

Are Democrats Actually Conservative?

by
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Are Democrats actually conservatives in disguise? Most people will emphatically say, , “**NO!**,” to labeling Democrats as conservatives. The media and a small number of liberals have pushed the “liberal” concept to such a point that both political parties believe that there are two distinct groups of people – conservatives and liberals.

What many miss however is that Democrats are just as concerned as conservatives when it comes to managing and spending their own money. Now many of you will probably say that is a lot of BS. But let’s ask just one question, “How many Senators and Representatives are worth less than \$150,000?”

The answer is “O.” The annual salary of our American lawmakers is \$174,000 which is 3 times more than the average wage of American workers (\$51,960). USA Today

According to Bloomberg Tax, Democrats represent 65% of taxpayers with a household income of \$500,000 or more. Democrats also dominate the poorest voting districts of the nation and most of the richest districts. There is no doubt that income inequality exists and will always exist. This is a truth for any government or social system. There will always be the poor and the rich. The problem in the US is that the middle ground between these two extremes is shrinking.

Democrats who have the well-being of American in mind have all but disappeared from Congress due to gerrymandered districts and hyper-partisanship party-line voting. In other words Democrat votes are not for what is best for the people. Keep that in mind as Biden and the Democrats try to push a tax-break bill through Congress.

Since Biden and the Democrats are pushing for a so-called tax break we need to ask are tax breaks good? Not necessarily. Consider the impact of Clinton’s 1993 tax bill:

- Median incomes rose 26%
- Top 5% income earners rose 48%
- Bottom 10% incomes rose 19%

This sounds good, until you look at the impact of the Trump tax bill which capped the federal tax deduction for state and local taxes at \$10,000. Those in the low and middle income brackets were not affected, however for those top earners; they lost a major deduction on their federal returns.

For retirees the Social Security COLA of 8.7% also sounds great until you look at some of the “hidden” costs to retirees. For example:

- Individuals with earned income of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes.
- Maximum taxable earnings increased from \$147,000 to \$160,000 which will result in more tax income for the government.
- Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts increased from \$19,560/yr. to \$21,240/yr, results are similar to the maximum taxable earnings above.

When inflation and recession costs are integrated into the COLA costs the middle and low income brackets will experience a greater impact on their standard of living than the high middle to high income earners.

So who are the people making these decisions that affect us. There is one fact that is common with every congressional member, which, like most Americans, they are just as concerned with where and how their money is spent.

We also know that Democrats have consistently pushed tax bills that they claim are aimed at the top earners and not the middle or low income earners. We also know that whatever bills they pass, the middle and low income earners pay increased taxes every year.

According to "Roll Call," the cumulative worth of congressional members for the 115th Congress was at least **\$2.43 billion**, 20% more than the previous Congress. Of the 115th Congress, 12 congressional members accounted for more than half of the total net worth of Congress. Roughly 45% to 50% of Senators and Representatives are worth \$1 million or more. The net worth of the top 20 wealthiest members, ranges from \$28 million at the bottom to \$283 million at the top.

When viewed from the perspective of a congressional member's worth, it is difficult for the average American to believe that that Congress really cares about the well-being of the American population, especially those in the middle and low income brackets, and especially in light of the net worth of the 115th Congress exceeded the previous Congress by 20%.

Getting back to the title of this commentary, "Are Democrats Actually Conservative?" the answer is unequivocally **YES** when it comes to their wealth, but a resounding **NO** when it comes to your money and wealth. Just like the slave owners of the past, the rich congressional members apparently do not care about the middle and low income groups.

When typified by class, the tendency is for each social class to look down on the lower classes. So, given this tendency, how can we expect the "rich" congressional members (45-50%) to truly desire income equality? Such a desire would make them altruistic, which means that they would promote the welfare of the lower classes even at a risk or cost to themselves.