

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

November 28, 2017

Garland, Texas

Volume 4, Number 11

Look What They Done!

	2016 as filed	2017 House Bill	2017 Senate Bill
Adjusted Gross Income	\$46,250	\$46,250	\$46,250
Standard Deduction	\$15,100	\$24,000	\$24,000
Personal Exemption	\$8,100	\$0	\$0
Taxable Income	\$23,054	\$22,254	\$22,254
Tax	\$2,361	\$2,670	\$2,289
Change		Increase \$309	Decrease \$71

This chart shows the effect of the House and Senate bills for a fictional, retired couple, Bert and Betty Homeowners, retired, living in a subdivision called "Camelot". They have no mortgage, own their cars, have Social Security and Medicare, minimal medical bills and no other dependents. This chart does not apply to working families with children or those with large medical bills. The tax amount was calculated for 2017 tax based on an actual 2016 tax filing modified by the House Bill and Senate Bill.

The major changes are the standard deduction increases from \$15,100 to \$24,000 but the \$1,250 for age for the couple and the \$8,100 personal exemption is gone. The taxable income decreases by \$800 but the tax due increases by \$309 using the House tax table and the tax due decreases by \$71 using the Senate tax chart.

The question for Paul Ryan et al is: Where is my \$4000 savings?

 $See \ the \ article \ on \ page \ 3 \ for \ a \ further \ explanation \ of \ what \ else \ the \ Tax \ Reform \ Act \ will \ do.$

What's Inside? Front PageLook What The Done!..... Page 1 Article Happy Thanksgiving Dallas Co Democrats..... Editorial....."I Am Woman".... ArticleNET Neutrality Explained..... Page 2 Page 7 ArticleTAX Reform Gift: NOT!..... Page 3 Bits & Pieces Page 8 ArticleStep Right Up Buy a Bond..... Bulletin Board News/Advertisement/ Ad Rates..... Page 9 Article, What's Happening In Rockwall County?.... Page 5

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE EDITORIAL

"I Am Woman"

I Am Woman — Helen Reddy

I am woman, hear me roar
In numbers too big to ignore
And I know too much to go back and pretend
'Cause I've heard it all before
And I've been down there on the floor
No one's ever going to keep me down again

But it's wisdom born of pain Yes, I've paid the price But look how much I gained

Whoa, yes, I am wise

If I have to I can do anything I am strong (strong)
I am invincible (invincible)
I am woman

You can bend but never break me 'Cause it only serves to make me More determined to achieve my final goal And I'll come back even stronger Not a novice any longer 'Cause you've deepened the conviction in my soul

Whoa, yes, I am wise But it's wisdom born of pain Yes, I've paid the price But look how much I gained

If I have to I can do anything I am strong (strong)
I am invincible (invincible)
I am woman

I am woman, watch me grow See me standing toe-to-toe As I spread my loving arms across the land But I'm still an embryo With a long, long way to go Until I make my brother understand

Whoa, yes, I am wise But it's wisdom born of pain Yes, I've paid the price But look how much I gained

If I have to I can face anything I am strong (strong)
I am invincible (invincible)
I am woman

Oh, I am woman

I am invincible

I am strong I am woman

I am invincible

I am strong

I am woman

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Actually, I joined the, "Me, Too" force many years ago. In the fifty or so years since I graduated from college, I have endured all kinds of abuse. Indeed as Ms. Reddy wrote, "I have paid the price, but look how much I've gained."

Sexual perversion is an evil among us. Long ago I learned the value of a knee to wherever is a powerful tool. At the age of 23, I did not have the where-with-all to use the knee tool, even when my body was violated by a landlord who invaded my apartment. I was powerless. At this same time, I was losing my job because I would not make it with my supervisor and the wife of a co-worker was accusing me of making a pass at her husband. I left New York because I knew if I said anything I would be attacked and destroyed.

These experiences have left a pain in my being. "Me, too."

I am concerned with the current accusations against Senator Al Franken (MN-D). Though I am satisfied with Mr. Franken's apology, his call for an investigation and a promise to, "work to regain their [constituents] trust." I would like more information regarding Representative John Conyers (MI13-D). His record is one of supporting women and fighting for human rights.

"Better to vote for a child molester, than a Democrat!" say too many voters in Alabama. The personal history of Roy Moore contains much more. Twice Moore was ousted from the Alabama Supreme Court. By his own admission, Moore sought permission to date underage females. There are a myriad of accusers of sexual assaults. His banishment from a mall is a matter of record.

The Orange-man is now claiming he did not threaten to grab lady parts because he was a celebrity. This event was recorded and published. There are many reports of his sexual exploits — misogyny in excess.

Just today, (11/27/17) during her show, MSNBC anchor Katy Tur made a very profound statement referring to the dTrump's about Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA-D) being Pocahontas. Kur stated, "It's not a joke. It's a slur." dTrump's name-calling is a prime example of yet another attempt to "put down" a woman with a racial slur.

Yes. I am woman. I am a person, a passport carrying, voting citizen. Until the lid [on my coffin] is snapped shut, I will continue to search for truth and justice. "I am invincible. I am strong." Join me!

Rachel Baker Ford, editor

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE ARTICLE

Christmas Gift to Corporations, Needy Millionaires and Billionaires

Not Reform it's Robbery (WPX7 Dictionary: robbery >noun (pl. robberies) 1 action of robbing a person or place. 2 informal unashamed swindling or overcharging.)

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

The Republicans in the U.S. House have passed their tax cut/reform bill claiming big savings for the middle class and that everyone would receive a tax cut. They were very efficient because they didn't waste time reading the 448 page document. The Senate also released a draft tax bill which includes most of the text from the House bill. Keep in mind that 77.5 million households they are saving with a tax cut pay NO income tax now and rich people invest in tax free bonds or investments taxed at 15 percent or less then hide their money overseas to avoid taxes. This whole tax reform is a scam!

Both bills raise the standard deduction from \$12,600 for a couple to \$24,000. Don't look for your personal exemption, it's gone along with state and local income or sale tax deductions, the medical expense deduction, and student loan interest deduction. You may recover some of your loss if you can claim the Child Tax Credit that has been raised from \$1,000 to \$1,600. The mortgage interest deduction still exists and is capped above the level of concern to most us. The right hand gives while the left hand takes away unless you are a corporation or extremely rich.

The Senate bill, still being debated, repeals the individual mandate for the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). That is not expected to be in the final Senate bill. It was probably included in the draft to serve as a bargaining chip and to provide a distraction from other portions of the bill. The House bill allows parents to establish a college fund for the fetus. Some claim this may bestow a personhood status on the fetus which would prohibit abortion and provide the legal basis for classifying abortion as murder.

In both bills highly profitable corporations with cash stashed abroad get massive tax relief. The tax on repatriated funds will be lowered to 12 percent or less. The maximum income tax on corporate profits will fall from 39.5 percent to 20 or 25 percent.

The GOP'pers claim this additional money will be used to invest in the United States, create good paying jobs, and raise wages for workers. If that is true why aren't they doing these wonderful things with the cash they are sitting on? They tried this in 1994 and the money went almost exclusively to shareholders and executives

If the Senate actually passes their version of a tax bill, a committee will try to iron out a compromise and both houses of Congress will vote again. Check back in 2025!

So, what are some of the major changes?

Top corporate tax rate lowered from 35 percent to 20 percent.

Corporations holding cash overseas can bring it back and pay instead of 12 percent tax.

The House bill keeps the Affordable Care Act Individual mandate. The Senate bill repeals this mandate.

The Alternative Minimum Tax (ATM) is eliminated. You can be richer than most countries and pay no income tax. Many businesses can pay a much lower tax on income taxed as personal income.

The estate tax won't apply to the first \$5.5 million for individuals or \$11 million for couples.

The Family Flexibility Credit, \$300 for individuals and \$600 for couples will end in 2022.

The tax brackets are slightly different between the House and Senate bills.

The standard deduction is raised from \$12,600 to \$24,000.

The \$1,250 deduction for over 65 is gone.

The House bill caps the mortgage interest deduction at \$500,000 instead of \$1 million.

The House bill allows property tax deductions for up to \$10,000.

The House bill does not allow a deduction for state and local income or sales taxes.

No more deductions for medical expenses.

No more deduction for plug-in motor vehicles.

No more deduction for moving expenses.

The \$2,5000 annual deduction for student loan interest is gone.

Grad students with waivers will have to pay tax on the waiver.

No deduction for theft or loss of valuables.

HR 1/115th Congress, a 448 page document, contains far more detail than presented here. For more infomation: www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1/BILLS-115hr1eh.pdf / www.natlawreview.com/article/federal-tax-reform-senate-bill-comparison-to-house-bill-and-evaluating-bigger

Either tax bill will increase the national debt by about \$1.5 trillion. But the real question is, what is congress planning to do to public education, protecting the environment and our air and water, the entitlements, (Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, to mention a few) and multiple wars around the world that we have our military participating in, to compensate for their Christmas present to profitable corporations and billionaires?

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE ARTICLE

Step Right Up Folks and Buy a Bond

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

Part of the reason for selling bonds is to raise money for new projects that are needed or projects that glitter in the sun but benefit few like golf courses. Sell the bonds now that come due in twenty or thirty years. Inflation will rise faster than the interest so the bond will be paid off using "cheaper dollars". Wages and property values will be higher so the tax money won't excessively burden our children or grand children. We should be so proud we can shove problems down the road and onto the backs of children too young to vote or voice an objection.

For the last few years cities and school boards have been obsessed with selling bonds for massive amounts of money. There seemed to be a contest between school boards to raise \$400 million or more by selling bonds. It was fascinating to watch Garland, Richardson, and Plano school boards submit bond issues for vote for nearly identical amounts in the same year. People didn't flinch. They passed each of them.

Now school boards have no shame. Voters approved 10 school bond issues on the ballot on November 7, 2017. The bonds range from \$250 million to \$1.05 billion. Eight of the ten were for an amount over \$400 million.

http://www.asumag.com/top-10s/largest-school-bond-issues-approved-texas-november-2017?full=1

School boards aren't the only source of questionable bonds. Voters approved 10 bond proposals the City of Dallas had on the November 7, 2017 ballot.

\$533 million for streets

\$262 million for parks

\$50 million for Fair Park

\$18 million for city facilities

\$20 million for homeless assistance facilities

\$14 million for cultural facilities

\$49 million for flood protection

\$32 million for public safety facilities

\$55 million for economic development

The city was sneaky-wise. They divided it up into 10 proposals. Maybe the first two would make you shake your head before you voted yes but the others are trivial in this day and age, until, you calculate the sum: \$1,048,000,000 = \$1.05 billion = \$794 for every man woman and child in Dallas. It's ridiculous. These are 10 giant credit cards with questionable oversight authorized by less than 50,000 voters many of which have a financial interest in the project being supported.

https://www.dallasnews.com/news/dallas-city-hall/2017/08/09/dallas-voters-will-decide-105-billion-bond-package-loaded-parks-street-repairs

In the future, when they ask you to approve a bond, listen carefully, investigate, then

VOTE NO!



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE NEWS FROM ROCKWALL

What's Happening in Rockwall County?

We mark the passing Dr. Barbara Montgomery, former Municipal Judge and chair of the Democratic Party of Rockwall in November after a brief illness. Dr. Montgomery was a fierce advocate for civil rights. Known by many folks of the Rockwall community, she will be missed by friends and family.

If you have not heard **Kim Olson, Candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture** you are missing a most inspiring, down to earth candidate who, in my opinion, channels Ann Richards. Lynn and Lynnda Allen of Heath hosted a meet and greet for Olson who spoke of her passion for the work of Ag Commissioner and for the people of Texas.

We have a woman from Rains County who has filed to run against the incumbent John Ratcliffee. Catherine Krantz, candidate for the Fourth Congressional District of Texas will need every vote she can get. She has no illusions. This will be a difficult race given the ratio of Democrats to Republicans in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas. And she will persist with our support. Ratckiffee is revered by those he considers his constituents — those who voted for him. The rest of us have been consistently challenging his extremely conservative views.

Kendall Scudder, candidate for Texas Senate District 2. A native of Hopkins County, Scudder has been hitting the campaign trail hard in the rural counties of State Senate District 2. His Democratic opponent recently dropped out of the race, leaving Kendall with a clear path to run against the winner of the Republican Primary.

This is epic! Three Democratic women are running for County Offices for the first time in over 15 years. Thanks to Rockwall Indivisible coordinator, Cassi Marietti for her work recruiting these very capable women. Indivisible Rockwall, besides keeping the pressure on Senators Cruz and Cornyn and Congressman Ratcliffe took seriously their work of getting people ready to run for office.

Democrat Ericka Ledferd, ESL Coordinator for Royse City High School is running for County Commissioner in Precinct 4. Ericka is well known in Royse City as an inspirational teacher. She is a Dual Credit Spanish instructor for Royse City ISD, Royse City High School with deep roots in the community she serves.

Democrat **Nina Richards is filing for Rockwall County Judge** (she has withdrawn from the Rockwall County Clerk race). Nina is both a paralegal and a graphic artist skilled at developing websites and has a background in developmental psychology. She moved to Rockwall from New York and works for a firm in Dallas. Her paralegal and management skills are well suited for the position of Rockwall County Judge.

Karen Sproul believes that she can fulfill the responsibilities of District Clerk. As a District Clerk she will be the custodian of all records for the District Courts, indexing and securing all court records, collecting filing fees and handling funds held in litigation and money awards to minors.

These candidates are ready to work hard to get elected. We will be supporting them all the way. Election 2018 is just around the corner! Check our website for more December events www.rockwalldems.com

Judith Matherne, County Chair



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE FROM THE DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CHAIR

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

We give thanks for the courts! Just in time for Thanksgiving, United States District Judge William H. Orrick permanently enjoined Donald Trump's executive order to cut federal funding for "sanctuary cities." The Judge held the executive order to be unconstitutional, and ruled Trump's order was overbroad, coercive, vague, standardless, and in violation of the 5th and 10th amendments. The court's opinion also claimed that Trump was attempting to commandeer local jurisdictions and the order sought to deprive local jurisdictions of funds without notice. Thus far, many of Donald Trump's attempts to force his agenda have been appropriately, and thankfully, blocked by the courts. His rants against the courts show that he mistakenly thought that, as president, he could make arbitrary decisions without any checks and balances. Thankfully, the authors of our country's constitution protected us against those inclined to act as dictators and monarchs.

We give thanks for our elected officials! Thanks to our elected officials for having the courage to run for office and the commitment to serve our community. Many of our elected officials have been recognized lately for their expertise and long service. I cannot name them all in a short letter, but I did want to highlight Judge Mark Greenberg, who was recently named "Trial Judge of the Year" by the Dallas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is the only judge ever to receive this award twice. Judge Greenberg is emblematic of all the Democratic elected officials who serve us with distinction.

We give thanks for our precinct chairs! Since the 2016 election, we have recruited over 100 new precinct chairs. Our County Executive Committee is more diverse and robust than ever, and it reflects our community. These precinct chairs are elected officials, and we appreciate their service to the community and to the Dallas County Democratic Party.

We give thanks for our DCDP staff! The DCDP staff makes things happen. They implement the policies enacted by the Executive Committee, and they work with the DCDP Chair to organize training sessions, programs and primary elections. They also help to get the Party ready for the next election by organizing phone banks, block walks, and voter registration projects. This year for the first time ever, the staff worked with the DCDP Chair to organize opportunities for Democrats to help with community outreach programs, such as Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, and the Paul Quinn College "We Over Me" Farm.

We give thanks to the voters! Over 62 percent of Dallas County voters cast their ballots for Democrats in the 2016 election, and we are grateful. Hillary Clinton won in every House District in the county. By working with Democrats in our neighboring "red" counties, we are helping to narrow the margin, making victory for Democrats in the six-county Fifth Court of Appeals contest a possibility. The DCDP has founded the North Texas Democratic Coalition to work with neighboring counties with the goal of turning North Texas blue.

December CEC Meeting Canned Food Drive! Please bring one or more canned goods to the next CEC meeting at 6:30pm on Monday, December 18, 2017 at the CWA Hall, 1408 N. Washington Avenue, Dallas. At this meeting, all Democratic candidates will draw for ballot positions. Following the drawing, DCDP will host a Holiday Party. The party is free, with donations accepted for drinks and barbecue. The new DCDP Oral History Project, initiated by Hon. Harryette Ehrhardt, will provide the entertainment in the form of a panel of elected officials, who will share humorous stories from their personal histories with the Party. Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel will serve as emcee. Attendees are encouraged to become a member of the Oral History Project for a tax-deductible \$40 membership fee. On January 27, 2018, DCDP will host a training session on how to take oral histories for this project. For more information contact DCDP Executive Director Carmen Ayala at 214-821-8331.

Learn how you can get more involved by visiting www.dallasdemocrats.org!

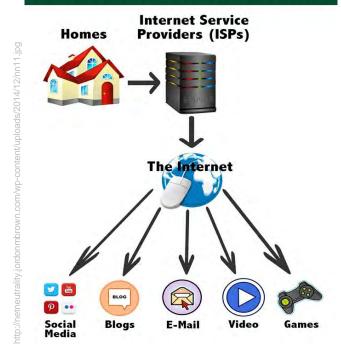
Yours Democratically, Carol Donovan Dallas County Democratic Party, Chair

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ARTICLE

Net Neutrality

How The Internet is Today



— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

Definition: Internet neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers (ISP) should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites.

Net neutrality is not a term most of us are familiar with but it can be extremely important if it disappears. First it would give Internet service providers, the people that own satellites and computers that help your computer communicate using the internet the power to control what websites you can contact and which ones you cannot contact.

That is a step toward creating an internet much like cable TV. You select which channels or package they want and you are charged accordingly. ISPs serving this area include Spectrum (Time Warner), Frontier (was Verizon), Directy, and Dish.

ISPs would have the power to charge websites for space on the internet and then charge you to access that website or simply vary the quality or speed that the website downloads to your computer. How many people would pay a fee, say \$10 a month just for Facebook. Oh, you want the weather channel too, another \$10 or you can choose package A for only \$50 a month and you can visit up to 20 websites per day for 30 minutes each. The device to monitor your access is only a few dollars more after you pay your registration fee.

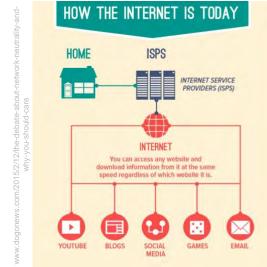
Our world is built around the internet. It is the home entertainment of choice for nearly everyone. Many of the phone options use the internet. It is critical to business communications. It is a constant source of information. We can pay our bills and monitor our financial accounts using the internet. We contact friends and family using email or social websites. You can instantly see pictures of friends and relatives. Retail business is growing rapidly on the internet because of the convenience of shopping from home.

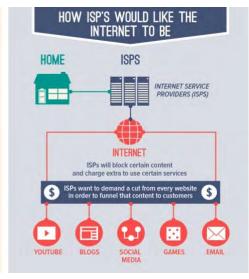
The story gets worse. If the ISP can control portions of the internet so can the government. We already have a President that presents legitimate TV news channels as Fake news. He would jump at the opportunity to create a government run website with a studio in the White House and demand that ISPs carry the broadcasts to every customer. The internet is a much more efficient method of delivering a message than the morning newspaper delivered to your home or Government controlled radio or TV.

The main reason the net has been successful is it is free speech at its optimum and open to the whole world except for the monthly fee you pay to the ISP. Why should anyone be allowed to take that from us. If we allow the Trump administration to destroy net neutrality nothing will be obvious immediately but 5 or 10 years from the internet will

be a disaster!







GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE BITS & PIECES

Call to Action

Given the continuing backward bashing of Hillary Clinton's 2015-2016 financial support for the Democratic National Committee, I am so looking forward to all the new money which will undoubtedly flow to the DNC's 2018 Election efforts from all the Hillary Clinton critics!

Also, am waiting for the "new" enlightened leadership to speak up and show us the way! 2018 is just ahead — don't be shy! Why comment on the past when it's the future that lies ahead?

Don't think that leadership for the future is shown by criticizing the one women who actually was qualified to be President and who actually broke the glass ceiling that women have faced. America is a better place because of Hillary Clinton's multiples of contributions! Future leader(s) — show us your stuff!

While waiting, I am looking forward to joining a large crowd of supporters on November 17th to welcome Hillary and Bill Clinton to the DFW area. As supporters who appreciate the 40-plus years which Hillary and Bill Clinton have given to making America and the World places where women and children's lives are improved, respected and supported, it will be great to have them back in our area. Women's Rights are Human Rights.

[NOTE: The Clinton's visit was a great success. ed] Katherine Savers McGovern FaceBook 11/03/17

Thoughts on Brazile Controversy

I cannot see into Donna Brazile's mind (I always thought she was a smart cookie) but it seems that she thinks elections are about summer camp for campaign employees and not votes. The "sorry candidate," she thought should have been replaced, won the popular vote by 2.8 million votes and Hillary — that "poor candidate" — would be President today if we did not have the remnants of 18th Century white supremacy on the book in the form of the electoral college!

The problem is not with Clinton but that the Democratic campaign intelligentsia did not learn anything from the 2000 when another conservative was sent to the White House with fewer votes than the liberal candidate and do everything possible to rid the country of the electoral college. And now, that same cadre of "wise one" has seen another liberal candidate get beat not because of the lack of votes, but because when we elect our President — and only Our president — 18th Century thinking still rules!! I guess, what we have to learn about the political establishment is that we do not learn! [Query NPV compact initiative.] Steve Love FaceBook 11/5/17

Responses

Velma Martin: All these Dem peaceniks drive me nuts. Politics is not Sunday School. They get all sanctimonious and preachy. The DNC signed an agreement with Clinton....smart move on her part.....the DNC was broke. What an embarrassment that would have been. Sorry folks, the convention is cancelled.....no funds. Wonder what Brazille what thinking back then when they cashed Clinton's check? Or when she gave the Clinton campaign the questions to the debate in advance of the debate. Hmmmmm......

Carol Holt: When I lived in DC she was hard to like. Marion Barry crony. Well said, Steve! I agree with the MSNBC commentator who stated this was a ploy to sell books. Well said!

George Nowik: Brazile is trying hard to hawk a book— She overstates her importance & power in DNC and conveniently "overlooks" that Hillary beat the crap out of Slanders by 4,000,000 votes in the primary.

Donna Brazile is entitled to her own opinion.

However, I am proud to have supported Hillary Clinton in her run for Democratic nominee for Hillary Clinton for President 2016. It's convenient to blame Hillary yet again for the Trump win — however, it's undisputed that Hillary won the popular vote in spite of the headwinds which she faced not only from the GOP/Trump campaign, the Russians, but also from those who would only vote for Bernie.

The Democratic Party has the right to chose a Democrat over a pseudo "Democrat" who did not have the courage to run as a "Democrat-Socialist", Independent or whatever. In 2017-2018, the Democratic Party has the right to decide for itself who will represent it in the General Election. The demand that the candidate(s) actually work for the Democratic Party is reasonable. The members of the Democratic Party decide on its platform and its campaign funding. All who share Democratic principles are welcome — whether one supported Hillary, Bernie, Biden, or other candidates — 2016 is over, but we don't have to keep examining our belly buttons — or to continue to blame Hillary.

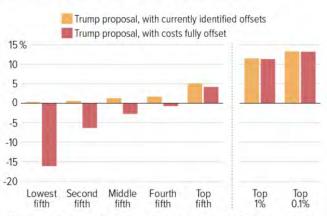
While Hillary and Bill Clinton have been and are powerful forces for good in the Democratic Party—the more time we Democrats focus our energies on re-living 2016, the m ore time we lose in putting together effective campaigns for 2018, 2019 and 2020—to simply refer to years where there will be federal, state, and local elections—not to mention the non-partisan school PTA, school boards, volunteer boards in which we can participate for the common good of the future.

Katherine Savers McGovern [From a post by Dwain Handley FaceBook 11/03/17 Donna Brazile = Hero]

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE BULLETIN BOARD

Bottom Four-Fifths of Households Would Lose Under Trump Tax Approach, Once Fully Financed

Percent change in after-tax income by income group, 2018



Note: the tax plan proposed by the Trump Administration does not fully offset the costs of its proposed tax cuts with revenue-raising provisions. The Tax Policy Center analysis considers three scenarios for fully offsetling the tax cuts, including the scenario shown here, "equal dollar financing," which means that each household pays an equal dollar amount each year to finance the tax cut.

Source: Tax Policy Center

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES I CBPR ORG

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Contact: Rachel Baker Ford, editor <u>MultiSMus@aol.com</u> (972) 530-6484 / 214-773-4004

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Inquires can be made to Charles E. Ford, Jr. chuckford76@yahoo.com (214)773-7591 or Rachel Baker Ford: (972)530-6484, (214)773-4004. MultiSMus@aol.com



Re-elect Carol Donovan Dallas County Democratic Chair

In kind donation : GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE, Rachel Baker Ford, editor





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