

American Priorities

For

Working Families

Good Jobs are the first step to the American Dream

THE BIG PICTURE

Good jobs come from good public policy. Fair taxation that ensures adequate funding of public services like schools and roads; sensible business regulations that guard against fraud, abuse, and unstable “boom and bust” cycles; workplace justice that allows employees to organize for higher pay, better benefits and dignity on the job—these are all important factors in building a good-jobs economy.

FACT CHECK

- > Working-family incomes have been stagnant for 40 years
- > Productivity (the amount of work done per employee) has increased dramatically, but workers have not shared in the benefits, which have instead flowed to corporate profits and investor income
- > Taxes on the wealthiest Americans have been cut repeatedly and now are at their lowest levels since the 1920s, while schools, roads and other public services are crumbling
- > Union membership is the lowest since the Great Depression, as employers use illegal and unethical tactics to keep their employees unorganized, uninformed and powerless

WRONG ANSWER: CUTTING TAXES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Our economy became imbalanced not because the government is too powerful, but because multinational corporations and wealthy individuals are. Cutting taxes will only give those with most of the money and power more of it; shrinking government will take away the only counterbalance to this concentrated wealth.

ECONOMIES WORK BEST WITH GOOD JOBS

A strong and stable economy is one in which the profits of hard work are broadly shared. This is best accomplished through well-paying, secure jobs with good benefits and working conditions. Our economy today is unbalanced, with too much money flowing to the top and too little to working families, making it vulnerable to large-scale disruptions like the current Great Recession.

MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.workingamerica.org/>
<http://usaction.org/>

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