



Northern Liberty Alliance

Now more than ever, we need to **contact our elected lawmakers** and urge them to vote against the current legislation on health care coverage before the U.S. Senate and eventually in the House. Contact info for our U.S. Senators and Representatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin can be found under Quick Links to the right.

How do we **arm ourselves with facts?** Go to *The Heritage Foundation* links to the right and read the assessments of Congress' health care reform and climate change legislation. If enacted these two bills could cost an average family a combined \$7,000 per year!!

REMINDER: The Northern Liberty Alliance has two events scheduled in the month of October. The first is a **School Board and City Council Candidates Forum in the Duluth City Council Chamber at 411 West First Street, Duluth, Minn. on Tuesday, October 20th.** The School Board forum will start at 5:15 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. The City Council forum will begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

Each of the School Board and City Council candidates are being sent a questionnaire about issues important to the Duluth community. A list of those questions can be found below Joe the Mariner's latest column. We encourage you to attend.

We also encourage you to attend the **first annual meeting of the Northern Liberty Alliance, Thursday October 22nd at Black Woods Banquet Center at 195 Highway 2, Proctor, Minn.** The meeting will be held from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Skyline Room. Coffee, tea, cookies and muffins will be available. If you wish to **join NLA**, scroll to the bottom and send an email to Heather.

The Northern Liberty Alliance is **seeking writers for this newsletter.** We appreciate Joe the Mariner's point of view, but we know there are more of you out there...itching to share your thoughts on economic liberties and the principles for which our country was founded.

Give Me Liberty...

Joe the Mariner
Northern Liberty Alliance
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Spreading the Wealth thru Tax Reform

Ninety-six years ago Congress ratified the 16th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, paving the way for the federal government to levy an income tax on individuals, corporations and legal entities. At the



Quick Links

[NLA Website](#)

[Senate has 'miles to go' on health care after vote](#)

[The Heritage Foundation: The Unknown Costs Tying climate change to national security](#)

[The Heritage Foundation: Impact of Climate Change Legislation](#)

[NewsBusted \(Humor\)](#)

[Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar](#)

[Minnesota Senator Al Franken](#)

[Minnesota 8th District Congressman James Oberstar](#)

[Wisconsin Senator Russell Feingold](#)

[Wisconsin Senator Herbert Kohl](#)

time it was framed as a tax on the wealthiest one percent of our population. Today more than 65% of the population sends Uncle Sam a check or gets reimbursed for overpaying taxes through automatic withholding. Of the remaining 35%, millions get a "refund" that is more than what they paid in through a provision called the Earned Income Tax Credit. [1]

And yet our government wants to tax us more to pay for programs we cannot afford or do not need. A month before last year's election Barack Obama told Joe the Plumber "It's not that I want to punish your success. I just want to make sure that everybody who is behind you, that they've got a chance at success, too... And I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody". [2]

One way to spread the wealth around is to fund federal services at the point of purchase and not through payroll and corporate taxes. And what's good for everybody is a less complicated tax code. In 1913 the tax code was 14 pages, today it exceeds 67,000 pages. [3] Most of its provisions are to put it bluntly...unfair.

So what is fair? One proposal that is gaining traction is the FairTax plan from a group called Americans for Fair Taxation. [4] Their plan has four major provisions:

- Impose a national retail sales tax
- Provide a prebate on spending up to the poverty level
- Ensure dollar for dollar federal revenue neutrality
- Repeal the 16th amendment

A national retail sales tax does not punish wage earners or profitable businesses. It taxes individuals or businesses for their consumption of goods and services, a more stable source of revenue. Used items and business to business purchases would not be taxed. There would be no need for IRS because states have an existing state sales taxing authority that would collect and pay the taxes to the federal government. The FairTax is fair, efficient and transparent.

A prebate would be paid to all valid Social Security cardholders who are residents of the U.S. The monthly installment would equal the FairTax paid on essential goods and services which is how the government calculates poverty level guidelines.

The proposed FairTax rate would be 23%, which is the same amount that is raised in the existing system, dollar for dollar. Social Security would become solvent without triple taxing citizens from payroll withholding to disbursement of benefits. Employers would report wages so the Social Security Administration can calculate those future benefits.

Repealing the 16th amendment would save billions alone by eliminating unnecessary paperwork and the IRS. Federal personal and corporate income taxes, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, Social Security, Medicare and self-employment taxes would all be abolished.

Making ends meet is becoming harder and harder each day for all of us. Our liberties and standard of living will continue to be threatened unless we educate the voting public about our government leaders and bureaucrat's insatiable appetite for taxing, spending and spreading the wealth.

[1] See: [National Taxpayers Union](#)

[2] See: [ABC News](#)

[3] Read: Common Sense - The Case Against an Out-of-Control Government, Inspired by Thomas Paine, Glenn Beck (2009) pg. 36

[4] See: [Americans for Fair Taxation](#)

Candidate Forum Questions

School Board:

1. What is the most important responsibility of a School Board Member?
2. What are the three most important issues facing the School District and how would you address them?
3. What role does the U.S. Constitution play in School Board Decisions?
4. Please explain your position on the School District's "Red Plan" and proposed alternatives.
5. What role should District and State Educational Employee Unions have in School Board decisions?
6. The School District is facing shrinking student population, a backlash as a result of implementation of the Red Plan and a population divided as a result of the current Board's actions. What actions will you take to improve that situation?
7. Have you accepted any endorsements from any political action committee or from any political party and if so, which one(s)?
8. If you had been on the School Board over the past four years, would you have supported a public vote on the Red Plan?
9. Explain your opinion of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.
10. Would you support a change in the School District's weapons policy to allow students to carry small pocket knives?

City Council:

1. What are the three most important issues facing the City of Duluth and how would you address them?
2. What role does the U.S. Constitution play in City Government?
3. What role should City Employee Unions have in Council decisions?
4. What will you do to protect and promote individual liberties within the City of Duluth?
5. What measures do you support to ensure Duluth's Council elections are truly non-partisan?
6. Have you accepted any endorsements from any political action committee or from any political party and if so, which one(s)?
7. Please name on service the city provides that you believe could be reduced or eliminated because it is not a "core city service."
8. Please explain one thing the city can do to improve Duluth's business climate.
9. Provide an example of a recent city council decision that you disagreed with. Please explain why.
10. Explain one initiative that will be among your top priorities if you are elected.

www.northernlibertyalliance.org

Northern Liberty Alliance Founding Principles

To promote and preserve economic liberty and the Constitution of the United States.

We must return to the idea of limited government based on enumerated powers.

Government intrusions at the local, state, and federal level have grown at an escalating pace. We need to reverse this trend for the welfare of all.

Liberty, including economic freedom, is the foundation upon which our nation was built and the fountain of all prosperity.

Governments are instituted to protect liberty (rights) not to provide programs.

With liberty must come individual responsibility. People should reap the consequences, both positive and negative, of their actions.

The Northern Liberty Alliance (NLA) is a group of citizens working to promote and preserve the liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. We share a strong belief in the free market system,

economic liberty, limited government and the principles espoused in the United States Constitution.

Principles that guide us

- Liberty, including Economic Liberty
- The Free Market System
- Limited Government
- Rights
- Responsibility
- Honor
- Justice
- Constitutionalism

Our goal is to educate citizens about these principles, to promote liberty in a positive way, to develop leaders that embody our values, and to advocate for our values whenever they are challenged in the political arena.

Please join us in our efforts!