

The Pass Democrat

Newsletter of the Pass Democratic Club—October 2017

Visit the Pass Democratic Club website: www.passdems.org
and the Pass Democratic Club on Facebook and Twitter (@DemocraticPass)

How would you like to be an active part of helping Democratic candidates increase their chances of winning in close local, state, and federal elections?

Postcards to Voters are handwritten election reminders mailed by grassroots volunteers from all over the country in support of deserving Democratic candidates where the stakes are high and turnout is predicted to be low. The appeal of a real person taking the time to use an index card or postcard, write out a message, and put a postage stamp on it in small batches as part of a grassroots campaign is compelling.

Right now, Postcards to Voters needs more volunteers who want to help make a difference in close elections by getting out the vote for deserving Democrats. Postcards to Voters will have to turn away Democratic candidates in 2018 because the group won't have enough volunteers to take on more than a couple candidates at a time. With more volunteers writing postcards, we can change this, and many of you could be the reason that more Democratic candidates get the assistance they need to win in any close 2018 elections.

Keren Gaddis (D-OK) won by a 95 vote margin in a race where volunteers mailed over 13,000 postcards to help her get out the vote.

Nearly 4,000 volunteers across America have handwritten and mailed over 200,000 postcards as election reminders directly to voters in key races in 6 months to flip seats and elect more Democrats to resist Trump's harmful agenda.

If you would like to help elect Democrats across the country, email postcards@TonyTheDemocrat.org to join the postcard resistance (see ad on page 5)!

<https://www.facebook.com/TonyTheDemocrat.org/>

Another postcard to voters resource is:
<https://www.sisterdistrict.com/programs/>



October Meeting

Wednesday, October 18th

175 W. Hays St., Banning
(10 freeway, exit 8th St N, right Ramsey, left 2nd, right Hays)

Doors open at 5:45pm
Meeting begins at 6:30pm**

Special Presentation:
To Be Announced

Radical tax simplification is easy

Japan, the United Kingdom, and several other countries have adopted a system known as “precision withholding” that lets taxpayers avoid filing any kind of tax return at all. The tax return, at the end of the day, is an anachronistic legacy of the old days of paper record-keeping when it wouldn’t have been feasible to calculate taxes without outsourcing a huge share of the work to individual families. These days, in countries that have implemented modern tax systems, the tax agency simply takes exactly the right amount out of every paycheck. If they find that a mistake was made — not accounting for a charitable donation or mortgage interest, for example — they find that mistake in charity and bank records, and they fix it for you. In journalist T.R. Reid’s great new book *A Fine Mess*, he explains how the Japanese system works:

Japan's equivalent of the IRS, Kokuzeicho, gathers all the pertinent data for each worker — income, taxable benefits, number of personal exemptions, tax withheld, and so on — and then computes how much the worker owes in tax, down to the last yen. Because Japan uses a system known as "precision withholding," with the amount changing whenever pay goes up or down, most people withhold the exact amount due.

In early March, Kokuzeicho sends a postcard to every citizen that sets forth all this information: how much you earned, how much tax you owe, how much tax you've already paid through withholding. If you've paid in more tax than you owe, Kokuzeicho deposits the refund amount in your bank account; if you did not withhold enough, the agency takes the tax that's due from your bank account. ...

As a result, paying income tax is a totally automatic process for about 80 percent of Japanese households, requiring no more work than reading a postcard once a year.

Japan’s top income tax bracket is 45 percent, by the way, and it’s levied on incomes of over \$350,000 a year. There is absolutely no need to bundle this kind of radical tax simplification with giant tax cuts. It’s easy to file your taxes in Japan because the Japanese government decided to make it a priority. That’s a choice that American conservatives have fought against, tooth and nail, with the help of predatory tax services companies like H&R Block and Intuit (the makers of TurboTax). When Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Dan Coats (R-IN) introduced a fairly timid, intentionally bipartisan tax reform bill in 2011 and included a proposal for return-free filing, anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist blasted it, writing in a letter to the senators that “the clear goal of this measure is to raise taxes in a way that leaves politicians with clean hands.” Norquist wants to make taxes complicated so people hate them, just as Intuit wants them complicated so that people remain dependent on its terrible, unnecessary software.

Back in 2016, Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) proposed a kind of intermediary step to the Japanese system — sponsoring legislation that would direct the IRS to develop its own in-house tax prep software that would make it free and easy for normal people to file their taxes. Hillary Clinton endorsed her plan, as did Bernie Sanders, Al Franken, Tammy Baldwin, and other Senate Democrats.

A BETTER WAY FORWARD ON TAX REFORM			
SIMPLE, FAIR “POSTCARD” TAX FILING			
1	Wage and compensation income	1	
2	Add 1/2 of investment income	2	
3	Subtract contributions to specified savings plans	3	
4	Subtract standard deduction OR	4	
5	Subtract mortgage interest deduction	5	
6	Subtract charitable contribution deduction	6	
7	Taxable income	7	
8	Preliminary tax (from tax table)	8	
9	Subtract child credit	9	
10	Subtract earned income credit	10	
11	Subtract higher education credit	11	
12	Total tax	12	
13	Subtract taxes withheld	13	
14	Refund due / taxes owed	14	

But postcard-touting Republicans haven’t been interested.

The postcard to the left is an example of Paul Ryan’s “postcard tax filing”, which is similar to our current 1040-X.

Notice Line 2

“Subtract 1/2 of investment income”!

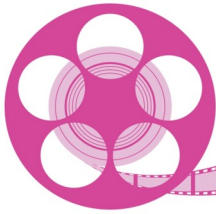
10/28

The 4th Annual Reel Women's Film Festival

Camelot Theaters Palm Springs

To purchase tickets and learn more go to : www.planned.org/RWFF

10/29



REEL WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL
Real Women. Real Stories.
IN SUPPORT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD BREAST HEALTH PROGRAMS



ONLY 5 SEATS LEFT!

BOSWORTH LUNCHEON 10/29/17

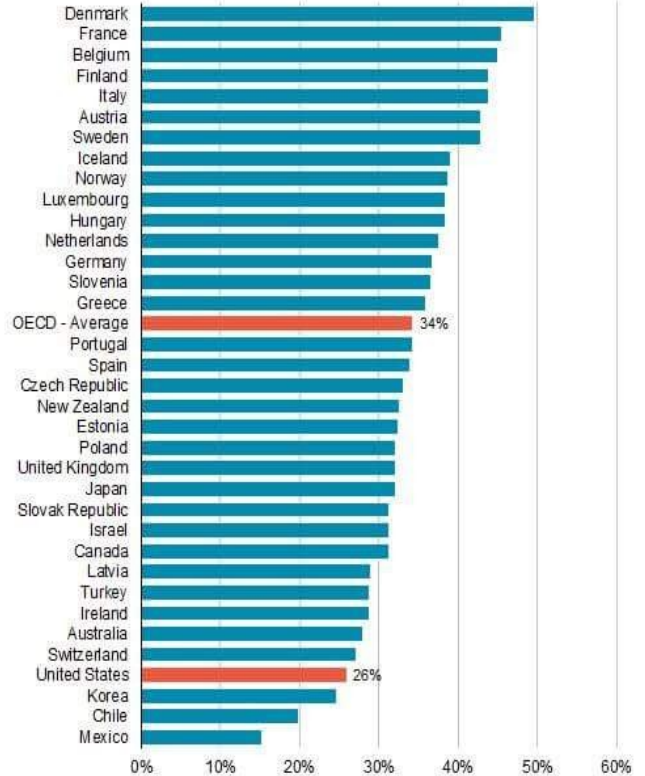


The Pass Democratic Club has reserved three (3) tables for the Bosworth Awards Luncheon and there are only 5 seats left at our tables. Please Call Jackie Atwood ASAP to reserve seats at our tables.

You may reach her at:
951 849-4986 or 951 392-1459

FIGURE 1

Taxes as a Share of Gross Domestic Product
OECD, 2014



Source: OECD Stat Extract.



You are cordially invited... Sunday, October 29, 2017
Morongo Hotel and Casino
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, CA 92230

The Gary H. Bosworth Awards Luncheon

11:00AM - 11:45AM ~ Registration and Silent Auction
11:45AM ~ Doors Open - Noon to 2:30PM ~ Luncheon, Speakers, Awards



Honor Our Riverside County Democrats...

- Democratic Club Volunteers of the Year
- The Chair's Award
- 2017 Gary H. Bosworth Democratic Activists of the Year



Welcome Our Featured Speakers...

- California Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon
- California Senator Toni Atkins
- CA Democratic Party Chair Eric Bauman



Guarantee Your Seat Now! RSVP!

Suji & Terry Fox, 951-316-9160-text/phone
sujifox1@msn.com ~ foxenter@msn.com

Individuals: \$75/Person or \$675/Table of Ten
VIP Seating: \$150/Person or \$1,300/Table of Ten ~ Students: \$50
Please make check payable to RCDP, and mail to Terry Fox, 24155 Via Octavo, Murrieta, CA 92562 ~ or Pay Online: www.riversidecountydemocrats.org
SEE SIDE 2 FOR INFO ON SPONSORSHIPS, ADS AND AUCTION ITEMS.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for people with disabilities. Please call (951-316-9160) 48 hours in advance to make your request or for any questions, including but not limited to concerns about the program, parking, restroom facilities, American Sign Language requirements, or alternate format materials.

Paid for by the Riverside County Democratic Party 530 1/2 E. Florida Avenue, Hemet, CA 92543
www.riversidecountydemocrats.org FPFC#1342861 FEC#C00396994
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Pass Democratic Club
P.O. Box 724
Banning, CA 92220

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
BANNING, CA
PERMIT NO. 53



Join or Renew Invite a Friend

Pass Democratic Club
PO Box 724
Banning CA 92220

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer Name _____

Employer Address _____

Must be a registered Democrat.
Enclose \$30 individual
or \$50 for two at same address

Important Contacts:

Senator Diane Feinstein: DC Office (202) 224-3841
L.A. Office (310) 914-7300

Senator Kamala Harris: DC Office (202) 224-3553
San Diego Office (619) 239-3884

Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz: DC Office (202) 225-5330
Palm Desert Office (760) 424-8888

CA State Senator Jeff Stone: State Capitol Office (916) 651-4028
Indio Office (760) 398-6442

CA Assembly Member Chad Mayes: State Capitol Office (916) 319-2042
Rancho Mirage Office (760) 346-6342

CA Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia: St Capitol Office,
(916) 319-2056 - Coachella Office (760)347-2360

Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 1, SLCC Atrium 6PM

Executive Board Members:

PRESIDENT - Jackie Atwood 951-849-4986

1st VP MEMBERSHIP - Betty McMillion 951-769-6636

2nd VP VOTER REGISTRATION AND

POLITICAL ACTION - Sylvia Carrillo

RECORDING SEC'RY - Nancy Sappington

CORRESPONDING/LOGISTICS- Betty Ann James

TREASURER - Marlene Damato

Committee Chairs:

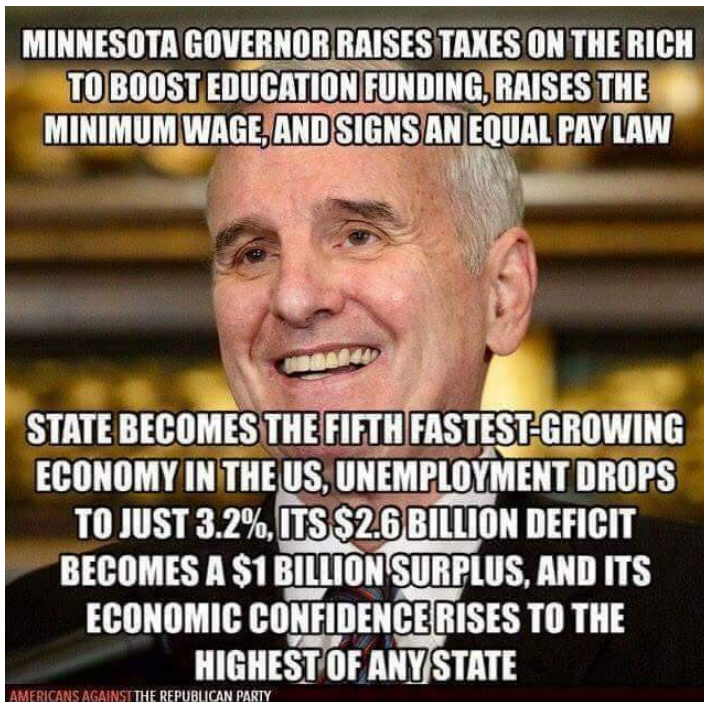
COMMUNICATIONS/PROGRAM - Shawn Holt

HISTORIAN—Clara Wooten-Thomas

PARLIAMENTARIAN - Pelton Teague

SCHOLARSHIPS - Blanche Teague

EDITOR—Leeann McLaughlin 909-973-3143



RESISTANCE

If you would like to either post an event your club or group will be hosting, or you would like to know what other events are scheduled in your area, just follow these instructions:

Go to the *Resistance Near Me* website at <https://resistancenearme.org/>. Type in your zip code. If you want to know what events are scheduled within 75 miles, click on FIND AN EVENT. Scroll down thru posted events and click on one or more that you would like to attend or learn about. If you want to receive emails advising of an event within 75 miles, click JOIN US. Then click SIGN ME UP. Complete the form.

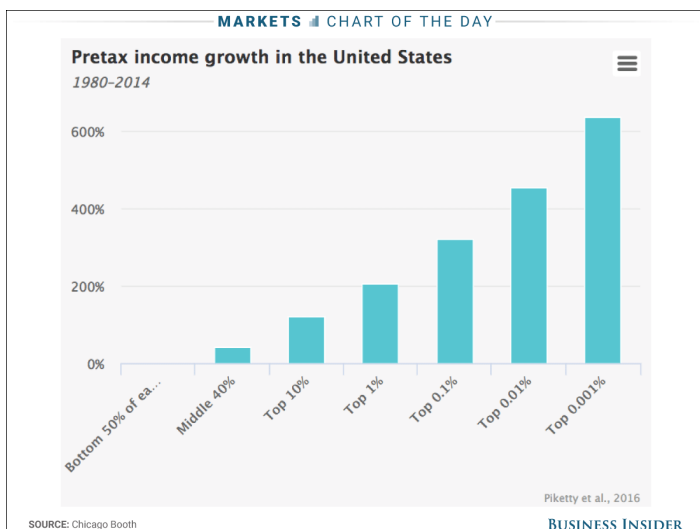


highlights just how stratospheric income growth has been for the very wealthiest Americans — and how stagnant, in contrast, wages have been for the rest.

That's not a typo on the right. Incomes for the top 0.001% richest Americans surged 636% during the 34-year period. Wow.

There's more. "The average pretax income of the bottom 50% of US adults has stagnated since 1980, while the share of income of US adults in the bottom half of the distribution collapsed from 20% in 1980 to 12% in 2014," writes Howard Gold, founder and editor of GoldenEgg Investing, in the Chicago Booth blog.

"In a mirror-image move, the top 1% commanded 12% of income in 1980 but 20% in 2014. The top 1% of US adults now earns on average 81 times more than the bottom 50% of adults; in 1981, they earned 27 times what the



This eye-popping chart on inequality is a slap in the face of America's middle class

Why does the US economy still feel iffy to most Americans despite an eight-year economic expansion and historically low unemployment? Look no further than this eye-popping chart of income growth between 1980 and 2014 courtesy of Berkeley's elite-squad of inequality research, including Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez, and Gabriel Zucman.

Featured in a recent blog from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, the graphic

EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF FASCISM

POWERFUL AND CONTINUING
NATIONALISM

DISDAIN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

IDENTIFICATION OF ENEMIES
AS A UNIFYING CAUSE

SUPREMACY OF THE MILITARY

RAMPANT SEXISM

CONTROLLED MASS MEDIA

OBSESSION WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT
INTERTWINED

CORPORATE POWER PROTECTED

LABOR POWER SUPPRESSED

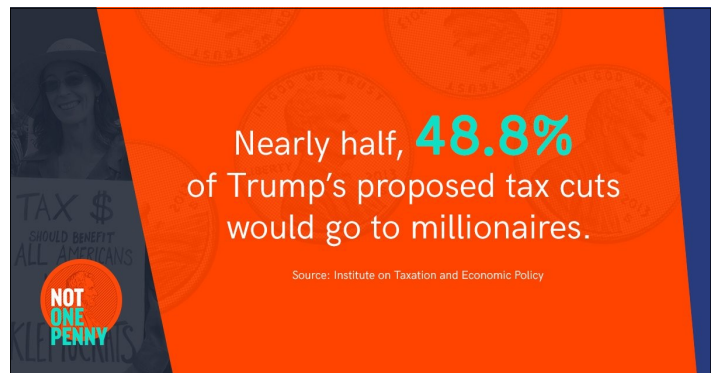
DISDAIN FOR INTELLECTUALS & THE ARTS

OBSESSION WITH CRIME & PUNISHMENT

RAMPANT CRONYISM & CORRUPTION

FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS

Insults to Hitler arose about the election signs of fascist in April 1935 after inventing some fascist regimes. These were Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany, Benito Mussolini's Italy, Francisco Franco's Spain, Antonio de Oliveira Salazar's Portugal, George Papadimitriou's Greece, Augusto Pinochet's Chile, Polanski's Switzerland. These signs occurred with full political and economic freedom of the United States under Bush/Obama. Don't pretend to recognize this with deliberate ignorance while you still can!



We're going to build the greatest dog park. It's gonna be great. Probably the greatest park ever built....



..... and the cats. The cats are going to pay for it.

I WILL PAY HIGHER TAXES



SO MY FELLOW CITIZENS CAN
HAVE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

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