

The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

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Autumn 2011

Conversations With The Township Chair

By Susan M. Lubonovich

WTDO Chair & Committeeman, Pct 014

I welcome all of you to our Eleventh issue of *The Township Democrat*, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. Your continued support of this publication through your gifts to our "Kick in for the Quarter" program is very much appreciated and we are very grateful for the opportunity to offer you this Newsletter for your consideration.

I have thought a great deal about compromise and bipartisanship since my last conversation with you. I believe that we are able to agree amongst ourselves that compromise is and of itself not inherently corrupt, that America's political institutions are designed for prudent and, sometimes strategic, compromise that is in the public interest and promotes the general welfare. I also believe that we can agree that compromise requires a partner. But when this sought for partner has as its prime directive your failure in anything you attempt to do, then you have no partner nor do you have any basis for negotiation. That said, we must admit that this is pretty much our political situation today.

Many instances exist that illustrate this one sided failure for negotiated compromise. We all watched in horrified fascination and disbelief as the full faith and credit of these United States was willfully pushed to the brink of default during the recently Republican manufactured debt ceiling crisis. Not one generation of Americans, not to mention the world, had ever experienced or witnessed a downgrade of our country's sterling credit. And yet, Congressional Republicans, to a person, proudly and self-righteously pushed this nation toward default in the name of ideological purity rather than stand up for the national welfare. Both our fragile economy and the world's was imperiled and held hostage by the GOP's determination to keep our economy weak for the express purpose of undermining the Obama Presidency. This is an awful statement

to make, but rest assured, at this time, the Republicans are not going to help this country when it comes to our economic policy. They believe it is good party politics to keep unemployment high, to wreak havoc with the markets (after all, their buddies are all making money hand over fist during this period of financial turmoil) and most importantly, to undermine our confidence - which is so important to our recovery from this pinstripe orchestrated greed fest. These men in pinstripes and their Republican Congressional allies have once again gambled themselves into a corner - a corner that we have had to bail them out of. In the process of cleaning up their mess, we have been impoverished by our efforts. This is not an acceptable return on our investment.

To repeat, compromise only works if you have a partner who is willing to compromise. And while the partners in any negotiation may have different approaches, perspectives, viewpoints or ideas for a possible solution, the partners we elect to serve in our government must always hold fast to their oath of office which states that they uphold our Constitution. Our Constitution includes a Preamble that begins with "We the People" and continues on with the notion of "insuring domestic tranquility". Insuring domestic tranquility mandates that compromise be a viable possibility to solving our many current challenging difficulties.

In good faith, we have repeatedly attempted to reason with, bargain with and even appease these homegrown bullies in order to move our economy forward and put America back to work - but to no avail. Sometimes, folks, the only option left is to punch the bully smack in the nose. And there is no doubt, these bullies need a facer, a five fingered sandwich planted right in the kisser. If we do not stand up and forthrightly explain our Democratic ideals and defend our Democratic values, we will not be able to define our Democratic narrative. And make no mistake about it, folks; if we do not frame our own Democratic narrative, our fate will be no different than that of a lazy dog sunbathing in the middle of the street -- with a semi fast approaching.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16, 7:00 PM
WTDO MONTHLY MEETING
WINFIELD FIRE STATION
27W530 HIGHLAKE RD, WINFIELD

MONDAY, NOV. 28
FIRST DAY TO FILE PETITIONS

MONDAY, DEC. 5
LAST DAY TO FILE PETITIONS

FRIDAY, DEC. 2 OR 9 ~7:30 PM
HOLIDAY GATHERING
CHECK WEBSITE FOR FURTHER
DETAILS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21
NO WTDO MONTHLY MEETING
GOOD HOLIDAYS TO ALL

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18, 7:00 PM
WTDO MONTHLY MEETING
WINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
0S291 WINFIELD RD, WINFIELD

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR
WEBSITE::

WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG

OR CALL:
630-771-5551

OPINIONS EXPRESSED WITHIN ARE NOT
NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE
WINFIELD TOWNSHIP
DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

Hey Tea Party, Where Were You?

By James Walsh

*Committeeman, York Twp, Pct 043;
Former Editor, DuPage Democrat*

The recent rise of the influence of the Tea Party in national politics is well documented. At public demonstrations, during the interruptions of some political events and a march on Washington DC in September of 2009, the Tea Party folks have been very vocal. The movement began with small, ad hoc rallies in large cities and small towns in the wake of the Obama stimulus package during the Spring of 2009. There were more rallies on April 15th, Tax Day. The protesters rallied against what they consider big government, the dismantling of free market capitalism, health care reform, taxation, and federal spending, among other issues.

After some success sending Tea Party members to Congress during the elections of 2010, the Republican mainstream seems to be shaking in their boots, tripping over each other in their race to the right. This is the first time in years that Republicans seem to be afraid of some of their voters.

The pursuit of fiscal responsibility in Washington is nothing new. Our nation has always had fiscal conservatives involved in government since its inception. And the First Amendment gives everyone the right to voice their opinion. So there have always been members of our society that have clamored for restraints on spending and a balanced budget. The only question is, "Hey Tea Party, where were you when George Bush Jr. and the Republican controlled Congress was bankrupting the nation?"

When President Clinton left office there was a budget surplus of almost 230 billion dollars for the year 2000 and that surplus was projected into the future as far as the eye could see. The conversation in Washington was how fast we should pay down the debt left by President Reagan which amounted to more than a trillion dollars thanks to Republican sponsored "supply-side economics."

Then in November of 2000 we had the election (appointment) of George Bush. For six years the Republican controlled Congress spent money like there was no tomorrow without one Presidential veto. Two giant, unpaid for tax breaks for the rich, the unpaid for Iraqi War and an unpaid for

Medicare prescription drug bill drove the deficits sky-high. At no time in our history have we gone to war while at the same time cutting taxes. And the bailout of Wall Street, the big banks and the auto industry were all started under Bush. When you throw in all the government regulations that were either thrown out or ignored, you have a recipe for a fiscal disaster. Where was the Tea Party during this time?

So, we went from a 1 trillion dollar surplus under Clinton to a 6 trillion dollar deficit under Bush, a swing of 7 trillion dollars. And, while this was going on, not a sound was heard from the Tea Party or any other fiscal conservative group.

When America faced a financial meltdown caused by unregulated investment banks, millions of people lost their jobs, their savings and their homes. And still, the silence from the Tea Party was deafening.

Now, since the election of President Obama, the Tea Party has become vocal about government spending. They believe that the only solution to our economic problems is for immediate spending cuts, spending caps and most importantly, a Balanced Budget Amendment. They do not believe government has a role to play in our society.

It is time to get real. Without government programs there would not be a transcontinental railroad, modern aviation, interstate highways, the space program, many advances in modern medicine, the internet and thousands of other things that have enriched the lives of the people of our nation.

And so it is that our country needs President Obama's American Jobs Act. If passed, it would create jobs using ideas that have been supported by both Democrats and Republicans. Congress should pass this Act right away to get the economy moving now. The plan would:

1. Create incentives for small businesses to hire and grow from now into 2012.
2. Make investments that would prevent layoffs of as many as 280,000 teachers, provide opportunities for long-term unemployed veterans, and put Americans to work rebuilding roads, railways, bridges, and schools in need of repair.
3. Implement the most sweeping reforms to the unemployment insurance system in 40 years to help those without jobs transition to the workplace.
4. Expand the payroll tax cut, cutting workers payroll taxes in half next year. This provision will provide a

(See **Walsh**, p. 3)

Enger Management "We the People"

By Dirk Enger

Committeeman, Pct 004

DuPage County Board Member, District 6

These words are not just the start of what this country was founded on. It is what separates our country from so many others. A nation that stands as a beacon of hope and promise for all who live within her borders and for those thirsting to be a part of her. As precious as our freedom and quality of life is here, it seems that those we have elected to represent us do not cherish this privilege. On both sides of the aisle we see party politics put in the forefront and the basic needs of those they are supposed to represent put on the backburner. We have seen a Congress that promised change and no longer "business as usual". We got a taste of that Congress and seen it almost default twice. They passed the least amount of bills and tied up more bills in subcommittees than any other Congress ever has. This Congress has dictated to the President of the United States when he could speak to Congress.

I could go on and on, but my point is this: since being elected to the DuPage County Board, we have shown the opposite of our Congress. We have shown that by working together with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle we have kept all of our services with no layoffs and have kept a balanced budget. You may ask, "Why can't Congress do this?" My personal feeling is this Congress only cares about party politics. They are looking out for what is best for them and not for those that they represent. It is also our fault for not holding them accountable for their lack of action. Keep in mind there are 435 members of Congress and only one President of the United States. The President works 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Congress works barely 125 days per year in Washington, DC. So who would you say is working for the people? Perhaps we need to bring some morals back to our Congress and have them listen to and practice the words of John F. Kennedy. "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it surely cannot save the few who are rich."

Our President has asked us to put down the remote control, get off the couch, dust off our boots and boot those strangling the middle class out. That being said, I ask you to research every candidate before you decide to work for them, let

alone vote for them. Ask yourself this, "Are you better off than you were one year ago with this Congress?" I know that my family is not. It is time for those in the middle class to make a stand and fight for our nation's future. Elect people not by their label or promises. If they are incumbents, look at their record and what they have done for you. I can proudly say that I have kept all of my campaign promises and helped to balance the budget for three years in a row. It can be done if "We the People" work together and stand united as one.

Get involved. Your voice and your vote counts. Now it is time to act on it. Please remember to say a prayer for our troops fighting and dying on the battlefield everyday. Also say one for their families suffering each day just to exist. The only thing Congress seems to agree on is a cut to the Defense budget and to delay a vote on Veterans' bills that help the wounded.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

God Bless you and yours.

(From **Walsh**, p. 2)

tax cut of \$1,500 to the typical family.
5. Be fully paid for as part of the President's long-term deficit reduction plan.

In the coming year we will go to the polls to determine how we will govern ourselves for the next four years. Do we want to go back to the Republican "supply side economics" that has yet to create a single job and where the rich and well-connected reap the benefits of our economy? Or, support President Obama and all other Democratic candidates so that an alliance can be formed between private and public efforts to form a coalition that will enhance the lives of all Americans.

Get involved. The choice is yours. We must remember that for 235 years, America has been defined by a single ideal: Opportunity for all who take the responsibility to seize it. The mission of every Democrat is to ensure that the great "American Dream" of opportunity for all is within reach for all, and that it travels with us, whole and intact, as we walk together into the future.

Science, Public Policy & Politics

By Maury Goodman
Committeeman, Pct 016

In an ideal world, questions of science would be decided purely based on facts. Ideology should not have any influence on the scientific conclusions that people make. We do not live in that ideal world. After one of the recent Republican presidential debates, a TV commentator mentioned that Romney was not speaking to his Republican base because he said he believed in science. I was reminded of a story from a forensic physicist, who had testified in a trial about an auto accident, and what a car could and could not do. After the jury ruled against his client, effectively disbelieving his analysis of the accident, he asked the jury why they ruled the way they did. One juror commented, "the laws of physics might work in a laboratory, but not necessarily in rural New Jersey."

Two issues of science related to public policy come first to mind: global warming and evolution in secondary education. Let us address global warming first. In the long run, there is no question that we need to reduce the increasing addition of Carbon Dioxide to the atmosphere. How do we do that? Sign the Kyoto treaty? Increase the trading of carbon offsets? Increase gas taxes? Do we need a global multi-faceted program? These are the questions that should be the focus of our debates. Instead, the question of whether or not man-made activities are associated with current and future climate change is the subject of public discussion. Why is this? Do Republicans want to destroy the planet? No. I think there are a couple

of reasons. First of all, once we accept the reality of global warming, the question what to do about it is not an easy one. Thus, it is easier to deny the reality of the problem. Also, there is the fact that Al Gore made this a seminal issue of his career, so when he ran for President, the Republicans decided to attack the issue any way that they could. Truth was an unfortunate casualty. Finally, there is the fact that any reductions in Carbon emissions will most certainly involve business regulations, which the Republicans have been lax to implement since the days of Teddy Roosevelt.

The "Creationism in the Classroom" issue is more one for local school boards – so far, with the courts compelling sanity. But Republican presidential candidates often pander to those views, even though they do not follow it up with legislation. What some individuals want to do is to teach their version of religion in a science class. They argue for "equal time" for non-scientific versions of creationism, which is often couched in semi-scientific language. What they should be doing, of course, is teaching their religion in religious classes.

There are a number of other science questions that are related to issues of public policy, which luckily, have not made it into the partisan divide. The issue of funding for scientific research has been mostly non-partisan. There are myriad science issues involved in military policy. One major law that was a step backwards happened about twenty years ago. It used to be true that drugs had to be shown to be safe and effective to be allowed to be sold. About twenty years ago, the law was changed to exempt remedies with "natural" ingredients, opening up the markets to lots of ineffective remedies, along with a few that were not safe. If you buy anything in a drug store labeled "natural", *caveat emptor*.

Kick In for the Quarter

Show your support for WTDO, your LOCAL Democratic organization and our Democratic candidates. WTDO has regular expenses for meetings, maintaining our website, printing and postage for *The Township Democrat*, campaign materials and other organizational costs. We hold candidate forums, appear in several Township parades (with candy!) and other events to inform the public. We try to reach Democratic voters throughout the Township in many ways, but none of them are free.

Support YOUR Winfield Township Democratic Organization with a donation each quarter. "Kick In for the Quarter" is a regular gift. You choose the amount. Making a regular gift allows the board to budget spending annually.

Return to
Winfield Township Democratic Organization
PO Box 224
Warrenville, IL 60555-0224

Here is my gift to WTDO of \$ _____ for this quarter

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please send me meeting announcements via email
(or send email to info@winfelldems.org)

WTDO will not sell, exchange or use your email address for anything other than official WTDO mailings

Leadership During Transitions

By Carol Davis

*Chair, York Twp Democratic Org;
Committeeman, York Twp, Pct 024*

Chairing a Township organization is an awesome responsibility. There is no job description; nor is there a guide book. Each of the nine Townships is unique in their history, development and needs. Each Chairperson tailors their leadership to meet the uniqueness of their Township.

Of course, there are basic needs that must be met. Committeemen, Elections Judges, our Valued Volunteers, and Candidates must be recruited. Officers must be elected. During elections, key precincts must be pinpointed for additional assistance in walking, in addition to walking as much of the Township as is possible by our members and committeemen. Money must be raised for candidate campaigns and outreach. Parades must be organized as well as tents for public events. How these needs are met will be different for each Township. A cookie cutter approach will not work.

We are in the process of centralizing the Township functions by an aggressive Democratic County Party which is growing in strength. Centralization by the County Party is not without merit. We have a functioning office with volunteers and paid staff. We have a growing number of committees at the county level to produce input and output. The fundraising at the county level has surpassed funds raised at any other time.

However, despite the success of the County Organization, I hope the value of the Township Organizations is not overshadowed. We are the first level of grass roots politics...the foot soldiers in a fight for progressive democratic values. Certainly, Township organizations were valuable yesterday in creating the organization we have today. As we transition to a more Democratic leaning county, new challenges emerge that must be met. The Township Chair generally knows their precincts, the capabilities of each committeeman, and the organizational allies or friends that are close at hand. They know the traditions that have held their organization together over years.

I am extremely proud to be Chair of York Township. We have a traditional St Patrick's Day Dinner as our main fundraiser. We are developing a tradition of a fall "Candidate Meet and Greet" that is used for recruitment as well as bringing members together with their candidates to share ideas and highlight issues in the various districts. Through networking

we have increased our committeemen and our Democratic percentages every year. About half our members hold Union membership. York's staunch support of the Union fight for the middle class cannot be understated. We support the ideals of progressive Democrats with our hearts, our sweat and our shoe leather as only a grass roots organization can.

Mostly, I am especially proud of the Committeemen of York Township who are dedicated to making democracy work in our great nation. When I hear our hard working committeemen, who faithfully walk their precincts, educate their constituents on issues with their own time and money derided, I am frankly outraged. The Committeemen of York Township owe their first allegiance to the Democratic voters in their Precincts, which is as it should be.

Although the Democratic Party of DuPage County (DPDC) and the Township Democratic Organizations are separate entities, we have much to gain if we cooperate with each other, while each retains its independence.

The stakes in the upcoming election are high. We face a Radical Republican Party whose goal is not service to our nation but a power grab at all costs. We in DuPage County have an opportunity to gain Democratic representation at the Federal, State and local levels for the first time in our history through the new redistricting. If we fail to win these swing districts in November 2012, it is unlikely they will swing Democratic for many years to come. On a local level, our three incumbent Democratic County Board members are finishing their first term and are seeking re-election. It is essential that that we maintain these three seats and hopefully add to them.

The County and Township Democratic Organizations must choose. We may choose to cooperate, strengthen each other and work together as a team for victory or we may choose to fight each other for defeat. Only through respect and knowledge of the value of each other will we be able to work effectively together. Canceling the Chairman's access to Vote Builder for YTDO and some other Township Organizations by the DPDC is certainly an impediment to cooperation, as are other unresolved issues. Resolving these issues is a challenge that must be met for the success of Democrats in DuPage County. This will be a test of the leadership abilities of all the officers in the Township and County Organizations. Our failure could result in governmental control by some of the most radical of the New GOP.

Catholic Democrat: An Oxymoron?

By Griffin Hardy

WTDO Volunteer

With the emergence of the religious right in the past several decades, many view those who adhere to the Catholic faith as part of the "Moral Majority." In reality, however, this cannot be farther from the truth.

The Catholic Church is one of the most centralized and organized religions around; it is also one of the oldest. Due to these factors, Catholic faith is dictated from the Holy See, Vatican City, by the Pope and Cardinals through documents called encyclicals. Encyclicals are written by the Pope to guide the way the Catholic faith will be taught and adhered to by Bishops and dioceses throughout the world. The Pope is given the authority to shape Catholic doctrine through the Magisterium, the teaching authority of the Catholic Church.

While the Church has come out in support of right-leaning ideas such as a ban on a woman's right to make decisions about her own body and a legal definition of marriage, many other parts of the Catholic doctrine and story are surprisingly liberal and progressive.

For starters, the Catholic Church has been a steadfast defender of the working class. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical titled "*Rerum Novarum*," or "Rights and Duties of Capital and Labor." In the encyclical, Leo XIII called for a living wage and for worker's rights, including the right to unionize. At the time, industrialization was rapidly spreading across to globe and exploitation of workers was rampant. The Catholic Church spoke out on the topic and this support for the working people has been the doctrine of the Church ever since.

The Catholic Church is also in favor of immigration reform. As a staunch proponent of social justice, the Church has called for a new, "just and humane" immigration system. Several Catholic priests, most notably Father Dick Preston, have spoken out against the greed of today's capitalism. These so-called "radical" priests have come out and said that the greed seen today in America is not something Jesus would support and is even potentially sinful. Make no mistake, the Church is

not against the free market system. The Church is against the greed and selfishness seen today. Remember that Jesus said the rich man would have a difficult time making it to heaven.

The Church is also vehemently opposed to the death penalty. Catholics believe that all forms of killing are wrong, including execution. Go to any execution protest and you are likely to see nuns, brothers, or priests. Pope John Paul II issued a plea to America in 1999, asking the country to forgo its cruel and barbaric death penalty system. Several states, including our own Illinois, have done so. One of the biggest anti-death penalty advocates in the U.S. is Sister Helen Prejean. If the name sounds familiar, it is because of the book and film called "Dead Man Walking," which details Prejean's time as the spiritual advisor to a death row inmate. Prejean continues to be one of the most active opponents of capital punishment. Prejean's explanation for her opposition to the death penalty boils down to her rhetorical question, "Is God vengeful, demanding a death for a death? Or is God compassionate, luring souls into love so great that no one can be considered 'enemy'?"

If one stops and thinks about the underlying details of the Bible, it is easy to see why the Catholic Church has taken these stances. Jesus himself was never portrayed as a rich man. He was the son of a carpenter, a member of the ancient working class. After Jesus was born, his parents and he became immigrants in Egypt while fleeing the wrath of King Herod. Jesus, the savior of all Christians, was also unjustly executed.

It seems that often Democrats write off Catholics along with other right-leaning religious groups. While there are some vocal members of the faith who oppose abortion rights or the rights of same-sex couples, these individuals are a minority and are single-issue voters. They will never be won over. Polls show that Catholics actually tend to vote Democratic, except in years when they are heavily targeted in Republican campaigns. Many Catholics disagree with the Church's stance on same-sex marriage, abortion, birth control and other controversial issues. It is a big mistake to ignore the Catholic vote. Catholics make up the single largest united religious group in the United States. The Democratic Party must begin courting these individuals with such a progressive religious ideology.

Priorities

By Barry Dredze

Committeeman, Pct. 018

It has become axiomatic among certain voices in American political discourse that government ought to be run like a business. But the respective priorities of government and business are often times not the same and often enough at odds.

Far from any false choice between good vs. evil, business is about private industry and government is about public interest. Government provides legislation while business provides commerce, but commerce without democratic legislation has historically amounted to feudalism. The nature of business is predatory, while government restrains it. A perfect political landscape for business is one which privatizes profits and socializes expenses.

Consider that a state-by-state US Chamber of Commerce analysis of labor and employment policies ranks Mississippi near the top, while the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) ranks Mississippi 47th on its annual *Report Card on American Education* and the US Census Bureau finds Mississippi with the lowest per-capita income in the nation.

The US Chamber's report released at the beginning of March, 2011 titled "The Impact of State Employment Policies on Job Growth" analyzes labor and employment policies in every state, taking into account such factors as the amount of state minimum wage beyond federal requirements, private sector union membership and unemployment benefits.

As states are rated "good," "fair" or "poor" for job growth potential, a so-called "right to work" state such as Mississippi that has no state minimum wage, low union membership and employment discrimination standards that go no further than those mandated by federal law ranks "good" according to the Chamber's scale for job creation potential. Meanwhile, a state such as Pennsylvania that has extensive child labor laws, relatively high wage standards and high union density ranks "poor" on the Chamber's scale.

The political reach of the Chamber has come under some recent scrutiny within the past year. In April, computer hackers sympathetic to Julian Assange and Wikileaks, who call themselves "Anonymous," released a Torrent file including, but not limited to, PDF files, Word documents and PowerPoint presentations belonging to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). In July, the Center for Media and Democracy made available to the public over 800 ALEC "model" bills and resolutions on the website ALECexposed.org, revealing the genesis of policies recently passed into law by states such as Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan.

A corporation is responsible to its shareholders for maximizing the value of its shares from the sale of products and services to its customers, because it is every man for himself. Government is responsible to its citizens to provide for the common defense, ensure domestic tranquility and promote the general welfare, because we are all in this together. Both can be true at the same time, because citizens have rights that customers simply do not have without government. The only right that remains on a deregulated landscape is *caveat emptor* – let the buyer beware.

The more you hear about how government ought to be run like a business, consider the notion of being more of a customer and less of a citizen.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Letters, opinions, jokes
(keep'em clean, folks!)



WTDO

PO Box 224

Warrenville, IL 60555-0224

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Winfield Township Democratic Organization
Post Office Box 224
Warrenville, IL
60555-0224

Return Service Requested

Financial Times

By Doug May

Committeeman, Pct 001

Much has been written about the lack of a progressive/labor agenda in Washington these days. Even with solid majorities in both Houses and the White House, no effort was made on priorities such as the "Employee Free Choice Act". Remember that? AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, went so far as to hint that they would no longer blindly throw their support and money towards Democrats who have been missing in action on our issues. They also want to have a more ongoing effort, rather than just gearing up prior to an election and quickly disappearing after the election is over.

Efforts to expand legislative and public outreach by labor are well overdue. The problem, as I see it, is that the Republican Party has moved into crazy town. Letting them get elected is absolutely the worst thing that can happen from the perspective of everyone who is not a fat cat billionaire. The list of policies that Republican Representatives and candidates oppose, nearly unanimously, is longer than I can print here. Here's just a partial list:

- Minimum wage laws
- Workplace Safety
- Food safety regulations
- Clean Water
- Clean Air
- A forward-looking energy policy
- Consumer protections of any sort
- Airline Safety
- Worker's rights
- Women's rights
- Access to the court system
- Any effort to improve the economy
- Social Security
- Health care for anyone who earns too little money to afford it
- The Postal Service

In addition, the Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, stated that his #1 priority was defeating Obama in 2012. Their strategy is clearly to keep the economy in the tank, while crippling the government's ability to provide basic services. This was clearly demonstrated during a refusal, by the Republicans, to reauthorize the budget for the FAA. It continued to function only by individuals using their credit cards to cover expenses. We hear that "government doesn't work" and we elect people to public office whose goal is to prove it.

What are they for, you may ask? Simple. Tax Cuts for the wealthiest 1%. That's it. No matter what the problem is, their solution is, in all cases, tax cuts. They have fought tooth and nail to continue the Bush tax cuts as well as thwart efforts to tighten up loopholes such as the "carried interest" loophole for hedge fund managers, which allows them to take their salary as capital gains, subject to a far lower tax rate than they would pay if not given this special break.

Recently, the Republican minority in the Senate has managed to thwart the President's jobs bill. It was a modest effort to put some more Americans back to work, but it included some small tax increases. It is amazing in this day and age that we have an entire political party determined to run the country into the ground.

You can turn on the radio nearly any time of day and find right wing radio hosts railing against higher taxes on the wealthy, although they are paying the lowest rate in decades. You will also hear talk of "not taxing job creators or society's producers".

As far as I can tell, the only thing these guys are producing are idiots who believe that tax cuts for the top 1% increase both revenue to the government and employment. We have been doing that for the last thirty years. Look where we are now.

Doug May is a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 825

