



A Union of Professionals

Tax Cuts Fact Sheet

The 2018 elections have taken on an urgency we haven't experienced in recent memory. This is truly a "which side are you on?" moment.

We have a president who ran as a populist but is governing as an elitist. Unions are under attack. Instead of bringing the country together, the Trump administration and its allies have spent more than a year undermining our democratic norms and pushing an agenda for the rich—from ripping healthcare away from millions to his new tax law that gives 83 percent of the benefits to the top 1 percent of earners.

But unions are built for these times; they were born out of tough times. Across the country, we have members who are showing up and joining the fight to protect public education and vital public services; to demand safe, gun-free schools; to make higher education affordable; to ensure affordable healthcare for those with pre-existing conditions; and to make our country welcoming to all nationalities. In fact, nearly 300 members have decided to run for office this year.

We have chosen to be educators, nurses and health professionals, and public service employees because we care for others—for our students, our patients and the public we serve.

Tax cuts:

- The Trump administration and its followers chose to support a tax law that awards the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans with 83 percent of the tax breaks, at the expense of investments the middle class needs for a better future.
- We must elect a Congress that, instead, will redirect the money being used for tax cuts into investments in our public schools and infrastructure and reduction of healthcare costs.
- Facts on this issue:
 - The Trump tax plan passed by Congress will increase the deficit to nearly \$1 trillion in fiscal year 2019. By 2028, the national debt could equal nearly the entire value of all the finished goods and services produced in the country.
 - Officials' choices to cut taxes for the wealthy rather than invest in essential services lie at the heart of the teacher walkouts that recently gripped the country. In Oklahoma, income tax cuts and tax breaks for the oil and gas industry deprive the state of \$1.5 billion a year. West Virginia lawmakers have cut taxes by more than \$4 billion in the last decade.
 - The cost of the tax plan is leading the Trump administration and some in Congress to say we must cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security to pay for it.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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This election is a “which side are you on?” moment. Will you back candidates who support tax laws that reward the wealthy at the expense of the middle class, or candidates who support investing in our public schools and infrastructure and reducing healthcare costs?