THE NEXT SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE?

President’s Overview: Freedom is Working

2018’s Policy Victories (So Far)

FreedomWorks for America’s 2018 Lineup
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PRESIDENT’S OVERVIEW:
FREEDOM IS WORKING

By Adam Brandon

A year ago, the position in which we find ourselves today would have been tough to imagine.

In the summer of 2017, Congress was very publicly dropping the ball on the ObamaCare Repeal and Replacement issue, polls showed a huge advantage for Democrats in the generic ballot and the media was on the attack like never before – brazenly cheerleading for a Democrat takeover of Congress.

Ok, maybe that last part hasn’t changed.
Some things certainly have however. Most generic ballot polls now point to a horse race for the fall.
So what’s made the difference?
The Left’s growing radicalism has played a role. Frustration and disgust with Special Investigator Robert Mueller’s never-ending investigation has as well. And yes, every election year is chockfull of ups and downs.

But the biggest change is that the American people are seeing the results of many policies you and I have fought for years to implement.

The following pages of FreedomWorks’ Quarterly Magazine will fill you in on many of the details. Of course, I know you already get the big picture.

Your help passing last year’s historic tax reform bill is producing exactly the kind of results we knew it would. So are the Regulatory Action Center’s efforts working with the administration to slash red tape.

As CNBC recently reported, “Economic Growth for Second Quarter is on Pace to Double 2017’s Full Year Pace.” In fact, the economy is so strong CNN hasn’t bothered to update their online “Trump Jobs Tracker” since January!

Politicos and talking heads love to talk economic numbers. Whether it’s black and Hispanic unemployment at
record lows, layoffs at a 50-year low or strong GDP numbers, there are plenty of numbers to point to.

To the American people, however, it’s not really about the numbers we like to toss around. It’s about seeing their paychecks get bigger. It’s about more good jobs being available. It’s about watching what happens when Washington, D.C.’s Big Government Leviathan finally takes its foot off our neck — even for just a bit.

Not everything is rosy. It never is. Congress is still spending too much. Our national healthcare system under what’s left of ObamaCare is still a mess. Reports show Medicare will run dry in 2024 and Social Security in 2035 if nothing is done.

And of course, mid-term elections are always tough for the party in power.

Nevertheless, there’s reason to be optimistic about our chances — especially after some big wins during the early 2018 primary season, including Patrick Morrisey’s come-from-behind win in West Virginia and Matt Rosendale’s primary win in Montana.

With the summer upon us and campaigns heating up, we’re about to enter the final brutal stretch before Election Day 2018. November has a chance to be special with the Senate map showing Democrats must defend 26 seats to Republicans’ 9.

Our only choice is to fight like never before.

But as you read through the following pages, please remember that you’re seeing the impact your generosity is making today. So are the rest of the American people. And that’s what’s making the difference.

Adam Brandon is
President of FreedomWorks
With total Republican control of Washington, D.C. after the smoke cleared from the 2016 elections, many conservatives were hopeful for big things.

While this Congress certainly got off to a rocky start in 2017 with the failure to repeal and replace ObamaCare, FreedomWorks’ generous supporters didn’t give up.

Thanks to their support, we’ve been able to achieve some important wins since then — and are working on more even as the November 2018 mid-terms begin to suck up all of the political oxygen in Washington, D.C.

Of course, the two biggest wins of this congressional session were the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court and the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

But FreedomWorks counts eight more legislative victories over the past 18 months, which have passed both chambers of Congress and been signed into law.

Most of these victories are the rollback of midnight regulations finalized by the Obama administration through the Congressional Review Act of 1996, a law that had only been successfully used one time prior to the 115th Congress.

We saw another victory on May 22, when the House sent the Right to Try Act (S. 204) to President Trump’s desk for his signature. The full title of the bill is the “Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act,” named for victims of diseases that do not yet have a cure — people Right to Try is intended to help.

As you know, Right to Try is based on state-level initiatives to allow terminally ill patients to have access to potentially life-saving drugs that have cleared the initial phase of the FDA’s approval process when no other alternatives exist. Right to Try is now law in 40 states.

Although the Right to Try Act had passed the Senate unanimously in August of 2017, the House didn’t immediately move the bill right away. But after President Trump mentioned Right to Try as a legislative priority of the White House in his first State of the Union address, it was clear there would be action.

Still, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) had reservations about the bill and wanted to make changes.

After months of waiting, the House finally passed the Right to Try Act, delivering a key domestic policy victory for the White House and a glimmer of hope to terminally ill patients and their families.

During the legislative battle, FreedomWorks drove nearly 250,000 messages to Members of Congress in support of the Right to Try Act. On May 30, President Trump signed the bill into law.

A second victory also occurred on May 22 with the

In March, the Senate passed this bill with bipartisan support, which provides financial institutions and consumers with targeted relief from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010.

The Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act doesn’t repeal Dodd-Frank, but it does move toward a more market-oriented framework. The House passed a more comprehensive Dodd-Frank bill in June 2017 that would have rolled back much of the 2010 law. Unfortunately, there was no path forward for the bill in the Senate.

Despite the differing visions of financial reform, the House passed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, sending it to President Trump’s desk. President Trump signed it into law on May 24.

Both Right to Try and the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Acts are important wins. But there’s good reason to believe there’s more in store.

May 22 also saw the passage of the FIRST STEP Act (H.R. 5682) by an overwhelming margin, 360 to 59. Only two Republicans voted against it. The bill focuses on creating programs in prison to reduce the rates of repeat offenders.

Hurdles still remain. Democrats are trying to stall the bill in the Senate because they don’t want President Trump – who mentioned prison reform as a priority in his State of the Union address – to succeed where President Obama failed. Despite the fact that the leaders of the prison reform effort are from traditionally Republican states like Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas, Democrats see this as a potential wedge issue.

There is still a long way to go to pass the FIRST STEP Act, but we’re working with our allies in the Senate to get a deal that will move the bill forward to the next part of the process.

The legislative process is never easy – especially in today’s cutthroat environment. There are several more bills that FreedomWorks supports that have passed the House but were stalled in the Senate.

But we have several victories that FreedomWorks is proud of, and there are potentially more on the horizon. Rest assured – with the help of our supporters – FreedomWorks will continue battling every step of the way.

President Donald Trump kisses Jordan McLinn, a Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy patient, after signing the “Right to Try” act in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus, Wednesday, May 30, 2018, in Washington.
Four years ago, Dave Brat was an economics professor at Randolph-Macon College before famously toppling U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. Today, Congressman Brat is one of the most fiscally conservative members of the House Republican Conference, boasting a 99 percent lifetime score on FreedomWorks’ Congressional Scorecard.

This summer, FreedomWorks will present Congressman Brat with his third FreedomFighter Award. The award is given to members of the House and Senate who consistently vote to support economic freedom and individual liberty.

A member of the House Freedom Caucus, Congressman Brat has taken pro-freedom, limited-government positions time and time again – even when to do so is unpopular among his colleagues. This year alone, he has voted against legislation to allow warrantless surveillance of Americans and opposed a budget to increase spending by nearly $300 billion over two years. He also signed a letter against bringing back earmarks, which would bring back pork barrel projects. In the past, politicians have used earmarks to effectively buy votes back home with U.S. taxpayer dollars.

In addition to these strong stands, Congressman Brat also voted to pass the Right to Try Act, S. 204, to give terminally ill patients with no other options left the ability to try potentially life-saving drugs. He also voted to pass the FIRST STEP Act, H.R. 5682, to implement programs to reduce recidivism in federal prisons. Both of these are domestic priorities of President Trump.

Although legislation to repeal and replace ObamaCare failed in the Senate, Rep. Brat introduced the Health Savings Account Expansion Act, H.R. 247, that would allow Americans to save more of their own money tax-free and use HSAs to pay their premiums. This is a free market health insurance option that FreedomWorks strongly supports.

While it’s true that most Republicans claim to be in favor of limited government and less spending, Congressman Brat is a shining star in the GOP caucus because he has a record to back up his rhetoric. Congressman Brat is a proven fighter for free markets and individual freedom, and FreedomWorks is proud to count him as an ally and friend.
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THE ROAD TO DRAINING THE SWAMP

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

Trump International Hotel
1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

ATTORNEY GENERAL PATRICK MORRISEY (WV SENATE CANDIDATE)
REPRESENTATIVE DAVID SCHWEIKERT (AZ-6)
REPRESENTATIVE ROD BLUM (IA-1)
REPRESENTATIVE JIM JORDAN (OH-4)

TICKETS
GENERAL ADMISSION: $1,200
VIP TICKETS: $2,000

RSVP TO PARISSA SEDGHI FORNWALT BY AUGUST 24, 2018
PSEDGHI@FREEDOMWORKS.ORG OR (202) 942-7645
Remember earmarks, those infamous, special-interest spending provisions party leaders used to sprinkle over legislation like sugar to get representatives and senators to hold their noses and vote yes on bills they would otherwise oppose?

You probably haven’t heard about earmarks lately, thank goodness. Republicans banned them when the Tea Party class came to Washington in 2010 opposed to the crony corruption. Who can forget pork-barrel embarrassments like the “Bridge to Nowhere,” the “Monuments to Me” projects that members got named after themselves, or the turtle tunnel in Florida (yes, it’s a tunnel for turtles)? Earmarks were everything Americans couldn’t stand about Washington – corrupt, wasteful, entitled, and out of touch.

But on Thursday, a House committee will hold a hearing to see about bringing them back. Earmarks were the original Swamp Thing, and just like in Hollywood, Washington is never above an ill-advised sequel to make a quick buck.

Earmark fans never left Washington, of course. They’ve just been laying low, waiting for memories of their waste and abuse to fade. And seven years on, they think they have found a nifty argument to carry pork-barrel spending back into polite company. That argument is the dysfunction in Congress over the last seven years. “See,” they say, “Congress can’t get anything done anymore. Earmarks may not be great, but they are the industrial lubricant of the sausage-making factory that is Congress, and bringing them back will get the machine working properly again.”

Like many terrible political arguments, it’s superficially appealing. Congress is indeed dysfunctional today. And earmarks probably would make it easier for party leaders to buy the votes they need to pass the bills they write. But the real problem here is this conceit that party leaders have a natural mandate to exclusively write legislation.

There was a time when one could reasonably argue that, between them, Republican and Democratic elites represented the public. But today, both parties are distrusted, both by their own members and the growing number of independents who refuse to associate with either party. And the institution where they supposedly do their representing, Congress, is utterly despised. That’s not because of a lack of earmarks. It’s because of a well-deserved lack of trust in our governing institutions, and the people who run them.

Earmarks can’t bring back the trust Congress has squandered. Only transparency and accountability can do that.

The fight over earmarks is really a fight over two competing visions of how Congress should govern. The Washington establishment likes the current system where party leaders negotiate and write bills behind closed doors, often orchestrating a legislative cliff so that members are left with a binary choice between two terrible options. This system keeps the campaign and lobbying cash flowing through...
leadership offices and their alumni on K Street. The tough decisions are made in secret without any accountability. But no one likes the current arrangement of government-by-cliff. So, the swamp hopes, all that is needed is a little earmark lubricant to keep the game going.

But the fact is that this corrupt system excludes all but a handful of representatives and senators, and so effectively disenfranchises hundreds of millions of Americans. Bringing back earmarks will only make that situation worse.

The alternative system would be one of transparency, decentralization, and accountability. Representatives and senators would write legislation collaboratively, in the open, forging popular compromises and taking tough votes. Anytime someone says, “What we really need to do is get everyone in a room to hammer out the details,” remember, the Constitution provides for two such rooms: the House and Senate chambers. The reason Congress doesn’t work today is that both party establishments are afraid of the electoral consequences of the public actually seeing a free-wheeling debate they can’t control.

The path of transparency and accountability would require members to do the hard work of learning about issues and forming and defending coherent positions. It would be far easier to just let leadership do all the thinking for them and accept the occasional earmark they can tout to constituents back home.

But this superficially easy path is what has led us to the highly dysfunctional and divisive status quo. Earmarks would make life easier for politicians, but worse for the country. That Washington is even considering such a bargain explains why Congress is held in such disdain.

Eventually, Congress will reform itself, and so restore itself to its proper role in the federal government and in American life. Earmarks are just one more bad idea we need to discard before we finally face the truth and do our jobs.

Mike Lee is a U.S. Senator from Utah

Senator Mike Lee’s Op-Ed was originally placed at the Washington Examiner on 1/18/18
Within minutes of talking with Mr. Beckner, you will quickly discover – despite his tremendous track record of success – a humble attitude and a deeply held passion for liberty.

Few people have experienced the leadership success Mr. Beckner has seen in both the for-profit and non-profit worlds. But rather than talking about his past successes and experiences, Mr. Beckner would rather discuss pressing issues such as entitlement reform and scaling back the regulatory state.

It all started in the summer of 1979 when Mr. Beckner discovered economist Murray Rothbard’s *For a New Liberty* at a local Washington, D.C. bookstore. After originally flirting with socialist ideas from his university, this was Mr. Beckner’s life-changing moment as he realized that the ideas of liberty are the winning principles to a free and prosperous society.

Ever since then, Mr. Beckner has been a champion for free markets and personal liberty. Along the way in his fight for freedom, he gained extensive experience by working for Students for a Libertarian Society and Dick Randolph (former State Rep. of Alaska). Following that, he returned to school to receive his M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Beckner also spent some time in the private sector before realizing that his heart really lied in the conservative movement. This led him to accept a position at Citizens for a Sound Economy (now known as FreedomWorks) because he recognized a definitive need for grassroots activism among freedom-friendly groups.

After several years as President of CSE, he returned for another stint in the private sector, ultimately serving as Principal of Freedom Management Group and on the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations under the Bush Administration.

Later, after attending a FreedomWorks’ Restore Liberty event, Mr. Beckner’s relationship with our organization was rekindled, leading to his return to FreedomWorks as the Foundation’s Chairman of the Board where he currently serves.

Q: How do you feel about our current political landscape? What do you think conservatives need to do to win this year?

Beckner: Part of it is talking about the good things that have happened over the last year and a half: lower taxes, a significant reduction in the regulatory state, good economic growth, good job growth, and I think that is in large measure a function of more free market orientated policies that have been implemented over the last couple of years. So I think there is a track record that people really ought to talk about. And I think they need to talk about the need to do more. There was a lot of progress on corporate taxes, less on individual taxes, so I think that could be revisited. Obviously we haven’t gotten rid of Obamacare; there is more work that needs to be done on the regulatory side. On the welfare side, entitlement reform is the big issue that the country is going to face. Presenting that vision of a growing economy, a vibrant
nation, can be carried forward based on the track record of the last eighteen months is what the candidates ought to be talking about.

Q: As you know, grassroots activism stands as the bedrock of FreedomWorks, how important is grassroots activism in reducing the scope of government and pushing for free market solutions?

Beckner: People are best persuaded by their friends and neighbors. And the cacophony of messages that they are going to get between now and November will pretty much tune out or get confused. But I think that the people that are knocking on doors and going to campaign events, and talking to people about why we need to advance these policies is the thing that is going to get the undecideds to move in our direction. And I think FreedomWorks is greatly positioned to be able to have an impact, particularly on those key races where we can talk about the issues from our perspective and persuade those people to vote for the candidate that is going to advance those issues.

Q: Mr. Beckner, drawing from your experience in the non-profit sector, what advice would you give to FreedomWorks’ donors as they measure the return on their investment to our organization and others?

Beckner: That’s a really good question. In the non-profit world, it is very easy to fall into a pattern of doing things that make you feel good but don’t necessarily get the job done. FreedomWorks has always been results-oriented. They have always focused on measuring results, adapting, changing, and adjusting things that don’t work. The technology of grassroots mobilization has changed dramatically since I have been involved, and I think that FreedomWorks has always been on the cutting edge of that, and they are today. And for a donor, that’s fantastic because it gets you beyond, “I believe in this cause and I’m going to give money because it makes me feel good;” it’s, “I’m giving to this cause, and I’m going to see the results of my contribution because FreedomWorks will deliver those results.”

I would want them to know that their work with FreedomWorks is incredibly valuable. The leverage that FreedomWorks has extends far beyond the dollars that they have at their disposal. The work that the activists do has a tremendous impact, and they just need to keep it up.

I think it always comes back to freedom versus power. And we need to move our country in the direction of freedom where human flourishing can occur because people are free to act.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY OF LIBERTY

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

RONALD REAGAN

We would like to invite you to leave a permanent legacy for liberty by including FreedomWorks in your will or trust. Joining our Restore Liberty Legacy Society will ensure that whatever new challenges we face in the fight for liberty, FreedomWorks Foundation will be prepared to meet them.

For more information contact Parissa Sedghi Fornwalt at (202) 942-7645 or PSedghi@freedomworks.org
Earlier this year, Oklahoma’s Republican-controlled State Legislature passed H.B. 1010, which raised taxes by nearly $500 million. Included within this massive tax increase were hikes on oil and gas production, a $1.00 per pack increase on cigarettes, increases on gas and diesel fuel and a tax on hotel and motel stays.

Throughout the entire legislative process, our activists were contacting their legislators and visiting Oklahoma City to oppose this legislation. But Republican majorities in the State House and Senate still passed the money grab.

Our activists then turned their attention to the Republican Governor Mary Fallin and urged her to veto this tax hike immediately. Unfortunately, she too supported the $500 million tax hike, and on March 29 signed H.B. 1010 into law.

Most activists would have given up there, and the story would be over. But Ronda Vuillemont-Smith – President of the Tulsa 9/12 Project and a member of our Activists Advisory Board – is refusing to accept defeat.

She had already led the effort to drive thousands of calls to state legislators and the governor, but now she’s working to repeal this tax hike using the only tool left: a veto referendum on the ballot in November.

Working with FreedomWorks and Oklahoma Taxpayers United, Ronda is working across the state to gather 43,000 signatures to allow Oklahoma voters to reject this tax hike at the ballot box. After gathering signatures, Ronda will spend the summer and fall educating voters on the tax hike and mobilizing support for repeal.

Of course, Democrats and union leaders – who stand to benefit most from these tax hikes – are already pushing back, hoping a court challenge will derail Ronda’s efforts.

One thing is for sure. With Ronda, they’re in for a big fight.
Working with FreedomWorks and Oklahoma Taxpayers United, Ronda is working across the state to gather 43,000 signatures to allow Oklahoma voters to reject this tax hike at the ballot box.
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A JIM JORDAN SPEAKERSHIP COULD SAVE 2018 FOR REPUBLICANS

By Adam Brandon

For congressional Republicans serious about draining the swamp, cutting spending, and returning to regular order, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) is the only choice for House Speaker.

When it comes to the obvious qualifiers, Jordan checks all the boxes: good seniority, affable personality, well-liked by his colleagues. But he also maintains a quality noticeably missing from the other top contenders for Speakership: credibility.

Unlike current Republican leadership, Rep. Jordan has earned the trust of his peers (and the GOP base at-large) with his proven commitment to cut spending and change the status quo in Washington.

You can bet a House with Speaker Jordan at the gavel will not be rushing $1.3 trillion spending bills through Congress without giving lawmakers a chance to read the legislation. It also won’t be taking show votes on balanced budget amendments right after sending the federal government toward trillion-dollar deficits as early as 2020.

Grassroots Americans genuinely believe a Speaker Jim Jordan would make Congress work again — not because of his words, but because of his actions. That’s why thousands of FreedomWorks activists nationwide launched a campaign this week to draft Rep. Jordan into the Speakership race.

The only way to help President Trump “drain the swamp” is to fundamentally change the way Congress operates. This starts with the Speaker of the House. Unlike the partisan positions of majority leader and majority whip, the Speakership is a constitutional office.

It is the responsibility of the Speaker to make sure all 12 appropriations bills are passed separately, and to preserve an open amendment process on legislation. The Speaker also takes charge of the House Rules Committee, where the GOP legislative agenda of spending cuts, entitlement reform, and health care reform will live or die based on his/her commitment to giving these issues a vote.

This Speakership race will draw a line in the sand, forcing Republican incumbents to put their commitment to an open legislative process on the record. A vote for Jim Jordan will be a vote for increased transparency in Congress, and a return to regular order. A vote for Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), by contrast, will be a vote for more of the same.
Jim Jordan is the only name that received unanimous consent from our FreedomWorks Activist Advisory Council, a coalition of top grassroots leaders from across the country. In less than 24 hours, fiscal conservatives have taken more than 8,000 grassroots actions to contact their representatives and voice support for a Jordan Speakership campaign on social media, using the hashtag #SpeakerJordan.

The level of grassroots energy surrounding Rep. Jordan is something FreedomWorks hasn’t seen in years. Republican incumbents should take this excitement as a strong indicator that selecting a fiscally conservative House Speaker would change the entire momentum of the 2018 midterm election cycle.

The fiscally conservative base of the GOP has long understood the swamp is bipartisan. They know that to pass good policy, sometimes you must beat the Republicans before you can beat the Democrats. That’s why the House Freedom Caucus has roughly three-dozen members and continues to quietly grow with every election cycle.

This speakership election is a battle for the soul of the Republican Party, and it will have a profound effect on Republican midterm election turnout. Past election cycles have proven that when Republicans act like Democrats, Republicans stay home. When they act like fiscal conservatives, Republican voters show up at the ballot box in droves.

A Jim Jordan Speakership would be an act of good faith to the fiscally conservative base of the GOP that the Republican majority is finally ready to start keeping their promises.

The path to victory for a true conservative to become House leadership is a challenge. It will require the American people to get engaged in the process and create an environment that forces Congress to do the right thing. It’s happened before, and it can happen again.

This is why FreedomWorks is committing its full institutional support behind Rep. Jim Jordan. If you believe in free markets and a functioning government, you should too.

Adam Brandon’s Op-Ed was originally published in The Hill on 4/20/18

Adam Brandon’s Op-Ed was originally published in The Hill on 4/20/18

For congressional Republicans serious about draining the swamp, cutting spending, and returning to regular order, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) is the only choice for House Speaker.
Has the “Blue Wave” the media has been predicting for months suddenly vanished? Many so-called political “experts” are worried it has. As one news headline I read recently whined, “Democrats Are Totally Blowing It.”

Now, it looks like a takeover of Congress by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) this November is no longer a sure thing. In fact, Republicans could very well hold the House and possibly even make gains in the Senate if we’re willing to stand together and fight!

FreedomWorks for America, FreedomWorks’ Super PAC, has had a strong primary season so far. Most notably, there was Patrick Morrisey’s come-from-behind victory in West Virginia – a candidate we endorsed all the way back in July of 2017!

As you probably remember, just days before that GOP Primary contest, the national media had all but declared former Massey Energy CEO and ex-con Don Blankenship the winner. With polls showing Blankenship with a strong lead, reporters were busy crowing about “another Alabama,” saying there was no way Blankenship could defeat Senator Joe Manchin in November.

But on Election Day, Patrick Morrisey won with 35% of the vote. “Swamp” candidate Evan Jenkins – a former Democrat with a dismal 56% lifetime FreedomWorks rating – finished second. Blankenship finished third. None of this was by accident.

In a race where less than 100,000 Republicans turned out, FreedomWorks for America contacted over 146,000 conservatives with an average of six digital advertisements, each communicating a pro-Morrisey message and providing polling location information.

Those efforts clearly played a major role in this race, as well as Matt Rosendale’s primary victory in Montana and several other U.S. House primaries.

The following is a snapshot of each U.S. race where FreedomWorks for America has endorsed candidates in 2018. With the help of our supporters, we’re hoping our success during the primaries is just the beginning.
UNITED STATES SENATE

Missouri
Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley has earned widespread support from the GOP, including FreedomWorks for America, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Club for Growth and President Donald Trump. He's taking on incumbent Senator Claire McCaskill who won her 2012 race with only 50% of the vote — during a very good year for the Democrat Party. Missouri is a R+9 state and this race is widely considered a "tossup." Missouri's Primary is August 7.

Montana
Republican State Auditor, rancher and successful businessman Matt Rosendale is taking on Democrat incumbent Jon Tester in a state rated R+11. Senator Tester is widely considered one of the most vulnerable Democrats up for reelection. Rosendale has been endorsed by U.S. Senators Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Mike Lee and the Club for Growth. This is a huge opportunity for a Republican pick up.

West Virginia
Patrick Morrisey built a strong record as West Virginia's Attorney General standing up to the Obama administration in court. After his primary victory, he's facing off against Democrat incumbent Joe Manchin — arguably the most vulnerable U.S. Senator facing reelection this year in this R+19 state. Senator Manchin is doing all he can to cozy up to the Trump administration. Our job over the next few months is to show how he's consistently put liberal special interests ahead of hardworking West Virginians.

Wisconsin
Kevin Nicholson is a Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite being a political newcomer, he's turned heads — earning the endorsements from FreedomWorks for America, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and the Club for Growth. Democrat incumbent U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin may not be as vulnerable as some of her other colleagues, but her reelection is no sure thing in this D+1 rated state. Nicholson faces a tough primary against Republican Leah Vukmir on August 14 who has some significant support.

UNITED STATES HOUSE

Arizona 1
As a State Senator, Steve Smith was named “Champion of the Taxpayer” by the Arizona Republican Party and the Club for Growth. He’s been endorsed by U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, Congressman Andy Biggs and is committed to joining the House Freedom Caucus if elected. He’s taking on Democrat incumbent Tom O’Halleran in this R+1 District.

Kentucky 4
With a FreedomWorks Lifetime Score of 96%, Congressman Thomas Massie is the gold standard for constitutionally limited government. He's voted against U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan for Speaker and occasionally gives leadership fits, so the Republican Party will likely do little in his race against Democrat activist Seth Hall this November. The good news is, Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District is solidly Republican, but it's still critical conservatives do all we can to lend Congressman Massie our support.
Florida 27
Maria Elivira Salazar is a Cuban-American journalist who’s worked for CNN, Univision, Telemundo and made regulator contributions to Fox News. She’s running to fill the seat being vacated by retiring GOP incumbent Ileana Ros-Lehtinen who earned a weak 51% score during her time in Congress.

Colorado 5
Congressman Doug Lamborn is an ardent social conservative in a solidly Republican seat, but has never had a strong grip on Colorado Springs. Congressman Lamborn has been a consistent vote for freedom, earning a 93% FreedomWorks Lifetime Score. We must continue to stand with him to show other Republicans standing for freedom leads to political success.

Idaho 1
Outgoing Republican Congressman Raúl Labrador holds a 95% lifetime FreedomWorks score and was a leader in the Freedom Caucus. Now that he's retiring, it's critical we keep this seat in Freedom Caucus hands. The good news is, Republican State Senator Russ Fulcher will do just that if he's able to defeat real estate agent Cristina McNeil in November.

Texas 3
As a State Senator, Van Taylor earned accolades like “Taxpayer Champion” and “Top-Rated Conservative.” He also created the “Truth in Taxation Rule” to force Texas politicians to disclose in the first line of any bill of attempts to raise taxes or fees. Taylor has been endorsed by FreedomWorks for America, Club for Growth and Empower Texas and is facing off against Democrat attorney Lori Burch in November. The seat is being vacated by Congressman Sam Johnson, who held an 83% FreedomWorks Lifetime Score. So this is a strong opportunity for a pick up.

Texas 21
Chip Roy is the former Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, a former federal prosecutor and has earned endorsements from Senator Cruz, former Governor Rick Perry, Club for Growth and FreedomWorks for America. After winning a crowded GOP Primary, Roy is headed for a showdown against Democrat businessman Joseph Kopser this fall. This is a strong opportunity for a pick up since retiring GOP incumbent Lamar Smith’s FreedomWorks Lifetime Score was only 73%.

Tennessee 7
After withdrawing his nomination to be President Trump’s Army Secretary in 2017, Dr. Mark Green is currently running unopposed in the August 2 GOP Primary to fill the seat being vacated by U.S. Senate candidate Marsha Blackburn. Dr. Green is a decorated Army special ops flight surgeon who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, even interrogating Saddam Hussein for six hours on the night of his capture. He recently sold the healthcare company he founded in 2007 for $200 million, and has been endorsed by FreedomWorks for America, Club for Growth, Senator Ted Cruz, Family Research Council Action PAC, the House Freedom Fund, Dr. Arthur Laffer and former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum. He’ll face off against Democrat digital media producer Justin Kanew this fall.
The Myth of “Wage Stagnation”

By Andrew Hill

A Leftist myth that has plagued Americans for years now is that of wage stagnation. People on the Left continue to ignore the benefits of the free market and how the Trump administration has helped create favorable conditions for business owners with lower taxes and the scaling back of the regulatory state.

In a recent episode of Not Fake News, Director of the Center for Economic Freedom, John Tamny dispels the myth of “wage stagnation” by showing how some business owners have overpaid their workers above the minimum wage in order to provide a long-term culture that reduces the expensive costs of employee turnover.

The episode highlights Eric Mason — a business owner in Sacramento — who raised wages for his employees well beyond California’s minimum wage from $12-13/hr to $17-18hr. Tamny begs the question: if pay were stagnant, does anyone think businesses would be paying so much in order to win and retain workers? Mason’s actions destroy the belief that businesses thrive off underpaying their workers.

It is no secret that paying workers well mitigates the expensive and time-consuming costs of employee turnover. Corporations of varying shapes and sizes understand that businesses succeed by providing employees with adequate compensation, which leads to motivated workers.

Tamny also highlights companies such as Amazon who have been known for their impressive pay, which just so happens to be the second most valuable company in the world.

Not Fake News is a weekly Facebook live stream hosted by John Tamny where he educates thousands of Americans on various relevant economic issues and eliminates economic falsehoods perpetuated by the Left. Tamny is also the Editor of RealClearMarkets, the author of several books including: Why We Should Abolish America’s Central Bank (May, 2016) and The End of Work, and a contributor to top-tier publications such as National Review and the Wall Street Journal.

Since its inaugural inception in August 2017, these weekly livestreams have generated over 500,000 views on Facebook. For weekly access to Not Fake News and other interesting videos, just visit FreedomWorks’ Facebook page.

It is no secret that paying workers well mitigates the expensive and time-consuming costs of employee turnover.
LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

(AND MAKING DISHWASHERS GREAT AGAIN)

By Patrick Hedger

One of the many things that has long been wrong with Washington, D.C. culture is the failure of most leading conservative organizations to effectively work together. Believing they’re in a winner-take-all competition for donor dollars, some organizations can seem more interested in advancing their own interests over the causes they support. FreedomWorks, of course, has never believed this. We're interested in results above all else – and we know our supporters are as well.

So this summer, our Regulatory Action Center (RAC) is teaming up with the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) in a strategic partnership that we’re hoping can serve as a model for many successful programs in the months and years to come.

In this case, our goal is to begin cleaning up our federal government’s over-regulation of dishwashers. As so many frustrated people throughout the country have learned, dishwasher cycle times have increased to nearly two-and-a-half hours on average and dishes are increasingly left looking like they’ve been dipped in a swamp. In this case, they actually have. In fact, your entire dishwasher has been bathed in Washington, D.C. Swamp regulations.

Now, most dishwashers take roughly twice as long to do a worse job than dishwashers from the 1970s. It’s so bad that many Americans actually have to pre- and post-wash their dishes. So much for efficiency.

Unlike many important but nuanced regulatory proceedings the RAC engages on, this one provides a direct, tangible example of a central planning regulatory boondoggle. The impact is sitting in almost everyone’s kitchen.

As a think tank, the Competitive Enterprise Institute was able to use its team of economists and attorneys to research this issue and successfully petition the Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE responded by opening a public comment period to gauge Americans’ interest (and frustration) with their dishwashers.

This is when CEI turned to FreedomWorks and the RAC for help.

In a coordinated public comment campaign with CEI, the RAC has thus-far driven nearly 2,000 activist-generated comments to the DOE. This is at least an 80 percent increase over what CEI would have been able to drive on its own. And this is just a start.

Interspersed with the usual calls for limited government and an end to unnecessary and burdensome regulations and central planning, our activists are also sharing compelling stories of their dishwasher woes. Just as CEI suspected, thousands of Americans have noticed that their government-approved dishwashers are taking longer and leaving their dishes dirty.

We plan to see this campaign with CEI through to the end, hopefully submitting comments to a subsequent regulatory proceeding that will relax these inefficient “efficiency” standards.

However, this campaign has already laid out a proven model for RAC engagement with partner organizations. This model will be pitched by FreedomWorks and CEI to representatives from Washington’s top think tanks and other groups engaged on regulatory reform at our first RAC Coalition Meeting in June.
2018 Alaska Cruise

August 11-18, 2018

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*IMPORTANT: to participate in Media Research Center events, this cruise must be booked only via The Cruise & Vacation Authority.
In collaboration with the Center for Economic Freedom, John Tamny produced the Center’s first book entitled *The End of Work*. The book is focused on the myriad of careers that are now possible thanks to the free market and economic innovation. Tamny uses easy-to-understand, real-world examples such as the game of baseball to show how a game enjoyed by many Americans has helped bring about careers for statisticians, economists, investment bankers, and salesmen. In this eye-opening book, Tamny dispels the belief that robots will take your job and conveys how they will instead give you a better one. He also dives into interesting topics such as why millennials will be the richest generation yet and why education is important but overrated.

*The End of Work*’s success has garnered the attention of people such as John Mackey, CEO of Whole Foods, who praised it by stating: “he shows how passion is becoming the path to a paycheck. The future of work is bright.”

John Tamny is the Director of the Center for Economic Freedom at FreedomWorks, the author of *Popular Economics* and *Who Needs the Fed?*, as well as an editor for RealClearMarkets.com and *Forbes*.

To purchase your copy of *The End of Work*, please visit Amazon.com.
On Christmas Eve, CNN’s Jake Tapper told Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), “Next year, 91 percent of middle income Americans will receive a tax cut.” Tapper asked, “Isn’t that a good thing?” Sanders replied, “Yeah, it is a very good thing. And that’s why we should’ve made the tax cuts for the middle class permanent.”

Could it be that a bipartisan policy consensus has finally emerged on Capitol Hill? The leaders of both parties and most rank and file members agree that the middle class tax cuts in the new tax law should be permanent. These cuts include lower income tax rates on the middle class, the doubling of the standard deduction, and the additional $1,000 per child tax credit, all of which are set to expire after 2025. So lawmakers should make them permanent now.

The first bill in Congress in 2018 should be a slam dunk by making all the Trump tax cuts for the middle class permanent. This is an important policy correction because the new tax law saves the typical middle class family between $1,000 and $3,000 a year. But because of arcane budget rules, which capped the revenue loss from the tax bill at $1.5 trillion over 10 years, those tax cuts vanish in eight years. The corporate tax cuts are permanent.

This was a shrewd political maneuver by Republican tax writers. The parts of the tax bill that are least popular with class warfare Democrats are permanent, while the parts of the bill that are most popular with Democrats are temporary. For weeks now, Democrats have been complaining that the middle class will face a tax increase after 2025. Many Americans have heard this drum beat and believe their taxes will go up now, which is the opposite of the truth.

The Associated Press reports that because of the expiration of the tax cuts “a majority of people earning less than $93,200 would, on average, absorb a tax increase in 2027.” Democrats and many in the media have been calling the Trump tax bill “a tax increase on the middle class.” Actually, in the first seven years of the bill, middle class families get about a one-third reduction in their federal income tax bill, according to an analysis by the Cato Institute. Republicans are betting that, just as happened with the Bush tax cuts of 2003, Democrats will extend the middle class tax cuts when the time comes.

So why not fix the problem immediately? A bill to prevent a tax hike on the middle class should sail through the House. In the Senate, the 60 vote requirement should be an easy hurdle to clear with at least a dozen votes to spare. What senator would vote for a tax increase on the middle class?

Deficit hawks may insist on “paying for” these tax cuts, but there’s an easy way to do that as well. The obvious revenue raiser is to make the repeal of the state and local tax deduction permanent. Right now, and inexplicably, that write-off is scheduled to come back to life in 2025. This would be an unwarranted giant tax cut for the very richest Americans. About half the benefit of the state and local tax deduction goes to the richest 2 percent or 3 percent of tax filers. Permanently eliminating this deduction not only pays for the extension of the middle class tax cuts, but it does so in a progressive way.

Part of this bipartisan deal could also be to eliminate the state and local tax deduction for corporations. It is unfair that small businesses can no longer deduct their state and local taxes, but Apple and Microsoft can. This reform would make corporations pay about $20 billion more tax each year, but preserve the lower rates. That’s consistent with the principle of tax reform that rates should be low, but loopholes should be closed.

Meanwhile, the combination of the lower tax rates, the doubling of the standard deduction, and the doubling of the child credit would save the average middle class family about $2,500 a year after 2025. Congressional Democrats may shrivel at the thought of voting to enshrine the Trump tax cut into law, but let’s find out if they are really working for the working class or not. This is an offer even Bernie Sanders will have a hard time turning down.

By Stephen Moore

DEMOCRATS SHOULD GET ON BOARD WITH MAKING TRUMP TAX CUTS PERMANENT

Stephen Moore, Senior Economic Contributor

Stephen Moore’s Op-Ed was originally published in The Hill on 3/1/18
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Past speakers have included Senators Mike Lee, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Ron Johnson, Representatives Dave Brat, Kevin Brady, David Schweikert, Thomas Massie, Rob Blum, Jesse Watters from Fox News, Steve Forbes, John Tamny, Steve Moore, Ken Cuccinelli, Glenn Beck, Judge Andrew Napolitano, John Allison, and many other.

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