READ MY LIPS
WHY
AMERICANS
ARE PROUD
TO PAY TAXES
VANESSA S. WILLIAMSON

OK POLICY
2018 STATE BUDGET SUMMIT

JANUARY 25TH 2018
“Taxpayer March on Washington.”

Salon

Seattle Times
All accumulation of personal property, beyond what a man’s own hands produce, is derived to him by living in society, and he owes on every principle of justice, of gratitude, and of civilization a part of that accumulation back again to the society from whence it came.

Thomas Paine, *Agrarian Justice*, 1797
Woman now holds a vast amount of the property in the country and pays her full proportion of taxes....

On what principle then do you deny her representation?

National Women’s Rights Convention, 1866
WE WORK HARD, WE PAY TAXES
WE DESERVE RIGHTS

MY MUSLIM FAMILY PAYS MORE TAXES THAN TRUMP

I Work Hard & Pay Taxes

Soy Indocumentada y Pago Impuestos
Donde Estan los Tuyos? Trump

MYUSTAXUSTAXES
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NEAR-CONSENSUS ON THE DUTY OF TAXPAYING

- Not reporting all income or your taxes is ‘morally wrong’ (Pew)
- 'Cheating' on your taxes is 'morally wrong' (CNN, Time)
- 'Wrong' for a taxpayer to 'not report all of his income' (CIS)
- 'Not so wrong to cheat a little' since 'government spends too much.' Disagree: (ABC/WaPo)
- Spending is out of control,' so 'nothing wrong with holding back a little bit on taxes.' Disagree: (Time)
- 'Paying a fair share is 'every American's civic duty.' (IRS)
RISING SUPPORT FOR STATE TAX INCREASES

Figure 0.1. The Success of Tax-Increasing State Ballot Measures, 1977–2014
ANGER AT OTHERS NOT PAYING THEIR SHARE

...Which bothers you the most about taxes?

- The feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share
- The feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share
- The complexity of the tax system
- The amount you pay in taxes
- The feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share
- Other (Vol.)
- Don't know/Refused
"The Taxpayer Gap"
Most people say they are taxpayers, but think that fewer Americans are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Taxpayers, self-described</th>
<th>Taxpayers, perceived</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>67%</td>
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Source: 2014 national survey of U.S adults

THE MONKEY CAGE
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U.S. BORDER
LOTS OF FREE STUFF AHEAD
HEALTHCARE · EDUCATION · HOUSING
FOOD · CONTRACEPTION · ABORTION
PHONES · CASH · DENTAL·SERVICES
SPONSORED BY THE DEMOCRATIC NATL. COMMITTEE

NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGALS
NO LEGAL = NO JOB!
NO MORE GOVT. FREE FOOD STAMPS/MEDICAL!

I’LL REGISTER MY GUNS WHEN ILLEGALS REGISTER TO PAY TAXES.

GIVE US FREE
HEALTH CARE
JOBS - NO TAXES
HOUSE
FOOD
YOU OWE US AMERICA!

ILLEGALS STOP ABUSING U.S.
SOCIAL SYSTEMS!
A FOOTNOTE ABOUT TAXPAYING BY UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE

- Undocumented people pay the same sales tax as everyone else at the store, and the same gas tax at the gas station. Undocumented people pay the same property taxes as any other property owner.

- 6 million undocumented people file federal income taxes every year, using special numbers called “ITINs.”

- Undocumented people also pay $15 billion in Social Security payroll taxes, though they do not qualify for Social Security. Without these payments, Social Security would have entered into a state of persistent revenue shortfall starting in 2009, according to the chief actuary of the Social Security Administration.
WE WORK HARD
WE PAY TAXES

NO AMNESTY FOR "ILLEGALS!"
NO LEGAL = NO JOB!
NO MORE "GOVT. FREE"
U.S. - SCHOOLS, ETC.
FIND STAMPS/MEDICAL
There are 47 percent who are... dependent on government, who believe that they are victims, who believe that government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, you name it... These are people who pay no income tax.

Mitt Romney, 2012 presidential campaign.
“There’s a woman in Chicago... she has 80 names, 30 addresses, 12 Social Security cards and is collecting benefits...

Her tax-free income alone is over $150,000.”

Ronald Reagan, 1980 presidential campaign.
“Redemption governments, often describing themselves as the “rule of the taxpayer,” frankly constituted themselves champions of the property owner against the propertyless and allegedly untaxed masses.”

Historian C. Vann Woodward
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THANK YOU
WHAT ARE YOU GLAD/UPSET TAX DOLLARS PAY FOR?