInquirer.pdf)

*The Atlanta Inquirer*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 8/11/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

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# Illinois Media Hits

**[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.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSWNews.pdf)**

*The Ogle County Life/Rock Valley Shopper,* Frank Clemente, 3/18/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSWNews.pdf)**

*Rochelle News Leader,* Frank Clemente, 3/10/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSWNews.pdf)**

*Southwest News-Herald,* Frank Clemente, 3/8/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSouthtownStar.pdf)**

*Southwest Suburban News-Herald,* Frank Clemente, 3/6/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSouthtownStar.pdf)**

*Southtown Star,* Frank Clemente, 3/1/2013

Despite what Republicans are demanding, the fiscal-cliff deal should not be the final word on taxes. Left unreformed by the last-minute, New Year's Day "fiscal cliff" compromise were at least a trillion dollars in tax loopholes and special breaks wealthy individuals and big corporations use to whittle down their tax burden below that of many middle-class families "sometimes all the way down to zero.

The modest revenue increase contained in the fiscal-cliff deal was really only a down payment on true tax fairness " and to raise the money needed to reduce the deficit and invest in the economy. Over the next several months, we face a trifecta of fiscal issues even more challenging than the fiscal cliff: the impending $1 trillion in across-the-board spending cuts that kick in on March 1; the need to fund government operations when temporary federal spending authority expires; and the need to increase the government's ability to borrow money to pay its bills.

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanSWSuburban.pdf)

*Southwest Suburban News-Herald (Oak Lawn-Burbank),* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/28/2012

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanSWNews.pdf)

*Southwest News-Herald,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network,** 12/28/2012

[**Carolers urge Johnson to take a stance on fiscal cliff**](http://www.news-gazette.com/news/politics-and-government/2012-12-13/carolers-urge-johnson-take-stance-fiscal-cliff.html)

*The News-Gazette,* Michael Kiser, 12/13/2012

Traditional holiday music had a political twist to it on Thursday at a local Congressman's office as lawmakers in Washington continue to try and reach a deal on the fiscal cliff.

The Champaign County Health Care Consumers, along with two other state advocacy groups, organized an event outside Republican U.S. Representative Tim Johnson's office in Champaign. Carolers sang familiar tunes heard each year during the holiday season, but with special lyrics dealing with the fiscal cliff.

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattSWNews.pdf)

*Southwest News-Herald,* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/23/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattWisconsinDells.pdf)

*Southwest Suburban NewsHerald (Oak Lawn-Burbank)*, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/23/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For The Richest 2 Percent, Like Me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterDailySouthtown.pdf)

*Chicago Southtown ,* Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/7/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Like Me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterMecklenburg.pdf)

*Illinois Times,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/06/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For The Richest 2 Percent**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterNeighborhood.pdf)

*Chicago Neighborhood Star,* Op-ed by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Government Spending Can Aid, Not Hinder, Businesses**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerSWSuburban.pdf)

*[Oak Lawn-Burbank] Southwest Suburban News-Herald*, Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/12/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Government Spending Can Aid, Not Hinder, Businesses**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerSWHerald.pdf)

*[Chicago] Southwest Suburban News-Herald*, Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/12/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Why does the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget advocate corporate tax overhaul that won’t improve the budget?**](http://galesburgplanet.com/posts/18958)

*Galesburg Planet blog,* 10/4/2012

Some lawmakers have proposed to elim­inate corporate tax subsidies and use all of the resulting revenue savings to pay for a reduction in the corporate income tax rate. In contrast, we strongly believe most, if not all, of the revenue saved from elim­i­nating corporate tax subsidies should go towards deficit reduction and towards creating the healthy, educated work­force and sound infra­structure that will make our nation more competitive.

This year, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, the campaign formed by several national organizations (including CTJ) to raise awareness about revenue issues, decided that one of its basic [principles](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/about/principles/) is that “any corporate tax reform should require the corporate sector to contribute more in federal income-tax revenue than it does now, not less.”

[**How Illinois is affected by federal tax cuts for the rich**](http://galesburgplanet.com/posts/17948)

*Galesburg Planet blog,* Bill Knight, 9/6/2012

In Illinois, extending the tax cuts for the wealthiest households will mean the richest 3.4 percent of Illinois taxpayers would get 47 percent of the total tax breaks in the state, according to a new report from three non-partisan, non-profit groups: **Americans for Tax Fairness**, the **National Women’s Law Center**, and **Citizens for Tax Justice**. The rich’s average tax cut would be about $36,000.

“We can’t afford to keep giving tax cuts to the richest,” says Frank Clemente, also with **Americans for Tax Fairness**. “We can’t balance the budget on the backs of children, seniors and families strug­gling to make ends meet, and we can’t keep borrowing from China. Those who have done well in America should do well by America and pay their fair share.”

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerSWNews.pdf)

*Southwest News-Herald,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Indiana Media Hits

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

*Indiana Herald,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/23/2013

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.

[**Sequestration Will Cut Funding for Schools, Cities**](http://www.elkharttruth.com/article/20130304/NEWS01/799999520)

*The Elkhart Truth,* Tim Vandenack, 3/4/2013

Sequestration isn’t just some abstraction in Washington, D.C.

Officials in Elkhart County say the mandatory mix of budget cuts, left as is, will take a toll locally. The number of special education teachers in Elkhart schools could face trimming and municipal offerings reliant on federal funds — housing programs geared to low-income residents, say, or bike paths — could take a hit.

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerIndianaHerald.pdf)

*[Indianapolis] Indiana Herald***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/13/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Iowa Media Hits

[**Advocates of Fair Tax Picket in Downtown Goshen**](http://goshennews.com/local/x1633488566/Advocates-of-fair-tax-picket-in-downtown-Goshen)

*Goshen News,* John Kline, 2/20/2013

GOSHEN — A small but dedicated group of concerned citizens gathered in front of the Verizon store in downtown Goshen Wednesday afternoon to protest what they say is an epidemic of chronic tax dodging being conducted by many of the country’s largest corporations.

According to Jeremy Bernstein, organizer of the Indiana chapter of **Americans for Democratic Action,** Wednesday’s protest was one of numerous protests staged by ADA chapters in more than 22 states across the country Wednesday. The goal of the protests, he said, was to shine light on mega-corporations that aren’t paying their fair share in taxes, and to draw public attention to the wide-spread damage that could occur if the across-the-board tax cuts known as the sequester are allowed to take affect this March.

[**NBC News at 5**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=1685&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+17%3A25%3A36&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Iowa City] KWWL-IOW, 12/20/2012, aired at 5:25 P.M.

[**Iowans To Senator Grassley: End The Bush Tax Cuts For The Wealthy**](http://www.blogforiowa.com/2012/12/19/iowans-to-senator-grassley-end-the-bush-tax-cuts-for-the-wealthy/)

*Blog for Iowa*, Trish Nelson, 12/19/2012

On Friday, December 21st at 12:30 p.m., Progress Iowa and local activists will join Iowa taxpayers at Sen. Chuck Grassley’s offices in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Sioux City, and Waterloo to deliver letters and petitions from over 800 Iowans in support of tax fairness gathered by [Progress Iowa](http://progressiowa.org/), [CREDO Action](http://credoaction.com/), and local volunteers. Volunteers will also deliver a holiday card telling Grassley to “make it onto Santa’s list” by ending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent.

[**A farm lesson for leaders voting for Bush tax cuts**](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20121024/OPINION01/310240049/1036/opinion01/Iowa-View-farm-lesson-leaders-voting-Bush-tax-cuts?nclick_check=1)

*Des Moines Register,* oped by Clear Lake farmer Chris Petersen/Member, Iowa **Main Street Alliance**, 10/23/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

When the Bush tax cuts were first passed, the federal budget had a surplus. Ten years later, we’re in the hole, in large part because of these unaffordable tax cuts. If we want to reap a different crop from the next 10 years, it’s time to sow some different seeds, not the same old budget-busters that got us into this pickle to begin with. The Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent were bad seed for Iowans and for America. It’s time to rotate the crop.

# Kentucky Media Hits

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitnamFloyd.pdf)

*The [Prestonburg] Floyd County Times,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/21/2012

[**Small business owners and the fiscal cliff**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=4775&DateTime=11%2F28%2F2012+5%3A07%3A17+PM&Term=Small+Business+Majority&PlayClip=TRUE)

*ABC-WKBO Bowling Green,* 11/29/2012

Lisa Goodbee, **Small Business Majority** affiliated business owner, is interviewed after attending the small business meeting at the White House.

[**Poll shows entrepreneurs would let Bush tax cuts expire**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerAugusta.pdf)

*Floyd County Times,* Oped by John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/23/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you.

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerFloyd.pdf)

*Floyd County Times***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/26/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Investing in Progress**

*Middlesboro Daily News***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress Should end Bush tax cuts**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterFloyd.pdf)

*The [Prestonburg] Floyd County Times,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Tax Fairness Group Targets McConnell**](http://www.wfpl.org/post/tax-fairness-group-targets-mcconnell)

[Louisville NPR affiliate] WFPL,Philip M. Bailey, 9/3/2012

The ‘If I Were a Rich Man Tour’ is a national effort that will make a stop in Louisville on Monday to pressure the GOP leader to back President Obama’s proposal to end the tax breaks for wealthier Americans. Under Mr. Obama's plan, all Americans would keep their current tax rates for the first quarter of a million dollars they earn.

Tera Greene is a group volunteer with the tour. She says McConnell is being focused on because he is one of the wealthiest lawmakers to oppose the proposal….

The tax fairness tour is being organized by ‘Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice’, which consists of a group of nine volunteers traveling nationwide. The tour will stop at the Greater Louisville United Labor Picnic, which is at the Pavilion at the Louisville Zoo.

# Louisiana Media Hits

**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**

*Thibodaux Daily Comet,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/12/2013

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.

[**Priest Deplores ‘Shameful’ Ryan Budget, Lauds Landrieu for Her Opposition**](http://thelensnola.org/2013/03/26/priest-deplores-shameful-ryan-budget-lauds-landrieus-opposition/)

*The Lens,* Op-ed by Rev. Michael Jacques, 3/26/2013

The U.S. House of Representatives just passed a morally shameful budget proposal that faith leaders around the country are mobilizing against. The “path to prosperity,” as House Budget Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan calls his plan, slashes more than $4 billion dollars by targeting food assistance, insurance for the elderly and poor, school lunches and other vital programs that members of my congregation rely on every day.

As a Catholic priest, I’m not an expert when it comes to fiscal policy. But along with other religious leaders, I know that any discussion about budgets and taxes is about values. Faith communities are on the front lines of helping struggling Americans who will be most impacted by these monumental decisions made in Washington. This is why the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for a “circle of protection” around responsible government programs that help our most vulnerable neighbors. The bishops described Rep. Ryan’s budget as failing a basic moral test when he released a similar plan last year.

[**Leveling Tax Burden Key to America’s Future**](http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/D4/20130228/OPINION02/302280013/GUEST-COLUMN-Leveling-tax-burden-key-America-s-future?nclick_check=1)

*Shreveport Times,* Op-ed by **Frank Clemente, Americans for Tax Fairness,** 2/28/2013

With what could be an endless series of fiscal crises facing the federal government over the next few months, now is a good time to check where Congress stands in its deficit-reduction efforts. After two years, here’s the scorecard: middle-class families and the military, $1.5 trillion in budget cuts and reduced public investments over 10 years; wealthy households, $620 billion in fairer taxes; corporate America, nothing.

This means for every $2.50 in spending cuts, only $1 in new revenue has been raised. That is not a balanced and responsible plan. Before working families are asked to sacrifice even more —such as in cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid — the richest 2 percent must even up the score and corporations have to get in the game.

[**Louisiana community leaders urge fiscal fairness**](http://www.louisianaweekly.com/louisiana-community-leaders-urge-fiscal-fairness/)

*The Louisiana Weekly*, Lianna Patch, 12/20/12

“Dr. Andre Perry, The Louisiana Weekly columnist and Associate Director for Educational Initiatives for Loyola University’s Institute for Quality and Equity in Education, called the idea that lawmakers would continue to reward the wealthy with tax cuts while making survival for low-income families even harder “wrongheaded, coldhearted and irresponsible.” Speaking for Senator Mary Landrieu, Regional Manager Laverne Saulny offered words of sustainment and solidarity, and encouraged reliance on “compassion, reason and strength” when addressing budget issues. Lan­drieu’s statement included a reminder that the Senator voted for the extension of middle-class tax cuts applying to 98 percent of Louisianans.”

[**NBC 6 News at 5**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=2255&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+17%3A20%3A39&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Shreveport] KTAL- SHV, 12/20/2012, aired at 5:20 P.M.

[**FOX 8 News at 4pm**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=1425&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+16%3A18%3A06&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[New Orleans] WVUE-NO, 12/20/2012, aired at 4:18 P.M.

"Member of the **Micah Project** gathered in Central City. They say programs that the poor and needy count on should not be cut. "That Lawmakers not abandon struggling families this holiday season and instead make sure that everyone pays their fair share including the wealthy and large corporations. Low-income families and seniors in our communities are already suffering. Congress and the President have a moral duty to protect them from any further harm and to make the richest 2% of Americans and corporations pay their fair share. These are non-negotiable principles, not political bargaining chips..."

[**Micah Project** **Press Conference**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=1425&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+16%3A18%3A19&mediapreload=14&playclip=true) **[Video]**

*WVUE New Orleans*, 12/20/2012

Some local clergy, educators, and community leaders call on Louisiana's Congressional delegation to stand up for the poor...as 'fiscal cliff' talks continue in Washington. Members of the 'micah' project gathered in central city. They say programs the poor and needy count on shouldn't be cut. the group says Washington should give struggling Americans a Christmas gift of no cuts to Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security. Hopes are fading that both sides will reach a deal before Christmas. house republicans are moving ahead with a taxes on bill that would raise people earning more than one- million dollars a year, though it would face a white house veto. Senate majority leader Harry Reid says lawmakers will return to the Capitol after the holiday to try again.

[**Majority of voters agree with Senate on Bush tax cuts**](http://www.hammondstar.com/articles/2012/11/19/opinion/editorials/8282.txt)

*Hammond Star*, Editorial Board, 11/19/2012

The Nov. 15 poll by **Americans for Tax Fairness** / Hart Research found a strong 17-point margin of voters favor ending the Bush tax cuts on income over $250,000 (56percent) rather than extending the tax cuts for all taxpayers (39 percent).Moderates, independents and swing voters -- people who said they were considering voting for the other candidate -- all support ending the high-end Bush tax cuts. According to that poll, fully 61 percent agree with President Obama’s position that he will sign a bill that continues the tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans but will veto a bill that continues the tax cuts for incomes over $250,000.

We urge our congressmen to vote in support of the Senate bill.

**Letter:** [**Benefit programs aid small business**](http://theadvocate.com/news/opinion/4358570-123/letter-benefit-programs-aid-small)

*The Advocate*, Oped by Mary Black, business owner, 11/13/2012

Political sound bites aside, here’s my vision for real help for small businesses: End the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent and reinvest the $1 trillion in savings in our communities and local economies.

[**Bush tax cuts good for everyone**](http://theadvocate.com/news/opinion/4389729-123/letters-bush-tax-cuts-good)

T*he Baton Rouge Advocate*, Oped by Michael Hale, **Main Street Alliance** affiliated small business owner, 11/12/2012

I am writing in support of the recent letter from Mary Black regarding what the government can do to actually help small businesses. As a small-business owner, I can tell you that Black’s letter is 100 percent accurate.

The Republican notion of how our economy works is false. Very few mainstream economists support it. As we have proven over and over again, the only reliable result of lowering taxes on rich folks is that rich folks get richer. The rest of us get poorer.

[**Can't afford tax cuts for rich**](http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20121107/OPINION0106/211070321/)

*Shreveport Times*, Oped by Camille Moran, **Business for Shared Prosperity**, 11/7/2012

As the owner of two central Louisiana businesses, a freelance paralegal service and a Christmas tree farm, I am no stranger to the debate on taxes. I also know that investment is essential to my businesses' success. Much of that investment comes from me, but some of it comes when the government invests our tax dollars in ways that benefit my community and my business.

Those who think that allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire on income over $250,000 will hurt small businesses don't know much about the financial lot of the vast majority of small business owners. Less than 3 percent of taxpayers with any business income have income over $250,000 and many of these are law partnerships, Wall Street investment managers and others not typically thought of as small businesses.

[**Benefit Programs Aid Small Businesses**](http://theadvocate.com/news/opinion/4358570-123/letter-benefit-programs-aid-small)

*The Baton Rouge Advocate*, Oped by Mary Black, **Main Street Alliance** affiliated business owner, 11/7/2012 [Syndicated by American Forum]

I run a packing and shipping business in Baton Rouge. So when elected officials talk about helping small businesses, I’m all ears. Unfortunately, their claims about helping us often have too much packaging and not enough substance.

The fact is that 97 percent of small businesses won’t be affected by ending the Bush tax cuts for income above $250,000 a year. For us, this isn’t an issue.

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerLakeCharles1.pdf)

*Lake Charles American Press,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/12/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

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# Maine Media Hits

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

*Franklin Journal,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/14/2013

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.

[**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

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.

**[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

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - Demonstrators will be using pizza slices as props to make their point about tax loopholes on income tax filing day.

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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

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - Demonstrators will be using pizza slices as props to make their point about tax loopholes on income tax filing day.

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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.

[**Income Tax Bill Targets Wealthiest in Maine**](http://www.pressherald.com/news/maine-legislature-buffet-rule-seth-berry-proposal-tax.html?pagenum=full)

*Portland Press Herald,* Steve Mistler, 3/22/2013

AUGUSTA - The Legislature's House Democratic leader is proposing a bill he says will create "tax fairness" between Maine's high earners and everyone else, a proposal that aligns with a national effort among Democrats to fill budget gaps by raising taxes on the wealthy.

Rep. Seth Berry, D-Bowdoinham, says his proposal, L.D. 1113, would fill half of the projected $400 million gap in the next two-year budget -- a shortfall attributed to a tax-cut package passed by the Legislature in 2011, when Republicans held the majority.

[**Income Tax Bill Targets Wealthiest in Maine**](http://www.onlinesentinel.com/news/maine-legislature-buffet-rule-seth-berry-proposal-tax.html)

*Morning Sentinel,* Steve Mistler, 3/22/2013

The proposal has been foreshadowed for the last month by organizations claiming that the tax cuts passed in 2011 skewed toward the state's wealthy. The public relations effort, spearheaded by the Maine People's Alliance, is overseen by the national group **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

That group, co-chaired by Neena Tanden, a former member of the Obama and Clinton administrations, boasts partners in nearly 20 states, including Maine.

[**Democratic Lawmakers Speaking out on Federal Budget**](http://www.foxbangor.com/news/local-news/1184-democratic-lawmakers-speaking-out-on-federal-budget.html)

*Fox Bangor,* Andrew Scheinthal, 3/20/2013

AUGUSTA - Maine lawmakers speaking out on the Federal budget in Augusta today.

Democrats are asking for Senators Susan Collins and Angus King to vote for what they are calling a fair budget, saying that the decisions made in Washington can affect all Mainer's, especially when it comes to cutting back financially.

Democratic lawmakers say they would like to see the federal government close tax loop holes to bring in more revenue.

[**Podcast: The Pulse AM620**](http://www.bigcontact.com/pulsepodcast/mar-18-podcast) **[Audio]**

With **Maine People’s Alliance**, 3/18/13

[**Activist Group Wants Tax Hike, Not Cuts**](http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article/233700/314/Activist-group-wants-tax-hike-not-cuts)

*WCSH,* 3/4/2013

The federal budget sequester has begun, and members of one of the state's biggest activist groups are lobbying Maine's Congressional delegation to raise taxes instead of making the big cuts.

**The Maine People's Alliance,** which says it has 32,000 members, says it believes Congress should do what President Obama has proposed - raise taxes on the wealthy.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeFranklin.pdf)**

*Franklin Journal,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/1/2013

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanFranklin.pdf)

*Franklin Journal,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/25/2012

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Another View: Don’t equate raising taxes on the wealthy with cuts for the needy**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/dont-equate-raising-taxes-on-wealthy-with-cuts-for-the-needy_2012-12-25.html?pageType=mobile&id=5)

*Portland Press Herald,* Jacqueline Edwards, 12/25/2012

[**Maine small businesses speak out on ‘fiscal cliff’**](http://www.kjonline.com/news/Maine-small-businesses-speak-out-on-fiscal-cliff-.html)

*Kennebec Journal*/ *The Associated Press*, 12/20/2012

Members of the **Maine Small Business Coalition** are holding a media conference call Thursday to advocate for higher taxes on incomes above $250,000 and protection of Social Security and Medicare programs that the coalition says support small business owners and their customers.

The president and Republican congressional leaders are negotiating in Washington on a bipartisan deal to avert what has been labeled the fiscal cliff. Without an agreement, broad tax increases on nearly all taxpayers and budget-wide spending cuts will be triggered in early January.

[**As Fiscal Cliff Debates continue in Washington, Maine groups weigh in**](http://bangor.wcsh6.com/news/news/174700-fiscal-cliff-debates-continue-washington-maine-groups-weigh)

*WLBZ2,* Chris Facchini, 12/13/2012

As the nation draws closer to the edge of the fiscal cliff, the pressure is mounting for President Obama and Speaker Boehner to reach a compromise. The fiscal cliff is a combination of spending cuts and tax increases that will automatically go into effect on January 1st if Congress fails to take action. Some economists warn of another recession if a deal isn't reached. The rhetoric is heating up in Washington and here in Maine. Members of the **Maine People’s Alliance** and Food and Medicine held a rally in West Market Square in Bangor at noon Thursday to call on Republican leadership to accept the president's deal which would allow taxes to go up on the top 2 percent of earners while avoiding deep cuts to programs like medicare.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Deficit Flimflam**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/12/07/opinion/saturday-dec-8-2012-the-fiscal-cliff-school-restraints-and-holiday-trees/)

*The Bangor Daily News,* Dennis Lopez, 12/8/2012

Voters and taxpayers should not be subject to this grandiose deception, nor be stuck with the bill. You can be sure though, a problem so convoluted will wind up with a solution to match.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Obama’s Plan is Better**](http://www.sunjournal.com/news/letters/2012/12/08/pelletier-obamas-plan-better/1289313)

*Sun JournaI,* Al Pelletier, 12/8/2012

Well, the Republicans finally came up with a proposal for the "fiscal cliff" calamity. It is now very clear how they want to hit the entitlement programs rather then increase revenues by reinstating the Clinton era tax structure and reducing military spending.

[**Maine Voices: Creating a 'small business' tax loophole would only serve millionaires**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/creating-a-small-business-tax-loophole-would-only-serve-millionaires_2012-12-07.html)

*The Portland Press Herald,* Kevin Simowitz, 12/7/2012

If a business owner is doing well enough to net $250,000 a year, we are confident that those business owners understand the importance of paying their fair share. As **Maine Small Business Coalition** member Jim Wellehan, owner of Lamey-Wellehan Shoes, noted recently: "It makes no sense, from any perspective, to preserve the tax cuts for the wealthiest people in the country. It will just increase the wealth gap and create more of a social problem."

We believe, as Sen. Collins writes, that successfully navigating the fiscal showdown is a national imperative. As a small business organization, our members understand that ending these tax breaks for the wealthy would help their ability to grow the economy. They are frustrated that a warped idea about what a small business is and what small business owners want has been allowed to shape the political discussion. Our members are speaking clearly from Aroostook to York: Let these tax cuts for the wealthy expire.

[**Ultimately, our public budgets are moral documents**](http://www.kjonline.com/opinion/ultimately-our-public-budgets-are-moral-documents_2012-12-02.html)

*Kennebec Journal,* Oped by Rev. Frank Morin, 12/3/2012

In addition to raising funds for the common good, taxation -- when equitable and progressive -- also helps to close unhealthy gaps in wealth and income. Worldly success, combined with a spiritual appreciation of higher rewards, is to be applauded; much good work around the globe is done by wealthy individuals.

But the startling concentration in recent decades of wealth (and by extension, power) into fewer and fewer hands in this country cannot be consistent with a just, peaceful and prosperous society. By asking a greater contribution to common purposes from our wealthier neighbors, we help even out the distribution of bounty among us, creating a more harmonious whole.

**Blog:** [**Mainers Reach Out to Senators and Collins and Snowe on Tax Fairness, Fiscal Cliff, Proposed Cuts to Safety Net Programs**](http://www.dirigoblue.com/2012/12/mainers-reach-out-to-senators-collins-and-snowe-on-tax-fairness-fiscal-cliff-proposed-cuts-to-safety-net-programs/)

*Dirigo Blue,* Andi Parkinson, 12/3/2012

Last week volunteers with the **Maine People’s Alliance**, as part of the organization’s “Fair Share” initiative efforts, visited the senators’ Augusta offices to urge them to support President Obama’s plan to end the Bush-era tax breaks for individuals who make over $250,000 a year. Staffers were presented with [copies of more than 50 letters and editorials](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/11/13/opinion/wednesday-nov-14-2012-mega-tank-the-fiscal-cliff-and-blogging/) recently published in Maine newspapers. The letters *“serve as a reminder that a strong majority of Mainers support ending tax breaks that disproportionately benefit the wealthy as a way to avert the budget showdown in Washington”*, per MPA.

**Blog:** [**Mainers Reach Out to Senators and Collins and Snowe on Tax Fairness, Fiscal Cliff, Proposed Cuts to Safety Net Programs**](http://www.dirigoblue.com/2012/12/mainers-reach-out-to-senators-collins-and-snowe-on-tax-fairness-fiscal-cliff-proposed-cuts-to-safety-net-programs/)

*Maine Progressives Warehouse,* Andi Parkinson, 12/3/2012

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[**Election shows Mainers want to end tax breaks for top 2 percent**](http://maineinsights.com/perma/election-shows-mainers-want-to-end-tax-breaks-for-top-2-percent-maine-sen-offices-to-be-lobbied-in-augusta)

*Maine Insights,* Ramona Du Houx, 11/29/2012

Maine citizens, like Sukeforth, are visiting the offices of Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins in Augusta today to urge them to vote with the majority of Mainers and end the Bush-era tax breaks for individuals who make over $250,000 a year.

The activists will present the Senators’ staffers with copies of more than 50 letters and editorials written in support of ending tax breaks for the wealthy that were published in major newspapers across the state in just the last few weeks. A recent poll conducted by the **Maine People’s Resource Center** found that not only did Mainers support tax fairness, but 55.3 percent of voters believed that increasing taxes on the wealthy would help the economy. Only 29.2 percent thought it would hurt the economy.

[**Entrepreneurs would let Bush tax cuts expire**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerFranklin.pdf)

*Franklin Journal,* Oped by John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you.

[**Maine group pushed for higher taxes on wealthy**](http://www.mpbn.net/News/MaineNewsArchive/tabid/181/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3475/ItemId/24711/Default.aspx)

*Maine Public Broadcasting Network*, Jennifer Mitchell, 11/14/2012

At the end of this year, America is facing the so-called fiscal cliff. You've probably heard something about it by now, and by the end of the year, at least another 8,000 citizens across Maine will have heard about it too, as part of a new grassroots campaign kicked off this afternoon by the **Maine People’s Alliance**. As Jennifer Mitchell reports, the MPA is trying to send a message to Maine's congressional delegates that the Bush-era tax breaks should expire for the nation's wealthiest top 2 percent.

[**Maine People’s Alliance Speaking with Mainers about Bush-Era Tax Cuts**](http://www.wvii.com/stories.html?sku=20121114153953)

*WVII Fox Bangor*, 11/14/2012

The **Maine People’s Alliance** is launching a statewide canvass operation to speak with 8,700 Mainers about letting Bush-era tax cuts expire for the wealthiest 2 percent.

An effort they hope Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe will push for in the budget talks.

[**Showdown in Washington: The choices we face**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/11/14/opinion/showdown-in-washington-the-choices-we-face/)

*Bangor Daily News*, Oped by Jesse Graham, executive director of The **Maine People’s Alliance**, 11/14/2012

As we enter these deliberations, Congress should keep four principles foremost in mind. First, we must end the Bush tax cuts for couples earning more than $250,000 a year, which will save $1 trillion over the next decade, almost the amount of the automatic spending cuts. Instead of more tax breaks for higher incomes, the revenue would be better spent providing vital services to our families and investing in good jobs at home.

[**Senators should listen to voters on taxes**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/Our-View-Senators-should-listen-to-voters-on-taxes.html?searchterm=fiscal+cliff)

*Portland Press Herald/Morning Sentinel,* Editorial Board, 11/13/2012

Maine Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins did not run for office on Tuesday, but they should pay close attention to what the voters of their state said as Congress reconvenes for a lame duck session this week to head off the looming automatic budget cuts and tax increases called the fiscal cliff.

Failing to act would be disastrous. According to the Congressional Budget Office, going over the fiscal cliff would suck $600 billion out of an already weak economy in 2013 alone and lead to 1 million job losses over the next two years, pushing unemployment over 9 percent.

[**New Budgets, policies should reflect direction expressed by voters**](http://pollways.bangordailynews.com/2012/11/13/other/new-budgets-policies-should-reflect-direction-expressed-by-voters/)

*Bangor Daily News*, Oped by Amy Fried, a member of the Maine Regional Network,11/13/2012

After a campaign in which Republicans called for tax cuts mostly delivered to high-income people, fewer regulations on business and slashing budgets, citizens continue to support a system that has been around since the 1930s, combining a free, active market economy with a government that provides opportunity and security and constrains laissez-faire capitalism. About 60 percent want tax increases on the top 2 percent, and most don’t want to harm programs and tax deductions for middle-class, working-class and poor Americans.

[**Maine’s People’s Alliance Calls for Bush-Era Tax Breaks Expire**](http://www.wgme.com/news/top-stories/stories/wgme_vid_13445.shtml) **[VIDEO]**

*WGME*, 9/12/2012

[**Maine People’s Alliance rallies with and for veterans in Lewiston**](http://www.sunjournal.com/news/lewiston-auburn/2012/11/12/maine-peoples-alliance-rallies-and-veterans-lewist/1279640)

*Lewiston-Auburn Sun Journal*, Scott Thistle, 11/12/2012

Standing before a monument etched with the words, "The Price of Freedom," about a dozen **Maine People’s Alliance** activists and several veterans rallied Monday on Main Street. They are urging Congress to act in the final months of the year to eliminate tax cuts enacted under President George W. Bush. Those tax cuts, the group said, benefit only the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans.

**Opinion:** [**Why I should pay higher taxes**](http://www.sunjournal.com/news/columns-analysis/2012/10/20/jonathan-lee-why-i-should-pay-higher-taxes/1267628#.UIPnS1HD38U.email)

*The [Lewiston, Maine] Sun Journal,* Oped byJonathan Lee, 10/20/2012

I am one of those wealthy citizens and today I am calling for an end to tax cuts on annual incomes above $250,000, even though it means I would pay more.

I am not alone among wealthier Mainers and Americans who want to see higher taxes on folks like ourselves be included in any deficit-reduction deal. We may appreciate low taxes as taxpayers, but as citizens, we cannot afford them.

[**No injustice**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/10/10/opinion/thursday-october-11-2012-tax-policy-gay-marriage-and-the-fiscal-cliff/)

*The Bangor Daily News,* Oped byRyan Toothaker, 10/10/2012

Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins can demonstrate their well-earned reputation for political independence at the end of this year when Congress will debate trillions of dollars worth of spending and revenue measures. A key point of contention is whether to extend tax cuts originally passed during the early Bush administration for households making more than a quarter million dollars a year. (This represents only 2 percent of all taxpayers, 3 percent of small businesses). The pro-Maine and pro-small business vote would be no.

It would be better to use the hundreds of billions of dollars that would be generated by allowing the rates on top earners to rise slightly, which would reduce debt and pay for things like Medicare, college tuition assistance and road repair that support the middle class and promote broad-based prosperity.

[**Ending tax cuts for rich would aid small business**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/letters/greed-seems-to-rule-washington_2012-10-05.html)

*Portland Press Herald*, letter by Stretch Tuemmler, owner of Stretch Studio in Portland and member of the **Maine Small Business Coalition**, 10/5/2012

A good starting place would be to allow tax cuts to expire for the 2 percent of American households that make more than a quarter-million dollars a year.

This move would raise hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 10 years for debt reduction, and, as the owner of a business, I can testify it will do no harm to small enterprise.

In fact, it will help us by improving the economic outlook of our middle-class customers.

[**Our economy's health depends on middle class, not rich elite**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/our-economys-health-depends-on-middle-class-not-rich-elite_2012-10-04.html)

*Portland [Maine] Press Herald*, Oped by Jesse Graham, Director of **Maine’s People Alliance**, 10/4/2012

Raising taxes on the wealthy is one sure way out of the crisis, but some politicians are resisting, based on the theory that even modest tax hikes on high-earners would slow economic growth.

Or as the report puts it: "It would be reasonable to assume that a tax rate change limited to a small group of taxpayers at the top of the income distribution would have a negligible effect on economic growth."

In the "fiscal cliff" negotiations at year's end, sensible members of Congress from both parties can strike a budget deal that includes higher taxes on the wealthy, such as allowing the Bush-era tax cuts on households making over $250,000 dollars a year to expire.

[**Allow high-end tax cuts to expire**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/10/02/opinion/wednesday-oct-3-2012-fighting-in-washington-tax-cuts-and-cancer-pain-management/)

*The Bangor Daily News,* Oped by James Yerkes, 10/3/2012

Our two moderate Republican senators are well qualified to reacquaint their GOP colleagues with the art of compromise. One easy place to start the process is by allowing Bush-era tax cuts on the 2 percent of taxpayers who make more than a quarter of a million dollars a year to expire, generating tens of billions of dollars that can be used to pay down debt and preserve bulwarks of the middle class such as Medicare and student loans.

[**Humble farmer**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/10/02/opinion/wednesday-oct-3-2012-fighting-in-washington-tax-cuts-and-cancer-pain-management/)

*Bangor Daily News*, letter by Robert Karl Skoglund, member of the **Maine Small Business Coalition**, 10/3/2012

Since both Democrats and Republicans (as well as the odd independent) agree that tax cuts due to expire at the end of this year shouldn’t — for folks making less than a quarter of a million dollars annually — let’s not let them expire.

Once we’ve extended tax cuts for the middle class, we can look up at the happy 2 percent of households that rake in over $250,000 each and every year and allow the rates to move up ever so gently — not much, just back to the levels that helped bring on the prosperity and budget surpluses of the Clinton years.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Allow high-end tax cuts to expire**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/10/02/opinion/wednesday-oct-3-2012-fighting-in-washington-tax-cuts-and-cancer-pain-management/)

*The Bangor Daily News,* James Yerkes, 10/3/2012

That’s when hundreds of billions of dollars worth of across-the-board tax increases and indiscriminate spending cuts are set to kick in unless Congress acts to stop them. That can only happen if the two parties reach a bargain on how intelligently to confront our deficit problem. Democrats have already agreed to a $1 trillion worth of spending reductions over the next decade. Meanwhile, Republicans haven’t agreed to a single dime of revenue increases, even from multibillionaires and multinational corporations awash in profits. It seems clear which side needs to give a little.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Debating taxes requires knowing what they pay for**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/letters/most-maine-hunters-hunt-responsibly_2012-09-28.html)

*Portland Press Herald,* Jeanne Brooks, 9/28/2012

Yet facing growing debt and a painfully slow recovery, some politicians are claiming as a No. 1 priority that billionaires obtain yet another tax break. They are even willing to hold up middle-class tax relief unless the billionaires get their extra benefits.

Sens. [Olympia Snowe](http://www.pressherald.com/search?searchterm=%22Olympia+Snowe%22) and [Susan Collins](http://www.pressherald.com/search?searchterm=%22Susan+Collins%22) should buck their party and support middle-income tax cuts for those families making less than $250,000 a year, while also voting to allow tax breaks to expire for the top 2 percent -- those taxpayers making over that amount, including billionaires.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Debating taxes requires knowing what they pay for**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/letters/most-maine-hunters-hunt-responsibly_2012-09-28.html)

*Portland Press Herald,* Jeanne Brooks, 9/28/2012

And yet loud arguments are often made for tax cuts -- especially by and for the wealthy -- as if drastically reducing revenue would have no effect on public goods and services or increase public debt.

[**End Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterFranklinJournal.pdf)

*The [Farmington] Franklin Journal,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/28/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Why small businesses should oppose lowering the tax rate for the wealthy**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/09/26/opinion/why-small-businesses-should-oppose-lowering-the-tax-rate-for-the-wealthy/)

*Bangor Daily News*, Op-ed by Jim Amaral, Founder of Borealis Breads in Wells and Lisa Burton, Co-Owner of Reel Pizza Cinerama in Bar Harbor, **Maine Small Business Coalition**, 9/26/12

Even though we both employ people in our businesses, we’re not the real “job creators.” That title belongs to our customers, the great mass of middle-class folks who buy our goods and services and make us profitable. So our main concern when it comes to government tax and spending policies is not how they will impact a tiny economic elite — or even our own finances — but how they will affect average families. That’s why we oppose maintaining artificially low tax rates on the wealthy when those rates endanger the prosperity of the middle class.

Right after the fall elections, there will be a great debate over what to do about tax cuts set to expire at the end of the year. It’s part of a larger question of how to get our federal budget back in shape and our economy back up to speed. Some politicians want to extend these cuts for all income levels — including millionaires and billionaires — but the wiser course would be to target this tax relief to the people who truly need and will spend the money: the middle class.

[**Bangor Voters Meet Candidates at Town Hall Forum**](http://www.wabi.tv/news/33804/bangor-voters-meet-candidates-at-town-hall-forum)

*WABI,* 9/27/2012

The **Maine People’s Alliance**, alongside residents of Bangor, hosted a town hall meeting, taking place at the Hammond St. Congregational Church.

Candidates were pressed on a variety of subjects including healthcare, tax equality, and the legality of worker's unions.

[**Why small businesses should oppose lowering the tax rate for the wealthy**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/09/26/opinion/why-small-businesses-should-oppose-lowering-the-tax-rate-for-the-wealthy/)

*Bangor Daily News*, Oped by Jim Amaral, Founder of Borealis Breads in Wells and Lisa Burton, Co-Owner of Reel Pizza Cinerama in Bar Harbor, **Maine Small Business Coalition**, 9/26/12

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**Letter to the Editor:** [**Rolling back tax cuts for rich is first step to fairness**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/letters/more-thoughts-on-romney-gaffe_2012-09-26.html)

*Portland Press Herald,* Sheila M. Clough, 9/26/2012

Now we find ourselves in the worst recession since those dark days. Many of our neighbors are in dire straits, like my dad, through no fault of their own. People who dare ask why the tax code is skewed in favor of the rich are accused of "class warfare." Twenty percent of our children are food insecure and yet some of our leaders have the nerve to grouse about food stamps!

If we want our country back -- the country where everybody has a chance -- then those with more need to pay their fair share. Let's start by ending the Bush era tax cuts benefitting the wealthiest few.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Keep tax relief**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/09/21/opinion/saturday-sept-22-2012-taxes-health-care-and-candidate-endorsements/?ref=mostReadBoxOpinion)

*Bangor Daily News,* Mike Shunney*,* 9/22/2012

For the other 97 percent of us, the effect of slightly higher taxes on the most profitable businesses is all positive, since the increased public revenue can be used to pay down debt and bolster programs that support our customers, the middle class. With federal finances in better shape and programs such as Medicare and college tuition assistance strengthened, working families are more likely to spend on local businesses such as mine.

A few months ago, U.S. Sen. Susan Collins got it half right when she went against her party and voted to end tax cuts for those making more than $250,000.

Unfortunately, she also voted to end tax cuts for the middle-class families and small businesses making less than that. She and Sen. Olympia Snowe will face this issue again soon. They should vote to keep middle-income tax relief, while restoring fairer rates for the better-off.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Lame ducks**](http://bangordailynews.com/2012/09/20/opinion/friday-sept-21-2012-gops-ill-advised-budget-plans-job-creation-and-anti-angus-ads/?ref=mostReadBoxOpinion)

*Bangor Daily News,* Dick Altee, 9/21/2012

Real small businesses, drivers of the economy, confirm in surveys that lack of demand for their output, not high taxes, is their problem.

Our two representatives, understanding this, support tax cuts for the nonwealthy, not the wealthy. One would hope our two senators will, too, in the coming lame duck session.

[**Maine People’s Alliance calls for Bush-era tax breaks to expire**](http://www.wgme.com/news/top-stories/stories/wgme_vid_13445.shtml) **[Video]**

*WGME-TV13 Portland*, 9/12/2012

Cut out the tax cuts for millionaires. That's the message from **Maine People’s Alliance**, that's a left-leaning activist group. They stopped by Senator Collins' Lewiston office and also planned to visit Senator Snowe.

The group wants senators Collins and Snowe to vote to allow the Bush-era tax breaks to expire. They believe the tax breaks unfairly favor the wealthiest Americans and don't do enough for the middle class. This summer Senator Collins sided with democrats in a vote to let the Bush-era cuts expire Snowe sided with the plan to extend the cuts.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Fairer taxes mean we all can do better together**](http://www.kjonline.com/opinion/letters/fairer-taxes-mean-weall-can-do-better-together_2012-08-30.html)

*Kennebec Journal,* Barbara Buermann Johnson, 8/30/2012

As a disabled citizen, I know first-hand the importance of public services. But so does everyone who drives on public roads or sends a kid to public school or checks out a book at the public library. The taxes that pay for these services are based on ability to pay. By definition, very wealthy people have more money available to pay taxes than the poor and middle class, who are barely able to meet all their other expenses.

That's the theory behind allowing Bush-era tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans -- that tiny 2 percent sliver that earns over a quarter million dollars a year -- to pay slightly more as part of a larger plan to pay down national debt and preserve necessary public services. Tax cuts for the other 98 percent of us would continue, helping us pay all those other bills.

[**Recession, not high taxes, small firms' big roadblock**](http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/lobster-economics-story-doesnt-add-up_2012-08-20.html?searchterm=%26quot%3BPamela+Edwards%26quot%3B)

*Portland Press Herald*, letter by Pamela Edwards, member of the **Maine Small Business Coalition** (**Main Street Alliance** affiliate), 8/20/2012

Opponents of equitable taxation often claim that raising rates slightly on wealthier Americans to pay down national debt and restore valuable public investments would somehow hurt small business and prevent job creation.

Well, as an owner of one of those job-creating small businesses, I have an important message for my "defenders": The idea that taxes are preventing us from hiring is nonsense. Nothing in the tax code is keeping us from taking on employees; what's holding us back is a lack of consumer demand.

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerFranklin.pdf)

*Franklin Journal,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Collins, Snowe embody virtue of fairness in regards to taxes**](http://www.kjonline.com/opinion/columnists/collins-snowe-embody-virtue-of-fairness-in-regards-to-taxes_2012-08-12.html)

*[Augusta] Kennebec Journal,* Oped by Laurent F. Gilbert Sr., former Mayor of Lewiston, 8/13/2012

.…We know we have to get our financial house in order, but we also know we can't do it through spending cuts alone. Large corporations and wealthy individuals must pay their fair share as part of the solution.…

A good place to start is by allowing the tax rates on the top 2 percent of households -- those families making more than $250,000 per year -- to rise slightly, back to the level of the Clinton administration in the 1990s, a time of unprecedented prosperity.

[**Collins, Snowe embody virtue of fairness in regards to taxes**](http://www.onlinesentinel.com/opinion/collins-snowe-embody-virtue-of-fairness-in-regards-to-taxes_2012-08-12.html)

*[Skowhegan] Morning Sentinel,* Oped by Laurent F. Gilbert Sr., former Mayor of Lewiston, 8/13/2012

# Maryland Media Hits

**[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 [UPDATE: Mollein­dus­tria and Gan Golan with 8bit pixel art­work by Jamogames and clas­sic chip­tunes sound by Ash­ton Mor­ris] 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.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeDorchester.pdf)**

*Dorchester Banner,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/1/2013

[**Myths and millionaires, the Bush tax cuts**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattDorchesterBanner.pdf)

*[Cambridge] Dorchester Banner* Oped by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Massachusetts Media Hits

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerMalden.pdf)

*Malden Evening News,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/03/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerMedford.pdf)

*Medford Daily Mercury,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/03/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2012/10/24/myths-and-millionaires/joNZlph4jzHkHuXh8NuKRN/story.html)

*Boston Globe*, Oped by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 10/24/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

If Governor Romney and congressional Republicans, including Senator Scott Brown, continue to insist on renewing the special Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, it will do nothing to create jobs. It is a fiction, pure and simple, that taxing so-called “job creators” will have an adverse effect on the economy….

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

**Investing in progress to catch international competitors**

*Gardner News,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/16/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Progress Fueled by Investment, Not Taxes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerStandardTimes.pdf)

*[New Bedford] Standard-Times***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, American Sustainable Business

Council, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest 2% like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterGardnerNews.pdf)

*The Gardner News,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerTaunton.pdf)

*Taunton Daily Gazette,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerGardnerNews.pdf)

*Gardner News,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerWickedBerkley.pdf)

*Wicked Local Berkley,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Michigan Media Hits

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

*Huron County View,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/16/2013

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.

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

*Hillsdale Daily News,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/11/2013

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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.

**Progressives, Dems Hope to Cash in On Tax Day**

*MIRS News*

Thousands of Tea Party activists swarmed the Capitol four years ago on April 15, the deadline for Americans to file their income tax returns.

Today, the Capitol lawn was barren. Instead, Democrats and their progressive allies held a pair of press conferences clobbering Gov. Rick Snyder and Republican legislators for passing an end to state income tax exemptions.

[**Federal Employees Protest Sequester at Warren TACOM**](http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/federal-employees-in-warren-protest-sequestration)

*WXYZ Action News,* 3/20/2013

WARREN, Mich. (WXYZ) - Federal employees are protesting across-the-board budget cuts, known as sequestration. They rallied outside the U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal at Warren's TACOM at 11:30 am.

Over 100 rallies are planned today to battle sequestration. It's a mass demonstration planned by the American Federation of Government Employees.

[**Michigan Citizen Action Director Calls for “Balanced Approach” to Deficit Reduction**](http://wmuk.org/post/michigan-citizen-action-director-calls-balanced-approach-deficit-reduction)

*WMUK,* Gordon Evans, 3/4/2013

The sequester has been place since Friday. The across the board spending cuts went into effect when no agreement could be reached on a deal to reduce the federal budget deficit. Michigan Citizen Action Executive Director Linda Teeter spoke with WMUK's Gordon Evans on the cuts Monday morning.

Teeter says the effect of the cuts will be felt soon. She says that will include programs like Head Start and special education. She says there could be fewer dollars at Western Michigan University for programs like research and work-study.

[**Letter: Sequestration Will Hurt Michigan Kids**](http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130301/OPINION01/303010331/1008/OPINION01/Letter-Sequestration-will-hurt-Michigan-kids)

*The Detroit News,* John Austin, 3/1/2013

In January, Congress averted a fiscal crisis at the last minute. The result was a bill that no one stood fully behind or liked. Now, Congress is at it again. We are only days away from the sequestration and yet some in Congress still are pushing for cuts to critical programs that most of us depend on. Let's get serious: we cannot cut our way to prosperity when our nation's and our Michigan's economic future depend on helping everyone get the best education possible; investing in basic research and our universities where the next economy-changing innovation will be found; and while our infrastructure for participating in the economy crumbles around us.

It's wrong to reduce the deficit on the backs of the middle class by cutting vital programs such as education and higher education access. Instead of taking away access to Head Start, we should find the common sense fiscal solution where tax reforms and targeted spending cuts are combined with new revenues so millionaires pay at least as high a tax rate as their secretaries.

[**U.S. Rep John Conyers, Michigan Education Leaders Call for Sequester Solution to Avoid Job Cuts**](http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/02/john_conyers_sequester_educati.html)

*M Live,* Melissa Anders, 2/20/2013

Obama has criticized Republicans in Congress, saying they are unwilling to raise taxes to reduce deficits. Obama has said a sequester would result in furloughed FBI agents, reductions in spending for communities to pay police and fire personnel and teachers, and decreased ability to respond to threats around the world, according to a report from The Associated Press.

House Republicans in Congress have proposed an alternative to the immediate cuts, targeting some spending and extending some of the reductions over a longer period of time. Republicans have said they are willing to undertake changes in the tax code and eliminate loopholes and tax subsidies. But they have said they would overhaul the tax system to reduce rates -- not to raise revenue, according to the AP.

[**Sequester May Cost Michigan More Than 31,000 Jobs**](http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130220/POLITICS03/302200363/Sequester-may-cost-Michigan-more-than-31-000-jobs?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE)

*The Detroit News,* Marisa Schultz and Christine Tierney,2/20/2013

*Washington* — Michigan stands to lose thousands of jobs and its economy could stall if Congress rebuffs President Barack Obama's appeal Tuesday to take action to postpone looming federal budget cuts.

"This is not an abstraction, people will lose their jobs," Obama said, stepping up pressure on Congress to avert the sequester — $1.2 trillion in budget cuts set to kick in March 1. The cuts "will add hundreds of thousands of Americans to the unemployment rolls."

Michigan could shed more than 31,000 jobs in six months if the sequester goes into effect, slashing spending for programs ranging from children's education to national defense.

[**Education Advocates, Others, Warn of Dangers of Federal Budget Cuts**](http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20130220/NEWS01/302200035/Education-advocates-others-warn-dangers-federal-budget-cuts?gcheck=1)

*Lansing State Journal,* Maureen Groppe, 2/20/2013

**WASHINGTON** — State education advocates said Wednesday that pending federal budget cuts would be damaging to Michigan schools, resulting in job losses, larger class sizes and less help for those who need it most.

The across-the-board cuts — set to kick in next month unless Congress intervenes — include estimated cuts of $24 million in Title I grants for Michigan schools that disproportionately serve low-income families and $21.5 million in grants for special education, according to House Democrats. The National Education Association estimates that more than 1,000 Michigan teachers and aides could lose their jobs.

[**Red Kingman and the Michigan Citizen Action Interview**](http://whtc.com/podcasts/whtc-morning-red-kingman/red-kingman-and-michigan-citizen-action-interview/)

*WHTC 1450 Holland*, Red Kingman, 1/4/2013

Here Red interviewed Lonnie Scott, Communications Director for **Michigan Citizen Action** about the result of the passage of the fiscal cliff bill that was approved by both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Red and Scott discuss the result here.

**December Radio Coverage in Michigan Included:**

[**1320 WILS**](http://1320wils.com/assets/files/12-31-12%20Linda%20Teeter.mp3) 12/31

[**1320 WILS with Linda Teeter**](http://1320wils.com/assets/files/11-27-12%20Linda%20Teeter.mp3) 12/27

[**WMK The Talk**](http://wmktthetalkstation.com/media/podcasts/vic/12-27-12%20linda%20teeter.mp3) 12/27

[**Don’t throw safety net off fiscal cliff**](http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121222/OPINION01/212220317/1008/opinion01/Mitchell-Don-t-throw-safety-net-off-fiscal-cliff)

*Detroit News,* Marjorie Mitchell 12/22/2012

As Americans struggle to pull out of the recent recession, now is not the time to dismantle the nation's safety net for political gain. It is, rather, time to evaluate a balanced approach to the nation's deficit that does no harm to our most vulnerable citizens while saving dollars. This approach must ensure that individuals and corporations are all contributing their fair share to keep America strong. There are ways the safety net can contribute to deficit reduction.

[**Americans for Tax Fairness: Why it’s fair to tax estates of the super-rich**](http://www.mlive.com/opinion/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/12/americans_for_tax_fairness_why.html)

*Michigan Live*, Trevor Thomas, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, 12/19/2012

Congress faces a critical choice. If it does nothing, the current estate tax, which assesses a 35 percent tax on the value of estates over $10.2 million per couple ($5.1 million per individual), will end. The estate tax will automatically revert to the Clinton-era level, which would tax the value of estates over $2 million per couple ($1 million per individual) at a 55 percent rate.

The bottom line: It’s time the estates of the super-wealthy pay their fair share of taxes to help reduce the deficit and grow our economy. It’s time the mega-rich families of West Michigan join the growing number of people like Mrs. Abigail Disney, heir to the Disney fortune: “I can afford to pay the estate tax, and I should. We have the choice of taxing a small percentage of the wealthiest in this country, or we can cut programs that benefit everyone. I don’t have any interest in compounding my already significant advantages, and the advantages of my children, with a weak estate tax, especially on the backs of the middle class.”

**Letter to the Editor:** [**There is an answer to the fiscal cliff: higher taxes on the wealthy**](http://www.mlive.com/opinion/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/12/new_fiscal_cliff_teeter.html)

*Kalamazoo Gazette,* Linda Teeter, **Michigan Citizen Action** 12/18/2012

If you've ever suspected that all the talk of how cutting taxes on the wealthy boosts our economy was just a cover story for allowing the rich to get richer, a new nonpartisan report proves it.

Turns out, there's no correlation between how much the richest Americans pay in taxes and how fast our economy grows.

But there is a strong connection between the level of those taxes and our nation's growing income inequality…

[**Photos from Michigan Citizen Action press conference**](http://photos.mlive.com/4469/gallery/michigan_citizen_action_press_conference_121812/index.html)

*Michigan Live*, 12/18/2012

Linda Teeter talked at the Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012. Teeter is the executive director of **Michigan Citizen Action**. The group talked about reorganizing the Pentagon budget.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Economy hinges on middle class**](http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121208/OPINION01/212080305/1008/opinion01/Letter-Economy-hinges-middle-class)

*Detroit News,* Linda Teeter, **Michigan Citizen Action** 12/8/2012

[**Middle class, not rich, drive economy**](http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20121208/OPINION02/312080011/Middle-class-not-rich-drive-economy?gcheck=1)

*Battle Creek Enquirer,* Linda Teeter, **Michigan Citizen Action** 12/7/2012

[**Day of Action protest over taxes executed in Kalamazoo**](http://wkzo.com/news/articles/2012/dec/02/day-of-action-protest-over-taxes-executed-in-kalamazoo/)

*WKZO,* 12/2/2012

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerMonroe.pdf)

*Monroe Sunday News,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/02/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Taxing job creators won’t tank economy**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattMonroe.pdf)

*Monroe Evening News* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 10/31/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Federal income tax cut helpful to all**](http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/08/02/news/local_news/doc501b316b73039132124418.txt)

*The Oakland Press*, Jerry Wolffe, 8/2/2012

If Congress passes the GOP-plan to extend the Bush-era tax cuts for one year, it would mean a savings of $31,500 annually for those Michigan families earning $250,000 a year or more, a report [“[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: Michigan Can’t Afford to Extend the Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/michigan-press-release/)”] released Thursday showed.

In contrast, if Congress passed the Democratic plan, the average tax cut for Michigan residents with incomes greater than $250,000 would be less than the GOP plan, or $14,200.

However, Michigan households with annual income of up to $250,000 would get larger average tax cuts under the Obama plan than under the Republican plan.

**“**[**The Tony Conley Show**](http://www.webwiseforradio.com/site_files/368/File/8-2-12%20Judy%20Putnam.mp3)**” [Audio]**

[Lansing] WILS-1320AM, 8/2/2012

Judy Putnam from **Michigan League for Human Services** taped an interview about “[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: Michigan Can’t Afford to Extend the Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/michigan-press-release/).”

# Minnesota Media Hits

[**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

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.

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

*Crookston Daily Times,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/11/2013

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

A group of CEOs, including Immelt, are lobbying lawmakers to “fix the debt” – stem federal red ink – by reducing Social Security increases and raising the retirement age to 70. The group includes the CEOs of Exxon, Microsoft and JPMorgan Chase and their firms account for a huge share of the profits shifted overseas. The AFL-CIO calculates that if those profits were taxed at the nominal U.S. corporate tax rate of 35%, the Treasury would garner more than $140 billion from the firms. Their effective tax rate now is 16%, Executive Paywatch says.   
  
One of those CEOs wants to ban Social Security benefits from workers before they turn 70, while his own pay package lets him take retirement pay at 60. “That’s hypocritical,” Trumka says.

[**Medtronic, 3M, Mosaic, St. Jude Medical Among Those Growing Offshore Stash**](http://m.startribune.com/?id=198552281)

*Minneapolis Star Tribune,* Jennifer Bjorhus, 3/15/2013

Medtronic, 3M, Mosaic and St. Jude Medical are among the U.S. companies that boosted their offshore profit holdings last year, according to a new report on the practice.

The combined offshore holdings of the four Minnesota companies grew by nearly 25 percent last year to $31.6 billion. The companies were identified in a recent report by **Citizens for Tax Justice** as among the 92 Fortune 500 companies whose offshore profit holdings grew last year by $500 million or more. Together, the 92 companies are holding about $1.4 trillion overseas, spelling lost tax revenue since earnings held overseas are not subject to U.S. taxes until the money is brought back into the country, the report said.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeDorchester.pdf)**

*Grant County Herald,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/6/2013

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanCrookston.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/27/2012

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanStaples.pdf)

*Staples World,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public** **Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/27/2012

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanGrant.pdf)

*Grant County Herald,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/26/2012

[**Working Families United Press legislators**](http://www.grandrapidsmn.com/news/image_9f35f0de-4e06-11e2-876d-0019bb2963f4.html)

*Grand Rapids Herald Review*, Nathan Bergstedt, 12/24/2012

Community partners Itasca Working Families Alliance, NE Area Labor Council, **Take Action Minnesota**, and Common Purpose came together on Tuesday, Dec. 18, to keep the pressure on outgoing Representative Chip Cravaack, and Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, to keep various social services such as Medicare and Social Security from the chopping block as Congress looks to make budget cuts. “Don’t protect the tax breaks of the richest two percent and pay for their windfalls by gutting the social safety net for the rest of us,” said Barney Bignall, Itasca County resident. The group held a candlelight vigil on the corner of Hwy. 2 and Hwy. 169 in Grand Rapids, where they held signs reading “End Tax cuts for the richest 2%!” and “Protect my Social Security,” and shared stories of how their lives would be affected if their Social Security benefits or Medicare were cut.

[**A plea for tax fairness from small businesses**](http://www.startribune.com/business/184509591.html?refer=y)

*The Star-Tribune*, Jim Spencer, 12/23/2012

A coalition of small businesses assembled by three trade groups -- the **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **Main Street Alliance** -- begged the president and Congress to "make big corporations pay a larger share of taxes" as part of any "grand bargain" to deal with the nation's fiscal cliff and financial deficit.

The letter specifically urged Congress to stop rewarding big companies "for shifting jobs and investment overseas or disguising U.S. profits as foreign profits" to avoid paying taxes on them. The letter also stressed the need to make sure corporate tax reform produces more federal revenue than current laws.

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerDodgeCenter.pdf)

*Dodge Center Star Record,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/19/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerByron.pdf)

*Byron Review,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/18/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerAnnandale.pdf)

*Annandale Advocate,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/05/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerRenville.pdf)

*Renville County Star Farmer News,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/29/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerCrookston.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/28/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Community leaders discuss county needs with lawmakers**](http://www.grandrapidsmn.com/news/article_5764b446-33e6-11e2-908d-0019bb2963f4.html)

*GrandRapidsMN.com,* Britta Arendt, 11/21/2012

A community organizer with **TakeAction Minnesota**, Blake assembled local leaders and legislators for a community discussion session Tuesday afternoon at the Second Harvest North Central Food Bank in LaPrairie. TakeAction Minnesota is a grass-roots, statewide effort to organize and engage communities to “advocate for issues we care about and get people involved in the political process,” she explained.

[**Mpls. Rally Calls For Higher Taxes On Wealthy [Video]**](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2012/11/12/mpls-rally-calls-for-higher-taxes-on-wealthy/)

*CBS Minnesota WCCO*, 11/12/2012

On Monday, Ilo Madden joined a protest on a Minneapolis street corner: Calling for higher taxes on people making more than $250,000 a year. With Social Security and Medicare, Madden is making it — barely. But she says higher income Americans should bear more of the burden than her.

[**Demonstrators want to end Bush tax cuts for richest 2%, to protect working families**](http://www.insightnews.com/news/9807-demonstrators-want-to-end-bush-tax-cuts-for-richest-2-to-protect-working-families-)

*Insight News,* 11/12/2012

A recent study by **Americans for Tax Fairness** pointed out two corporate CEOs who have milked the federal tax system over the past few years, including Verizon's Lowell McAdams and Macy's Terry Lundgren. Verizon payed $0 in federal income taxes from 2008 – 2011, despite $19.8 billion in profits. Macy's Lundgren saved $1.9 million in personal taxes in 2011 alone as a result of the Bush Tax Cuts. Monday's marchers made a point of stopping at both Verizon and Macy's along their route.

[**Of millionaries and myths**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattSentinelTribune.pdf)

*Westbrook Sentinel Tribune* Oped by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/7/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Taxes for schools and infrastructure and downpayments on future successs**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerTriCounty.pdf)

*Osseo Tri-County News* Oped by Joel Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** , 11/1/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Stop the spin on small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappNewsMirror.pdf)

*Hector News Mirror*, Oped by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, **American Sustainable Business Council**,10/31/12 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Stop the spin on small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappBirdIsland.pdf)

*Bird Island Union*, Oped by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, **American Sustainable Business Council**,10/31/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerGranite.pdf)

*[Granite Falls and Clarkfield] Advocate Tribune],* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/21/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerAnnandale.pdf)

*The Annandale Advocate,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Public investment through taxes makes private sector possible**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerDodgeCenter.pdf)

*Dodge Center Star Record,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerGrantCounty.pdf)

*[Elbow Lake] Grant County Herald* Oped by Joel Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** , 10/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerBirdIsland.pdf)

*Bird Island Union,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerSpringfield.pdf)

*Springfield Advance-Press,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerHector.pdf)

*[Hector] News Mirror,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Public investment through taxes makes private sector success possible**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerByron.pdf)

*Byron Review,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/16/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**When did investing in progress become something to criticize?**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerCrookston.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/11/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Set aside the half-baked claims, end Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent**](http://stillwatergazette.com/2012/09/12/set-aside-the-half-baked-claims-end-bush-tax-cuts-for-the-richest-2-percent/)

*The Stillwater Gazette*, Oped by Lynn Schurman *co-owner of Cold Spring Bakery in Cold Spring, Minn. She has been a small business owner for 26 years*, 9/12/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

I’m a real small business owner. And let me be clear: I fully support ending the extra Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent. What about the politicians who say they’re defending small business job creators by voting against ending these extra breaks? They don’t speak for me. They’re just using small business as a pawn to protect special tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

The fact is, only about 1 out of 40 actual small business owners will see any change in their taxes if special cuts for annual income over $250,000 end on schedule at the close of this year. That’s because only 2.5 percent of small business owners take home more than a quarter million dollars a year, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

[**Congress Should End Bush tax cuts for Top 2% like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterArrowheadLeader.pdf)

*[Moose Lake] Arrowhead Leader,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Like Me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterSentinel.pdf)

*The [Westbrook] Sentinel Tribune,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest, like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterFloyd.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/4/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerCrookstonDaily.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/14/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Stand up for the good name of small business: End the Bush tax cuts for the top 2%**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserCrookston.pdf)

*Crookston Daily Times*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 8/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Best for Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserAnnandaleAdvocate.pdf)

*Annandale Advocate*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 8/1/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Take Action Minnesota members escorted out of Chip Cravaack's Duluth office**](http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_21199194/take-action-minnesota-)

*Duluth News Tribune*, 7/31/2012

Several people were escorted out of the federal courthouse and office building in Duluth on Monday by Duluth police after they refused to leave when asked by federal security guards.

Several members of **Take Action Minnesota** and others acting on their own were trying to meet with the staff of U.S. Rep. Chip Cravaack when the incident occurred.

# Mississippi Media Hits

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerClinton.pdf)

*Clinton News,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/23/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Missouri Media Hits

**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**

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

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.

**Apple Tax Dodging Highlights Need For Reform**

*Monett-Times,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/12/2013

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**‘**[**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%.

[**Fair Taxes Would End Budget Dramas**](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20130322/OPINIONS02/303220021/charlie-norr-Fair-taxes-would-end-budget-dramas?nclick_check=1)

*News Leader,* Op-ed by Charlie Norr, 3/21/2013

After a lifetime in the public and private sector, I think I have a good sense of the right balance between the two. That’s important to figure out because the federal budget showdowns boil down to the same basic questions: What should our government do, and who should pay for it?

I retired as a professional firefighter with the rank of captain after nearly 20 years of protecting homes and businesses. I know from my years in public service that government can and does play a vital role in our society, from preserving life and property, to educating our kids, promoting good health, and funding breakthroughs in science and technology.

**GRO Calls out Kit Bond for Fix the Debt Campaign**

*KWWR,* 3/21/2013

A group of activists are calling out former Senator Kit Bond for his involvement in the national Fix the Debt campaign. Bond is a member of the steering committee and co-chair of the Missouri chapter of Fix the Debt, a bi-partisan group of current and former elected officials, business leaders, and citizens calling for federal leaders to address the national debt.

But members of **Grass Roots Organizing**, including executive director Robin Acree, call it a “bogus coalition.”

[**Missourians Demand “Put the Green” Back In The Budget**](http://www.komu.com/news/missourians-demand-put-the-green-back-in-budget/)

*KOMU,* Alexis Rogers, 3/18/2013

COLUMBIA- Local protesters gathered in front of Bank Of America Monday to call upon US Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill to speak out and take action regarding budget resolutions proposed by Paul Ryan and Patty Murray.

The competing budgets released last week by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray is what initially sparked this conversation.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMurfreesboro.pdf)**

*Richmond Daily News,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/15/2013

**Letter to the Editor**

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

[**Corporate Tax Evasion Hurts Schools**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HosmerStLouis.pdf)

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch,* Op-Ed by sAndy Hosmer 1/4/2013

Taxes dodged in corporate boardrooms hurt education in neighborhood classrooms. Keep that in mind the next time you hear about so-called "corporate tax reform" that doesn't result in our nation's most profitable corporations chipping in to help resolve our budget crisis....

[**Co-Owner of Vintage Vinyl Gives President Obama Economic Advice**](http://fox2now.com/2012/11/27/co-owner-of-vintage-vinyl-give-president-obama-economic-advice/)

*Fox2Now St. Louis*, Rebecca Roberts, 12/27/2012

In a day that he will never forget, Vintage Vinyl Co-Owner Lew Prince was in Washington. D.C. Tuesday to talk economics with President Obama at the White House. Lew Prince was one of 12 small business owners that met with the President to talk about tax policy on small business owners.

The meeting included the President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and the Office of Management and Budget. Prince and 11 other small business owners gave the President advice and recommendations on how to help small business owners in America.

[**Vintage Vinyl Owner Among Small Business Leaders at White House Meeting**](http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/vintage-vinyl-owner-among-small-business-leaders-white-house-meeting)

*St. Louis Public Radio*, Maria Altman, 12/27/2012

Lew Prince is a member of **Business for Shared Prosperity**, an organization that is pushing Congress to end the Bush-era tax cuts for the top two percent. Prince says the meeting at the White House this afternoon was unusual because no one was asking for anything for themselves.

“These were small businesses that were in the room because they thought tax cuts for the wealthy do not stimulate the economy and that long-term tax reform and tax planning was the way to solve the debt crisis.”

Prince says the group wants to see Bush-era tax cuts for middle-income earners continued.

He says that $2,000 to $3,000 a year makes a difference to families and gets spent in communities.

[**Vintage Vinyl Owner Talks Taxes with President Obama**](http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/11/27/vintage-vinyl-owner-talks-taxes-with-president-obama/)

*KMOX*, Brian Kelly, 12/27/2012

The owner of one of St. Louis’ best known small businesses was at the White House Tuesday, talking with President Obama about the fiscal cliff.

Prince tells KMOX continuing the middle class tax cuts, would spur growth for everyone, “It puts money into the hands of the people who walk in to the butcher, the baker the grocery store around town. What’s good for Schnucks and Dierbergs is good for every [small business](http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/11/27/vintage-vinyl-owner-talks-taxes-with-president-obama/) in America and putting money in people’s hands is the best stimulus to the economy and stimulus to growth that there is.”

Prince is a member of **Business for Shared Prosperity**, whose members joined members of the **American Sustainable Business Council** in calling on Congress to end the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent and reinvest in infrastructure and [education](http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/11/27/vintage-vinyl-owner-talks-taxes-with-president-obama/).

[**Vinyl Vintage owner meets with the President**](http://www.kmov.com/home/Local-Business-Owner-Meets-with-President-Obama-181046161.html)

*KMOV*, Justine Ward, 12/27/2012

Prince is among more than 600 business owners and executives who signed a letter sent by the BSP and **American Sustainable Business Council** calling on Congress to end costly Bush tax cuts to the top 2 percent and reinvest in the country.

“We’re not here asking for anything for ourselves. We’re here because we want the best for our country. I’ve run a small business for more than 30 years. Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to fuel your engine. It’s time to stop giving tax breaks to wealthy households and big corporations, and reinvest in America,” Prince explained. Vintage Vinyl is the largest independent music store in the Midwest and one of the largest in the country.

[**Vintage Vinyl’s Lew Prince talks taxes with President Obama**](http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/blog/2012/11/vintage-vinyls-lew-price-talks-taxes.html)

*St. Louis Business Journal*, 12/27/2012

Tuesday, Vintage Vinyl Managing Partner [Lew Prince](http://ad.doubleclick.net/imp;v7;j;264561633;0-0;0;17655458;0/0;51370089/51338452/1;;~aopt=2/1/c4/0;~okv=;at=blog_post;pageid=9939292;pos=wel;dcopt=ist;tile=10;kw=stlouis;page=9939292;vs=retailing_and_restaurants;sz=1x1;bsg=1417026;bsg=1418586;bsg=1434426;bsg=1435986;bsg=1421706;bsg=1437546;bsg=1427706;bsg=1432146;bsg=1426386;bsg=1424466;bsg=1418106;bsg=1440306;;~cs=h%3fhttp:/s0.2mdn.net/2326569/bbt_interstitial_smb_v1.htm?t=10&cT=http%3A//ad.doubleclick.net/click%253Bh%253Dv8/3d3b/2/0/%252a/f%253B264561633%253B0-0%253B0%253B17655458%253B255-0/0%253B51370089/51338452/1%253B%253B%257Eaopt%253D2/1/c4/0%253B%257Esscs%253D%253f&l=http%3A//www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/search/results%3Fq%3DLew%2520Prince) spent his day, not in the Delmar Loop, but on Pennsylvania Avenue. Prince met with President [Barack Obama](http://ad.doubleclick.net/imp;v7;j;264561633;0-0;0;17655458;0/0;51370089/51338452/1;;~aopt=2/1/c4/0;~okv=;at=blog_post;pageid=9939292;pos=wel;dcopt=ist;tile=10;kw=stlouis;page=9939292;vs=retailing_and_restaurants;sz=1x1;bsg=1417026;bsg=1418586;bsg=1434426;bsg=1435986;bsg=1421706;bsg=1437546;bsg=1427706;bsg=1432146;bsg=1426386;bsg=1424466;bsg=1418106;bsg=1440306;;~cs=h%3fhttp:/s0.2mdn.net/2326569/bbt_interstitial_smb_v1.htm?t=10&cT=http%3A//ad.doubleclick.net/click%253Bh%253Dv8/3d3b/2/0/%252a/f%253B264561633%253B0-0%253B0%253B17655458%253B255-0/0%253B51370089/51338452/1%253B%253B%257Eaopt%253D2/1/c4/0%253B%257Esscs%253D%253f&l=http%3A//www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/search/results%3Fq%3DBarack%2520Obama)Tuesday afternoon to share his views regarding tax polices.

"I’ve run a small business for more than 30 years.” Prince said in a statement. “Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to fuel your engine.”

[**Vintage Vinyl owner Lew Prince to meet with President Obama**](http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/349276/3/Vintage-Vinyl-owner-to-meet-with-President-Obama)

*KSDK*, Kristen Gosling, 12/27/2012

Lew Prince, a managing partner of Vintage Vinyl, is one of more than 600 [business owners](http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/349276/3/Vintage-Vinyl-owner-to-meet-with-President-Obama) and executives who signed a letter created by the **Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **American Sustainable Business Council** calling on Congress to end President Bush's tax cuts for the top two-percent.

"We're not here asking for anything for ourselves," Prince said. "We're here because we want the best for our country. I've run a small business for more than 30 years. Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to [fuel](http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/349276/3/Vintage-Vinyl-owner-to-meet-with-President-Obama) your engine. It's time to stop giving tax breaks to wealthy households and big corporations, and reinvest in America."

[**Look at the moral side of the fiscal cliff**](http://voices.kansascity.com/entries/look-moral-side-fiscal-cliff/)

*Kansas City Star,* Oped by Rayfield Burns and Jennifer J. Thomas, 12/20/2012

“That starts with ending the Bush tax cuts for the richest Americans and closing loopholes for big, profitable corporations. Our current revenue levels are inadequate and will lead either to cuts that make people suffer or unsustainable deficits. Politicians who oppose tax increases on the richest among us but consider taking food assistance and healthcare away from poor families and seniors a necessary sacrifice have lost their moral compass. The way the fiscal cliff debate is playing out in Washington clarifies the values at stake. Clergy leaders of the **PICO National Network**, of which we are members, have met with Senators, organized call-in days from our congregations to Capitol Hill offices, and sent letters calling on lawmakers to protect low-income families, end the Bush tax cuts on the top two percent, and not cut benefits to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.”

[**CBS Evening News**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=2110&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+18%3A16%3A17&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Kansas City] KCTV-KC, 12/20/12, aired at 6:16 P.M.

“...The faith based organization made a plea to lawmakers this afternoon that they keep the poor and less privileged in mind as they negotiate the nation's budget. Faith leaders gathered at operation breakthrough where Sister Berta Sailer says 98 percent of families served there are working poor and/or homeless. The message directed towards lawmakers in D.C. was to preserve the earned income and childcare tax credits. sot:1:01:17/ Sister Berta Sailer "these two tax credits lift 96 thousand Missouri children out of poverty every year since 2009. Why would we take something like that away?"

[**KOMU News Today**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=3175&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+04%3A32%3A43&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Columbia] KOMU-TV, 12/20/12, aired at 4:32 A.M., 5:33 A.M., 6:32 A.M., 7:58 A.M., 8:58 A.M.

“... Dozens of clergy and people of faith will meet today at the Second Baptist Church in Jefferson city at 1 p-m. the event will have prominent local clergy leaders urging senators Roy Blunt, Claire McCaskill, and other Missouri representatives in congress to protect vital social programs during fiscal negotiations. the group plans to deliver letters to Blunt and McCaskill calling for protection of vulnerable families during negotiations. thanks for watching, the today show will be right back.”

[**Group delivers fiscal cliff “wish list” to Missouri Senators**](http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=743922)

*KOLR*, 12/19/2012

Santa stopped by the office of Senator Roy Blunt in Springfield Wednesday.

The man in the red suit was among a group of people with signs, calling on both U.S. Senators to spare entitlement programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security from budget cuts.

The group says Senators Blunt and McCaskill should instead allow the so-called Bush tax cuts on the top two percent of earners to expire.

The group, [**Missouri ProVote**](http://www.missouriprovote.org/), was there to deliver their "wish list" to the lawmakers.

"We ask that all the Missouri delegation stand with us and make sure that these cuts don't happen," says executive director Matthew Patterson.

[**Vintage Vinyl owner meets with the President**](http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/music/kevin-johnson/vintage-vinyl-owner-meets-with-the-president/article_5420cb6c-f988-5d54-85bd-cdcdf664c666.html)

*St Louis Today*, Kevin C. Johnson, 12/17/2012

Prince is one of more than 600 business owners and executives who signed a letter sent by **Business for Shared Prosperity** (BSP) and the **American Sustainable Business Council** (ASBC) calling on Congress to end costly Bush tax cuts for the top two percent and reinvest in America.

BSP and ASBC had additional representatives from other states at the White House meeting.

“We’re not here asking for anything for ourselves,” Prince said. “We’re here because we want the best for our country. I’ve run a small business for more than 30 years. Expecting high-income tax cuts to trickle down as job creation is like pouring gas on your hood and expecting it to fuel your engine. It’s time to stop giving tax breaks to wealthy households and big corporations, and reinvest in America.”

[**Reardon Roundtable with Lew Prince**](http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/12/07/mark-reardon-readron-roundtable-author-peter-ames-carlin/) **[Audio]**

*CBS St. Louis New Radio*, Mark Reardon, 12/7/2012

It’s a Reardon Roundtable Friday. The panel today consists of Missouri House Speaker Tim Jones, St. Louis Alderman Antonio French, and Lew Prince, the owner of Vintage Vinyl. Topics [include](http://cbsstlouis.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/12-7-roundtable.mp3) the fiscal cliff, Jo Ann Emerson’s resignation, and Bob Costas’ gun comments.

[**U.S. Small Business Administrator Chief Karen Mills Meets with Delmar Loop Business Owners**](http://visittheloop.com/2012/12/06/u-s-small-business-administrator-chief-karen-mills-visited-fitzs-on-wed-december-5th/)

*The Delmar Loop (St. Louis)*, 12/6/2012

Karen G. Mills, a member of President Barack Obama’s Cabinet and head of the U.S. Small Business Administration held a roundtable discussion on Wednesday with several business owners in the Delmar Loop. Chief Mills discussed President Obama’s Deficit Reduction Plan with The Loop’s business owners and listened to concerns that small businesses are facing in today’s economy.

Immediately following the meeting, Chief Mills toured The Loop and visited Vintage Vinyl, Fitz’s, Componere Gallery, and Blueberry Hill.

[**Vintage Vinyl’s Lew Prince featured on MSNBC**](http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/blog/2012/11/vintage-vinyls-lew-prince-featured-on.html)

*St. Louis Business Journal* , Matthew Hibbard, 11/29/2012

Prince was one of 12 small business owners who talked taxes with the president Tuesday. He said on Ed Schultz’s news commentary program that he supports tax cuts to the middle class, saying they would help small business owners like himself.

“The middle class tax cut puts money in the hands of the consumers,” Prince said on the show. “The lower taxes on the rich sends more money outside our community, outside our country and makes bankers in the Cayman Islands happy.”

[**Taxes: Obama vs. Bush Rates**](http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2012/nov/28/tax-facts/)

*Jackson Free Press,* Ronni Mott, 11/29/2012

The Congressional Budget Office put it this way: "Increasing after-tax income of businesses typically does not create much incentive for them to hire more workers in order to produce more, because production depends principally on their ability to sell their products."

"Less than 3 percent of tax filers with any business income make over $200,000 (individual) or $250,000 (couples) per year," wrote the **American Sustainable Business Council** and **Business for Shared Prosperity** in a petition to Congress. The petition is an effort to convince Congress to allow the tax cuts expire on incomes over $250,000.

[**Reardon Roundtable: Senator Roy Blunt & Vintage Vinyl Owner Lew Prince**](http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/11/28/mark-reardon-senator-roy-blunt-vintage-vinyl-owner-lew-prince/) **[Audio]**

*CBS St. Louis News Radio,* Mark Reardon, 11/28/2012

Lew Prince is the owner of Vintage Vinyl. He was one of the twelve small business owners who met the President yesterday to talk with Mr. Obama about the impact of tax policies.

[**Vintage Vinyl Owner Talks Taxes With President Obama**](http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/11/27/vintage-vinyl-owner-talks-taxes-with-president-obama/)

*CBS KMOX St. Louis*, Brian Kelly, 11/27/2012

Vintage Vinyl Managing Partner Lew Prince joined 11 other small business owners from around the country, in urging the administration to reach a long-term deficit reduction deal that, according to Prince, “Doesn’t cause huge pain to people in the safety net or average people.”

“What drives hiring in my business and every other business is increased demand. And anyone who owns a business knows that when demand goes up, because customers have more money, you get to hire more people. It’s really that simple.”

[**Vintage Vinyl Owner Among Small Business Leaders At White House Meeting**](http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/vintage-vinyl-owner-among-small-business-leaders-white-house-meeting) **[Audio]**

*St. Louis Public Radio*, Maria Altman, 11/27/2012

The owner of Vintage Vinyl in St. Louis was one of 15 small business owners who met with President Obama today. Lew Prince is a member of **Business for Shared Prosperity**, an organization that is pushing Congress to end the Bush-era tax cuts for the top two percent.

Prince says the meeting at the White House this afternoon was unusual because no one was asking for anything for themselves. “These were small businesses that were in the room because they thought tax cuts for the wealthy do not stimulate the economy and that long-term tax reform and tax planning was the way to solve the debt crisis.”

[**Vintage Vinyl owner meets with the president**](http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/music/kevin-johnson/vintage-vinyl-owner-meets-with-the-president/article_5420cb6c-f988-5d54-85bd-cdcdf664c666.html)

*St. Louis Post Dispatch,* Kevin C. Johnson, 11/27/2012

The President met with twelve small business owners including Prince today to discuss the impact of tax policies. The meeting took place at the White House.

Prince, a leading member of **Business for Shared Prosperity**, is one of more than 600 business owners and executives who signed a letter sent by **Business for Shared Prosperity** (BSP) and the **American Sustainable Business Council** (ASBC) calling on Congress to end costly Bush tax cuts for the top two percent and reinvest in America.

[**Activists protest wealthy tax cuts with performance**](http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=824379#.UKQjQ-TLSbx)

*KRCG CBS Channel 13*, Mark Slavit, 11/12/2012

A group of local activists for low-income people want members of congress to end the Bush tax cuts for the top 2% of American taxpayers.

Members of **Grass Roots Organizing**, or GRO, performed a play in Columbia this afternoon to launch their “Who Pays?” campaign.

# Montana Media Hits

[**Chief Executive Matt Vincent to Inform Public About Sequestration Effects**](http://www.kxlf.com/news/chief-executive-matt-vincent-to-inform-public-about-sequestration-effects/)

*KXLF,* Katy Harris, 3/15/2013

BUTTE - Butte Silver Bow Chief Executive Matt Vincent will speak about the effects sequestration could have on services and benefits.

The **Montana Organizing Project** has set up this information session to tell the public about possible impacts of the federal budget cuts.

[**Fair Deficit Reduction Good for Small Business**](http://missoulian.com/news/opinion/columnists/fair-deficit-reduction-good-for-small-business/article_13afb414-8803-11e2-b523-0019bb2963f4.html)

*The Missoulian,* Op-Ed by Aimee McQuilkin, 3/8/2013

Politicians from both parties like to praise small businesses like mine. But when I see the federal budget policy some of them claim is good for “small business,” I sometimes think they’ve mistaken me for a multinational corporation.

The vast majority of small businesses benefit from the same federal budget policies that benefit the middle class: fair taxes, wise public investments, reasonable debt. No surprise, since most of us are middle class ourselves, as are most of our customers. Meanwhile, big corporations – and the wealthy individuals who invest in them – pursue a very different agenda.

[**Officials Say Effect of Cuts in Missoula Uncertain**](http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/officials-say-effects-of-federal-cuts-in-missoula-uncertain/article_52b44562-8533-11e2-b0c3-001a4bcf887a.html)

*The Missoulian,* Keila Szpaller, 3/5/2013

At the event held by the **Montana Organizing Project**, local leaders agreed that many specific effects of sequestration on the Missoula community remain uncertain. However, officials said the $85 billion in across-the-board federal cuts are sure to hit the most vulnerable people in Missoula and may leave locals to pick up the tab for critical services.

“What it will do is push that to the local level,” said County Commissioner Jean Curtiss. “And while we have a really generous community, we also have a carrying capacity for how many times we can keep filling holes left by the federal government.”

The Montana Organizing Project is a state partner of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, and organizer Tom Torma said the Monday meeting was intended to give the community an idea of the vital services affected by sequestration.

[**Montana Organizing Project Insists Sequestration Will Cost Jobs and Services**](http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/Montana-Organizing-Project-insists-sequestration-will-cost-jobs-and-services/-/14594602/19179816/-/opbyq7/-/index.html)

*KECI,* Heidi Mielli, 3/4/2013

Today, members of the **Montana Organizing Project** met in Missoula to try to spread the word about negative impacts they feel will happen to programs for children, seniors, military families and students.

David Shively is a faculty member at the University of Montana and says, "Those student graduating this year have a much more certain outcome, but the juniors who are graduating next year, their future is much more uncertain."

Tom Torma tells NBC Montana that the Montana Organizing Project is calling for tax loopholes to be closed for the wealthy, "We feel that there are certain cuts or loopholes that can be closed for millionaires and corporations, and make a person who makes a million dollars or more a year pay a 30% tax on that. "

[**Rally Targets Corporations**](http://mtstandard.com/news/local/rally-targets-corporations/article_846e42c0-7bdc-11e2-aded-0019bb2963f4.html)

*Montana Standard,* Piper Haugan, 2/21/2013

Protesters gathered in front of an Uptown bank chain on Wednesday afternoon to draw attention to what the group said are tax loopholes that let corporations out of paying their fair share.

About a dozen people gathered at the rally, which was organized by the **Montana Organizing Project**, the state’s partner for **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

A press release from the project says the rally was part of a day of action in 18 states demanding that Congress remove $85 billion worth of automatic tax cuts that would have funded education, public safety, mental health and other services. The release says some corporations offshore their profits in tax havens.

[**Protestors Set Up Shop Outside Corporate Butte Business**](http://www.kbzk.com/news/protesters-set-up-shop-outside-corporate-butte-business/)

*KBZK,* Katy Harris, 2/20/2013

BUTTE-A group of Butte residents, union workers and supporters of fair taxes rallied outside a corporate Butte business in defense of Social Programs Over Tax Cuts. **Montana Organizing Project** and at least 3 other groups held a rally outside of Wells-Fargo Bank this afternoon.

The group says if Congress approves a proposed round of tax cuts or the sequester, it could be a disaster for the economy.

[**Rally Targets Corporations**](http://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/butte-rally-targets-corporations/article_92cc0e7c-7c47-11e2-a1bf-001a4bcf887a.html)

*Helen Air,* Piper Haugan, 2/21/2013

BUTTE — Protesters gathered in front of an Uptown bank chain on Wednesday afternoon to draw attention to what the group said are tax loopholes that let corporations out of paying their fair share.

About a dozen people gathered at the rally, which was organized by the **Montana Organizing Project**, the state’s partner for **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

[**Protestors Set Up Shop Outside Corporate Butte Business**](http://www.kxlf.com/news/protesters-set-up-shop-outside-corporate-butte-business/)

*KXLF,* Katy Harris, 2/20/2013

BUTTE-A group of Butte residents, union workers and supporters of fair taxes rallied outside a corporate Butte business in defense of Social Programs Over Tax Cuts.

**Montana Organizing Project** and at least 3 other groups held a rally outside of Wells-Fargo Bank this afternoon.

[**Protestors Set Up Shop Outside Corporate Butte Business**](http://www.kaj18.com/news/protesters-set-up-shop-outside-corporate-butte-business/)

*KAJ18,* Katy Harris, 2/20/2013

BUTTE-A group of Butte residents, union workers and supporters of fair taxes rallied outside a corporate Butte business in defense of Social Programs Over Tax Cuts.

**Montana Organizing Project** and at least 3 other groups held a rally outside of Wells-Fargo Bank this afternoon.

[**Protestors Set Up Shop Outside Corporate Butte Business**](http://www.kpax.com/news/protesters-set-up-shop-outside-corporate-butte-business/)

*KPAX,* Katy Harris, 2/20/2013

BUTTE-A group of Butte residents, union workers and supporters of fair taxes rallied outside a corporate Butte business in defense of Social Programs Over Tax Cuts.

**Montana Organizing Project** and at least 3 other groups held a rally outside of Wells-Fargo Bank this afternoon.

[**Missoula Protests Against Corporations**](http://www.abcfoxmontana.com/news/local/Missoula-Protests-Against-Corporations-189133371.html)

*ABC Fox Montana,* Ashley Sanchez, 1/30/2013

MISSOULA - A group of Missoulians is taking a stand against corporations. Protesters picketed in the rain on Wednesday on South Russell Street.   They said tax loopholes for corporations are part of the cause of the nations long-term budget imbalance, creating a bad economy for the average American. Protesters said they are taking a stand for tax payers.

"The message is that you and I, and the people here with me, we are tax payers, we pay our fair share of taxes," said participant Dave Shively. "We'd like private and publicly traded corporations to do the same thing."

The protests were sponsored by the Missoula Area Central Labor Council, the **Montana Organizing Project**, Montana Health Care for America Now, and **Americans for Tax Fairness** **Montana**.

[**Fiscal cliff rally**](http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/multimedia/slideshows/collection_fc731cb2-53a2-11e2-9941-001a4bcf887a.html) **[Images]**

*Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, 12/31/2012

**Guest opinion: Indian County will suffer if U.S. goes over fiscall cliff**

*Billings Gazette*, Oped by Lita Pepion, 12/22/2012

[**Some Bozeman small businesses concerned about fiscal cliff**](http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/Some-Bozeman-small-businesses-concerned-about-fiscal-cliff/-/14594602/17859350/-/rw7d08z/-/index.html)

*KTVM NBC*, Katherine Mozzone, 12/20/2012

Tim Christiansen owns downtown Bozeman wine shop Vino Per Tutti. He's already been through one recession and without a deal from the President and Congress, he's afraid he'll be in for another one.

That's why Christiansen says tax breaks for the middle class would help boost his business and he wants to let tax cuts for those making more than $250,000 expire.

"Letting the tax cuts for them expire is not going to hurt them in the long run, it will just stimulate business overall. Business overall gets stimulated, then they're going to be making even more money," says Christiansen.

[**Montana Main Street Alliance radio segment**](http://www.mtpr.org/podcasts/audio/mtee_newscasts/12-20-2012Newscast.mp3)

*Montana Public Radio*, 12/20/2012

Recording embedded in link – segment begins at 7:22.

[**Locals urge fiscal deal:** **Protesters sing alternative Christmas carols to Montana’s U.S. senators at their Billings offices this week**](http://billingsnews.com/index.php/4033-locals-urge-fiscal-deal)

*The Billings Outpost,* Adrian Jawort, 12/14/2012

To the tune of “Jingle Bells,” a dozen or so organized labor supporters and other concerned citizens entertained representatives of Democratic Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester with an alternative Christmas carol Tuesday in the lobby in front of their Billings offices.

As the U.S. edges closer towards the edge of the so-called financial fiscal cliff that marks the end of the Bush era tax cuts, the protesters aren’t alone in their demands. The group was part of a National Day of Action in 100-plus cities that called for the similar proposals.

Along with the gift of song, Liz Moran of the Labor Council gave the senators’ representatives homemade Christmas cards in appreciation of their efforts to fight for the middle class. She said, “This is our way of letting our senators know they have the backing and support of the average person in Montana.”

[**If I Had A Dime For Every Time ‘Small Business’ Was Mentioned In This Election…**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/McGregorMontanaStandard.pdf)

*Butte Montana Standard,* Op-ed by Brian McGregor 12/5/2012

I want the Bush tax cuts at the top to end. It’s the right thing to do for the overall health of the

Country. And the overall health of the country benefits my business. What my business needs is customers — not more tax cuts for the rich.

Now, there’s a big brawl coming in the lame duck session of Congress on this. And it’s not just over the Bush tax cuts; it’s also about bigger issues, like the budget, Social Security and corporate taxes.

[**How to Help Small Business**](http://mtstandard.com/news/opinion/columnists/how-to-help-small-business/article_f30908de-3df0-11e2-983f-001a4bcf887a.html?comment_form=true)

*Montana Standard*, Oped by Brian McGregor, 12/4/2012

I have two employees at the Silver Dollar Saloon here in Butte. We’re a genuine small business. In fact, 80 percent of businesses in Montana are like mine and have fewer than 10 employees. I’m not benefiting from the Bush tax cuts for take-home income above $250,000. I’m not in that tax bracket and neither are the other small business owners I know.

I want the Bush tax cuts at the top to end. It’s the right thing to do for the overall health of the country. And the overall health of the country benefits my business. What my business needs is customers — not more tax cuts for the rich.

**Who Should Pay to Reduce our Debt: The Richest 2 percent or Everyone Else?**

*Helena Independent Record,* Op-ed by John Forkan12/1/2012

Age has its prerogatives. One of them is the right to point out when the same mistakes made in the past are about to be made again. That is what might happen in Washington over the next few weeks if we are not careful in how we handle our nation's debt problems.

[**Groups rally for ‘98 percent’**](http://mtstandard.com/news/local/groups-rally-for-percent/article_47b433c4-2d69-11e2-a277-001a4bcf887a.html)

*Montana Standard*, Piper Haugan, 11/13/2012

About 35 supporters gathered for the “Rally for the 98%” inside the Carpenters’ Union Hall Monday afternoon, where signs on the walls read “End tax breaks for the richest 2 percent” and “End tax breaks for outsourcing jobs.”

Speakers said they thought the Bush tax cuts for high-income people should expire, and that budget cuts to trim the deficit should not impact government education, health and welfare programs. Liz Moran, an organizer with experience with the group **Americans for Tax Fairness**, opened the rally. Moran said households making a substantial amount of money — “millionaires,” she said — should not get enormous tax cuts while middle- and working-class families struggle to pay taxes.

[**Butte residents rally for tax fairness**](http://www.kxlf.com/news/butte-residents-rally-for-tax-fairness/)

*KXLF 4 Butte Montana*, Katy Harris, 11/13/2012

Butte middle class, seniors and Native Americans rallied for tax fairness before Congress goes into Lame-Duck Session. Some Butte residents say it's time for the wealthiest 2% and big corporations to pay their fair share. "We need corporations paying their fair share and the richest 2% paying their fair share. It shouldn't be services cut that we rely on," says **Americans for Tax Fairness** Montana Coordinator Liz Moran. Congress goes into Lame Duck Session on Tuesday and The Who Pays Campaign is urging Senators Baucus and Tester to end the tax cuts for the wealthy.

[**Butte residents rally for tax fairness**](http://www.kaj18.com/news/butte-residents-rally-for-tax-fairness/)

*MTN News,* Katy Harris, 11/12/2012

Butte middle class, seniors and Native Americans rallied for tax fairness before Congress goes into Lame-Duck Session. Some Butte residents say it's time for the wealthiest 2% and big corporations to pay their fair share. "We need corporations paying their fair share and the richest 2% paying their fair share. It shouldn't be services cut that we rely on," says **Americans for Tax Fairness** Montana Coordinator Liz Moran. Congress goes into Lame Duck Session on Tuesday and The Who Pays Campaign is urging Senators Baucus and Tester to end the tax cuts for the wealthy.

[**Small business owners want wealthy to pay their share**](http://mtstandard.com/news/local/small-business-owners-want-wealthy-to-pay-their-share/article_08cb005c-2c88-11e2-a88e-001a4bcf887a.html?comment_form=true)

*Montana* *Standard*, John Grant Emeigh, 11/11/2012

Anna Doran, proprietor of The Big Dipper in Helena, echoed the sentiment that small businesses aren’t the same as large businesses and have different needs. She said that small businesses need a fiscally secure middle class in order to maintain a “healthy customer base.”

Gy Moody of Cleaner Image Janitorial in Billings believes the nation’s wealthiest, which he called the “2 percent,” don’t need further tax cuts.

“It’s their turn (to pay more taxes),” Moody said. “Trickle down (economics) looks great on paper, but it doesn’t work.”

[**Campaign distorted tax impact on small business**](http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/guest/guest-opinion-campaign-distorted-tax-impact-on-small-businesses/article_6635eb98-1687-523c-b595-623e2a5b756e.html)

*Billings Gazette*, Oped by Gary Mermel, small business owner, 11/10/2012

I own a restaurant franchise here in Billings, so that makes me one of those small business owners Mitt Romney was referring to during the heat of the presidential campaign when he suggested that ending the Bush tax cuts for household income above $250,000 a year will hurt small business job creators. But truth is, I won’t be affected because my business doesn’t earn enough to get me close to that quarter-million-dollar threshold. Nor do the earnings of 98 percent of all small businesses.

It’s time to do what’s right for small businesses and the country: end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent. As a small business owner, I’m all for it.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Bush tax breaks not much for Montanans**](http://mtstandard.com/news/opinion/mailbag/our-readers-speak-bush-tax-breaks-not-much-for-montanans/article_fcfa02f8-0d12-11e2-a567-0019bb2963f4.html)

*The Montana Standard,* George H. Waring, 10/3/2012

What was Congressmen Rehberg thinking when he voted yet again in August to extend the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent? He certainly wasn’t thinking about middle class Montanans bearing the burden of budget cuts. And he wasn’t thinking about reducing the deficit; in fact, the Bush tax cuts have added over a trillion dollars to our federal deficit in the past decade.

He has a shot to make it right. When the lame duck session of Congress meets after the election to address our growing national debt, Congressman Rehberg can defend the other 97 percent of us middle class taxpayers in Montana by ending the tax giveaway to wealthy millionaires who don’t need it.

[**Letter to the editor: Bush Tax Cuts Doing nothing to help small businesses**](http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/opinions/letters_to_editor/article_569508a4-097f-11e2-9714-001a4bcf887a.html)

*The Bozeman Chronicle*, Tim Christiansen, 9/28/2012

[**Hyping the cliff: Pending changes in tax laws aren't the end of the world; Republicans**](http://missoulian.com/news/opinion/columnists/hyping-the-cliff-pending-changes-in-tax-laws-aren-t/article_c6e8661c-f6ad-11e1-96a3-001a4bcf887a.html)

[**and Democrats agree on what to do for 98 percent of Americans**](http://missoulian.com/news/opinion/columnists/hyping-the-cliff-pending-changes-in-tax-laws-aren-t/article_c6e8661c-f6ad-11e1-96a3-001a4bcf887a.html)*The Missoulian*, Oped by independent clothing store owner Aimee McQuilkin/**Montana Small Business Alliance**, 9/4/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

To build this country, we have to invest, too. And investments require revenues. That’s why we need a balanced approach to boosting the economy that includes revenues. Ending the extra Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent (again, that’s only on household income above $250,000 a year) would recoup almost $1 trillion in revenues over 10 years. Sounds like a good start to me.

And about ending those extra tax cuts for the richest 2 percent: whatever the politicians say, this is simply not a small-business issue. The fact is, 97 percent of small business owners earn less than $250,000 in profits, so we won’t be affected one cent. So next time a politician tries to defend those tax cuts for the richest 2 percent by talking about small businesses, just remember what this small-business owner has to say about it: the emperor has no clothes.

# Nebraska Media Hits

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

*Omaha.com,* Op-ed by 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.

# Nevada Media Hits

[**Nevadans ponder dueling plans to extend Bush tax cuts**](http://www.foxreno.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/nevadans-ponder-dueling-plans-extend-bush-tax-cuts/nQB8L/)

*Fox Reno,* Mike Clifford, 8/6/2012

Bob Fulkerson, executive director of the **Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada**, says the average Nevadan makes about $56,000 a year - and, in his view, clearly needs a tax break.

As for those making more than $250,000? Fulkerson says those very few Nevadans are

already doing very well.

"There's only 2.6 percent of Nevadans who fall into that category, and they average $972,000 a year."

[**Nevadans Ponder Dueling Plans to Extend Bush Tax Cuts**](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/27701-1)

*Nevada Public News Service*, 8/1/2012

Linda Turner, a Medicare recipient from Henderson, believes Republican concerns about plans to increase taxes on the wealthy are misplaced because they are not the real job creators.

"It's only a 3 percent increase for the top bracket. The real job creators are people like me, because we spend our money. Because of us, grocery stores stay in business, or wherever we shop."

"Incomes over $250,000 are going to get a tax cut of $45,000. Those in the Republican plan who are making under that are going to get a tax break of $1,200. We don't think that's fair."

**[Naysaying Republicans to middle class: Drop dead](http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/naysaying-republicans-to-middle-class-drop-dead-163986306.html)** *Las Vegas Review Journal,* Opinion by Political Columnist Steve Sebelius, 7/27/2012

Republicans don't care about the middle class, and if they can't deliver tax cuts to their

wealthy friends and benefactors, then nobody gets relief.

Too harsh? Perhaps, but that charge can now be levied without exaggeration following a couple votes on the Senate floor Wednesday that may be constitutionally questionable, but politically potent.

That list of naysaying Republicans, by the way, includes Nevada's other senator, Dean Heller.

# New Hampshire Media Hits

[**Activists: Lame Duck Congress Shouldn’t Hurt Working Americans**](http://nashua.patch.com/articles/activists-lame-duck-congress-shouldnt-hurt-working-americans)

*Nashua Patch,* Tony Schinella, 11/13/2012

The president of the [New Hampshire AFL-CIO](http://concord-nh.patch.com/articles/scenes-from-the-no-jobs-rally-video), along with union workers, retirees, and others last week called on the state’s lame duck Representatives to Congress to not agree to a sequestration deal that would hurt retirees and not raise taxes on the wealthy.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**There’s no reason to fear fiscal cliff**](http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/opinion/letters/983444-465/theres-no-reason-to-fear-fiscal-cliff.html)

*Nashua Telegraph,* Fred Teeboom, 11/13/2012

Now comes the moment to face the so-called “fiscal cliff” of simultaneously implementing tax increases (expiration of the Bush tax cuts) and across-the-board spending cuts (“sequestration”).

I look at the fiscal cliff as a golden opportunity to cut the deficit and get spending under control. The “temporary” tax cuts are holdovers from the George W. Bush years that caused the financial collapse, so who is to say these cuts were beneficial?

[**Letter: Don’t cry for rich over tax burdens**](http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/opinion/letters/972145-465/dont-cry-for-rich-over-tax-burdens.html)

*The [Nashua] Telegraph*, 8/21/2012

To those who shed tears for the superwealthy supposedly paying an unfairly high portion of

federal income taxes, consider: These people make so much money that if it were not for the special tax advantages created and designed by them and snuck through Congress by their lobbyists, they should probably be paying more to be fair.

Heard of anyone making $20 million who in one year paid a rate under 14 percent? Sure, that’s lots of money, but it’s not fair in relation to what most middle-class people pay….So, readers, don’t be suckered into feeling sorry for the so-called unfairness of our tax system to the superwealthy. Listen to them and their advocates, and you are being snookered. They are laughing at you all the way to their bank … in whatever country they keep their money.

# New Jersey Media Hits

**[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

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.

**Tax Fairness: We Need a ‘Plan B’**

*Trenton Times,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/8/2013

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.

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

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[**Corporate Tax Dodging is Simply Unpatriotic**](http://blog.nj.com/njv_guest_blog/2013/04/corporate_tax-dodging_is_simpl.html)

*The Star-Ledger,* Op-Ed by Henry Passapera, 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.

[**Small Business Opposes Multinational Corporations’ Tax Avoidance**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappNJToday1.pdf)

*NJ Today,* Frank Knapp, 4/12/2013

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.

[**Group Blasts Honeywell for Allegedly Exploiting Tax Loopholes**](http://morristown.patch.com/articles/group-blasts-honeywell-over-allegedly-exploiting-tax-loopholes)

*Morristown Patch,* Daniel Hubbard, 3/18/2013

Small business owners and advocacy groups are urging the Senate to approve a budget plan that closes corporate tax loopholes.

According to **New Jersey Citizen Action**, Fortune 500 companies like the Morris-based Honeywell Inernational exploit loopholes in the tax law that allow them to stash billions of dollars in offshore profits overseas.

[**N.J. Small Business Owners and Advocacy Groups Call on Congress to Close Corporate Tax Loopholes**](http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/economy/nj-small-business-owners-and-advocacy-groups-call-on-congress-to-close-corporate-tax-loopholes)

*New Jersey Newsroom,* Op-Ed By Ann Vardeman, 3/18/2013

**NJ Citizen Action**, together with small business owners, NJ Main Street Alliance, NJ Working Families Alliance, and the Ethical Business Society held a press conference in Elizabeth, N.J., today at a local small business, Fast-Photo Shop, in support of a Senate budget plan being voted on this week in Washington, D.C. Speakers urged Congress to close corporate tax loopholes that allow companies like Honeywell to stash billions of dollars in offshore profits in overseas tax havens, often allowing them to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

Speakers targeted Honeywell because it is one of 92 Fortune 500 corporations included in a Citizens for Tax Justice report released last week showing a $3.5 billion increase in its offshore profit holdings in 2012. Most of these profits were earned in the United States but have been artificially shifted to foreign tax havens, often to avoid U.S. corporate income taxes. This report showed Honeywell offshored $11.6 billion in profits last year and paid just a 2% federal effective corporate tax rate from 2008-2011. Honeywell also receives millions in state EDA grants and subsidies, including a $40 million EDA grant just approved last week.

[**Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeNJToday.pdf)

*NJ Today,* Frank Clemente, 2/26/2013

Despite what Republicans are demanding, the fiscal-cliff deal should not be the final word on taxes. Left unreformed by the last-minute, New Year's Day "fiscal cliff" compromise were at least a trillion dollars in tax loopholes and special breaks wealthy individuals and big corporations use to whittle down their tax burden below that of many middle-class families "sometimes all the way down to zero.

The modest revenue increase contained in the fiscal-cliff deal was really only a down payment on true tax fairness " and to raise the money needed to reduce the deficit and invest in the economy. Over the next several months, we face a trifecta of fiscal issues even more challenging than the fiscal cliff: the impending $1 trillion in across-the-board spending cuts that kick in on March 1; the need to fund government operations when temporary federal spending authority expires; and the need to increase the government's ability to borrow money to pay its bills.

[**N.J. Braces for ‘Doomsday’ Budget Cuts as Sequestration Deadline Looms**](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/nj_braces_for_doomsday_budget.html)

*The Star-Ledger,* Steve Strunsky and Victoria St. Martin, 2/21/2013

It was designed as a fiscal doomsday device, a last-gasp budget-slashing initiative so onerous it would jolt a bitterly divided Congress into reaching agreement on a plan to cut U.S. spending.

Now, with no accord in sight, that bomb goes off in eight days, triggering across-the-board reductions in the federal budget and sparking growing alarm in New Jersey, where local officials, advocates and government experts warn of mass layoffs, slowdowns at airports and cutbacks in a vast array of services.

[**N.J. Advocacy Groups, Irvington Mayor Call on Congress to Avert the Sequester**](http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2013/02/irvington_mayor_nj_advocacy_gr.html)

*The Star-Ledger,* Eunice Lee, 2/20/2013

IRVINGTON — Federal cuts known as the sequester, which are now likely to take effect on March 1, will have a dire effect on his township, Mayor Wayne Smith said today.

With a little more than a week before Congress must make a decision on the pending sequestration, Smith and groups like **New Jersey Citizen Action** called on federal lawmakers to take action to avoid $85 billion in automatic cuts to discretionary spending.

[**Jerseyans Urge Congress to Avert $85 Billion in Sequestration Cuts**](http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/economy/jerseyans-urge-congress-to-avert-85-billion-in-sequestration-cuts)

*New Jersey Newsroom, 2/20/2013*

**New Jersey Citizen Action**, state partner of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, held a press conference today with Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith, Irvington Fire Chief Gary Shumlich and other Irvington elected leaders outside the Irvington Fire Department to demand that Congress take immediate action to avert $85 billion in arbitrary, automatic cuts to education, public safety, mental health and other important services. These sequester cuts will result in the loss of 750,000 American jobs, including 43,182 in New Jersey in 2013, according to the Congressional Budget Office, and threaten many services such as Head Start, Meals on Wheels, and job training for veterans unless Congress acts to raise revenues by March 1st. These cuts would compound cuts to municipal budgets that are already stretched thin due to State cuts to Municipal aid.

“Congress has a clear choice: continue protecting big tax loopholes for millionaires and multinational corporations or protect New Jersey’s seniors, kids and working families from these cuts. Cities like Irvington can’t afford teacher layoffs, cuts to kids programs, slowdowns in Social Security checks that seniors depend on to survive, and cuts to public safety programs that the whole community depends on,” said Ann Vardeman of New Jersey Citizen Action.

[**N.J. Citizen Action Protests Corporate Tax Loopholes at Annual Chamber Train Trip to DC**](http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/state/nj-citizen-action-protests-corporate-tax-loopholes-at-annual-chamber-train-trip-to-dc)

*New Jersey Newsroom,* Ann Vardeman, 1/31/2013

**New Jersey Citizen Action** (NJCA) members protested the annual NJ Chamber of Commerce’s “Walk to Washington” today. The protest was held at Newark Penn Station. Protesters held signs calling for “Fair Taxes, Not Cuts” highlighting corporations who pay no federal income tax and passed out flyers designed as an IOU check from corporations to taxpayers. The group urged Congress to act on corporate tax reform by ending tax breaks for corporations that ship profits and jobs overseas to avoid paying U.S. taxes, hurting our economy.

The NJ Chamber of Commerce’s "Walk to Washington" is one of N.J.’s premier private political events, attended by legislators, regulators and members of the state’s executive branch.

[**National Groups: Boehner Tax Proposal Lacks Significant Revenue**](http://www.paramuspost.com/article.php/201212171812330)

*Paramus Post*, Mel Fabrikant, 12/19/2012

**Americans for Tax Fairness**, a campaign with more than 230 national, state, and local organizations united in support of a tax system that works for all Americans, released a series of statements today on the proposal put forward by U.S. House Speaker John Boehner.

"Speaker Boehner's proposal to extend the Bush-era income tax cuts for households making up to $1 million a year would lose nearly half of the revenue that President Obama’s proposal would raise by extending the tax cuts only for households making up to $250,000. It does not come close to raising the revenue needed to reduce the deficit and rebuild the economy. No deal is better than a bad deal and the President should reject this counter offer out of hand," said Frank Clemente, campaign manager, **Americans for Tax Fairness**.

[**Economists warn going over the 'fiscal cliff' could spark recession**](http://www.app.com/article/20121219/NJBIZ/312190116/Economists-warn-going-over-the-fiscal-cliff-could-spark-recession)

*Asbury Park Press*, Michael L. Diamond, 12/19/2012

Obama during the presidential campaign said he wanted to maintain current tax rates for the middle class and raise them on single taxpayers with annual income of more than $200,000 and married taxpayers with annual income of more than $250,000. He also supported ending some corporate tax breaks.

On Wednesday, **New Jersey Citizen Action**, a consumer advocacy group, urged lawmakers to go with Obama’s position. Business owners at a news conference in Asbury Park organized by the group said those measures would allow the government to make investments in the nation’s roads, schools and bridges, keep money in the pockets of the middle class and spark consumer demand.

[**Seventy N.J. Small Business Owners Call for End to Corporate Loopholes, Expiration of Tax Breaks for Top 2 Percent**](http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/economy/seventy-nj-small-business-owners-call-for-end-to-corporate-loopholes-expiration-of-tax-breaks-for-top-2-percent)

*New Jersey Newsroom,* 12/19/2012

Seventy small business owners, part of the **New Jersey** **Main Street Alliance**, gathered at an Asbury Park small business on Wednesday to present signed letters concerning the fiscal cliff economic crisis.

As lawmakers in Washington begin to come to agreement in negotiations on the fiscal cliff, small business owners in New Jersey raise concerns about the proposed deal. In contrast to the corporate and big business lobbyists such as “Fix the Debt”, small business owners are concerned about drastic changes to middle class programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and called for revenue raising options such as the expiration of Bush era tax breaks for the top 2% for corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

[**Demonstrators held candlelight vigil in support of letting Bush tax cuts expire**](http://www.politickernj.com/61686/demonstrators-held-candlelight-vigil-support-letting-bush-tax-cuts-expire)

*Politicker NJ,* 12/12/2012

The events, organized by local labor unions and Democratic grassroots groups, were aimed at drumming up support for allowing the tax cuts to expire. Allowing the tax cut for some of the nation’s top earners to lapse would benefit the country’s middle class, organizers argued.

“Our elected officials need to listen to the voices of their constituents and put the needs of the middle-class and working families first,” said Ann Vardeman, of **NJ Citizen Action** and **Americans for Tax Fairness**, in a statement.

[**Lawmakers, Labor Urge Pullback from Fiscal Cliff**](http://newarknj.patch.com/articles/lawmakers-labor-urge-pullnack-from-fiscal-cliff)

*Newark Patch,* 12/10/2012

Members of Congress and representatives of organized labor held a rally early Monday in Newark calling on lawmakers to resolve the [“fiscal cliff” crisis](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57558352/silence-on-fiscal-cliff-could-be-a-good-sign/) in a way that won’t harm the economy.

[**Times of Trenton Letters to the Editor - Dec. 9**](http://www.nj.com/times-opinion/index.ssf/2012/12/times_of_trenton_letters_to_th_545.html)

Times of Trenton, Eric Cedano owner of Fast Photo Plus and a steering member of the New Jersey **Main Street Alliance**,12/9/2012

As a New Jersey small-business owner, I am tired of hearing politicians and lobbyists claim to speak for me. We heard about “small businesses’ needs” throughout the election, and now, politicians such as Speaker John Boehner are using us to justify tax breaks for the top 2 percent of Americans.

Let’s get something straight: Most businesses in New Jersey are true small businesses like mine, with less than 10 employees. We are not benefiting from the Bush tax cuts for take-home income above $250,000. We are not Donald Trump. We are people on America’s Main Streets who know our customers, and we rely on a healthy economy and a middle class with money in its pockets. Our customers are the people who need the tax cuts — not the wealthiest Americans, who will just put it back in the bank.

Cuts to programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will hurt us, not help us. We rely on these programs to maintain a strong middle class and for our own retirement (we don’t have corporate pensions for that). Congress should listen to the real small-business owners in this debate.

[**New Jerseyans rally for Bush tax cut expiration**](http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/commentary/new-jerseyans-rally-for-bush-tax-cut-expiration)

*New Jersey Newsroom*, Joshua Henne, 12/4/2012

With the Bush Tax Cuts set to expire at the end of this month, more than 150 New Jerseyans took part in a national Day of Action at 4 sessions throughout the state this past Saturday, Dec. 1. Participants included activists, community organizers, union members, people of faith, volunteers fresh off the Obama campaign and those who simply care about the future our country.

“This weekend, New Jersey showed that we believe in tax fairness and an economy that works for 100 percent of Americans, not just the richest 2 percent,” said Ann Vardeman, an organizer with **NJ Citizen Action** and **Americans for Tax Fairness**. “Our elected officials need to listen to the voices of their constituents and put the needs of the middle-class and working families first.”

If Congress lets the Bush Tax Cuts expire on top income earners, 97 percent of small businesses and 98 percent of Americans would continue receiving the exact same tax relief. Moreover, economists have proven tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans are the least effective way to grow the economy.

[**Small businesses need customers – not more tax cuts for the rich**](http://blog.nj.com/njv_guest_blog/2012/11/small_businesses_need_customer.html)

*The Star-Ledger,* Op-ed by Samia Bahsoun, owner of S2 Associates International, a high-tech communications firm in Holmdel, and a member of the New Jersey **Main Street Alliance**, 11/28/2012

When people have more money in their pockets, they shop locally, eat out, get their nails done, buy kids clothes or shoes, buy extra presents for the holiday season, etc. When small businesses thrive, the community as a whole thrives and unemployment goes down. We all win.

Congress needs to put meaningful revenue options on the table so we can strengthen these programs, not cut them. We can start by ending the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent of income earners — that’s households earning more than $250,000 a year in taxable income. This would recoup almost a trillion dollars in revenue over 10 years.

[**Myth Busted: Poll Shows Entrepreneurs Would Let High-Income Tax Cuts Expire**](http://njtoday.net/2012/11/25/opinion-myth-busted-poll-shows-entrepreneurs-would-let-high-income-tax-cuts-expire/#ixzz2DLlE8aQG)

*New Jersey Today,* John Arensmeyer, Founder and CEO, **Small Business Majority**, 11/26/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses’ hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you. The majority of small employers in the poll—more of whom identify as Republican than Democrat, an important distinction given the partisan nature of this debate—believe raising taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent is the right thing to do in light of our budget crisis.

[**How to Help Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/sof.cfm?ID=3546)

*New Jersey Today,* Op-Ed by Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the **Montana Small Business Alliance** and the national **Main Street Alliance** business network, 11/23/2012

[**Opinion: Getting to ‘Yes’ no the fiscal cliff**](http://www.northjersey.com/news/opinions/cliff_111412.html?c=y&page=2)

*NorthJersey.com,* L. Michael Hager, 11/13/2012

[**Myths and millionaires, the Bush tax cuts**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattNJToday.pdf)

*[Rahway] NJ Today* Oped by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 10/31/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Stop the spin on small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappNJToday.pdf)

*[Rahway] NJ Today*, Oped by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South

Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, **American Sustainable Business Council**,10/28/12 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerNJToday.pdf)

*[Rahway] NJ Today,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** 10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**NJ Citizen Action demands Rep. Runyan reverse course on Bush Tax Cuts for the richest 2%**](http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/commentary/nj-citizens-action)

*NewJerseyNewsRoom.com,* Ann Vardeman, 9/13/2012

Protesters, who included NJ Working Families Alliance, Grassroots4Change, and other concerned citizens, delivered to Rep. Runyan’s Mount Laurel district office a five-foot giant check payable to “Millionaires” from Rep. Runyan, who recently voted to extend the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent for one year. Protesters also handed out smaller versions of the checks to event attendees and passers-by.

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts For Richest 2 Percent Like Me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterNJToday.pdf)

*NJ Today,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**At N.J. protest party, Christie critics find speech out of touch with 'reality'**](http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/at_nj_protest_party_christie_c.html)

*The Star-Ledger*, Alexi Friedman, 8/29/2012

The group of progressives gathered inside the 100-year-old West Orange home of one of their own to watch Christie’s turn on the national stage, and drive home points about how they believe the Republican governor falls short on social issues, the environment, gay rights and helping New Jersey’s poorest citizens.

"This is a perception of Gov. Christie’s that’s not reality," said Marcia Marley, president of BlueWave New Jersey, a Montclair-based advocacy organization, after watching the speech.

"He didn’t mention it but he’s pushing a reckless fiscal policy of tax cuts for the wealthy when he faces a significant budget shortfall and the fourth highest unemployment in the nation," she said.

The protest party’s host, Phyllis Salowe-Kay, executive director of **New Jersey Citizen Action**, said she decided to open up her two-story colonial "so we could have everybody in the same room, small business owners, labor unions, policy experts, grass roots groups, to say why things aren’t so great in New Jersey. We’re not the comeback state."

[**To N.J. Congress members: Time to stop large tax cuts for rich: Six New Jersey House members vote to protect Bush Tax cuts for richest 2% at expense of other 98%**](http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/commentary/to-nj-congress-members-time-to-stop-large-tax-cuts-for-rich)

*New Jersey Newsroom*, Oped by Ann Vardeman, N.J. Citizen Action, 8/6/2012

**New Jersey Citizen Action** criticized members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation who helped to defeat a middle-class tax bill in the U.S. House of Representatives on Aug. 1. The bill would extend the Bush-era tax cuts for every state resident on the first $250,000 in household income, but would end them above that level, which only benefit the richest 2 percent of Americans. The House rejected the legislation, 257 to 170, one week after the Senate passed the same middle-class tax cut bill, 51 to 48. (You can see how all House members voted [here](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll543.xml)).

Instead, Representatives LoBiondo (NJ-2), Runyan (NJ-3), Smith (NJ-4), Garrett (NJ-5), Lance (NJ-7) and Frelinghuysen (NJ-11) voted to help secure passage of a bill to extend all the Bush tax cuts, including for the richest 2 percent, but [raise taxes on 25 million](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/middleclassreport_7_24_2012.pdf) mostly middle- and lower-income families by an average of $1,000, by reducing several refundable tax credits. The Senate rejected a nearly identical bill last week, 54-45, but the House passed it yesterday, 256 to 171.

[**Republican plan would fund tax cuts for wealthy by axing breaks for poor, middle class**](http://blog.nj.com/njv_editorial_page/2012/08/republican_plan_would_fund_tax.html)

*The Star-Ledger/ NJ.com*, Editorial, 8/1/2012

When Democrats talk about defending the defenseless, they are usually referring to people: the poor, the elderly. Republicans, meanwhile, are hard at work defending a defenseless policy. For whom? The richest 2 percent of Americans.

The other 98 percent have no reason to support extending big tax cuts for the wealthy. Given the size of our deficit, how can we afford to? But try talking sense into House Republicans, as they suit up in full armor to defend the millionaires, like Don Quixote on some aristocratic crusade.

The GOP-dominated House is expected to vote this week to extend all the tax cuts signed into law by President George W. Bush, which are set to expire at the end of this year — including those for richest among us. The Senate, on the other hand, has voted to extend the cuts only on household income up to $250,000, as President Obama wants to do….

So is it worth it? Check out the chart to see how much of a tax break you’ll get with either plan. If you’re looking at a windfall, congratulations — you’re one of the lucky few. Republicans have your back.

[**Who Really Deserves A Tax Cut In New Jersey? [AUDIO]**](http://nj1015.com/who-really-deserves-a-tax-cut-in-new-jersey-audio/)

*[Trenton] NJ 101.5-FM*, David Matthau, 7/31/2012

A Jersey watchdog group has issued a new report that calls on Congress to extend a tax cut for Americans making up to 250 thousand dollars a year, and allow the same cut for the wealthiest Americans to expire.

Ann Vardeman, an Organizer with **New Jersey Citizen Action**, says the report ,entitled [Time to Pay their Fair Share- New Jersey Residents Can’t Afford to Extend the Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/new-jersey-press-release/) – finds “that 95 out of 100 New Jersey residents would get about the same tax cut under the Obama plan as they’ve had, five percent of New Jersey taxpayers would see their taxes go up – those making 250 thousand dollars a year or more…Those 5 percent of New Jersey taxpayers have an average income of 669 thousand dollars a year.”

[**Rep. Rush Holt, Advocates and New Jersey Business Owners Applaud US Senate Vote to**](http://www.gloucestercitynews.net/clearysnotebook/2012/07/rep-rush-holt-advocates-and-new-jersey-business-owners-applaud-us-senate-vote-to-end-bush-tax-cuts-for-richest-2-of-ameri.html)

[**End Bush Tax Cuts**](http://www.gloucestercitynews.net/clearysnotebook/2012/07/rep-rush-holt-advocates-and-new-jersey-business-owners-applaud-us-senate-vote-to-end-bush-tax-cuts-for-richest-2-of-ameri.html)

CNBnews.net, 7/27/2012

# New Mexico Media Hits

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

*Deming Headlight,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/08/2013

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.

[**Taxes are down payments on future success**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerSantaFe.pdf)

*Santa Fe New Mexican*, Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** 10/16/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerDemingHeadlight.pdf)

*Deming Headlight***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress should end Bush Tax Cuts**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterDemingHeadlight.pdf)

*Deming Headlight**,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**End tax cuts for richest 2%, those like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterSantaFe.pdf)

*Santa Fe New Mexican [Sunday edition],* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerDeming.pdf)

*Deming Headlight,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/7/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# New York Media Hits

[**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

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.

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

*Carribean Life,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/23/2013

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.

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

*Buffalo News,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/21/2013

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.

[**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 News,* Melissa Fleck, 4/15/2013

Binghamton, NY (WBNG Binghamton) 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.

[**Sequester Hurts Local Families**](http://www.wicz.com/news2005/viewarticle.asp?a=27003)

*WICZ,* 3/4/2013

"The cuts are to the poor. The cuts are to the people who have nothing already. Maybe our government feels if you take something away from nothing, they're going to get something. But, in the end, we all lose," said Kathy Pfaffenback of Catholic Charities.

Some consumer advocate groups say job losses could be avoided by ending corporate tax breaks and placing a small sales tax on Wall Street trading.

[**Local Leaders Talk Sequester Impact**](http://binghamton.ynn.com/content/top_stories/644594/local-leaders-talk-sequester-impact/)

*YNN,* Elyse Mickalonis, 3/4/2013

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. -- Broome County leaders are worried about tomorrow: $85 billion in sequester cuts will soon impact programs locally and the impact will be widespread.

“Cuts in funding are very unfortunate, because the low to moderate income families that need the services are going to suffer the most,” said Brett Dean, Opportunities for Broome.

On Monday, community human services agencies from around the county talked about the sequester’s local impact. They say many programs will be negatively impacted by the cuts, naming Head Start, firefighter and emergency response grants, as well as HIV testing as just a few that will see large reductions in New York State.

[**Advocates: Sequestration Hurts Poor Children and Elderly Most**](http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Advocates-Sequestration-hurts-poor-children-and-elderly-most-195157481.html)

*WBNG,* Matt Porter, 3/4/2013

Congress's failed attempt to stop automatic cuts known as sequestration could have disastrous effects for social welfare programs in New York.

That's according to advocates speaking at a press conference organized by **Citizen Action**, including Brett Dean who works for Opportunities for Broome.

[**Sequestration Effects on Families**](http://www.newschannel34.com/news/local/story/Sequestration-Effects-on-Families/Kby8IJft-kaSxdcxDyCeSA.cspx)

*34,* 3/4/2013

The impact that federal budget sequestration cuts will have on our area still remains to be seen.

However, if Congress can't reach a deal soon, some area organizations will be hurt. For example, funding would be reduced for Head Start and nutrition programs for seniors, women and children, including WIC and Meals on Wheels. Area food pantries would also likely see less money. Agencies including **Citizen Action**, Catholic Charities and the Southern Tier AIDS Program are urging Congress to come to an agreement and protect people who need it most.

[**Lawmakers Introduce Targeted Wall Street Trading Tax**](http://www.albanytribune.com/28022013-lawmakers-introduce-targeted-wall-street-trading-tax/)

*Albany Tribune,* 2/28/2013

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) today introduced legislation to place a tax on certain trading activities undertaken by banking and financial firms. If enacted, the measure would not harm ordinary middle-class investors or long-term investing, but instead targets financial trading and complex transactions undertaken by financial and investment firms. In the last Congress, the Congressional Joint Tax Committee scored a similar proposal as raising $352 billion over 10 years.

Among the national organizations supporting this effort are: AFL-CIO, Alliance for a Just Society, American Family Voices, American Federation of Government Employees, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Americans for Financial Reform, **Americans for Tax Fairness**, Campaign for a Fair Settlement, Campaign for America’s Future, Capital Institute, Catholics United, Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch), Center of Concern, Communications Workers of America, Community Action Partnership, Consumer Action, Consumers Union, CREDO, Demos, Health Care for America Now, International Brotherhood of the Teamsters, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW, Jobs with Justice, Leadership Center for the Common Good, Main Street Alliance, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, MoveOn, National Education Association, National Women’s Law Center, PICO National Network, Public Citizen, Responsible Wealth, SEIU, Tax Justice Network USA, The Center for Media and Democracy, The Government Accountability Project, The Institute for College Access & Success and its Project on Student Debt, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, U.S. PIRG, United for a Fair Economy, United Steelworkers, USAction, Working America.

[**Citizen Action: ‘Stop the Sequester’**](http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Citizen-Action-Stop-the-Sequester--192176661.html?vid=a)

*WBNG,* Erika Mahoney, 2/20/2013

Binghamton, NY (WBNG Binghamton) Sequestration is a big buzz word these days -- and its impact across the country could be even bigger.

In a little more than a week, $1.2 trillion in federal spending cuts that would take place over the next 10 years will kick in. That is, unless Congress decides to act.

The across-the-board cuts were created by Congress in 2011 as a way to eventually lower the national debt.

Those cuts will go into effect March 1 unless a bipartisan deal is reached.

A local group, **Citizen Action**, raised their voices Wednesday, urging Congress to save jobs and find other areas to cut.

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Gibson supports a costly budget**](http://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Letter-Gibson-supports-a-costly-budget-4150198.phpts)

*Albany Times Union,* Al Ormsby 12/27/2012

Scott Klinger, **Business for Shared Prosperity,** appeared on Hofstra’s Wake Up Call show

*WHRU*, 12/27/12

**Mitch Rofsky appeared on Make it Plain**

*SiriusXM Radio*, 12/27/12

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Higher taxes at top spur growth**](http://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Letter-Higher-taxes-at-top-spur-growth-4147335.php)

*Albany Times Union,* J. Michael Harrison 12/26/2012

[**WETM 18 News at 11**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=3665&DateTime=12%2F20%2F2012+23%3A08%3A44&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Elmira] WETM, 12/20/2012, aired at 11:08 P.M., 2:42 A.M. on 12/21/12

“... Their pressure on Reid and the President not to cut too much spending(sot: Rep. Rosa DeLauro / (d) Connecticut 1:15 - 1:22)"What we should not be doing right now is slashing the benefits of Social Security Medicare and Medicaid" earlier this week a Boehner- Obama compromise looked just a few billion dollars from getting done(sot: Sen. Charles Schumer / (D) New York 1:29 - 1:34)"They are so close! What is the speaker waiting for??? "Tonight Boehner’s waiting for the house to draw a line on tax hikes...”

[**Citizen Action on Fiscal Cliff**](http://www.newschannel34.com/news/local/story/Citizen-Action-on-Fiscal-Cliff/J3ezrmJA-UaIuCoeat_4WA.cspx)

*News Channel 34*, 12/19/2012

The organization says it was initially pleased when President Obama appeared to favor

raising taxes on people earning more than $250,000 a year. However, **Citizen Action** says it's disappointed that he's lowered that threshold to $400,000. The group says to make matters worse there's now talk about slightly cutting the cost of living increase for social security recipients. And, making unspecified cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

Mary Clark says, "We're calling on Congressman Hanna, Senator Schumer and Gillibrand to support the interest of the majority of people in the district and that's by taxing the one percent in our district and not cutting benefits to social security and medicare."

[**Citizen Action Discusses Fiscal Cliff Negotiations**](http://www.wicz.com/news2005/viewarticle.asp?a=26069)

*Fox 40 WICZ,* 12/19/2012

The statewide coalition is made up of several organizations, including **Citizen Action of New York**. The report says about one percent of Broome County residents earn over $250,000 and over 20 percent rely on medicare, medicaid, or social security.

"We're calling on Congressman Hanna, Senator Schumer, and Senator Gillibrand to support the interest of people in the district. And that's by taxing the one percent in our district and not cutting benefits," said Mary Clark of Citizen Action.

[**Gibson Should Stand Up for the 99 Percent**](http://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Gibson-should-stand-up-for-the-99-percent-4110172.php)

*Albany Times Union,* Michael Kink 12/11/2012.

[**Marchers Call on Hanna to end Tax Cuts for Top 2 Percent**](http://madisoncountycourier.com/?p=39442)

*Madison County Courier,* 12/11/2012

As part of more than 10 events across New York State on International Human Rights Day, about 60 local activists gathered outside of Rep. Richard Hanna’s (R-NY 24th) Utica office on Monday to call on him to fight in Congress for an end to the Bush Tax Cuts for the top 2%, to ensure that no cuts to Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid are part of any “fiscal cliff” deal, and to make investments in good, well-paying jobs for working families.

“As the deadline for Congress to make a decision regarding federal spending priorities approaches, we want to ensure that the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits working families rely on don’t get traded away in exchange for tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires,” Furman said. “This candlelight vigil is one of hundreds around the country calling for the protection of middle class priorities like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits as well as preventing tax increases for 98% of taxpayers.”

[**Hanna hosts ‘farewell’ open-door meeting in Auburn, meets with local activists**](http://auburnpub.com/news/local/hanna-hosts-farewell-open-door-meeting-in-auburn-meets-with/article_024347ee-56cd-5c35-86a7-d22f3a10ba0e.html)

*Auburn Citizen,* Robert Harding12/11/2012

Blog Post: [**Protestors Call on Representative Hanna To End Tax Cuts for Wealthy**](http://cnyhomepage.com/fulltext?nxd_id=168532)

*CNY,* Rachel Polansky 12/10/2012

[**Groups rally at Reed’s Market Street office**](http://www.the-leader.com/features/x1922375851/Groups-rally-at-Reeds-Market-Street-office)

*The Leader,* James Post 12/10/2012

[**Rep. Richard Hanna says farewell to Auburn and local protesters at open house today**](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/rep_richard_hanna_says_farewel.html)

*Syracuse Post-Standard,* Mark Weiner 12/10/2012

[**Corning protesters urge Reed to end tax cuts for wealthy**](http://www.stargazette.com/article/20121210/NEWS01/312100027/Corning-protesters-urge-Reed-end-tax-cuts-wealthy?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cp&nclick_check=1)

*The Star-Gazette,*12/10/2012

About two dozen protesters gathered Monday in front of U.S. Rep. Tom Reed’s Market Street office to urge Reed to act to end tax cuts for the wealthy.

They chose to hold the protest on Monday because it was International Human Rights Day, said Brian Dugan, lead organizer for **Citizen Action of New York**. “The majority of his constituents, about 99 percent, are working class, middle class people who would benefit the most by extending the Bush tax cuts for the middle class and not letting it continue for the wealthiest 2 percent,” Dugan said. “That’s our purpose.”

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Occupy Changed Our Country**](http://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Letter-Occupy-changed-our-country-4091349.php)

*Albany Times Union,* Susan F. Weber 12/4/2012

[**Small Business Owners Rally To End Tax Breaks for Rich**](http://www.wicz.com/news2005/viewarticle.asp?a=25854)

*FOX 40,* 12/1/2012

[**Protesters chide Gibson for stance on Bush tax Cuts**](http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121201/NEWS/121209988)

*Times Herald-Record,* Michael Novinson 12/1/2012

**Blog Post:** [**Activists to Protest GOP House Members in NY Over Fiscall Cliff**](http://statepolitics.lohudblogs.com/2012/11/30/activists-to-protest-gop-house-members-in-ny-over-fiscal-cliff/?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed)

*Albany Watch,* 11/30/2012

[**Rally in Corning urges Reed to end Bush-era tax cuts**](http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x1107416694/Rally-in-Corning-urges-Reed-to-end-Bush-era-tax-cuts)

*The Evening Tribune,* 11/30/2012

Small business owners will be joined by community and labor organizations Saturday, calling on Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, to end the Bush tax cuts for those making over $250,000 a year, to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and to invest in good jobs to help boost the local economy.

The rally will take place at 11:30 a.m., on Market Street at Centerway Square.

This event is one of four in New York State happening on Saturday as part of what is called "a national day of action." It is sponsored **Citizens Action New York**.

[**Kingston, Beacon among sites of demonstrations across NY calling for higher taxes on the rich**](http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2012/11/30/news/doc50b905aa88c84910126784.txt)

*Daily Freeman,* 11/30/2012

**Blog Post:** [**Hayworth: I Didn’t Sign That Pledge for Grover Norquist**](http://capitaltonightny.ynn.com/2012/11/hayworth-i-didnt-sign-that-pledge-for-grover-norquist/)

*Capital Tonight,* Liz Benjamin 11/30/2012

[**3 Things You Should Know About Small Business**](http://www.thestreet.com/story/11773788/1/3-things-you-should-know-about-small-business-nov-21.html)

*The Street,* Laurie Kulikowski, 11/21/2012

**1. Small business advocacy group urges the end of Bush tax cuts.** The American Business Sustainable Council and **Business for Shared Prosperity** are urging lawmakers to end the Bush-era tax cuts as part of any solution to the fiscal cliff.

"Huge tax cuts for the richest Americans have not trickled down to increase small- and medium-sized business investment, broad-based consumer purchasing power or job creation. More budget-busting tax cuts for the top won't help Main Street, won't lead to business innovation, more hiring, or more people being educated for the jobs we have and can create," according to a [**letter**](http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1924/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=7107) written by the organization.

The letter also argues that the tax cuts for the wealthy do not benefit small-business owners, suggesting the money could be better spent elsewhere, such as "infrastructure projects, education, or other efforts to strengthen the economy."

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattCaribbeanQueens.pdf)

*Queens/Long Island] Caribbean Life* Oped by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/15/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Safety Net Rally by Citizen Action**](http://www.wicz.com/news2005/viewarticle.asp?a=25552)

*Fox40 WICZ*, 11/9/2012

Members of **Citizen Action of New York** are urging Congress to put an end to the tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent that were established during the Bush Administration. They're also rallying against cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. After the re-election of President Obama on Tuesday, many are more confident that their message will be heard.

[**Dire warning on deficit measure: Analysts say federal tax, spending cuts could mean more joblessness**](http://www.timesunion.com/default/article/Dire-warning-on-deficit-measure-4021996.php)

[*Times Union,* 11/9/2012](http://www.timesunion.com/default/article/Dire-warning-on-deficit-measure-4021996.php)

["There's a sense of urgency to get work done," said Rep. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, who appeared Thursday at a news conference at the state Capitol. He was accompanied by progressive advocates pushing for an end to the so-called "Bush tax cuts" on those earning more than $250,000 per year as a starting point for any deficit package. Many of the same people have argued for similar tax code changes at the state level. Tonko voted against the deal that installed the automatic "s](http://www.timesunion.com/default/article/Dire-warning-on-deficit-measure-4021996.php)equestration" budget cuts, which he likened to "wielding an ax at a tough challenge. ... You don't take the ax to it, you take the scalpel to it."

[**Syracuse group bids farewell to Ann Marie Buerkle**](http://www.cnycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=823031#.UK1msbvVj-l)

*CNYCentral (NBC/CBS/CW),* 11/8/2012

In a tongue and cheek way, a group of people gathered in Syracuse Thursday morning to say "Bon Voyage" to Republican Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle. The group, including members of **Citizen Action of New York**, met in front of the Federal Building on South Clinton Street to say goodbye as Buerkle returns to Washington for the lame duck session of Congress.

[**Local Leaders Call for Fair Deal on Fiscal Cliff**](http://www.fox23news.com/news/local/story/Local-leaders-call-for-fair-deal-on-fiscal-cliff/uQGRiZFGNUKmKEauri1eMA.cspx)

*Fox23*,11/8/2012

Before that happens, local leaders, including Congressman Paul Tonko, are calling on President Obama and the New York Congressional Delegation to fight for a fair deal.

They want to protect social security, Medicare, Medicaid and ensure the wealthiest 2 percent pay their fair share in taxes while maintaining tax cuts for the middle class.

The groups worry that major decisions could be made during the lame duck Congress in November or December, potentially resulting in the loss of millions of jobs and massive cuts to vital programs.

[**Protesters bid bon voyage to Congresswoman Buerkle**](http://centralny.ynn.com/content/611484/protesters-bid-bon-voyage-to-congresswoman-buerkle/)

*YNN Central NY,* 11/8/2012

A coalition of local groups was outside Syracuse's federal building, saying they wanted to bid "bon voyage" to Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle. The conservative republican lost a bid for re-election this week. The protesters are focusing on Buerkle's return to Washington for a "lame duck" session of Congress.

[**The Fiscal Cliff – Washington’s biggest challenge**](http://www.news10.com/story/20045697/the-fiscal-cliff-washingtons-biggest-challenge)

*WTEN,* Amy Cutler, 11/8/2012

With a January deadline looming, local leaders and advocates, including congressman Paul Tonko, came together in Albany Thursday, calling for Washington to work towards developing the best possible plan to tackle the fiscal cliff. Today's event was one of half a dozen events held across New York and many others around the country, all with the goal of raising awareness about what the fiscal cliff is and how it can be prevented.

[**Local groups concerned over looming federal fiscal cliff**](http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S2828000.shtml?cat=300) **(Video)**

*WNYT*, Bill Lambdin, 11/8/2012

"The choice is stark," said Andrew Palotta of the New York State United Teachers. "Congress can protect students and their educations or it can continue to coddle the wealthiest two per cent and corporations that ship jobs overseas." Bob Carillo of the New York State Alliance of Retired Americans said "honoring the premise of social security and medicare should not be a partisan issue."

"Our labor, our transportation and our security infrastructure enabled the wealthiest two per cent to prosper," said Sara Nicolli of the New York State Labor-Religion Coalition. "It's time they paid back their fair share."

[**Video: Tonko on the fiscal cliff, and how to step back**](http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/164429/video-tonko-on-the-fiscal-cliff-and-how-to-step-back/)

*Times Union’s Capitol Confidential Blog*, Casey Seiler, 11/8/2012

Like the crowd behind him, Tonko is pushing for an end to the so-called “Bush tax cuts” on those earning more than $250,000 per year — identified as “the 2%” — as a starting point for any deficit package. Many of the same people have argued for similar tax code changes at the state level.

[**Progressive Groups Concerned About Fiscal Cliff Negotiations**](http://capitaltonightny.ynn.com/2012/11/progressive-groups-concerned-about-fiscal-cliff-negotiations/) **[Video]**

*Capital Tonight/YNN,* 11/8/2012

Elections are over, Congress is heading back to Washington, and talk of compromise is in the air. After all, the fiscal cliff seems a lot closer from this side of the voting booth. And while a deal will likely require some sacrifices from both parties, left-leaning groups who helped Democrats get elected want to make it clear they will not support any cuts to Social Security or Medicare benefits. Ron Deutsch of New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness, Sara Niccoli of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State, and Michael Kink of Strong Economy for All discuss what’s at stake.

[**Opponents to throw "bon voyage" party for Rep. Buerkle's return to Washington**](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/11/syracuse_councilor_helen_hudso.html)

*Syracuse Post-Standard*, Michelle Breidenbach, 11/7/2012

**Citizen Action**, with Syracuse Common Councilor Helen Hudson, has organized a sarcastic send-off for Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle to return to Washington.

Hudson, a Democrat, retired teacher Bill Spreter and **Citizen Action** activist Rosemary Rivera sent an invitation for the media to cover their "Bon Voyage" event at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Federal Building, 100 S. Clinton St., Syracuse.

[**Small businesses favor middle-class tax breaks**](http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121026/BIZ/210260356)

*Times Herald-Record*, James Walsh, 10/26/2012

Most small-business owners favor continuing tax breaks for the middle class and raising taxes on the richest Americans, according to a national survey by a business advocacy group.

[**Investing in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerCaribbeanLifeBrooklyn.pdf)

*[Brooklyn] Caribbean Life***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/18/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerCaribbeanLifeQueens.pdf)

*[Queens/Long Island]Caribbean Life***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/18/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Strong Economy’s Kink and Citizen Action’s Albanetti Talk House Races**](http://capitaltonightny.ynn.com/2012/09/strong-economys-kink-and-citizen-actions-albanetti-talk-house-races/) **[Video]**

*[Albany] Capital Tonight,* 9/7/2012

The national party conventions are sort of an unofficial starting point for the general election, where campaigning really starts to ramp up. And with New York poised to play a big role in the battle for the control of the House, progressive groups are planning on holding town hall forums around the state to talk about economic fairness issues that will impact congressional races here in New York. Mike Kink of a Strong Economy For All and Charlie Albanetti of Citizen Action explains.

[**Buerkle fields complaints and questions at mobile office hours**](http://wrvo.org/post/buerkle-fields-complaints-and-questions-mobile-office-hours) **[Audio]**

*[Syracuse NPR affiliate] WRVO, E*llen Abbott, 9/7/2012

Opponents of the Romney/Ryan budget plan took their complaints to the congressional mobile office hours of Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (R-Onondaga Hill) on Syracuse's south side yesterday.

Lanika Mabrey of **Citizen Action of New York** organized the protest. Mabrey says residents from the south and southwest sides of Syracuse are concerned there might be cuts in programs like Medicare and Social Security. Many of them signed up to speak one-on-one with the congresswoman. [**Listen**](http://cpa.ds.npr.org/wrvo/audio/2012/09/EA_Buerkle_Protest.mp3)

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerCaribbeanQueens.pdf)

*Caribbean Life (Queens/Long Island),* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/23/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerCaribbean.pdf)

*Caribbean Life (Brooklyn),* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/23/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Report released by N.Y. coalition slams extension of Bush-era tax cuts**](http://www.knickledger.com/2012/07/report-released-by-n-y-coalition-slams-extension-of-bush-era-tax-cuts/)

*[Albany] Knickerbocker Ledger*, 7/31/2012

Extending the Bush-era tax cuts will lead to a significant increase in tax revenue and will result in one trillion dollars over a decade, according a report [“[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: New Yorkers Can’t Afford to Extend Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/new-york-press-release/)”] released by **Citizen Action of New York**.

The report, authored by **Americans for Tax Fairness**, **Citizens for Tax Justice** and the **National Women’s Law Center**, states that 96 percent of New Yorkers would see a cut in their taxes under Obama’s proposal to end tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent. In contrast, the Republican proposal would extend those tax breaks while ending the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit that working families rely on.

[**Citizen Action of New York plans to rally today in Syracuse**](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/citizen_action_of_new_york_pla.html)

*The [Syracuse] Post-Standard,* Maureen Nolan, 7/30/2012

**Citizen Action of New York** plans to rally in Syracuse this afternoon to celebrate the anniversary of Medicare and to call for an end to Bush-era tax cuts for higher-income taxpayers. It is one of a half-dozen rallies scheduled around the state, organizers say.

The rally is scheduled to take place at 3:30 p.m. at the Central Park Rehabilitation Center, 116 E. Castle St. Citizen Action says participants will include other members of the Health Care For All New York coalition, members of 1199 SEIU and the Central New York Alliance for Retired Americans, among others.

Citizen Action says it will release a report [“[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: New Yorkers Can’t Afford to Extend Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/new-york-press-release/)”] by the **Americans for Tax Fairness**, **Citizens for Tax Justice** and the **National Women’s Law Center** about the impact on New Yorkers of tax cuts for the wealthy.

[**Fair Tax report**](http://wbai.org/articles.php?headline=Fair%20Tax%20report.) **[Audio]**

*[New York City] Pacifica radio station WBAI-99.5FM, Ch*ristine Black, 7/30/12

Three advocacy groups are weighing in on whether and how to end the Bush era tax cuts. They have issued a report [“[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: New Yorkers Can’t Afford to Extend Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/new-york-press-release/)”] to show how much revenue would be generated and how the revenue might be spent. WBAI's Christine Black spoke with Karen Scharff, executive director of Citizen Action New York.

[**The Capitol Pressroom**](http://www.wcny.org/thecapitolpressroomorg/wp-content/uploads/pdownload.php?file=JUL302012.MP3) **[Audio]**

*[New York state-wide public radio] NPR affiliate WCNY-FM 91.3FM, 7/*30/12

Interview with Citizen Action New York Executive Director Karen Scharff about report: “[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: New Yorkers Can’t Afford to Extend Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/new-york-press-release/).”

[**End Bush-era tax cuts for top 2 percent**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserCaribbeanBrooklyn.pdf)

*[Brooklyn] Caribbean Life*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/25/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**End Bush-era tax cuts for top 2 percent**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserCaribbeanQueens.pdf)

*[Queens/Long Island] Caribbean Life*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/25/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# North Carolina Media Hits

[**Spending Plan Makes More Sense**](http://www.carolinacoastonline.com/tideland_news/opinions/editorials/article_9b453448-8665-11e2-86be-0019bb2963f4.html)

*Tideland News,* 3/6/2013

**Americans for Tax Fairness** points out that enacting the “Buffett Rule,” requiring people who make at least $1 million a year pay a 30 percent minimum tax – just slightly above the 28 percent marginal tax bracket paid by millions of middle-class Americans – would raise $54 billion. Ending tax subsidies for oil and gas companies would raise $25 billion over the next 10 years. Other suggestions from Americans for Tax Fairness include ending tax breaks for shifting jobs and profits offshore and placing a small sales tax on Wall Street trading.

Instead of another Continuing Resolution, it would be so much better for our elected leaders to produce a spending plan that takes a balanced approach.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSampson.pdf)**

*The Sampson Independent,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/5/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSpringHope.pdf)**

*Spring Hope Enterprise,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 2/28/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSpringHope.pdf)**

*Daily Southerner,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 2/27/2013

[**Rep. Rick Glazier Says Congress Needs to Avoid Sequestration Cuts**](http://fayobserver.com/articles/2013/02/21/1238742?sac=fo.military)

*Fay Observer,* Paul Woolverton, 2/21/2013

North Carolina's U.S. representatives need to block a federal budget cut scheduled to take effect March 1, say state Rep. Rick Glazier of Fayetteville and a public policy group.

Glazier and state Sen. Don Davis of Snow Hill, both Democrats, and the **N.C. Budget & Tax Center of the N.C. Justice Center**, are asking all of the state's legislators to sign a letter that urges their congressional representatives to repeal $1.2 trillion in spending reductions. These cuts, known as sequestration, are slated for the military and domestic programs if the president and Congress fail to take action to stop them.

[**Legislators Ask Congressional Delegation to Avoid Widespread Federal Budget Cuts**](http://projects.newsobserver.com/node/27011)

*News Observer,* 2/20/2013

Democratic legislators warned that automatic federal budget cuts coming March 1 will damage the state economy, the state budget, children and their families.

The **N.C. Budget & Tax Center**, part of the **N.C. Justice Center**, is asking legislators to sign a letter to the state's Congressional delegation urging a "balanced approach to deficit reduction that includes additional new revenues and protects the state budget." The Justice Center is a policy and advocacy organization for poor and working-class people.

The budget cuts will hit military employees, defense contractors, Head Start students, and families who have subsidized child care.

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanDurham.pdf)

*Durham Herald-Sun,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/25/2012

[**Moms v. millionaires: Families and the fiscal cliff**](http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/12/23/2559976/moms-v-millionaires-families-and.html)

*News and Observer*, Oped by Beth Messersmith, 12/23/2012

Unfortunately, our nation’s lawmakers are playing a high-stakes game of chicken in which the main losers will be our children and families. As the so-called “fiscal cliff” looms, lawmakers must make a choice. Will they stand with moms, dads and families on Main Streets across the nation or will they side with special interests and billionaires?

[**Charlotte small-business owners urge tax reform**](http://shoptalkclt.blogspot.com/2012/12/charlotte-small-business-owners-urge.html)

*Charlotte Observer’s Shop Talk blog,* Celeste Smith, 12/20/2012

Several small business owners from the Charlotte area are among hundreds who have signed two separate letters to President Obama and Congress urging tax reform.

The letters, both listed as having more than 600 signatures, were sent by the **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **Main Street Alliance**. [**Business for Shared Prosperity**](http://businessforsharedprosperity.org/) is still collecting signatures on its website.

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerTideland.pdf)

*Tideland News,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/12/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**NC groups hold vigil to oppose budget cuts**](http://myfox8.com/2012/12/10/nc-groups-hold-vigil-to-oppose-budget-cuts/)

*My Fox 8,* Joe Borlik, 12/10/2012

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerYancey.pdf)

*Yancey Commons Times Journal,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/05/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Raleigh business owners want tax cuts to end for wealthy**](http://www2.nbc17.com/news/wake-county/2012/dec/01/raleigh-business-owners-want-tax-cuts-end-wealthy-ar-2826011/)

*NBC-17*, Derrick Waller, 12/1/2012

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Tyler Stocks: Budget equity**](http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/12/01/2516642/tyler-stocks-budget-equity.html)

*News and Observer*, Tyler Stocks, 12/1/2012

When others don't do their part, we all suffer. The wealthiest Americans state they cannot afford to pay more taxes. The middle class cannot afford the onslaught of more taxes – the bleeding must stop.

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerSpringHope.pdf)

*Spring Hope Enterprise,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/29/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Group Pushes for sacrifices to rein in federal debt**](http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/11/27/2510483/group-pushes-for-sacrifices-to.html)

News and Observer, Corey Lowenstein, 11/27/2012

Gerrick Brenner of the liberal group **Progress N.C.** said the speeches didn’t reassure him.

“Everyone wants to ‘fix the debt,’ ” he said, “but the real question is, ‘Who will pay?’ … This sounds like a rewind of the Mitt Romney for President campaign. Shared sacrifice includes not just entitlement reforms, but also higher tax rates for those who benefited most from the Bush tax cuts.”

**Key for small businesses is middle class not high income tax**

*Durham Herald-Sun,* Oped by John Arensmeyer, Founder and CEO, **Small Business Majority**,11/26/2012

[**Group: ‘Fiscal cliff’ could lead to NC childcare, teacher job cuts**](http://www.carolinapublicpress.org/12495/group-fiscal-cliff-could-lead-to-nc-childcare-teacher-job-cuts)

*Carolina Public Press*, Peggy Manning, 11/14/2012

Cuts in discretionary funds to states may have a greater impact on North Carolina than the tax cuts, according to information released by the **Budget and Tax Center** – a project of the **N.C. Justice Center** — this week.

Only 1.4 percent of North Carolina families have incomes greater than $250,000 and they would only see a tax increase on the portion of their income above that threshold. Their income below $250,000 would still receive a tax cut, according to Allan M. Freyer, Public Policy Analyst for the N.C. Budget and Tax Center. On the other hand, discretionary cuts will affect more low- and middle-class North Carolinians, he said.

[**Morality at the fiscal cliff: A fairer way to tax**](http://www.indyweek.com/indyweek/morality-at-the-fiscal-cliff-a-fairer-way-to-tax/Content?oid=3192109)

*[Raleigh Durham] Indy Week*, Oped by Bob Geary, 11/14/2012

Fortunately, Mitt didn't win the White House, because he wanted to further reduce tax rates. President Obama is no FDR—the idea of grabbing what the greedy shouldn't get seems not to have occurred to him—but he did campaign forcefully to end the Bush tax cuts on incomes over $250,000. The effect would be to increase rates modestly on taxable incomes above that level, but only on the portion over $250,000.

**Blog:** [**Taking a balanced approach to reducing the federal budget deficit**](http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2012/11/06/taking-a-balanced-approach-to-reducing-the-federal-budget-deficit/)

*NC Policy Watch,* Allan Freyer, 11/6/2012

[**Myths about millionaires abound**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattDurham.pdf)

*Durham Herald-Sun*, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/05/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

As every good businessman knows — including Governor Romney with whom I had been associated as a limited partner at Bain Capital Ventures —the soundness of a company and its ability to create jobs does not rest on lower taxes for the company or its senior management.

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

[**Creating jobs with greater efficiency**](http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/10/25/2438325/creating-jobs-with-greater-efficiency.html)

*The News and Observer,* Jason Massey, small business owner, 10/25/2012 [op-ed syndicated by American Forum.]

As a businessman, I believe deeply in the power of free markets. Yet I also know that government investment plays a vital role in seeding those markets for success.

Our economy can’t prosper without a strong and vibrant business sector, but our businesses need smart, efficient tax policies to help them thrive. Our businesses need tax policies that have a direct effect on economic growth rather than derivative, trickle-down approaches.

[**We must invest in progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerDurhamSun.pdf)

*Durham Herald-Sun***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/16/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Blog:** [**Millionaires over moms?**](http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2012/10/15/millionaires-over-moms/)

*The Progressive Pulse*, Allen Freyer, 10/15/2012

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerLaurinburg.pdf)

*The Laurinburg Exchange,* Oped by Joel Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** , 10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Blog:** [**Senate “Gang” considers using new revenues to reduce federal deficits**](http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2012/10/05/senate-gang-considers-using-new-revenues-to-reduce-federal-deficits/)

*The Progressive Pulse,* Allen Freyer, 10/5/2012

**Letter to the Editor:** [**Leaders need to lift middle-class burden**](http://www.news-record.com/node/152030)

*[Greensboro] News & Record,* Stephanie Burch, 9/6/2012

As a mother, education is very important to me. Compared to other countries, we are behind in performance and test scores. In addition, programs are being cut in schools because we do not have the money. If millionaires and billionaires paid their fair share of taxes, it would generate $850 billion in a decade. Let’s invest more in our children. If kids do not have every available opportunity, what is the point?

It is selfish that politicians do not want the richest 2 percent to pay their fair share, while the middle class is scraping by. We all pay taxes to invest in social services such as food stamps, welfare and education to help all Americans.

Think about how much money the government would have to put to education if millionaires and billionaires paid more taxes.

[**Congress should end Bush tax cuts for folks like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterSpringHope.pdf)

*Spring Hope Enterprise*, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Cut Tax Cuts**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterLaurinburg.pdf)

*The Laurinburg Exchange,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean,

Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/1/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Tax Cuts for Rich Must Go**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HenrySpringHope.pdf)

*Spring Hope Enterprise*, Oped by Eric Henry, President of TS Designs of Burlington/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**, 8/23/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Take it from this business owner: Tax cuts for rich don’t help**](http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/08/21/3469242/take-it-from-this-business-owner.html#storylink=misearch)

*Charlotte Observer*, Oped by Eric Henry, President of TS Designs of Burlington/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**, 8/21/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

If anyone tells you that ending the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent would hurt job creation, tell them to talk with me. We founded our business, TS Designs, in 1977 as a small manual screen printing company and grew to land contracts with some of clothing’s biggest brands. In 1993, we lost much of our business as a result of the supposedly job-creating NAFTA trade agreement as large brands sought out the cheapest labor costs they could in Mexico.

We decided to stick it out and keep good jobs right here in North Carolina. We invested in new technologies that reduced our energy and waste costs. We found new markets for our t-shirts. And we looked at our location in North Carolina as a virtue, not a problem. We decided to manufacture t-shirts from cotton grown, ginned, spun, knit, finished, cut, sewn, printed and dyed all within our state’s borders; or as we like to say, from dirt to shirt in North Carolina…

[**We don't cotton to tax cuts for the rich**](http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/08/09/2254813/we-dont-cotton-to-tax-cuts-for.html)

*[Raleigh] News & Observer*, Oped by Eric Henry, President of TS Designs of Burlington/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**, 8/9/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Tax cuts don’t hurt businesses**](http://www.carolinacoastonline.com/tideland_news/opinions/letters_to_editor/article_581888fe-e157-11e1-b1bb-001a4bcf887a.html)

*[Morehead City]* *Carolina Coast*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 8/8/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Tax cuts for top two percent don’t help small businesses**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserSpringHope.pdf)

*Spring Hope Enterprise,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 8/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Ohio Media Hits

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

*Chillicothe Gazette,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/11/2013

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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[**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

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

*Cleveland Call and Post,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/11/2013

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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**Groups Call for Revenue as Part of State, Federal Budget Deals**

*Hannah News Service,* 1/30/2013

Policy Matters Ohio, **ProgressOhio** and Democratic lawmakers Wednesday called for Ohio and national leaders to embrace revenue increases as a solution to averting automatic federal spending cuts and balancing the upcoming state budget.

Preserving federal preferences for businesses and investors or cutting Ohio's income tax rate aren't the way to grow the economy, said ProgressOhio's Brian Rothenberg.

"The more money you put in the hands of people to spend, the better our economy is. The more money you put into the hands of somebody who is wealthy, who is not going to spend it, they're going to invest it, the more you have a Wall Street recovery while the rest of this nation stagnates," Rothenberg said.

**Democrats: Kasich Income Tax Cut Would Exacerbate Taft Revenue Shortfall**

*Gongwer News Service,* 1/30/2013

Democrats warned Wednesday that pending federal budget cuts, along with Gov. John Kasich's plan to reduce the state income tax, would create a "perfect storm" driving local governments and schools to replace the lost revenue with more levies.

Gov. Kasich has made no secret about his desire to cut the state income tax and has said he would likely renew last year's plan to reduce taxes by increasing the gas and oil severance tax. The measure could be included in his executive budget scheduled for unveiling Monday.

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanCleveland.pdf)

*Cleveland Call and Post,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/26/2012

[**News 5 Today Weekend**](http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=2055&DateTime=12%2F22%2F2012+05%3A38%3A55&mediapreload=14&playclip=false) **[Television]**

[Cincinnati] WLWT-CIN, 12/21/12, aired at 6:10 P.M., 5:38 A.M. on 12/22/2012

“... as congress goes on break...without a fiscal cliff deal... some Cincinnati janitors are trying to raise their profile... they marched from the freedom center to the local offices of Senator Rob Portman and congressman Steve Chabot...delivering several hundred post cards to urge leaders to put their struggles ahead of reluctance to further tax the wealthy. (Troy Jackson - University Christian Church) ("the company that manages this building has offered a zero cent, zero cent, 10- cent raise for the next three ...”

[**Postcard petition calls for end to Bush tax cuts for the wealthy**](http://www.northwestohio.com/news/story.aspx?id=839266#.UOsRpOTLQl9)

*NorthwestOhio.com,* Eric Wildstein, 12/19/2012

No postage was required on Wednesday, as local faith leaders and activists hand-delivered stacks of postcards to Ohio Senator Rob Portman’s office, calling for an end to Bush tax cuts to the wealthy. Supporters frustrated with tax breaks to wealthy Americans and the threat of the fiscal cliff, took action by obtaining hundreds of signatures on postcards addressed to Senator Portman. The postcards read:

“The American people have spoken up for strengthening the middle class, creating opportunity for the least among us, leaders who will put the good of the country before their personal politics, and for a brighter future for all of our families. We do not create a brighter future through tax cuts for the rich or cuts to essential programs in our neighborhoods. We urge you to work cooperatively to create jobs and opportunity, and a secure future for members of our community.”

A group of about a dozen union workers, faith leaders, and others in the community, held up signs that read, “Middle Class over Millionaires” and “Take Action.”

[**Fiscal Cliff and Ohioans**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KearneyCincinnati.pdf)

*Cincinnati Enquirer,* Op-ed by Eric H. Kearney, 12/10/12

It will not be a happy new year for Ohioans if our leaders in Washington fail to reach a bipartisan agreement to avoid massive budget cuts and tax increases.

**Ohio: Right in the Middle of the Budget Debate**

*Crestline Advocate,* Op-ed by Ted Celeste 12/1/12

As the presidential election demonstrated, Ohio is central to American politics. But now that the campaign is over, our state has the opportunity to prove just as central to American public policy-specifically, in the great budget debate now raging in Washington.

[**Help for small businesses**](http://communitypress.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20121109/BIZ/311090145/Anne-Zimmerman-There-flexibility-taxes?odyssey=nav%7Chead)

*Cincinnati Enquirer,* Anne Zimmerman, small business owner affiliated with **Small Business Majority***,* 11/9/2012

Being in the high tax brackets has nothing to do with my hiring decisions. Period. There’s no way I’d let a couple percentage points being added to my personal tax rate get in the way of sound business decisions. I make those decisions by considering demand for our services, plain and simple. It’s the middle class that drives demand and it’s middle class people who run most small businesses. Those are the job creators who can lead our economic recovery and who need a tax cut.

[**Rich Can Pay More**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterVindicator.pdf)

*The [Youngstown] Vindicator* , Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest two percent like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterClevelandCall.pdf)

*[Cleveland] Call and Post* , Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerChillicoathe.pdf)

*Chillicothe Gazette,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/22/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**‘Shared sacrifice’ urged to help cut deficit**](http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/shared-sacrifice-urged-to-help-cut-deficit/nRBXT/)

*Dayton Daily News*, Kelli Wynn, 8/14/2012

Dayton — Some Ohio residents voiced their disappointment Tuesday because Congress has not been able to reach a deal to reduce the federal deficit, a move that could trigger automatic spending cuts through a process called sequestration.

“It simply means that with the coming new year, unless we come to a compromise in the Congress, the budget is going to go off a cliff and a 10-percent slash across the board,” said David Little, spokesman for **Progress Ohio**, a liberal think tank based in Columbus.

“We believe that in current circumstances, the top 2 percent are not paying their fair share and that seniors, people on fixed income and Medicare, and veterans should not be paying to make up that budgetary deficit.”

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# Oregon Media Hits

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

*East Oregonian,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/12/2013

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.

[**Survey: Small-biz execs talk taxes, regs and Citizens United**](http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/morning_call/2012/09/survey-small-business-execs-talk-taxes.html)

*Portland Business Journal*, Suzanne Stevens, 9/27/2012

The survey, "Taking the Pulse of Oregon Small Business," was conducted by the small business advocacy group **Main Street Alliance of Oregon**. The group will present its findings to U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Friday morning at 9 a.m. at Salt and Straw Ice Cream and Bakery in Portland.

Among the highlights of small business opinions:

More customers, and not lower taxes or fewer regulations, are what small businesses need to rebuild the economy and create jobs.

Big corporations are not paying their fair share of taxes.

Corporate tax loopholes should be closed to increase revenues before making further budget cuts.

[**Oregon small business owners call on Congress to end Bush-era tax breaks for top 2 percent**](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20120905/OPINION/309050009?odyssey=mod%7Cmostcom&nclick_check=1)

*The [Salem] Statesman Journal*, Oped by Jose Gonzalez, President, Tu Casa Real Estate, Salem, Mark Kellenbeck, Owner, BrainJoy LLC, Medford, Victor Madge, Owner, Victor Madge Architect, Silverton, Deborah and John Field, Co-Owners, Paperjam Press and Brian Setzler, CPA, President, TriLibrium, Portland (members of the Statewide Leadership Circle of **Main Street Alliance of Oregon**), 9/1/2012

When the Congressional Budget Office examined close to a dozen options to jumpstart economic activity and job creation in early 2010, it found that extending special tax breaks for the richest Americans was the least effective of all 11 options for creating jobs and boosting the economy…

Small businesses need more customers. How do we get there? Build roads and bridges, invest in education, hire teachers and first responders – this will create local jobs, inject money into local economies, and bring more customers into our businesses.

But we won’t have the resources to do these things if we take the nearly $1 trillion we would raise from ending the extra tax cuts for income over $250,000 and hand it right back in another giveaway to the top.

[**Avoiding the fiscal cliff**](http://www.registerguard.com/web/opinion/28632138-47/tax-cuts-lawmakers-budget-fiscal.html.csp)

*[Eugene] Register Guard,* Editorial Board,8/27/2012

….Republicans, many of whom have handcuffed themselves by taking the Grover Norquist no-new-taxes-ever oath, insist on extending the Bush-era tax cuts for all taxpayers. President Obama and congressional Democrats, meanwhile, want to extend the tax cuts for most Americans while letting them expire for those making more than $250,000 a year.

Democrats hold the high ground in this debate and shouldn’t yield to Republicans who stubbornly oppose any revenue increases even though most Americans say they support a mix of tax hikes and spending cuts to reduce the deficit. It’s one thing to disagree with Democrats on which taxes to raise and by how much, but the inflexible opposition by Republicans to any new taxes has made real progress impossible.

[**Stand Up for Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserEastOregonian.pdf)

*East [Pendleton] Oregonian ,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/31/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Pennsylvania Media Hits

[**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

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.

[**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

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.

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

*El Hispano,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/21/2013

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

*Scranton Times,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/12/2013

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

*Kane Republican,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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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[**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

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

*Ridgway Record,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/09/2013

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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**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMiddletown.pdf)**

*The Daily Press,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/20/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMiddletown.pdf)**

*Ridgway Record,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/19/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMiddletown.pdf)**

*The Kane Republican,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/19/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMiddletown.pdf)**

*Middletown Press and Journal,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/13/2013

[**The Dom Giordano Program: Jody Wiser, Tax Fairness**](http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/?podcast_url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.podtrac.com%2Fpts%2Fredirect.mp3%2Fnyc.podcast.play.it%2Fmedia%2Fd0%2Fd0%2Fd1%2Fd2%2Fd9%2FdK%2Fd7%2F129K7_3.MP3%3Fauthtok%3D5562023363336504032_A5hy8DC1AH29I3gGQZK5E0gjas&podcast_name=Jody+Wiser+-+Tax+Fairness&podcast_artist=Dom+Giordano&station_id=81&tag=pages&dcid=CBS.PHILLY) **[AUDIO]**

*CBS Philly Radio,* 2/27/2013

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanBloomsburg.pdf)

*Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 01/01/2013

[**Take It From A Business Owner: Tax Cuts Are Not Job Creators**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/GalePottstown.pdf)

*Pottstown Reporter,* Cynthia Gale, Creative Director of Barber Gale Group, 12/30/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Take It From A Business Owner: Tax Cuts Are Not Job Creators**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/GaleReadingEagle.pdf)

*Reading Eagle,* Cynthia Gale, Creative Director of Barber Gale Group, 12/11/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Take It From A Business Owner: Tax Cuts Are Not Job Creators**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/GalePennLive.pdf)

*Penn Live,* Cynthia Gale, Creative Director of Barber Gale Group, 12/08/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Take It From A Business Owner: Tax Cuts Are Not Job Creators**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/GaleLebanon.pdf)

*Lebanon Daily News,* Cynthia Gale, Creative Director of Barber Gale Group, 12/06/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Take It From A Business Owner: Tax Cuts Are Not Job Creators**

*Luzerne County Citizens Voice,* Cynthia Gale, Creative Director of Barber Gale Group, 12/06/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Take It From A Business Owner: Tax Cuts Are Not Job Creators**](http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/opinion/perspectives/tax-cuts-dont-create-jobs-take-it-from-me-a-small-business-owner-and-job-creator-664828/)

*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,* Cynthia Gale, Creative Director of Barber Gale Group, 12/02/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

My husband and I have owned a branding and graphic design business since 1993. Some politicians call us "job creators." They say that unless we extend the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent of Americans, small businesses like ours will be hurt. Don't believe it.

Job creation doesn't work this way, in a vacuum. Business owners like me create more jobs when we need more employees to meet the demand for goods and services our businesses provide. And we deduct employee costs from our taxable income. So demand is the key to job creation -- not tax cuts.

[**Small Business Owner From Chester County Gets An Invite To The White House**](http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2012/11/28/small-business-owner-from-chester-county-gets-an-invite-to-the-white-house/)

*CBS Philadelphia,* Jericka Duncan, 11/28/2012

This past Tuesday, Cabot and 14 other small business owners from across the country were invited to the White House for a meeting about the economy. She says the President spent about an hour with the group explaining why maintaining tax cuts for the middle class was especially important for small businessesowners.

“Should the tax cuts for the middle class not be extended we are at risk of loosing $200 billion in consumer spending in 2013,” said Cabot. “That’s huge, our business revolves around consumer spending.”

**Stop the spin on small business**

*Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, Oped by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, **American Sustainable Business Council**,11/10/12 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerCharlottesville.pdf)

*Charlottesville Daily Progress***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,11/18/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Taxes benefit businesses rather than harm them**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerPoconoRecord.pdf)

*[Stroudsburg] Pocono Record,* Op-ed by Josh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/11/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerGilmer.pdf)

*Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**I'm a small businessman and I'm glad to pay taxes**](http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/opinion/perspectives/im-a-small-businessman-and-im-glad-to-pay-taxes-653606/#ixzz26jvxeCwt)

*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer is president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**, 9/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**End tax cuts for rich, group urges Fitzpatrick**](http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/courier_times_news/end-tax-cuts-for-rich-group-urges-fitzpatrick/article_5b5574d9-30bf-5487-94ab-d39217f43553.html)

*[Levittown] Courier Times,* Chris English, 7/31/2012

With many rush hour motorists on northbound I-95 honking their approval late Monday afternoon, an activist group hung a banner from one of the highway’s overpasses urging an end to tax cuts for the richest Americans.

The 30- by 10-foot banner, hung by members of a group called Pennsylvania Working Families from the Tennis Avenue overpass above I-95 in Bensalem, read: “Fitzpatrick: End Bush Tax Cuts for the Richest two percent.”

The group left the banner up just long enough for many motorists to get a good look and then took it down. It was directed at Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick, R-8, and other federal lawmakers who are scheduled to soon vote again on continuing the tax cuts that have been in effect for a decade.…

[**Residents Urge Fitzpatrick to End Bush Tax Cuts for the Wealthy**](http://bensalem.patch.com/announcements/enough-is-enough-residents-urge-fitzpatrick-to-end-bush-tax-cuts-for-the-wealthy)

*Bensalem Patch,* Julie Blust, 7/31/2012

Bucks County residents gathered in Bensalem Monday night to voice their opposition to extending the Bush Tax Cuts to the wealthiest 2%. Highlighting the event was the dropping of a 40 foot banner over the Tennis Avenue I-95 overpass that scolded Fitzpatrick with the message, “Fitzpatrick: End Bush Tax Cuts For Richest 2%.”….

“I believe I speak for most middle class people when I say that we are fed up with business as usual with our congress. Our message to Mike Fitzpatrick is do what is right for the 98% of your constituents and end the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy,” said Mary Downing of Warminster.

[**Shining a Light on Tim Murphy's Bush Tax Cuts Vote**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3fxIkdh3wQ&feature=youtu.be) **[Video]**

*[Pittsburgh] WPXI-TV11,* 7/31/2012

# Rhode Island Media Hits

[**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

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.

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

*The Westerly Sun,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/14/2013

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[**Business leaders urge change in tax system**](http://www.thewesterlysun.com/news/letter-business-leaders-urge-change-in-tax-system/article_ed34e910-5032-11e2-9df9-001a4bcf887a.html)

*The Westerly Sun,* Op-ed by **Business for Shared Prosperity** and **Main Street Alliance**, 12/27/2012

*A letter to President Obama and Members of Congress:*

When powerful large U.S. corporations avoid their fair share of taxes, they undermine U.S. competitiveness, contribute to the national debt and shift more of the tax burden to domestic businesses, especially small businesses that create most of the new jobs.

A transparent corporate tax system that assures all companies pay for the services upon which our businesses, our customers, our workforce and our communities depend, would help restore the economic vitality and domestic job creation we all seek.

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerWesterly.pdf)

*The Westerly Sun,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/02/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Business leaders call for end to Bush tax cuts**

*Westerly Sun,* 11/18/12

[**Smite the myth that tax cuts create jobs**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattProvidenceJournal.pdf)

Providence Journal Oped by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/21/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Small-Business Owners Get Abused in Tax Cut Debate**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserWesterly.pdf)

*The Westerly Sun,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/31/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Tennessee Media Hits

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

*Nashville Pride,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/17/2013

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.

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

*Columbia Daily Herald,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/8/2013

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.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMurfreesboro.pdf)**

*Murfreesboro Daily News Journal,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 2/28/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeColumbia.pdf)**

*The Daily Herald,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 2/28/2013

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerNashvillePride.pdf)

*Nashville Pride,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/14/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerNashvillePride.pdf)

*Nashville Pride***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,11/02/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Myths and millionaires**

*Nashville Pride*, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 11/9/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

As every good businessman knows — including Governor Romney with whom I had been associated as a limited partner at Bain Capital Ventures —the soundness of a company and its ability to create jobs does not rest on lower taxes for the company or its senior management.

Allowing the wealthiest 2 percent to withhold tax dollars robs children of health and education. It is not only immoral it is bad economics. They are the future of our country which has begun to fall behind our competitors. It is also destroying the American Dream which brought my father to this country alone at age 15. Both he and the Founding Fathers would agree that the future of this nation should not be compromised by the shortsightedness of those so well off in the present. These are not the values that made this country great.

# Texas Media Hits

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeWUniversity.pdf)**

*Best Southwest Focus on the News,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/7/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeWUniversity.pdf)**

*Valley Morning News,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/5/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeWUniversity.pdf)**

*West University Examiner,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/4/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeSugarlandSun.pdf)**

*Sugar Land Sun,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/4/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeDeerPark.pdf)**

*Deer Park Broadcaster,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/4/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeRiverOaks.pdf)**

*River Oaks Examiner,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/4/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementePasadena.pdf)**

*Pasadena Citizen,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/4/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeFortBend.pdf)**

*Fort Bend News,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/4/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeWaxahachie.pdf)**

*Waxahachie Daily Light,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 2/28/2013

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanBestSW.pdf)

*Best Southwest Focus on the News,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 01/01/2013

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanSanMarcos.pdf)

*San Marcos Daily Record,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/20/2012

[**How to Help Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/sof.cfm?ID=3546)

*San Antonio Daily Commercial Recorder,* Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte, Montana. He is a leader in the **Montana Small Business Alliance** and the national **Main Street Alliance** business network. 11/28/2012

But I do mind being used. And that's the feeling I got from the lip service given to small business in the elections, especially by the politicians using "protecting small businesses" as the reason they won't end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

Let's be clear: that isn't about small businesses. It's about big businesses, including many that get passed off as "small businesses" for tax purposes. Tax structures -- S-corporations or partnerships or LLCs get used to claim multi-million, sometimes multi-billion dollar companies are "small businesses." It's like carrying a fake ID to get into the bar.

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerSanMarcos.pdf)

*San Antonio Daily Commercial Recorder,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/28/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerOdessa.pdf)

*Odessa American,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Entrepreneurs would let high-income tax cuts expire**](http://www.mysanantonio.com/community/southside/news/article/Entrepreneurs-would-let-high-income-tax-cuts-4067643.php#ixzz2DROEMoGN)

*San Antonio Express-News,* Oped by John Arensmeyer, Founder and CEO, **Small Business Majority**, 11/27/12

The majority of small employers in the poll — more of whom identify as Republican than Democrat, an important distinction given the partisan nature of this debate — believe raising taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent is the right thing to do in light of our budget crisis.

[**Entrepreneurs would let high-income tax cuts expire**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerDailyCommercial.pdf)

*San Antonio Daily Commercial Recorder,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/21/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you.

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerSanMarcos.pdf)

*San Marcos Daily Record,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/21/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**How to Help Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/sof.cfm?ID=3546)

*San Marcos Daily Record,* Brian McGregor, owner of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Butte,

Montana. He is a leader in the **Montana Small Business Alliance** and the national **Main Street Alliance** business network. 11/21/2012

[**Stop the spin on small business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappWaxahachie.pdf)

*Waxahachie Daily Light*, Oped by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, **American Sustainable Business Council**,10/28/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Taxes used to invest in essential progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerSanMarcos.pdf)

*San Marcos Daily Record,* Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerGilmer.pdf)

*Gilmer Mirror***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerBest.pdf)

*Best Southwest Focus on the News,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerSanMarcos.pdf)

*San Marcos Daily Record,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Column: Stand up for good name of small business**](http://www.waxahachietx.com/opinion/localcolumnists/column-stand-up-for-good-name-of-small-business/article_573f8a78-d837-11e1-974f-0019bb2963f4.html)

*The Waxahachie Daily Light,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Stand up for the good name of small business – end the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserGilmerMirror.pdf)

*The Gilmer Mirror,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Vermont Media Hits

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerSpringfield.pdf)

*Springfield Reporter,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/29/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Virginia Media Hits

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

*Augusta Free Press,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/23/2013

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.

**[Small Business Opposes Multinational Corporations’ Tax Avoidance](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappAugusta.pdf)**

*Augusta Free Press,* Frank Knapp, 4/17/2013

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.

[**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.

[**Budget Cuts Forsake the Middle Class**](http://hamptonroads.com/2013/03/budget-cuts-forsake-middle-class)

*The Virginian Pilot,* Op-Ed by Mercedies Harris and Andrea Jackson, 3/10/2013

We're of different genders and generations, but we share at least one point of pride and one source of pain: We both volunteered to serve our country in the military, and we're both struggling to provide health care for our families.

Sadly, there are countless other Americans whose service and struggles politicians should keep in mind when they consider reducing deficits by cutting programs that support the middle class and poor. Instead, they need to look at raising revenue by making wealthy individuals and huge corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeFauquier.pdf)**

*Fauquier Times-Democrat,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/8/2013

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeMecklenberg.pdf)**

*Mecklenburg Sun,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/6/2013

[**Virginians Talk About Impact of Sequester**](http://augustafreepress.com/2013/03/04/virginians-talk-about-impact-of-sequester/)

*Augusta Free Press,* 3/4/2013

**Virginia Organizing** hosted on Monday a telemedia conference to respond to the devastating budget cuts related to sequestration. People from across Virginia who are directly affected by these cuts spoke about their concerns.

Susan Scheffler, owner of Nickell’s and Scheffler Fine Food in Alexandria said, “This sequestration is not a ‘fiscal slope’ as some politicians are calling it, it’s a cliff. We got through the recession, but we are already seeing sales drop because of financial crises in Washington and it’s hurting our business.”

**Investing in Progress**

*Augusta Free Press***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanSouthBoston.pdf)

*South Boston News & Record,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network,** 12/27/2012

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanMecklenburg.pdf)

*Mecklenberg Sun,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/24/2012

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanAugusta.pdf)

*Augusta Free Press,* Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/19/2012

**Blog:** [**“Fix the Debt” CEOs are Destroying Jobs!**](http://www.virginia-organizing.org/content/fix-debt-ceos-are-destroying-jobs)

***Virginia Organizing***, Sarah Anderson and Op-Ed by Scott Klinger, 12/13/2012

That’s the line of the [Fix the Debt](http://www.fixthedebt.org/) campaign. Led by more than 90 CEOs, this turbo-charged PR/lobbying machine is blasting the message that such “pro-growth tax reform” should be a pillar of any deficit deal (along with cuts to benefit programs like Social Security and Medicare).

And it might be a good line — if not for some pesky real-world facts. You see the same corporations peddling this line have already been paying next to nothing in taxes. And instead of creating jobs, they’ve been destroying them. Here are five examples of job-cutting, tax-dodging CEOs who are leading Fix the Debt.

**Blog:** [**Making Their Voices Heard: Caroling about “fiscal cliff” at Tysons Corner Center**](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2012/dec/11/making-their-voices-heard/)

*The Connection,* Jennifer Benitz, 12/11/2012

[**Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Don't Help Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/CritchfieldReston.pdf)

*Reston Connection,* Thomas Critchfield, engineer and the owner/operator of Critchfield Structural Solutions, LLC, 12/11/2012 [op-ed syndicated by American Forum.]

**Blog:** [**Danville Chapter of Virginia Organizing Occupy Rep. Hurt’s Office**](http://bluevirginia.us/diary/8305/danville-chapter-of-virginia-organizing-occupy-rep-hurts-office)

*Blue Virginia,* **Virginia Organizing**, 12/10/2012

[**Caroling protesters target ‘fiscal cliff’ cuts**](http://www.wtop.com/120/3151326/Caroling-protesters-target-fiscal-cliff-cuts)

*WTOP,* Hank Silverberg, 12/10/12

A group of people protesting the the impending mandatory budget cuts that are part of the coming "fiscal cliff" got into the holiday spirit, by caroling their discontent.

About 40 protesters from **Progress Virginia**, a liberal advocacy group, showed up at Tysons Corner Mall wearing red Santa hats and singing their own lyrics to the tune of classic Christmas carols.

[**Fiscal Cliff Carolers Serenade Mall Shoppers**](http://mclean.patch.com/articles/fiscal-cliff-carolers-serenade-mall-shoppers#video-12519684)

*McLean Patch*, Lauren Sausser, 12/10/2012

Forget about chesnuts roasting, one-horse open sleighs and Baby Jesus. A group of carolers assembled near Santa's Village in Tysons Corner Center at lunchtime Monday to sing about none other than the impending fiscal cliff.

"Vote for income tax equality/Fala lalala, la la la la/Cuts for milionaires are folly/Fala lalala, la la la la..." Mall management threw the group out after a song and a half. The carolers proceeded to march over to Sen. Mark Warner's (D-VA) office at Towers Crescent in Tysons Corner, where they met with Warner's Deputy State Director Ann Rust.

"My son's life depends on Medicaid," Julia Newton, 55, explained to Rust. Newton traveled from Norfolk to participate in the caroling event, organized by [**Virginia Organizing**](http://www.virginia-organizing.org/), [**Americans for Tax Fairness**](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/) and [Progress VA](http://www.progressva.org/).

[**Virginia Organizing Holds Forum on Mary Baldwin’s Looming Fiscal Cliff**](http://www.nbc29.com/story/20263129/virginia-organizing-holds-forum-on-mary-baldwins-looming-fiscal-cliff)

*NBC29*, Tara Todd, 12/5/2012

**Virginia Organizing** held a fiscal cliff forum at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton Tuesday night. Members gave a presentation describing what the fiscal cliff is, followed by a question-and-answer session.

**Virginia Organizing** also encouraged those who attended the meeting to be active in reaching out to their senators and representatives.

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerHampton.pdf)

*Hampton Roads Voice,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/05/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Dozens join Virginia Organizing stop in Danville**](http://www.newsadvance.com/go_dan_river/news/danville/article_f39344aa-3e71-11e2-b748-0019bb30f31a.html)

*The Danville Register and Bee,* Tiffany Holland, 12/4/2012

Around 40 people cheered and chanted outside of U.S. Rep. Robert Hurt’s Danville office Tuesday afternoon causing people to come out of stores and stare outside cars to see what the commotion was about. Members of **Virginia Organizing**, a left-leaning non-profit group, protested the “Bush tax cuts” and urged Hurt to end them at his office on Craghead Street.

“I believe it’s important we tell Rep. Hurt that there are people living in his district that are coming to the age of retirement and we are worried that we won’t receive the benefits we’ve all worked so hard for,” said **Virginia Organizing** leader Johnny Mayo. “The wealthiest 2 percent are not going to be harmed by losing the Bush tax cuts, but the rest of us could be hurt if they decide to cut programs that we all rely on.”

[**Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Don't Help Small Business**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/CritchfieldFauquier.pdf)

*Fauquier Times-Democrat,* Op-ed by Thomas Critchfield, engineer and the owner/operator of Critchfield Structural Solutions, LLC, 11/30/2012 [op-ed syndicated by American Forum.]

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerFauquier.pdf)

*Fauquier Times-Democrat,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/28/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Poll: Entrepreneurs would let high-income tax cuts expire**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerPetersburg.pdf)

*Petersburg Progress- Index,* Augusta Free Press, John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The politically charged debate over high-income tax cuts is reaching a fever pitch, and the question being asked across the nation is whether small businesses' hiring ability will suffer if these cuts expire at the end of the year. Recently released scientific opinion polling shows what real small business owners think, and it might surprise you..

[**Poll shows entrepreneurs would let Bush tax cuts expire**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerAugusta.pdf)

*Augusta Free Press,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 11/27/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Virginia Organizing Rallies People to Engage with Congress**](http://www.nbc29.com/story/20199066/virginia-organizing-rallies-people-to-engage-with-congress)

*NBC29,* Marcella Robertson, 11/27/2012

A grassroots political group wants its voice to be heard loud and clear from Charlottesville all the way up to Capitol Hill.

The Charlottesville chapter of [**Virginia Organizing**](http://www.virginia-organizing.org/) rallied on the downtown mall Tuesday with a simple message: It wants people to know how important it is to engage with Congress if they want to see a change.

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerFauquier.pdf)

*Fauquier Times-Democrat***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,11/21/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Virginia labor unions, activists push for end to Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/virginia-politics)

*Washington Post,* Laura Vozzella, 11/12/2012

A coalition pushing for the elimination of the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans will hold a news conference in Richmond on Monday. Members say they will call on Sens. Jim Webb (D) and Mark Warner (D) to end the cuts.

Doing so, the groups say, will prevent automatic cuts to vital services. The coalition, which includes **Virginia Organizing**, Virginia New Majority, Virginia Interfaith Center, SEIU Virginia 512 and the AFL-CIO, opposes cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.

[**Warner wins in Virginia without votes**](http://hamptonroads.com/2012/11/warner-wins-virginia-without-votes)

*Virginian Pilot on Politics blog*, Julian Walker, 11/12/2012

Warner is already being lobbied by a coalition of left-leaning groups to protect safety net programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security from cuts, and to end income tax breaks for wealthy Americans as a way to avoid the federal sequester. The coalition also want him to end tax loopholes that only benefit big corporations, a point made at a news conference in Richmond Monday.

"Virginians need leadership that fights for an economy that works for everyone," [ProgressVA](http://www.progressva.org/) executive director Anna Scholl said in a statement. "The choice is clear: a country where hardworking families pay more so the richest few pay less--or an America where we all pay our fair share and get a fair shot."

[**Virginia labor unions, activists push for end to tax cuts**](http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/morning_call/2012/11/virginia-labor-unions-activists-push.html)

*Washington Business Journal*, 11/13/2012

Unions and liberal activists in Virginia are pushing for the elimination of Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans and held a news conference in Richmond on Monday calling on Sens. Jim Webb and Mark Warner to end the cuts, [The Washington Post reported](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/virginia-politics/post/virginia-labor-unions-activists-push-for-end-to-bush-era-tax-cuts-for-the-wealthy/2012/11/12/6eb14aee-2cd2-11e2-a99d-5c4203af7b7a_blog.html).

[**Advocacy Groups Call on Virginia Senators to Let Bush-Era Tax Cuts Expire (Audio)**](http://wamu.org/news/12/11/13/advocacy_groups_call_on_virginia_senators_to_let_bush_era_tax_cuts_expire)

*WAMU Virginia Public Radio*, Anne Marie Morgan, 11/13/2012

A coalition of Virginia advocacy organizations and labor unions is calling on U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Jim Webb to let the Bush-era tax cuts expire for those making more than $250,000. The members are asking for action during the lame-duck session before scheduled sequestration cuts take effect. The group believes the tax hikes would help prevent cuts to social services.

While many have zeroed in on looming defense cuts, the coalition is focusing on the sequestration of domestic spending. It argues if the tax breaks expire at the upper tax brackets, that would raise $1 trillion over 10 years to offset cuts in those services.

[**Weighing in on Tax Cuts**](http://www.wvtf.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2470:weighing-in-on-tax-cuts&catid=48:wvtf-news&Itemid=119)

*WVTF Virginia Public Radio,* Anne Marie Morgan, 11/12/2012

A coalition of Virginia advocacy organizations and labor unions is calling on U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Jim Webb to let the Bush-era tax cuts expire for those making more than $250,000.00. The members sent a letter asking for action during the lame-duck session before the new Congress is sworn in and scheduled sequestration cuts take effect. As Virginia Public Radio’s Anne Mare Morgan reports, the group believes the tax hikes would help prevent cuts to services that include Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security.

[**Of millionaries and myths**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattProvidenceJournal.pdf)

*[Bowling Green] Caroline Progress* Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member,

**Voices for Progress**, 11/8/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattAugusta.pdf)

*Augusta Free Press* [Waynesboro] Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 10/30/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

**Investing in Progress**

*Emporia News***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Congress Should End Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Like Me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterMecklenburg.pdf)

*Mecklenburg Sun,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/19/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

**Blog:** [**Misconceptions and Realities About Who Pays Taxes: A Report from CBPP**](http://www.virginia-organizing.org/content/misconceptions-and-realities-about-who-pays-taxes-report-cbpp)

***Virginia Organizing****,* 9/18/2012

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerProgress.pdf)

*Petersburg Progress-Index,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger9/13/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**End Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterCarolineProgress.pdf)

*[Bowling Green] Caroline Progress*, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/6/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum ]

[**Congress should end Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KanterAugusta.pdf)

*[Waynesboro] Augusta Free Press,* Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 9/2/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum ]

[**Bush Tax Cuts for Richest 2 Percent Don't Help Small Business**](http://www.roanoke.com/editorials/commentary/wb/316603)

*The Roanoke Times,* Op-ed by Thomas Critchfield, engineer and the owner/operator of Critchfield Structural Solutions, LLC, 8/26/2012 [op-ed syndicated by American Forum.]

I'm a small business owner/operator and an engineer by trade, so I make my business and economic decisions based largely on facts and numbers. Thirty-one years ago, I graduated from the Virginia Tech College of Engineering, and embraced the Republican Party because I shared its values of personal responsibility, hard work, and economic progress. The Republican policies of that time included some measures that would benefit the very rich, including a dramatic reduction in the marginal tax rates on the highest income earners, which had varied from 70 percent to above 90 percent in the prior decades.

[**VA: State taxpayers will feel hurt if feds fail to extend tax cuts**](http://watchdog.org/50583/virginia-taxpayers-stand-to-lose-more-than-most-without-tax-cut-extensions/)

*VirginiaWatchdog.org*, Kathryn Watson, 8/20/2012

The Democrat-led U.S. Senate earlier this summer passed an extension of the tax cuts, but only for people making up to $250,00 a year. The Republican-led House voted last week to extend the cuts across the board.

Some on the left argue extending the cuts to those earning more than $250,000 isn’t fair.

“Basically, the Bush-era tax cuts give a windfall for those who really don’t need it,” said **Sean Crowley, communications director for the left-of-center Americans for Tax Fairness**, adding that only 4 percent of Virginians hit that $250,000 threshold. **Americans for Tax Fairness**, which also recently published a study on the matter, estimated that Virginians making less than $250,000 would pay roughly the same under the Democratic and Republican tax proposals.

[**Stand up for the good name of small business – end the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserPetersburg.pdf)

*Petersburg Progress-Index* , Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 8/17/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**It's Time to End the Apple and GE Offshore Tax Loopholes**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KlingerAugusta.pdf)

*Augusta Free Press,* Op-Ed by Scott Klinger8/7/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**End Bush tax cuts for richest 2 percent like me**](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/rtd-opinion/2012/aug/05/tdopin02-end-bush-tax-cuts-for-richest-2-percent-l-ar-2107547/)

*Richmond Times Dispatch*, Oped by Joel Kanter, President, Windy City Inc. in McLean, Virginia/Member, **Voices for Progress**, 8/5/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum ]

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least — and we need to start paying our fair share….

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to limit ourselves to the tax cuts other Americans get — those on the portions of household income under $250,000 — so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

[**Report: End to Bush tax cuts only affects very wealthy**](http://augustafreepress.com/2012/08/01/report-end-to-bush-tax-cuts-only-affects-very-wealthy/)

*[Waynesboro] Augusta Free Press*, 8/1/2012

**Virginia Organizing** and **Americans for Tax Fairness** released a report this week [“[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: Virginia Can’t Afford to Extend the Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/virginia-press-release/)”] that shows less than 4 percent of Virginia taxpayers will be affected by ending the [Bush tax cuts](http://augustafreepress.com/2012/07/28/jim-houser-end-the-bush-tax-cuts-for-the-top-2-percent/) for the wealthiest of Americans, those who make over $250,000.

The report notes that the 3.9 percent of taxpayers who will be affected have average incomes of nearly $609,000; the remaining 96 percent make an average of $63,000 per year….

“This plan just makes sense,” said **Virginia Organizing** leader Tim McCarthy of Virginia Beach. “The wealthiest 4 percent of Virginians need to pay their fair share. We will never reduce the debt and pay for the things our country and our state need, like roads and schools, unless we start asking those at the top to contribute.”….

[**Stand up for the good name of small business – end the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent**](http://www.emporianews.com/7-29-12.html)

*Emporia News*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/29/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Jim Houser: End the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent**](http://augustafreepress.com/2012/07/28/jim-houser-end-the-bush-tax-cuts-for-the-top-2-percent/)

*[Waynesboro] Augusta Free Press,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/28/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

# Washington Media Hits

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

*Grand Coulee Star,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 6/12/2013

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.

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

*Grand Coulee Star,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/08/2013

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.

[**Protest outside of Bank of America**](http://ctv4.criticalmention.com/playerpage/player?params=Y2xpcElkPTU3Mzg2MDQmc2xpbT0xJnBvd2VyZWQ9MSZyZXBvcnQ9dHJ1ZSZoaWRlQ2xpcENvbnRyb2xzPTEmbm9oZWFkZXI9MSZub21lbnU9dHJ1ZSZhdXRvUGxheT0xJnBhcnRuZXJUb2tlbj04YTM1OGMxMDNjMmE5ZjM0MDEzZDhhMTk3Nzk3NDQyNQ==) **[Audio]**

[**State's small businesses urge to end tax breaks for wealthy**](http://www.columbian.com/news/2012/dec/19/small-businesses-end-tax-breaks-for-wealthy/)

*The Columbian*, Cami Joner, 12/19/2012

Small business owners across the state called for an end to tax breaks for the rich in a survey released Wednesday by the **Main Street Alliance of Washington**.

The group, which represents more than 2,000 small business owners statewide, surveyed 113 small business owners sprinkled across 16 Washington cities, including Vancouver. Eighty-eight percent of the survey respondents said Congress should put an end to Bush-era tax cuts on annual incomes above $250,000. Only 4 percent called for renewing the tax breaks, set to expire on Jan. 1.

[**How do small businesses in Washington feel about the fiscal cliff debate?**](http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/news/2012/12/19/how-do-small-businesses-in-washington.html)

*Puget Sound Business Journal,* Michele Matassa Flores, 12/19/2012

Small business owners around Washington state support closing corporate tax loopholes and ending Bush-era tax cuts for wealthy individuals, according to a new survey.

The [**Main Street Alliance of Washington**](http://washington.mainstreetalliance.org/), a coalition of more than 2,000 small businesses, conducted door-to-door and telephone surveys of over 100 small business owners in 15 cities and released the results today, as President [Barack Obama](http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/pagead/adview?ai=BjTNcUzbrUMFu7ryxB7LkgZgOmd__iQMAAAAQASAAOABYqbLBhU5gyYajh9SjgBCCARdjYS1wdWItOTczNjA5MjYwNDY3NzUxNrIBE3d3dy5iaXpqb3VybmFscy5jb226AQlnZnBfaW1hZ2XIAQnaAV1odHRwOi8vd3d3LmJpempvdXJuYWxzLmNvbS9zZWF0dGxlL25ld3MvMjAxMi8xMi8xOS9ob3ctZG8tc21hbGwtYnVzaW5lc3Nlcy1pbi13YXNoaW5ndG9uLmh0bWyYAph1wAIC4AIA6gIdNDYzNS9iemouc2VhdHRsZS9hcnRpY2xlX3BhZ2X4AoHSHpADpAOYA6QDqAMB4AQBoAYg&sigh=35K9zAsXpdo&adurl=http://pagead2.googlesyndication.com/pagead/imgad/1488751/HP_ROS_Jan2013_v2.htm?t=10&cT=http%3A//www.bizjournals.com&l=http%3A//www.bizjournals.com/seattle/search/results%3Fq%3DBarack%2520Obama) and lawmakers in the other Washington tried to [hammer out a deal](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/fiscal-cliff/obama-would-veto-boehners-plan-b-white-house-says/2012/12/19/5d49ef20-49f3-11e2-ad54-580638ede391_story.html?hpid=z1) to avoid the upcoming “fiscal cliff.”

[**Cupcake economics to avoid a ‘Sno Ball’ cliff**](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fseattletimes.com%2Fhtml%2Fopinion%2F2019793012_jodyhallopedxml.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFNvuOsx67G-YYdhfh6LaqowpMTGg)

*Seattle Times*, Op-ed by Jody Hall, owner of Cupcake Royale and a leader with the **Main Street Alliance of Washington**, 11/29/2012

Once again, the rich get the icing. The middle class gets iced.

Here’s a sweet idea: Instead of listening to Wall Street, Congress should take its advice from Main Street during this year-end fiscal showdown.

Congress can support small businesses, and our middle-class customer base, by taking three steps:

End the Bush tax giveaways for the richest 2 percent, continuing middle-class tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small-business owners;

Reject cuts to middle-class programs — Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare — that support a healthy customer base for small businesses; and

Crack down on corporate tax dodging and make the big guys pay their fair share of taxes.

Corporate CEOs With Huge Personal Pensions Tell Congress to Cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid

[**Fiscal cliff would kneecap out military**](http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2019676430_markblondinopedxml.html)

*Seattle Times,* Oped by Mark Blondin, general vice president of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, 11/12/2012

Sequestration means a trillion dollars in automatic cuts to defense and other budgets that kick in on Jan. 2. Economists have said these cuts, plus the expiration of the Bush tax cuts, will kill off fiscal recovery and toss us over a fiscal cliff back into another recession. That’s especially bad news for Washington state, where sequestration would throttle defense and commercial aerospace work that has been critical to economic strength.

[**Sen. Murray on the 'Fiscal Cliff': Raising taxes on wealthiest 'has to be part of it**](http://q13fox.com/2012/11/12/sen-murray-raising-taxes-on-wealthy-has-to-be-part-of-it/)

*Q13 FOX News Seattle,* C.R. Douglas,11/12/2012

As the so-called U.S. “[**fiscal cliff**](http://q13fox.com/2012/11/12/sen-murray-raising-taxes-on-wealthy-has-to-be-part-of-it/)” approaches, Sen. [**Patty Murray**](http://q13fox.com/2012/11/12/sen-murray-raising-taxes-on-wealthy-has-to-be-part-of-it/), D-Wash., is taking a hard line, insisting that [**Republicans**](http://q13fox.com/2012/11/12/sen-murray-raising-taxes-on-wealthy-has-to-be-part-of-it/) agree to tax increases as part of any deal. “It’s time for the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share and help us get out of this challenge,” she said.

[**Investing in Progress**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnauerGrandCoulee.pdf)

*Grand Coulee Star***,** Op-ed byJosh Knauer, president and CEO of a Pittsburgh-based software company, Rhiza Labs/Member, **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity**,10/10/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Sen. Murray Champions Middle Class and ‘True’ Small Business Owners at Husky Deli**](http://www.westseattleherald.com/2012/08/24/news/sen-murray-champions-middle-class-and-true-small-)

*West Seattle Herald*, Ty Swenson, 8/24/2012

Mary Clark, owner of recently opened used book store Merryweather Books in the Junction, spoke during the event.

“My husband has been out of work, my daughter has health problems, health insurance is always an issue, and to run a small business is hard work and it is hard to make ends meet,” she said. “97 percent of small business owners do not earn over $250,000 a year. I think we should keep the tax cuts for the middle class and repeal the tax cuts on the wealthiest two percent.

“It is not right for some members of congress to claim that asking the top two percent to pay their fair share of taxes will hurt small business owners. It is dishonest. They are stealing the name of small businesses, but what they are really talking about is a tax giveaway to large corporations and the millionaires,” Clark said.

“I personally will not allow my name and my business to be used for these unjust practices and policies,” she added.

[**Senator Patty Murray pushes for tax cut extension**](http://www.kndo.com/story/19346143/senator-patty-murray-pushes-for-tax-cutr-extension) **[Video]**

*[Richland] KNDO-TV23, KNDU-25,* 8/23/2012

RICHLAND, Wash. -- Senator Patty Murray stopped in the Tri-Cities Wednesday morning to drum up support for legislation just passed by the senate that would extend some of the bush tax cuts.

Business owners like Amanda Divine say a tax cut extension would benefit the business she co-owns with her husband, "between my husband and me, I think we got 3 paychecks right now held that we can't deposit because we would have other expenses and things."

[**Patty Murray, Doc Hastings visit Tri-Cities to sell party's message**](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2012/08/23/2071700/patty-murray-doc-hastings-visit.html)

*Tri-City Herald*, Michelle Dupler and Loretto Hulse, 8/23/2012

She urged members of the House of Representatives to pass the Senate bill extending the cuts for the middle class now -- she said everyone agrees taxes shouldn't be raised for the middle class -- and then debate whether the cuts should be extended for wealthier Americans.

"This shouldn't be controversial," Murray said. "This should be a no-brainer. I think it makes sense to pass the cuts we all agree on. Then if someone wants to debate tax cuts for the very rich ... I'm happy to have that debate. They shouldn't hold middle-class tax cuts hostage.”

[**Sen. Patty Murray talks tax bill @ Husky Deli**](http://westseattleblog.com/2012/08/happening-now-sen-patty-murray-talks-tax-bill-husky-deli) **[Video]**

*[Seattle] West Seattle Blog*, 8/23/2012

Miller introduced Sen. Murray by talking about his 80-year-old family business and its 40 or so employees, and the challenges of competing against “big stores,” as well as the importance of tax breaks. Sen. Murray said that taxes will go up unless Senate Bill 3412 is passed to extend current tax cuts.

[**Sen. Murray fights for tax cuts for middle class families**](http://www.kvewtv.com/article/2012/aug/22/sen-murray-fights-tax-cuts-richland/)

*[Richland] KVEW-TV,* 8/22/2012, Josh Peterson

Murray says taxes are scheduled to go up for every American at the end of the year. But she's hoping to stop that. Last month, the Senate voted to extend tax cuts for 98% of workers and 97% of small business owners across the country.

"We're in a little bookstore here, and if the Bush tax cuts for middle class families and small business owners like one are not extended, it would be extremely difficult for them. They're struggling today to keep their doors open, counting on customers to come in who also have money in their pockets to spend" said Sen. Murray.

**“**[**The Joe Show**](http://www.kgmi.com/play_window.php?audioType=Episode&audioId=5968360)**” [Audio]**

*[Bellingham] KGMI-790AM,* 8/2/2012

Interview with **Americans for Tax Fairness Communications Director Sean Crowley** about ATF report, “[Time to Pay Their Fair Share: Washington Can’t Afford to Extend the Bush-era Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Few](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/press/2012/08/01/washington-press-release/).”

# West Virginia Media Hits

[**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.

[**Moral Answer to Budget Crisis: Rich Must Pay Their Share**](http://www.wvgazette.com/Opinion/OpEdCommentaries/201303270066)

*Charleston Gazette,* Op-ed by Dennis Sparks, 3/27/2013

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- I'm a child of Appalachia, so I know hard times: how to survive them, how to get out of them, what we owe to those still struggling. I'm also a minister who, throughout my career, has focused on finding common ground and a shared purpose with other faiths, pastoring to my own congregation and organizing the poor and forgotten to take possession of their lives and leadership of their communities.

All of these experiences and interests lead me to a clear conclusion about our seemingly endless federal deficit debate. The practical and moral solution lies in more tax revenue from those who can afford it, not more budget cuts that our middle class and poor most assuredly cannot.

[**Offshore Tax Havens Cost W.Va. $106 million, Report Says**](http://wvgazette.com/News/201302200013)

*Charleston Gazette,* Paul J. Nyden, 2/20/2013

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- American corporations using offshore addresses to avoid paying domestic taxes cost West Virginia $106 million last year, according to a national report released Wednesday.

The report -- "The Hidden Cost of Offshore Tax havens: State Budgets Under Pressure from Tax Loophole Abuse" -- was prepared by the national nonprofit group United States Public Interest Research Group. The report was released locally by the **West Virginia Citizen Action Group** at the state Capitol on Wednesday.

"Tax dodging is not a victimless offense. When corporations skirt taxes, the public is stuck with the tab. And since offshore tax dodgers avoid both state and federal taxes, they hurt everyday taxpayers twice," said Dan Smith, PIRG's tax and budget advocate. "West Virginia should be using that money to benefit the public."

[**Manchin Asked to Help End Tax Breaks for Some Corporations**](http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201301300127)

*The Charleston Gazette,* Paul J. Nyden, 1/30/2013

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The **West Virginia Citizen Action Group**, a member of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, visited the Charleston offices of Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., on Wednesday, asking him to fight for corporate tax reform to end tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs and profits offshore.

CAG delivered a poster-sized IRS W-2 form to Manchin's office with the names of six national companies that have major operations in West Virginia, but have paid no federal income taxes for at least one of the last four years.

[**Impact of tax rate expiration varies among West Virginians**](http://www.wvgazette.com/News/politics/201212150144)

*The Charleston Gazette*, Paul J. Nyden 12/15/2012

[**Petitioning Manchin to Protect Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid**](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/29765-1)

*Public News Service,* Dan Heyman, 12/11/2012

[**Several Groups Urge Manchin to Protect WV from “Fiscal Cliff” Cuts**](http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/eyewitness/121210_12419.shtml)

*WCHS*, Jeff Morris, 12/10/2012

[**Church leaders say ‘fiscal cliff’ would hurt many in state**](http://www.herald-dispatch.com/opinions/x41559799/Church-leaders-say-fiscal-cliff-would-hurt-many-in-state)

*Heralddispatch.com,* Tom Miller, 12/9/2012

[**Manchin meets with community members to discuss fiscal cliff**](http://www.wvpubcast.org/newsarticle.aspx?id=27774)

*West Virginia Public Broadcasting,* Ashton Marra, 12/4/2012

[**Vets Budget Separate From Defense In Threat From Fiscal Cliff**](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/29233-1)

*Public News Service – West Virginia,* Dan Heyman, 11/12/2012

Pay and benefits for active-duty personnel and veterans would not be hit by what is known as budget sequestration - the "fiscal cliff" that will be triggered if Congress does not reach a deal on taxes and spending by Dec. 31. Instead, weapons and Pentagon research would be slashed, along with domestic spending, says Richard Kogan, senior fellow with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). However, he notes, everything is on the table as Congress tries to reach a deal, and vets, like everyone else, would suffer if negotiations fail and the economy tanks.

**Protesters Urge McKinley and Capito to “Get in Touch with Reality”**

*WDTV.com,* Andrew Forgotch, 11/12/2012

[**Stop the small business spin, lies**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/KnappDailyTelegram.pdf)

*Superior Daily Telegram*, Oped by CEO & President Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce/Vice Chair, **American Sustainable Business Council**,10/31/12 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**AFL Others Warn Against Benefits Cuts**](http://wvgazette.com/News/politics/201211080105)

*The Charleston Gazette,* Paul J. Nyden, 11/8/2012

[**Labor union: Lame duck congress could hurt social programs**](http://www.statejournal.com/story/20044890/labor-union-lame-duck-congress-could-hurt-social-programs)

*The State Journal*, Whitney Burdette, 11/8/2012

[**Democrats extend Bush tax cuts**](http://wvgazette.com/Opinion/Editorials/201207300083)

*[West Virginia] Charleston Gazette,* Editorial Board, 7/30/2012

This year's national election offers a basic choice between the political party serving the elite 1 percent at the top, and the party serving the rest of Americans.

The stark choice is abundantly clear in the current showdown over the Bush tax cuts, which are scheduled to expire at the end of this year.

Democrats in the U.S. Senate voted last Wednesday to extend those cuts for 98 percent of Americans: all families earning less than a quarter-million per year, and individuals getting less than $200,000. Called the Middle Class Tax Cut Act, it would save average families about $2,200 per year. But it would let the Bush cuts expire for income above $250,000.

However, the Republican-controlled House implies that if the Bush-era cuts aren't preserved for millionaires and billionaires, they should be killed for everyone else….

We can't predict the final outcome of this tax clash. But the struggle draws a crystal clear distinction for the upcoming November election. Voters may choose the party serving the extreme top echelon, or the party serving everyone else.

# Wisconsin Media Hits

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

*Wisconsin Dells Events,* Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, 5/25/2013

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.

**[Fiscal Crisis Provides A Chance to Find Right Answers to Economic Questions](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ClementeWisconsin.pdf)**

*Wisconsin Dells Events,* Frank Clemente, **Americans for Tax Fairness,** 3/2/2013

[**Wisconsin business owners join national call to raise corporate taxes**](http://host.madison.com/news/local/writers/mike_ivey/wisconsin-business-owners-join-national-call-to-raise-corporate-taxes/article_00a6850e-4bbe-11e2-adca-001a4bcf887a.html#ixzz2HxyM9P6U)

*The Madison Capital Times,* Mike Ivey, 12/23/2012

Tabili is one of 600 business owners and executives nationwide urging a “Plan C” to break the impasse in Washington. Their plan — a take-off on House Speaker John Boehner’s ill-fated [“Plan B”](http://www.bing.com/news/search?q=plan+b+boehner&qpvt=plan+b+boehner&FORM=EWRE) that would have reserved tax breaks for those making under $1 million — involves closing corporate tax loopholes and raising corporate taxes above today’s historically low levels.

The Plan C was organized through the **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **Main Street Alliance**, three progressive business organizations that have been urging “a tax system that is fair and provides sufficient revenue for the public services and infrastructure that underpin our economy,” [according to a statement released last week.](http://businessforsharedprosperity.org/Corporate%20Tax%20Reform%20Signatories)

[**Preserving the social contract**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ButlerWhitmanWisconsin.pdf)

*Wisconsin Dells Events,* Oped by Jennifer Butler, **Faith in Public Life** and Gordon Whitman, **PICO National Network**, 12/22/2012

[**Business leaders call for closing corporate tax loopholes**](http://www.biztimes.com/article/20121214/ENEWSLETTERS02/121219885&source=RSS)

*Milwaukee Biz Times,* 12/14/2012

Hundreds of business leaders across the nation, including several from Wisconsin, called on Congress and President Obama today to close corporate tax haven loopholes costing the U.S. Treasury $100 billion a year and reject “revenue neutral” corporate tax reform in a fiscal cliff deal that would lock in today’s historically low levels of corporate tax receipts.

The 626 business owners and executives who signed the letter sent by the **American Sustainable Business Council**, **Business for Shared Prosperity** and the **Main Street Alliance** to Congress and the president said they “want a tax system that is fair and provides sufficient revenue for the public services and infrastructure that underpin our economy. When powerful large U.S. corporations avoid their fair share of taxes, they undermine U.S. competitiveness, contribute to the national debt and shift more of the tax burden to domestic businesses, especially small businesses that create most of the new jobs.”

[**Myths about taxes busted**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/ArensmeyerCapTimes.pdf)

*Madison Capital Times,* John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of **Small Business Majority**, 12/04/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Myths and millionaires**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HiattWisconsinDells.pdf)

# *Wisconsin Dells Events*, Op-ed by former Stride Rite CEO Arnold Hiatt/Member, Voices

# for Progress, 11/23/2012 [Op-ed syndicated by American Forum]

[**Working America's Peter Drummond**](http://slysoffice.blogspot.com/2012/09/working-americas-peter-drummond.html?spref=tw) **[Audio]**

*[Eau Claire] 106.7FM, Sly in the Morning,* 9/10/2012

**Working America** members will join a nationwide day of action demanding an end to Bush tax cuts for the richest 2%.

Sen. Ron Johnson recently voted to extend the Bush-era tax cuts for the richest 2 percent, which would give people who make over $1 million a year an average tax cut of $160,000, while raising taxes on 25 million working Americans and slashing priorities like Medicare and education.

To symbolize this millionaire-friendly vote, protesters will deliver to Sen. Johnson’s office in Milwaukee a very large $160,000 check –from him, with his picture on it, payable to “Millionaires.” Protestors will also hand out smaller-sized $160,000 checks to observers.

[**Tax cuts for rich do not create jobs**](http://www.mediaforum.org/clips/HouserWisconsinDells.pdf)

*Wisconsin Dells Events*, Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 8/4/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

[**Jim Houser: Stand up for small biz — end extra tax cuts for top 2%**](http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/article_641c618e-da63-11e1-bf09-0019bb2963f4.html#ixzz22ElTVy7c)

*The [Madison] Capital Times,* Oped by Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic,

Portland, Oregon/Member of **Main Street Alliance**, 7/31/2012 [Oped syndicated by American Forum]

The U.S. House will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate on July 26 that would extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent — on take-home income beyond the first $250,000. As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I’m all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.