

Democrat

CENTRAL
BALTIMORE
COUNTY'S
DEMOCRATIC
CLUB
NEWSLETTER



Union Leader Panel

Public Employee Union Leaders Fight for Worker's Rights

CBCDC hosted a panel of leaders from Baltimore County's Public Sector Unions to discuss collective bargaining/worker's rights in Maryland and local issues facing our public employees in Baltimore County. The panel included Cheryl Bost, outgoing President of TABCO (Teachers Association of Baltimore County); Sue Esty, AFSCME Maryland; John Ripley, President of the Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees; and Cole Weston, President of FOP Lodge 4.

The panelists covered the new wave of Republican attacks on unions and working people in Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana. Working people in those states have inspired an activist spirit that's spreading across the country which was

evident in the comments and questions submitted to the speakers. Many thanks to this amazing group of union leaders in Baltimore County for their presentation. CBCDC members were galvanized to ensure that we can't let this madness continue anywhere, and to fight the GOP's attack on worker's rights here in Maryland.

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May
2011

This newsletter is created by a handful of volunteers who make every attempt to publish factual information, and who wish to encourage the free exchange of information and opinions. However, the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints of the CBCDC or official policies of the club. All images taken from public domain, press kits, or used with permission. Please send submissions to newsletter editor Stephanie Dray at stephdray@gmail.com. The deadline for all submissions is 14 days before the monthly meeting or the 23rd of each month.

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Letter from the President

Happy Spring to all! Speaking of spring, the Maryland legislature sprang into action with some last minute excitement in what had been a fairly ho-hum session. Personally, I was thrilled that Maryland passed its version of the Dream Act. I am disappointed that those currently attending community college are not included, and I was disappointed by the hateful rhetoric it elicited from detractors. I join many in disappointment that Maryland did not step up with regard to LGBT rights and protection. I guess we should take some solace in the fact that dog owners can now have a meal with Fido, but may have to leave their transgendered friends at home.

I hope you are all looking forward to our May meeting, the legislative wrap up. Please come to hear your legislators' take on the session. We have invited our representatives from the 8th, 11th and 42nd District and look forward to a great turnout.

I was thrilled to see our friend and long time club member, Charlie Culbertson, honored by the Southland Hills Community Association with a Lifetime Service Award. For those of you who missed the article about Charlie, it was in the April 20 edition of the Towson Times. You can find it online. All of us who have worked in community service and campaigns know that Charlie is always there when needed. He is a tireless worker and as mentioned in the [Towson Times article](#), "he puts everyone in a good mood."

We are proud to know you, Charlie.

Sincerely,
Anne Neal

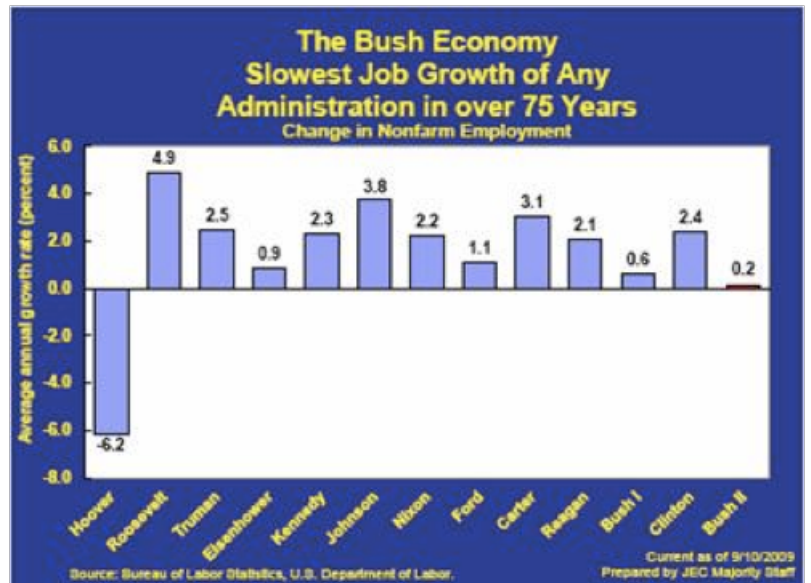
Don't Snooze. Pay Your Dues!

If you want that promotion at work, you've got to put in the overtime. If you want to play center field for the Orioles, you've got to spend hours in batting cage. If you want to run for office, you've got to knock on doors and make phone calls. And if you want to be a member of the best, most active, most progressive political club in Baltimore County? All you need to give is \$20 and a couple hours of your time each month.

Your membership dues allow us to to meet each month, provide snacks and refreshments, and send out a semi-monthly newsletter. Also, your executive board is working on new projects to make the club experience bigger, better, and more fun. If you feel that having the best Democratic Club in Baltimore County is worth it, please pay your dues. We literally can't do it without you.

An excellent opportunity to pay up comes May 10th at our next General Membership Meeting. We'll be talking about the recently-completed legislative session and hear about the accomplishments of our own Democratic representatives from the 8th, 11th and 42nd Districts.

You can also pay your dues by mail. Send a \$20 check payable to CBCDC to:
PO Box 5194, Lutherville, MD 21094



Bush Tax Cuts = Epic Fail

by Dan Ewald, Executive Board Member

Tax cuts always seems like a good idea. Who in their right mind will pass up more money in their paycheck. However, the impact of the Bush Tax Cuts on job creation, America's deficit/debt, GDP, and stock market continue to hurt America.

Tax cuts are frequently tied to job creation, in that companies and people who invest would be able to pump more money into job creation if only Uncle Sam would stop sucking them dry. However, the actual numbers don't hold up. In September 2009, the Congressional [Joint Economic Committee](#) charted Bush's job creation disaster, the worst since Hoover.

The Wall Street Journal summed it up with an article titled simply, "[Bush on Jobs: the Worst Track Record on Record.](#)" The Bush administration created about three million jobs (net) over its eight years, a fraction of the 23 million jobs created under President **Clinton's** administration and only slightly better than President **H.W. Bush' 2.5 million.**

(Continued on Page 4)

Calendar of Upcoming Meetings & Events	May	June	July	August
	10 Legislative Wrap Up	14 TBA	12 TBA	9 TBA

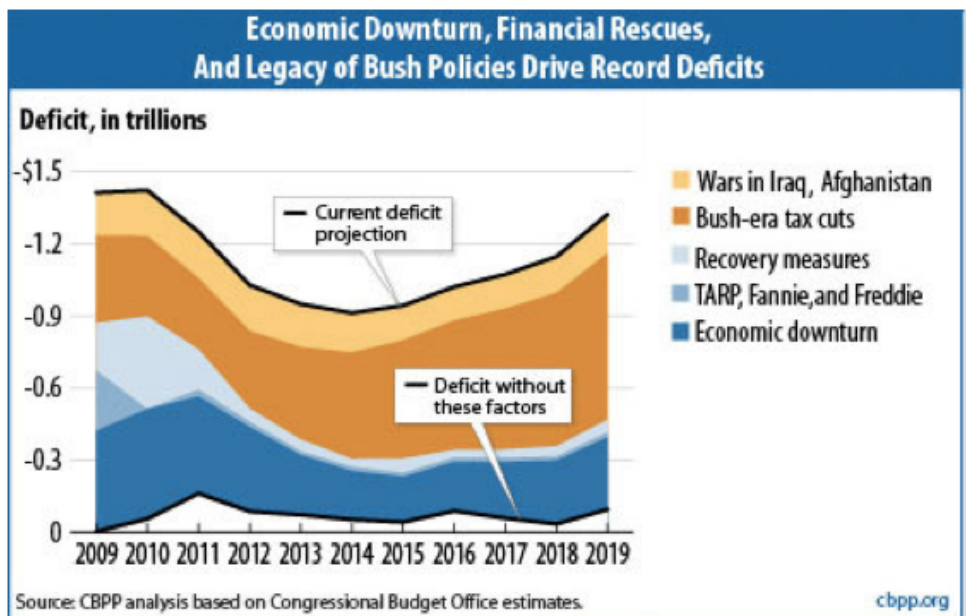
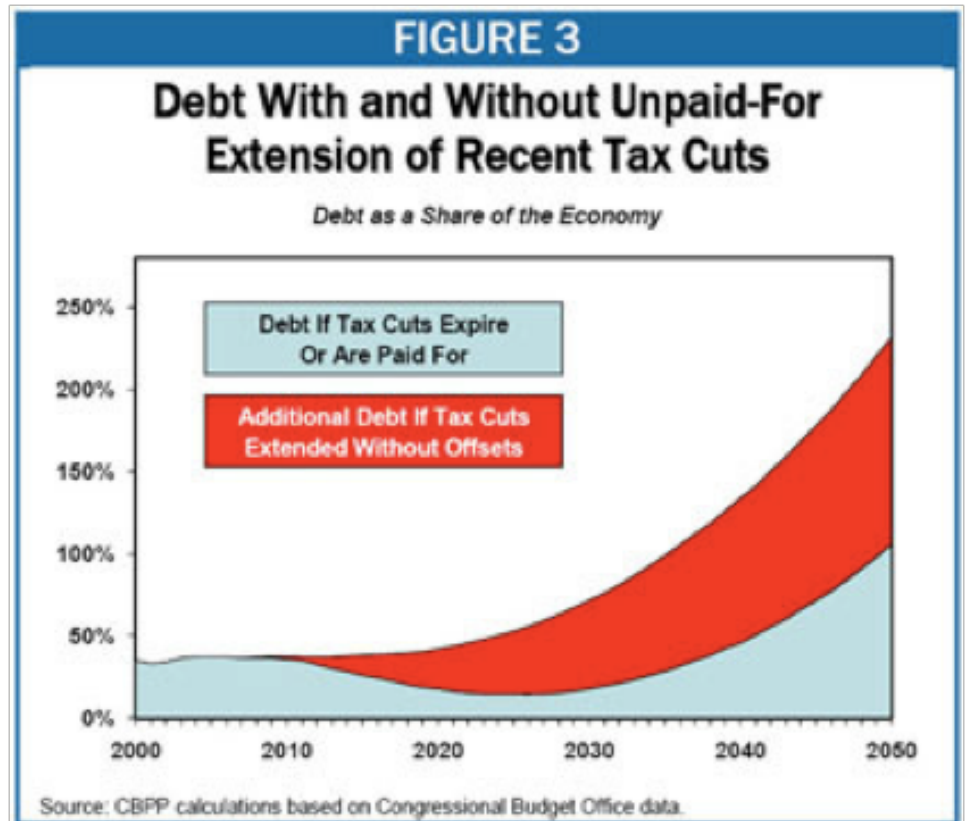
Bush Tax Cuts=Epic Fail

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President Obama reminded Americans that during the 90s, we had a balanced budget, surplus, and was paying off the debt left by Reagan. Then the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 were passed. These tax cuts are the biggest drivers of our current deficit crisis: more than TARP, Obama's stimulus, the Great Recession, and our wars combined.

Predictably, the Bush tax cuts didn't come anywhere close to paying for themselves. And as Congressional Budget Office projections revealed in June 2010, making them permanent is *the very worst thing* the so-called deficit hawks could do to reduce the U.S. debt. For the investor class so fond of perpetuating the myth of Republicans' superior economic stewardship, the collapse of the stock market during the Bush recession must be particularly galling. As it turns out, as the New York Times also showed in October 2008, the Democratic Party "has been better for American pocketbooks and capitalism as a whole."

To be sure, the damage George W. Bush and his tax cuts did to the American economy is stunning. To continue that perpetual payday for the upper class would be more than dangerously irresponsible and lead America towards an epic fail.



Where Are Your Taxes Going

by Dan Ewald, CBCDC Board of Directors

April is the month we all file our Federal taxes and recently the White House launched Your 2010 Federal Taxpayer Receipt to breakdown your filing and what it pays for. From my perspective, it's quite sad to see how my money is spent.

The biggest recipient of my income tax (Social Security and Medicare are taxed separately) was National Defense at \$369.25. Broken down, about \$270 of that is going to fighting our current wars and building weapons for the next one.

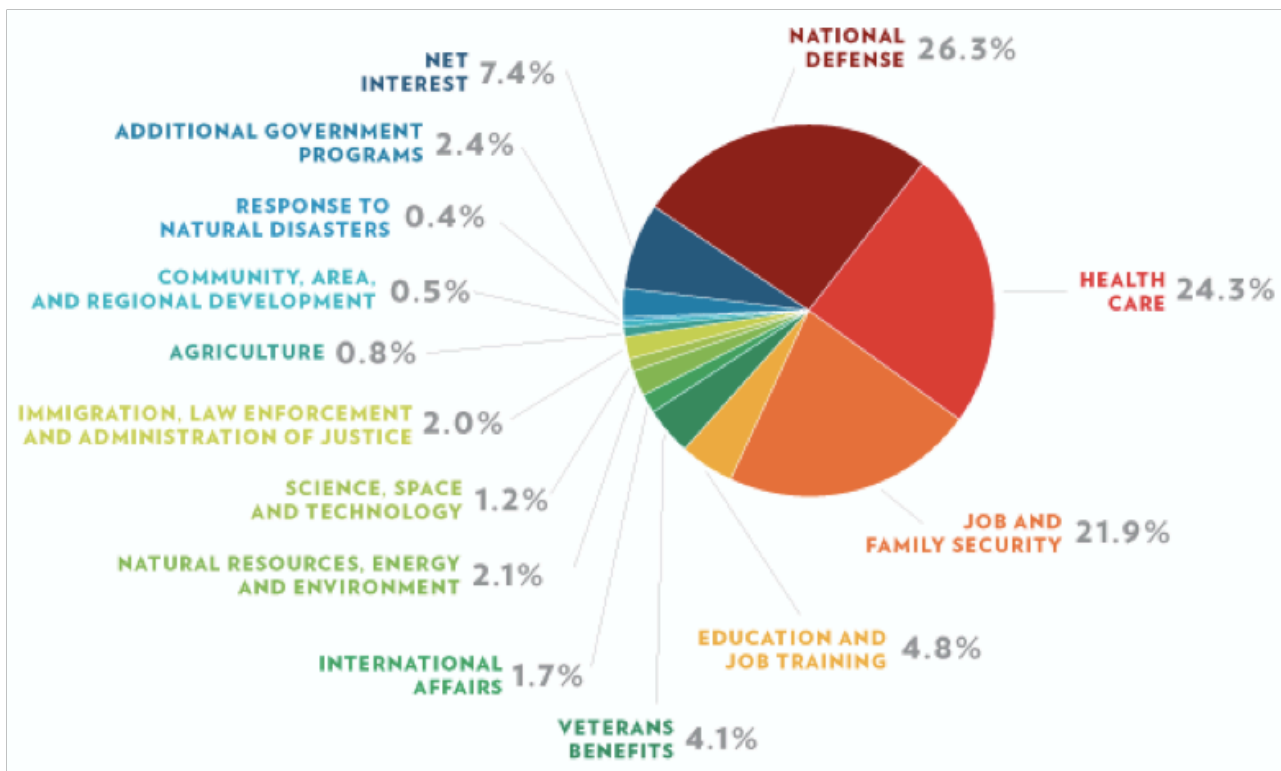
Next up, Health Care for others got \$341.17 of my money, followed by Job and Family Security (\$307.48) to help others with housing, child care, unemployment, and food stamps. Being a bleeding heart liberal, I want more money to go to these programs.

Over \$100 went to the net interest on our nation's debt. Thank you Presidents Reagan and W. Bush.

Everything else - Veteran Benefits, the environment, science, education - got less than \$80 each from my income taxes. NASA only got a pittance of \$9.83. The same amount goes into International Aid.

The breakdown of my taxes is illustrated below. I'm not a policy or budget expert, but I can't see how these spending priorities can lead to a better tomorrow.

To find out where YOUR money is being spent, visit [http://www.whitehouse.gov/taxreceipt?](http://www.whitehouse.gov/taxreceipt?utm_source=email108&utm_medium=image&utm_campaign=taxreceipt)
[utm_source=email108&utm_medium=image&utm_campaign=taxreceipt](http://www.whitehouse.gov/taxreceipt?utm_source=email108&utm_medium=image&utm_campaign=taxreceipt)



Political Tidbits

by James Kehl



A Chance To Stand For The Working Class

The federal government and many state governments face projected deficits. The Republican House of Representatives and Republican governors have proposed remedies for these deficits that redistribute wealth from the middle and lower economic classes to the upper classes. At the federal level, Time magazine has reported that the Republican budget proposal includes a provision that reduces the top marginal income tax rate from 35% to 25%! To pay for this, the budget slices Medicare and other programs that benefit the middle and lower economic classes. At the state level, Wisconsin governor Scott Walker and other Republican governors have reduced taxes for corporations and paid for those tax cuts by reducing benefits for workers.

This is an outstanding opportunity for Democrats to contrast our values with the values reflected by the Republican proposals. The first point of contrast is that government doesn't have a spending problem; it has a revenue problem. The

tax cuts enacted in 2001 have drained necessary revenue and have shifted wealth to the upper class. The tax laws in effect prior to Bush taking office should be reinstated. On the spending side, the federal government should discontinue our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. The current federal deficit is largely a result of increasing expenditures for these foreign ventures and simultaneously cutting taxes. No other American president had done this. To the contrary, past American administrations, Republican and Democratic, have increased taxes in wartime.

At the state level, the Republican governors are attempting to break unions by having workers pay for future tax cuts. Scott Walker and the Wisconsin legislature enacted a budget that did this and that curtailed worker's collective bargaining rights. In Winner-Take-All Politics, Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson state that the Democratic Party has lost the support of working class voters because those voters did not perceive the Democrats as standing up for working class values. Middle class voters know that the Republican policies of deregulation and tax reductions for the wealthy at the expense of the middle class are wrong. However, Democrats haven't made it clear we stand against it. As a result, middle class voters drifted away from the Democratic Party.

Republicans have presented us the opportunity to prove that we're pro-middle class and pro-worker. Democrats should oppose these Republican budgets. As an alternative, a budget should be proposed that requires upper income taxpayers to pay their fair share of taxes, reduces or eliminates foolish military expenditures and eliminates other unnecessary debt. It also should be made clear that the economy has performed much better under Democratic leadership than under Republican administrations. If these policies are adopted, the deficits will be reduced and middle class safety nets will remain in place.

Save the date and join the

Central Baltimore County Democratic Club

for their 2011 fundraiser on

Sunday, June 26, 2010

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

David Kosak's House

501 Hillen Road

Towson, MD 21286

ONLY \$20

We recommend you also step up to the plate and make a contribution to club!



Enjoy a backyard BBQ and conversation with fellow Democrats.

Please make checks payable to:

Central Baltimore County Democratic Club

OR

You can bring cash!

For more info, or to RSVP, contact David directly:

davidkosak@gmail.com

443-895-0816

Or just show up!

Central Baltimore County Democratic Club Annual Membership Form

ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY \$20 PER MEMBER

Renew online at: <http://www.cbcdc.org/membership.php>

Make Check Payable to the the CBCDC

Mail to: CBCDC, Inc., P.O. Box 5194 Lutherville, MD 21094

Note: Dues and donations to CBCDC, Inc. are not tax deductible



___ I (we) would like to help support the CBCDC by renewing my (our) annual dues. Enclosed, please find my (our) annual dues of \$___.

___ I (we) have also included an additional \$___ as a donation to the club and/or the Political Action Committee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

(CBCDC Sends out its monthly newsletter by email to reduce our carbon footprint and save much-needed funds. If you want to receive your copy by mail, please let Judy Harris know: jharris341@aol.com or 410-853-7717.)

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