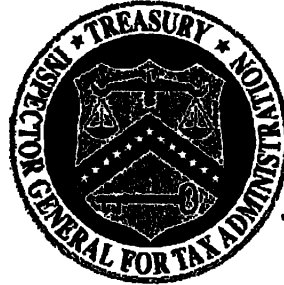

TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

May 14, 2013

Reference Number: 2013-10-053

This report has cleared the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration disclosure review process and information determined to be restricted from public release has been redacted from this document.

Redaction Legend:

1 = Tax Return/Return Information

Phone Number | 202-622-6500

E-mail Address | TIGTACommunications@tigta.treas.gov

Website | <http://www.treasury.gov/tigta>

DBCS 1



HIGHLIGHTS

INAPPROPRIATE CRITERIA WERE USED TO IDENTIFY TAX-EXEMPT APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

Highlights

Final Report Issued on May 14, 2013

Highlights of Reference Number: 2013-10-053 to the Internal Revenue Service Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division.

IMPACT ON TAXPAYERS

Early in Calendar Year 2010, the IRS began using inappropriate criteria to identify organizations applying for tax-exempt status to review for indications of significant political campaign intervention. Although the IRS has taken some action, it will need to do more so that the public has reasonable assurance that applications are processed without unreasonable delay in a fair and impartial manner in the future.

WHY TIGTA DID THE AUDIT

TIGTA initiated this audit based on concerns expressed by members of Congress. The overall objective of this audit was to determine whether allegations were founded that the IRS: 1) targeted specific groups applying for tax-exempt status, 2) delayed processing of targeted groups' applications, and 3) requested unnecessary information from targeted groups.

WHAT TIGTA FOUND

The IRS used inappropriate criteria that identified for review Tea Party and other organizations applying for tax-exempt status based upon their names or policy positions instead of indications of potential political campaign intervention. Ineffective management: 1) allowed inappropriate criteria to be developed and stay in place for more than 18 months, 2) resulted in substantial delays in processing certain applications, and 3) allowed unnecessary information requests to be issued.

Although the processing of some applications with potential significant political campaign

intervention was started soon after receipt, no work was completed on the majority of these applications for 13 months. This was due to delays in receiving assistance from the Exempt Organizations function Headquarters office. For the 296 total political campaign intervention applications TIGTA reviewed as of December 17, 2012, 108 had been approved, 28 were withdrawn by the applicant, none had been denied, and 160 were open from 206 to 1,138 calendar days (some for more than three years and crossing two election cycles).

More than 20 months after the initial case was identified, processing the cases began in earnest. Many organizations received requests for additional information from the IRS that included unnecessary, burdensome questions (e.g., lists of past and future donors). The IRS later informed some organizations that they did not need to provide previously requested information. IRS officials stated that any donor information received in response to a request from its Determinations Unit was later destroyed.

WHAT TIGTA RECOMMENDED

TIGTA recommended that the IRS finalize the interim actions taken, better document the reasons why applications potentially involving political campaign intervention are chosen for review, develop a process to track requests for assistance, finalize and publish guidance, develop and provide training to employees before each election cycle, expeditiously resolve remaining political campaign intervention cases (some of which have been in process for three years), and request that social welfare activity guidance be developed by the Department of the Treasury.

In their response to the report, IRS officials agreed with seven of our nine recommendations and proposed alternative corrective actions for two of our recommendations. TIGTA does not agree that the alternative corrective actions will accomplish the intent of the recommendations and continues to believe that the IRS should better document the reasons why applications potentially involving political campaign intervention are chosen for review and finalize and publish guidance.



TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL
FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

May 14, 2013

**MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING COMMISSIONER, TAX EXEMPT AND GOVERNMENT
ENTITIES DIVISION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. McKenney".

FROM: Michael E. McKenney
Acting Deputy Inspector General for Audit

SUBJECT: Final Audit Report – Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify
Tax-Exempt Applications for Review (Audit # 201210022)

This report presents the results of our review to determine whether allegations were founded that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS): 1) targeted specific groups applying for tax-exempt status, 2) delayed processing of targeted groups' applications for tax-exempt status, and 3) requested unnecessary information from targeted groups. This audit was initiated based on concerns expressed by members of Congress and reported in the media regarding the IRS's treatment of organizations applying for tax-exempt status. This review is included in our Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Audit Plan and addresses the major management challenge of Tax Compliance Initiatives.

We would like to clarify a few issues based on the IRS response to our report. The response states that our report views approvals as evidence that the Exempt Organizations function should not have looked closely at those applications. We disagree with this statement. Our objection was to the criteria used to identify these applications for review. We believe all applications should be reviewed prior to approval to determine whether tax-exempt status should be granted. The IRS's response also states that issues discussed in the report have been resolved. We disagree with this statement as well. Nine recommendations were made to correct concerns we raised in the report, and corrective actions have not been fully implemented. Further, as our report notes, a substantial number of applications have been under review, some for more than three years and through two election cycles, and remain open. Until these cases are closed by the IRS and our recommendations are fully implemented, we do not consider the concerns in this report to be resolved. Management's complete response to the draft report is included as Appendix VIII.



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Copies of this report are also being sent to the IRS managers affected by the report recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact me or Gregory D. Kutz, Assistant Inspector General for Audit (Management Services and Exempt Organizations).



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

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***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Abbreviations

BOLO	Be On the Look Out
EO	Exempt Organizations
I.R.C.	Internal Revenue Code
IRS	Internal Revenue Service



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Background

Organizations, such as charities, seeking Federal tax exemption are required to file an application with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Other organizations, such as social welfare organizations, may file an application but are not required to do so. The IRS's Exempt Organizations (EO) function, Rulings and Agreements office, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C., is responsible for processing applications for tax exemption. Within the Rulings and Agreements office, the Determinations Unit in Cincinnati, Ohio, is responsible for reviewing applications as they are received to determine whether the organization qualifies for tax-exempt status.

In Fiscal Year 2012,¹ 70 percent of all closed applications for tax-exempt status were approved during an initial review with little or no additional information from the organizations. If substantial additional information is needed, the application is placed in unassigned inventory until it can be assigned to a specialist in the Determinations Unit for further processing. The specialist develops a letter(s) requesting the additional information and issues it to the organization. Once the specialist receives all the necessary information to determine whether an organization should be afforded tax-exempt status, a final determination letter is issued to the organization either approving or denying the request for tax-exempt status.

If the Determinations Unit needs technical assistance processing applications, it may call upon the Technical Unit in the Rulings and Agreements office in Washington, D.C.² The IRS's goal for processing all types of applications for tax-exempt status was 121 days in Fiscal Year 2012; however, some cases may take substantially longer. For example, the EO function states in its *Fiscal Year 2013 Work Plan* that applications requiring additional information are not assigned for review until an average of five months after they are received.

Most organizations requesting tax-exempt status must submit either a Form 1023, *Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code*, or Form 1024, *Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)*, depending on the type of tax-exempt organization it desires to be. For example, a charitable organization would request exemption under Internal Revenue Code (I.R.C.) Section (§) 501(c)(3),³ whereas a social welfare organization would request exemption under I.R.C. § 501(c)(4).⁴

¹ A 12-consecutive-month period ending on the last day of any month. The Federal Government's fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.

² For a high-level organizational chart of offices referenced in this report, see Appendix V.

³ I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) (2012).

⁴ I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) (2012).



**Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review**

The I.R.C. section and subsection an organization is granted tax exemption under affects the activities it may undertake. For example, I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) charitable organizations are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, (hereafter referred to as political campaign intervention).⁵ However, I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations, I.R.C. § 501(c)(5)⁶ agricultural and labor organizations, and I.R.C. § 501(c)(6)⁷ business leagues may engage in limited political campaign intervention. Figure 1 highlights certain characteristics of common types of tax-exempt organizations.

**Figure 1: Characteristics of Certain
Common Types of Tax-Exempt Organizations**

Characteristic	I.R.C. § 501(c)(3)	I.R.C. §§ 501(c)(4), (c)(5), and (c)(6)
May receive tax deductible charitable contributions	Yes	No
May engage in political campaign intervention	No	Limited (must not constitute primary activity of organization)
Must publicly disclose the identity of its donors	No	No
May engage in lobbying ⁸ (i.e., legislative activity)	Limited (must not be substantial)	Yes (unlimited amount if in furtherance of tax-exempt purposes)
May engage in general advocacy ⁹ not related to legislation or the election of candidates	Yes (permitted as an educational activity)	Yes (unlimited amount if in furtherance of tax-exempt purposes)
Must apply with the IRS	Yes	No

Source: Draft Advocacy Guide Sheet and Internal Revenue Manual.

⁵ Political campaign intervention is the term used in Treasury Regulations §§ 1.501(c)(3)-1, 1.501(c)(4)-1, 1.501(c)(5)-1, and 1.501(c)(6)-1.

⁶ I.R.C. § 501(c)(5) (2012).

⁷ I.R.C. § 501(c)(6) (2012).

⁸ An organization engages in lobbying, or legislative activities, when it attempts to influence specific legislation by directly contacting members of a legislative body (Federal, State, or local) or encouraging the public to contact those members regarding that legislation. An organization also engages in lobbying when it encourages the public to take a position on a referendum. Lobbying is distinguished from political campaign intervention because lobbying does not involve attempts to influence the election of candidates for public office.

⁹ An organization engages in general advocacy when it attempts to 1) influence public opinion on issues germane to the organization's tax-exempt purposes, 2) influence nonlegislative governing bodies (e.g., the executive branch or regulatory agencies), or 3) encourage voter participation through "get out the vote" drives, voter guides, and candidate debates in a nonpartisan, neutral manner. General advocacy basically includes all types of advocacy other than political campaign intervention and lobbying.



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

During the 2012 election cycle, the activities of tax-exempt organizations received media coverage concerning the amount of money spent on influencing elections. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, tax-exempt groups, such as I.R.C. § 501(c)(4), I.R.C. § 501(c)(5), and I.R.C. § 501(c)(6) organizations, spent \$133 million in Calendar Year 2010 on Federal candidate-oriented expenditures. In Calendar Year 2012, this figure increased to \$315 million.¹⁰ In addition, as shown in Figure 2, the number of applications for tax-exempt status has increased over the past four fiscal years.¹¹

Figure 2: Number of Applications for I.R.C. §§ 501(c)(3)–(6) Tax-Exempt Status Received by the IRS

Fiscal Year	I.R.C. Subsection			
	501(c)(3)	501(c)(4)	501(c)(5)	501(c)(6)
2009	65,179	1,751	543	1,828
2010	59,486	1,735	290	1,637
2011	58,712	2,265	409	1,836
2012	66,543	3,357	1,081	2,338

Source: These data were provided by the EO function as background and were not validated for accuracy or reliability.

During the 2012 election cycle, some members of Congress raised concerns to the IRS about selective enforcement and the duty to treat similarly situated organizations consistently. In addition, several organizations applying for I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status made allegations that the IRS 1) targeted specific groups applying for tax-exempt status, 2) delayed the processing of targeted groups' applications for tax-exempt status, and 3) requested unnecessary information from targeted organizations. Lastly, several members of Congress requested that the IRS investigate whether existing social welfare organizations are improperly engaged in a substantial, or even predominant, amount of campaign activity.

This audit focused on allegations that the IRS targeted specific groups applying for tax-exempt status, delayed the processing of targeted groups' applications, and requested unnecessary information from targeted organizations.

We initiated this audit based on concerns expressed by Congress and reported in the media regarding the IRS's treatment of organizations applying for tax-exempt status. We focused our

¹⁰ The Center for Responsive Politics obtained its information from the Federal Election Commission. We only included expenditures reported to the Federal Election Commission specifically for advocating the election or defeat of clearly identified Federal candidates.

¹¹ Some of this increase may be due to the reappliation of those organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked as a result of not filing information returns for three consecutive years.



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

efforts on reviewing the processing of applications for tax-exempt status and determining whether allegations made against the IRS were founded.¹² Tax-exempt application case files were selected for review in June 2012 and were reviewed as provided by the EO function between July and November 2012. We did not review whether specific applications for tax-exempt status should be approved or denied.

This review was performed at the EO function Headquarters office in Washington, D.C., and the Determinations Unit in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the period June 2012 through February 2013. We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. Detailed information on our audit objective, scope, and methodology is presented in Appendix I. Major contributors to the report are listed in Appendix II.

¹² A future audit is being considered to assess how the EO function monitors I.R.C. §§ 501(c)(4)–(6) organizations to ensure that political campaign intervention does not constitute their primary activity.



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Results of Review

The Determinations Unit Used Inappropriate Criteria to Identify Potential Political Cases

The Determinations Unit developed and used inappropriate criteria to identify applications from organizations with the words Tea Party in their names. These applications (hereafter referred to as potential political cases)¹³ were forwarded to a team of specialists¹⁴ for review. Subsequently, the Determinations Unit expanded the criteria to inappropriately include organizations with other specific names (Patriots and 9/12) or policy positions. While the criteria used by the Determinations Unit specified particular organization names, the team of specialists was also processing applications from groups with names other than those identified in the criteria. The inappropriate and changing criteria may have led to inconsistent treatment of organizations applying for tax-exempt status. For example, we identified some organizations' applications with evidence of significant political campaign intervention that were not forwarded to the team of specialists for processing but should have been. We also identified applications that were forwarded to the team of specialists but did not have indications of significant political campaign intervention. All applications that were forwarded to the team of specialists experienced substantial delays in processing. Although the IRS has taken some action, it will need to do more so that the public has reasonable assurance that applications are processed without unreasonable delay in a fair and impartial manner in the future.

Criteria for selecting applications inappropriately identified organizations based on their names and policy positions

The Determinations Unit developed and began using criteria to identify potential political cases for review that inappropriately identified specific groups applying for tax-exempt status based on their names or policy positions instead of developing criteria based on tax-exempt laws and Treasury Regulations.

*****|*****
*****|*****
*1***. According to media reports, some organizations were classified as I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations but operated like political organizations. *****|*****

¹³ Until July 2011, the Rulings and Agreements office referred to these cases as Tea Party cases. Afterwards, the EO function referred to these cases as advocacy cases.

¹⁴ Initially, the team consisted of one specialist, but it was expanded to several specialists in December 2011. The EO function referred to this team as the advocacy team.



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

*****]*****
Soon thereafter, according to the IRS, a Determinations Unit specialist was asked to search for applications with Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 in the organization's name as well as other "political-sounding" names. EO function officials stated that, in May 2010, the Determinations Unit began developing a spreadsheet that would become known as the "Be On the Look Out" listing (hereafter referred to as the BOLO listing),¹⁵ which included the emerging issue of Tea Party applications. In June 2010, the Determinations Unit began training its specialists on issues to be aware of, including Tea Party cases. By July 2010, Determinations Unit management stated that it had requested its specialists to be on the lookout for Tea Party applications.

In August 2010, the Determinations Unit distributed the first formal BOLO listing. The criteria in the BOLO listing were Tea Party organizations applying for I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) or I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) status. Based on our review of other BOLO listing criteria, the use of organization names on the BOLO listing is not unique to potential political cases.¹⁶ EO function officials stated that Determinations Unit specialists interpreted the general criteria in the BOLO listing and developed expanded criteria for identifying potential political cases.¹⁷ Figure 3 shows that, by June 2011, the expanded criteria included additional names (Patriots and 9/12 Project) as well as policy positions espoused by organizations in their applications.

Figure 3: Criteria for Potential Political Cases (June 2011)

Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 Project is referenced in the case file
Issues include government spending, government debt or taxes
Education of the public by advocacy/lobbying to "make America a better place to live"
Statement in the case file criticize how the country is being run

Source: EO function briefing dated June 2011.

The mission of the IRS is to provide America's taxpayers top quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and by applying the tax law with integrity and fairness to all. According to IRS Policy Statement 1-1, IRS employees accomplish this mission by being impartial and handling tax matters in a manner that will promote public confidence. However, the criteria developed by the Determinations Unit gives the appearance that the IRS is not impartial in conducting its mission. The criteria focused narrowly on the names and policy

¹⁵ The BOLO listing includes a consolidated list of emerging issues the EO function identifies for dissemination to Determinations Unit specialists.

¹⁶ We did not review the use of other named organizations on the BOLO listing to determine if their use was appropriate.

¹⁷ During interviews with Determinations Unit specialists and managers, we could not specifically determine who had been involved in creating the criteria. EO function officials later clarified that the expanded criteria were a compilation of various Determinations Unit specialists' responses on how they were identifying Tea Party cases.



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

positions of organizations instead of tax-exempt laws and Treasury Regulations. Criteria for selecting applications for the team of specialists should focus on the activities of the organizations and whether they fulfill the requirements of the law. Using the names or policy positions of organizations is not an appropriate basis for identifying applications for review by the team of specialists.

We asked the Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division; the Director, EO; and Determinations Unit personnel if the criteria were influenced by any individual or organization outside the IRS. All of these officials stated that the criteria were not influenced by any individual or organization outside the IRS. Instead, the Determinations Unit developed and implemented inappropriate criteria in part due to insufficient oversight provided by management. Specifically, only first-line management approved references to the Tea Party in the BOLO listing criteria before it was implemented. As a result, inappropriate criteria remained in place for more than 18 months. Determinations Unit employees also did not consider the public perception of using politically sensitive criteria when identifying these cases. Lastly, the criteria developed showed a lack of knowledge in the Determinations Unit of what activities are allowed by I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) and I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) organizations.

Determinations Unit employees stated that they considered the Tea Party criterion as a shorthand term for all potential political cases. Whether the inappropriate criterion was shorthand for all potential political cases or not, developing and using criteria that focuses on organization names and policy positions instead of the activities permitted under the Treasury Regulations does not promote public confidence that tax-exempt laws are being adhered to impartially. In addition, the applications for those organizations that were identified for processing by the team of specialists experienced significant delays and requests for unnecessary information that is detailed later in this report.

After being briefed on the expanded criteria in June 2011, the Director, EO, immediately directed that the criteria be changed. In July 2011, the criteria were changed to focus on the potential "political, lobbying, or [general] advocacy" activities of the organization. These criteria were an improvement over using organization names and policy positions. However, the team of specialists subsequently changed the criteria in January 2012 without executive approval because they believed the July 2011 criteria were too broad. The January 2012 criteria again focused on the policy positions of organizations instead of tax-exempt laws and Treasury Regulations. After three months, the Director, Rulings and Agreements, learned the criteria had been changed by the team of specialists and subsequently revised the criteria again in May 2012. (See Appendix VI for a complete timeline of criteria used to identify potential political cases). The May 2012 criteria more clearly focus on activities permitted under the Treasury Regulations. As a result of changes made to the criteria without management knowledge, the Director, Rulings and Agreements, issued a memorandum requiring all original entries and changes to criteria included on the BOLO listing be approved at the executive level prior to implementation.

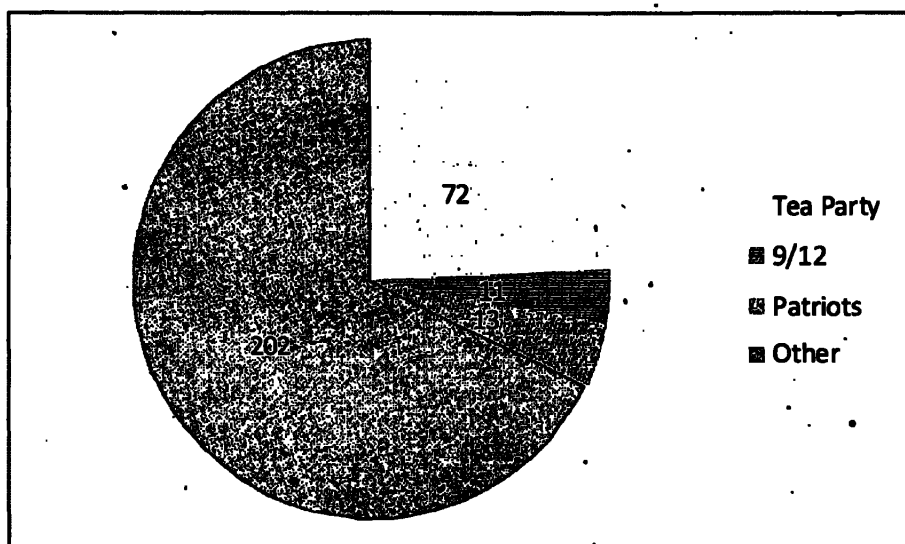


Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

The team of specialists processed applications by organizations with names other than Tea Party, Patriots, and 9/12

To determine if organizations other than those specifically identified in the inappropriate criteria were processed by the team of specialists, we reviewed the names on all applications identified as potential political cases.¹⁸ Figure 4 shows that approximately one-third of the applications identified for processing by the team of specialists included Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 in their names, while the remainder did not. According to the Director, Rulings and Agreements, the fact that the team of specialists worked applications that did not involve the Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 groups demonstrated that the IRS was not politically biased in its identification of applications for processing by the team of specialists.

Figure 4: Breakdown of Potential Political Cases by Organization Name



Source: EO function Potential Political Case Tracking Sheet as of May 31, 2012.

While the team of specialists reviewed applications from a variety of organizations, we determined during our reviews of statistical samples of I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) tax-exempt applications that all cases with Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 in their names were forwarded to the team of specialists.¹⁹

¹⁸ We could not determine which potential political cases may have been identified based on an organization's policy positions.

¹⁹ We determined this through two statistical samples of 338 (7.5 percent) from a universe of 4,510 I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) tax-exempt applications filed during May 2010 through May 2012 that were not forwarded to the team of specialists. See Appendix I for details on our sampling methodology.



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Some applications with indications of significant political campaign intervention were not identified for review by the team of specialists

In May 2012, the Director, Rulings and Agreements, approved the current criteria for identifying potential political cases. The criteria are “501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations with indicators of significant amounts of political campaign intervention....” To determine if all cases with indications of significant political campaign intervention were sent to the team of specialists, we reviewed two statistical samples of I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) applications.

- **Applications That the IRS Determined Required Minimal or No Additional Information for Processing** – We reviewed a statistical sample of 94 I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) cases closed from May 2010²⁰ through May 2012 from a universe of 2,051 applications that the IRS determined required minimal or no additional information from the organizations (also referred to by the EO function as merit closures). We determined that two (2 percent) of 94 approved applications had indications of significant political campaign intervention and should have been forwarded to the team of specialists.²¹ Based on our statistical sample, we project an estimated 44 merit closure applications were not appropriately identified as potential political cases during this time period.²²
- **Applications Identified by the IRS That Required Additional Information for Processing** – We reviewed a statistical sample of 244 I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) cases closed from May 2010 through May 2012 or open as of May 31, 2012, from a universe of 2,459 applications that the IRS determined required additional information from the organizations applying for tax-exempt status (also referred to by the EO function as full development applications) but were not forwarded to the team of specialists. For the applications that were available for our review, we found that 14 (6 percent)²³ of 237 applications²⁴ included indications of significant political campaign intervention and should have been processed by the team of specialists.²⁵ We project an estimated 141 full development applications were not appropriately identified as potential political cases during this time period.²⁶

²⁰ May 2010 was chosen because it is the first date that we were informed that the Determinations Unit was using criteria which identified specific organizations by name.

²¹ Neither of the two cases involved a Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 organization.

²² See Appendix IV.

²³ None of the 14 cases involved a Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 organization.

²⁴ We could not analyze seven sampled application case files because of incomplete documentation in the case files (six applications) or the case file could not be located (one application). See Appendix IV.

²⁵ We determined that eight applications were appropriately forwarded to the team of specialists. Five of the eight application case files involved Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 organizations.

²⁶ See Appendix IV.



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

To determine if cases without indications of significant political campaign intervention were sent to the team of specialists, we reviewed all of the applications identified as potential political cases as of May 31, 2012.

- **Applications That the IRS Determined Should Be Processed by the Team of Specialists** – We reviewed all 298 applications that had been identified as potential political cases as of May 31, 2012. In the majority of cases, we agreed that the applications submitted included indications of significant political campaign intervention. However, we did not identify any indications of significant political campaign intervention for 91 (31 percent) of the 296 applications²⁷ that had complete documentation.²⁸

We discussed our results with EO function officials, who disagreed with our findings. Although EO function officials provided explanations about why the applications should have been identified as potential political cases, the case files did not include the specific reason(s) the applications were selected. EO function officials also stated that applications may not literally include statements indicating significant political campaign intervention.²⁹ According to EO function officials, organizations may not understand what constitutes political campaign intervention or may provide vague descriptions of certain activities that the EO function knows from past experience potentially involve political campaign intervention. In these cases, the EO function believes it is important to review the applications to ensure that political campaign intervention is not the organizations' primary activity. To provide further assurance that Determinations Unit employees are handling tax matters in an impartial manner, it would be helpful to document specifically why applications are chosen for further review.

Recommendations

The Director, EO, should:

Recommendation 1: Ensure that the memorandum requiring the Director, Rulings and Agreements, to approve all original entries and changes to criteria included on the BOLO listing prior to implementation be formalized in the appropriate Internal Revenue Manual.

Management's Response: The IRS agreed with this recommendation and will ensure that the procedures set forth in the memorandum requiring the Director,

²⁷ We could not complete our review of two cases due to inadequate documentation in the case files. See Appendix IV.

²⁸ Seventeen (19 percent) of the 91 applications involved Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 organizations.

²⁹ It should also be noted that, in some cases, specialists obtained additional information after the application was received that indicated the organizations were involved in political campaign intervention which was not available in the initial application documentation we reviewed.



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Rulings and Agreements, to approve in advance all original entries and changes to the BOLO listing are made part of the Internal Revenue Manual.

Recommendation 2: Develop procedures to better document the reason(s) applications are chosen for review by the team of specialists (e.g., evidence of specific political campaign intervention in the application file or specific reasons the EO function may have for choosing to review the application further based on past experience).

Management's Response: The IRS proposed an alternative corrective action to our recommendation. The IRS stated it will review its screening procedures to determine whether, and to what extent, additional documentation can be implemented without having an adverse impact on the timeliness of case processing.

Office of Audit Comment: We do not believe this alternative corrective action fully addresses the recommendation. Developing procedures to better document the reasons applications are chosen for further review would help ensure that applications are being handled in an impartial manner. In addition, as detailed in the next section of this report, the average time these applications have been open is 574 days as of December 17, 2012. We do not believe documenting a brief explanation about why applications are chosen for review would have an adverse impact on the timeliness of case processing.

Recommendation 3: Develop training or workshops to be held before each election cycle including, but not limited to, the proper ways to identify applications that require review of political campaign intervention activities.

Management's Response: The IRS agreed with this recommendation and will develop training on the topics described in Recommendations 3, 5, 6, and 9. Because election cycles are continuous, the IRS will develop a schedule which ensures that staff have the training as needed to handle potential political intervention matters.

Potential Political Cases Experienced Significant Processing Delays

Organizations that applied for tax-exempt status and had their applications forwarded to the team of specialists experienced substantial delays. As of December 17, 2012, many organizations had not received an approval or denial letter for more than two years after they submitted their applications. Some cases have been open during two election cycles (2010 and 2012). The *IRS Strategic Plan 2009–2013* has several goals and objectives that involve timely interacting with taxpayers, including enforcement of the tax law in a timely manner while minimizing taxpayer burden. The EO function does not have specific timeliness goals for processing applications, such as potential political cases, that require significant follow-up with the



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organizations.³⁰ The time it takes to process an application depends upon the facts and circumstances of the case.

Potential political cases took significantly longer than average to process due to ineffective management oversight. Once cases were initially identified for processing by the team of specialists, the Determinations Unit Program Manager requested assistance via e-mail from the Technical Unit to ensure consistency in processing the cases. However, EO function management did not ensure that there was a formal process in place for initiating, tracking, or monitoring requests for assistance. In addition, there were several changes in Rulings and Agreements management responsible for overseeing the fulfillment of requests for assistance from the Determinations Unit during this time period. This contributed to the lengthy delays in processing potential political cases. As a result, the Determinations Unit waited more than 20 months (February 2010 to November 2011) to receive draft written guidance from the Technical Unit for processing potential political cases.

As a result, the IRS delayed the issuance of letters to organizations approving their tax-exempt status. For I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) organizations, this means that potential donors and grantors could be reluctant to provide donations or grants.³¹ In addition, some organizations withdrew their applications and others may not have begun conducting planned charitable or social welfare work. The delays may have also prevented some organizations from receiving certain benefits of the tax-exempt status. For example, if organizations are approved for tax-exempt status, they may receive exemption from certain State taxes and reduced postal rates. For organizations that may eventually be denied tax-exempt status but have been operating while their applications are pending, the organizations will be required to retroactively file income tax returns and may be liable to pay income taxes for, in some cases, more than two years.

To analyze the delays, we: 1) reviewed the events that led to delays in processing potential political cases, 2) compared the amount of time cases assigned to the team of specialists were open to applications that were not assigned to the team of specialists, and 3) determined if organizations were eligible to sue the IRS due to delays in processing certain applications.

Potential political cases experienced long processing delays

The team of specialists stopped working on potential political cases from October 2010 through November 2011, resulting in a 13-month delay, while they waited for assistance from the Technical Unit. Figure 5 illustrates significant events and delays concerning potential political cases. For a comprehensive timeline of events related to potential political cases, see Appendix VII.

³⁰ The EO function, however, had an overall goal to process merit and full development tax-exempt applications in 121 days for Fiscal Year 2012.

³¹ Of 298 cases reviewed, 89 were I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) organizations.



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Figure 5: Timeline of Events and Delays Involving the Processing of Potential Political Cases (***1***** Through May 2012)**

Date	Events and Delays
*****1*****	*****1*****
April 2010	The team of specialists is formed with one specialist who is assigned potential political cases and begins working on them with the assistance of a Technical Unit employee.
October 2010	The team of specialists stops processing potential political cases while waiting for assistance from the Technical Unit.
July 2011	The EO function decides to develop written guidance for the Determinations Unit to process the potential political cases.
November 2011	Draft written guidance is provided to the Determinations Unit.
December 2011	Additional specialists are added to the team of specialists.
January 2012	Specialists begin issuing additional information request letters to organizations applying for tax-exempt status, requesting that the information be provided in two to three weeks. These time periods are standard response times given for any information request and are included in the Internal Revenue Manual.
February 2012	Concerns are raised in the media regarding requests for significant amounts of information from organizations applying for tax-exempt status. The Director, EO, stops specialists from issuing any more letters requesting information. Instead, letters allowing extensions of 60 days to respond to previous additional information letters were developed and issued in March and April 2012. These letters also noted that applicants should contact the IRS if they needed longer than 60 days to respond.
May 2012	A workshop is given to Determinations Unit specialists assigned to potential political cases. Afterwards, a review of all the open cases is completed to recommend whether additional processing is necessary or whether the cases can be closed (as of December 17, 2012, 160 applications were still being processed).

Source: Interview of EO function employees and our review of EO function e-mails.

Ineffective oversight by management led to significant delays in processing potential political cases. *****1*****
 *****1***** In April 2010, the Determinations Unit Program Manager requested via e-mail a contact in the Technical Unit to provide assistance with processing the applications. A Technical Unit specialist was assigned this task and began working with the team of specialists. The team of specialists stopped processing cases in October 2010 without closing any of the 40 cases that were begun. However, the Determinations Unit Program Manager thought the cases were being processed. Later, we were informed by the Director, Rulings and Agreements, that there was a miscommunication about processing the cases. The Determinations Unit waited for assistance from the Technical Unit instead of



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continuing to process the cases. The Determinations Unit Program Manager requested status updates on the request for assistance several times via e-mail. Draft written guidance was not received from the Technical Unit until November 2011, 13 months after the Determinations Unit stopped processing the cases. As of the end of our audit work in February 2013, the guidance had not been finalized because the EO function decided to provide training instead.³²

Many organizations waited much longer than 13 months for a decision, while others have yet to receive a decision from the IRS. For example, as of December 17, 2012, the IRS had been processing several potential political cases for more than 1,000 calendar days. Some of these organizations received requests for additional information in Calendar Year 2010 and then did not hear from the IRS again for more than a year while the Determinations Unit waited for assistance from the Technical Unit. For the 296 potential political cases we reviewed,³³ as of December 17, 2012, 108 applications had been approved, 28 were withdrawn by the applicant, none had been denied, and 160 cases were open from 206 to 1,138 calendar days (some crossing two election cycles).

In March 2012, the Deputy Commissioner, Services and Enforcement, asked the Senior Technical Advisor to the Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, to look into concerns raised by the media about delays in processing applications for tax-exempt status from Tea Party groups and the nature of the questions being asked related to the applications. In April 2012, the Senior Technical Advisor to the Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, along with a team of EO function Headquarters office employees, reviewed many of the potential political cases and determined that there appeared to be some confusion by Determinations Unit specialists and applicants on what activities are allowed by I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) organizations. We believe this could be due to the lack of specific guidance on how to determine the "primary activity" of an I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) organization. Treasury Regulations state that I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) organizations should have social welfare as their "primary activity"; however, the regulations do not define how to measure whether social welfare is an organization's "primary activity."

As a result of this confusion, the EO function Headquarters employees provided a two-day workshop to the team of specialists in May 2012 to train them on what activities are allowable by I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) organizations, including lobbying and political campaign intervention. After this workshop, potential political cases were independently reviewed by two people to determine what, if any, additional work needed to be completed prior to making a decision to approve or deny the applications for tax-exempt status. This review continued on any newly identified potential political cases. Prior to the hands-on training and independent reviews, the team of specialists had only approved six (2 percent) of 298 applications. After the hands-on training

³² In response to the National Taxpayer Advocate's 2007 Annual Report to Congress, the IRS commented that putting guide sheets for processing applications for tax-exempt status on its Internet site would result in fewer delays.

³³ *****1*****



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and independent reviews began, the Determinations Unit approved an additional 102 applications by December 2012.³⁴ In addition, it was decided that applications could be approved, but a referral for follow-up could be sent to another unit,³⁵ which could review the activities of an organization at a later date to determine if they were consistent with the organization's tax-exempt status.

Potential political cases were open much longer than similar cases that were not identified for processing by the team of specialists

For Fiscal Year 2012, the average time it took the Determinations Unit to complete processing applications requiring additional information from organizations applying for tax-exempt status (also referred to by the EO function as full development cases) was 238 calendar days according to IRS data. In comparison, the average time a potential political case was open as of December 17, 2012, was 574 calendar days (with 158 potential political cases being open longer than the average calendar days it took to close other full development cases).³⁶ Figure 6 shows that more than 80 percent of the potential political cases have been open more than one year.

Figure 6: Number of Calendar Days Potential Political Cases Were Open (as of December 17, 2012)

Total Cases	Number and Percentage of Potential Political Cases Open by Calendar Day Range				
	0-120 Calendar Days	121-180 Calendar Days	181-270 Calendar Days	271-365 Calendar Days	More Than 365 Calendar Days
160	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	28 (18%)	129 (81%)

Source: Our analysis of EO function documentation.

³⁴ Of the 102 applications, 29 (28 percent) involved Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 organizations.

³⁵ The Review of Operations Unit completes compliance reviews on tax-exempt organizations to determine whether they are operating in accordance with their tax-exempt purposes and are current with their filing requirements. Unit personnel review information available on IRS systems, filed returns, applications for tax exemption, and the Internet to assess the organizations' operations and make recommendations for further actions.

³⁶ See Appendix IV.

³⁷ Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.



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Some charitable organizations were eligible to sue the IRS for declaratory judgment due to the delays in processing applications

The Determinations Unit did not always timely approve or deny the applications for I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status for potential political cases. However, the tax law provides organizations with the ability to sue the IRS to force a decision on their applications if the IRS does not approve or deny their applications within 270 calendar days.³⁸

As of May 31, 2012,³⁹ 32 (36 percent) of 89 I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) potential political cases were open more than 270 calendar days, and the organizations had responded timely to all requests for additional information, as required. As of the end of our fieldwork, none of these organizations had sued the IRS, even though they had the legal right. In another 38 open cases, organizations were timely in their responses to additional information requests, but the 270-calendar-day threshold had not been reached as of May 31, 2012. These 38 organizations may have the right to sue the IRS in the future if determinations are not made within the 270-calendar-day period.

Recommendations.

The Director, EO, should:

Recommendation 4: Develop a process for the Determinations Unit to formally request assistance from the Technical Unit and the Guidance Unit.⁴⁰ The process should include actions to initiate, track, and monitor requests for assistance to ensure that requests are responded to timely.

Management's Response: The IRS agreed with this recommendation and will develop a formal process for the Determination Unit to request assistance and to monitor such requests.

Recommendation 5: Develop guidance for specialists on how to process requests for tax-exempt status involving potentially significant political campaign intervention. This guidance should also be posted to the Internet to provide transparency to organizations on the application process.

Management's Response: The IRS proposed alternative corrective action to our recommendation. The IRS will develop training on the topics described in Recommendations 3, 5, 6, and 9. Because election cycles are continuous, the IRS

³⁸ Revenue Procedure 2012-09 provides further guidance on the implementation of this right.

³⁹ Tax-exempt application case files were selected for review in June 2012 based on a May 31, 2012, listing of applications being processed by the team of specialists.

⁴⁰ The Guidance Unit provides formal and informal guidance that explains how certain laws, such as regulations, revenue rulings, revenue procedures, notices, and announcements, may apply to exempt organizations.



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noted that it will develop a schedule which ensures that staff have the training as needed to handle potential political intervention matters.

Office of Audit Comment: We do not believe that this alternative corrective action fully addresses our recommendation. We believe that specific guidance should be developed and made available to specialists processing potential political cases. Making this guidance available on the Internet for organizations could also address a concern raised in the IRS's response that many applications appear to contain incomplete and inconsistent information.

Recommendation 6: Develop training or workshops to be held before each election cycle including, but not limited to: a) what constitutes political campaign intervention versus general advocacy (including case examples) and b) the ability to refer for follow-up those organizations that may conduct activities in a future year which may cause them to lose their tax-exempt status.

Management's Response: The IRS agreed with this recommendation and will develop training on the topics described in Recommendations 3, 5, 6, and 9. Because election cycles are continuous, the IRS reported that it will develop a schedule which ensures that staff have the training as needed to handle potential political intervention matters.

Recommendation 7: Provide oversight to ensure that potential political cases, some of which have been in process for three years, are approved or denied expeditiously.

Management's Response: The IRS agreed with this recommendation and stated that, while this is an ongoing project, it is closely overseeing the remaining open cases to ensure that it reaches determinations as expeditiously as possible.

The Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, should:

Recommendation 8: Recommend to IRS Chief Counsel and the Department of the Treasury that guidance on how to measure the "primary activity" of I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations be included for consideration in the Department of the Treasury Priority Guidance Plan.⁴¹

Management's Response: The IRS agreed with this recommendation and will share this recommendation with the IRS Chief Counsel and the Department of Treasury's Office of Tax Policy.

⁴¹ The Department of the Treasury issues a Priority Guidance Plan each year to identify and prioritize the tax issues that should be addressed through regulations, revenue rulings, revenue procedures, notices, and other published administrative guidance.



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The Determinations Unit Requested Unnecessary Information for Many Potential Political Cases

The Determinations Unit sent requests for information that we later (in whole or in part) determined to be unnecessary for 98 (58 percent) of 170 organizations that received additional information request letters.⁴² According to the Internal Revenue Manual, these requests should be thorough, complete, and relevant. However, the Determinations Unit requested irrelevant (unnecessary) information because of a lack of managerial review, at all levels, of questions before they were sent to organizations seeking tax-exempt status. We also believe that Determinations Unit specialists lacked knowledge of what activities are allowed by I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) and I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organizations. This created burden on the organizations that were required to gather and forward information that was not needed by the Determinations Unit and led to delays in processing the applications. These delays could result in potential donors and grantors being reluctant to provide donations or grants to organizations applying for I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. In addition, some organizations may not have begun conducting planned charitable or social welfare work.

After receiving draft guidance in November 2011, the team of specialists began sending requests for additional information in January 2012 to organizations that were applying for tax-exempt status. For some organizations, this was the second letter received from the IRS requesting additional information, the first of which had been received more than a year before this date. These letters requested that the information be provided in two or three weeks (as is customary in these letters) despite the fact that the IRS had done nothing with some of the applications for more than one year. After the letters were received, organizations seeking tax-exempt status, as well as members of Congress, expressed concerns about the type and extent of questions being asked. For example, the Determinations Unit requested donor information from 27 organizations⁴³ that it would be required to make public if the application was approved, even though this information could not be disclosed by the IRS when provided by organizations whose tax-exempt status had been approved. Figure 7 shows an example of requests sent to organizations applying for tax-exempt status regarding donors.

⁴² See Appendix IV.

⁴³ Of the 27 organizations, 13 had Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 in their names.



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Figure 7: Example of Requests for Information Regarding Past and Future Donors in Letters Sent in January/February 2012

Provide the following information for the income you received and raised for the years from inception to the present. Also, provide the same information for the income you expect to receive and raise for 2012, 2013, and 2014.

- a. Donations, contributions, and grant income for each year, which includes the following information:
 1. The names of the donors, contributors, and grantors. If the donor, contributor, or grantor has run or will run for a public office, identify the office. If not, please confirm by answering this question "No."
 2. The amounts of each of the donations, contributions, and grants and the dates you received them.
 3. How did you use these donations, contributions, and grants? Provide the details.

If you did not receive or do not expect to receive any donation, contribution, and grant income, please confirm by answering "None received" and/or "None expected."

Source: Application case files.

After media attention, the Director, EO, stopped issuance of additional information request letters and provided an extension of time to respond to previously issued letters. The Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement then asked the Senior Technical Advisor to the Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, to find out how applications were being processed and make recommendations. The Senior Technical Advisor and a team of specialists visited the Determinations Unit in Cincinnati, Ohio, and began reviewing cases. As part of this effort, EO function Headquarters office employees reviewed the additional information request letters prepared by the team of specialists and identified seven questions that they deemed unnecessary. Subsequently, the EO function instituted the practice that all additional information request letters for potential political cases be reviewed by the EO function Headquarters office before they are sent to organizations seeking tax-exempt status. In addition, EO function officials informed us that they decided to destroy all donor lists that were sent in for potential political cases that the IRS determined it should not have requested. Figure 8 lists the seven questions identified as being unnecessary.



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Figure 8: Seven Questions Identified As Unnecessary by the EO Function

Number	Question
1	Requests the names of donors.
2	Requests a list of all issues that are important to the organization and asks that the organization indicate its position regarding such issues.
3	Requests 1) the roles and activities of the audience and participants other than members in the activity and 2) the type of conversations and discussions members and participants had during the activity.
4	Asks whether the officer, director, <i>etc.</i> , has run or will run for public office.
5	Requests the political affiliation of the officer, director, speakers, candidates supported, <i>etc.</i> , or otherwise refers to the relationship with identified political party-related organizations.
6	Requests information regarding employment, other than for the organization, including hours worked.
7	Requests information regarding activities of another organization – not just the relationship of the other organization to the applicant.

Source: EO function review of additional information request letters.

We reviewed case file information for all 170 organizations that received additional information request letters and determined that 98 (58 percent) had received requests for information that was later deemed unnecessary by the EO function. Of the 98 organizations:

- 15 were informed that they did not need to respond to previous requests for information and, instead, received a revised request for information.
- 12 either received a letter or a telephone call stating that their application was approved and they no longer needed to respond to information requests they had received from the IRS.



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Figure 9 shows excerpts from the approval letter developed for organizations that did not need to respond to a previous additional information request letter.

Figure 9: Excerpts From a Template Approval Letter, Which Includes a Statement That Previously Requested Information Is No Longer Needed

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax-exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Please note that we have just completed another review of your request to be recognized as tax-exempt under section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Codes. Based on that review, we concluded that we do not need the additional materials previously requested because your application and materials provide sufficient information.

Source: IRS template approval letter.

Recommendation

Recommendation 9: The Director, EO, should develop training or workshops to be held before each election cycle including, but not limited to, how to word questions in additional information request letters and what additional information should be requested.

Management's Response: The IRS agreed with this recommendation and will develop training on the topics described in Recommendations 3, 5, 6, and 9. Because election cycles are continuous, the IRS reported that it will develop a schedule which ensures that staff have the training as needed to handle potential political intervention matters.



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Appendix I

Detailed Objective, Scope, and Methodology

The overall objective was to determine whether allegations were founded that the IRS: 1) targeted specific groups applying for tax-exempt status, 2) delayed processing targeted groups' applications for tax-exempt status, and 3) requested unnecessary information from targeted groups. To accomplish our objective, we:

- I. Assessed the actions taken by the EO function in response to the increase in applications for tax-exempt status from organizations potentially involved in political campaign intervention.
 - A. Interviewed EO function management to identify steps taken and who authorized them. We also developed a timeline of events.
 - B. Obtained a list of applications that were identified for processing by the team of specialists and determined the status of the identified cases (open, approved, denied, etc.) through May 31, 2012. We also received an updated list of identified cases through December 17, 2012, to determine the status of each initial case as of this date.
 - C. Determined whether procedures and controls in place since May 2010 resulted in inconsistent treatment of applications potentially involving political campaign intervention.
- II. Determined whether changes to procedures and controls since May 2010 affected the timeliness of reviewing applications potentially involving political campaign intervention.
 - A. Interviewed EO function personnel to determine whether there were any outside influences that affected the timeliness of reviewing potential political cases.
 - B. Reviewed all 89 I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) potential political cases to determine whether they were processed within the 270-day standard required by law.
- III. Determined whether the actions taken by the EO function to identify applications for tax-exempt status of organizations potentially involved in political campaign intervention were consistent.
 - A. Selected a statistical sample of 244 open and closed I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) application cases from a universe of 2,459 cases that the IRS determined needed significant additional information (full development) on the Employee Plans/Exempt Organizations Determination System from May 2010 through May 2012 to determine whether they should have been identified for processing by the team of specialists.



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We selected our statistical sample using the following criteria: 90 percent confidence level, 50 percent error rate,¹ and ± 5 percent precision rate. We used a random sample to ensure that each application case had an equal chance of being selected, which enabled us to obtain sufficient evidence to support our results. A contracted statistician reviewed our projections.

1. Obtained the universe of 2,459 cases from the Employee Plans/Exempt Organizations Determination System and performed validity checks to ensure that the data were accurate. We found the data could be relied on for this review.
 2. Obtained a statistical sample of open and closed application cases.
 3. Determined whether application cases with potential political campaign intervention issues were identified for processing by the team of specialists.
 4. Interviewed EO function personnel to obtain their perspective on any application cases we identified that should have been identified for processing by the team of specialists but were not.
- B. Selected a statistical sample of 94 closed I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) application cases from a universe of 2,051 cases that the IRS determined did not need significant additional information (merit cases) on the Employee Plans/Exempt Organizations Determination System from May 2010 through May 2012 to determine whether they should have been identified for processing by the team of specialists. We selected our statistical sample using the following criteria: 90 percent confidence level, 10 percent error rate,² and ± 5 percent precision rate. We used a random sample to ensure that each application case had an equal chance of being selected, which enabled us to obtain sufficient evidence to support our results. A contracted statistician reviewed our projections.
1. Obtained the universe of 2,051 cases from the Employee Plans/Exempt Organizations Determination System and performed validity checks to ensure that the data were accurate. We found the data could be relied on for this review.
 2. Obtained a statistical sample of closed application cases.
 3. Determined whether application cases with potential political campaign intervention issues were not identified for processing by the team of specialists.

¹ An expected error rate of 50 percent was chosen because we determined that cases needing significant additional information had criteria that included the names of specific groups.

² An expected error rate of 10 percent was chosen because procedures require that cases with political issues generally need significant additional information.



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4. Interviewed EO function personnel to obtain their perspective on any applications we identified that should have been identified for processing by the team of specialists but were not.
 - C. Obtained and reviewed all 298 application cases identified for processing by the team of specialists as of May 31, 2012, to determine whether they were correctly identified.
 1. Determined whether application cases were correctly identified for processing by the team of specialists.
 2. Interviewed EO function personnel to obtain their perspective on any cases we identified that should not have been identified for processing by the team of specialists.
 - D. Computed the average cycle time of processing potential political cases and compared it to the average cycle time for processing similar cases that were not processed by the team of specialists.
 - E. Determined the number of organizations that may have been adversely affected by inconsistent treatment.
- IV. Determined whether the EO function consistently had a reasonable basis for requesting information from organizations seeking tax-exempt status that were potentially involved in political campaign intervention.
- A. Reviewed all 170 potential political cases that were issued additional information request letters to determine whether the letters included questions deemed unnecessary by the EO function.
 - B. Interviewed EO function personnel to obtain their perspective on additional information that was requested that may not have been necessary to help make a determination decision.
 - C. Determined the number of taxpayers that may have been adversely affected.

Internal controls methodology

Internal controls relate to management's plans, methods, and procedures used to meet their mission, goals, and objectives. Internal controls include the processes and procedures for planning, organizing, directing, and controlling program operations. They include the systems for measuring, reporting, and monitoring program performance. We determined the following internal controls were relevant to our audit objective: EO function policies, procedures, and practices for identifying and processing applications for tax-exempt status with indications of political campaign intervention. We evaluated these controls by interviewing personnel, reviewing documentation, reviewing statistical samples of applications for tax-exempt status, and reviewing applications identified as involving potential political campaign intervention.



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Appendix II

Major Contributors to This Report

Gregory D. Kutz, Assistant Inspector General for Audit (Management Services and Exempt Organizations)

Russell P. Martin, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audit (Management Services and Exempt Organizations)

Troy D. Paterson, Director

Thomas F. Seidell, Audit Manager

Cheryl J. Medina, Lead Auditor

Julia Moore, Senior Auditor

Michael A. McGovern, Auditor

Evan A. Close, Audit Evaluator



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Appendix III

Report Distribution List

Acting Commissioner C
Office of the Commissioner – Attn: Chief of Staff C
Chief Counsel CC
Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement SE
National Taxpayer Advocate TA
Acting Deputy Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division SE:T
Director, Exempt Organizations, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division SE:T:EO
Director, Office of Legislative Affairs CL:LA
Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Risk Analysis RAS:O
Office of Internal Control OS:CFO:CPIC:IC
Audit Liaison: Director, Communications and Liaison, Tax Exempt and Government Entities
Division SE:T:CL



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Appendix IV

Outcome Measures

This appendix presents detailed information on the measurable impact that our recommended corrective actions will have on tax administration. These benefits will be incorporated into our Semiannual Report to Congress.

Type and Value of Outcome Measure:

- Reliability of Information – Actual; nine application case files that were either incomplete or could not be located for us to review (see page 5).

Methodology Used to Measure the Reported Benefit:

During our review of applications for tax-exempt status that were not identified for the team of specialists, we were unable to review seven case files because the case file lacked complete documentation (six cases) or the case file could not be located (one case). In addition, during our review of all identified potential political cases through May 31, 2012, we were unable to analyze two case files because of incomplete documentation.

Type and Value of Outcome Measure:

- Reliability of Information – Potential; 44 organizations whose tax-exempt applications were not appropriately identified as having significant potential political campaign intervention (see page 5).

Methodology Used to Measure the Reported Benefit:

We selected a simple random sample of 94 I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) cases closed from May 2010 through May 2012 from a universe of 2,051 applications that the IRS determined required minimal or no additional information from organizations applying for tax-exempt status. During our case reviews, we determined that two cases were not appropriately identified as having significant potential political campaign intervention. We projected, with 90 percent confidence, an actual error rate of between 0.38 percent and 6.55 percent¹ and that between eight and 134 applications² were not properly identified for processing by the team of specialists.

¹ The point estimate error rate for the sample is 2.13 percent. The 90 percent confidence interval was calculated using the Exact Binomial Method.

² The point estimate number of error applications is 44. The 90 percent confidence interval was calculated using the Exact Binomial Method.



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Type and Value of Outcome Measure:

- Reliability of Information – Potential; 141 organizations whose tax-exempt applications were not appropriately identified as having significant potential political campaign intervention (see page 5).

Methodology Used to Measure the Reported Benefit:

We selected a simple random sample of 244 I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) cases closed from May 2010 through May 2012 or open as of May 31, 2012, from a universe of 2,459 applications that the IRS determined required additional information from organizations applying for tax-exempt status.³ During our case reviews, we determined that 14 cases were not appropriately identified as having significant potential political campaign intervention. We projected, with 90 percent confidence, an actual error rate of between 3.38 percent and 8.43 percent⁴ and that between 84 and 198 applications⁵ were not properly identified for processing by the team of specialists.

Type and Value of Outcome Measure:

- Taxpayer Burden – Potential; 158 organizations that waited longer than average for the IRS to make a decision regarding their tax-exempt status (see page 11).

Methodology Used to Measure the Reported Benefit:

We obtained data from the EO function on the average number of days it took to determine whether an application for tax-exempt status was approved or denied. In Fiscal Year 2012, it took an average 238 days to close a case that needed additional information from the organization prior to approving or denying the application. As of December 17, 2012, there were 158 potential political cases that were open more than 238 calendar days.

Type and Value of Outcome Measure:

- Taxpayer Burden – Potential; 98 organizations that received additional information request letters with questions that were later deemed unnecessary by the EO function (see page 18).

Methodology Used to Measure the Reported Benefit:

We reviewed 170 potential political cases that had received additional information request letters from the Determinations Unit. Using a list of seven questions/topics that the EO function categorized as unnecessary, we identified 98 potential political cases that included additional information request letters asking questions deemed unnecessary by the EO function.

³ We found that seven cases from the sample of 244 were not reviewable because of incomplete documentation.

⁴ The point estimate error rate for the sample is 5.91 percent with a precision of ± 2.52 percent.

⁵ The point estimate number of error applications is 141 with a precision of ± 57 applications.

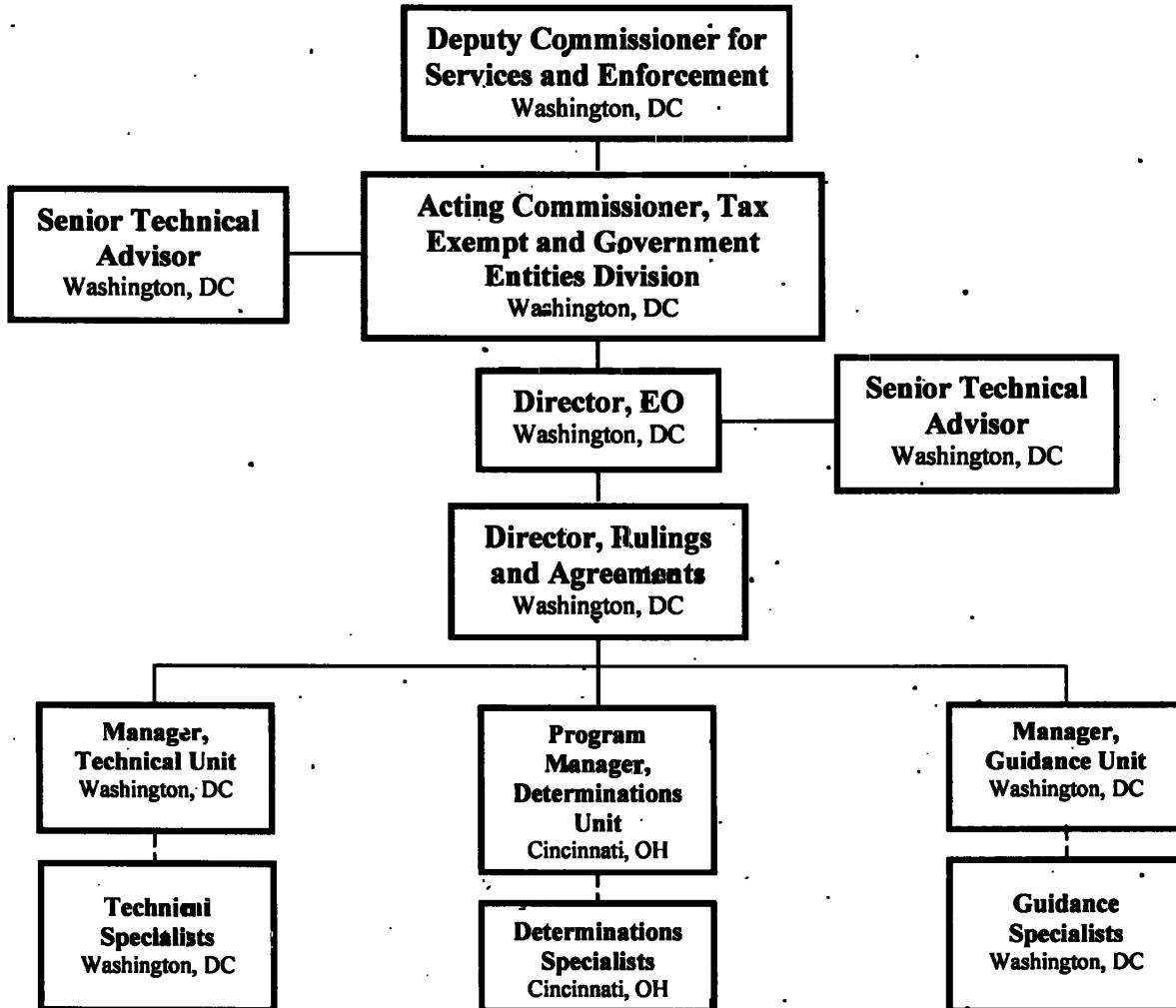


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Appendix V

***High-Level Organizational Chart
of Offices Referenced in This Report***

The following is a high-level organizational chart of offices we discuss in this report, starting with the Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement, who reports to the IRS Commissioner.





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Appendix VI

Timeline of Written Criteria for Identifying Potential Political Cases

The following illustrates the changes to the written criteria provided to Determinations Unit employees for identifying applications for the team of specialists.

Date	Criteria Developed or Actions Taken
February 2010	***** ***** ***** *****
March–April 2010	The Determinations Unit began searching for other requests for tax exemption involving the Tea Party, Patriots, 9/12, and I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) applications involving political sounding names, e.g., “We the People” or “Take Back the Country.”
July 2010	Determinations Unit management requested its specialists to be on the lookout for Tea Party applications.
August 2010	First BOLO listing issued with criteria listed as “...various local organizations in the Tea Party movement...applying for exemption under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).”
July 2011	Criteria changed to “Organizations involved with political, lobbying, or advocacy for exemption under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)” based on the concerns the Director, EO, raised in June 2011.
January 2012	Criteria changed to “Political action type organizations involved in limiting/expanding government, educating on the constitution and bill of rights, social economic reform/movement” based on Determinations Unit concerns that the July 2011 criteria was too generic.
May 2012	Criteria changed to “501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations with indicators of significant amounts of political campaign intervention (raising questions as to exempt purpose and/or excess private benefit).”



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Appendix VII

Comprehensive Timeline of Events

The following chart illustrates a timeline of events from February 2010 through July 2012 involving the identification and processing of potential political cases. It shows that there was confusion about how to process the applications, delays in the processing of the applications, and a lack of management oversight and guidance. The timeline was developed using documentation provided by the EO function as well as numerous interviews with EO function personnel.

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
February 25, 2010	***** *****		E-Mail
Around March 1, 2010	The Determinations Unit Group Manager asked a specialist to search for other Tea Party or similar organizations' applications in order to determine the scope of the issue. The specialist continued to complete searches for additional cases until the precursor to the BOLO listing was issued in May 2010.	Determinations Unit personnel indicated that they used the description Tea Party as a shorthand way of referring to the group of cases involving political campaign intervention rather than to target any particular group. The specialist used Tea Party, Patriots, and 9/12 as part of the criteria for these searches.	Interview
March 16-17, 2010	Ten Tea Party cases were identified. The Acting Manager, Technical Unit, requested two more cases be transferred to Washington, D.C. ***** *****	Not all of the ten cases had Tea Party in their names.	E-Mail
April 1-2, 2010	The now Acting Manager, Technical Unit, suggested the need for a Sensitive Case Report on the Tea Party cases. The Determinations Unit Program Manager agreed.		E-Mail
April 5, 2010	***** *****		E-Mail
April 5, 2010	A Determinations Unit specialist developed a list of 18 identified Tea Party cases during a search of applications. Three had already been approved as tax-exempt.	While the heading of the document listing these 18 cases referred to Tea Party cases, not all of the organizations listed had Tea Party in their names.	E-Mail



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
April 19, 2010	The first Sensitive Case Report was prepared by the Technical Unit.	Sensitive Case Reports are shared with the Director, Rulings and Agreements, and a chart summarizing all Sensitive Case Reports is provided to the Director, EO.	Documentation
April 25-26, 2010	The Determinations Unit Program Manager requested Technical Unit contacts for the specialist assigned to work other Tea Party cases. Contacts were received. ***** ***** *****		E-Mail
May 17, 2010	The Determinations Unit specialist will send additional information request letters to the Technical Unit for review prior to issuance as part of the Technical Unit's attempt to provide assistance to the Determinations Unit.		E-Mail
May 26, 2010	***** ***** *****		E-Mail
May 27, 2010	The Technical Unit began reviewing additional information request letters prepared by the Determinations Unit.		Interview and E-Mail
June 7, 2010	Determinations Unit began training its specialists on emerging issues to watch for, including an emerging issue referred to as Tea Party Cases.		Documentation
June 14, 2010	***** *****		E-Mail
June 30, 2010	***** *****	***** *****	E-Mail
July 2010	Determinations Unit management requested its specialists to be on the lookout for Tea Party applications.		E-Mail
July 2, 2010	***** *****		E-Mail
July 27, 2010	Prior to the ROLO listing development, an e-mail was sent updating the description of applications involving potential political campaign intervention and providing a coordinator contact for the cases. The description was changed to read, "These cases involve various local organizations in the Tea Party movement [that] are applying for exemption under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)."		Interview and Documentation



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
August 12, 2010	The BGLO listing was developed by the Determinations Unit in order to replace the existing practice of sending separate e-mails to all Determinations Unit employees as to cases to watch for, potentially abusive cases, cases requiring processing by the team of specialists, and emerging issues. The description of applications involving potential political campaign intervention on the BGLO listing was the same description used in the July 27, 2010, e-mail.		Interview and Documentation
August 2010	The responsibility for applications involving potential political campaign intervention was moved to a different team of specialists as part of a group realignment within the Determinations Unit.		Interview and Documentation
October 2010	Applications involving potential political campaign intervention were transferred to another Determinations Unit specialist. The specialist did not work on the cases while waiting for guidance from the Technical Unit.	Per the Director, Rulings and Agreements, there was a miscommunication about not working the cases while waiting for guidance.	Interviews
October 19, 2010	Technical Unit personnel forwarded a memorandum to their Acting Manager describing the work completed on the Tea Party cases by the Technical Unit. Included was a list of the cases the Technical Unit had assisted the Determinations Unit with.	The list included 40 cases, 18 of which did not have Tea Party in their names.	E-Mail
October 26, 2010	Determinations Unit personnel raised concerns to the Technical Unit with the approach being used to develop the Tea Party cases: Why does the Technical Unit need to review every additional information request letter when a template letter could be approved and used on all the cases?		E-Mail
November 16, 2010	A new coordinator contact for potential political cases was announced.		Interview and Documentation
November 16-17, 2010	A Determinations Unit Group Manager raised concern to the Determinations Unit Area Manager that they are still waiting for an additional information request letter template from the Technical Unit for the Tea Party cases. The coordinator had received calls from taxpayers checking on the status of their applications.		E-Mail
November 17, 2010	The Determinations Unit Program Manager discussed Tea Party cases with the Technical Unit manager. Review of the cases by the Technical Unit found that not all of the cases had the same issues so a template letter had not been developed.		E-Mail



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
December 13, 2010	The Determinations Unit Program Manager asked the Technical Unit manager for a status on the Tea Party cases. The Technical Unit manager responded that they were going to discuss the cases with the Senior Technical Advisor to the Director, EO, shortly.		E-Mail
January 28, 2011	The Determinations Unit Program Manager requested an update on the Tea Party cases from the Technical Unit Acting Manager.		E-Mail
January 2011	A new person took over the Technical Unit Acting Manager role.		Interview
February 3, 2011	The Technical Unit Acting Manager provided an update to the Determinations Unit Program Manager on the cases being worked by the Technical Unit. Letters were being developed and would be reviewed shortly.		E-Mail
March 2, 2011	A Determinations Unit Group Manager reminded the Determinations Unit Program Manager to follow up with the Technical Unit on the status of the Tea Party cases.		E-Mail
March 30, 2011	***** *****		E-Mail
March 31, 2011	The Determinations Unit Program Manager stated that, while waiting for assistance from the Technical Unit, the Determinations Unit still needed to work Tea Party cases to the extent possible.	This contradicts the October 2010 decision not to work cases until assistance is received from the Technical Unit and supports the statement of the Director, Rulings and Agreements, that there was a miscommunication about not working the cases while awaiting assistance.	E-Mail
April 13, 2011	***** *****		E-Mail
June 1-2, 2011	The Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, requested criteria used to identify Tea Party cases from the Determinations Unit Program Manager. The Determinations Unit Program Manager requested criteria from a Determinations Unit Group Manager.		E-Mail

¹ The Taxpayer Advocate Service is an independent organization within the IRS that provides assistance to taxpayers whose tax problems have not been resolved through normal IRS channels. Taxpayer Advocate Service employees must, at times, rely on assistance from employees assigned to other IRS functions. To request assistance, the Taxpayer Advocate Service issues an Operations Assistance Request specifying the actions needed to help resolve the taxpayer's problem.



Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
June 2, 2011	A Determinations Unit Group Manager provided criteria for identifying potential Tea Party cases to the Determinations Unit Program Manager. Information was then forwarded to the Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements.	These criteria are very different than the BOLO listing criteria available at the time.	E-Mail
June 6, 2011	***** *****		E-Mail
June 6, 2011	The Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, commented that the criteria being used to identify Tea Party cases may have resulted in over-inclusion. ***** **		E-Mail
June 6, 2011	The Determinations Unit Program Manager mentioned that the Determinations Unit needed assistance from the Technical Unit to ensure consistency.		E-Mail
June 29, 2011	<p>A briefing was held with the Director, EO. The briefing paper noted that the Determinations Unit sent cases that met any of the criteria below to a designated team of specialists to be worked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Tea Party," "Patriots," or "9/12 Project" is referenced in the case file. • Issues include Government spending, Government debt, or taxes. • Education of the public via advocacy/lobbying to "make America a better place to live." • Statements in the case file criticize how the country is being run. <p>Over 100 applications were identified by this time. It was decided to develop a guide sheet for processing these cases.</p>	<p>The briefing paper for the Director, EO, was prepared by Tax Law Specialists in the Technical Unit and the Guidance Unit and was reviewed by the Acting Manager, Technical Unit. A Guidance Unit specialist was the primary author of the briefing paper.</p> <p>During the briefing, the Director, EO, raised concerns over the language of the BOLO listing criteria. The Director, EO, instructed that the criteria be immediately revised.</p>	Documentation and E-Mail
July 5, 2011	A conference call was held with the Technical Unit; the Director, EO; and the Determinations Unit Program Manager. They developed new criteria for identifying cases. The Determinations Unit Program Manager made changes to the BOLO listing. The criteria were changed to "organizations involved with political, lobbying, or advocacy for exemption under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)."		E-Mail



**Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
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Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
July 5, 2011	The EO function Headquarters office would be putting a document together with recommended actions for identified cases.		E-Mail
July 23, 2011	The Technical Unit was assigned a new person to coordinate with the Determinations Unit.		E-Mail
July 24, 2011	Work commenced on the guide sheet when the Acting Manager, Technical Unit, asked tax law specialists to draft a list of things for Determinations Unit specialists to look for when working these cases.		E-Mail
August 4, 2011	Rulings and Agreements office personnel held a meeting with Chief Counsel so that everyone would have the latest information on the issue.		E-Mail
August 4, 2011	A Guidance Unit specialist asked if Counsel would review a check sheet prior to issuance to the Determinations Unit. The Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, responded that Counsel would review it prior to issuance.		E-Mail
August 10, 2011	***** ***** *****		Documentation
September 15, 2011	The Determinations Unit Program Manager sent a list of all identified cases to the Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, so that the Technical Unit could complete a limited "triage" of the cases using available information from the electronic case files. A Technical Unit specialist reviewed the list to determine if any cases could be closed on merit or closed with an adverse determination letter. This triage was considered a third screening.		E-Mail
September 21, 2011	The draft guide sheet was sent for review and comment to various EO function Headquarters office employees.		E-Mail
October 2011	A new person took over as the Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements.		Interview
October 24, 2011	A Technical Unit manager forwarded initial triage results to the Determinations Unit.		E-Mail
October 25, 2011	Based on the categories and terminology used in the triage results spreadsheet, the Determinations Unit Program Manager was unclear what the Determinations Unit should do with the triage results – close cases, develop further, <i>etc.</i> – and requested the status on the guidance from the Technical Unit.		E-Mail



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
October 26, 2011	A Technical Unit specialist provided further explanation of the triage results in an e-mail to the Determinations Unit Program Manager.		E-Mail
October 30, 2011	The Determinations Unit Program Manager contacted the Acting Manager, Technical Unit, asking additional questions regarding the triage results and requesting a status update on the Technical Unit guidance. ***** ***** ***** *****		E-Mail
November 3, 2011	An updated draft version of the guide sheet was sent to EO function employees for comment.		E-Mail
November 6, 2011	The Acting Manager, Technical Unit, had a Technical Unit specialist provide more details on the triage results, and informed the Determinations Unit Program Manager that the guidance was being reviewed prior to issuance.		E-Mail
November 6, 2011	The Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, informed the Acting Manager, Technical Unit, and the Determinations Unit Program Manager that, based on feedback received, the guidance developed would not work in its present form – it was “too lawyerly” to be useful and needed the Determinations Unit input.		Interview and E-Mail
November 15, 2011	The Determinations Unit Program Manager forwarded the Technical Unit specialist’s triage results to the Senior Technical Advisor to the Director, EO, per the Director’s request.		E-Mail
November 22, 2011	The Acting Manager, Technical Unit, forwarded the clarified triage results to the Determinations Unit Program Manager.		E-Mail
November 23–30, 2011	A new Determinations Unit coordinator was assigned oversight of the cases by a Determinations Unit Group Manager. The draft Technical Unit guidance was provided to the Group Manager. The coordinator began working cases after receiving the guidance in anticipation of a team being assembled to work the cases.		Interview and E-Mail
November 2011	The Determinations Unit specialist assigned the cases began working them after receiving the draft Technical Unit guidance.		Interview



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
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Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
December 7-9 2011	A team of Determinations Unit specialists was created to review all the identified cases. An employee from Quality Assurance was also part of the team. The Technical Unit provided contacts for them.		E-Mail
December 16 2011	The first meeting was held by the team of specialists.		Interview and E-Mail
January 2012	The first batch of letters requesting additional information for applications containing incomplete or missing information was issued by Determinations Unit specialists based, in part, on their reading of the draft guidance issued by the Technical Unit.		Interview and E-Mail
January 2012	A Determinations Unit specialist was tasked with performing a secondary screening of identified potential political cases to ensure that they involved political activities and not just general or lobbying advocacy.		Interviews
January 25 2012	The EFOLO listing criteria were again updated. The criteria was revised as "political action type organizations involved in limiting/expanding Government, educating on the Constitution and Bill of Rights, social economic reform/movement." The coordinator contact was changed as well.		Interview and Documentation
February 27 2012	A member of the team of specialists asked when to start issuing additional information request letters to applicants again.		E-Mail
February 27 2012	The Determinations Unit Program Manager questioned why the team of specialists was not issuing additional information request letters. The Determinations Unit Group Manager for the team of specialists had told the team coordinator to stop developing template questions, not to stop issuing additional information request letters. The miscommunication was corrected on February 29, 2012.		E-Mail
February 29 2012	The Director, EO, requested that the Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, develop a letter to clearly inform applicants what was going to happen if they did not respond to the additional information request letters and giving them more time for their responses.		E-Mail



**Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
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Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
February 29, 2012	The Director, EO, stopped any more additional information request letters from being issued on advocacy cases until new guidance was provided to the Determinations Unit. In addition, the Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, discussed with the Determinations Unit Program Manager about having specialists print out website information and asking the organizations to verify the information instead of asking for applicants to print out the website information.		E-Mail
February-March 2012	Numerous news articles began to be published with complaints from Tea Party organizations about the IRS's unfair treatment. Congress also began to show interest in the IRS's treatment of Tea Party organizations.		Documentation
March 2012	A new person became Acting Group Manager of the team of specialists.		Interview
March 1, 2012	A draft list of template questions was prepared by the team of specialists and forwarded to the Guidance Unit.	Questions included asking for donor information.	E-Mail
March 5, 2012	The Acting Manager, Technical Unit, established procedures for reviewing the first favorable determination letter drafted by the Determinations Unit.		E-Mail
March 6, 2012	***** ***** *****		E-Mail
March 8, 2012	The Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement requested that, if a taxpayer called about having to provide donor information, the Determinations Unit would allow them to not send the donor names but would inform them that the IRS may need it later.		E-Mail
March 8, 2012	The Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, sent to the Determinations Unit Program Manager for comment a draft letter on giving applicants additional time to respond to the additional information request letters. The Determinations Unit Program Manager raised a concern of giving organizations that were not compliant with standard response timelines special treatment.		E-Mail
March 15, 2012	The Determinations Unit received guidance on how to handle different scenarios based upon the status of their cases. Those I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) organizations that had not responded to an additional information request letter were issued another letter giving them an additional 60 days to respond. Those letters were to be issued by March 16, 2012. This additional time letter was a one-time occurrence.		Interview and E-Mail



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
March 23, 2012, and March 27, 2012	The Senior Technical Advisor to the Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, and the Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement discussed concerns with the media attention the Tea Party applications were receiving. The Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement asked the Senior Technical Advisor to look into what was going on in the Determinations Unit and make recommendations.		Interview
April 2012	The Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, learned that the BOLO listing criteria had been changed on January 25, 2012, and informed the Director, EO.		Interview
April 4, 2012	The Determinations Unit received the extension letter for issuance to I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) organizations that had not responded to a previous additional information request letter.		E-Mail
April 17, 2012	Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division Headquarters office employees received the Technical Unit triage results and the draft guidance provided by the Technical Unit. Template questions developed by the team of specialists were also provided.		E-Mail
April 23, 2012	Senior Technical Advisor to the Acting Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division Commissioner visited the Determinations Unit in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a group of EO function employees, and reviewed about half of the identified cases.		Interview
April 24, 2012	The Acting Director, Rulings and Agreements, requested that the Senior Technical Advisor to the Director, EO, review all the additional information request letters issued and identify troubling questions, which organizations received them, and which members of the team of specialists asked them.		E-Mail
April 25, 2012	The Senior Technical Advisor to the Director, EO, provided results of the additional information request letter review, including a list of troubling questions.	The results included the names of donors as a troubling question.	E-Mail
April 25, 2012	Chief Counsel's office provided additional comments on the draft guidance developed for the Determinations Unit.		E-Mail



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
May 8, 2012	The Determinations Unit Program Manager was informed that EO function Headquarters office employees planned to visit Cincinnati, Ohio, to provide training on cases and perform a review of the cases to recommend what additional actions, if any, were needed to make a determination.		E-Mail
May 9, 2012	The Director, Rulings and Agreements, asked about the process for updating the BOLO listing.		E-Mail
May 14-15, 2012	Training was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on how to process identified potential political cases. The Senior Technical Advisor to the Director, EO, took over coordination of the team of specialists from the Determinations Unit.		E-Mail
May 16, 2012	A joint team of Determinations Unit specialists and EO function Headquarters office employees began reviewing all potential political cases began in Cincinnati, Ohio. Cases were divided into four groups with recommendations for how to proceed: favorable determination, favorable with limited development, significant development, and probably adverse. This took around three weeks to complete. A worksheet was used to document the reviews.		E-Mail
May 17, 2012	The Director, Rulings and Agreements, issued a memorandum outlining new procedures for updating the BOLO listing. The BOLO listing criteria were updated again. New criteria reads: "501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations with indicators of significant amounts of political campaign intervention (raising questions as to exempt purpose and/or excess private benefit)."	Suggested additions and changes must be approved by a Determinations Unit coordinator, the Determinations Unit Program Manager, and the Director, Rulings and Agreements.	Interview and E-Mail
May 21, 2012	The EO function determined that the requested donor information could be destroyed or returned to the applicant if not used to make the final determination of tax-exempt status. It does not need to be kept in the administrative file. A letter would be issued to the organizations informing them that the donor information was destroyed.		Interview and E-Mail
May 24, 2012	A telephone call script was developed to inform some organizations that had not responded to the additional information requests that it was not necessary to send the requested information and that their applications had been approved. Also, an additional paragraph was developed for the determination letter.		E-Mail



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
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Date	Event	Additional Details	Source
May 2012	After the review of identified cases was completed, each Determinations Unit specialist working cases was assigned a Technical Unit employee to work with on the cases. The Technical Unit employee reviewed all additional information request letters prior to issuance. The Quality Assurance Unit began reviewing 100 percent of the cases prior to closure. The Quality Assurance Unit review will shift from 100 percent review to a sample review once a comfort level with the results of the quality review was achieved.		Interview
May 2012	A decision was made to refer cases to the Review of Operations Unit for follow-up if there were indications of political campaign intervention but not enough to prevent approval of tax-exempt status.		Interview and E-Mail
June 4, 2012	A draft letter was developed to send to organizations that provided donor information. The letter would inform the organizations that the information was destroyed.		E-Mail
June 7, 2012	The Director, Rulings and Agreements, provided guidance on how to process cases now that they had been reviewed and divided into categories. Any new cases received would go through the same review process prior to assignment.		E-Mail
July 15, 2012	A new Acting Determinations Unit Group Manager was overseeing the team of specialists.		Interview



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
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Appendix VIII

Management's Response to the Draft Report



COMMISSIONER
TAX-EXEMPT AND
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

APR 30 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AUDIT

FROM: Joseph H. Grant, Acting Commissioner, Tax-Exempt and
Government Entities. *Joseph H. Grant*

SUBJECT: "Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt
Applications for Review"

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft report and for your review of this issue. We appreciate your recommendations for improvements to our processes.

We recognize that some errors occurred in the handling of the influx of advocacy cases and we appreciate TIGTA's acknowledgment of our steps to improve the process. As further outlined below, significant improvements in this area are in place and we are confident that what transpired here will not recur.

We believe it is important to put this matter into context. Starting in 2010, Exempt Organizations (EO) observed a significant increase in the number of section 501(c)(3) and section 501(c)(4) applications from organizations that appeared to be, or planned to be, engaged in political campaign activity. Between 2008 and 2012, the number of applications for section 501(c)(4) status more than doubled. We also received numerous referrals from the public, media, watchdog groups, and members of Congress alleging that specific section 501(c)(4) organizations were engaged in political campaign activity to an impermissible extent.

Similar to our approach in other areas (e.g., credit counseling, down payment assistance organizations, etc.), EO sought to assign cases to designated employees. Centralization of like cases ensures that specific employees who have been trained on the relevant issues can adequately review the applications. In this way the IRS learns of new trends (as was the case in credit counseling), and can approach cases in a uniform way to promote consistency and quality. While this is the correct approach for handling certain classes of cases, centralization does slow the progress of some applications (at least initially). Therefore, it is important to take this action only in appropriate situations and to designate cases for centralization in an equitable manner.

It is our view that centralization was warranted in this situation. First, it is important to recognize the intensely fact-specific nature of the determination of whether an



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organization is described in section 501(c)(4). To be recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(4), an organization must be engaged primarily in the promotion of social welfare. This requires a review of all activities, a classification of activities into those that promote social welfare and those that do not, and a balancing of both classes of activities. Note that the promotion of social welfare does not include political campaign intervention. And in cases where there is the potential of political campaign intervention, the application process becomes even more difficult. EO must first determine whether any activities described in the application constitute political campaign intervention and must also determine whether the applicant is primarily engaged in social welfare activity in light of any political campaign intervention and any other non-exempt activity. There are no bright line tests for what constitutes political campaign intervention (in particular, the line between such activity and education) or whether an organization is primarily engaged in social welfare activities.

The second reason that centralization was warranted in this case is that the applications EO began to receive in 2010 were in many cases vague as to the activities the applicants planned to conduct. Many applications included what appeared to be incomplete or inconsistent information. For example, a number of applications indicated that the organization did not plan to conduct political campaign activity, but elsewhere described activities that appeared in fact to be such activity. It was also clear that many organizations did not understand what activities would constitute political campaign intervention under the tax law. For these reasons, it was necessary in many cases for us to gather additional information. And we believe it was important that we be consistent in how we developed these cases.

While centralization was warranted, the manner in which we initially designated cases for centralization was inappropriate. We should centralize like cases by a review of the facts contained in the application and not just by name. While it is necessary to consider a variety of information in the screening process (including flags for current emerging issues) we recognize that selection based on organization name was not appropriate for these cases. As the report discusses, we have a new approval process by which we designate a class of cases for centralization. Decisions with respect to the centralized collection of cases must be made at a much higher level of the organization. We believe this will prevent a recurrence of what happened in this case.

The report also describes mistakes that were made in the process by which these applications were worked. The IRS recognizes that there were delays and, in some instances, information requests that were overbroad. As the report notes, we took steps to modify the original approach. First, we reviewed all cases to determine the appropriate scope of review for each case. We also established a process by which each assigned revenue agent works in coordination with a specific technical expert. With respect to information requests, in some cases the Internal Revenue Manual prescribed deadlines for applicants to respond were too short, and we requested donor names unnecessarily. In these instances, we informed organizations that they had more time and that we would work with them if they could provide the



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information we requested in an alternative manner. In cases in which the donor names were not used in making the determination, the donor information was expunged from the file.

It is important to understand that centralization of these cases did not dictate how the case ultimately was or will be resolved. As the report illustrates, EO's selection of an organization for further development does not mean that EO will deny the application, but means that EO needs to resolve questions arising from the application before we can grant tax-exemption. Moreover, the majority of cases selected for full development were not selected based on the organizations' names. Finally, all cases, whether selected by name or not, were worked in the same fashion.

The results to date support our approach. Of the nearly 300 section 501(c)(4) advocacy cases, to date we have approved more than 120 (nearly 30 have withdrawn their requests). Note that the report appears to view approvals as evidence that EO should not have looked closely at those applications. That is not the case. Many of these organizations did not supply enough information in their initial applications to merit approval so that further development was necessary. In many cases, this further development and back-and-forth discussion with the taxpayer allowed EO to conclude that the legal requirements were satisfied and allowed the applicant to better understand its responsibilities and the law.

EO is dedicated to reviewing applications for tax-exempt status in an impartial manner. Centralization of like cases further quality and consistency. The mistakes outlined in the report resulted from the lack of a set process for working the increase in advocacy cases and insufficient sensitivity to the implications of some of the decisions made. We believe the front-line career employees that made the decisions acted out of a desire for efficiency and not out of any political or partisan viewpoint. And as the report discusses, these issues have been resolved.

Our response to your recommendations is found in the attachment. If you have any questions about this response, please contact Lois G. Lerner, Director, Exempt Organizations, at 202-283-8848.

Attachment



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Attachment

Recommendation 1: Ensure that the memorandum requiring the Director, Rulings and Agreements, to approve all original entries and changes to criteria included on the BOLO listing prior to implementation be formalized in the appropriate Internal Revenue Manual.

Corrective Action: We will ensure that the procedures set forth in the memorandum requiring the Director, Rulings and Agreements, to approve in advance all original entries and changes to the BOLO are made part of the Internal Revenue Manual.

Implementation Date: September 30, 2013

Responsible Official: Director, Exempt Organizations

Recommendation 2: Develop procedures to better document the reason(s) applications are chosen for review by the team of specialists (e.g., evidence of specific political campaign intervention in the application file or specific reasons the EO function may have for choosing to review the application further based on past experience).

Corrective Action: We will review our screening procedures to determine whether, and to what extent, additional documentation can be implemented without having an adverse impact on the timeliness of our case processing.

Implementation Date: September 30, 2013

Responsible Official: Director, Exempt Organizations

(Note: We consolidate here the text of Recommendations 3, 5, 6 and 9, and we provide a single, consolidated response to these recommendations following the text of Recommendation 9, below.)

Recommendation 3: Develop training or workshops to be held before each election cycle including, but not limited to, the proper ways to identify applications that require review of political campaign intervention activities.

Recommendation 5: Develop guidance for specialists on how to process requests for tax-exempt status involving potentially significant political campaign intervention. This guidance should also be posted to the Internet to provide transparency to organizations on the application process.



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Recommendation 6: Develop training or workshops to be held before each election cycle including, but not limited to: a) what constitutes political campaign intervention versus general advocacy (including case examples) and b) the ability to refer for follow-up those organizations that may conduct activities in a future year which may cause them to lose their tax-exempt status.

Recommendation 9: The Director, EO, should develop training or workshops to be held before each election cycle including, but not limited to, how to word questions in additional information request letters and what additional information should be requested.

Corrective Action: We will develop training on the topics described in the recommendations 3, 5, 6, and 9. Because election cycles are continuous, we will develop a schedule that ensures staff have the training as needed to handle potential political intervention matters.

Implementation Date: January 31, 2014

Responsible Official: Director, Exempt Organizations

Recommendation 4: Develop a process for the Determinations Unit to formally request assistance from the Technical Unit and the Guidance Unit. The process should include actions to initiate, track, and monitor requests for assistance to ensure that requests are responded to timely.

Corrective Action: We will develop a formal process for Determinations to request assistance and to monitor such requests.

Implementation Date: June 30, 2013

Responsible Official: Director, Exempt Organizations

Recommendation 7: Provide oversight to ensure that potential political cases, some of which have been in process for three years, are approved or denied expeditiously.

Corrective Action: While this is an ongoing project, we are closely overseeing the remaining open cases to ensure that we reach determinations as expeditiously as possible.

Implementation Date: April 30, 2013

Responsible Official: Director, Exempt Organizations



***Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to
Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review***

Recommendation 8: Recommend to IRS Chief Counsel and the Department of the Treasury that guidance on how to measure the "primary activity" of I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations be included for consideration in the Department of the Treasury Priority Guidance Plan.

Corrective Action: We will share this recommendation with the IRS Chief Counsel and Treasury Office of Tax Policy.

Implementation Date: May 3, 2013

Responsible Official: Acting Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities

Plaintiffs Awaiting Determination of 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status More Than 270 Days

Plaintiff	Tax-exempt status requested	Approximate date initial application, including completed Form 1023 or 1024, was submitted for determination	Passage of time with little, if any, response from IRS	Approximate date(s) IRS requested additional information*	Approximate date(s) Plaintiff responded to IRS requests and/or provided additional information responsive to IRS request(s)	Current status
AMEN	501(c)(3)	March 2010	6 months	October 20, 2010 December 8, 2010	November/December 2010	Awaiting determination; Application suspended on March 25, 2011 due to AMEN's refusal to respond to intrusive requests
First State Patriots, Inc.	501(c)(3)	March 27, 2012	12 months	March 29, 2013	<u>May 22, 2013</u>	Awaiting determination
Linchpins of Liberty	501(c)(3)	January 3, 2011	4 months	February 14, 2012 May 6, 2013	March 2012 June 1, 2012 August 20, 2012 <u>January 8, 2013</u> (submitted 225 pages of information) May 13, 2013	Awaiting determination
Liberty Township Tea	501(c)(3)	January 2011	15 months	March 1, 2012 January 16, 2013	<u>May 2012</u> February 2013	Awaiting determination

Party, Inc.								
Oregon Capitol Watch Foundation	501(c)(3)	May 28, 2011	20 months	January 25, 2013	<u>February 7, 2013</u> <u>March 7, 2013</u>	Awaiting determination		
Patriots Educating Concerned Americans Now (PECAN)	501(c)(3)	March 5, 2010	23 months	January 31, 2012 (25 questions and 40 sub-parts) April 22, 2013 (17 new questions)	May 3, 2012 April 9, 2013 May 8, 2013	Awaiting determination		

Plaintiffs Awaiting Determination of 501(c)(4) Tax Exempt Status

Plaintiff	Tax-exempt status requested	Approximate date initial application, including completed Form 1023 or 1024, was submitted for determination	Passage of time with little, if any, response from IRS	Approximate date(s) IRS requested additional information*	Approximate date(s) Plaintiff responded to IRS requests and/or <u>provided additional information responsive to IRS request(s)</u>	Current status
Acadiana Patriots	501(c)(4)	October 10, 2011	19 months	May 26, 2013	No information submitted	Awaiting determination
Albuquerque Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	December 28, 2009	4 months	April 21, 2010 November 16, 2011	June 8, 2010 <u>January 3, 2012</u>	Awaiting determination

Allen Area Tea Party	501(c)(4)	July 20, 2010	18 months	February 19, 2012 February 1, 2013	March 14, 2012 May 11, 2012 June 6, 2012 August 20, 2012 February 12, 2013 <u>March 8, 2013</u>	Awaiting determination
Arlington Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	March 2011	11 months	February 16, 2012	No information submitted	Awaiting determination
East Jersey Tea Party	501(c)(4)	November 2011	11 months	October 11, 2012	<u>February 16, 2013</u>	Awaiting determination
Greater Phoenix Tea Party	501(c)(4)	January 10, 2011	13 months	February 14, 2012 September 7, 2012	May 11, 2012 June 6, 2012 August 20, 2012 September 19, 2012 <u>December 28, 2012</u>	Awaiting determination
Greenwich Tea Party Patriots of South Jersey, LLC	501(c)(4)	April 13, 2011	10 months	February 23, 2012 June 12, 2012 August 2, 2012	July 16, 2012 August 3, 2012 <u>October 26, 2012</u>	Awaiting determination
Laurens Co. Tea Party	501(c)(4)	July 22, 2010	25 months	September 6, 2012 January 31, 2013	<u>December 28, 2012</u> February 12, 2013 March 5, 2013 (submitted 143 pages of information)	Awaiting determination
Myrtle Beach Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	July 16, 2010	18 months	February 8, 2012 September 14, 2012	March 28, 2012 May 3, 2012 June 5, 2012 August 20, 2012 September 19, 2012 December 28, 2012 <u>May 10, 2013</u>	Awaiting determination

North East Tarrant Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	October 15, 2010	15 months	February 19, 2012 October 1, 2012 January 8, 2013	March 14, 2012 May 11, 2012 June 6, 2012 August 20, 2012 April 5, 2013 (submitted 588 pages of information)	Awaiting determination
Unite in Action, Inc.	501(c)(4)	May 13, 2010	21 months	January 27, 2012 August 1, 2012 September 26, 2012	March 7, 2012 May 11, 2012 June 6, 2012 August 20, 2012 February 11, 2013 (submitted 189 pages of information)	Awaiting determination

Plaintiffs Receiving Tax-Exempt Status Following Significant IRS Delay

Plaintiff	Tax-exempt status requested	Approximate date initial application, including completed Form 1023 or 1024, was submitted for determination	Passage of time without much, if any, response from IRS	Approximate date(s) IRS requested additional information*	Approximate date(s) Plaintiff responded to IRS requests and/or provided additional information responsive to IRS request(s)	Current status
American Patriots Against Government Excess	501(c)(4)	December 2009	23 months	December 21, 2011	January 2012	IRS approved application in June 2012
Chattanooga Tea	501(c)(4)	November	7 months	July 2010	August 9, 2010	IRS approved

Party			2009				<u>February 10, 2012</u>	application in April 2013, but exemption only retroactive to May 15, 2012 instead of date of application (November 2009)
Colorado 9-12 Project	501(c)(4)	April 4, 2011	10 months	February 17, 2012			March 26, 2012	IRS approved application on May 25, 2012
First Coast Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	August 31, 2010	17 months	January 31, 2012 July 16, 2012 August 3, 2012			February 17, 2012 May 3, 2012 August 7, 2012 <u>October 17, 2012</u>	IRS approved application on November 19, 2012
Hawaii Tea Party	501(c)(4)	May 26, 2010	4 months	September 27, 2010 January 26, 2012			<u>October 14, 2010</u> February 9, 2012 February 29, 2012 March 15, 2012	IRS approved application on July 12, 2012
The Honolulu Tea Party	501(c)(4)	December 31, 2011	7 months	July 27, 2012 September 26, 2012			August 17, 2012 October 17, 2012 <u>December 19, 2012</u> (submitted 37 pages of information)	IRS approved application on March 7, 2013
Kentucky 9/12 Project, Inc.	501(c)(4)	December 31, 2010	13 months	February 14, 2012 September 4, 2012			March 6, 2012 May 11, 2012 June 6, 2012 August 20, 2012 September 6, 2012 <u>February 5, 2013</u> (submitted 228	IRS approved application on March 28, 2013

Manassas Tea Party	501(c)(4)	June 8, 2010	20 months	June 25, 2010 September 17, 2010 January 25, 2012 February 16, 2012 March 16, 2012 July 2012	pages of information) <u>October 2010</u> <u>October 15, 2012</u>	IRS approved application on November 29, 2012
Mid-South Tea Party	501(c)(4)	July 23, 2011	11 months	June 18, 2012	<u>June/July 2012</u>	IRS approved application on September 24, 2012
OKC PIA Association	501(c)(4)	October 2010	16 months	February 9, 2012	March 14, 2012 June 2012	IRS approved application on July 12, 2012
Protecting American Values, Inc.	501(c)(3)	January 18, 2011	11 months	February 8, 2012	February 29, 2012 (and monthly between January 2011 and April 2012)	IRS approved application on July 12, 2012
Richmond Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	December 28, 2009	10 months	September 17, 2010 January 9, 2012	<u>October 2010</u> (submitted approx. 500 pages of information) March 26, 2012	IRS approved application on July 12, 2012
Roane County Tea Party	501(c)(4)	March 16, 2010	21 months	January 18, 2012 August 18, 2012 January 13, 2013	<u>March 30, 2012</u> <u>December 13, 2012</u> <u>January 21, 2013</u>	IRS approved application on April 15, 2013; tax exemption revoked as of June 17, 2013
Rochester Tea	501(c)(4)	August 2009	34 months/3	February 19, 2012	February/March	IRS approved

Party Patriots	(for 501(c)(3) (stats), resubmitted in June 2012 as 501(c)(4) status)	months	July 3, 2012	2012	application on September 6, 2012
San Antonio Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	19 months	February 2, 2012	February/March 2012 April 2, 2012	IRS approved application on June 21, 2012
Shenandoah Valley Tea Party Patriots	501(c)(4)	21 months	January 31, 2012	February 21, 2012 (submitted 892 pages of information)	IRS approved application on June 25, 2012
Shelby County Liberty	501(c)(4)	17 months	February 7, 2012 July 13, 2012	February 24, 2012 March 21, 2012 May 11, 2012 June 6, 2012 July 16, 2012 October 15, 2012 (submitted 87 pages of information)	IRS approved application on November 7, 2012
Waco Tea Party	501(c)(4)	18 months	February 1, 2012 August 21, 2012	March 6, 2012 March 14, 2012 May 11, 2012 June 6, 2012 September 5, 2012 January 8, 2013 (submitted 201 pages of information)	IRS approved application on March 7, 2013
Wetumpka Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	16 months	February 3, 2012	March 7, 2012 March 14, 2012	IRS approved application on

							July 9, 2012
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Plaintiffs Choosing Not to Pursue Tax-Exempt Status Due to Unlawful IRS Conduct

Plaintiff	Tax-exempt status requested	Approximate date initial application, including completed Form 1023 or 1024, was submitted for determination	Passage of time with little, if any, response from IRS	Approximate date(s) IRS requested additional information*	Approximate date(s) Plaintiff responded to IRS requests and/or provided additional information responsive to IRS request(s)	Current status
The Common Sense Campaign Corp.	501(c)(4)	July 9, 2010	19 months	February 7, 2012 March 16, 2012 August 1, 2012	No additional information submitted.	Application suspended by IRS on August 1, 2012; case closed by IRS on November 13, 2012
Mississippi Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	May 1, 2009	18 months	September 28, 2010 January 10, 2012	November 15, 2010 January 21, 2012 February 11, 2012	Withdrew application on February 28, 2012
San Fernando Valley Patriots, Inc.	501(c)(4)	October 23, 2010	16 months	February 28, 2012	No information submitted.	Withdrew application on July 18, 2012
Tri-Cities Tea Party	501(c)(4)	March 2010	19 months	October 14, 2010 January 20, 2012 August 21, 2012	October 26, 2010 April 24, 2012 May 8, 2012 June 5, 2012	Withdrew application on January 9, 2013

Portage County Tea Party, Inc.	501(c)(4)	June 2011	15 months	August 1, 2012	August 20, 2012 September 5, 2012 No information submitted	Withdrew application in November 2012
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IC Title: **Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)** Agency IC Tracking Number:

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Form	1024	Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)	Form 1024.pdf		No		Fillable Printable
Instruction			Instructions.pdf		No		Printable Only

Federal Enterprise Architecture Business Reference Module
Line of Business: General Government

Subfunction: Taxation Management

Privacy Act System of Records
Title:

FR Citation:

Number of Responses: 4,718

Number of Responses for Small Entity: 0

Affected Public: Private Sector

Private Sector: Not-for-profit institutions

Percentage of Respondents Reporting Electronically: 0 %

	Approved	Program Change Due to New Statute	Program Change Due to Agency Discretion	Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate	Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	Previously Approved
Annual Number of Responses for this IC	9,892	0	0	0	0	9,892
Annual IC Time Burden (Hours)	291,542	0	0	0	0	291,542
Annual IC Cost Burden (Dollars)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Documents for IC

Title	Document	Date Uploaded
2010 Burden	2010 Burden.PDF	08/03/2010
2010 Burden	2010 Burden.PDF	08/03/2010

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IRS approved liberal groups while Tea Party in limbo

TAX-EXEMPT GROUPS AND THE IRS

The controversy over the Internal Revenue Service's targeting conservative groups for additional scrutiny has focused new attention on tax-exempt organizations.

Source: USA TODAY research

By Frank Pappa, Fredrika Schouten, Tory Hargro, USA TODAY

Gregory Korte, USA TODAY 12:59 p.m. EDT May 15, 2013



(Photo: Brendan Smialowski, AFP/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — In February 2010, the Champaign Tea Party in Illinois received approval of its tax-exempt status from the IRS in 90 days, no questions asked.

That was the month before the Internal Revenue Service started singling out Tea Party groups for special treatment. There wouldn't be another Tea Party application approved for 27 months.

In that time, the IRS approved perhaps dozens of applications from similar liberal and progressive groups, a USA TODAY review of IRS data shows.

STORY: IRS gave liberals a pass: Tea Party groups put on hold (

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/05/14/irs-gave-progressives-a-pass-tea-party-groups-put-on-hold/2159983/>)

As applications from conservative groups sat in limbo, groups with liberal-sounding names had their applications approved in as little as nine months. With names including words like "Progress" or "Progressive," the liberal groups applied for the same tax status and were engaged in the same kinds of activities as the conservative groups. They included:

- Bus for Progress, a New Jersey non-profit that uses a red, white and blue bus to "drive the progressive change." According to its website, its mission includes "support (for) progressive politicians with the courage to serve the people's interests and make tough choices." It got an IRS approval as a social welfare group in April 2011.
- Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment says it fights against corporate welfare and for increasing the minimum wage. "It would be fair to say we're on the progressive end of the spectrum," said executive director Jeff Ordover. He said the group got tax-exempt status in September 2011 in just nine months after "a pretty simple, straightforward process."
- Progress Florida, granted tax-exempt status in January 2011, is lobbying the Florida Legislature to expand Medicaid under a provision of the Affordable Care Act, one of President Obama's signature accomplishments. The group did not return phone calls. "We're busy fighting to build a more progressive Florida and cannot take your call right now," the group's voice mail said.

Like the Tea Party groups, the liberal groups sought recognition as social welfare groups under Section 501(c)(4) of the tax code, based on activities like "citizen participation" or "voter education and registration."

In a conference call with reporters last week, the IRS official responsible for granting tax-exempt status said that it was a mistake to subject Tea Party groups to additional scrutiny based solely on the organization's name. But she said ideology played no part in the process.

"The selection of these cases where they used the names was not a partisan selection," said Lois Lerner, director of exempt organizations. She said progressive groups were also selected for greater scrutiny based on their names, but did not provide details. "I don't have them off the top of my head," she said.

The IRS did not respond to follow-up questions Tuesday.

Congressional critics say the IRS's actions suggest a political motive: "This administration seems to have a culture of politics above all else," said Rep. Bill Flores, R-Texas. "A lot of the actions they take have a political side first, and put government second."

Flores complained to the IRS last year after the Waco Tea Party's tax-exempt application was mired in red tape. The IRS asked the group for information that was "overreaching and impossible to comply with," Flores said: Transcripts of radio interviews, copies of social media posts and details on "close relationships" with political candidates.

When Flores complained last year -- asking pointed questions about the IRS treatment of Tea Party groups -- the IRS response didn't acknowledge that it had treated conservative groups differently. "They did more than sidestep the issue," he said. "They flipped me the finger."

Before the IRS started separating out Tea Party applications, getting tax-exempt status was routine -- even for conservative groups. The Champaign Tea Party's treasurer, Karen Olsen, said the process was smooth, with no follow-up questions from the IRS.

Olsen, a retired IRS revenue agent, defended the agency.

"If you suddenly see a great increase in some kind of activity, and you don't understand why, then it might be reasonable to look more closely at what's happening with those applications," she said. "I'm not certain that there was an error on the part of the IRS at all. I know that's not a popular opinion."

Some liberal groups did get additional scrutiny, although they still got their tax-exempt status while the Tea Party moratorium was in effect. For the "independent progressive" group Action for a Progressive Future, which runs the Rootsaction.org web site, the tax-exempt process took 18 months and also involved intrusive questions.

Co-founder Jeff Cohen said tax-exempt status is a privilege, so he didn't mind answering the intrusive questions, as long as those questions were consistent and fair.

"From my perspective, if the IRS can hold up legitimate Tea Party applications today and get away with it, then who knows if progressive groups will be held up and specially scrutinized in a few years. It's utterly unacceptable, if that's what happened," he said.

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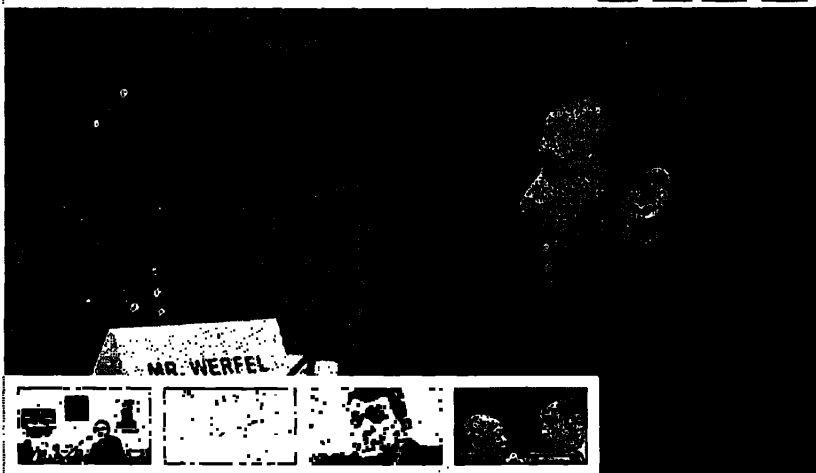
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IRS workers say supervisors directed targeting

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Associated Press STEPHEN CHLEMACHER June 7, 2013

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Internal Revenue Service agents working in the agency's Cincinnati office say higher-ups in Washington directed the targeting of conservative political groups when they applied for tax-exempt status, a contention that directly contradicts claims made by the agency since the scandal erupted last month.

The Cincinnati agents didn't provide proof that senior IRS officials in Washington ordered the targeting. But one of the agents said her work processing the applications was closely supervised by a Washington lawyer in the IRS division that handles applications for tax-exempt status, according to a transcript of her interview with congressional investigators.

Her interview suggests a long trail of emails that could support her claim.

The revelation could prove to be significant if investigators are able to show that Washington officials were involved in singling out tea party and other conservative groups for extra scrutiny. IRS officials have said repeatedly that the targeting was initiated by front-line agents in the Cincinnati office and was stopped once senior officials in Washington found out.

A yearlong audit by the agency's inspector general found no evidence that Washington officials ordered or authorized the targeting. However, the inspector general blamed ineffective management by senior IRS officials for allowing the targeting to continue for nearly two years during the 2010 and 2012 elections.

Since the revelations were made public last month, much of the agency's top leadership has been replaced. President Barack Obama forced acting IRS Commissioner Steven Miller to resign, replacing him with Danny Werfel, a former White House budget official who is conducting a review of the agency's operations.

Three congressional committees and the Justice Department are also investigating. Investigators for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House



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Ways and Means Committee have interviewed at least four IRS workers as part of their probe.

The Associated Press viewed transcripts of interviews with two IRS agents working in the Cincinnati office.

Gary Muthert, an IRS agent there, said his local supervisor told him in March 2010 to check the applications for tax-exempt status to see how many were from groups with "tea party" in their names. The supervisor's name was blacked out in the transcript.



Acting IRS commissioner Darryl Werfel testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, June 6, 2013 ...

"He told me that Washington, D.C., wanted some cases," Muthert said of his supervisor.

Muthert said he came up with fewer than 10 applications. But after checking some of the group's websites, he noticed similar groups with "patriots" or "9-12 project" in their names, so he started looking for applications that mentioned those terms too.

Over a two-month period, Muthert said he found about 40 applications that mentioned tea party, patriots or 9-12 project — the latter being groups which aspire to reestablish a post-9/11 spirit of unity in the country.

"I used 'patriots' because some of the tea parties wouldn't, they would shorten their name to TP Patriots," Muthert said. "I thought, OK, I will use 'patriot'."

Muthert said his supervisor told him that someone in Washington wanted to see seven of the applications, so Muthert prepared the files.

Whom did you send them to? An investigator asked.

"I don't know," Muthert answered.

Muthert did not respond to requests by the AP for comment.

The IRS was screening the groups' applications because agents were trying to determine their level of political activity. IRS regulations say tax-exempt social welfare organizations may engage in some political activity but the activity may not be their primary mission. It is up to the IRS to make that determination.

Acting IRS commissioner Darryl Werfel is sworn in on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, June 6, 2013 ...

Elizabeth Hofacre, also an agent in the Cincinnati office, told investigators she was in charge of processing applications from tea party groups — once they were selected by other agents — from April 2010 to October 2010. Hofacre said her supervisor in Cincinnati, whose name was blacked out in the transcript, told her to handle the applications.

Paris Fink, Commissioner, Small Business and Self-Employed Division, Internal Revenue Service testif ...

But, she said, an IRS lawyer in Washington, Carter Hull, micromanaged her work and ultimately delayed the processing of applications by tea party groups.

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IRS workers say supervisors directed targeting - Yahoo! News

Hull is a lawyer in the division that handles applications for tax-exempt status. But, Hofacre said, his interest in the cases was highly unusual.

"It was demeaning," she said. "One of the criteria is to work independently and do research and make decisions based on your experience and education, whereas on this case, I had no autonomy at all through the process."

Hofacre said Hull signed off on letters she sent to the groups asking them for additional information, and then reviewed their responses. Hofacre complained that Hull was slow to sign off on the letters.

"All I remember saying and thinking is, 'This is ridiculous.' Because at the same time, you are getting calls from irate taxpayers. And I see their point," Hofacre said.

Hofacre said she became so frustrated with the delays that she applied for a different job within the agency and transferred in October 2010.

Neither Hofacre nor Hull responded to requests for comment.

Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., right, talks w ...

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IRS Lawyer Admits Tea Party Targeting Run By D.C.

Posted 07/18/2013 06:43 PM ET

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Scandal: A retiring IRS lawyer implicates the IRS chief counsel's office, headed by an Obama appointee, as well as the head of the IRS' exempt organizations office. The targeting included a Tea Party Senate candidate.

In Thursday's hearing before the House Oversight Committee, 72-year-old retiring IRS lawyer Carter Hull implicated the IRS chief counsel's office headed by William J. Wilkins, who attended at least nine White House meetings, and Lois Lerner, head of the exempt organizations office, in the IRS scandal.

In so doing, he made clear the targeting of Tea Party groups started in Washington and was directed from Washington.

A tax-law specialist with 48 years of IRS experience, Hull testified that Lerner, the former head of the exempt organizations division, demanded that he send some of the reviews of Tea Party groups to the IRS chief counsel's office in Washington. The chief counsel is one of two political appointees in the IRS.

According to Hull's testimony, Lerner, who famously pleaded her Fifth Amendment rights before the same committee, gave an atypical instruction that the Tea Party applications undergo special scrutiny that included an uncommon multilayer review that involved a top adviser to Lerner as well as the chief counsel's office.

Hull's name came up earlier in the testimony of Holly Paz, a D.C.-based supervisor in the IRS's tax-exempt status division, who reported to Lerner. It was on May 22, the day after Paz was interviewed by investigators, that Lerner refused to answer questions from lawmakers at a congressional hearing.

According to Paz, Hull was working on about 40 Tea Party applications in the fall of 2010. She added that for several months that year, Hull worked closely with Elizabeth Hofacre, one of the alleged "rogue" agents in Cincinnati, to review the Tea Party cases.

It was Hull who instructed Hofacre's Cincinnati office, which oversaw audits of tax-exempt nonprofit groups, to target Tea Party groups and provided her a copy of a letter he wrote to a conservative group requesting additional information in an audit.

"I was essentially a front person, because I had no autonomy or no authority to act on (applications) without Carter Hull's influence or input," Hofacre has told congressional investigators and has vocally said her Cincinnati office was being made a scapegoat by higher-ups in Washington. Now Hull has confirmed the premeditated targeting of Tea Party groups went even higher than him or Lerner.

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At an August 2011 meeting, Hull testified, someone from the chief counsel's office said additional information was needed from Tea Party applicants that Hull was dealing with, and that a second letter should be sent out requesting that information.

Apparently not only Tea Party groups were targeted but actual candidates as well. On March 9, 2010, the day Tea Party candidate Christine O'Donnell revealed her plan to run for Vice President Joe Biden's former Delaware Senate seat, an IRS tax lien was placed on a house purported to be hers, an action that was quickly publicized by those who did not wish her well.

Earlier this year, Dennis Martel, special agent with the Department of Treasury in Baltimore, left a message on O'Donnell's cell phone telling her that an official in Delaware state government had improperly accessed her records on that very same day. The problem was that the house was not hers in the first place and the IRS eventually blamed the lien on a computer glitch and withdrew it.

To us it is inconceivable that one of only two political appointees was directly involved in targeting of Tea Party groups without White House knowledge and consent. It is said the fish rots from the head, and this one is really beginning to stink.

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Whenever governments adopt a moral tone -- as opposed to an ethical one -- you know something is wrong. What we have been hearing for 4 years from the Obama administration is a kind of neo-morality -- and nothing about ethics. But then this administration is without ethics -- isn't it?

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Obama, Soros, and the entire liberal establishment were DESPERATE for Obama to win the 2012 election. It is not difficult to conceive that nothing would be out-of-bounds to accomplish this objective - NOTHING! Adding to the willingness to show no restraints when it came to winning are the facts that Saul Alinsky was a primary influence on Obama and his brand of activist, and that Chicago politics, which Obama is accustomed to, is about as corrupt and immoral as any brand of politics can be.

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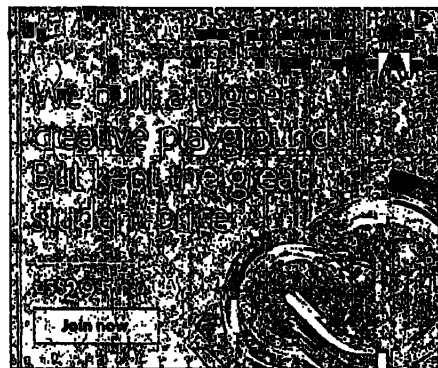
IRS Tea Party Targeting Was Directed From D.C.

By Investor's Business Daily, Investor's Business Daily - June 19, 2013

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Scandal: A D.C.-based supervisor in the IRS's tax-exempt status division has indicated during interviews with congressional investigators that the targeting was deliberate and not run by rogue agents in Cincinnati.



Holly Paz, who until recently was a top deputy in the IRS division that handles applications for tax-exempt status, told congressional investigators she was personally involved in reviewing Tea Party applications for tax-exempt status as far back as 2010, reviewing as many as 30.

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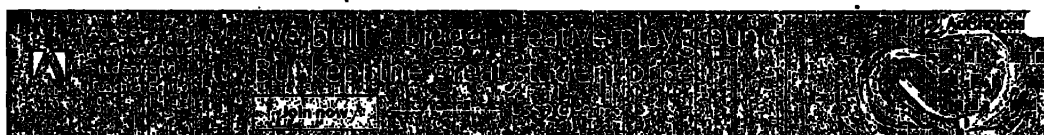
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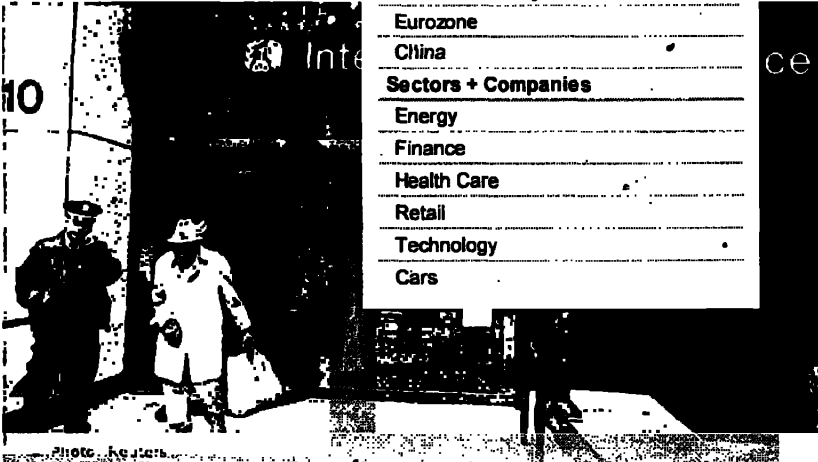
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IRS Overkill on Tea Party Records



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By JOSH BOAK, The Fiscal Times

June 5, 2013

Information overload just hit the scandalous IRS targeting of conservative Tea Party groups.

The IRS has identified 64.6 gigabytes of electronic data that's "potentially relevant" to the controversy, according to a letter from acting commissioner Danny Werfel to the House Ways and Means Committee that was released Wednesday afternoon.



That translates into more than 64 million pages, Werfel said.

All of that data must be decrypted, and then, because the decryption process corrupts files, manually repaired "before the search process can begin." The IRS plans a rolling production schedule, but it will be a long summer sorting out basic questions about why the agency intentionally scrutinized conservative groups applying for nonprofit status starting in March, 2010.

"Based on the limited information we have received, it is clear that this investigation is far greater in breadth and scope than many may have imagined when the Treasury Inspector General first issued its report," Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave

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Camp (R-MI) said in a statement. "The sheer volume of documents and the work that must be done to finish interviews and review the information provided by the IRS will require both time and patience."

The targeting became public last month in advance of an audit by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. It was initially blamed on "rogue" agents in the Cincinnati field office, but House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) said this week his interviews with IRS employees refute the excuse originally provided by the tax collector's management.

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Several polls indicate that the controversy has caused trust to erode in President Obama, who maintains that he first learned about the targeting from news reports.

In addition to the Tea Party fiasco, a separate inspector general's report issued this week found that the IRS spent \$49 million on 225 conferences from 2010 to 2012. The expenditures included knickknacks for IRS employees, parody "Star Trek" and "Gilligan's Island" videos, and a conference speaker who painted the portraits of Michael Jordan, U2 singer Bono, and Albert Einstein.

Stemming from that audit, the IRS announced Wednesday the suspension of two managers for accepting \$1,162 in free food at a 2010 conference in California. Like Lois Lerner, the IRS official who oversaw the Tea Party scrutiny, the managers were placed on paid administrative leave.

In a sign that the White House may struggle to escape the vortex of this scandal, one of the managers placed on leave is reportedly Fred Schindler, the IRS director of implementation oversight for Obamacare.

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All of that data must be decrypted, and then—because the decryption process corrupts files—manually repaired “before the search process can begin.”
Maybe its the cynic in me but that came across as, first we have to scrub the data of any wrong doing before the search process can begin.

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Too true. Decryption should never corrupt data (OK, sometimes it does, but that's a bug, not a feature.) Issa and Camp should insist that the raw data and keys be handed over to an outside data-recovery outfit for decryption, the IRS to pay for the process. There is absolutely no excuse for trusting the IRS to be honest after what they've been caught doing.

In addition, the IRS should be directed to immediately approve any application that has been outstanding for more than 270 days (the nominal limit) or where the applicant has submitted answers to two or...

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THE HILL'S pundits blog

William Wilkins: The G. Gordon Liddy of the IRS scandal?

By Dick Morris and Eileen McGann - 07/19/13 04:55 PM ET

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If the IRS Tea Party scandal is at all reminiscent of the Watergate debacle that brought down a president in 1974, we may have just discovered the latter-day G. Gordon Liddy, the man who oversaw the chain of events that led to Nixon's resignation.

Who would that be? Well, a good guess would be William Wilkins, chief counsel to the Internal Revenue Service. More and more evidence is sucking his office into the maelstrom of the IRS/Tea Party scandal.

Let's take a look at him.

Wilkins is one of only two political appointees on the entire IRS staff. All of the other more than 100,000 employees in the agency are civil servants. Only Wilkins and the director were directly chosen by Obama.

But there's something else that's worth knowing about Wilkins. He's a longtime Obama crony and Democratic donor who earned his spurs by successfully defending, pro bono, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright (Yes, that Rev. Wright) from charges that his radical politicization of his pulpit should deny his church tax-exempt status. The event that triggered the IRS's interest? Then-presidential

candidate Barack Obama's speech to the congregation during the Democratic primary campaign. Now does that sound like "political activity?"

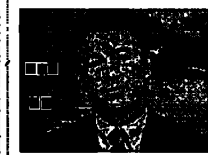
Well, Wilkins was able to convince the IRS that it was not. He knew his stuff.

Tax-exempt organizations were one of Wilkins's specialties in private practice. He knows the field, making him a likely key man in the emerging scandal. He's not just a wealthy donor rewarded with a plum position who doesn't know much about taxes. No, he's an expert on the very area of tax law at the heart of the charges of politically motivated harassment of the Tea Party and other conservative groups by the IRS.

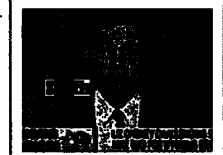
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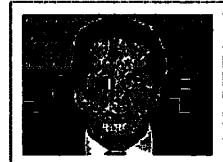
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So you'd think he might be interested in what was going on.

At yesterday's House Oversight Committee hearing, chaired by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), there was testimony -- for the first time -- that as early as July 2011, Wilkins's office was involved in the decisions about the unprecedented targeting and unorthodox treatment of Tea Party organizations seeking tax-exempt status.

What was patently clear from the testimony is that this illegal and improper operation wasn't run by "rogue" IRS employees in Cincinnati, as the White House claims. Instead, it was run by rogue employees at the very top of the IRS and possibly the White House as well.

Carter Hull, recently retired after 48 years of service at the IRS, was the tax analyst in D.C. in charge of the Tea Party applications. Hull indicated that he was told by the top assistant to Lois Lerner (remember her? In May, she refused to testify and invoked her Fifth Amendment right to remain silent) that Wilkins's office had to review all of the tax-exemption applications from Tea Party groups that Hull was overseeing.

Hull noted that the one application he had actually approved was immediately routed to Wilkins's office for review. When Hull disagreed with the counsel's office and Lerner about how the Tea Party cases should be handled, the files were taken away from him and transferred to a woman with only several months experience at the IRS.

Hull also described a meeting about the Tea Party applications on Aug. 4, 2011, where the IRS chief counsel's office had three representatives present.

Here's what the inspector general's report stated in its timeline:

August 4, 2011

Rulings and Agreements office personnel held a meeting with Chief Counsel so that everyone would have the latest information on the issue.

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Sounds like the chief counsel knew about it, doesn't it?

But Wilkins denies that he knew anything about the handling of the Tea Party cases. That's hard to believe, because there's uncontested evidence that his office was definitely involved. And, in addition, Wilkins was one of the top five officials in the IRS.

A close review of the inspector general's report on the IRS and the Tea Party applications reveals that, in addition to the chief counsel's office, the highest echelons of the IRS were aware of complaints about the treatment of the Tea Party applications in early 2012, and, in some cases, responded to complaints, particularly about disclosing donors. And the second- or third-highest official in the IRS, the deputy commissioner for services and enforcement, told the team working on the applications that if there were complaints about "having to provide donor information," they would not have to send them at that time.

The IG report also states that on March 23-27, 2012, high-level officials discussed concerns about media attention to the Tea Party applications.

So the very top brass at the IRS knew about the problem in early 2012.

And now there may be a direct link to the White House. Hull's testimony revealed that Chief Counsel Wilkins's office reviewed the draft criteria to be used in deciding whether to approve the Tea Party applications for tax exemption.

And J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration who found inappropriate procedures regarding the Tea Party applications

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BRIEFING ROOM

DBCS 80

who found inappropriate procedures regarding the tea party appointments, indicated that on April 25, 2012, Wilkins's office provided Hull and Lerner "additional comments" on the draft criteria.

What is key about that date is that it comes just two days after Wilkins met with President Obama and the day after his boss, IRS Director Douglas Shulman, saw the president at the White House.

On April 23, 2012, according to White House visitor logs, Wilkins had a meeting with Obama in the Roosevelt Room. There is no indication of what was discussed. On April 24, the day before the criteria for Tea Party groups was developed, Shulman — the other of the two political appointees at the IRS — also visited the White House.

Coincidence?

Well, even a coincidental meeting can result in an exchange of information.

NOTE: Here's something of interest: When Dick worked in the Clinton White House, the Roosevelt Room was the only room where political activity could take place in the West Wing. We have no way of knowing if that is the case now.

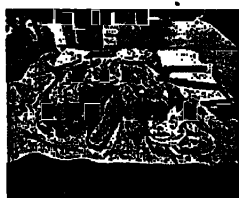
These queries will undoubtedly be central to the next exciting episode of the Darrell Issa show as the California congressman seeks to penetrate the veil of deception and misdirection with which the administration has cloaked the IRS scandal.

Before one could get to Nixon, one had to find G. Gordon Liddy and Chuck Colson behind the Watergate burglars. Before we can get to Obama, we need to find William Wilkins. And now we might have the next G. Gordon Liddy.

Stay tuned.

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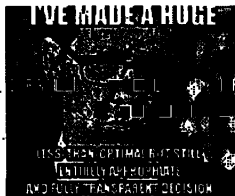
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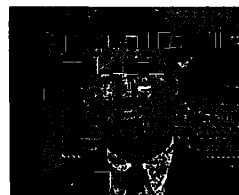


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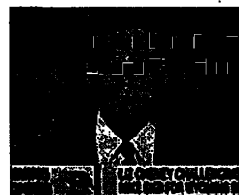


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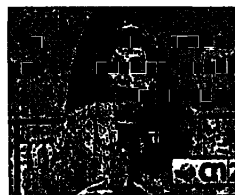
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35 comments



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Joseph G Figliola · 8 days ago

Looks like we don't need Lois Lerner to get the WH anymore. Throw the book at her.

5 ^ | v Reply Share



JulianG3 → Joseph G Figliola · 8 days ago

Right, now we just need to have the FBI turn William Wilkins into state's evidence. Opps, I forgot that the FBI reports to AG Eric Holder.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



Joseph G Figliola → JulianG3 · 7 days ago

Not if Congress does its constitutional duty. You just outlined the case for impeaching Holder with Obama.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



jb1111 → Joseph G Figliola · 7 days ago

Lois needs some serious Prison Time to get in touch with her former Clients and their feelings.

^ | v Reply Share



Winfield · 11 days ago

You know this president will never resign his office like Nixon had done. No matter how awful his behavior or what is discovered he will remain. You will have to pry his fingers off the door knob and send in the military to get him out. Doesn't matter what the public thinks or his crimes, he will turn to his friendly media and wrap himself in populist slogans then ride it out and say he was framed and insinuate racism.

6 ^ | v Reply Share

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Edwin Loftus → Winfield · 10 days ago

Unfortunately America has not learned from the Clinton impeachment. The partisanship was less when Nixon was investigated and led to the conclusion that enough Republicans would vote with the Democrats to remove him if impeachment was brought to a vote. Nixon did the right thing and resigned.

In the case of Clinton the evidence of misfeasance and malfeasance and high crimes and misdemeanors was there, but could not surmount the Democrat's partisan decision to block removal in spite of the evidence. (Sen. Patty Murray), now a Democrat Senate leader, even bragged that she had not and did not need to look at the evidence to decide her vote).

The Democratic Party even went so far as to get their philosophical leader, their so-called "conscience of the Senate", William Byrd, to declare that "impeachment is

[see more](#)

4 ^ | v Reply Share



Winfield → Edwin Loftus · 9 days ago

Unfortunately, too true. The loss of real bipartisanship and collaboration is becoming more deeply rooted with every election. Worse is that following elections like last year seems to legitimize the tactics and behavior that contributes to the partisan divide.

2 ^ | v Reply Share



jb1111 → Edwin Loftus · 7 days ago

CLINTON started all this with his disregard for truth and values.

He and Hillary have always been LIARS and CHEATERS from their very first jobs.

Google Hillary's Job on the Nixon Impeachment.

EDUCATE YOURSELF.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



Clover11111 → Edwin Loftus · 9 days ago

The bottom line is that the race card will be played and it will be wrongly used at that, should they go after him. Like Idi Amin Dada, Obama would never go quietly. Learn the underlying message behind the Martin protests as those stops would be pulled out and it wouldn't be pretty.

^ | v Reply Share



jb1111 → Clover11111 · 7 days ago

Maybe, some blow back.

But since Obama is the CROOK he really is, good people everywhere will see right through the so-called Race Card.

Send the TYRANT Packing!!

1 ^ | v Reply Share



bltmeDC · 10 days ago

Thank you for this excellent article and reporting about last weeks hearings as it relates to William Wilkins.

I watched every moment of that hearing, and the previous ones, and haven't found any decent articles about this last one, until now.

I was actually doing a search for Wilkins to find out who he is...so thank you for your investigative reporting...a rare thing these days.

Another thing that I haven't heard anything about, is how the Dems, lead by Cummings, crucified the IG. It was obviously a coordinated attack to go after him, one of the more decent and honorable men I've seen in D.C.

The level of attacks on him only serves to clarify for me, that this abuse of power originated in the White House.

5 ^ | 1 v Reply Share



bittman · 10 days ago

Interesting article. I believe we will eventually learn that Shulman's 196 visits to the White House were not about Obamacare implementation -- especially when the Secretary of HHS who has prime responsibility for Obamacare only visited the White House 26 times during the same timeframe.

4 ^ | 1 v Reply Share



Edwin Loftus → bittman · 9 days ago

Some of the meetings may have been about how the IRS's exemption delays and denial program to suppress the opposition was going and how that could be expanded in the IRS's enforcement of Obamacare.

There may also have been discussions of how IRS-Obamacare data on Americans could be integrated with the other data the federal government is collecting on us all for more efficient and effective manipulation and intimidation campaigns. Or how that integration of data could be disguised.

And then there is the possibility that they were discussing the potential for Obamacare coverage denials to target seniors and older women, since those groups still tend to vote more Conservative than young people who don't need as much medical care. (As Democrats are fond of saying, "It's all in the demographics" and "Understanding the demographics is the key to Democratic Party victory").

The scariest thing is not that they were just discussing the IRS suppression scheme, but that they might have been discussing Obamacare and its potentials.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



bittman → Edwin Loftus · 9 days ago

With this Administration and IRS, I could easily see a person's political beliefs determining the healthcare that person is "eligible to receive." All of the Progressives naively believe they won't be impacted. If we don't stop this Administration from violating our Constitution and ruling by Executive

deceit, we or our children will live under a dictator.

3 ^ | v Reply Share >



indejavulandyoueatleftovers · 10 days ago

Another sleazeball hidden in the shadows.

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



Bill Adkins · 9 days ago

:D Dick?? Dick Morris???? Still trying to dredge up Watergate comparisons, Dick?

2 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Me · 7 days ago

Nixon resigned because the Watergate burglary was a direct connection to the Assassination of JFK. Ford pardoned Nixon to put an end to all the speculation involving the same people involved in the break in, with JFK's murder, RFK's murder, the CIA, and Nixon as well. It was THAT type of corruption in the 60's, and early 70's, that has given birth to the way Washington D.C. is run today. No accountability to ANYONE in Gov't, and a media that REFUSES to truthfully inform the American people. There is NO other explanation for the RAPID decline of moral leadership in this country, in such a short period of time. We went from Camelot...to Scam a lot..in less than 50 yrs. I weep for what we could have been!

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



jb1111 → Me · 7 days ago

You really need a LIFE other than posting from your Mom's Basement, Me.

^ | v Reply Share >



JulianG3 · 8 days ago

This smells to high heaven. Where is the MSM on this? They are leaving Pulitzer prizes on the table. Only an idiot would believe that the WH is not deeply involved.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



jb1111 → JulianG3 · 7 days ago

Are you referring to the "Obama Propaganda and Entertainment Machine" also known as NBC, MSNBC, CNN, ABC, CBS ??

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



Disqus_eric · 8 days ago

Criticizing illegal and/or unethical gov't behavior is racist.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



JulianG3 → Disqus_eric · 8 days ago

Yes, Secy Kathleen Sebelius has told us as much. Heil Sebelius!

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



VeryOldB · 10 days ago

Very good summary from Morris and McGann. Let's give Chicago lawyer William Wilkins his due and try to increase his notoriety on the way towards holding him culpable.

2 ^ | 2 v Reply Share >



Clover11111 · 9 days ago



Dick got kicked off of Fox because his "predictions" were wrong. If he would have wrote this with his wife saying WE HOPE, I would consider it. Does he not forget that we know he's in the pocket of Hillary Benghazi-Clinton and her stick man Bill? But while they wait, you have to find bread money any way that you can.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



mortimer zilch · 8 days ago

Odd that you would mention G. Gordon Liddy...how about Ollie North...both those creeps were involved in criminal spy activity operating right out of the White House basement...and you know what? THEY WON...and their successors moved UPSTAIRS, and now run their wicked schemes are official policy.

^ | v Reply Share



JulianG3 → mortimer zilch · 8 days ago.

As you aware that Gordon Liddy spent 3 years in prison?

1 ^ | v Reply Share



Edwin Loftus → mortimer zilch · 8 days ago

What "criminal spy activity" do you allege that Col. Oliver North engaged in?

He was involved in the Iran-Contra scandal in the Reagan administration, but I don't recall any "spying" in that controversy.

And how do you classify loss of position, temporary loss of freedom and the resignation of the President he served as a "win", in regard to G. Gordon Liddy?

1 ^ | v Reply Share



SicSemperTyrannis → Edwin Loftus · 2 hours ago

Criminal activity = something liberals don't like.

^ | v Reply Share



mortimer zilch → Edwin Loftus · 6 days ago

"covert" is same crap as "spy", "secret" etc. same umbrella activity/organization. Gordy's "win" was the return of his credibility afterwards...same with Ollie...they both were tool bag men that served the same clutch as George Bush, Sr. whom I once had the distinct pleasure of calling a "twit"...gimme a better chance and I will call you something soon!

^ | v Reply Share



Edwin Loftus → mortimer zilch · 6 days ago

Why wait? Call me that now.

Of course ... after the loose use of the English language you've displayed so far I won't be sure that "twit" is not a compliment in your vocabulary.

You saw that you'd made a false point and this was the best you could do to mask your embarrassment. I understand that.

But it would have been so much better to simply admit that you'd spoken without

adequate thought, and correct your errors than try to cover your errors with redefinitions and insults.

^ | v Reply Share



SicSemperTyrannis · 2 hours ago

Never have so many claimed to know so little.

I never thought obama's defense to all these scandals would be to claim incompetence.

^ | v Reply Share



relmasian · 3 days ago

So an Obama appointee has connections to other guys connected to Obama. What is missing is how did this guy push Tea Party delay and scrutiny at the IRS. What were the "additional comments" and what resulted?

^ | v Reply Share



Brian Derrick · 4 days ago

Um... I have bad news: your "scandal" just died. It wasn't even "on a respirator." It collapsed face first on the floor. Back to Benghazi, OK??

^ | v Reply Share



jb1111 · 7 days ago
House IRS Probe Continues

When is the IRS's chief counsel going to testify?

By Angela Hunt

Carter Hull, a veteran Internal Revenue Service lawyer in the Exempt Organizations division, fingered the office of IRS Chief Counsel William Wilkins during Thursday's congressional hearing. But that's not the only time Mr. Wilkins's name has come up as the investigation into the agency's targeting of tea party groups applying for tax-exempt status continues.

Mr. Hall testified that Mr. Wilkins's office overruled the

[see more](#)

^ | v Reply Share



CC Castle · 8 days ago

No one knows more about the Clinton's than Dick, and maybe where the bodies are buried, and maybe what happened that day at Fort Marcy Park.

^ | v Reply Share

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79 comments · 3 days ago



The Sleeping Giant — Barry is really showing his lack of knowledge of history right ...

Obama: Let's focus on growth, not just cuts




193 comments · 3 days ago



Mon — Any six year old who ever ran a lemonade stand has more business ...

IRS showed 'equal


Axelrod: Weiner 'delusional.'

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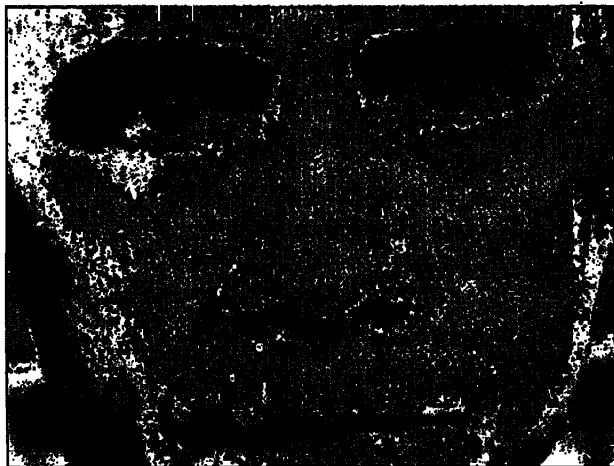
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OBAMA MET WITH IRS UNION BOSS DAY BEFORE TEA PARTY TARGETING BEGAN



by WYNTON HALL (/COLUMNISTS/WYNTON-HALL) | 20 May 2013 | **IRS**
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The White House Visitors Log reveals that President Barack Obama met with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) union boss Colleen Kelley on March 31, 2010—the day before

(<http://spectator.org/archives/2013/05/20/obama-and-the-irs-the-smoking>) the Inspector General's report says the IRS began its scheme to target tea party and conservative groups.

Furthermore, Obama appointed (<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/05/17/Obama-Appointed-IRS-Union-President-To-Group-In-Charge-of-Federal-Raises-In-2010>) Colleen Kelley, president of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), to the Federal Salary Council whose job is to recommend pay raises for IRS and other federal employees one week after Obama and Democrats suffered historic midterm losses in 2010. Two years later, Kelley's 150,000-member union had raised \$580,412, 94% of which went to Democratic federal candidates. The group also strongly backed Obama's reelection.

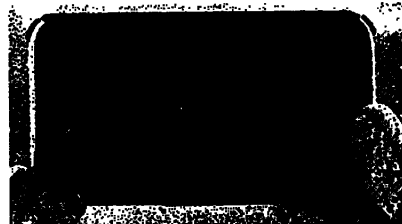
American Spectator reporter Jeffrey Lord, who uncovered (<http://spectator.org/archives/2013/05/20/obama-and-the-irs-the-smoking/1>) the visitor log connection, says the March 31st meeting between Obama and Kelley was not the only time Kelley met.

In fact, this record in the White House Visitors Log of a 12:30 Wednesday, March 31, 2010 meeting between President Obama and the IRS union's Kelley was not unusual.

On yet another occasion, Kelley's presence at the White House was followed shortly afterwards by the President issuing Executive Order 13522. A presidential directive that gave the anti-Tea Party NTEU — the IRS union — a greater role in the day-to-day operation of the IRS than it had already — which was considerable.

Since the IRS tea party targeting scandal erupted, Kelley has gone quiet.

"NTEU is working to get the facts but does not have any specifics at this time," Kelley told (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/federal-government/irs-union-mua-on-employees-held-accountable-in-suit-of-political-targeting/2013/05/13/aa33060a-bbfe->



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(<http://www.newsmaxworld.com/news/wide/egypt-morsi-protesters->

11e2-97d4-e479289a31f9_story_1.html) the Washington Post in an email. "Moreover, IRS employees are not permitted to discuss taxpayer cases. We cannot comment further at this time."

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retiredfire · 2 months ago

Are those wisps of smoke I see?

106 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



BigTBoom → retiredfire · 2 months ago

Yep, it's the next attempted smoke screen to cover this issue, the story released about the DOJ and James Rosen...

64 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



leepermax → BigTBoom · 2 months ago

It was the IRS that finally took down Chicago Mobster AL CAPONE.

Looks like the IRS is gonna do the same to the Chicago OBAMAFIA.

102 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



Sam300 → leepermax · 2 months ago

Or the IRS public union and the Obama Administration will take down the republic.....Is this the Stamp Act just waiting for a Tea tax last moment to occur because the shtf?

39 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



Tlady → leepermax · 2 months ago

I HOPE SO with every fiber of my being!!!!

31 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



megatron → Tlady · 2 months ago

Let Seal Teams One through Five take care of it.

20 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



reelectraegan → leepermax · 2 months ago

Better yet... how about they drag one another down! I try not to get too optimistic about these things, but one can hope.

32 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



Max → leepermax · 2 months ago

Hey wait a minute, isn't one of the narratives that the left has been pushing is that O'bumbles just doesn't have time to meet with IRS brass, and that's why he's so clueless about all of this ...

Just saying ...

51 ^ | ▾ Reply Share



@max.heh max. → Max · 2 months ago

@max.heh max. obama was elected twice! show some respect

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2 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



jollyrigger → Guest · 2 months ago

Ha ha ha, you're too funny. Sure, we'll show Loser as much respect as you libs showed George W Bush, who was also elected twice.

42 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Russ Watson → Guest · 2 months ago

Ya, He was elected twice by idiots like you, that explains everything.

26 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Eva → Russ Watson · 2 months ago

There ya go the liberal name calling! This is what they do when they have nothing intelligent to add! Do some research before calling names, that way you will not look so uninformed!!!

9 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Terry Lee → Eva · 2 months ago

Yeah, because Liberals never name call...NOT!!!

2 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Denis Abing → Russ Watson · 2 months ago

And its the very same reason Obama got re-elected this time.....

^ | 1 v Reply Share >



lana ward → Guest · 2 months ago

He was selected, not elected!! He didn't even qualify to be on the ballot in Indiana in 2008. The 4 that committed voter fraud are going to prison. One for 75 years. But that doesn't help the God awful mess we are in right now with that dictator in the WH

20 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Eva → Guest · 2 months ago

Sorry, no respect here for Obummer!!! He has done nothing to earn respect! If you want to show respect to the liar, that is your choice! I choose to not have any for the liar!!!

24 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



James Bonham II → Guest · 2 months ago

give respect where respect is due, its has to be earned.

7 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Terry Lee → Guest · 2 months ago

By about 20% of the total US population. I would not really consider that much of a mandate on Obama. He only won by less than 1% of the total US population and 5% of the voters. This is by no means a reason for respect. Respect for a person is earned, and that he has not done. I can respect the Office of the President, and I would have more respect for Obama he would respect the Office as well. He does not!!! He took the Oath of Office and has failed to follow through on that oath. No respect earned, no respect given. Now it is apparently that this election was fraudulent (voter intimidation and interference through IRS, EPA, etc.; rampant voter fraud, with people going to jail because of it as well as polling place violations galore: and a host of other voter issues). The very fact that these issues Benghazi, IRS, AP/Fox News scandals were known before the election and held secret by both the government and the media creates the existence of a deeper fraud in the election. Were these things made known in September and October they would have devastated Obama's campaign and would have easily toppled the measly %5 margin in the election

see more

21 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Georgia Turner → Terry Lee · 2 months ago

Well said Terry Lee!! I completely agree!!!

2 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Fred Cooper → Guest · 2 months ago

Obama barely won the popular vote both times. So it's not like he has a mandate. The country is just as divided as it was under

Bush. Obama hasn't united the country; in fact, he continues to further divide us. The IRS scandal shows how his fear mongering is causing government employees like the IRS to act as his brown-shift storm troopers illegally going after his opponents.

6 ^ | v Reply Share



Mulsanne917 → leepermax · 2 months ago

Maybe...but if it happens it'll only be because the gun they'll be using shoots backwards....

1 ^ | v Reply Share



ac287149 → leepermax · 2 months ago

I guess tax evasion is worse than murder to the government.

2 ^ | v Reply Share



Ginawmson → leepermax · 2 months ago

I tend to agree with Sam on this one, "the IRS public union and the Obama Administration will take down the republic"- Sam300

2 ^ | v Reply Share



Tiady → BigTBoom · 2 months ago

OH OH,,,I cannot say how HAPPY I am that this is all breaking and I PRAY with all my being, it brings this terrorist who stalks our country from within our own White House....DOWN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

03 ^ | 1 v Reply Share



Guest → Tiady · 2 months ago

Oh really?...well I cannot say how happy I am that this administration ended 2 wars,killed bin Laden &Kahdahfi,passed 3 major trade treaties...compared to what exactly in bush's 8 years?...next in line?Hillary...Yes!!

3 ^ | 15 v Reply Share



Russ Watson → Guest · 2 months ago

Dorothy,

You forgot Obamacare.....The thing thats going to bankrupt all of us....Oh you also forgot about, Libya, the WAR HE Started with NO approval from the UN or the Senate....Lets see, what else did you so forget? Oh ya, the fantastic way he dealt with the Gulf Oil spill, remember that,,,fine work.

Hey, what about that deficit, didnt hear you mention what a fine job he has done.....(Remember, "I'll cut the Deficit in HALF by the end of my first term") HE TRIPLED IT !!! Oh, thats right, its Bush's fault right...In fact this IRS thing is Bush's fault to right? No, oops, that was Global Warming, my bad.

Dorothy, take your A S S back to Kansas and stop drinking the Coolaid you IDIOT.

55 ^ | v Reply Share



Alex → Russ Watson · 2 months ago

Dumbass, the deficit when Obama took office was 1.4 trillion. At the end of his first term it was .9 trillion. Stop lying, Russ. And don't forget to lock up your bible and "sporting" rifle before we taken them away

^ | 2 v Reply Share



Greg → Alex · 2 months ago

The deficit was already running at \$1.2 trillion when Obama took office, and it grew to more than \$1.4 trillion during his first administration.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



Alex → Greg · 2 months ago

Proof of your \$1.4t claim?? Sources? Websites?


^ | 1 v Reply Share





Kathy Cook → Alex · 2 months ago

Just google "deficit at end of Obama's first term; lots of info and I must have missed the article w/.9 trillion.

^ | v Reply Share

 Alex → Kathy Cook · 2 months ago
I already posted the article
^ | v Reply Share

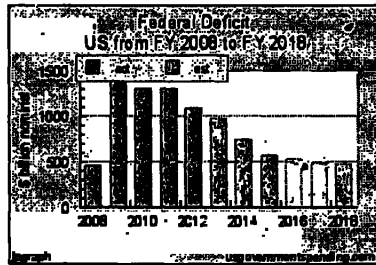
 Dale Marshall → Greg · 2 months ago
And it's down to about half that now.
^ | 1 v Reply Share

 Eva → Alex · 2 months ago
Well, this is funny! You call names while making a misinformed comment! Go do some research before calling someone names! .9trillion was not correct! Obama and his administration lied about that too!!! It was actually more than double what they claimed! Remember the famous comment by Obama? "I am not good with numbers"!!!
8 ^ | v Reply Share


 Alex → Eva · 2 months ago
<http://www.usgovernmentspendin...>


FY2009: \$1.413b
FY2013: \$973b

Put some FACTS when you're ready to join the discussion



1 ^ | v Reply Share


 Georgia Turner → Alex · 2 months ago
The figures in blue are actual figures.....red is only ESTIMATED!!!
1 ^ | v Reply Share


 Alex → Georgia Turner · 2 months ago
Really????? Guess what? The new deficit estimate for fiscal year 2013 is in:


<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05...>

\$643 billion. Economy is doing MUCH better than expected

^ | v Reply Share

 Patrick → Alex · 2 months ago
Those are completely Bogus Because 1/4 of Americas work force was forced to retire
1 ^ | v Reply Share

 bbruth → Alex · 2 months ago
We? Taken them away?
Cold, dead hands buddy. You aren't man enough.
5 ^ | v Reply Share

 Kathy Cook → Alex · 2 months ago
Alex: stop name calling and get your facts straight. Please tell where you got your .9trillion figure?
National debt — Jan. 2009: \$10.616 trillion; Jan. 2013: \$16.432 trillion (At \$5.8 trillion, it's the largest increase in the national debt under one president. Mr. Obama says \$1.3 trillion was waiting for him on the day he took office. The debt equals 104 percent of GDP).
I believe even he admitted he didn't lower it.
3 ^ | v Reply Share

 Alex → Kathy Cook · 2 months ago
<http://www.usgovernmentspendin...>

^ | v Reply Share



Alex → Kathy Cook · 2 months ago
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05...>

Will be less than half of what Obama inherited, just like he promised

Now post your facts

^ | v Reply Share



Guest → Alex · 2 months ago

Based on your chart above, Obama took office in Jan 2008 and the deficit was 460 Billion, therefore if you halved the deficit that year, it would be 230 Billion (and actually, Obama was talking about the deficit in 2007 when he was running for office). The deficit in 2012 (when Obama stated that he would cut the deficit in half) was 1.1 Trillion. Therefore, he didn't halve the deficit, he DOUBLED it. So much for math.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



Alex → Guest · 2 months ago

I didn't know some guy name "Obama" took office 10 months before Barack Obama was elected LOL! Let's try the chart again, but use it the right way (you were probably holding it upside down) Jan '09 when OBAMA took office, deficit was 1.4 trillion. Projected deficit in '13, FOUR YEARS LATER, is around 650 billion. I know Republicans don't trust works of the Devil such as "math" and "spelling", but the numbers don't lie

^ | v Reply Share



Jeff Adams → Alex · a month ago

At least comment on the same topic. Debt and deficit are two different topics. Debt is by far the greater threat to the US economy.

^ | v Reply Share



jonodough → Guest · 2 months ago

I've seen dorothy in her prius with the obama/biden bumpersticker. little mousy woman that looks like a mole with glasses getting ready to sniff obamas hole. no neck, bad teeth. stupid.

21 ^ | v Reply Share



StandforLiberty → jonodough · 2 months ago

Head & shoulders????

1 ^ | v Reply Share



hubwolf → Guest · 2 months ago

And Adolph made the trains run on time and built a wonderful highway system.

0 ^ | v Reply Share



lana ward → Guest · 2 months ago

Obama is a traitor to America. And right now he is showing us how bad he wants to be dictator--and he didn't get Bin Laden. He didn't even know what was going on. He was on the golf course. Leon Panetta gave the order, not Obama

25 ^ | v Reply Share



Trudge1 → lana ward · 2 months ago

If anything, the action was probably delayed when Obama swagged Patraeus and Panetta. I wonder if Obama thought Panatta might get lost in the thicket or just drop the ball.

^ | v Reply Share



lana ward → Trudge1 · 2 months ago

Obama and Valerie Jarrett nixed plans to get Bin Laden 3 other times so they weren't even told what was going on until Seal Team 6 was over Palestini air space--then Obama takes all the credit for it, pitiful!!!

4 ^ | v Reply Share

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May 16, 2013, 8:19 am [38 Comments](#)

I.R.S. Approved Dozens of Tea Party Groups Following Congressional Scrutiny

By [MICAH COHEN](#)

Public data from the Internal Revenue Service, which recently acknowledged that agency officials singled out conservative groups for special scrutiny, shows that dozens of Tea Party groups were approved for tax exempt status beginning in May 2012. That was the same month that Representative Dave Camp of Michigan wrote to the I.R.S. asking for information about all “social welfare” groups that had applied for tax-exempt status in 2010 and 2011, to determine whether the I.R.S. was targeting conservative groups.

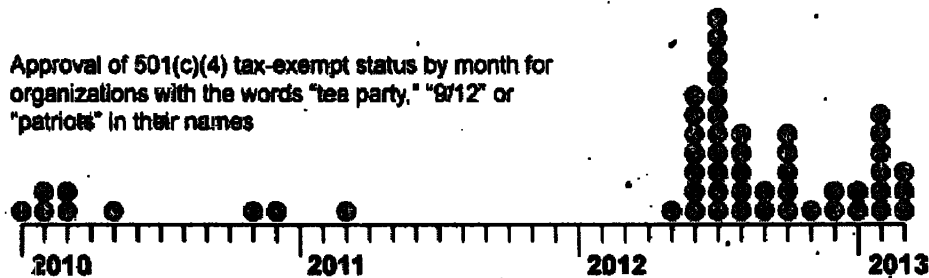
The flurry of approvals that came in the next few months was a sharp break from the previous two years, during which the agency approved just a handful of 501(c)(4) applications from Tea Party groups.

The public data provided by the I.R.S. does not include information on when groups submitted their applications for tax-exempt status, or how long they waited compared to the average application.

But an inspector general's report indicated that I.R.S. officials began targeting conservative groups in March 2010 by searching for groups with names containing “Tea Party,” “patriot” or “9/12.” The report says officials then switched to more expansive, less partisan search criteria in July 2011 and in January 2012, before broadening the criteria a third time on May 17, two weeks after Mr. Camp's letter.

But the first two revisions in the search criteria do not appear to have resulted in more Tea Party groups gaining approval. During the entire two-year span — from March 2010, when the agency began singling out conservative groups, to April 2012, just before it received Mr. Camp's letter and changed its search criteria for the last time — the I.R.S. approved the applications of just four groups with those conservative keywords in their names. After the I.R.S. altered its search criteria the final time, the agency approved more than 40 Tea Party applications.

Approval of 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status by month for organizations with the words "tea party," "9/12" or "patriots" in their names



According to the I.R.S. records, 54 organizations were granted 501(c)(4) status since 2010 with "Tea Party," "patriot" or "9/12" in their names. Five of those groups were approved in the first three months of 2010. Approvals then slowed considerably, I.R.S. data shows.

The Indiana Armstrong Patriots was the only Tea Party organization approved during all of 2011, and it was one of just four groups with "Tea Party," "patriot" or "9/12" in their names that were approved from April 2010 through April 2012.

The I.R.S. then approved 45 Tea Party groups in just 11 months, from May 2012 to March 2013. About half of those approvals — 23 — came in June, July and August, the first three full months after the final revision of the search criteria.

As a point of comparison, we tried to identify liberal groups approved for 501(c)(4) status since 2010. A search for "progress," "progressive," "liberal" and "equality" finds 32 groups. (This might not be a representative sample — identifying left-leaning groups is more difficult, as there are no clearly defined nomenclature on the left equivalent to the Tea Party.) The I.R.S. approved these groups at a fairly steady rate from 2010 through 2012. The I.R.S. approved 13 in 2010, nine in 2011 and 10 in 2012.

This post has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: May 16, 2013

Due to an editing error, an earlier version of this post misstated the number of Tea Party groups (with "Tea Party," "patriot" or "9/12" in their names) granted nonprofit status by the I.R.S. from April 2010 through April 2012. The total is four, including the Indiana Armstrong Patriots, not four in addition to the Indiana group.

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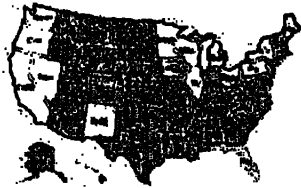
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FiveThirtyEight's mission is to help New York Times readers cut through the clutter of an increasingly data-rich world. The blog, founded by Nate Silver in 2008, is devoted to rigorous, data-driven analysis of politics, polling, public affairs, sports, economics, science and culture. FiveThirtyEight also offers forecasts of upcoming presidential, congressional and gubernatorial elections, using proprietary statistical models. [Read more »](#)

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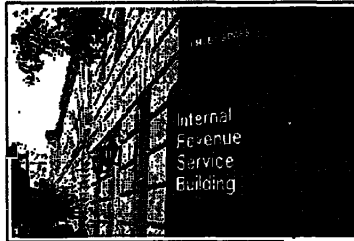
published Thursday, May 16th, 2013

IRS report details Chattanooga Tea Party probe

by Chris Carroll
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WASHINGTON — The IRS subjected the Chattanooga Tea Party to "unnecessary" questioning and "significant processing delays" in the group's request for nonprofit status, according to an inspector general's report and documents obtained by the Chattanooga Times Free Press.



The federal agency's foot-dragging delayed the Chattanooga Tea Party's request to be tax exempt by more than three years and two election cycles. The group was among dozens singled out by the IRS because of their titles and perceived political leanings, putting a local face on a scandal sweeping the nation.

Among dozens of questions in two separate inquiries, the agency requested Chattanooga Tea Party Facebook screen shots, meeting minutes and video recordings.

Additionally, nearly three years after the local group formed, the IRS demanded "copies of all hand-outs distributed, phone calls, emails ... conversations, reactions of speakers, etc." of monthly Chattanooga Tea Party meetings "from inception to present."

"Reactions?" Chattanooga Tea Party President Mark West said Wednesday. "We're supposed to decipher people's thought processes from two years ago? You're dealing with an agency that has unchecked power over 300 million people."

West gave the Times Free Press two letters the IRS sent his organization. The local tea party meets this evening to discuss the situation in greater detail.

Last week the IRS admitted targeting tea party groups and apologized. In an email Wednesday, agency spokesman Anthony Burke did not answer specific questions about the Chattanooga Tea Party.

The Justice Department has launched a criminal probe as congressional leaders prepare their own investigations.

President Obama on Wednesday announced the resignation of Acting IRS Commissioner Steven Miller. That came one day after the president vowed "to hold those responsible for these failures accountable."

FIRST IRS LETTER

Like many fledgling conservative groups in 2009, the Chattanooga Tea Party sought the 501(c)(4) status from

VIDEO

This story is featured in today's TimesFreePress newscast.

WHAT'S NEXT

What: Chattanooga Tea Party monthly meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. today

Where: Century Club Banquet Hall, 3221 Harrison Pike

IRS Letter to Chattanooga Tea Party in July, 2010

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the IRS as a nonprofit, tax-exempt "social welfare group." Such organizations are allowed to engage in political activity, but not as their primary focus.

West said he applied for tax-exempt status in November 2009. Eight months later, on July 8, 2010, the IRS responded with a list of nine questions, including:

- "Provide a list and description of topics discussed at your meetings for the past 6 months."
- "Explain how you will inform the public concerning the operation of the Federal Government and any new proposed legislation that the Federal government proposes to enact."
- "Information on the Internet shows that you may have hosted debates for candidates for Congress. Provide promotional literature from these events and a list of questions asked."

Similar versions of all three questions were deemed "unnecessary" in the inspector general's report released Tuesday.

Still, West said, he responded in a timely fashion.

He heard nothing until 18 months later, when the IRS sent a second letter that withheld nonprofit status and included 20 follow-up questions, many of which had multiple parts.

West was given three weeks to respond, documents show.

The inspector general's report noted that tea party groups were given "two or three weeks" to submit answers "despite the fact that the IRS had done nothing with some of the applications for more than one year."

SECOND IRS LETTER

Dated Jan. 4, 2012, the letter referred to a forum the Chattanooga Tea Party had hosted in early 2010.

The IRS asked for "all hand-outs, brochures, flyers [and] published materials distributed. Provide details of the content of the debate. Provide all questions asked, if not already submitted. Provide conversations, recordings, reactions, etc. on the debate."

The IRS further requested that the tea party provide audio and video recording of each event it last hosted, along with "a transcript of any speeches given by the candidates or speakers."

Other questions in the second inquiry, all of which were flagged by the inspector general as "unnecessary":

- "If you have a board member or officer who has run or will run for a public office, please describe fully."
- "Explain if your organization or its leaders rate candidates, even on a nonpartisan basis."
- "What are the sources of the organization's income?"

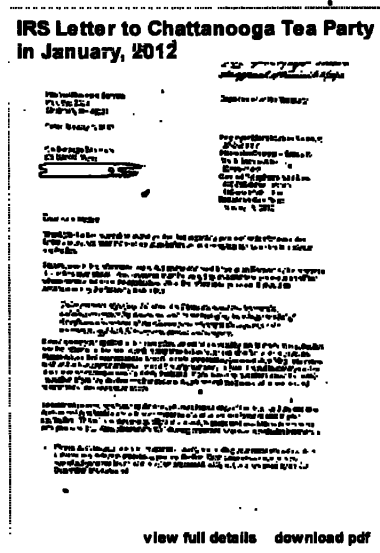
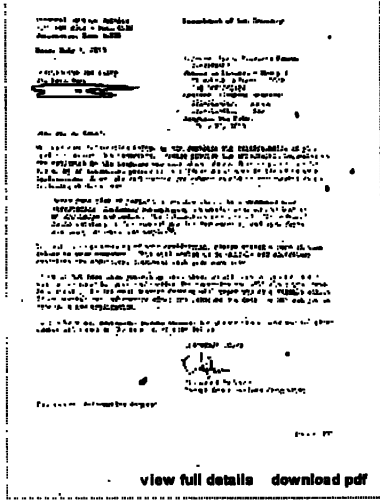
The inspector general's report said relevant IRS staffers "lacked knowledge of what activities are allowed" for different types of nonprofit.

"It's wholly inappropriate for the IRS to target groups with the goal of unveiling the political ideology of people within an organization," said Paul S. Ryan, an expert at the Washington-based Campaign Legal Center.

APPROVAL


West said the IRS approved the Chattanooga Tea Party for tax-exempt status in April 2013, nearly four years after it had applied.

Senate Republicans on Wednesday sent a letter to the White House demanding action. Among the



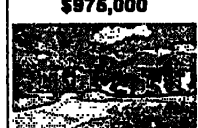
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signers were U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker of Tennessee.

"The public's confidence in the IRS relies on fair and apolitical application of the-law," the letter states. "Actions such as these undermine taxpayers' ability to trust its government to fairly implement the law."

Contact staff writer Chris Carroll at ccarroll@timesfreepress.com or 423-280-2025.

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about Chris Carroll..

Chris Carroll covers federal politics for the Times Free Press. A Chattanooga native, he went to Red Bank High School and graduated with honors from East Tennessee State University. Chris investigated violent crime, municipal government and hospitals before taking the political beat. For tornado coverage, he and Pam Schur won a first-place Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors deadline reporting award. In 2010, Chris won the Golden Press Card Award of Merit and another deadline

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Saturday, May 18, 2013

IRS to Maui TEA Party: "Provide details of your relationship with Dylan Nonaka"

By Andrew Walden @ 4:08 AM :: 1103 Views :: First Amendment, Taxes, TEA Party

by Andrew Walden

After 15 months of delay, the Internal Revenue Service February 16, 2012 gave the Maui TEA Party 21 days to answer 29 questions allegedly intended to determine whether the group is qualified for 501c4 non-profit status. Among the questions sent from the National IRS office in Cincinnati was this item referencing Dylan Nonaka, a local political consultant and former Hawaii Republican Party Executive Director:

"Provide details regarding your relationship with Dylan Nonaka. Provide copies of the training material used by Dylan Nonaka."

It is not clear how a National IRS office knew to ask about a local political figure such as Nonaka. Other questions include demands for the 'resume' of Maui TEA Party board members and information about their families. 501c4 groups are able to publish voter guides and hold candidate forums. The IRS asks 20 different questions about TEA Party work with political candidates, including demands to know the "political affiliation" of any candidates contacted by the TEA Party.

- UPDATE: [Maui TEA Party Leaders to Testify Before Congress](#)
- Daily Caller Features Nonaka Story: IT'S SCARY: Records show IRS officials independently targeted conservative group
- PR: Provide details
- Maui News: The Misuse of Power

Taken together it is clear that the questions were part of a fishing expedition to gather information about TEA Party activists and other conservative political activists. The questions could easily be construed as interference in the electoral process. Question 26 challenges TEA Party participation in voter registration drives. Protest is fully within the purview of a 501c4, but questions 29a reads: "What percentage of your time and funds are spent protesting?"

The Maui TEA Party immediately went public with the IRS harassment and got help from the American Center for Law and Justice. The IRS backed down and by July, 2012 had granted their request for 501c4 status.

Here is a pdf of the IRS letter to the Maui TEA Party (LINK) and below are the questions:

- 1) You are a membership organization. Provide details regarding all dues and benefits.
- 2) Provide actual financial information for 2009, 2010 and 2011. Include details regarding each item listed.
- 3) Provide copies of your monthly newsletters since October of 2010.
- 4) You will sell merchandise. Provide a list of all merchandise you will sell, your cost and the sale price.
- 5) Provide details regarding your relationship with the Leadership Institute. Provide copies of their training material.
- 6) Provide details regarding your relationship with Dylan Nonaka. Provide copies of the training material used by Dylan Nonaka.
- 7) Provide details regarding all other training you have received. Provide copies of the training material.
- 8) Have you added or replaced any board members, officers or key employees since October of 2010? If yes, submit the following information:
 - a) Provide a resume for each.

a) Provide a resume for each.

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- DBCS 108

b) Indicate the number of hours per month each individual has provided or is providing services to you.

c) Provide a description of all the services each individual provides or has provided to you.

d) Indicate the total compensation provided to each individual.

e) Indicate if any of your current and former officers, directors, and key employees are related to each other (include family and business relationships) and describe the nature of the relationship.

9) List each past or present board member, officer, key employee and members of their families who:

a) Has served on the board of another organization.

b) Was, is or plans to be a candidate for public office. Indicate the nature of each candidacy.

c) Has previously conducted similar activities for another entity.

d) Has previously submitted an application for tax exempt status.

10) Do you have a conflict of interest policy? If yes, submit a copy.

11) Provide minutes of all board meetings since October of 2010.

12) Regarding your fundraising since October of 2010:

a) Provide copies of all solicitations the organization has made regarding fundraising.

b) Provide copies of all documents related to the organization's fundraising events, including pamphlets, flyers, brochures, webpage solicitations.

c) Provide a listing and details regarding all fundraising expenses.

13) You will teach, inform and train regarding your core principles and values. You will hold meetings and rallies, operate a website, conduct lobbying and other activities. To help us gain a better understanding of your organization, please provide the following estimates:

a) Provide a listing of all of your past activities. Indicate the percentage of your time spent conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%) and the percentage of your funds spent conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%)

b) Provide a listing of all of your planned activities. Indicate the percentage of your time you will spend conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%) and the percentage of your funds you will spend conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%)

14) Regarding your current and planned employees:

a) How many employees do you have?

b) Indicate the total of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees?

c) If employees are part-time, when did/do they work?

d) If employees are seasonal, during what season (months) did/do they work?

e) How many employees are/were devoted to each activity of the organization throughout the year?

15) Regarding your current and planned volunteers:

a) How many volunteers do you have?

b) How many volunteers are/were devoted to each activity of the organization throughout the year?

c) How many and what sort of resources are devoted to volunteer activities?

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...DBCS-109

10) You will conduct rallies, educational events, discussion groups or similar events. For each event you have conducted since October of 2010:

- a) Indicate the date and location.
- b) Describe the nature of the event.
- c) Provide copies of all materials distributed with regards to the event.
- d) List all event revenue.
- e) List all event expenses.

17) Do you publish or distribute materials or conduct other communications that are prepared by or reviewed by another organization? If yes, explain and provide a copy of such materials or communications.

18) Do you or will you rate candidates? If yes, explain.

19) Provide a copy of the questionnaire you ask candidates to complete.

20) Your application indicated you would have press releases and media advertisements (newspaper ads, radio ads, etc..) supporting candidates who support your principles. Provide a list of all candidates you have included in such press releases or advertisements since October of 2010. State the political affiliation of each candidate.

21) Will you publish and/or distribute material other than press releases and media advertisements in favor of any candidate for public office? If yes, explain.

22) You have posted information about candidate rallies, fundraisers and sign waving schedules on your website and facebook. Provide a list of each candidate for which you have posted such information since October of 2010. State the political affiliation of each candidate.

23) Are you associated with any other IRC 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) or 527 organizations? If yes:

- a) Describe in detail the nature of the relationship(s).
- b) Does the organization work with those organization(s) regularly?
- c) Provide copies of all related contracts with such organizations.
- d) Describe the nature of all contacts with the organizations.
- e) Do you share employees, volunteers, resources, office space, etc. with the organization(s)? If yes, explain.

24) You have conducted candidate forums at which candidates for public office were invited to speak. Provide the following regarding all such events since October of 2010:

- a) Details, including the nature of the forums
- b) The candidates invited to participate
- c) The candidates that did participate
- d) The issues discussed
- e) The time and location of the event.
- f) Copies of all materials distributed regarding the forum and provided at the forum, including any internet material discussing or advertising the forum.

25) Have any candidates for public office spoken at a function of the organization other than a candidate forum? If yes, provide the following:

- a) The names of the candidates
- b) The functions at which they spoke
- c) Any materials distributed or published with regard to their appearance and the event

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DBCS 110

- d) Any video or audio recordings of the event
- e) A transcript of any speeches given by the candidate(s)
- 26) Since October of 2010, have you conducted or will you conduct voter education activities (voter registration drives, get out the vote drives, publishing voter guides, distributing voter guides, etc.)? If so:
- a) Provide the location, date and time of the events.
- b) Who on the organization's behalf has or will conduct the voter registration or get out the vote drives?
- c) How many resources (funds/employees/volunteers) are devoted to the activity?
- d) Provide copies of all materials published or distributed regarding the activities, including copies of any voter guides.
- 27) Do you engage in business dealings with any candidate(s) for public office or an organization associated with the candidate, such as renting office space or providing access to a membership list? If so, describe the relationship in detail and provide contracts or other agreements documenting the business relationship.
- 28) Have you attempted to influence the outcome of specific legislation since October of 2010? If yes, answer the following:
- a) Provide copies of all communications, pamphlets, advertisements, and other materials distributed by you regarding the legislation.
- b) Do you conduct media advertisements lobbying for or against legislation? If yes, provide copies of any radio, television, or internet advertisements relating to the organization's lobbying activities.
- c) Do you directly or indirectly communicate with members of legislative bodies? If so, explain the amount and nature of the communication.
- 29) Rev. Rul. 75-384, 1975-2 C.B. 204 details a nonprofit antiwar protest organization formed to promote world peace and disarmament by nonviolent direct action and whose primary activity was the sponsoring of antiwar protest demonstrations in which demonstrators were urged to commit violations of local ordinances and breaches of public order. The organization did not qualify for exemption under section 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Code. Please answer the following regarding your protest activities:
- a) What percentage of your time and funds are spent protesting?
- b) Provide a listing of all of all protests in which your organization has participated.
- c) Has your organization committed violations of local ordinances or breaches of public order? If yes, explain.
- d) Has your organization ever conducted or promoted any illegal activity? If yes, explain.
- e) Has any of your members been arrested by the police during a demonstration? If yes, explain.

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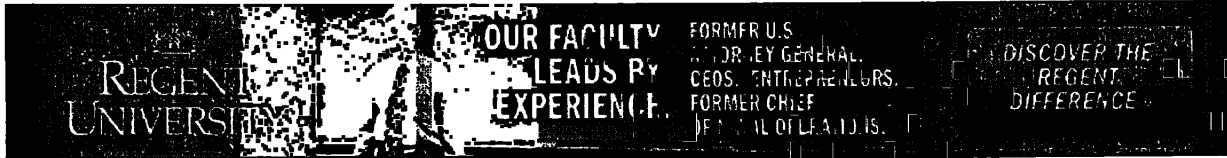
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Three PA Tea Party groups claim IRS targeted them for harassment

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At least three Tea Party groups in Pennsylvania say they have been the target of IRS intimidation, and have either abandoned seeking tax exempt status, shut down, or plan to do so in the near future, the group organizers told PennLive Monday.

Their claims and capitulations come after the IRS admitted late last week that low-level figures in the agency had independently applied more intense scrutiny to groups with "tea party" or "patriot" in their names that were seeking tax exempt status.

Among the three Keystone State groups citing problems with the IRS, two groups were in the Philadelphia area, and another is based in western Pennsylvania. Tea Party leaders in the Harrisburg area say they have had no issues with IRS harassment, but added that they are angry about the mistreatment of other groups.

Nationwide, the IRS acknowledgment of targeting Tea Party groups has sparked outrage from Republican lawmakers.

After learning of the practice in June 2011, Lois Lerner, the director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations office, instructed that the trigger criteria for greater scrutiny "be immediately revised."

But in a March 2012 congressional hearing, another IRS official denied there was any targeting, even though the practice had continued.

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During a joint news conference with visiting British Prime Minister David Cameron, President Barack Obama said reports that the Internal Revenue Service targeted conservative groups, Obama said it was "outrageous" and anyone involved needs to be "held fully accountable."

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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The IRS admission of targeting came Friday when Lerner fielded questions from a tax division of the American Bar Association.

"They used names like 'Tea Party' or 'Patriots,' and they selected cases simply because the applications had those names in the title," she said. "That was wrong, that was absolutely incorrect, insensitive, and inappropriate. That's not how we go about selecting cases for further review."

Still, Lerner added later: "They didn't do this because of any political bias."

Complaints nationwide

Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Harrisburg native who grew up in Hummelstown, said the higher scrutiny was the product of bias inspired by President Barack Obama.

"He also owes every Tea Party in America, every group called 'Patriot,' every group that wants to study the Constitution an apology," Gingrich said during an appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" show.

"How can you have an American government profile against the word 'Patriot,'" he added. "I mean, there's something culturally sick if the American government says, 'Boy you put that word 'Constitution' in your name [so] we're going to come after you'. This is an administration that is shocked at profiling for terrorism, but apparently had an entire part of the IRS that was profiling for patriotism."

Tea Party-affiliated groups across the country have complained that they were being harassed by the IRS since the groups' sudden appearance on the national political stage in 2010.

That year, several conservative House candidates were swept into office as Tea Party-supported candidates, and have since been the principal bulwark to Obama and his initiatives.

Monday, the president denounced the practice, claiming he first learned of it Friday from news reports (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/05/13/remarks-president-obama-and-prime-minister-cameron-united-kingdom-joint->).

"If, in fact, IRS personnel engaged in the kind of practices that had been reported on and were intentionally targeting conservative groups, then that's outrageous and there's no place for it," Obama said, adding that the Office of the Inspector General is investigating the charges.

"They have to be held fully accountable, because the IRS as an independent agency requires absolute integrity, and people have to have confidence that they're applying it in a non-partisan way – applying the laws in a non-partisan way," Obama added. "And you should feel that way regardless of party. I don't care whether you're a Democrat, independent or a Republican."

'I shut it down'

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But the people in the Pennsylvania groups that claim they were targeted were not confident the president would ensure a proper investigation is conducted.

"I have as much confidence in the president of the United States [initiating a thorough investigation] as I do in the IRS treating people who are in political opposition to the president fairly," said Jenifer Stefano, a Philadelphia area Tea Party activist.

Stefano said she tried to start her own group called The Loyal Opposition between 2010-2011. But when she applied for tax exempt status, the IRS responded with a litany of questions that put her off.

"I was pregnant and on a single income and they were asking me questions like, 'Are you on Facebook,' she said incredulously. "They wanted my personal Facebook page."

"A lawyer told me, 'They're going to come after you and if you make one mistake they could ruin your life,'" Stefano added. "I like to think of myself as very tough, but I'm ashamed to say I was intimidated and frightened, and I shut it down."

She said other Tea Party-minded people in the state saw the difficulties she and others were having with the IRS and drifted away from the movement in fear.

"They won't talk," Stefano said. "I can tell you, there is still fear and intimidation about this."

Anastasia Przybylski, co-chairwoman of the Bucks County-based Kitchen Table Patriots, said she continues to experience a similar IRS response, with her most recent interaction coming last week.

"When we started, we were apprehensive," Przybylski said. "Our families and friends thought we were crazy. Now, I don't feel comfortable. I wish that wasn't the case. I wish they weren't using these kinds of tactics, but the fact is that they are. For a tiny organization like ours, is it really worth it?"

Once the 2012 tax filing for the group is fully processed, she said the group will likely shut down.

"We're still going to have the organization," Przybylski said. "I just don't know if we need the [tax exempt status]. If the amount of money in our account is just \$2,000 total, I don't see the benefit to it. I know plenty of people who have a website and an organization without having a formal entity."

Another group that tried to start a group in western Pennsylvania is so terrified of what the IRS could do to them that members would only agree to be interviewed if their names and the group name were not identified.

"We're just regular citizens," said one member who only spoke on condition of anonymity. "It's not like we have access to resources to deal with this. Whenever you get pushback from the IRS of this magnitude you're not able to deal with it."

The member said the IRS replied to their 2009 application for tax exempt status with the same multi-questionnaire response other groups had gotten. Six months, thousands of dollars, and countless hours later, they gave up.

"As a result of receiving that questionnaire, the person who was our treasurer quit, and the group decided to not move forward with tax exempt status," the member said.

"That's an example of the type of affect this type thing has."

Local groups decry 'abuse of power'

Reaction from area Tea Party affiliated groups to the IRS admission ranged from rage to consigned nonchalance.

"Political administrations have used the IRS to come down on various groups over the years and it doesn't surprise me that the tea party and other groups like that have been targeted," said Scott Burkholder, an organizer with the York County 9-12 Patriots.

Everett Hamilton, an organizer of the Harrisburg-based Tea Party Patriots of Central Pennsylvania, agreed.

"I don't see any partisanship in it," Hamilton said. "I see it as an abuse of power on both sides. It happened under Roosevelt. It happened under Nixon, and I wouldn't be surprised if it happened under Lyndon Johnson."

Others weren't so pragmatic.

"They're obviously coming at us for a reason," said Jim Billman, chairman of Berks County Patriots. "It's almost like a third world country with a dictator who tries to scare you half to death. That's what they're doing to the American people. I believe [Obama] is fully aware of what went on and he'll pass the buck, have a scapegoat, and continue to operate as usual."

Katy Abram, a leading figure in the Lebanon 9-12 Project, called it an arbitrary abuse of power.

"Where were they when the occupy groups started?" Abram said. "I'd love to see if they were looking into that. I bet they weren't."

Added Janet Cook, of the Pittsburgh Tea Party Movement: "I think heads should roll. I don't think that low level people make these kinds of decisions on their own. They get it from higher ups."

GOP, Democrats denounce IRS actions

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey, who was one of the fiscally conservative candidates swept into office by the tea party movement in 2010, took the more reserved tact, but also condemned the IRS actions.

"Whether you are conservative, liberal, libertarian, or any other political persuasion, you should be concerned that the IRS was targeting specific groups for extra scrutiny and intimidation," Toomey, R-Pa., said in a statement. "The IRS's actions are akin to an enemies list and further contribute to the deep cynicism that many Americans have about the government."

Democrats also objected.

"Like a lot of Americans, I am outraged by the alleged actions of IRS employees," said U.S. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa. "Pennsylvanians and Americans across the country deserve to know that the IRS and all government agencies do their jobs without prejudice or political agenda. I intend to see that this matter is appropriately investigated and those responsible for any breach of the taxpayer's trust are held accountable."

During the same MSNBC appearance as Gingrich, former Gov. Ed Rendell called on Obama to take responsibility and get to the bottom of the situation as soon as possible.

"One thing I would tell anyone who takes office is when you make a mistake, say you made a mistake," Rendell said. "Don't try to cover it up. Say, 'We screwed up, and I'm going to do something about it'."

Former Montgomery County Congressman Joe Hoeffel, a Democrat, also called on Obama to address the problem fully.

"I'm no fan of the Tea Party, but no groups should be targeted because of their political beliefs," Hoeffel said, later dismissing some conservative claims that the scandal is worse than Watergate. "Those other comparisons are way overblown, but the president and his top people really need to treat this seriously and get to the bottom of this."

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Testimony: Becky Gerritson, President Wetumpka, AL
June 4, 2013

Congressman Camp,

Thank you for inviting me here to speak today.

I'd like to begin with a brief statement. I know that you are primarily interested in hearing about the abuses of the Internal Revenue Service. But I believe that it is critically important that you and your constituencies know, not just what those abuses were, but what exactly the IRS was trying to stifle. In order to paint a clear picture, I need to explain how the Wetumpka Tea Party came into being.

My husband and I had never been involved in politics before 2008. We've always been patriotic and deeply proud of our country. We've always felt that the United States IS the greatest country on earth.

In Sept 2008, when we had our first seven hundred billion dollar bailout, we along with millions of Americans were VERY concerned! It seemed to be confirmation that our government was out-of-control.

But just a few months later, in January of 2009, we learned that that our government was going to spend 787 billion more. This money went to foreign nations, failing banks, unproductive industries, and selected businesses. We were worried and knew we had to do something to sound the alarm! We knew that the government had gone far beyond its habitual deficit spending. The government was mortgaging America's future. And we knew that Washington wasn't going to stop by itself.

In the spring of 2009, we learned others were organizing "tea party" events around the nation to educate and empower concerned citizens who believed their government was out of control, so we made our plans.

My husband and I filled out a permit to meet at a local park in our small town. My daughter and I walked through neighborhoods handing out flyers for the on April 15th event. When the day arrived, we were blown away by the large crowd. A few politicians came also, but they didn't speak. We wanted to give ordinary people a chance to air their concerns.

Our event had no party affiliation. I could not tell you if attendees were Republicans, Democrats or independents – it did not matter. The only political notion expressed was the one we collectively felt: That our "representative government" had failed us.

And that was the birth of the Wetumpka Tea Party. There are no dues, no price for memberships. Our events are mostly educational. Whatever expenses are incurred are paid from donations and t-shirt sales.

In Wetumpka, we are patriotic Americans. We peaceably assemble. We petition our government. We exercise our right to free speech.

And we don't understand why our government tried to stop us.

I am not here today as a serf or a vassal. I am not begging my lords for mercy.

I am a born-free, American woman – wife, mother and citizen – and I'm telling **MY** government that you have forgotten your place. It is not your responsibility to look out for my well-being or monitor my speech. It is not your right to assert an agenda. The posts you occupy exist to preserve American liberty. You have sworn to perform that duty. And you have faltered.

The abuses I will discuss today occurred on your watch. It is your responsibility to make sure it doesn't happen again.

FACTS OF MY CASE:

We applied for our 501(c)4 in October 2010. Our \$850.00 application fee was cashed seven days from the date our application was mailed. We received a letter dated Nov, 2, 2010 stating that our application and user fee payment had been received. It stated that we could expect to be contacted within 90 days.

The IRS did not initiate ANY contact with us for another four hundred and fifty nine days. That was when I received a letter from the Cincinnati office dated February 3rd 2012. The letter stated that they could not complete our 501(c)4 application until we filled out the enclosed questionnaire which requested approximately 90 pieces of additional information or data about our organization.

The questionnaire stated that if the additional information was not returned by Feb 24th that our case would be closed.

The demands for information in the questionnaire shocked me, as someone who loves liberty and the first amendment. I was asked to hand over my list of donors, including the amounts that they gave and the dates on which they gave them. 501c4 organizations do NOT have to disclose donor information. I knew that. Why didn't they?

Among the demands that I found alarming and inappropriate were:

- They wanted us to identify our volunteers.
- They wanted to know if any of our donors or volunteers had run or would be running for office in the near future, remember this was an election year, and they wanted us to identify the office they would be running for.
- They wanted us to provide detailed contents of all speeches or forums, names of speakers, or panels and their credentials.
- Provide copies of the written communications and contents of other forms of communications to legislators.
- Information regarding our voter education activities, including dates, times and locations of our events.

On March 6th, we retained the council of the ACLU to represent us in this matter.

I received a letter from Lois Lerner, dated March 16th 2012, asking that I provide the previously requested information.

We received a letter dated July 9, 2012 that received our 501c4 status. 635 days after we applied.

In conclusion, the Wetumpka TEA Party filed a complete application. Our organization fell within the boundaries of receiving a 501c4 status. Our application was singled out solely because we had "TEA Party" in our name. Government agents made invasive and excessive demands for information that they were not entitled to.

Congressman Camp and members of the committee, this was not an accident. This is a willful act of intimidation intended to discourage a point of view.

What the government did to our little group in Wetumpka, Alabama is un-American. This isn't a matter of firing or arresting a few individuals. The individuals who sought to intimidate us were acting as they thought they should in a government culture that has little respect for its citizens.

Many of the agents and agencies of the federal government do not understand that they are servants of the people. They think they are our masters. And they are mistaken.

I'm not interested in scoring political points. I want to protect and preserve the America I grew up in, the America that people across oceans and risk their lives to become a part of. And I'm terrified that it's slipping away.

TIME LINE OF EVENTS WETUMPKA TEA PARTY (AL):

- Oct. 12, 2010 501(c)4 application sent to IRS.
- Oct. 19, 2010 \$850. 00 user fee payment was cashed.
- Nov. 2, 2010 Letter dated Nov, 2, 2010 from Robert Choi, Director, EO Rulings & Agreement, states IRS received 501(c)4 application and fee payment. Letter also stated that we could expect to be contacted within 90 days of this notice.
- Apr. 22, 2011 10:45am phone call made to IRS by Loretta Wakefield-Short, (President at the time.) She spoke with employee ID#1001808928, said application was assigned to Ronald Bell phone number 513-263-3660.
- Apr. 22, 2011 11:14am phone call made by Loretta Wakefield-Short to Mr. Bell. He said "application is still under review". No other information-just wait and we will be notified.
- Feb. 8ish, 2012 We received a letter dated Feb. 3, 2012 from Specialist Stephen Seok, Cincinnati office, stating application could not be process until enclosed questionnaire was completed by Feb 24th. If information requested was not completed by the response date (Feb 24, 2012) then they would close our case. Below are just some of the approximately 90 pieces of information they wanted:
- Donor names, volunteers names, and the amounts that they gave and the dates in which they gave them.
 - Wanted to know if any of them had run or would be running for office in the near future, and to identify the office they would be running for.
 - Time, location and detailed description of every event or program we've ever had.
 - Copies of all newsletters, flyers, brochures, pamphlets, voter guides or class handouts ever given.
 - Provide detailed contents of all speeches or forums, names of speakers, or panels and their credentials.
 - Copies of web pages, presentations, and other web pages such as social networking sites and blog sites.
 - Provide copies of the written communications and contents of other forms of communications to legislators.
 - Have you or will you conduct voter education activities? If so, what is the date time and location of the event.
 - Who on the organization's behalf, have conducted or will conduct the voter registration or get out the vote drives?
- Mar. 1, 2012 Phone call made to Stephen Seok. I asked "what would happen if I did not have the information need to complete the questionnaire." He stated that if I "didn't have the information, just to write, 'Don't have info.'" He said I "did not have to give names unless they were politicians".

Mar. 6, 2012 Retained Council from the *American Center for Law and Justice*

Mar. 22ish, 2012 Received a letter from Lois Lerner, Director EO, stating that I must complete the previously sent request for more information within 60 days of the date of this letter, or our application would be placed in suspense. Letter stated that if they do not hear from us within 90 days then our case would be closed.

July 13ish, 2012 Received notification that we had received our 501(c)4 status, dated July 9, 2012.

Testimony House Ways and Means: Dianne Belsom

My name is Dianne Belsom, and I am the president of Laurens Co. Tea Party. Laurens Co. Tea Party is a social welfare organization that seeks to educate ourselves and our fellow citizens on various issues pertinent to living in a free country and we also work to educate voters by vetting candidates and holding candidate forums during election years. We typically meet once each month and hold an annual Rally. Speakers include elected officials, candidates during election years, and speakers on topics such as School Choice, How Obamacare will Affect Us, the FairTax, Principles of Freedom and Liberty, 2nd Amendment Issues, and issues pertaining to our State Government. We have no paid positions in our group, nor do we contribute any money to candidates. We are a small group in a rural county in SC, with approximately 60 paid members.

We held our first Tax Day Tea Party Rally in April of 2009, then formally organized and incorporated with the State of SC in March of 2010. On July 22, 2010, we filed for 501c4 status with the IRS and paid the application fee of \$400. We received a letter on Aug. 11, 2010 stating that if more information was needed to process our application, we would be contacted within approximately 90 days. After hearing nothing, I called the IRS in the summer of 2011, and was told our case was still "pending," but in the meantime, we were still responsible for filing tax returns, which we have done. On Nov. 14, 2011, we received a letter from the IRS stating that we may be required to file a Form 990-N (e-postcard). Nothing more was heard until Sept. 6, 2012, when we received a communication from the IRS requesting extremely burdensome additional information, which includes the following:

1. Provide copy of articles of incorporation (which we had sent with our initial application in 2010.)
2. Information about all of our committees, including Legislative, Educational, and Vetting, and HOW MUCH TIME/RESOURCES are devoted to these activities.
3. They sent about 20 pages copied from our website, and wanted confirmation that these were, in fact, from our website. Then they wanted samples from any other social media sites, including Facebook.
4. Detailed information about all meetings, rallies, events, with dates and names of speakers, agendas, any associated materials, if a guest speaker made remarks concerning upcoming elections and whether our organization took a view on anything expressed, and how much time or resources are devoted to these activities.
5. How much time/resources are devoted to vetting candidates.
6. The IRS noted that our website had a lot of videos of candidates running for local office. They wanted to know what offices the candidates were running for (which was stated in the videos), a list of all candidates for those offices and an explanation for those who didn't participate, copies of any written materials, including invitations to the candidates, copies of any introductory statements by us, and copies of all questions asked to the candidates, whether the interviews were edited, a list of which interviews were posted on our website and explanation for any not posted, percentage of time/resources devoted to this.
7. As regards a Candidate Forum we held, more questions were asked, including the date and elective offices for which it was held, a list of candidates and explanations for those who didn't

participate, copies of opening remarks from us, who asked the questions; copies of all questions asked, copies of written materials, including invites to candidates and advertising, whether the videos posted were edited, and the percentage of time/resources devoted to this activity.

8. **Provide info about voter registration: when and where, whether we target particular groups, copies of materials used, percentage of time and resources devoted to this activity.**
9. **Provide a list of expenses for the past 3 years, including any amounts expended in support of any candidate for Federal, state, or local public office.**

Since I was already aware that the IRS was targeting Tea Party groups, I immediately contacted the ACLJ, and they agreed to represent us at no charge. Nevertheless, in order to comply with this "information request," it took HOURS of time, stress, and aggravation. **The original deadline given to comply was Sept. 27, 2012, but the attorney was able to get an extension until Jan. 2, 2013.** By the end of Dec., we had filed the requested information with them. Then, on Jan. 31, 2013, we received a request for MORE information, which included:

1. **Again, a request for the Articles of Incorporation. (How many times do we need to send them?)**
2. **Copies of emails sent out on issues we deal with, plus copies from our Facebook group. (Since our group is closed, I took the time to black out the names of everyone who had posted in order to protect them.)**
3. **Copies of free and paid ads placed, pictures submitted to local papers, press releases, and materials for distribution.**

We complied with these demands on March 5, 2013, and it is now June 4, 2013 and to date, we have still heard nothing. I'd like to note that our group is a small-time operation with very little money, and this represents a complete waste of time by the IRS in terms of any money they would collect if we were NOT tax-exempt. Furthermore, nearly 3 years in waiting for an answer is totally unacceptable. The IRS needs to be fully investigated and held accountable for its incompetence, harassment, and targeting of conservative groups.

Thank you.

(bolded statements will be omitted from my oral testimony)

Personal Development Center Associates

Karen L. Kenney, PhD
Marriage, Family Therapist (MFT25611)
6345 Balboa Blvd., Suite 212
Encino, CA 91316
818-996-6820 or FAX: 818-776-60312
Website: PDCAONLINE.com

June 4, 2013: Ways and Means: Testimony of Karen L. Kenney, SFV Patriots:

John Adams knew that, "Facts are stubborn things."
In this District, facts are hidden under the mantle of office.
They get used as tools or weapons,
But facts wait for us.

We must seek them with the lamp of truth
And put them into words.
But you and I speak different languages in this Republic.

You speak the language of **Power**: the pen, purse or gavel.
I speak grassroots American, the language of **Liberty** through
Providence, property and civic virtue.
We seldom speak together frankly about the rule of law even when
it is ignored or broken, but now is such a time.

I have a story that bridges the distance between my state of
California and this Capitol.
What I say here, **must** be said here.

Pilgrims brought to this continent a lamp of Liberty, guided
Here by the pursuit of Life within the words of Moses and Christ.
They persevered for righteous freedom.

We sit here in the shadows of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.
We visit here memorials to those who fell in service to country.
They persevered for righteous power.

The spirit of patriots living and dead grants me the right to be here.
It is my duty as an American citizen to speak here today.

Personal Development Center Associates

Karen L. Kenney, PhD
Marriage, Family Therapist (MFT25611)
6345 Balboa Blvd., Suite 212
Encino, CA 91316
818-996-6820 or FAX: 818-776-60312
Website: PDCAONLINE.com

In October 2010, the San Fernando Valley Patriots, a not-for-profit corporation in California, applied with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for 501(c) 4 status as a tax-exempt social welfare organization. We were then and remain a “tea party” group affiliated with the national Tea Party Patriots.

We heard nothing until February 2012 when I received a packet from the IRS Exempt Organizations Office in Cincinnati, OH, which included a questionnaire with 35 items divided into 80 sub-points of inquiry.

A cover letter indicated we had 20 days to comply without penalty including “penalties of perjury” for failure to answer all questions with facts that are “true, correct, and complete.”

Generally, the questions were a demand that read like the chilling words from the 1950s: “Are you now or have you ever been...”

The IRS sought documentation of our meetings, rallies, events, or candidate forums. That included video and audio transcriptions, notes, copies of all handouts; the political party of speakers, and an “issues” list.

The IRS sought identifying information on employees; data on volunteers and members, plus Employer Identity Numbers (EINs) on businesses with which we associate. These are our donors.

Personal Development Center Associates

Karen L. Kenney, PhD
Marriage, Family Therapist (MFT25611)
6345 Balboa Blvd., Suite 212
Encino, CA 91316
818-996-6820 or FAX: 818-776-60312
Website: PDCAONLINE.com

They have names: Mike, the printer, who gave us a discount on handbills; Dee, the beauty consultant, who donated posters for our Tax Day rallies and Greg, the electrician, who made a stand for our 9-11 banner out of pipes and wires.

The IRS sought EINs and details on our association with tax-exempt organizations. These are our teachers.

They have names: The Heritage Foundation, FreedomWorks, and the National Center for Constitutional Studies, where we learn American History; the Tea Party Patriots, where we learn grassroots skills, and the West Valley Food Pantry, our charity.

The IRS sought details of communications with our legislators. Even in Southern California that is protected Free Speech.

My personal favorite was question No. 33, which in relation to protests asked for a listing of our "committed violations of local ordinances, breaches of public order or arrests" then requested details on how we "conduct or promote" illegal activities.

I think the IRS needs to fix its labeling machine: We're the San Fernando Valley Patriots, not Occupy Oakland.

I stopped the costly and exhausting IRS process in July 2012. We survive on my credit card and donations in our cake tin.

Like patriots before us, we persevere.

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Karen L. Kenney, PhD
Marriage, Family Therapist (MFT25611)
6345 Balboa Blvd., Suite 212
Encino, CA 91316
818-996-6820 or FAX: 818-776-60312
Website: PDCAONLINE.com

The voice of this Republic resides in our citizens, not in the tongue of government. **More** must grasp that self-evident truth.

This dialogue is about the jackboot of tyranny upon the field of our Founding documents. To whisper the letters I-R-S strikes a shrill note on Main St., USA, but when this behemoth tramples upon America's grassroots, few hear the snapping sounds.

Now, more people listen, but few who know the truth speak.

This moment reflects a reality of governance in America.

This time we came to you. In time, you will come home to us.
This time we came for truth. In time, the lies will fall.

"Vox Populi. Vox Dei" (The Voice of the People is the Voice of God) is irresistible, but different in America. Our voice belongs to the free individual, not to the collective mob.

Our voice is best heard when Power kneels, then whispers to Liberty, "**Strength.**"

And when Liberty stands under Heaven, then shouts to Power, "**Freedom!**"

_____ **THANK YOU** _____

Personal Development Center Associates

Karen L. Kenney, PhD
Marriage, Family Therapist (MFT25611)
6345 Balboa Blvd., Suite 212
Encino, CA 91316
818-996-6820 or FAX: 818-776-60312
Website: PDCAONLINE.com

**Testimony of Kevin S. Kookogey, President & Founder
Linchpins of Liberty: An American Leadership Development Enterprise
Before the Ways & Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
June 4, 2013**

My name is Kevin Kookogey. I am President and Founder of Linchpins of Liberty: An American Leadership Development Enterprise. Our motto is: "to challenge the imagination of the rising generation."

We aim to mentor high school and college students in conservative political philosophy, engaging them with the great books and teaching them about America's moral and constitutional order. In the words of John Adams, we seek to elevate their minds and exalt their courage; to accelerate and animate their industry and activity; and to excite in them an ambition to excel in every capacity, faculty and virtue.

Linchpins of Liberty is one of those "little platoons" described by Alexis de Tocqueville, a local institution intended to act as a check on the power of the State, to moderate the despotism of the majority, and to give people a taste for freedom and the skills to be free.

We are committed to literary education and moral convictions that will allow citizens to maintain civil order. We aim to develop the moral imagination through the teaching of history. We believe that God is the measure of all things, and that the soul is the essence of humanity, giving self-awareness and consciousness while distinguishing us from the animals.

Linchpins' students learn how the Greeks' were unable to maintain freedoms because of their pursuit of private gain at public expense and their squandering of resources on extravagance. Linchpins' students learn from Socrates and Plato that material forms are delusory, and that reality lies in the realm of ideas, intellect, and the disciplined use of the imagination.

From Cicero we study the necessity of the Rule of Law, and we discover that true law is right reason in agreement with Nature; and that virtue must not yield to power. Our students know that by the 4th Century there were no political freedoms in Rome because, despite its abundant natural resources, Rome was inhabited by men who had lost all balance due to envy and hatred, and the only ones immune from the crushing control of central power were those who employed corruption, bribery, influence, and force.

Linchpins of Liberty is inspired by Augustine, that great 4th century philosopher of freedom, who wrote that only in obedience to God do we find perfect liberty, and that without order in the soul there can be no order in the community. We remind our students that throughout history, without exception, the collapse of morality leads to civil disorder, and that loyalty to persons and a network of personal attachments breeds corruption and cronyism, while threatening liberty.

We teach our students from George Washington's Farewell address, where we discover that religion and morality are indispensable supports for political prosperity. From Montesquieu we learn that positive law must conform to Natural law, that governments are a reflection of a nation's laws rather than its source of laws, and that a republic can only be sustained by the virtue of its citizens which grow from the encouragement of religion and morality.

Lincolns of Liberty recognizes the ancient maxim that the State is God-ordained, necessary to protect against foreign enemies, and that there can be no freedom without the law. But there are limits to the authority of the State. The government cannot be a law unto itself, and when the State usurps its legitimate authority by interfering in the realms of speech, religion, conscience, family, association, and ideas, we have a duty as human beings to ourselves and our posterity to oppose and protest the State's trespassing its limits.

In order to raise money, I filed an application with the IRS in January 2011, seeking to obtain 501(c)(3) status as an educational organization. As you know, the IRS processes approximately 60,000 501(c)(3) applications annually, and prior to 2010, the average time to process an application for an organization such as mine was between two (2) and four (4) months.

As of today, I have been waiting for twenty nine (29) months.

In the interim, I lost a \$30,000 launch grant from a reputable non-profit whose Executive Director advised me that he had never seen such treatment of a 501(c)(3) applicant in his 25 years of making grants. I also lost and continue to lose multiple thousands of my own money, and had to cease any further official activity for fear the IRS would target me for further harassment.

For two and a half years, the IRS has unlawfully delayed and obstructed my application for determination of tax-exempt status by using unconstitutional criteria (e.g., content of my speech and right of association) and singling me out for impermissible disparate treatment in violation of my 1st and 5th Amendment rights.

The types of questions asked by the IRS were extremely burdensome, unnecessary, and irrelevant to the determination of tax-exempt status. One letter contained in excess of ninety (90) inquiries covering such unconscionable subjects as asking me to provide a list of my members and donors, that I identify the political affiliation of my mentors, and that I advise the IRS of my political position on virtually every issue of importance to me. For good measure, I was asked to identify those whom I train, and that I inform the federal government, in detail, exactly what I am teaching my students.

Considering that the mission of my organization is devoted to mentoring young people - some of whom are minors - can you imagine the reaction of my student's parents if I were to surrender the names of their children to the IRS? Is it not conceivable that I would be sued? And to what end? Would the IRS threaten to audit the parents of those students? Yet my

failure to comply with this stunning inquiry would result in the denial of my application. Or subject me to perjury.

Moreover, contrary to the statements of Lois Lerner, the targeting of Linchpins of Liberty was not merely the independent act of a few agents in Cincinnati. On December 30, 2011, after numerous and repeated calls to the IRS which went unreturned, I finally reached agent Ron Bell in Cincinnati. When I inquired of him as to why my application was taking so long, he said "We have been waiting on guidance from our superiors as to your organization and similar organizations. We have now received that guidance, and you will receive your answer on a first-in first-out basis." While he did not indicate from where this "guidance" was coming, it was clearly implied that it was not down the hall.

Unlike many of the other groups facing similar harassment from the IRS, Linchpins of Liberty is seeking 501(c)(3) -as opposed to (c)(4) - status, and we did not use the words "tea party" or "patriot" in our application or our mission statement. We do, however, share one common trait with most of those groups:

Our ideas.

Linchpins of Liberty exists to defend ordered liberty. We reject the expansion of the State beyond its legitimate authority. And we jealously guard human liberty.

That Linchpins of Liberty has been targeted by the Internal Revenue Service for political purposes is further evidenced by the fact that as recently as May 6, 2013, the IRS sent me a third letter, and as if seeking the identity of my students was not sufficient, the IRS is now demanding that I disclose the locations where I mentor my students. The date of this third letter, which was received by my counsel at the ACLU on May 13, 2013, contradicts the testimony of certain IRS officials who testified that the practice of targeting conservative groups ended 2 years ago.

I am here to testify today because if we do not act on what we claim to believe, everything else is meaningless. I believe that the present Administration - through its agency, the IRS - is engaged in an exercise to coerce us to submit to the Administration's desire to fundamentally transform America, and in so doing it is wreaking havoc and destruction on human liberty. Delaying the granting of our tax-exempt status because of our political views or conditioning our rights on how we choose to exercise them is a violation not only of our Constitution, but of the laws of Nature and Nature's God. Rather than engaging us in debate, this Administration - through its agency, the IRS - has attempted to penalize and destroy those who hold opposing views.

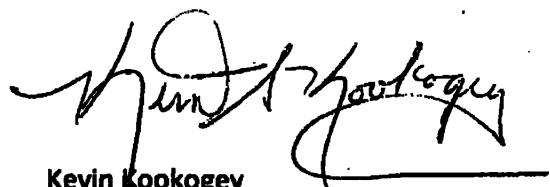
This brazen and blatant violation of human liberty lends credibility to people's fears that the government is against them and cannot be trusted. It is a moral outrage, and cuts to the heart of the American order. Imagine if we were being singled out by race! Yet that our right to free

speech - and specifically political speech - was guaranteed by the 1st Amendment is a testament to its supreme importance to individual liberty and American order.

If the government can threaten our property rights – and that is what is at stake here, for we have a property right in our ideas – and if that government threat is based upon what we think, what we speak, or what we write, then we no longer have a government of the people, by the people, or for the people. We have a government against the people.

If the intent of the present Administration was to intimidate and silence the voices of freedom, then it has grossly misjudged its own citizens. The government is not our master. It is our agent. We are the principals, and we delegate our rights. We do not surrender them. Yet we cannot, in the end, retain our own liberties if we do not defend the liberties of others.

I therefore respectfully appeal to this legislative body - a co-equal branch of the federal government vested with authority and responsibility to check the power of the executive branch – to act with courage and moral resolve to confront this usurpation and abuse of power by the executive branch, and in so doing to protect, defend and preserve human liberty, for ourselves and our posterity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kookogey', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Kevin Kookogey
June 4, 2013

MailOnline

Ex. A-1(s).

Revealed: The 55 questions the IRS asked one tea party group after more than two years of waiting – including demands for names of all its donors and volunteers

- Lengthy questionnaire arrived more than two years after the Richmond Tea Party applied for tax-exempt status
- IRS demanded 'names of the donors, contributors, and grantors' and insisted: 'Please identify your volunteers'
- Tax collectors began in 2011 to scrutinize conservative nonprofits more closely than others
- Documents show senior IRS officials in Washington knew of the practice as early as August 2011, but the White House says it learned last month

By David Martosko in Washington

PUBLISHED: 16:18 EST, 13 May 2013 | UPDATED: 14:59 EST, 14 May 2013

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The Internal Revenue Service wrote to the Richmond Tea Party last year demanding to know the names of all its financial donors and volunteers, as part of a **45-question inquisition** into its application for tax-exempt status, MailOnline has learned.

The agency wanted to know 'the names of the donors, contributors, and grantors' for every year 'from inception to the present.'

It also demanded 'the amounts of each of the donations, contributions, and grants and the dates you received them.'

'How did you use these donations, contributions, and grants?' the IRS asked. 'Provide the details.'

Scroll down for video





The Richmond Tea Party received a lengthy list of questions from the IRS, including demands for lists of its donors and volunteers

And in addition to the names of board members, officers and employees, the nation's taxing authorities insisted on knowing the names of everyone who helped the Richmond Tea Party without compensation.

'Please identify your volunteers,' the January 9, 2012 letter from the IRS read.

The agency also required the Virginia conservative group to provide copies of sections of its website that only its members can access.

The IRS came under fire on Friday when its Office of Inspector General released a draft of an investigative timeline showing that the agency had played political favorites with nonprofit groups seeking tax-exempt status.

In 2010, according to that investigation, the Cincinnati-based IRS office responsible for vetting tax-exempt applications began targeting groups with 'Tea Party or similar' words in their names - including words like 'patriots' and '9/12' - for tighter scrutiny.

Name: Richmond Tea Party, Inc.
EIN: 27-0920175

11) Provide the following information for the income you received and raised for the years from inception to the present. Also, provide the same information for the income you expect to receive and raise for 2012, 2013, and 2014.

a) Donations, contributions, and grant income for each year which includes the following information:

- The names of the donors, contributors, and grantors. If the donor, contributor, or grantor has run or will run for a public office, identify the office. If not, please confirm by answering this question "No".
- The amounts of each of the donations, contributions, and grants and the dates you received them.

How did you use these donations, contributions, and grants? Provide the details.

The Richmond Tea Party received this demand along with dozens of others from the IRS, asking for a list of its donors and the amounts they had contributed. The group refused, citing their donors' right to privacy

The IRS ultimately identified approximately 300 such organizations, many of which were independently organized in 2009 and 2010 under the larger 'tea party' banner. Those groups had a decisive impact in the 2010 midterm congressional elections, and became a thorn in the side of the Democratic party, costing it race after race, especially in the House of Representatives, which shifted to Republican control.

DBCS 137

7/8/13 Revealed: The 55 questions the IRS asked one tea party group after more than two years of waiting - including demands for names of all its donors and volunteers...

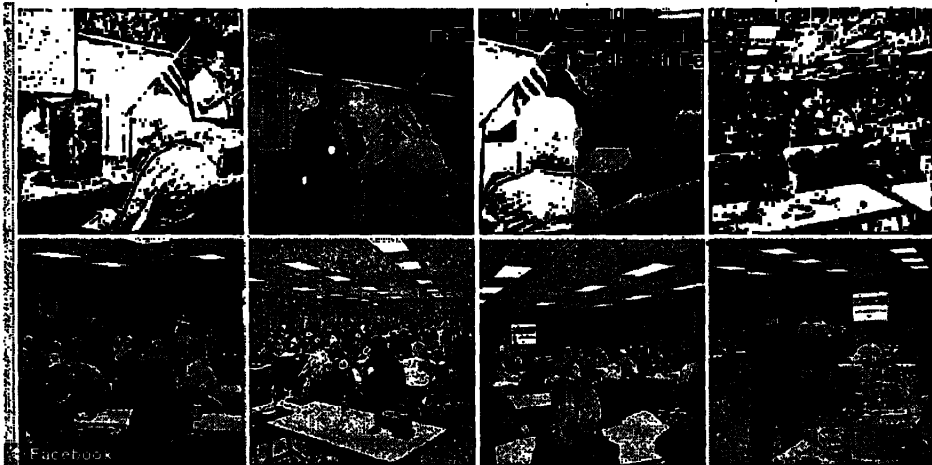
In the nearly three years since the IRS began looking more closely at conservative nonprofit groups than others, 125 of the 300 target organizations have been approved for tax-exempt status. Another 25 withdrew their applications. The remainder are still waiting.

The Office of Inspector General's timeline shows that in Washington, senior officials with the IRS were made aware of the practice by at least August 4, 2011. On that date, the chief counsel of the IRS met with the agency's Regulations and Agreements unit 'so that everyone would have the latest information on the issue.'

But during a press gaggle about Air Force One on Monday, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney insisted the White House was unaware of the investigation or its political implications until last month.

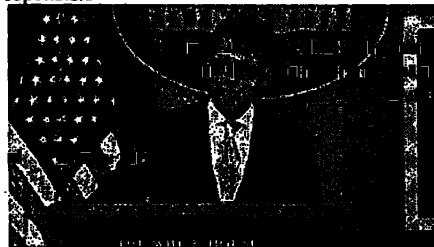


Obama faced questions about the performance of his administration's IRS on Monday. The White House has said it learned of the IRS IG's report on Friday, when a copy of an investigative timeline was leaked to reporters



The Richmond Tea Party has organized conservatives in Virginia's capital region for more than three years, but refused to share its donor and volunteer lists with the IRS as a condition of winning tax-exempt status

White House: IRS will be held responsible



'My understanding,' Carney told reporters while en route to New York City for the president's appearance at political fundraising events, 'is that the White House Counsel's Office was alerted in the week of April 22nd of this year, only about the fact that the IG was finishing a review about matters involving the office in Cincinnati. But that's all they were informed as a normal sort of heads-up.'

'And we have never - we don't have access to, nor should we, the IG's report or any draft versions of it.'

Asked whether heads would roll at the IRS if the IG's report concludes that there was substantial wrongdoing, Carney was cautious.

'I think you're getting ahead of it,' he told a reporter, according to a transcript released by the White House. 'I think you heard from the President on this today and how he feels about it. But the "if" is very important, so we're not going to start predicting outcomes if we don't know what the conclusions of the IG report are.'

7/8/13 Revealed: The 55 questions the IRS asked one tea party group after more than two years of waiting - including demands for names of all its donors and volunteers...

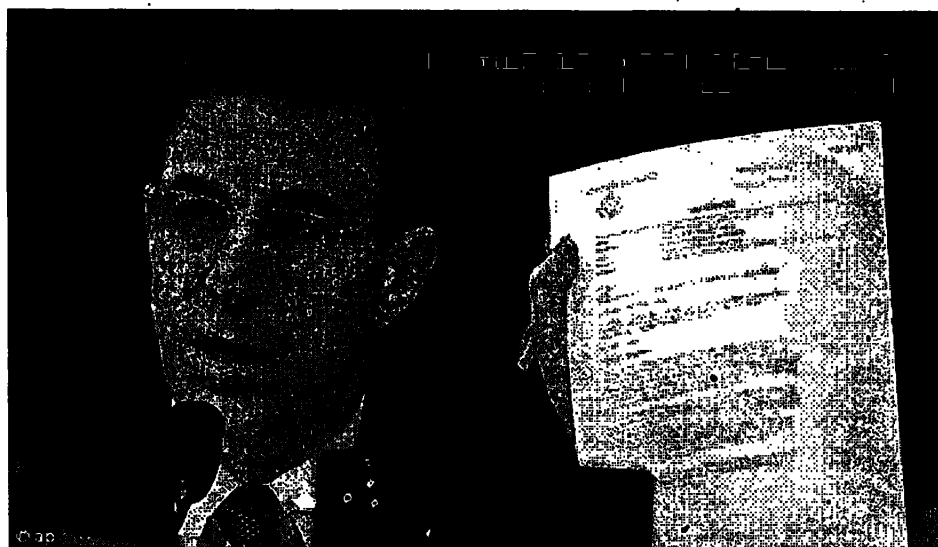
The Washington Post reported on Friday that the IRS has apologized for its practices, which sought to scrutinize conservative nonprofit groups 'that criticized the government and sought to educate Americans about the U.S. Constitution.'

In early 2012 a group of tea party organizations refused the IRS's requests for what they considered overreaching information about their operations, instead asking the House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee to investigate.

That committee wrote in June 2012 to the IRS inspector general, asking for 'periodic updates' on its investigation.



Sen. Marco Rubio demanded the firing of the acting IRS commissioner on Monday in response to findings of the IRS's Office of Inspector General



House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Rep. Darrell Issa has vowed that the IRS controversy won't go away without a complete investigation

California Republican Rep. Darrel Issa, who chairs the committee, has promised it will 'aggressively follow up' on the IG's findings. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said in a statement Friday that the IRS 'cannot target or intimidate any individual or organization based on their political beliefs.'

'The House will investigate this matter,' Cantor promised.

Add appearing on the Fox News Channel on Sunday, Michigan Republican Rep. Mike Rogers said the IRS had 'agents who were engaged in intimidation of political groups.'

'I don't care if you're a conservative, a liberal, a Democrat or a Republican,' he said. 'This should send a chill up your spine. It needs to have a full investigation.'

President Obama echoed that sentiment during a press conference on Monday, saying any IRS personnel who played political favorites 'have to be held fully accountable. ... And you should feel that way regardless of party. I don't care whether you're a Democrat, independent or a Republican.'

'At some point, there are going to be Republican administrations. At some point, there are going to be Democratic ones. Either way,' the president

DBCS 139

7/8/13 Revealed: The 55 questions the IRS asked one tea party group after more than two years of waiting - including demands for names of all its donors and volunteers... said, 'you don't want the IRS ever being perceived to be biased and anything less than neutral in terms of how they operate.'



Tea party favorite Sarah Palin wrote on Facebook that the 'IRS revelation is another step in the unraveling of the Obama administration's self-proclaimed 'hope and change.'"



Tea party groups were instrumental in the tide-turning elections of 2010, when their fervor swept new conservatives to governors' mansions, statehouses and Congress

Richmond Tea Party Executive Director Larry Nordvig did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But in 2012 his organization lashed out at the IRS for making 'unreasonable documentation requests.'

'This illustrates everything the American people find unacceptable from their government,' the group said in a press release. 'A simple request for tax-exempt status should not take years to complete, involve hundreds of pages of documentation, require hundreds of volunteer hours, and request private information we should never have to disclose.'

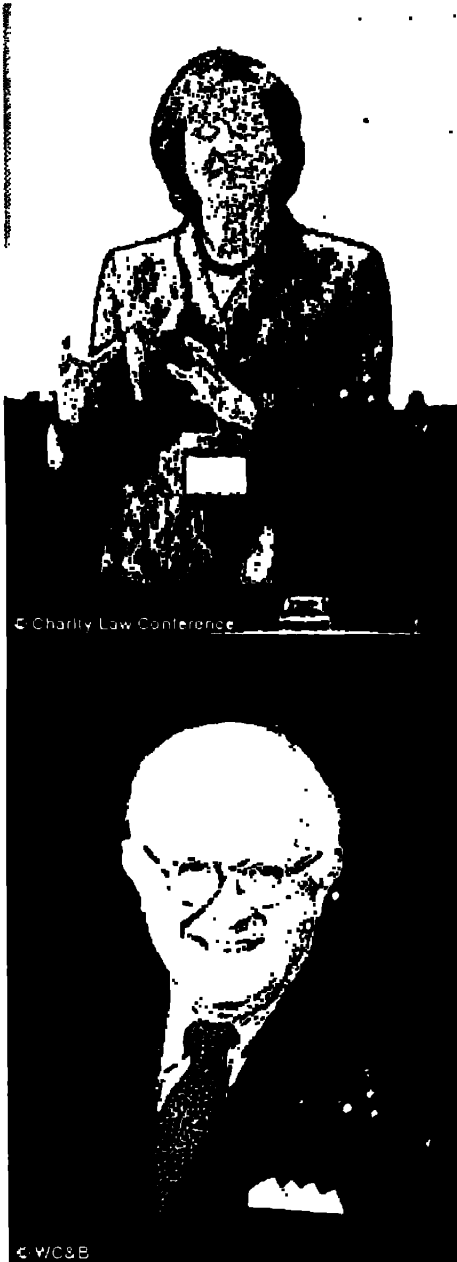
'This grants the Federal Government the dangerous power to selectively stymie those voices with which they disagree, bogging them down in endless paperwork and compliance costs so that they are unable to spend time serving the principles they founded their organization to advance.'

DBCS 140

7/8/13 Revealed: The 55 questions the IRS asked one tea party group after more than two years of waiting - including demands for names of all its donors and voluntee...

The Virginia organization said it applied for 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status on December 28, 2009 and waited nearly 10 months for a response, which consisted of 17 questions and a two-week deadline. That demand was made on the opening day of the Virginia Tea Party Convention, which the Richmond Tea Party organized in large part.

'We fully complied,' the group wrote, 'providing over 500 pages of documentation. We received no response for over a year. Eventually the IRS sent a letter dated January 9, 2012, thanking us for our "complete and thorough responses" to our first request, but then asking 55 more questions in 12 parts - including the totally inappropriate request for a full list of our donors and volunteers. We were given the same two-week timeframe for completion.'



IRS official Lois Lerner (L) leads the team tasked with evaluating tax-exempt organizations. She has not responded to requests for comment. Nonprofit attorney Alan Dye (R) said his tea party clients are 'pissed off'

Alan P. Dye, a nonprofit attorney with the Washington, D.C. firm of Webster, Chamberlain & Bean, told MailOnline that he represents six tea party groups that have been waiting for periods of up to 30 months for the IRS to issue rulings.

'They're very pissed off,' he said, 'and they have every right to be pissed off.'

He advises his clients to refuse to answer invasive questions about their donors and volunteers, he said, since information they provide would be made available to the public.

'Everything these groups tell the IRS is open to public inspection once their exempt status is granted,' Dye explained.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubin demanded the ouster of acting IRS commissioner Steven T. Miller on Monday. President Obama called the IRS's alleged conduct 'outrageous,' and said the bureaucrats responsible would be 'held accountable.'

Read more:

DBCS 141

7/8/13 Revealed: The 55 questions the IRS asked one tea party group after more than two years of waiting - including demands for names of all its donors and volunte...

- [Read the January 2012 IRS letter to the Richmond Tea Party](#)
- [Read the IRS inspector general's investigative timeline](#)

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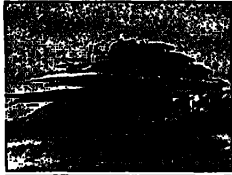
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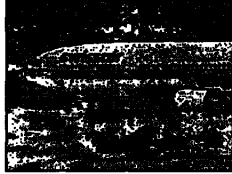
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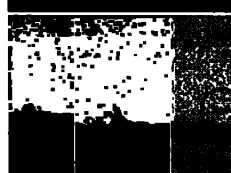
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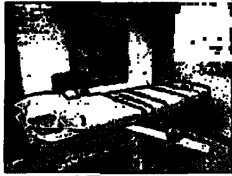
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Just shows how dumb over 1/2 USA voting population is; voted for this clown not once, but twice..."hope and change...a change you can believe in"...tools and fools. Bob Farmer Atlanta, GA I guess I can look forward to an IRS audit now that I put my name and city.

- **Bob Farmer**, Atlanta, United States, 16/5/2013 01:35

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It's very obvious this "55 question-inquisition" was orchestrated by high level personnel in the IRS.... A low level worker would not have the resources to do so. It is no coincidence the groups targeted by the IRS are opposed to the Obama administration.... The IRS will soon be the Obamacare enforcement goons, do you think the Doctor-

DBCS 144

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Patient confidentiality policy will be upheld or be used against those who oppose? | - Noreaster, New York - NY, 5/14/13, 12:24 AM The application forms used to demand the information should've gone through a strict procedure to become official IRS Forms, with approvals signed by specifically identified higher-ups. US House select committee subpoenas NOW

- [edzzup](#), ramona, ca, usa, 15/5/2013 14:50

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There are valid reasons for the IRS to go after somebody (there are always people trying to welech on their taxes) but political affiliation is not one of them. The IRS is close-mouthed about what constitutes red flags that trigger audits, but some of them are common sense. bleeding heart liberal - fishbait, Inland NW, 5/14/13, 1:48 AM None of this is about evasion of legitimate tax, or about audits. It's about ~~so~~ ~~insuridly~~ intrusive, onerous, abusive, improper and transparently political tax-exempt-organization application denards, and subsequent approval delay. Learn the lesson.

- [edzzup](#), ramona, ca, usa, 15/5/2013 14:39

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It seems that the Obama administration is turning out to be the second coming of the Nixon administration. - The Bruce, Tucson, United States, 5/14/13, 3:12 AM ...without the competence...

- [edzzup](#), ramona, ca, usa, 15/5/2013 14:31

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An organization whose main purpose is to avoid paying their taxes...why wouldn't it be targeted by the IRS? - misslane, frankfurt, 5/14/13, 11:22 AM European slave mentality; an object of pity.

- [edzzup](#), ramona, ca, usa, 15/5/2013 14:12

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No political party should be tax exempt, especially when this country is so broke! - Irie_Lady, San Francisco, United States, 5/14/13, 9:39 PM #1. To tax a political "party," or a group of like-minded people, is to impede free association and free expression. #2. The country isn't "broke," its government is because of insane overspending. That's what the TEA Party addresses. Are you such a slave that you want to simply hand the government money because it wants it? You understand its appetite is insatiable, don't you?

- [edzzup](#), ramona, ca, usa, 15/5/2013 14:05

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according to the nixon precedent this is an impeachable offense, and given the present administration very likely it originated in the white house, though likely nothing in writing, just a word to "make it happen".

- [gunner](#), new england, 14/5/2013 23:07

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No political party should be tax exempt, especially when this country is so broke!

- [Irie_Lady](#), San Francisco, United States, 14/5/2013 22:39

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Even Mika and Joe on Morning Joe actually called this Tyranny. Pigs are flying. It's all way too real.

- [cuihong](#), Fairfax, United States, 14/5/2013 20:38

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Obama ratt saying he would "Transform America", and it is just what he is doing. And he has the support of over half the voters as shown when he won a second term. Congress and The Supreme Court are dead in the water as the members quietly destroyed these two branches of our government. And The Destroyer does as he pleases. And what pleases the Main Stream Media as well as the Democrat Party, and over half the American voters. I find it beyond belief that so many want to be slaves under a ruling class of thugs. But the elections show it is so.

- [mike](#), sarasota, 14/5/2013 20:08

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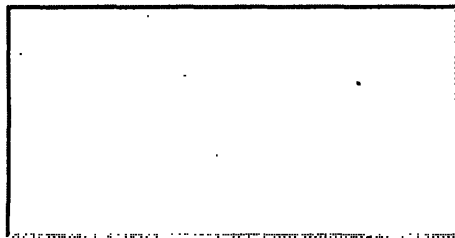
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News Column

Tampa Tea Party Groups Claim Unfair IRS Scrutiny

May 16, 2013

Tea party groups in Tampa and statewide say they were targeted by the Internal Revenue Service for what they consider excessive scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status.

A Pinellas group was among those saying they gave up on the applications, or never applied, because of the onerous paperwork required.

"We have known this has been going on for nearly two years. The media didn't care," said Tom Gaitens of Apollo Beach, co-founder of the Tampa Tea Party, who compared the IRS actions to "Gestapo tactics."

The IRS director has resigned over the selective scrutiny of tea party-style groups, President Obama has decried the practice, and the FBI is investigating.

Meanwhile, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has capitalized on the scandal, using it to raise money for his political action committee and giving a speech on the Senate floor Wednesday in which he blamed the Obama administration for "a culture of intimidation" and "tactics of the third world."

Rubio needs to heal his relationships with his base among tea party-style Republicans, many of whom are outraged over his support of an immigration bill that would include a path to legalized status or citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants.

Karen Jaroch, organizer of the Tampa 9-12 Project, said she believes the organization was one of the first nationwide singled out for extra scrutiny after it applied for a tax-exemption in early 2010.

Jaroch, who's also a board member of Tampa's mass transit system HART, board member, said it took members including herself about 16 man-hours, or two workdays, to fill out the initial application for the group's status as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(4) of the U.S. tax code.

"We fully answered every question," she said, but in reply, a few months later, she received a letter seeking more information — which she said took another full workday to comply with.

"We had to give them lots and lots of material — what literature were we passing out, copies of our educational classes on the Constitution. They wanted to know what voter registration drives we were doing, a lot beyond what would be normal."

She said the organization got its certification in December 2010.

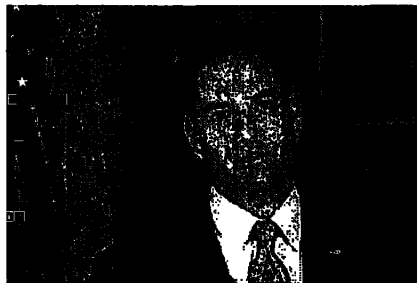
Billie Tucker, co-founder of the First Coast Tea Party in Jacksonville, which she said is the state's largest with more than 9,000 people on its email list, told a similar story.

It took two years, starting with a fall 2010 application, for the organization to get its status.

"In March 2011 we started getting getting requests — we need this, we need this," Tucker said. "We found out other tea parties were getting the same kind of letters."

Among the items requested, she said, was a list of the group's donors and screen shots of every page of its web site, including password-protected, members-only chat pages.

A group member who assembled the responses took four pounds of paper to the post office for mailing, she said.



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Barbara Hseldien, organizer of the South Pinellas 9.12 Patriots, said she chose not to apply after "hearing stories of what I felt was targeting." Instead, she says, her group works without donations.

"We live on air," rejecting offers of donations, she said. The alternative would be for the group to pay taxes on its income.

"It has put a damper on the type of events we could hold if we were free to operate," she said. "There were many people scared off — there would be more involved if we'd been able to organize."

Jason Hoyt of Orlando said one of several tea party organizations he works with also gave up on obtaining the tax-exempt status after the IRS asked about subjects including a website he'd set up three years earlier for a radio show unconnected to the organization.

To qualify, an organization must be a non-profit organized exclusively to promote social welfare ... further the common good and general welfare of the people of the community," according to the IRS web site.

Unlike 501(c)(3) tax-deductible charities, its donors cannot take a tax deduction for their contributions, but the organization itself pays no tax.

It also may lobby for legislation, and "may engage in some political activities, so long as that is not its primary activity," the IRS says.

The IRS collects information from groups applying for the status to determine how much of their activity or purpose is political. The initial application, IRS Form 1024, is 19 pages but, the IRS notes, "Additional information may be requested if necessary to clarify the nature of your organization."

In his speech, Rubio accused the Obama administration of "a culture of intimidation, a willingness to play hardball politics against your political opponents," for the purpose of winning elections.

He has sought to amend legislation to allow criminal prosecutions in the scandal and called for the resignation of the acting commissioner of the IRS, Steven Miller, who was deputy commissioner when the targeting began under his predecessor, Bush administration appointee Douglas Shulman.

Miller did resign later Wednesday.

Rubio also sent an email to his backers citing the scandal and seeking donations.

"A line has been crossed by our federal government that should send a chill down the spine of every freedom loving citizen of this nation," Rubio said in the Tuesday email to supporters of his Reclaim America PAC.

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Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Department of the Treasury

Date: February 16, 2012

Employer Identification Number:

[REDACTED]

Arlington Tea Party

Person to Contact - Group #:

Joseph R Herr - 7821

ID# 0110233

[REDACTED]
Arlington, TX 76011-8222

Contact Telephone Numbers:

(513) 263-3725 Phone

(513) 263-4488 Fax

Response Due Date:

March 8, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam:

We need more information before we can complete our consideration of your application for exemption. Please provide the information requested on the enclosed Information Request by the response due date shown above. Your response must be signed by an authorized person or an officer whose name is listed on your application. Also, the information you submit should be accompanied by the following declaration:

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this information, including accompanying documents, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contains all the relevant facts relating to the request for the information, and such facts are true, correct, and complete.

If we approve your application for exemption, we will be required by law to make the application and the information that you submit in response to this letter available for public inspection. Please ensure that your response doesn't include unnecessary personal identifying information, such as bank account numbers or Social Security numbers, that could result in identity theft or other adverse consequences if publicly disclosed. If you have any questions about the public inspection of your application or other documents, please call the person whose name and telephone number are shown above.

To facilitate processing of your application, please attach a copy of this letter to your response and all correspondence related to your application. This will enable us to quickly and accurately associate the additional documents with your case file. Also, please note the following important response submission information:

- Please don't fax and mail your response. Faxing and mailing your response will result in unnecessary delays in processing your application. Each piece of correspondence submitted (whether fax or mail) must be processed, assigned, and reviewed by an EO Determinations specialist.
- Please don't fax your response multiple times. Faxing your response multiple times will delay the processing of your application for the reasons noted above.

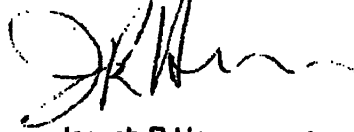
2
Arlington Tea Party
[REDACTED]

- Please don't call to verify receipt of your response without allowing for adequate processing time. It takes a minimum of three workdays to process your faxed or mailed response from the day it is received.

If we don't hear from you by the response due date shown above, we will assume you no longer want us to consider your application for exemption and will close your case. As a result, the Internal Revenue Service will treat you as a taxable entity. If we receive the information after the response due date, we may ask you to send us a new application.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph R Herr
Exempt Organizations Specialist

Enclosure: Information Request

Letter 1312 (Rev. 05-2011)

DBCS 151

Arlington Tea Party

Additional Information Requested:

1. Enclosed is a copy of your Certificate of Formation obtained from the Secretary of State of Texas website. We have made it part of your file. Because we have provided a copy of this information to you, it is available for public inspection as part of your exemption application. Please let us know if you have questions regarding this document.
2. The Secretary of State of Texas website also indicates your organization's Entity Status is "Forfeited existence." Please correct that the situation with the state and then submit documentation showing resolution of the matter.
3. Please provide us with a temporary Username and Password that we could use to review your organization's website.
4. Provide hardcopy printouts of your organization's webpage including the sections restricted to registered users.
5. Does your organization promote or publicize itself using any internet social media such as Facebook? If so, please list the social media outlets and provide hardcopy printouts of those outlets.
6. In your response regarding the narrative description of your activities, you indicated you have three primary activities:
 - Teach the principles of individual liberty and limited government
 - Inform the public about current issues
 - Train and organize individuals
 For each of the three activities, please provide the following information:
 - a. Provide a more detailed description of the activity that includes a description of how the activity furthers your exempt purpose and examples of actions you have taken or plan to undertake to further each activity. For these broad activities, break the description down into various component activities.
 - b. How much time as a percentage of your organization's total time has been devoted to each activity and to each component activity?
 - c. What financial resources in dollars have been devoted to each activity and to each component activity?
 - d. How much time is devoted to each activity and to each component activity by employee, paid consultant, or volunteer?
7. Regarding the three activities, state whether your organization has established policies and controls to track expenses related to each activity.
 - a. If so, please describe those controls. If these policies and controls are in writing, provide a copy.
 - b. Does your organization allocate administrative/overhead among the activities? If so, please describe how the expenses are allocated.
8. Describe your organization's sources of income in further detail. If your organization engaging in fundraising activities, please provide the following information:
 - a. Copies of all solicitations your organization has made regarding funding, including fundraising that occurs in an election year and non-election year.
 - b. Copies of all documents related to your organization's organization fundraising

Arlington Tea Party

- events, including pamphlets, flyers, brochures, and webpage solicitations.
 - c. How much of your organization's budget is spent on fundraising expenses?
9. Please provide updated financial data for Parts III, A & B on page 5 of Form 1024 enclosed. Include actual information from 2010 and 2011 and proposed budgets for 2012 and 2013. Include supporting schedules to all line items as requested on the page.
10. Please identify any advocacy communications prepared and financed by your organization. For each of those communications, provide the following information:
- a. Provide a copy of the print communication or a transcript of the broadcast communication.
 - b. Provide the date when the communication was first disseminated to the public; the period of time it was made available to the public; and the frequency the communication was printed or broadcast during that period.
 - c. Describe the geographic area where the communication was disseminated to the public.
 - d. State whether the communication was part of an ongoing series of substantially similar advocacy communications by your organization on the same issue. If so, identify the other communications in the series with the dates those communications were first disseminated to the public.
 - e. State whether the communication identifies specific legislation, or a specific event outside your organization's control, that your organization hopes to influence.
 - f. Describe any considerations that influenced the timing of the communication and whether those considerations were tied to events outside the control of your organization.
 - g. State the total expenses used to prepare and disseminate the communication.
11. Has your organization engaged in any activities with the news media? If so, please describe those activities in further detail and, if available, provide copies of articles printed or transcripts of items aired because of that activity. News media activity may include the following:
- a. Press releases
 - b. Interviews with news media
 - c. Letters to the editor
 - d. Op-ed pieces
12. Provide the following information for all the public events conducted or planned to be conducted by your organization:
- a. The time, location, and content schedule of each event
 - b. Identify and provide copies of handouts to the audience
 - c. Identify workshop materials that instructors will use
 - d. The names and credentials of the instructors
 - e. If speeches or forums were or will be conducted at the event, provide detailed contents of the speeches or forums, names of the speakers or panels, and their credentials. If any speakers or panel members will be paid, provide the amount will be paid for each person. If not, please indicate they volunteered to conduct the event.
 - f. The names of persons from your organization and the amount of time they will spend on the event. Indicate the name and amount of time they will spend on the

Arlington Tea Party

- event. Indicate the name and amount of compensation that will be paid to each person. If no one will be paid, indicate this event will be conducted by volunteers to each person.
- g. Indicate the percentage of time and resources you will spend on these activities in relation to 100% of all your activities.
13. Have you conducted or will you conduct candidate forums or other events at which candidates running for public offices are invited to speak? If so, provide the following details and nature of the forum including:
- The names of candidates invited to participate.
 - The names of the candidates who did participate
 - The issues that were discussed
 - The time and location of the event
 - Copies of all handouts provided and distributed at the forum, including any internet or advertising material discussed or used at the forum.
 - Indicate the percentage of time and resources you have spent or will spend conducting these activities in relation to 100% of all your activities.
14. Do you directly or indirectly communicate with members of legislative bodies?
- If so, provide copies of the written communications and contents of other form of communications.
 - Please include the percentage of time and resources you have spent or will spend conducting these activities in relation to 100% of all your activities.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING YOUR CASE TO:

US Mail:

Internal Revenue Service
Exempt Organizations
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201
Attn: Joseph R Herr
Room 4514
Group 7521

Street Address for Delivery Service:

Internal Revenue Service
Exempt Organizations
550 Main St, Federal Bldg.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Attn: Joseph R Herr
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IRS asked about Wisconsin recall, Texas tea party group says

By Jason Stein and Patrick Marley of the Journal Sentinel

May 16, 2013

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Madison - A Texas tea party group is saying the Internal Revenue Service questioned its leaders about whether they participated in verifying recall signatures in Wisconsin last year.

The news comes as the IRS' interim director and commissioner for tax-exempt organizations announced their departures this week amid allegations that the tax agency had improperly targeted conservative groups who were applying for tax-exempt status.

The Northeast Tarrant Tea Party posted on its website that IRS officials asked for extensive information about the group's activities, including copies of all the tweets, Facebook posts and fliers that the group had sent out.

Julie McCarty, president of the Fort Worth, Texas, area tea party group, said the IRS also asked it to "explain our relationship with Verify the Recall," an effort to confirm the signatures that had been turned in last year as part of the petition to recall Gov. Scott Walker.

McCarty said she thought it was clear that group had been unfairly targeted and was still waiting for a decision on its tax-exempt status. Her group had minimal involvement with the recall fight in Wisconsin or Verify the Recall, she said.

"I don't know what's behind that," she said of the recall question. "I know that I don't trust them."

A spokesman for the IRS had no immediate comment.

Northeast Tarrant and other tea party groups are being represented by the American Center for Law and Justice, which has said it will take legal action if the IRS doesn't make a decision on their tax-exempt status by Friday.

The Verify the Recall effort attempted to check whether the more than 900,000 recall signatures turned in against Walker were genuine. Verify the Recall was a joint project by the GrandSons of Liberty, We the People of the Republic and True the Vote, said Catherine Engelbrecht, leader of True the Vote.

Engelbrecht said True the Vote had received many of the same extensive IRS questions as Northeast Tarrant - her group provided a reporter copies of the IRS questionnaire - but hadn't been asked about Verify the Recall. True the Vote applied for tax-exempt status in July 2010 but hasn't received it yet, Engelbrecht said.

Larry Gamble, a spokesman for the GrandSons of Liberty, said his group never had any problems with the IRS. It sought nonprofit status in 2009, before the alleged targeting of tea party groups began.

"It didn't seem to affect us," Gamble said. "For us, this whole IRS deal was a non-event with our group."

Gamble said True the Vote served as a mentor for the project. At the time the groups were working on Verify the Recall, Gamble said, he was unaware of True the Vote's struggle to get nonprofit status.

"I was oblivious to it," he said. "I didn't know it was going on."

Gamble said he was not surprised by the allegations that the IRS was targeting certain groups.

"It's nothing new," he said. "Nixon did it. Clinton did it. It's not surprising that it's been discovered that it's going on. They didn't discover a new way to go after their opposition."

Ross Brown, an official with We the People, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Scot Ross, executive director of the liberal group One Wisconsin Now, said there are legitimate questions about whether some nonprofit groups, including tea party groups, are doing electioneering activities and abusing their tax-exempt status. But Ross said investigating that question shouldn't have to lead to targeting groups based on their beliefs.

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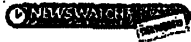
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Colorado Tea Party groups claim they too were mistreated by IRS

Posted on: 9:00 am, May 15, 2013, by Web Staff (<http://kdvr.com/author/kdvrwebstaff/>)



The Colorado Tea Party Patriots say they were inappropriately denied the opportunity to operate under proper tax codes by the IRS.

DENVER — At least two Colorado Tea Party groups believe they have been the target of unfair auditing tactics that have been exposed by several national media outlets over the course of the last week.

According to spokespersons for both groups, the Western Slope Conservative Alliance and the Colorado Tea Party Patriots applied for a nonprofit, social welfare status in 2010. As of Tuesday, both groups say they still haven't been approved to operate under the tax code.

The IRS has admitted that conservative groups were targeted for extra scrutiny.

"This whole episode reinforces and confirms the American people's worst fears about big government run amok," Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., told Fox News.

President Barack Obama called the practices "outrageous" and "unacceptable," but many Republicans say this is just the latest in a series of cover-ups by the administration.

The unresolved cases involving the IRS include claims of media leaks on private donor information during last year's presidential race and other instances of political profiling.

The latest claim about IRS misconduct came Tuesday from ProPublica, a Pulitzer Prize-winning progressive journalism group, which reported that the same Cincinnati IRS branch accused of targeting conservative groups released nine confidential applications of conservative groups to them last year.

Critics had long questioned how ProPublica got that information. ProPublica put the speculation to rest on Tuesday. The media outlet said it had requested 67 applications for nonprofits in 2012. They were given 31. Of those, nine had not been approved and therefore should not have been made public.

ProPublica ultimately published six of them, despite late-breaking objections from the IRS. The agency reportedly told the organization that it should not have received the confidential applications.

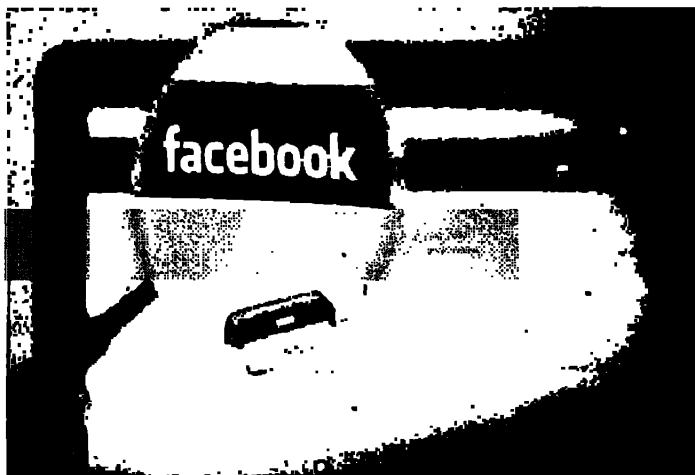
The IRS now says that its latest program of flagging conservative groups for additional scrutiny was inappropriate, but not partisan. An inspector general report unveiled Tuesday urged the IRS to clean up its operation, and Attorney General Eric Holder also announced he had "ordered an investigation" into the IRS controversy and that his office was "examining the facts to see if there were criminal violations."

Information from FoxNews.com was used in this report

(<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/05/14/new-irs-scandal-echoes-agency-problems-past/>)

POLITICO

The IRS wants YOU — to share everything



"They were asking for the names of the donors, which is exactly the opposite of what we were looking for because if people knew their names would be made public or known to the government, they stop giving," said Nordvig.

"Why do you even need that? There's no reason your tax status should depend on your donors," Littleton said.

Toby Marie Walker, the president of the Waco Tea Party, says her group applied for 501(c)(4) status in July 2010 and didn't get a response from the IRS until

February 2012 — when it sent a letter with 20 questions, including requests for printouts of its Web page and social networking sites.

It also wanted copies of all newsletters, bulletins and fliers, as well as any stories written about the group.

"They were killing trees right and left," Walker said.

The IRS also asked for transcripts of radio shows where her group had mentioned political candidates by name — a job she figured would have cost her group \$25,000. And it asked whether her group had "a close relationship" with any candidates or parties, a question she considered especially vague.

Walker said her group eventually got the questions knocked back a bit, with the help of the American Center for Law and Justice — and the IRS agreed to drop items like the Web page and Facebook printouts.

In January, Walker said, the Waco Tea Party submitted its final responses to the IRS — and in March, it won its tax-exempt status. By that point, she didn't really feel like celebrating.

"It was a win, but I didn't feel like it was a win, because it took us 18 months," Walker said.

Chris Littleton, one of the co-founders of the Ohio Liberty Coalition, said the group got a grilling from the IRS when it submitted its application, in letters the group has posted (<http://bit.ly/YHD6he>) on its website. The IRS also gave him so much grief when he tried to apply for tax-exempt status for another group, American Junto, that "we just gave up on it," he said.

But when he submitted an application for a third group — Ohioans for Health Care Freedom, now renamed Ohio Rising — "it went through just fine," Littleton said. "They never asked a single set of questions."

Julie Hodges of the Mississippi Tea Party said the group has less than \$800 in its account and relied on volunteer lawyers to deal with the IRS. It withdrew its application for 501(c)(4) status in early 2012, citing the delays and questions.

"The government is harassing us over a political position," Hodges said.

The Greater Phoenix Tea Party Patriots applied in January 2010, and two years later, received an inquiry from the IRS with 35 questions.

"I do recall our co-founder called the IRS and the agent on the phone pretended he had our case file open in front him," said the group's president, Chris Rossiter. "Then she asked him a question, and he said, 'What's your group's name again?'"

Several said that because the tea party groups constantly spoke to each other, it was easy to see they were all getting the same questions from IRS.

"It was a mistake for the IRS to take on the tea party because what we do is organize, so we're going to figure out we were getting the same letters," Rossiter said.

Lauren French contributed to this report.

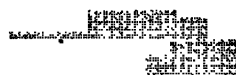
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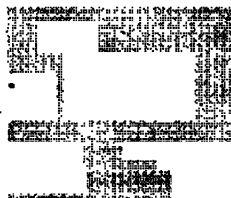
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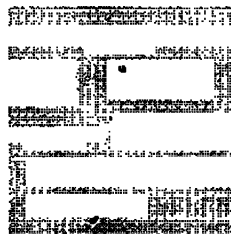
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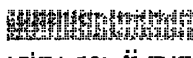
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At the height of its campaign against President Barack Obama's opponents, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in its audit of an Ohio tea party group, demanded information and materials related to a local Ohio adult education program as well as personal information about a man named Justin Binik-Thomas.

Now Justin Binik-Thomas and the adult educational program, neither of whom have any links to the tea party group, are worried.

The infamous IRS Cincinnati office, which oversaw tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, requested additional information from the Liberty Township Tea Party in a letter dated March 1, 2011.

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"Included in that list was question number 26, which said, 'please explain your relationship with Justin Binik-Thomas,'" Binik-Thomas told The Daily Caller. "That was concerning to me, considering I was not involved with that group."

"I was involved in the Cincinnati tea party, about 30 miles south, as a spokesman" said Binik-Thomas, who works as a contract manager and has a small media relations business on the side. "There are literally tens of thousands of people involved with the tea party in some way. Why was I called out by name?"

The IRS also demanded, in its Question #25 for the Liberty Township Tea Party, one question before asking about Binik-Thomas, that the group hand over any training materials provided by the organization EmpowerU.

"It appears you have received training (EmpowerU). Provide...The name of the person or organization...A copy of the educational material used," according to the IRS' Question #25 for the group.

Binik-Thomas was peripherally involved with with the education program.

"I just taught one class for EmpowerU," Binik-Thomas said.

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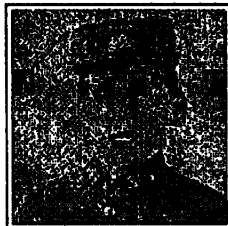
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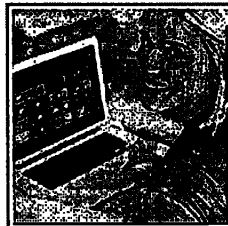
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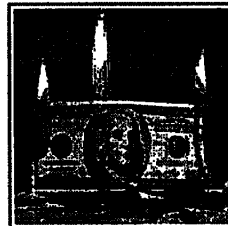
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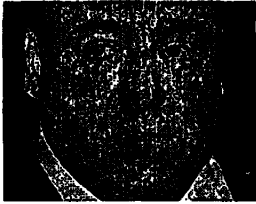
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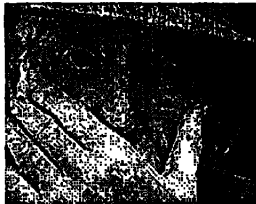
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Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508 - Room 4511
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

Department of the Treasury
Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Date: March 1, 2014

Employer Identification Number:

██████████
Liberty Township Tea Party

██████████
Liberty Twp, OH 45011

Person to Contact - Group#

Mitch Steele - 7827

ID# 020336

Contact Telephone Numbers:

Phone 513-263-3677

Fax 513-263-4513

Response Due Date:

MARCH 22, 2014

We need more information before we can complete our consideration of your application for exemption. Please provide the information requested on the enclosure by the response due date shown above.

Your response must be signed by an authorized person or an officer whose name is listed on your application. Also, the information you submit should be accompanied by the following declaration:

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this information, including accompanying documents, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contains all the relevant facts relating to the request for the information, and such facts are true, correct, and complete.

To facilitate processing of your application, please attach a copy of this letter to your response. This will enable us to quickly and accurately associate the additional documents with your case file.

If we do not hear from you within that time, we will assume you no longer want us to consider your application for exemption and will close your case. As a result, the Internal Revenue Service will treat you as a taxable entity. If we receive the information after the response due date, we may ask you to send us

In addition, if you do not respond to the information request by the due date, we will conclude that you have not taken all reasonable steps to complete your application for exemption. Under Code section 7428(b)(2), you must show that you have taken all the reasonable steps to obtain your exemption letter under IRS procedures in a timely manner and exhausted your administrative remedies before you can pursue a declaratory judgment. Accordingly, if you fail to timely provide the information we need to enable us to act on your application, you may lose your rights to a declaratory judgment under Code section 7428.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone

Sincerely yours,

Mitch Steele

Mitch Steele

EO Determinations Specialist

DBCS 175--

***** Important Response Submission Information *****

- Mail or fax your response to each of the items requested above. Fax to the name and fax number shown at the top of page 7 of this letter. If your response is greater than 20 pages do not fax.
- Do not fax and mail your response. Faxing and mailing your response will result in unnecessary delays in processing your application. Each piece of correspondence submitted, whether fax or mail, must be processed, assigned, and reviewed by the XO Determinations specialist.
- Do not fax your response multiple times. Faxing your response multiple times will delay the processing of your application.
- A minimum of three days is required to process your faxed or mailed response from the day it is received. Do not call to verify receipt of your response without allowing for adequate processing time.

IF FAXING, PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

513-263-3690

IF MAILING, PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

US Mail:

Internal Revenue Service
Exempt Organizations
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201
ATT: Mitch Steele
Room 4511, Gr. 7827

Street Address:

Internal Revenue Service
Exempt Organizations
550 Main St, Federal Bldg.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
ATT: Mitch Steele
Room 4511, Gr. 7827

Additional Information Requested:

- 1) Please read the Penalties of Perjury statement on page 1 above. Then, please sign and date below, indicating you agree to the Declaration.

Name _____

Date _____

- 2) Provide a print-out of a sample of your website's pages including any pages with restricted access. Do not send over 30 pages.
- 3) Provide details regarding all of your activity on Facebook and Twitter. If available, provide hard copies of all advertising you have conducted using social media outlets.

- 4) Submit the following information relating to your past and present directors, officers, and key employees:
 - a) Provide a resume for each.
 - b) Indicate the number of hours per month each individual has provided or is providing services to you.
 - c) Provide a description of all the services each individual provides or has provided to you.
 - d) Indicate the total compensation provided to each individual.
 - e) Describe how each compensation package was determined.
 - f) Indicate if any of your current and former officers, directors, and key employees are related to each other (include family and business relationships) and describe the nature of the relationship.
- 5) List each past or present board member, officer, key employee and members of their families who:
 - a) Has served on the board of another organization.
 - b) Was, is or plans to be a candidate for public office. Indicate the nature of each candidacy.
 - c) Has previously conducted similar activities for another entity.
 - d) Has previously submitted an application for tax exempt status.
- 6) Provide minutes of all board meetings since your creation.
- 7) Regarding your fundraising:
 - a) Provide copies of all solicitations the organization has made regarding fundraising.
 - b) Provide copies of all documents related to the organization's fundraising events, including pamphlets, flyers, brochures, webpage solicitations.
 - c) Provide a listing and details regarding all fundraising expenses.
- 8) Please provide the following regarding your merchandise sales:
 - a) A vendor list. Indicate if the vendor is a related party.
 - b) A list of items sold.
 - c) Your cost for each item.
 - d) The selling price of each item.
- 9) Provide actual financial information for 2011 and a budget for 2012. Provide details regarding each item listed.
- 10) Regarding your current and planned employees:
 - a) How many employees do you have?
 - b) Indicate the total of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees.
 - c) If employees are part-time, when did/do they work?
 - d) If employees are seasonal, during what season (months) did/do they work?
 - e) How many employees are/were devoted to each activity of the organization throughout the year?

11) Regarding your current and planned volunteers:

- a) How many volunteers do you have?
- b) How many volunteers are/were devoted to each activity of the organization throughout the year?
- c) How many and what sort of resources are devoted to volunteer activities?

12) You will educate the public and work in concert with other citizens to bring about public policy changes. You will have monthly meetings, operate a website, conduct candidate forums, organize your community, operate on social network sites, conduct a youth program and operate other programs. To help us gain a better understanding of your organization, please provide the following estimates:

- a) Provide a listing of all of your past activities. Indicate the percentage of your time spent conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%) and the percentage of your funds spent conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%).
- b) Provide a listing of all of your planned activities. Indicate the percentage of your time you will spend conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%) and the percentage of your funds you will spend conducting the activity (total of all activities should equal 100%).

13) Fully describe your youth outreach program with the local school district.

14) Provide information regarding the Butler County Teen Age Republicans and your relationship.

15) You are a membership organization. Provide details regarding all members' fees and benefits, policy changes, etc.

16) Provide a list of all issues that are important to your organization. Indicate your position regarding each issue.

17) Do you publish or distribute materials or conduct other communications that are prepared by or reviewed by another organization? If yes, explain and provide a copy of such materials or communications.

18) Will you publish and/or distribute material in favor of any candidate for public office? If yes, explain.

19) Do you or will you rate candidates? If yes, explain.

20) You have conducted polls of your membership to determine which candidates and issues they are supporting. Provide details this process. Indicate how many such polls you have conducted and what you have done with the poll results.

21) An attachment to the Form 1023 indicated you will not endorse candidates or issues. Is this still accurate? If not, explain and answer the following:

- a) Provide your endorsement criteria.
- b) Once a candidate is endorsed, how does your organization handle the endorsement?
- c) Provide a list of all candidates you have endorsed.
- d) Does your organization notify the candidate of the endorsement? If yes, explain.
- e) Do you provide any materials to candidates, which they may use to promote their candidacy? If so, please describe and provide copies of those materials.

22) Are you associated with any other IRC 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) or 527 organizations? If yes:

- a) Provide the name, federal employer identification number and address of each organization.
- b) Describe in detail the nature of the relationship(s).
- c) Do you work with the organization(s) regularly?
- d) Provide copies of all related contracts with such organizations.
- e) Describe the nature of all contacts with the organizations.
- f) Do you share employees, volunteers, resources, office space, etc. with the organization(s)? If yes, explain.

23) Are you associated with any for-profit organizations? If yes:

- a) Provide the name, federal employer identification number and address of each organization.
- b) Describe in detail the nature of the relationship(s).
- c) Do you work with the organization(s) regularly?
- d) Provide copies of all related contracts with such organizations.
- e) Describe the nature of all contacts with the organizations.
- f) Do you share employees, volunteers, resources, office space, etc. with the organization(s)? If yes, explain.

24) Do you engage in business dealings with any candidate(s) for public office or an organization associated with the candidate, such as renting office space or providing access to a membership list? If so, describe the relationship in detail and provide contracts or other agreements documenting the business relationship.

25) It appears you have received training (EmpowerU). Provide the following for all persons or organizations that have provided educational services to you:

- a) The name of the person or organization.
- b) A full description of the services provided.
- c) The political affiliation of the person or organization.
- d) A copy of the educational material used.

- 26) Provide details regarding your relationship with Justin Bink-Thomas.
- 27) Provide details regarding all training you have provided or will provide. Indicate who has received or will receive the training and submit copies of the training material.
- 28) Have you conducted rallies, educational events, discussion groups or similar events? For each event you have conducted:
- Indicate the date and location.
 - Describe the nature of the event.
 - Provide copies of all materials distributed with regards to the event.
 - List all event revenue.
 - List all event expenses.
- 29) It appears you have conducted candidate forums at which candidates for public office were invited to speak. Provide the following:
- Details, including the nature of the forums
 - The candidates invited to participate
 - The candidates that did participate
 - The issues discussed
 - The time and location of the event.
 - Copies of all materials distributed regarding the forum and provided at the forum, including any internet material discussing or advertising the forum.
- 30) Have any candidates for public office spoken at a function of the organization other than a candidate forum? If yes, provide the following:
- The names of the candidates
 - The functions at which they spoke
 - Any materials distributed or published with regard to their appearance and the event
 - Any video or audio recordings of the event
 - A transcript of any speeches given by the candidate(s)
- 31) Have you conducted or will you conduct voter education activities (voter registration drives, get out the vote drives, publishing voter guides, distributing voter guides, etc.)? If so:
- Provide the location, date and time of the events.
 - Who on the organization's behalf has or will conduct the voter registration or get out the vote drives?
 - How many resources (funds/employees/volunteers) are devoted to the activity?
 - Provide copies of all materials published or distributed regarding the activities, including copies of any voter guides.
- 32) Provide copies of the handbills you distributed at your monthly meetings.
- 33) If available, provide copies of the agenda for each of your monthly meetings.

34) Has your organization engaged in any activities with the news media? If so, please describe those activities in further detail and, if available, provide copies of articles printed or transcripts of items aired because of that activity. News media activity may include the following:

- a) Newspaper advertisements
- b) Press releases
- c) Interviews with news media
- d) Letters to the editor
- e) Op-ed pieces

35) You submitted Form 5762 with your Form 1023. Therefore, it appears you will, to some extent, attempt to influence the outcome of specific legislation. Please answer the following:

- a) Provide copies of all communications, pamphlets, advertisements, and other materials distributed by you regarding the legislation.
- b) Do you conduct media advertisements lobbying for or against legislation? If yes, provide copies of any radio, television, or Internet advertisements relating to the organization's lobbying activities.
- c) Do you directly or indirectly communicate with members of legislative bodies? If so, explain the amount and nature of the communication.

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N.M. tea party group says it was IRS target

By James Monteleone / Journal Staff Writer on Tue, May 14, 2013

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The Albuquerque Tea Party says it was among conservative groups targeted nationally by the Internal Revenue Service for extra scrutiny after applying for nonprofit tax status.

President Barack Obama on Monday joined a chorus of elected leaders from both political parties who called political targeting by the tax agency "outrageous."

Several members of New Mexico's congressional delegation said IRS targeting for political reasons is unacceptable.

The IRS in late 2011 requested from the Albuquerque Tea Party hundreds of pages of additional documentation nearly two years after the group first applied for nonprofit tax status in 2009, said Albuquerque Tea Party President Rick Harbaugh.

The IRS request sought private emails between directors of the board, hundreds of newsletters written by the group since its 2009 inception and details about its members and donors, whose identities would be protected under the 501(c)4 nonprofit status the group requested.

"We thought that was very unusual," Harbaugh said.

"You apply for this thing in 2009, and you fill out all the documents and paperwork, and you send it in and wait to get approved. We thought we were done. Then they came up with (requests for) all this additional information," Harbaugh said.

Nearly four years after the Albuquerque Tea Party first applied for nonprofit status, the group says it's still waiting.

The disclosure of political targeting by the IRS prompted congressional Republicans to demand a broader investigation.



Albuquerque Tea Party President Rick Harbaugh says officials are held accountable for the political targeting. "It needs to be looked at and taken on the plain."

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employees," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "After all, groups with 'progressive' in their names were not targeted similarly."

Some Democrats also were sharply critical.

"We need to know who knew what, and exactly what mistakes were made," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "The American people have questions for the IRS, and I intend to get answers."

IRS disclosure

Obama's comments followed a disclosure by IRS officials last week that agency staffers had flagged conservative organizations for burdensome scrutiny when groups used the words "tea party" or "patriot" in applications for nonprofit status.

"I've got no patience with it," Obama said. "I will not tolerate it, and we will make sure that we find out exactly what happened on this."

IRS officials have blamed low-level employees in a Cincinnati field office for the inappropriate treatment of conservative groups. They said no high-level officials were aware of the practice. An earlier report in The Washington Post said the targeting of conservative groups came from the Cincinnati field office because that site had been assigned by the IRS to manage all nonprofit applications nationwide.

But according to documents obtained Monday by The Washington Post, IRS officials in Washington and at least two other offices were involved in the targeting of conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status, making clear that the effort reached well beyond the branch in Cincinnati that was initially blamed.

IRS officials at the agency's Washington headquarters sent queries to conservative groups asking about their donors and other aspects of their operations, while officials in the El Monte and Laguna Niguel offices in California sent similar questionnaires to tea party-affiliated groups.

IRS employees in Cincinnati also told conservatives seeking the status of "social welfare" groups that a task force in Washington was overseeing their applications, according to interviews with the activists.

A draft of an inspector general's audit report obtained by The Associated Press indicates that senior IRS officials knew conservative groups were being singled out as early as 2011.

The number of applications for nonprofit tax status has surged since the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision that allows 501(c)4 groups to independently weigh in on political campaigns without disclosing donors.

For the Albuquerque Tea Party, the IRS report of political targeting was not the first time the group suspected its application was not being considered fairly, Harbaugh said.

"When we started getting all of this stuff, we communicated with a bunch of other tea parties around the U.S., and many of them were having the same kind of issues," Harbaugh said.

The Albuquerque Tea Party in 2012 joined a lawsuit by the American Center for Law and Justice on behalf of 27 conservative groups that argued their nonprofit status applications were wrongfully delayed.

Thirteen of the conservative groups named in the lawsuit, including the Albuquerque Tea Party, still have not had their nonprofit status completed.

Approval sought

On the heels of the IRS's disclosure that conservative applications were singled out, Jeff Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, demanded in a letter to the IRS on Monday that the Albuquerque Tea Party's application receive immediate approval.

"The IRS admission and apology should have come much sooner," Sekulow said in another letter to the Albuquerque Tea Party and other affected groups. "It took the threat of legal action to get the IRS to make this admission."

The Albuquerque Tea Party president said he hoped IRS executives are held accountable for the political targeting of groups like his.

"I think this needs to be tracked out. It needs to be looked at and taken up the chain of command and see where it ends, and then some serious repairs to be taken," Harbaugh said.

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., agreed consequences are in order if an investigation confirms groups were wrongfully singled out by the IRS.

where it ends, and then some action needs to be taken.
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"The IRS should be absolutely impartial," Udall said. "I support a thorough investigation, and if the law was violated and groups were targeted based on political ideology, there should be consequences."

Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., said the IRS targeting of conservative groups warrants public outrage and faulted the Obama administration.

"The targeting of any group by the IRS is reprehensible," Pearce said. "Behavior that lacks transparency and accountability is becoming an alarming pattern for this administration."

Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., is a member of the House Committee of Oversight and Government Reform, which could host hearings into the IRS targeting.

"I'm concerned by allegations involving improper IRS targeting of some political organizations," Lujan Grisham said. "This would be a blatant and egregious abuse of power. The IRS is expected to apply the law in a fair and nonpartisan manner."

The Associated Press contributed to this report

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Dianne Osborn · Top Commenter · University of Maryland, College Park

BTW, Sen Tom Udall was one of 3 Dem Senators (Carl Levin and Jean Shaheen) that requested the IRS in writing to investigate conservative nonprofits.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · May 15 at 5:35pm



Charles Arasin · Top Commenter

When will the NMSP or NM office of the FBI close down all IRS offices in the state and impound all records and computers before crucial evidence is destroyed?

Reply · Like · Follow Post · May 14 at 3:43pm

lobodog719 (signed in using yahoo)

You know why you won't hear from Don on your insight Brad...because if the parties were reversed in this situation, most, if not all conservatives would be applauding the IRS for targeting liberal organizations (if that were the case). The IRS needs to be held accountable for this and this Democrat hopes this leads to sweeping organizational and procedural changes at the IRS. It is indeed reprehensible.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · May 14 at 2:49pm



Brad Harman · Follow · Top Commenter · Roosevelt University

Well, Don--perhaps if you could cast an objective eye you'd see plenty of Dems, Libs, and Progressives are outraged by this. But you don't really want to see that, do you? You'd rather see us polarized and as hypocrites because that affords your judgment about us. You see what you want to see and filter out anything that doesn't live with your political paradigm. Both sides of the aisle do this which is why our country is so divided.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · May 14 at 10:46am



Don Walk · Top Commenter · Albuquerque, New Mexico

Why are Progressives, Liberals and Democrats (all one and the same) so silent? Except for Obama's feigned outrage, your silence is deafening!

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Michigan Tea Party Group A Victim of IRS Discrimination

[Michigan Capitol Confidential](#) ^ | 5/22/2013 | Jarrett Skorup

Posted on 5/23/2013 3:08:31 PM by [MichCapCon](#)

When the Ottawa County Patriots tried to register as a non-profit a few years ago, the Internal Revenue Service dragged its feet for over a year-and-a-half.

The Michigan group now joins the ranks of those across the nation that were singled out for additional scrutiny because of their politics, said the group's leader.

Jim Chiodo is the head of the organization out of the Holland-Zeeland area. The group worked with the company Biz Central USA, which helps people file as 501c(3) or 501c(4) non-profit organizations. Registering as a non-profit ensures a more formal structure and makes it easier to collect donations.

Chiodo said they put together their mission statement and all the paperwork and filed with the State of Michigan and then the IRS in August 2011. The organization helping with the registration told him it should have been an easy application. Apparently not, however, on the federal government's end.

"We didn't hear anything for a long time," Chiodo said. "No response, no nothing."

The group eventually got a letter from the IRS after resubmitting the application and was told it would hear something in 60 to 90 days.

"It must have been a typo — should have been 'years,'" Chiodo said.

Members of the group began making calls in January to find out what was going on. The Ottawa County Patriots had paid money to apply as a non-profit which, and at the very least, they wanted to get back.

"We tried to withdraw it and for them to give us back our 400 bucks," Chiodo said.

The IRS never approved the group or cashed the check.

In the meantime, group members began hearing rumors that the IRS was unfairly rejecting the applications of small government and tea party groups.

In fact, on its website, the group has had the following statement for some time now:

Non-profit status:

We are waiting for the IRS to approve our application for 501C-3 status. This will allow donations to our group as tax deductible. Hopefully, the rumors of IRS delaying approval for tea parties is really a rumor.

Those rumors were recently confirmed by agency officials and a federal investigation has begun. President
DBCS 186

Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder called the practice "outrageous and unacceptable," Fox News reported.

Chiodo has been contacted by the national Tea Party Patriots and a congressman and will be traveling to Washington, D.C., for a press conference today. Congressional hearings are set to begin this Friday.

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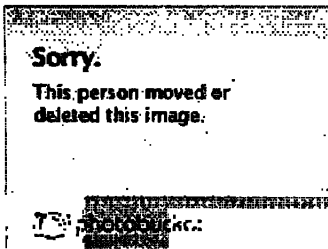
To: MichCapCon

They need to contact Senator Levin's office as a group with the press in tow and ask the commie rat bastard why he wrote letters to the I.R.S. asking for these groups to be investigated while nothing is done about Obama's half brothers was fast tracked and Move on.org and media matters etc. Are ignored.

2 posted on 5/23/2013 3:19:48 PM by VRWCarea51
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To: [Springman](#); [cycloctic](#); [netmilsmom](#); [RatsDawg](#); [PGalt](#); [FreedomHammer](#); [queenkathy](#); [madison10](#); ...

Attorney General Bill Schuette has called for those who believe they were unfairly targeted for audit, to call his office.



[Michigan legislative action thread](#)

3 posted on 5/23/2013 3:21:16 PM by cripplecreek (REMEMBER THE RIVER RAISIN!)
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To: VRWCarea51

Michigan Attorney General Schuette calls alleged IRS targets to come forward

<http://whtc.com/news/articles/2013/may/20/michigan-attorney-general-schuette-calls-alleged-irs-targets-to-come-forward/>

4 posted on 5/23/2013 3:22:45 PM by cripplecreek (REMEMBER THE RIVER RAISIN!)
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It's worse than discrimination. The whole purpose of the Tea Party targeting was to DISABLE THEM during the 2012 elections, thus enabling Obama to win. This is just ONE of the many fronts in Obama's tactical strategy for winning.

In essence, the IRS tampered with the election. Anyone who thinks Obama wasn't behind this, is an idiot. Jarrett or Axelrod may have been the 'go to' person, but the plot was hatched by Obama. Study his approach to politics in Chicago.. His #1 goal was to sabotage his challenger by ANY MEANS POSSIBLE.

5 posted on 5/23/2013 3:25:11 PM by GeorgeWashingtonsGhost
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To: VRWCarea51

Carl Levin is the worst. He's among the Democrat sewer rats that run the Senate...Shummer, Durbin, Levin, Debbie Stabacow...just the worst.

Levin will do nothing but make excuses. These people should all be in prison.

6 posted on 5/23/2013 3:44:47 PM by kjo (+)
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To: kjo

Levin is retiring so politically he's pretty much untouchable but if there are criminal charges to be brought, he should be named.

Politically we should be hammering Gary Peters who is the democrat running for the Levin seat. He should be made to strongly denounce Levin or openly support him.

7 posted on 5/23/2013 4:10:52 PM by cripplecreek (REMEMBER THE RIVER RAISIN!)
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To: GeorgeWashingtonsGhost

I'm most curious about whether the fake tea party was audited. Two Oakland county democrats were convicted of fraud in that case but if they mysteriously escaped an audit, it suggests national democrat complicity.

8 posted on 5/23/2013 4:13:20 PM by cripplecreek (REMEMBER THE RIVER RAISIN!)
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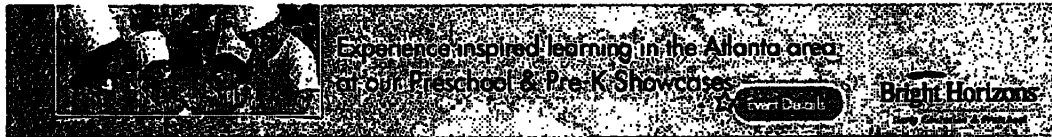


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WASHINGTON – An inspector general report into the Internal Revenue Service's heightened scrutiny of Tea Party groups blames "ineffective management" at the agency, but does not address whether the policy was politically motivated.

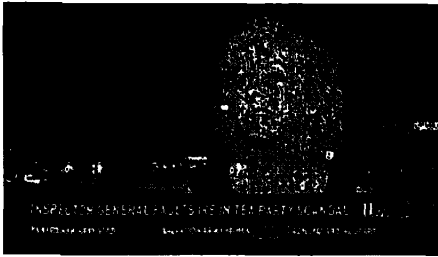
The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration's report, released Tuesday, was an audit – not an investigative report. It made recommendations about how tax-exempt applications should be processed in the future. It did not blame specific employees or suggest disciplinary action.

The report found the IRS office in Cincinnati, which processes all applications for tax-exempt status, singled out "Tea Party," "Patriot" and "9/12" groups based solely on their names. The applications were singled out for further review of whether they were involved in political campaign activity. The groups were applying for tax exempt status reserved for groups that conduct

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Debbie Dooley, Tea Party Patriots, in Gwinnett County, Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Read the Inspector General report on the IRS and tea party groups:

PDF Document: 141505854 Treasury Report

"social welfare" activities as the bulk of their work.

The IRS's special treatment of Tea Party applications led to long processing delays, the inspector general said. For 13 months beginning in October 2010, the Cincinnati office stopped working on potential political cases entirely.

The report said 170 groups received IRS letters asking for additional information, and in 98 of those cases the questions asked were later determined to be inappropriate or unnecessary. Those questions included the names of donors, the political affiliation of officers, and their employment outside the organization.

In a response to the draft report, the IRS defended its decision to separate out groups involved in potential political activities. "While centralization was warranted, the manner in

which we initially designated cases for centralization was inappropriate," wrote Joseph H. Grant, the acting commissioner for tax exempt and government entities.

He also said determining which groups are engaged in prohibited political activity is difficult. "There are no bright line tests for what constitutes political campaign intervention ... or whether an organization is primarily engaged in social welfare activities," Grant said.

Some of the nation's pioneer tea party organizers are based in Metro Atlanta. Debbie Dooley, and others involved with creating the national group, "Tea Party Patriots," said Tuesday night that the IRS demanded copies of their donor lists and other "intrusive" information.

"After the election, 2010, beginning in 2011, we began to get stalling tactics, we began to see things where they [the IRS] actually asked — they were very intrusive," Dooley said. "Especially toward the end of 2011, the beginning of 2012. They began to send us information actually [asking] for who our donor list was, they wanted to know the names of our volunteers, what Congressmen supported us, the names of them. We have a Facebook page. They wanted us to take screen shots of what our supporters were posting on our Facebook page, and send it to them, to go back a year.... I fully believe it was deliberate intimidation on the IRS part, because tea parties were quite successful in the 2010 elections, they wanted to intimidate us so we would not be active, so we would be afraid to do anything."

Attorney General Eric Holder has launched a Justice Department/FBI investigation, "to see if any laws were broken." Holder said that the IRS practices regarding tea party groups "were, I think as everyone can agree, if not criminal, they were certainly outrageous and unacceptable."

Dooley and others in Metro Atlanta are calling for an independent investigation of the IRS.

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"Definitely do not have faith in the Eric Holder Justice Department," Dooley said, "because he answers to the Obama Administration, just like the IRS does, they're part of the Department of Treasury and President Obama appoints the Treasury Secretary. We are exploring different avenues for court action, we believe the individual agents that were responsible for this should be held accountable, there should be a criminal investigation by an independent body, they should lose their jobs, and we're also investigating to see if we can actually file legal action against the IRS personnel individually that engaged in this."

The House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on Friday, looking into the revelations about the IRS. A co-founder of Tea Party Patriots, Jenny Beth Martin of Woodstock, is in Washington and plans to attend that hearing.

"This is wrong," Dooley said. "Our friends on the left need to understand that if the IRS gets away with just a slap on the wrist or an apology, it's just a matter of time before you will have a Republican administration that will feel emboldened to go after groups on the left."

Article by

Gregory Korte, USA Today, in Washington @gregorykorte

Jon Shirek, 11Alive News, in Atlanta @JonShirek

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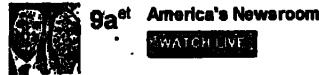
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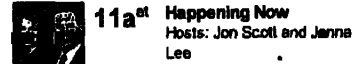
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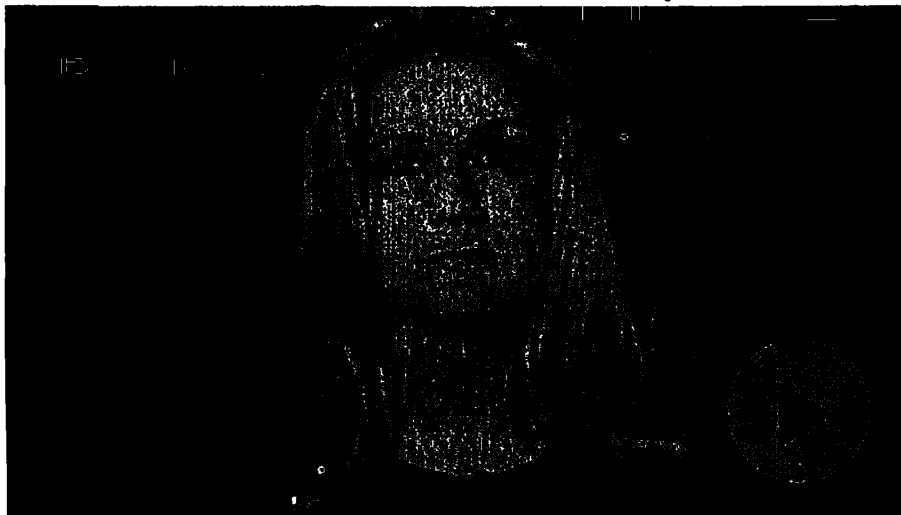
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Local Tea Party founder claims she was targeted by several federal agencies

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Catherine Engelbrecht has been telling people for years she's been targeted and harassed by the federal government. Not many people listened.

But her case is receiving new attention after her congressman, Republican Texas Rep. Kevin Brady, recounted her ordeal during a high-profile House committee hearing on the IRS practice of singling out conservative groups. He claimed she was audited and visited by several different federal agencies - including the FBI - in the years after she formed her Tea Party group.

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"She received four FBI inquiries," Brady said. "And her business received unsolicited audits, unscheduled audits."

Engelbrecht is the founder of True the Vote, a Houston-based group that says its goal is to root out voter fraud. She's claimed for years that the Internal Revenue Service was picking on her, asking her over-the-top personal questions, demanding binders full of paperwork and going after her family's oil field machinery business.

After her case was spotlighted at Friday's hearing, Engelbrecht explained the targeting in an interview with Fox News.

"At some point those questions cross the line," she said.

Her troubles started, she claims, after she founded a Tea Party group called the King Street Patriots and worked as poll watcher in the local 2009 elections. She said she found major discrepancies in voting procedures and uncovered cases of political harassment and wrongdoing. She brought up the claims to local officials but they were never proved.

In July 2010, she applied for nonprofit status for two of her organizations: True the Vote and King Street Patriots.

Five months after she filed for 501(c)(4) status for KSP, Engelbrecht says the FBI Domestic Terrorism Unit called her about one of the people who had attended a KSP group meeting. Five months after that, the FBI called her again to ask "how we were doing?" A month later on June 2011, she received another FBI general inquiry, which was followed by two more in November and December.

In February 2012, the IRS asked her questions about her nonprofit application.

"The first contact we had from the IRS, in the first general round of questions, they wanted to see every Facebook posting we had made, every tweet we tweeted," Engelbrecht told Fox News' "Huckabee."

Engelbrecht said IRS agents wanted to know every place she had ever spoken publicly, to whom she had spoken, what she said and her intent.

Engelbrecht said her fight for 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status for True the Vote was even more frustrating. She underwent five rounds of questioning from the IRS and still hasn't received approval. What's worse, she claims, is that the government also started going after her personal tax returns and those of her family's business.

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Engelbrecht says the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives also conducted an unscheduled audit of Engelbrecht Manufacturing in February 2012. That was followed by another unscheduled audit in July 2012 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and another in November 2012 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

At times, Engelbrecht said she thought about not coming forward with her story.

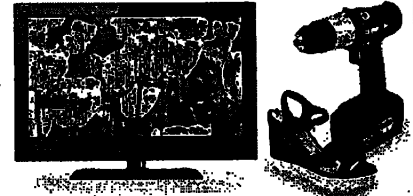
"I really thought that the best way I could protect my family would be to keep my head down," she said.

Both Republicans and Democrats have lashed out against the IRS over its systematic scrutiny of conservative groups during the past two election cycles.

Engelbrecht said the questions she had the biggest problems with were the ones that focused on her family.

Calls to the FBI and IRS for comment were not immediately returned.

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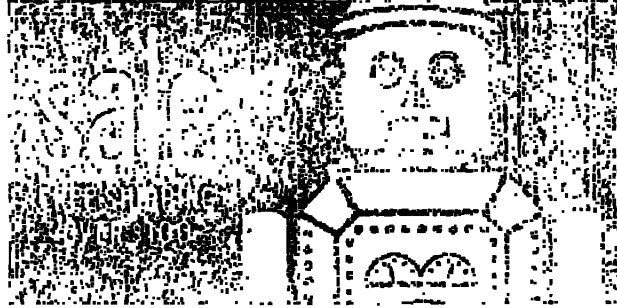
'You're Being Audited Because of Your Association With the Tea Party'



BY FOX NEWS INSIDER // JUN 27 2013 // 4:50PM

AS SEEN ON YOUR WORLD WITH NEIL CAVUTO

George Brunemann, of the Southwest Cincinnati Tea Party, joined Your World today to discuss how he was targeted by the IRS.



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Brunemann, his wife, and his wife's business were all audited and they were flat-out told that it was because of his wife's connection with the Tea Party.

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During the first phone call his wife had with the IRS, she was told, "You're being audited because of your association with the Cincinnati Tea Party."

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"We all kind of knew it was happening, the fact that they've now admitted it on a larger scale is kind of a phenomenal development," Brunemann said.

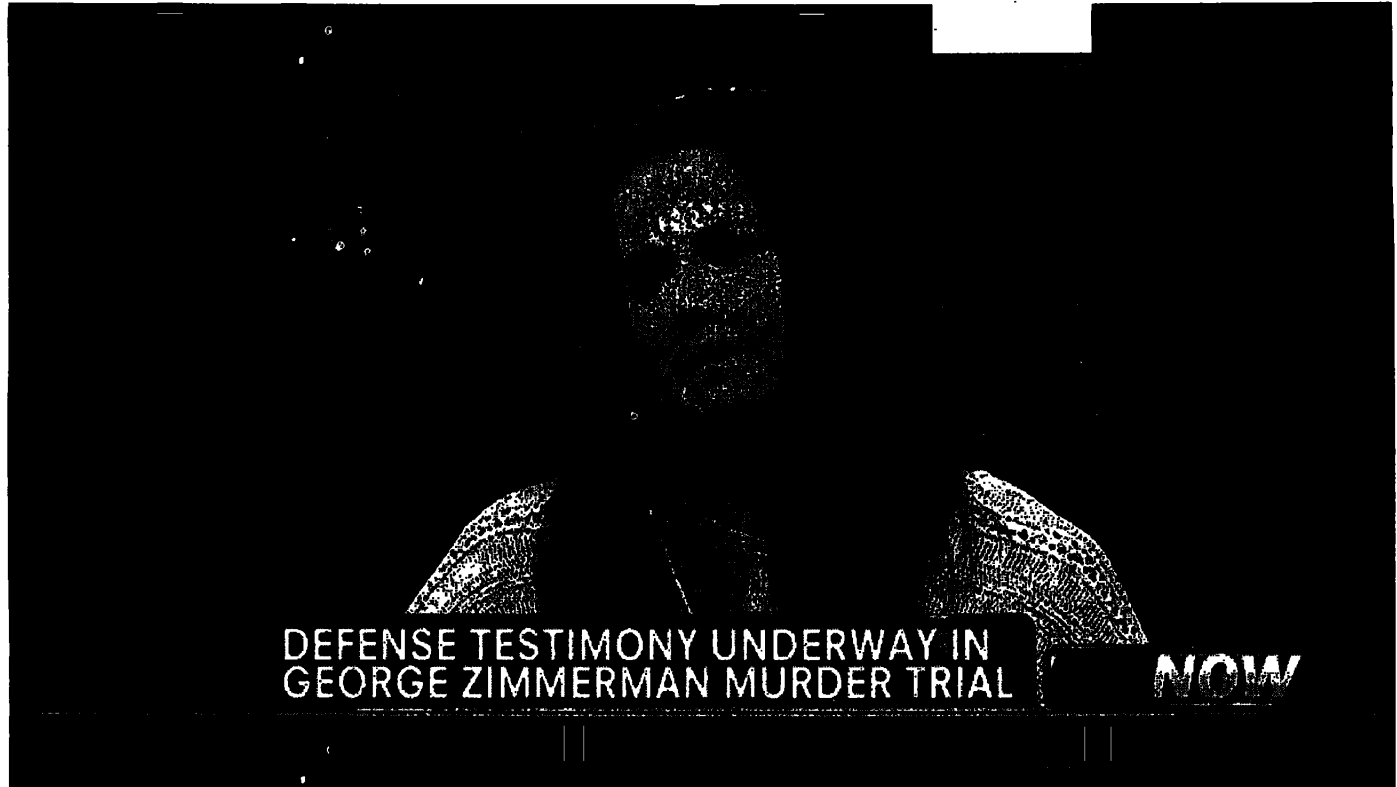
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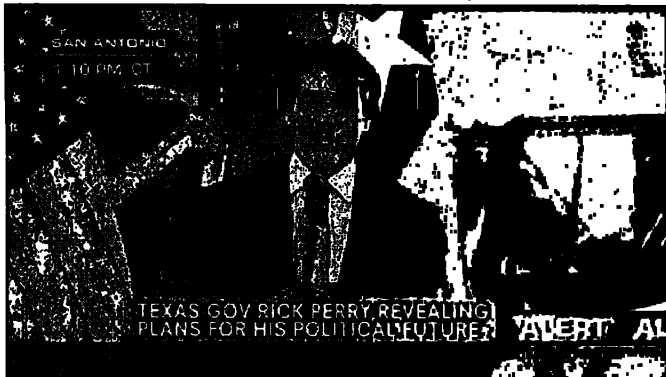
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Politics



Located just west of the last suburban fringes of Washington, D.C. and established at the turn of the new millennium, Patrick Henry College is a decidedly Christian school with approximately 370 undergrads. Every student must complete a thorough, classical liberal arts core curriculum as well as an internship. Facebook/Patrick Henry College

IRS targeted conservative college interns

10:36 PM 05/20/2013

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The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) demanded information about conservative groups' college-aged interns, prompting outrage from one of the country's top conservative activist organizations and leading one former intern to wonder whether his family's pizza parlor would be endangered.

The IRS requested, in an audit, the names of the conservative Leadership Institute's 2008 interns, as well as specific information about their internship work and where the interns were employed in 2012, according to a document request the IRS sent to the Leadership Institute, dated February 14, 2012.

The IRS requested:

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“Copies of applications for internships and summer programs; to include: lists of those selected for internships and students in 2008.

– In regards to such internships, please provide information regarding where the interns physically worked and how the placement was arranged.

– After completing internships and courses, where were the students and interns employed?”

The Arlington, Virginia-based Leadership Institute is a conservative activist training organization founded in 1979 by Virginia Republican National Committeeman Morton C. Blackwell, the youngest elected delegate to the 1964 Republican convention that nominated Barry Goldwater. The institute was audited in 2011. As The Daily Caller has reported, at least two different IRS offices made a concerted effort to obtain the group's training materials.

The Leadership Institute's audit, which was conducted by the IRS' Baltimore office and which ended with no determination of wrongdoing but cost the conservative group \$50,000 in legal fees, only covered the year 2008, leading employees to speculate that the IRS' primary interest was figuring out how the group operates during a presidential election year.

“They were very interested in seeing what conservative organizations were doing in 2008, and where the interns

from 2008 were now employed," Leadership Institute vice president of programs David Fenner told the Daily Caller, adding that he "absolutely" believed the IRS audited information from 2008 because it was an election year.

"We declined to give them the names" of former interns, Fenner said.

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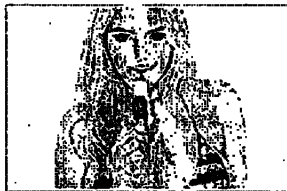
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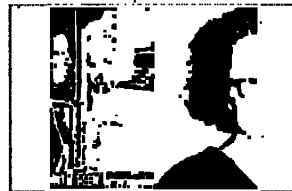
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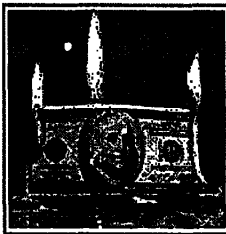
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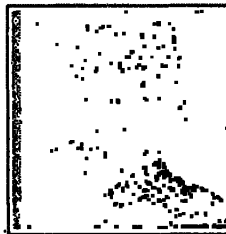
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Charles Kirtley • 2 months ago

Richard Nixon would have blushed at the brazenness of the new IRS.

243 ^ | v Reply Share >



randall → Charles Kirtley • 2 months ago

The new IRS is Obama's personal hit squad. Nixon would be boiling mad about the brazenness of our new President, and his ability to get away with it.

241 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



DakConserve → randall • 2 months ago

Truly despicable!

147 ^ | v Reply Share >



GeorgiaPeachie → DakConserve · 2 months ago

Does anyone still wonder why obama has been pushing so hard for "single login" for the internet and everything else?! If the government could track all of your logins, they would know EXACTLY who to send the IRS after!!!

113 ^ | v Reply Share >



DakConserve → GeorgiaPeachie · 2 months ago

Since Google will willingly give up your Email to government, I did my small part and dumped them as a search engine and Chrome browser last night.

PS. Google tracks you everywhere!

<http://donttrack.us/>

How-to stop getting tracked in your Browser.

<http://fixtracking.com/>

55 ^ | v Reply Share >



bullet2354 → DakConserve · 2 months ago

Use DUCKDUCKGO.COM - they do not track you.

19 ^ | v Reply Share >



GOOGLE EXCLUDED INCOME → bullet2354 · 2 months ago

Ha, so just stop funding this corruption and all is back to normal. According to the IRS, 67 MILLION AMERICANS don't even file taxes. Didn't any of you notice that corporations, IRS employees and senators, even Treasury Secretary Geithner, are famous for not paying taxes, saying they don't have to pay? Just Maybe, these people have actually read their income tax law. HERE'S A TEST for tax professionals, including IRS AGENTS, Where is ONE and ONLY legal definition of Exempt income codified in tax law?

ANSWER: 26 CFR 1.861-8T(d)(2)(ii) and 26 CFR 1.861-8T(d)(2)(iii)

According to US tax law, most Americans DON'T OWE ANY income tax. Of course, the perps will say Sec. 861 is frivolous, yet there it is, definition of Exempt income IS codified in Sec. 861. Obviously, the perps and tax parasites don't want the easy money gravy train to end. Arrest the perps, ... AND OBEY THE LAW. Then, the govt corruption, illegal undeclared wars, requirements for FACEBOOK activities and passwords, etc, will dry up like frozen warts. Jesus said, if someone sins, and doesn't change their evil ways, they are to be treated as pagans and TAX COLLECTORS. - Matt. 18:15

GOOGLE WHO WOULD JESUS TAX

DBCS 213

GOOGLE WHO WOULD BESSS IFA

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



WhoCanYouTrust → DakConserve • 2 months ago

I dumped chrome as well. Time to get a new search engine too.

13 ^ | v Reply Share >



DakConserve → WhoCanYouTrust • 2 months ago

DUCKDUCKGO.com is what I picked, I like Google, but.... I dumped google anyway

10 ^ | v Reply Share >



SarahPacRefundsClickHere → DakConserve • 2 months ago

Since the Coup and cover up our government's domestic spying operation includes piggy backing the servers of every major search engine.

4 ^ | v Reply Share >



WhoCanYouTrust → GeorgiaPeachie • 2 months ago

Not to mention disarmament, drying up the ammo supply the Department Of Homeland Security Army. And you think it's only the IRS? Try IRS, FBI, CIA, NSA, DHS, DOJ to mention a few.

21 ^ | v Reply Share >



SarahPacRefurtdsClickHere → WhoCanYouTrust • 2 months ago

Why do you think this is? Fear of a revolution?

8 ^ | v Reply Share >



yippeekayay → SarahPacRefundsClickHere • 2 months ago

Read your 20th century history.

3 ^ | v Reply Share >



C G → WhoCanYouTrust • 2 months ago

Don't forget about the DEA

5 ^ | v Reply Share >



GoneApe → GeorgiaPeachie • 2 months ago

They really are despicable. I have never heard of anything so bad and so organized by the U.S. government against its own citizens.

7 ^ | v Reply Share >



DisgustedCitizen → GeorgiaPeachie • 2 months ago

It's not Obama orchestrating al this tyranny. It's his NWO handlers.

Management to know who they are. Listen to Benjamin Franklin DBCS-214004

IRS targeted conservative college interns | The Daily Caller
 If you want to know who they are, listen to Benjamin Freedman's 1961 speech at the Willard Hotel in D.C..

Wake up, people. You're being deceived. The D.C. politicians are just puppets to distract us.

Take the Red Pill.

1 ^ | v Reply Share ›



This comment is awaiting moderation. Show comment.



griefman → IssacAncelotti · 2 months ago

she can make more than that working fancy hotels instead of truck stops.

20 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



wagnertinatlanta → griefman · 2 months ago

With *her* face? Ha.

^ | v Reply Share ›



GoneApe → IssacAncelotti · 2 months ago

give up this troll stupidity.

2 ^ | v Reply Share ›



HarryObrian → DakConserve · 2 months ago

Watching the congressional hearings, the IRS is lying to congress. They are treating the congress as a joke-just like Holder did. They believe as Holder and Barry does that they are above the law, they are protected and coached by Barry and his slaves. The congress is effectively the enuch in the room.

39 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



Gramera → HarryObrian · 2 months ago

Patience. Congress is building a case meticulously. The facts are slowly coming to the surface. Meanwhile the criminals are in front of the cameras flaunting their arrogance for all to witness.

22 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



ourfoundingfather → Gramera · 2 months ago

Seriously people, come on. Reaching out to liberals on this is probably fruitless - but for those Democrats out there - seriously stand up against this horrible corruption.

Would you want this 'replayed' with republicans in power? People need to be held accountable and removed.

7 ^ | v Reply Share ›



yippeekayay → ourfoundingfather · 2 months ago

Yeah but Republicans, corrupt as they are, have enough conservatives with integrity among them that they would never use the IRS this way. They won't even clean out the progressive extremists Ohbummer has installed. Ohbummer has screwed us six ways from Sunday already and it won't stop after he's gone. These blind bullies he's made our rulers will go on implementing their ugly plots as long as they draw breath. What we really need is Ron Paul.

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



HarryObrian → Gramera · 2 months ago

Time to nullify the election and have a do over.

6 ^ | v Reply Share >



GoneApe → Gramera · 2 months ago

Oh that it were true. Many people should be in prison for this including the AG and of course, his highness.

5 ^ | v Reply Share >



HarryObrian → Gramera · 2 months ago

As one buzzard said to the other, "patience my arse I'm going to kill something"...:)

Might be time to nullify the last election and have a do over.

^ | v Reply Share >



Charlie Johnson → randall · 2 months ago

Nixon would be taking notes. He would also love the Department of Homeland Security - an armed and unaccountable super agency that gets to poke around in people's lives and classify articles as "extremists" to be monitored.

Thinking more and more about it, I think the comparisons to Nixon really are crude -- Obama has a cult following, much of the press still in love with him, much more power and spy gear than Nixon ever had access to. Nixon is kind of Obama's mini-me.

54 ^ | v Reply Share >



mcc307 → Charlie Johnson · 2 months ago

agreed, Obama's followers seem cult like in their adoration of their dear leader.

40 ^ | v Reply Share >



SWohio → mcc307 · 2 months ago

The polls show that while most Americans are concerned about getting

to the bottom of the Obama administration scandals the DBCS-216 connect

IRS targeted conservative college interns | The Daily Caller
 to the bottom of the Obama administration scandals, they do not connect
 Obama with these scandals within his own administration.

When he claims he didn't know anything, they believe him. What they apparently want is a president who knows nothing about what is going on in his administration, something they accused Bush of - of course then, it was an insult. Now it is a feature, apparently, and an indication of a successful president:

Obama has indeed built adoration of himself into his followers. These same followers don't seem to realize, as was already said, that the same things happening to conservatives can and will happen to them if this is not traced to the highest level and stopped.

I think they all think if it had been them in Benghazi, Obama would have lifted a finger to save them.

Newsflash to all lurking libs: He wouldn't and he won't. Think about it.

37 ^ | v Reply Share >



scumby → SWohio · 2 months ago

Knowing what you know, would you tell a pollster that you do not support Obama?

6 ^ | v Reply Share >



ZombieProcesses → scumby · 2 months ago

Good point. Who is to say that pollster really isn't the IRS checking up on you?

Two months ago that was tin-foil-hat speak. Now, not so much:

8 ^ | v Reply Share >



scumby → ZombieProcesses · 2 months ago

I was thinking the polling firm would send the list to the IRS and liberal groups.

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



ZombieProcesses → scumby · 2 months ago

True.

^ | v Reply Share >



Guest → scumby · 2 months ago

That is why I think after his re-election allot of sites took down comment sections or start in with moderators to censor stuff. They know what he was about and another four years to target them had to put some fear in

DBCS 217

there. In fact, who on the internet, especially since he was elected doesn't feel a bit nervous about being spied on? Many are dropping out and that is going to hurt profit making enterprises on-line. Barry & hitman holder threw cold water on everybody on the net. The dude has a real enemies list and wants people to snitch as well.

4 ^ | v Reply Share >



yippeekayay → scumby · 2 months ago

I've read history. I know what's coming. I don't care who knows what side I'm on.

^ | v Reply Share >



Travelassie → SWohio · 2 months ago

I don't know what it would take for those Obamabots to change their minds about that either.

4 ^ | v Reply Share >



west4567 → SWohio · 2 months ago

It took a long time before the public believed that Nixon was sleazy. It will take a long time with Obama, as well, if the investigators don't turn up some kind of "smoking gun" as they did with Clinton (yuck)

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



yippeekayay → west4567 · 2 months ago

Nixon was a stand up guy, a veritable paragon of virtue, a stalwart defender of democracy and liberty by comparison.

4 ^ | v Reply Share >



Delilah Michael → mcc307 · 2 months ago

Has anyone wondered how Obama could have all those ACORN NUTS going all over the nation, glassy eyed, pushing his election on so many people overnight? This had to have been in the planning for at least 10 years. No one could have organized that movement as fast as it happened. He was attending a christian church for 20 years. Now he doesn't even attend church. Maybe this was being planned for over 20 years. Muslims have the patience of Job. Didn't Obama say this was not a Christian nation, that it was the largest Muslim nation on earth?

28 ^ | v Reply Share >



Linda Conley → Delilah Michael · 2 months ago

You're wearing a hat made out of tinfoil, right?

^ | 8 v Reply Share >



ZombieProcesses → Linda Conley · 2 months ago

Sweetie... you are not paying attention the news, are you? Even the MSM is calling foul on this admin.

I challenge you to wrap your head around what this admin is doing on and figure out how to explain it in your own words and without referring to someone else's writings.

7 ^ | v Reply Share >



Guest → Linda Conley · 2 months ago

I would tell you to try it troll but they don't make them for pin head.

6 ^ | v Reply Share >



ratamacue76 → Linda Conley · 2 months ago

How original .

4 ^ | v Reply Share >



Brian Cunningham → mcc307 · 2 months ago

I saw a car with an "I Love Obama" bumper sticker. I sped up to see who was driving it. The driver turned out to be a thrity-something woman, about 250 pounds, smoking a cigarette. I guess she figures she will never get married so the government is her de-facto husband.

10 ^ | v Reply Share >



Delilah Michael → mcc307 · 2 months ago

Go to www.deliberatedumbingdown.com by Charlotte Thomson-Iserbyte and see how the last couple of generations have been PROGRAMMED in the public education system by Skinnerian/Pavlovian methods to accept whatever their LEADER tells them.

7 ^ | v Reply Share >



Screech → Charlie Johnson · 2 months ago

The media and Republicans may be screeching about President Barack Obama's scandals, but the American people are seeing through the bull. CNN reported on Sunday that 53% of people questioned in the survey said they approve of the job the president is doing, with 45% saying they disapprove. The president's approval rating was at 51% in CNN's previous poll, from early April. The two point rise was well within the survey's sampling error.

The new numbers indicate that Obama remains popular, with 79% of Americans saying the president is likable. But it's not just Obama. The Democratic Party went from a 46-48 favorable-unfavorable rating a

DBCS 219

month ago, to 52-43 in this latest poll. That's a net gain of 11 points.

As for impeachment-screeching Republicans? They're DOWN a net eight points from 38-54 a month ago, to 35-59 this week.

It turns out that:

*** The American people just don't think that it's the worst scandal since**

[see more](#)

1 ^ | 23 v Reply Share >



SWohio → Screech · 2 months ago

Ambassador Stevens has no comment.

57 ^ | v Reply Share >



Bildo1 → Screech · 2 months ago

Just keep in mind, our loose thinking friend, that if they get away with doing it to us. They can get away with doing it to you, and they will eventually. This ain't beanbag, Nummy.

43 ^ | v Reply Share >



GeorgiaPeachie → Screech · 2 months ago

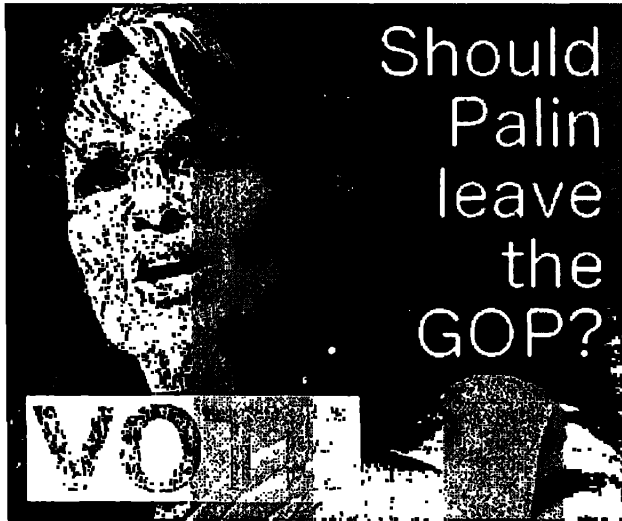
Our government is behaving like a third world despot and all you care about is obama's rating?? Don't you care about people being treated unfairly based solely upon their political views??

42 ^ | v Reply Share >

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Scrutiny of Political Nonprofits Sets Off Claim of Harassment

Published: March 8, 2012

(Page 2 of 2)

Recent Supreme Court rulings have heightened concern about the issue, since companies can now give unlimited amounts to so-called super PACs as long as those political action committees do not coordinate directly with candidates. Outfits like Crossroads and Priorities USA run both tax-exempt 501(c)(4)s and more overtly political arms, known as 527 organizations. Under current law, there is little or no way to tell whether contributions are being deducted, especially because many of the most political companies are privately held.

"I think the story here is that we have a system in which we think this is

happening, and there's absolutely no way we can find out legally," Professor Hill said.

The Democratic group Priorities USA uses a blanket disclaimer on its Web site that says, "Contributions to Priorities USA are not deductible for federal income tax purposes." American Crossroads leaves unaddressed the business tax deductibility issue, stating, "Contributions to American Crossroads are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes."

Officials at the organization say they tell their donors, including companies and individuals, that they should contact their financial advisers and tax counsels to determine the ramifications of their contributions.

Democrats, whose 501(c)(4)s have been outraged significantly by their Republican counterparts, have been pressing the I.R.S. for a response on the tax questions, and the agency responded earlier this year. The I.R.S. noted that under existing tax law, new 501(c)(4)s simply declare themselves to be social welfare organizations, but they are supposed to justify that status each year with their tax returns' Form 990s. The agency promised that it "will review organizations to ensure that they have classified themselves correctly and that they are complying with applicable rules."

The questionnaire being sent to agencies was identified as one way to check compliance. I.R.S. officials would not say whether that effort had gotten off the ground with the big groups that Democrats want examined. But what the I.R.S. called "a companion process" with new applicants was begun in recent weeks.

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DBCS 228

Small Tea Party-aligned groups say they have become collateral damage.

Eric Wilson, director of the Kentucky 9/12 Project, which spun out of an effort by the television and radio personality Glenn Beck, said his group applied for tax-exempt status in December 2010, and a month later was informed by the I.R.S. that it would get a response in 90 days. In February it got a response, a seven-page questionnaire with 30 multi-part questions, 88 inquiries in all.

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A version of this article appeared in print on March 7, 2012, on page A20 of the New York edition with the headline: Scrutiny of Political Nonprofits Sets Off Claim of Harassment.

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THIS IS DOCUMENT IS FROM AN ACTUAL LETTER FROM THE IRS TO THE OHIO LIBERTY COUNCIL IN JANUARY OF 2012 REQUESTING INFORMATION IN ORDER TO CERTIFY THAT THE GROUP IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WE ASK YOU TO READ THIS AND ASK YOURSELF IF THESE QUESTIONS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ASK.

WOULD YOU WANT THIS GROUP TO HAVE TO SUBMIT THIS INFORMATION ABOUT YOU?

Ohio Liberty Council Corp.

Additional Information Requested:

1. Please have a member of your board sign page 1 of Form 1024.
2. Please provide a hardcopy printout of your organization's website.
3. Does your organization promote or publicize itself using any internet social media such as Facebook? If so, please list the social media outlets and provide hardcopy printouts of those outlets.
4. You filed Form 1024 on June 30, 2010. Please provide an updated narrative description of activities since that time. In your description, please do not merely describe the purpose of the organization. Rather, describe the activities that your organization will initiate and/or participate in to fulfill your purpose. Your description should include the answers to the following basic questions:
 - a. What does the activity entail?
 - b. Who conducts the activity and what are their qualifications?
 - c. Where is the activity conducted?
 - d. When is the activity conducted?
 - e. How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities as described as percentage of time and a percentage of expenses?
 - f. Who may participate in the activity?
 - g. How are the participants selected?
 - h. Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule.
 - i. How does the activity further your exempt purpose?
5. Please describe the associate group members and their role with your organization in further detail.
 - a. How does your organization solicit members?
 - b. What are the questions asked of potential members?
 - c. What are the selection criteria for approval?
 - d. Do you limit membership to other organizations exempt under section 501(c)(4) of the Code?
 - e. Provide the name, employer identification number, and address of the organizations.
6. Provide the following information for all the public events conducted or planned to be conducted by your organization:
 - a. The time, location, and content schedule of each event
 - b. Identify and provide copies of handouts to the audience
 - c. Identify workshop materials that instructors will use
 - d. The names and credentials of the instructors
 - e. If speeches or forums were or will be conducted at the event, provide detailed contents of the speeches or forums, names of the speakers or panels, and their credentials. If any speakers or panel members will be paid, provide the amount will be paid for each person. If not, please indicate they volunteered to conduct the event.

TURN TO NEXT PAGE . . .

DBCS 230

Ohio Liberty Council Corp

- f. The names of persons from your organization and the amount of time they will spend on the event. Indicate the name and amount of time they will spend on the event. Indicate the name and amount of compensation that will be paid to each person. If no one will be paid, indicate this event will be conducted by volunteers to each person.
 - g. Indicate the percentage of time and resources you will spend on these activities in relation to 100% of all your activities.
7. Have you conducted or will you conduct candidate forums or other events at which candidates running for public offices are invited to speak? If so, provide the following details and nature of the forum including:
- a. The names of candidates invited to participate.
 - b. The names of the candidates who did participate
 - c. The issues that were discussed
 - d. The time and location of the event
 - e. Copies of all handouts provided and distributed at the forum, including any internet or advertising material discussed or used at the forum.
 - f. Indicate the percentage of time and resources you have spent or will spend conducting these activities in relation to 100% of all your activities.
8. Have you attempted or will you attempt to influence the outcome of specific legislation? If so, provide the following:
- a. Provide copies of all communications, pamphlets, advertisements, and other materials distributed by the organization regarding the legislation.
 - b. Provide copies of any radio, television, or internet advertisements relating to your lobbying activities
 - c. Please indicate the percentage of time and resources you have spent or will spend conducting these activities in relation to 100% of all your activities.
9. Do you directly or indirectly communicate with members of legislative bodies? If so, provide copies of the written communications and contents of other form of communications. Please include the percentage of time and resources you have spent or will spend conducting these activities in relation to 100% of all your activities.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING YOUR CASE TO:

US Mail:

Internal Revenue Service
Exempt Organizations
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201
Attn: Joseph R. Herr
Room 4514
Group 7821

Street Address for Delivery Service:

Internal Revenue Service
Exempt Organizations
550 Main St, Federal Bldg.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Attn: Joseph R. Herr
Room 4514
Group 7821

**THIS GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO BE MAKING THIS REQUEST OF YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR CHURCH, YOUR HOSPITAL, YOUR DOCTOR, YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY, YOUR BOY SCOUT TROOP, YOUR GUN CLUB, AND YOU!
IS THIS THE KIND OF AMERICA YOU WANT TO LIVE IN?**

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE FOR IN THE 2012 ELECTIONS?

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On The Money

THE HILL'S Finance & Economy Blog

Report: IRS sought gift tax on conservative group's donors

By Russell Berman - 05/01/13 10:45 AM ET

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The IRS tried to impose a gift tax on donors to a conservative group formed to support former President George W. Bush's 2007 troop surge in Iraq, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Saturday.



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The timing of the effort coincided with the timeframe of the IRS's scrutiny of Tea Party groups seeking tax-exempt status, and it began under the unit led by Lois Lerner, who is the subject of a congressional investigation into the Tea Party targeting.

The probe centered on a group called Freedom's Watch and involved five separate audits, the *Journal* reported. It was halted in 2011 after an outcry from Congress, although the identity of the organization was not revealed at the time.

Freedom's Watch is now defunct, but tax experts told the *Journal* that the effort to impose gift taxes on its donors was highly unusual. The IRS declined to comment in the story.

The report could add to the problems of the IRS, which is facing bipartisan outrage, a criminal investigation and multiple congressional inquiries on Capitol Hill after officials admitted to inappropriately targeting conservative groups for additional scrutiny.

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Acting IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel late Friday acknowledged that an upcoming audit would find improper spending at a 2010 agency conference, calling it an "unfortunate mistake" from a time before the agency tightened its

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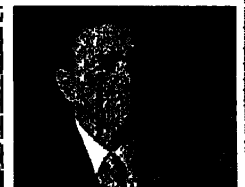
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belt.

"While there were legitimate reasons for holding the meeting, many of the expenses associated with it were inappropriate and should not have occurred," Werfel said in a statement.

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Obama To Make Statement

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57nomad · a month ago

I'd like commenter's thoughts and observations on the excerpt from MoveOn.Org's official website:

"Contribute to MoveOn

Together, we can change who has influence in politics — from a few big-money donors to millions of small donors. Make a contribution to help take back our democracy from corporate special interests, build a progressive economy to restore the American Dream, elect progressive leaders, and fight on critical issues for our country. You can also make a monthly contribution or contribute by check, or you can donate to MoveOn.org Civic Action, our 501(c)4 affiliate."

In view of the reasons given for the delays and scrutiny given to Tea Party and other conservative groups applications, how long do you think the IRS took to process this application?

15 ^ | v Reply Share



common sense → 57nomad · a month ago

Funny thing is that when you donate to MoveOn.org, you are, by definition, supporting a special interest group.

I love how liberal special interest groups don't include themselves in that title. What hypocrisy.

14 ^ | v Reply Share



ggm281 · a month ago

I'm sure they also tried to impose a gift tax on Think Progress and Organizing for Action because they exist to "promote liberal priorities," as well. Nothing partisan to see here. Move along.

10 ^ | 1 v Reply Share



Gunilla Skonie → ggm281 · a month ago

Just because you are sure, does not make it so.

^ | 1 v Reply Share



USMC69 → Gunilla Skonie · a month ago

You missed the satire.

2 ^ | v Reply Share



BigSwittersFan · a month ago

The IRS won't truly be brought to heel until a conservative is back in the White House. Obama and his band of Merry Men will express their outrage, make a few changes, fire a few people, but no real reforms will happen. They don't want them to happen.

6 ^ | v Reply Share



Dumara → BigSwittersFan · a month ago

You didn't read the story did you? A conservative WAS in the White House!!

GAWD, you're stoopit!

1 ^ | v Reply Share



Guest → BigSwittersFan · a month ago

Define conservative.

I don't trust the Repubs if that is what you are talking about.

1 ^ | 4 v Reply Share

ON THE MONEY
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BALLOT BOX

DBCS 234



harborsenior → Guest · a month ago

I am sure you will trust the person(s) who said this:

"Punish our Enemies"....Hitler quote in a Berlin speech in 1932 referring to the Jew. Obama in 2012 speech referring to the Republican.

You decide.

2 ^ | v Reply Share



USMC69 → Guest · a month ago

Repubs are not conservatives. They are just slow grabbing liberals. Libs wanted your money yesterday. Repubs want it today. Conservatives don't want it at all.

3 ^ | 2 v Reply Share



Dumars → USMC69 · a month ago

That's why infrastructure is in the state it's in and that's why "deficits don't matter"!

^ | v Reply Share



pmcurl → Guest · a month ago

Exactly. Who was it that said he would, to use his words, use the IRS to "screw his political enemies"? Let's see hmm.... Nixon?

1 ^ | v Reply Share



Chynacat · a month ago

It is more than past due to get rid of the IRS. They are a controlling and manipulative department that thinks they rule everyone in our country. We the taxpayer must pay taxes or face huge fines and penalties plus interest. Yet federal employees skate their taxes, especially our wonderful elected officials in D.C. Total crap.

4 ^ | v Reply Share



Justin · a month ago

Inappropriate is the Regime's new favorite word. "Not proper or suitable" is the best defense they can come up with. We are all supposed to think these actions are "over", we "fixed" it..... Why would we think that when it's clear they don't even think their "inappropriate" behavior is even WRONG or illegal? They have no intention of "fixing" anything - they just want the media to quit talking about it so the lemmings can go back to their reality TV and video games.

3 ^ | v Reply Share



Don Carlos · a month ago

UNFORTUNATE VESTIGES? WHAT A HUBRIS LIBERAL DEMOCRAT.

Who care about a few millions dollars spent on those junkets.

You are just trying to divert our attention from the big scandals.

Because of what you did to the T-PARTY. It help THE GHETTO PRESIDENT get reelected which is going to cause us TRILLIONS of dollars and maybe the demise of this country.

3 ^ | v Reply Share



old town tavern · a month ago

What we are seeing is not limited to the IRS , it spans across all

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DBCS 235

Report: IRS sought gift tax on conservative group's donors - The Hill's On The Money

regulatory agencies. Unraining the swamp will neip out will take time. In the short term the only choice is to hold all agencies to judicial process. The IRA, EPA, Osha, you name it, cannot even begin an investigation or audit of any business or individual without first convening a grand jury. Let them sell their suspicions to the American public before they are permitted to proceed with any sort of investigation, audit, or fine. And let the accused present their side, as well. Targeting gets a lot more difficult when you have to do it in full view and with the consent of the governed.

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



billinga · a month ago

Lerner should be in jail and she should NOT be receiving a salary!!

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



Patriotson2 · a month ago

They stopped the audits when they found out that the socialist democrat's donors would have to pay as well. Such unbiased use of the law would be totally outside of the norms of the IRS.

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



Dumars → Patriotson2 · a month ago

How'd they get away with it under the Bush regime? Bush couldn't/didn't have control of his administration?

You're stoopit!

^ | v Reply Share >



gowian · a month ago

Well yeah, they're a blatantly political group. Why should the taxpayer subsidize their donations?

4 ^ | 4 v Reply Share >



57nomad → gowian · a month ago

Gowian, one assumes you are outraged at the IRS greenlighting of MoveOn.Org, right? Just so there is no misunderstanding here's an excerpt from their website juxtaposed with your comments.

From gowin:

"they're a blatantly political group. Why should the taxpayer subsidize their donations?"

From MoveOn:

"elect progressive leaders, and fight on critical issues for our country.

You can also make a monthly contribution or contribute by check, or you can donate to MoveOn.org Civic Action, our 501(c)4 affiliate."

Well.....

15 ^ | 2 v Reply Share >



Ira Thurby-Wright → gowian · a month ago

Liberal, Conservative, non-political, or just plain frivolous, why should any non-profit pay taxes on the contributions received? Tax payers aren't subsidizing their donations because tax payers aren't able to use said donations as

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Report: IRS sought gift tax on conservative group's donors - The Hill's On The Money
 reductions. The non-profit captures the tax on its employees and the expenditures are taxed as income to their vendors.

501(c)4's shouldn't even have to register the content of their work because it opens up our activities to the scrutiny of the IRS and we're seeing first hand how that goes.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



Guest → Ira Thurby-Wright · a month ago

I'll tell you Ira...we have a massive concentration of cash in the hands of an unrepresented few. Question is, did they come by it legitimately?

Under our current system I would have to say it's questionable to put it mildly.

This has also caused a decline of cash in circulation.

For example...I give 1 million people \$50k. What do they do with it? They buy 1 million cars.

I give 1 person 5 trillion what does the economy produce?

What was Ford's business model?

^ | v Reply Share >



signspeaker → Guest · a month ago

First, you have to do a lot of talking and a fair amount of prevaricating if you want to say the Obama's earned the money they were paid prior to 2008. No-show jobs and sweetheart deals with crooks are shrug material in Liberal circles though, right?

Utopian funding always comes with strings. Whatcha gonna do with 1 million people in jail for FTA on driving without insurance?

^ | v Reply Share >



Guest → signspeaker · a month ago

Are you addressing any comments in my post?

^ | v Reply Share >



signspeaker → Guest · a month ago

You've implied anyone rich didn't earn it and that giving money away makes people rich, so yes, I addressed some of that by pointing out our would-be king is living by different rules.

You of the Free Sh*t Army aren't advocating any responsibility in life, are you?

^ | v Reply Share >



Guest → signspeaker · a month ago

Well, you haven't defined rich.

With regard to the extreme concentration of wealth, that is not a positive for overall economic activity. It locks up cash flow and simply does not create as many jobs as a more diverse distribution of wealth makes possible.

Now, did the extremely wealthy produce anything or did they just shave a piece of the action off of those that have created?

More and more, it appears, that those who have become wealthy have neither created nor invented anything.

^ | v Reply Share >



signspeaker → Guest · a month ago

do I have argue with you over definitions? c'mon. leftism always ends bad, and someone still thinks that need to be in charge.

^ | v Reply Share >



Guest → signspeaker · a month ago

No, no need to argue over definitions.

Practically speaking the fact remains that at some point monopoly over supply of "money" should be rectified.

Now, I'm not talking about the government taxing and redistributing. Simply enforce anti-trust laws...the spirit of which is that control over society via wealth concentration has a detrimental effect on productivity.

Our banker class has total control over your supposedly elected politicians and thus they no longer act in American's best interests.

You have to agree...

^ | v Reply Share >



signspeaker → Guest · a month ago

Simply enforce anti-trust laws

banker class has total control over your supposedly elected politicians

Now, if we start there you and I have some agreement. It's your other conclusions that I may differ with slightly at times, or wholly at others.

After all, in society it tends to work out that someone has to be in charge. So far in

history, businessmen having to be law-stretchers and breakers are less deadly than autocrats, bureaucrats, and religious nuts with total lawful authority.

^ | v Reply Share ›



Ira Thurby-Wright → Guest · a month ago

There are two types of "capitalists" and they are as different as the day from the night. Some innovate, like Henry Ford, Steve Jobs, Vanderbilt, even Bill Gates, while others manipulate, like the DuPonts, Morgans, Loeb's, Rothschilds, Rockefellers. Conservatives have erred in defending the latter in the interest of the former and have found themselves on the wrong side of many issues, perpetually losing the argument in the public's eye, even when the only principle they were supporting was rule of law.

I fear we are too long down the road of lawlessness to turn back without a bloody revolution. I think the clincher was the 2008 bailouts which led to the Chrysler

... see more

^ | v Reply Share ›



signspeaker → Ira Thurby-Wright · a month ago

Not sure about the bloody part just yet, but it seems to me that some folks that are finding it easy to eat but not work will have to get hungry, literally, for their ethos to change.

1 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Ira Thurby-Wright → signspeaker · a month ago

That time will shortly come. You can't print money (ie "debt") forever without producing anything of real, tangible value. Eventually your creditors stop lending (ie "buying US Treasuries") and then the imports of inexpensive goods dries up with your imaginary income. You can't tax the working class anymore because, if the Laffer Curve is correct, revenues will start to decrease with the earners hiding their income, moving away, or giving up and joining the takers. Then stomachs will begin to grumble. I personally don't like to be around hungry people - they are unpredictable and not prone to thinking rationally. Could be bad.

2 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Guest → Ira Thurby-Wright · a month ago

So, when is the Federal Reserve going to

Report: IRS sought gift tax on conservative group's donors - The Hill's On The Money
 stop buying Treasuries?

^ | v Reply Share >



Ira Thurby-Wright → Guest · a month ago

My honest opinion is never - we've crossed the line from which they can no longer turn back. The same with ZIRP (Zero Interest Rate Program) because of some immutable facts.

1. You have to pay back what you owe, or at least pretend to.

2. Duration Mismatch - if you borrow short and lend long, you can't have interest rates go up on you, it'll bankrupt the system.

3. The Federal Reserve is neither a government agency, nor does it have reserves, unless you count re-hypothecated collateral and IOUs as real assets.

4. Five years into this recession and there is not a single action having occurred which would help (or stop interfering with) the economy.

5. The Keynesians have total control and say in the matter. Austrians are ridiculed, silenced, and have no say whatsoever.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



Guest → Ira Thurby-Wright · a month ago

Nice work, as usual Ira.

^ | v Reply Share >



redbaron618 · a month ago

The IRS commissioner was at the Obama White House virtually every week. In the Bush White House, the IRS commissioner was at the White House about once a year. Draw your own conclusions as to if the White House was directly involved in targeting conservative groups. Put another way, if this were a GOP President, the news media would be sharpening the knives and talking about the "I" word" impeachment.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



signspeaker · a month ago

Google ordered to hand private customer data over to FBI investigators

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/tech...>

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



Dumars → signspeaker · a month ago

Trolling!

^ | v Reply Share >



signspeaker → Dumars · a month ago

with facts. I post those articles whenever they come up. I think the DOJ/NSA/CIA relationship

with google/yahoo/yourISP/wireless is more cozy than most people think. From the factual news articles, anyway.

You don't have much room to talk, from your slight posting history.

^ | v Reply Share



Guest · a month ago

When will we determine our public service unions are destroying this country's respect for law.

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Tony T · a month ago

Time for a flat tax, kill the IRS forever.

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georgedixon1 · a month ago

The only person who has the power to direct the IRS is the same as the only person who controlled the Benghazi explanation and could direct the DOJ:

The President.

The only reason that otherwise disparate Agencies and Actions have been caught acting as they have...providing self-serving and false information to the News, investigating Selected News operations as well as intimidating and delaying Conservative GOTV Political Organizations...is to influence an election.

Obama 2012

All of this was to impact and skew President Obama's Re-election. How else could he win with the economy and other issues weighing on Him?

Via Instapundit:

"REMEMBER, VOTING FRAUD IS JUST A GOP BOGEYMAN AND DOESN'T REALLY HAPPEN: Freshman representative's chief of staff resigns amid absentee ballot probe.

"The chief of staff to freshman Rep. Joe Garcia (D-Fla.) resigned on Friday after he was implicated in a plot to submit hundreds of fraudulent absentee ballots during the congressman's primary election last year."

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crazy hat · a month ago

IRS... Obozo's SS.

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georgedixon1 → crazy hat · a month ago

IRS + DHS = WaffenIRS

^ | v Reply Share



Don Carlos · a month ago

My advise to you DANNY WERFEL.

If you have nothing to do with these crimes, comply with all the documents requested.

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POLITICS | Updated May 31, 2013, 10:14 p.m. ET

Donors to GOP Group Drew IRS Scrutiny

Audits Sought to Impose Gift Tax

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By JOHN D. MCKINNON and DIONNE SEARCEY

At the same time the Internal Revenue Service was targeting tea-party groups, the tax agency took the unusual step of trying to impose gift taxes on donors to a prominent conservative advocacy group formed in 2007 to build support for President George W. Bush's Iraq troop surge.

The probe of the group, Freedom's Watch, began in the unit led by Lois Lerner, the IRS official already under scrutiny for her role in the more recent targeting of conservative groups.



Pete Marovich/Bloomberg News

The probe began in the unit led by Lois Lerner, director of the IRS's exempt-organizations unit.

issue ads in 2008, including television ads during special elections for House races in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Such groups, which are organized under section 501(c)(4) of the tax code, are allowed to engage in some political-campaign activity, as long as that isn't their

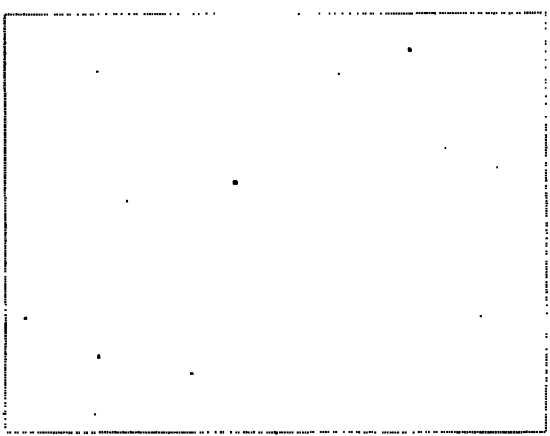
While the IRS confirmed the existence of the gift-tax initiative in 2011, the identity of the group involved—as well as the affiliation of individual donors—remained a mystery.

Former officials of Freedom's Watch say they believe all five of the IRS audits involved donors to their group, based on conversations with IRS agents and donors at the time of the audits in 2011.

The IRS declined to comment, citing taxpayer confidentiality.

The gift-tax probe, after it became public in 2011, prompted an outcry from Congress and was quickly halted.

The now-defunct Freedom's Watch, which operated with a budget of about \$56 million during its roughly two-year existence, spent about \$10.7 million on



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primary focus. They also don't have to disclose their donors' identities.

Critics say many groups abused their tax-exempt status by playing an outside role in politics and that the IRS's scrutiny was appropriate.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have decried the tactics used by the agency, in particular the targeting of groups by their political leanings and their often heavy-handed questioning of groups seeking tax-exempt status.

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IRS audit that focused largely on its political activities, an uncommon but not unprecedented action, election lawyers say. The probe broadened into other areas, including executive compensation.

About a year later, as many as five donors to Freedom's Watch were subjected to IRS audits of their contributions that sought to impose gift taxes on their donations to the group, according to lawyers and former officials of Freedom's Watch.

Tax experts say that effort was highly unusual. The IRS generally hadn't sought to impose the gift tax on donations to tax-exempt groups such as Freedom's Watch in at least 20 years, perhaps longer, following an unfavorable court ruling and changes in the law by Congress, according to lawyers and IRS documents.

The IRS action "was kind of like a nuclear bomb going off," said Rob Kalner, who heads the election-law practice at Covington & Burling LLP. "Although we always knew this was a possibility, it disrupted that long-standing understanding among election lawyers that this was an area where the IRS wasn't likely to go."

The IRS efforts were made public after a lawyer brought up the audits at a tax conference in mid-2011. Republican lawmakers including Ways and Means Chairman complained to the agency, saying the abrupt action was unfair and would chill constitutionally protected free speech.

The gift tax was designed largely to prevent people from avoiding estate taxes by giving away their assets during their lifetimes. It is broadly worded and could be applied to many types of transfers. Legislation in the 1970s clarified that campaign contributions to parties, candidates and political action committees aren't subject to the gift tax.

The legislation didn't exempt donations to 501(c)(4) groups such as Freedom's Watch, and for years the IRS has taken the position the gift tax still applies to donations to 501(c)(4)'s. But in recent years it hasn't enforced that position, lawyers say.

"It's perfectly plain to see that Freedom's Watch's donors were singled out... in a complete break with decades of precedent and IRS procedure," said Ari Fleischer, a board member of the group and former White House press secretary for Mr. Bush, in an interview.

In response to questions in 2011, the IRS confirmed it had sent the gift-tax audit letters to five taxpayers. The five letters resulted from "a single matter," then-IRS commissioner Douglas Shulman said in May 2011. In July, in response to the outcry on Capitol Hill, the IRS announced it was ending the audits and wouldn't conduct any more until after a review.

Mr. Shulman and Ms. Lerner didn't respond to requests for comment.

Last week Ms. Lerner invoked her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination at a congressional hearing.

Ms. Lerner, who has denied wrongdoing in the agency's focus on tea-party groups,

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has been placed on administrative leave.

The lawyer who represents Freedom's Watch, Jeff Altman, said his informal conversations with IRS agents indicated the five people who got the audit letters were all donors to Freedom's Watch.

Private conversations with at least three of Freedom's Watch donors or their attorneys confirmed they received the letters, he said.

The audit of Freedom's Watch was conducted by Ms. Lerner's exempt-organizations unit. The gift-tax audits were conducted by workers in the estate and gift-tax unit, housed in a separate division of the sprawling IRS.

In a 2011 letter, GOP lawmakers asked whether the exempt-organizations unit played a role in the gift-tax audits. In a written response, a top IRS official implied the exempt-organizations unit referred the matter to the estate-and-gift tax unit.

The official, Steven Miller, who was recently ousted as acting commissioner, said the gift tax unit didn't have access to the names of donors to 501(c)(4) groups. Instead, those names are directly available only to Ms. Lerner's unit.

Referrals of tax-return information from one unit to another are appropriate when necessary and not unusual, Mr. Miller's letter said. Then-Commissioner Shulman's May 2011 letter also said the gift-tax audits were the result of an "internal referral."

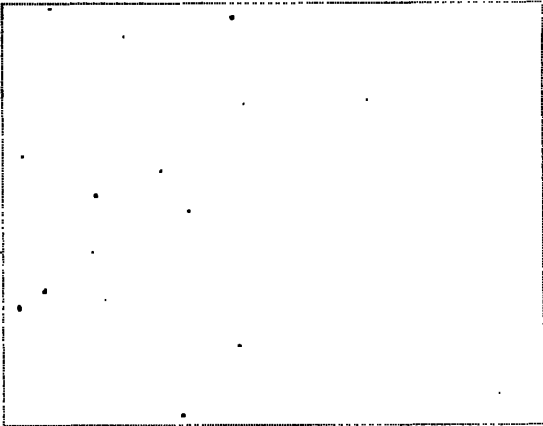
Freedom's Watch's two-year audit came after two complaint letters were sent to the IRS; one by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the party's House election arm, and another entity whose name is redacted in letters provided to Mr. Altman by the IRS.

Mr. Altman said the IRS told him the audit was triggered by the letter from the entity that had its name redacted.

The group ended up paying about \$12,000 in owed taxes for discrepancies in deductions the group had taken, out of a budget of about \$55 million.

Write to John D. McKinnon at john.mckinnon@wsj.com and Dionné Searcey at dionne.searcey@wsj.com

A version of this article appeared June 1, 2013, on page A2 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: Donors To GOP Group Drew IRS Scrutiny.



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IRS WARNED EMPLOYEES NOT TO TARGET 501(C)4 DONORS IN 2011



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

July 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMISSIONER, SMALL BUSINESS
DIVISION
COMMISSIONER, TAX-EXEMPT AND
ENTITIES DIVISION
FROM: 
Steven T. Miller
Deputy Commissioner for Services and
SUPPORT
SUBJECT: Guidance for SB/SE Estate and Gift Tax
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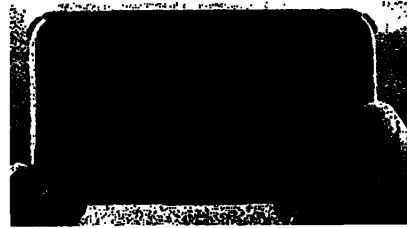
by CHRIS W. STREET (/COLUMNISTS/CHRIS-W-STREET) | 13-May-2013

[BY A COMMENT \(/BIG-GOVERNMENT/2013/05/13/IRS-WARNED-EMPLOYEES-NOT-TO-TARGET-501-C-4-GROUPS-IN-2011#COMMENTS\)](#)

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The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) admitted on May 10 that "low level" staff in its Cincinnati office, supposedly "not motivated by political bias," targeted 75 conservative tax-exempt organizations, including many Tea Party organizations applying for exemption under Section 501(c)4 of the tax code. The groups were singled out for audit and investigation because they used the names "Tea Party" and "Patriot." Yet in July 2011, the IRS had warned employees to drop (http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/08/business/drops-audits-of-donors-to-political-groups.html?_r=0) audits of donors to similar 501(c)4 organizations.

A hand-signed memorandum (http://www.irs.gov/pub/newsroom/guidance_for_irs_sbse_estate_and_gift_tax_exam.pdf) from Steven T. Miller, IRS Acting Commissioner for Services and Enforcement, was issued on July 7, 2011 and instructed employees to cease examinations dealing with gift taxes to 501(c)4 organizations because of difficult "legal, administrative, and policy implications" that could only be resolved "after notice to the public."




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Like last week's unexpected apology by the IRS to conservative groups, Miller's action was partly triggered (http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/13/business/13gift.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=Stephanie%20Strom%20and%20gift%20tax&st=cse) by questions raised by lawyers at a meeting of the American Bar Association.

On May 10, Lois G. Lerner, IRS Director of Exempt Organizations, apologized for the "inappropriate" targeting of conservative political groups during the 2012 election to "see if they were violating their tax-exempt status."

Ms. Lerner stated that IRS agents singled out dozens of organizations for additional reviews, because they included the words "tea party" or "patriot" in their exemption applications. She also stated that in some cases, groups were asked for lists of donors, which violates IRS policy in most cases. Ms. Lerner blamed low-level employees, saying no high-level officials were aware.

Yet prior to being appointed to her current position on August 15, 2012, Ms. Lerner had served since 2005 as the Director of the Exempt Organizations Rulings & Agreements Division (http://www.irs.gov/uac/Lois-G.-Lerner-Selected-as-Director-of-IRS-Exempt-Organizations-Division), where she managed the "determinations letter program" for Exempt Organization, public guidance, and technical assistance for IRS agents conducting examinations of tax-exempt organizations.

Steven T. Miller's "Guidance Memo" was sent directly to IRS TE/GE (Tax Exempt and Government Exempt) management. As the head of "Tax Exempt" determinations (http://www.irs.gov/irm/part7/irm_07-020-001.html), Ms. Lerner would likely have been aware of the hand signed July 7, 2011 memorandum that reiterated the March 23, 2011 policy against examining gift tax donations to 501(c)(4) tax exempt entities.

IRS Commissioner Miller's guidance memo clearly warned that the IRS: "should not expend examination resources initiating referrals or developing audits." This was likely meant to be a klaxon horn going off in every IRS office across the nation warning that no IRS agent should step into a highly politicized area.

However, the IRS investigations of Tea Party groups included excessive questions (http://hotair.com/archives/2013/05/10/19-crazy-things-the-irs-asked-tea-party-groups/) that included questions about income--including not just past donations, but future, anticipated donations.

The IRS is wildly sensitive regarding the use of its powers to intimidate political opponents. Despite a substantial lead in the 1972 polls, Richard Nixon's Committee to Reelect the President

(CREEP) created what became known as the "Enemies List" of supporters of Democrat George McGovern's 1972 Presidential campaign.

IRS Commissioner Donald C. Alexander later refused to use tax audits and investigations to punish the "Enemies List." No evidence indicated that President Nixon was personally involved, but the combination of the IRS activity and a break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters became the Watergate scandal.

Ms. Lerner told an American Bar Association conference the IRS practice was initiated by low-level workers in Cincinnati and was not motivated by political bias. Ms. Lerner said that Agency officials found out about the practice last year and moved to correct it: "That was absolutely incorrect, it was insensitive and it was inappropriate. That's not how we go about selecting cases for further review....The IRS would like to apologize for that."

Yet the hand-signed July 7, 2011 memorandum from Miller suggests that IRS management and employees understood in March 2011, just four months after the 2010 Congressional elections, that they were to suspend the examinations of gift taxes to 501(c)4 organizations until the policy towards these groups had been resolved.

The targeting of Tea Party and conservative 501(c)4 groups continued regardless--either because employees chose to ignore a direct instruction from senior management, or because they received contrary instructions from elsewhere.

The House Ways and Means Committee [plans to hold hearings](http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/05/12/House-Ways-and-Means-Committee-to-Hold-Hearings-on-IRS-Targeting-of-Tea-Party-Groups) (<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/05/12/House-Ways-and-Means-Committee-to-Hold-Hearings-on-IRS-Targeting-of-Tea-Party-Groups>) on the IRS's behavior.

Joel B. Pollak contributed to this report.

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redleg99 → StanH · 2 months ago
Obama and his Commie Democrats won't do a thing about this.
This is what happens when you vote for AssClowns to run this country!

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Agreed.

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Soka Sema → StanH · 2 months ago

Obama won't, but the Clintons will

Ask yourself, "why are people at the IRS spilling the beans?" and "why is the MSM even reporting on it?"

It's an Obama-Clinton War, that's why

Obama attempted to blame Hillary for Benghazi, throwing her under the bus, and ruining her chances at the Whitehouse.

Obama has a corrupt Chicago-style machine as well

That's why we see career State Dept and CIA officials, all

Democrats, coming forward as whistleblowers.

That's why you see an Admission by the IRS (Clinton people) of targeting of Conservatives under the Obama Admin..

And that's why you see the media reporting on both

It's either Hillary or Barry, Pick your side

Conservatives must pick a side too. Half blaming Obama, Half blaming Clinton.

They are both guilty of course, and neither will stop until the other is destroyed.

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StanH → Soka Sema · 2 months ago

Plausible, we'll see.

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★FALCON★ → redleg99 · 2 months ago

I've been saying since ObamaCare first appeared it would be used to deny Republicans and Conservatives medical care.

That will turn out to be 110 percent correct.

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Canadianlady → ★FALCON★ · 2 months ago

I believe you are right. It's a very slippery slope.

10 ^ | v Reply Share



Lady_Penguin → ★FALCON★ · 2 months ago

For several years I've thought that if these fascists keep power our side will find that we're excluded from jobs if our political party affiliations are known. This is a good example of the way this begins. Just ask the Jews who survived the Third Reich.

21 ^ | v Reply Share



★FALCON★ → Lady_Penguin · 2 months ago

True, all you have to know is the standard operating procedures for progressives and you get an idea of the dark cold world they wish to create.

12 ^ | v Reply Share



sunsandsaltwater → Lady_Penguin · 2 months ago

To do that you would need some sort of program that required employers to get Federal permission to hire a job applicant.

Something exactly like E-Verify, which will morph into something far beyond immigration if we are foolish enough to implement it.

4 ^ | v Reply Share



stevemusicmaker → sunsandsaltwater · 2 months ago

Or, you could google someone's name and see what is important to them on the Internet!

Best place, Facebook. If anyone could find something to link them to what they believe, including contacts, it is ALL there on Facebook! Welcome to the new world order.

By the way, YOU decide what to place on Facebook and who sees it, or similar sites! Might be a good time to re-examine who has access to what you share!

2 ^ | v Reply Share



way2confused → stevemusicmaker · 2 months ago

Which is precisely why I never joined Facebook for any other social media site.

2 ^ | v Reply Share



way2confused → *FALCON* · 2 months ago

The solution is simple, Change your party affiliation to Independent and they'll do anything they can to try to assure your vote.

^ | v Reply Share



keltic1 → redleg99 · 2 months ago

Nixon also stonewalled, but the wall finally fell down with persistence. The people can win this fight.

2^ ^ | v Reply Share



Chris Street → keltic1 · 2 months ago

All of these people are having to "lawyer-up" at \$600-\$1500 an hour. This will quickly force some people to try to cut a deal for immunity. The clock is ticking and we are just in the first period.

3 ^ | v Reply Share



way2confused → keltic1 · 2 months ago

And it was the Democrats who persisted until they drove Nixon out. Funny isn't it? They are now mute when it is Obama who is the apparent scumbag who needs to be impeached for the Benghazi cover-up, and add to that the IRS scandal (which we know was the brainchild of the Chicago Thug White House staff and now, the spying on AP reporters by Obama's beloved Eric Holder. Maybe the last item will force Holder's resignation. One can always hope.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



bafuggingnanarepublic → redleg99 · 2 months ago

If the pathetic Barack Hussein Obozo wants to get to the bottom of who ordered the profile of these groups that want (lower taxes, less heavy handed gov't tyranny, and no communist take over), then the pathetic Barack Hussein Obozo just needs to look in the mirror. He is already blaming his acolytes and rejecting and denying any blame of his own. Ecco and Jarret and Axelwhipple in that order did this. Pe-fugging-riod! Who among us has that picture with Bozo the Clown and all of his jesters laughing at the American people? You know the one, with Bozo belly laughing with Gibbs and Jarrett and Axel whipple and Plouffe and Ichabod Crane, it's priceless. Remember, Bozo say's that you should reject those voices that want lower taxes, less gov't leviathan, less tyranny.

17 ^ | v Reply Share



way2confused → bafuggingnanarepublic · 2 months ago

He went after those who opposed his vision of what America should be.

^ | v Reply Share



snowleopard (cat folk gallery) → StanH · 2 months ago

What can go wrong?

The administration will continue to use the IRS as a means for control and power over more and more of the nation, and use it as a means of oppression for those who dare to disagree with Obama and the Democrat Socialists.

Consider how far the IRS authority and power will become if Obama gets one more Supreme Court justice to swing the court to a progressive agenda.

51 ^ | v Reply Share



StanH → snowleopard (cat folk gallery) · 2 months ago

That sums it up rather well.


15 ^ | v Reply Share





way2confused → snowleopard (cat folk gallery) · 2 months ago


One glimmer of hope I see, in the Supreme Court issue, is that I seriously doubt any of the conservative justices will retire knowing what would happen to this country if Obama had the chance to nominate another leftist radical justice.


7 ^ | v Reply Share


 way2confused · 2 months ago
Retire? Maybe not, but last I looked they are mortal. What happens if one of them dies in the interim?
9 ^ | v Reply Share


 Joe Blow → way2confused · 2 months ago
And do you think President Hillary will nominate a conservative Supreme Court Justice? She is left as Obama and she had Billy Boy as her mentor.
9 ^ | v Reply Share


 Canadianlady → Joe Blow · 2 months ago
With any luck, she won't even be in the running!
14 ^ | v Reply Share


 Patrick Henry → Canadianlady · 2 months ago
I would vote for Ahmadinejad before I would vote for Hillary Clinton for President
11 ^ | v Reply Share


 Canadianlady → Patrick Henry · 2 months ago
They're both anti-Semites, who would love nothing more than to see the destruction of Israel; and they, both see themselves as the privileged ruling class elites, separate and distinct from the peons; but, you're right, Ahmadinejad is a much nicer person than the Hildebeast.
3 ^ | v Reply Share


 snowleopard (cat folk gallery) → Joe Blow · 2 months ago
Consider this - what if Hillary is given by Obama a position on the Supreme Court?
4 ^ | v Reply Share


 Jaywalk33 → snowleopard (cat folk gallery) · 2 months ago
Please don't even think about that.
4 ^ | v Reply Share


 way2confused → snowleopard (cat folk gallery) · 2 months ago
Doubt she'd be confirmed especially after Benghazi.
4 ^ | v Reply Share


 ProfessionalStudent → snowleopard (cat folk gallery) · 2 months ago
I doubt he would do that. He and Moochie hate Hellary.
4 ^ | v Reply Share


 Joe Blow → snowleopard (cat folk gallery) · 2 months ago
That would give a person nightmares!. I think he might be top petty for that thinking she would have power until her demise. Obama is a mean spoiled brat but a very dangerous one.
1 ^ | v Reply Share

 way2confused → Joe Blow · 2 months ago
He is evil personified.
^ | v Reply Share

 TheSunDidIt → StanH · 2 months ago
Along with a mandate that we turn over ALL of our medical records to them via giving them all of our doctor's information.
13 ^ | v Reply Share

 StanH → TheSunDidIt · 2 months ago
It'll be great... ~ sarc ~
2 ^ | v Reply Share

 way2confused → TheSunDidIt · 2 months ago
I WILL NOT COMPLY.
^ | v Reply Share

 way2confused → StanH · 2 months ago
First of all, no low level IRS employees would, on their own, target anyone that might jeopardize their jobs. Someone (IMHO—from the White House) TOLD them

to target these organizations. And the denial that it was not politically motivated is just sheer nonsense. What else COULD it be?

35 ^ | v Reply Share >



StanH → way2confused · 2 months ago

No question.

8 ^ | v Reply Share >



Canadianlady → way2confused · 2 months ago

If this is true, and if they are hauled up before an investigative panel, the small guy usually talks.

8 ^ | v Reply Share >



Chriss Street → way2confused · 2 months ago

No low-level IRS personnel are "agents". This is a deputized position in government. Of the 16,000 new IRS staff for Obamacare, only 375 are new "agents". This is all about senior management "discretion" to start this type of audit and investigation.

3 ^ | v Reply Share >



Farmgirl → StanH · 2 months ago

This is what they ended up impeaching Nixon for. We need to call for Obama's impeachment for high crimes and treason 202-224-3121

4 ^ | v Reply Share >



Michael DeWald → StanH · 2 months ago

They aren't in charge of healthcare. The insurance company you'll be buying a policy from will be. Just like they always were. (Not that comforting, but it is the status quo.) You'll just be buying it from an exchange, where the companies actually have to compete with each other. There are no death panels, no socialized medicine, none of the stupid horror stories you've been sold.

^ | v Reply Share >



michael loehrer · 2 months ago

Face it. If you're a conservative you're screwed

37 ^ | v Reply Share >



snow leopard (cat folk gallery) → michael loehrer · 2 months ago

No, if you stand against anything the god-king of the Democrat Socialists says, does, or declares, then you're hunted into extinction as a matter of revenge and to be made an example of for others who dare to think for themselves.

34 ^ | v Reply Share >



Canadianlady → michael loehrer · 2 months ago

Since the moment Obama got elected, the press started an organized anti-Republican, anti-Christian, anti-Tea Party brainwashing campaign to demonize these groups and it hasn't stopped yet. Now Tea Party patriots, preppers, 2nd amendment enthusiasts, evangelical Christians, returned veterans (all conservatives) are on the terrorist watch list. In five years, most conservatives are now considered terrorists. So, yeah, conservatives, most of whom remain passive to this reality, are screwed.

8 ^ | v Reply Share >



menemshaman · 2 months ago

Government that is just too big breeds this kind of activity. When a low level employee can cause this kind of corruption in an agency entrusted with huge power, then it is crystal clear what is needed. The dismantling of that agency with a move toward a simpler tax gathering entity. Nixon's enemy's list was never acted upon because the IRS Commissioner refused to do it. Obama's supporters in the IRS DID do it. Let's see.....what will they say going forward...."well, we are a huge bureaucracy with many employees and it is impossible to keep track of all of them".....yeah that sounds about right.

39 ^ | v Reply Share >



LookOverThere → menemshaman · 2 months ago

At the minimum this story shows upper level management was aware of what was going on before they claimed they did. It also shows there was no follow-up to make sure it stopped. The story is not adding up so far and I doubt this was just low level employees. Still lots of questions to answer.

26 ^ | v Reply Share >



menemshaman → LookOverThere · 2 months ago

I agree with your thoughts. It will be interesting to see just how far Obama's

people will go to try and diffuse this ticking time bomb.

11 ^ | ~ Reply Share

way2confused → menemshaman · 2 months ago
They'll just ignore and deny it, as will their sycophant media.

LookOverThere → menemshaman · 2 months ago
So far their handling of this incites panic.


way2confused → LookOverThere · 2 months ago
Did you see his presser with Cameron yesterday? His eyes were blinking a million miles an hour—an indication he is lying. Like THAT would be news. I believe absolutely nothing that comes out of his mouth.

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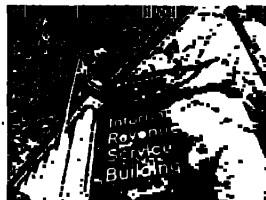
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IRS less prone to pry if lawyers were on case Ex. A-1(11)

James Pilcher, The Cincinnati Enquirer 4:34 p.m. EDT June 22, 2013

A review of nine groups in Ohio and Kentucky that sought nonprofit status shows two that didn't have legal representation were subjected to subsequent inappropriate questions from the IRS.



(Photo: Susan Walsh, AP)

CINCINNATI — When it comes to being targeted by the Internal Revenue Service, it appears that having a lawyer helps, a *Cincinnati Enquirer* review has found.

Of the nine groups from Ohio and Kentucky screened by the IRS Cincinnati office at the center of the ongoing controversy surrounding the agency, only two of those organizations applied for nonprofit status on their own. And both were subject to subsequent inappropriate questions and attention, while the other seven did not appear to suffer that fate.

Neither the Kentucky 912 Project out of Lexington nor the Ohio Liberty Coalition out of Columbus had legal representation from the start, and neither had substantial financial backing, while the other seven appeared on paper to be better represented and organized, leading at least one lawmaker to accuse the IRS of "bullying" smaller groups.

"This helped hold us hostage for nearly 2 1/2 years," said Eric Wilson, director of the Kentucky 912 Project, which eventually received legal help from the Washington-based conservative legal aid firm American Center for Law and Justice and received its nonprofit status approval earlier this year.

"It wasn't until we got representation ... that our application finally went through," Wilson said.

The other seven all applied using legal representation. While their nonprofit applications were delayed, they did not appear to get the additional level of scrutiny.

"They never asked us a single question, ever, and this application was approved faster than anyone else involved in this process that I've spoken to," said Chris Littleton, a West Chester political and public relations consultant who created the conservative group Ohioans for Healthcare Freedom Inc. in May 2011. The group was later renamed Ohio Rising. "And perhaps it's because we showed we had some teeth from the inception of the group that the IRS left us alone."

Saying 'all the right things'

There were nine groups total from the two states that applied to the IRS for nonprofit status as far back as 2010 that were approved through the Cincinnati office at the heart of the controversy. They were among a list of 200-plus groups released by the IRS soon after the controversy erupted last month. These groups all were processed and approved at the Cincinnati office after operations to examine nonprofit advocacy groups were centralized here.

The IRS has not said which groups on that list had been subject to the extra targeting and scrutiny. But the agency has said that it used terms such as "tea party" and "912 project" as part of the criteria for searching; both of the groups targeted regionally had those terms in their names.

IRS officials did not respond to requests for comment.

The Liberty Township Tea Party also applied without a lawyer and was also targeted with questions, including the now infamous question about its relationship with local conservative activist Justin Binik-Thomas, one of the few questionnaires that included an individual's name.

Other questions from regional groups included requests for donor lists and other relationships. Other examples of questions include the titles of books that group members were reading, what prayers are said at meetings and other more personal questions, although officials with OLC and Kentucky 912 Project say that their questions were not as intrusive.

There are anecdotes regarding legal representation nationally. Earlier this month, one anti-abortion group out of Iowa testified to Congress that it wasn't until they gained representation from a national Catholic-based legal aid firm that its nonprofit application went through.

"Fortunately we had some attorneys that helped us," Susan Martinek, president of the Coalition for Life of Iowa, testified to the House Ways and Means Committee on June 4. "But if we didn't have the attorneys, I don't know what would've happened."

Paul S. Ryan, a senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan watchdog group, said having a lawyer who specializes in nonprofit law can be key for winning tax-exempt status.

"Having a lawyer who knows this area ... will enable you to say all the right things on your application, regardless of what activities you engage in," Ryan said.

But Ryan said the application isn't the most important thing for the IRS to scrutinize – it's what happens after a group wins tax-exempt status that's important for agents to examine.

"What really matters is where the rubber hits the road ... when they are up and running, what activities are they engaging in," he said. "The Campaign Legal Center wants to see the IRS focus its resources on the big fish that have spent millions, or tens of millions of dollars, and not on the small mom-and-pop groups that (have) raised and spent very little money."

Was the IRS being a 'bully?'

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said that the vast majority of complaints about the targeting and subsequent questioning came from smaller groups as well.

"They were small groups with no full-time staff and no professional help that were just overwhelmed by the number and intrusiveness of the questions," Portman said. "That is one of the reasons they came to us ... and a number did drop out because of it."

"It almost seemed like the IRS felt like it could bully some of these smaller groups."

Littleton said he learned from previous experience. He was one of the founders of the Cincinnati Tea Party, and helped create the Ohio Liberty Coalition and filed the original paperwork for that group, which says it is an umbrella group for all tea party organizations in Ohio.

Littleton left the OLC soon after filing for nonprofit status, but the succeeding President Tom Zawistowski of the Portage County Tea Party outside Akron said he was stunned when IRS questions started rolling in: "My first thought was, 'What does this have to do with your tax-exempt status? They can't be serious. There must be some misunderstanding here.'"

Bewildered, Zawistowski asked OLC board members and connections who were in accounting and law for their opinion: Had they ever seen anything like this before? No one had.

Both the OLC and the Kentucky 912 Project turned to the ACLJ for help, with ACLJ senior counsel Jay Sekulow making the OLC the test case for the situation. Both groups eventually then received their nonprofit status approval earlier this year. ACLJ spokesman Gene Kapp said that his organization no longer represents the OLC, but still is working with the Kentucky 912 Project. The ACLJ declined to release the Kentucky 912 documents normally designated for public viewing, citing attorney-client privilege.

The ACLJ wound up representing 27 groups nationally, with 16 eventually receiving nonprofit status, 11 still waiting and two dropping out due to frustration with the system, Kapp said. The ACLJ is also suing the IRS on behalf of those 25 groups.

"And we have been inundated with requests for help from the other smaller conservative groups from around the country," Kapp said. "There have been some cases that have taken three years, and until we got involved, the IRS had not communicated with some of these groups for six to eight months."

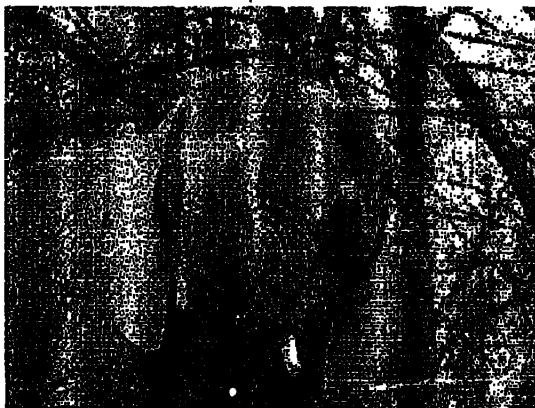
Contributing: Chrissie Thompson of The Enquirer, Gregory Korte of USA TODAY and Deirdre Shesgreen of the Gannett Washington bureau

**Screening Workshop
July 28, 2010**



Current Activities

- **Politics**



- **Look for names like**

Current Activities

- Tea Party



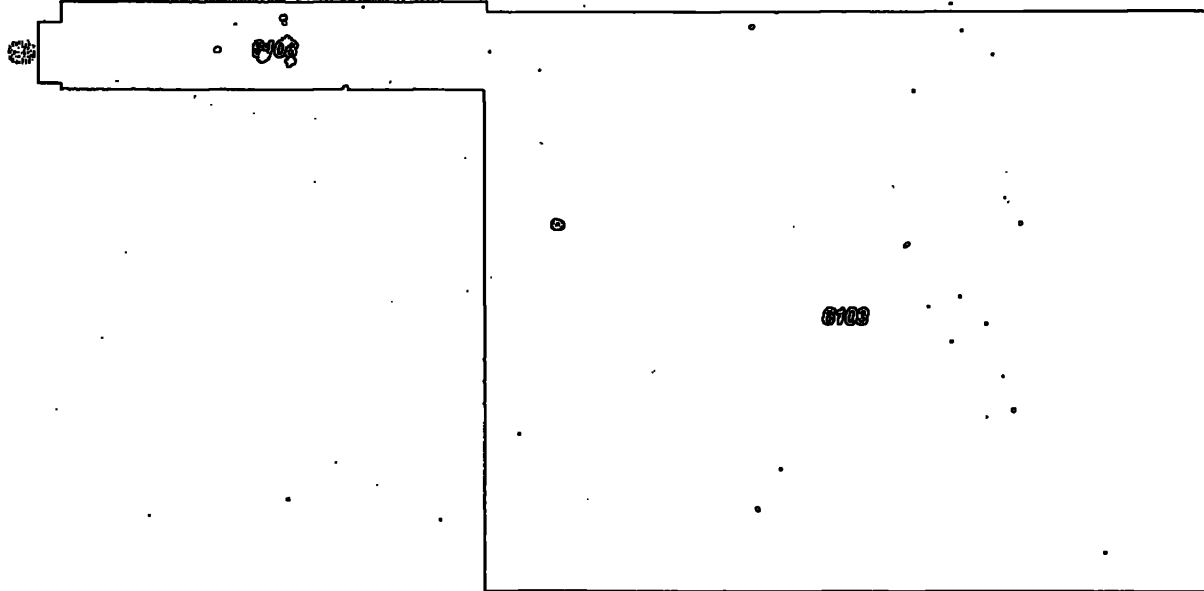
Current Activities

- Patriots
- 9/12 Project



Current Activities

- Progressive



Current Activities

- These organizations may file a Form 1023 or 1024
- Most will file as IRC 501(c)(4)

Current Activities

- **Concerns: May be more than 50% political, possible PAC (Political Action Committee)**

Screening Workshop Notes - July 28, 2010

1

Participants included members of the screening group, embedded screeners from Cincinnati, west coast screeners, selected secondary screeners, TB/GE BO Quality Assurance's Staff and Area 1 & 2 Managers. The workshop agenda, PowerPoint and attachments were presented to participants via email.

Topics and Highlights**Opening Statements: Screening Group Manager**

- Welcomed participants.
- Encouraged participants to email topics for inclusion in our next Workshop.
- Current workshop is to provide an update on current issues and concerns.
- Floor was turned over to Presenters. Topics/Presenters follow:

Healthcare Reform:

- Re-empathized items listed on the Healthcare Memorandum are subject to Mandatory Secondary Screening.
- Any reference to "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" and the "Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010" still requires Secondary Screening.
 - Secondary Screeners indicated that Health Care does not include the following:
 - Elderly Housing
 - Assisted Living
- New Topics/Phrases that require Secondary Screening include:
 - "Accountable Care" Organizations,
 - "Additional Medicare Payments to Physician Medicare based upon Quality Care."
- Any topic that you believe, or think, that it might be related to Health Care should be subject to Secondary Screening. "Err on the side of caution".
- VEBAs must be screened by Group 7824 and should not be screened out.
- Initial Screeners should not assign the T# for Health Care; utilize the Category # for Secondary Screening as presented on the new 51 Sheet and/or FEDS.

Organization filing after 27-Month their Formation:

- provided a brief summary as to why a secondary screening process was created.
- Pension Protection Act of 2006 created the legal requirement for organizations not required to file Form 990* to notify the IRS within three years of exemption. Failure to do so creates Automatic Revocation of Exemption.
 - *This requirement does not include Churches or Church-Related Organizations- and are not subject to the Automatic Revocation.
 - An opportunity for a one-time relief from revocation has been presented.
 - As a result automatic revocations have been delayed until January 2011.
 - Once effective automatic revocations will reflect ST 97.
- Three characteristics were identified that mandates transfer to Group 7822 for Secondary Screening and IDRS research.

- The emailed attachment outlines the overall process.
- [REDACTED] deferred additional statements and/or questions to [REDACTED] on yesterday's developments; how they affect the screening process and timeline.
- Concerns can be directed to [REDACTED] for additional research if necessary.

Current/Political Activities: [REDACTED]

- Discussion focused on the political activities of Tea Parties and the like - regardless of the type of application.
- If in doubt Err on the Side of Caution and transfer to 7822.
- Indicated the following names and/or titles were of interest and should be flagged for review:
 - 9/12 Project,
 - [REDACTED]
 - Progressive
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - Pink-Slip Program.
- [REDACTED] Tea Party Coordinator/Reviewer
 - Re-emphasize that applications with Key Names and/or Subjects should be transferred to 7822 for Secondary Screening. Activities must be primary.
 - "Progressive" applications are not considered "Tea Parties"

Disaster Relief: [REDACTED]

- Advise audience that buzz words or phrases include:
 - "X" Rescue
 - References to the Gulf Coast, Oil Spills,
- Reminded screeners that Disaster Relief is controlled by 7838, and then forwarded to Group 7827, for Secondary Screening.
- Denied Expedites wanted by initial screener:
 - Complete Expedite Denial CCR, place on left side of file.
 - Email [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] with specific reason why expedite was denied and disposition (i.e. AP, IP, 51).
 - Place Post-It on Orange Folder advising [REDACTED]
 - "Denied Expedite / Fwd to [REDACTED]"

Power of Attorneys: [REDACTED]

- Form 2848 that references 990, 941 or the like should be
 - Printed and annotate on the bottom per procedures
 - Documentation on TEDS should be made.
 - See Interim Guidance located on Public Folders.

Closing Sheets: [REDACTED]

- Closing Sheets should not cover pertinent info on the AIS sheet or EDS' 8327.
- Case Grade and Data (e.g. NTBEs) must be correctly presented and accurately depict the case's complexity and purpose.
 - Inaccurate presentations create processing delays.
 - [REDACTED] Mgr 7822 "Volumes of cases are graded incorrectly."
 - EDS and TEDS must Agree to achieve desired business results

Credit Counseling (CC)
[REDACTED]

- Re-strengthened impact that section 501(q) had on purely educational cases.
 - Cases are fully developed as 501(q) Credit Counseling Cases.
 - Key analysis is whether financial education and/or counseling activities are "substantial".
 - Cases with financial education and/or financial counseling- substantial or insubstantial are still subject to Secondary Screening until further notice.
 - Continue to document the analysis as "Substantial" or "Insubstantial" on the CC Check-sheet.
 - Feedback on cases received is in process.

TAG
[REDACTED]

- The New List will be completed and issued this week- approximately 7/30/10.
 - Sharing a Drive on the Server has created the delay/dilemma.
 - Monthly Emails will restart shortly after the List's distribution.
 - Listing will include the following:
 - Touch and Go, Emerging Issues and Issues to Watch For.
 - [REDACTED] Cases* (Puerto Rico based low-income housing) are considered "Potential Abusive Cases".
 - [REDACTED] Cases (Las Vegas, NV) should continue to be sent to TAG Group for re-screening
- *LCD referrals are in process since both have questionable practices.

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July 17, 2013

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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
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The Honorable Daniel Werfel
Principal Deputy Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Mr. Werfel:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and Committee on Ways and Means are continuing to investigate the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) inappropriate treatment of certain applicants for tax-exempt status. As a part of this ongoing investigation, the Committees have learned that the IRS Chief Counsel's office in Washington, D.C. has been closely involved in some of the applications. Its involvement and demands for information about political activity during the 2010 election cycle appears to have caused systematic delays in the processing of Tea Party applications. To better understand the IRS Chief Counsel's office role in this matter, we write to prioritize our outstanding document request as well as to request additional documents.

During recent interviews of IRS employees, including Carter Hull, a tax law specialist and self-described 501(c)(4) expert with 48 years of experience at the IRS, the Committees were informed that Tea Party applications under his review were, in an unusual turn of events, referred to the Chief Counsel's office for further review at the direction of Lois Lerner, the head of the Exempt Organizations division. The IRS Chief Counsel is one of two politically appointed officials in the agency.¹

In April 2010, Mr. Hull was instructed to scrutinize certain Tea Party applications by one of his supervisors in Washington.² According to Mr. Hull, these applications were used as "test" cases and assigned to him because of his expertise and because IRS leadership in Washington was "trying to find out how [the IRS] should approach these organizations, and how [the IRS] should handle them."³ In the course of working on these applications, Mr. Hull requested additional information from the taxpayers through what is termed a development letter. Once he

¹ 26 U.S.C. § 7803.

² Transcribed Interview of Carter Hull, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. at 23 (June 14, 2013). [hereinafter Hull]

³ *Id.* at 24-29.

received responses, based on his decades of experience, he determined he had enough facts to make recommendations whether to approve or deny the applications.⁴

Q: [B]ased on those responses, were you able to have enough facts to make a determination as to whether they had engaged in a permissible amount of political activity?

A: It was my opinion that, yes, I did have enough facts.

Q: So based on your 48 years of experience and your expertise in 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(4)s you felt that those responses they sent to you had a sufficient amount of facts for you to evaluate whether they engaged in a permissible amount of political activity?

A: Correct.⁵

However, Mr. Hull's recommendations were not carried out. Instead, according to Michael Seto, the head of Mr. Hull's unit in Washington, Ms. Lerner, gave an atypical instruction that the Tea Party applications undergo special scrutiny that included an uncommon multi-layer review that involved a top advisor to Lerner as well as the Chief Counsel's office. During an interview, Mr. Seto told the Committees' staff:

[Ms. Lerner] sent me email saying that when these cases need to go through multi-tier review and they will eventually have to go [through her staff] and the chief counsel's office.⁶

Indeed, according to Mr. Hull, sometime in the winter of 2010-2011, the senior advisor to Lois Lerner told him the IRS Chief Counsel's office would need to review these applications. Mr. Hull also indicated this was the first time he sent an application to Ms. Lerner's senior advisor. Hull testified about how this was unusual and a break from ordinary procedure:

Q: Have you ever sent a case to [the senior advisor to Ms. Lerner] before?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: This is the only case you remember?

A: Uh-huh.

Q: Correct?

A: This is the only case I remember sending directly to [the senior advisor

⁴ *Id.* at 33-38.

⁵ *Id.* at 97-98.

⁶ Transcribed Interview of Michael Seto, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. at 34 (July 11, 2013).

to Ms. Lerner].⁷

Q: Did [the senior advisor to Ms. Lerner] indicate to you whether she agreed with your recommendations?

A: She did not say whether she agreed or not. She said it should go to Chief Counsel.

Q: The IRS Chief Counsel?

A: The IRS Chief Counsel.⁸

After substantial delay, finally, in August 2011, the Chief Counsel's office held a meeting with Mr. Hull, Ms. Lerner's senior advisor, and other Washington officials to discuss these test applications.⁹ During the intervening months, these applications lingered. Moreover, months after Mr. Hull presented his recommendations to his superiors, the Chief Counsel's office instructed Mr. Hull that they needed updated information to evaluate the applications. Since the applications were up-to-date months earlier, when Mr. Hull made his recommendations, Mr. Hull found this request from the Chief Counsel's office surprising. The Chief Counsel's office also discussed the possibility of a template letter to develop all the Tea Party applications, including those being held in Cincinnati. Mr. Hull explained that all the applications were different and that a template was impractical.

Q: Did [the IRS Chief Counsel's office] give you any feedback on these [test] cases?

A: Yes, they did.

Q: What did they say?

A: I needed more information. I needed more current information.

Q: What do you mean, more current information?

A: They had it for a while and the information wasn't as current as it should be. They wanted more current information.¹⁰

Q: And what does that mean practically for you?

⁷ Hull at 44.

⁸ *Id.* at 45.

⁹ *Id.* at 47-49; IRS1341.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 50-51.

A: That means that probably I should send out another development letter.

Q: A second development letter?

A: A second development letter. I think also at that time there was a discussion of having a template made up so that all the cases could be worked in the same manner. And my reviewer and I both said a template makes absolutely no difference because these organizations, all of them are different. A template would not work.

Q: You and [your reviewer, an IRS tax law specialist] agreed that a template wouldn't help?

A: But [an IRS tax law specialist] said he would prepare it, along with [an IRS Chief Counsel employee] and whoever else was from Chief Counsel. I never saw it.¹¹

Q: When you say all of these cases, are you referring to Tea Party cases?

A: How the Tea Party cases should be worked. And I assume that would be the ones in Cincinnati too, since we would provide guidance when we were able to come up with how we were going to act.¹²

Q: Just one follow-up question to that. Did you have any reaction to when they told you they needed current information?

A: I sort of -- I was taken aback.

Q: Why were you taken aback?

A: Because I hadn't had the case for a while. I couldn't ask if I didn't have the case.¹³

It appears the IRS never resolved the test applications. Indeed, Mr. Hull told Committee staff:

Q: Sir, as you sit here today, do you know the status of those [test] cases?

A: Only from hearsay, sir.

¹¹ *Id.* at 50-51.

¹² *Id.* at 51-52.

¹³ *Id.* at 55-56.

Q: What do you know?

A: [REDACTED]

Q: Still open as far as today?

A: As far as I know. I do not know for certain.

Q: So for 3 years since they filed application?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: [REDACTED]

A: [REDACTED]¹⁴

Mr. Hull's supervisor, Ronald Shoemaker, provided insight on the type of additional information sought by the Chief Counsel's office—namely, information about the applicants' political activities leading up to the 2010 election. While Mr. Shoemaker indicated he did not think the request for election information was unreasonable, the fact that applications had still not been resolved raises important questions about the Chief Counsel's office interest in the applicants' 2010 election activity. In an interview with the Committees' staff, Mr. Shoemaker testified:

A: [REDACTED]

Q: [REDACTED]

A: Counsel was not very forthcoming on what their opinion was. But we discussed it to some extent and they indicated that they wanted more development of possible political activity or political intervention right before the election period; that that had not occurred and that that's what was missing.

Q: So they wanted more information about the activities [REDACTED] —

A: Of [REDACTED] right before the election period. In other words, immediately before.¹⁵

¹⁴ *Id.*, at 58.

¹⁵ Transcribed Interview of Ronald Shoemaker, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. at 105 (June 21, 2013).

Q: Sir, as you sit here today, do you know the status of the test cases that were sent up since April 2010?

A: The [test] cases we're talking about?

Q: Correct.

A: Yes. [REDACTED]

Q: Okay.

A: [REDACTED]

Q: Still pending as of today. As far as you know.

A: As far as [sic] I know.

Q: Over 3 years since the application was filed.

A: Absolutely.

Q: Is that an atypical time period?

A: That's a very long time period.¹⁶

The lengthy and unusual review of the test applications in Washington created a bottleneck and caused the delay of other Tea Party applications in Cincinnati. Indeed, multiple IRS employees in Cincinnati have told the Committee they were waiting on guidance from Washington on how to move the applications forward. In an interview with the Committee's staff, Elizabeth Hofacre, the coordinator of the Tea Party applications in Cincinnati, testified:

Q: When you sent these letters out, the letters that Carter Hull approved, and you would get responses from the taxpayers, all of those responses you would then forward on to Carter Hull?

A: That is correct.

Q: Is that unusual?

¹⁶ *Id.* at 108-109.

A: Very unusual. I have never known of an agent to do that in the past or to this time.

Q: Even for other Emerging Issues?

A: I am not aware of any.

Q: Do you why he wanted those responses?

A: No. I would have to speculate.

Q: So these cases are still assigned to you though, right?

A: They were sitting on my number and I was essentially a front person, because I had no autonomy or no authority to act on them without Carter Hull's influence or input.¹⁷

Mr. Hull testified that he could not provide advice to Ms. Hofacre because his hands were tied by his superiors in Washington. Therefore, none of these applications were approved or denied during the time he worked with Ms. Hofacre on the cases.¹⁸ Hull testified:

Q: Was it your role with the additional material to evaluate the case and determine whether it could be exempt or not?

A: That was what I was supposed to do but I couldn't do that because I had no idea which way we were going. I had to get my own cases done to be able to tell [Cincinnati] which direction the Service was taking and to be able to give guidance that was correct and proper as opposed to guessing.

Q: And you say you have no idea which direction we were going. Who is the "we" in that sentence?

A: The way the Service was going.

Q: The Internal Revenue Service?

A: Whether they were going to deny or exempt these organizations.¹⁹

Moreover, in an interview with the Committees' staff, the head of the Cincinnati office, Cindy Thomas, testified that she continuously asked senior Washington officials when guidance was coming, but it was to no avail. Ms. Thomas told the Committee:

¹⁷ Transcribed Interview of Elizabeth Hofacre, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. at 37 (May 31, 2013).

¹⁸ Hull at 108.

¹⁹ Hull at 104-105.

Q: So the cases that [Cincinnati employee] was working from October 2010 through September 2011 were still in kind of a holding pattern awaiting guidance from Washington? Is that right?

A: That's correct.

Q: And were there additional applications that were coming in at this time?

A: To my knowledge, yes.

Q: And those were also still in a holding pattern?

A: That's correct.

Q: Pending guidance from Washington?

A: That's correct.²⁰

To better understand the IRS Chief Counsel's office involvement with the Tea Party applications, we request the following documents that the Committees have already requested be given priority.

1. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Internal Revenue Service Chief Counsel's office, employees of the Department of the Treasury General Counsel's office, or employees of the Executive Office of the President between February 1, 2010, and the present referring or relating to tax-exempt applications.

In addition, we request the following documents by noon on July 29, 2013:

1. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Internal Revenue Service, employees of the Department of the Treasury, or employees of the Executive Office of the President between February 1, 2010, and the present referring or relating to the 2010 election.
2. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Internal Revenue Service, employees of the Department of the Treasury, or employees of the Executive Office of the President between February 1, 2010, and the present referring or relating to the 2010 Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.
3. All documents and communications between or among employees of the Internal Revenue Service, employees of the Department of the Treasury, or outside parties

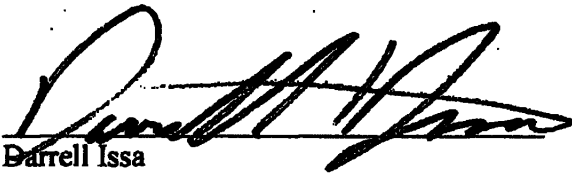
²⁰ Transcribed Interview of Lucinda Thomas, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. at 136-138 (June 28, 2013).

between February 1, 2010, and the present referring or relating to the tax-exempt status of Tea Party groups.

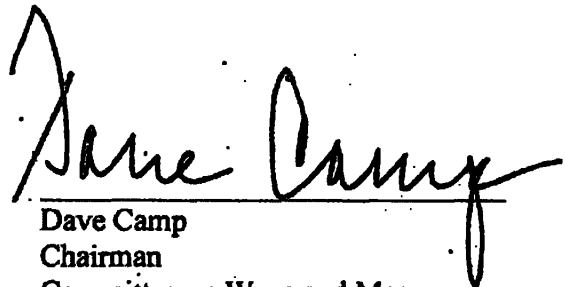
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If you have any questions about this request, please contact David Brewer or Kristin Nelson of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform staff at (202) 225-5074 and Mark Epley or Chris Armstrong with the Committee on Ways and Means staff at (202) 225-5522. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

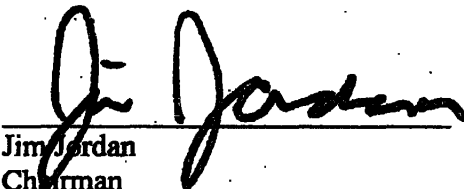
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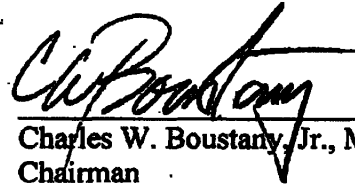
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By PATRICK O'CONNOR



Joshua Anderson for The Wall Street Journal

Kevin Kookogey of Tennessee filed for tax-exempt status for his group, Linchpins of Liberty, in 2010. He's still waiting for official word.

Kevin Kookogey launched a nonprofit group in 2010 to mentor young people in conservative political philosophy. The Nashville, Tenn., entertainment lawyer lined up a \$30,000 donation and planned to raise more once the Internal Revenue Service granted his tax-exempt status.

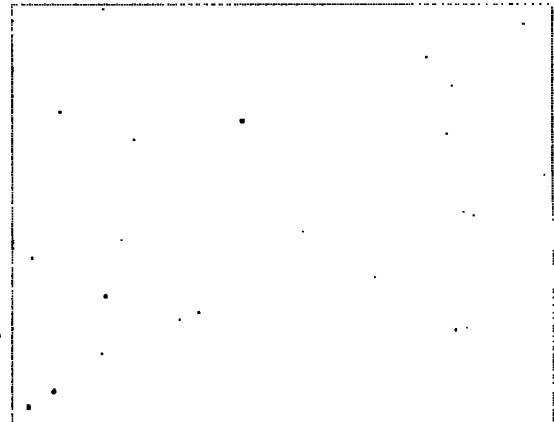
It never did.

Instead; over the course of the next year, the IRS sent letters asking for additional information, from the names of his donors to people who had participated in his events and copies of his speeches and training manuals. In the interim, his seed money dried up.

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Mr. Kookogey's group, Linchpins of Liberty, is one of as many as 400 groups, a number of which had



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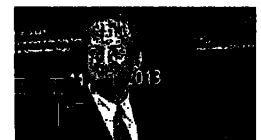
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conservative goals, whose nonprofit status was scrutinized by the IRS in what has become a growing Washington scandal.

One Kentucky group considered disbanding. A tea-party group in Texas curtailed its get-out-the-vote drive. Dozens of others were saddled with legal fees and hours of unspecial work to deal with the IRS requests.

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Report from the Inspector General says the IRS used 'inappropriate criteria' to review applications from tea party and other groups seeking to qualify as tax-exempt 'social welfare' organizations. Stobhan Hugues updates the story.

An independent report released Tuesday said the IRS was justified in subjecting a majority of the applications in question to increased scrutiny while criticizing the agency for using "inappropriate criteria" to review them. The Justice Department, meanwhile, opened a criminal probe of the treatment of some groups.

According to interviews with more than a half-dozen applicants, the groups filing for nonprofit status sought to solidify their organizations, as well as discounts for services such as hotels that come with the designation and—most importantly for many—the ability to shield donors from disclosing their contributions.

Each of the IRS inquiries followed a similar pattern: The groups waited months or in some cases years to hear back. The agency asked for information about the mission and people involved

The investigation into the IRS's targeting of conservative groups has revealed that high-ranking IRS officials knew as early as 2011 of the practice. John McKinnon reports.

with the group, including board members, donors and speakers at its events. One Ohio group was asked to write a synopsis of a 350-page book its members had studied. Groups were given two weeks to reply.

Some groups complied with the requests. Many didn't. Some groups had the money to hire lawyers. Many didn't. Many of the groups were politically active. Some weren't.

Eric Wilson, leader of the Kentucky 9/12 Project, said his all-volunteer organization in December 2010 filed for tax-exempt status to raise money for occasional events, such as book parties and rallies. He said his group generally bars politicians and once turned away Sen. Rand Paul when the Republican was campaigning for the seat he eventually won in Kentucky.

The day Mr. Wilson received the formal follow-up letter from the IRS in February 2012, he gathered board members in his living room and the group agreed not to comply with the IRS request, because doing so would violate the limited-government principles on which they formed their loose-knit affiliation. They sent a letter telling the agency they wouldn't comply with its requests.

Last November, the group considered disbanding, but decided to trudge on, if only to fight the IRS. The group received its approval this past April. "The IRS almost won," Mr. Wilson said. "They almost wore us down."

Some groups said the IRS inquires made it harder to raise money, because donors didn't want to run afoul of federal tax collectors.

"Our donors dried up," said Toby Marie Walker, who runs the Waco Tea Party, which filed for tax-exempt status in July 2010 and didn't receive approval until this past March. "It was intimidating and time-consuming."

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The Waco group scrapped plans to have a Tax Day rally this year because it didn't have enough money. Ms. Walker said the distraction forced the group to limit its 2012 voter-turnout operations.

The Richmond (Va.) Tea Party, which filed for tax-exempt status at the end of 2009, complied with IRS requests for additional information when the agency responded to its petition in September 2012.

The agency sent the Richmond Tea Party a letter with 12 questions. The group's response ran more than 500 pages. The IRS followed up with 53 additional questions. The Richmond Tea Party chose to answer some and not others because they "weren't appropriate," said Bruce Jaggard, chairman of the group. The agency granted tax-exempt status in December, three years after the initial request.

The episode cost the Richmond Tea Party \$17,000 in legal fees, Mr. Jaggard said. It also swallowed time the all-volunteer network would have devoted to voter turnout, outreach in black and Latino neighborhoods and other events to highlight the constitution and "the concept of liberty."

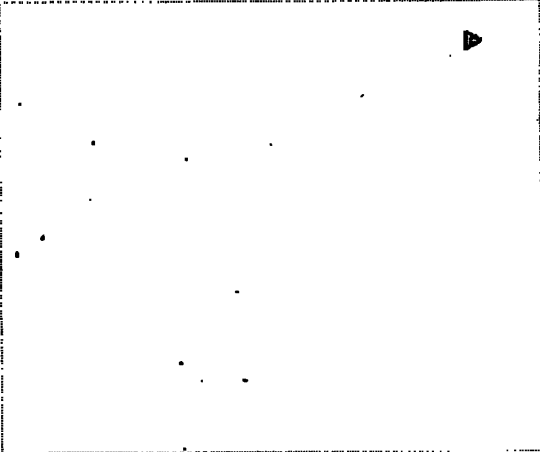
When Mr. Kookogey launched Linchpins of Liberty, he had secured a commitment for \$30,000 from a nonprofit group that gives money to a wide range of causes. But after the IRS inquiry dragged on, the group eventually rescinded its offer, telling Mr. Kookogey to apply again once he ironed out his tax status.

Mr. Kookogey said he made regular attempts to contact the case officer in charge of his request. In December 2011, he finally got through to someone in the Cincinnati office and asked when he could expect a response. The agent said, "We are waiting on guidance from our superiors as to your organization and similar organizations," Mr. Kookogey recalled.

He received another letter this week asking for information he told the agency he has no plans to divulge, including a request to name his donors. "I'm thinking, gosh, I'm one person," he said. "Am I really that much of a threat that they need to shut me down?"

Write to Patrick O'Connell at Patrick.oconnor@wsj.com

A version of this article appeared Monday, July 8, 2013, on page A4 in the C.B. column of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: "Group Proves Tax Battle's Toll."

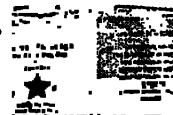


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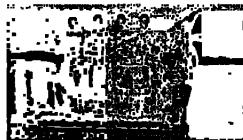
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Politics



Carter

Hull Facebook

Tea party group targeted as an example by Carter C. Hull: Our members are afraid to send in donations

4:05 PM 06/11/2013

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The tea party group targeted by infamous Washington-based IRS lawyer Carter C. Hull said that its members are now afraid to send in donations, for fear that their names will be linked to conservative politics in the view of the federal government.

"It takes some courage to stand up to stand up to what President Obama wants to," Albuquerque Tea Party president Rick Harbaugh told The Daily Caller, adding that the federal tax agency's pursuit of tea party and conservative groups caused his organization financial hardship.

As The Daily Caller reported, Hull, a registered Democrat, was fingered by two employees of the IRS Cincinnati office as the overseer of the agency's targeting of conservative groups. Hull instructed Cincinnati-based IRS employee Elizabeth Hofacre to target tea party groups and provided her a copy of a letter he wrote to a conservative group requesting additional information in an audit. "I was essentially a front person, because I had no autonomy or no authority to act on [applications] without Carter Hull's influence or input," Hofacre told congressional investigators.

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Hull wrote and signed a letter to the Albuquerque Tea Party dated April 21, 2010 requesting additional information in an audit with ten specific questions related to the group's training materials, the content of its website, and its relationship with other local groups, including the University of New Mexico College Republicans and the happy-hour network "Liberty on the Rocks." At least five different IRS offices across the country pressed conservative groups for similar information.

"Our members are very concerned about making donations if their name is attached to it. I've gotten a lot of calls. I assure people that we have bylaws to protect the people we work with. We don't keep lists, so there's no way for us to report our donors. That has been an issue. I think there is some fear of getting involved with the tea party," Rick Harbaugh, president of the Albuquerque Tea Party, told The Daily Caller. Harbaugh added that he only sent the names of his group's board of directors.

"We gave them all the names of our board members but not of our regular members or volunteers or

DBCS 285

supporters," Harbaugh said.

Hull's April 2010 letter to the group was extensive.

Tags: [Carter Hull](#), [IRS](#), [Tea party](#)

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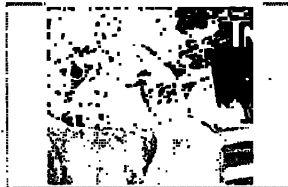
Coffee and politics and audits

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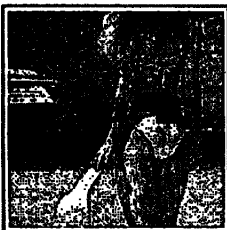
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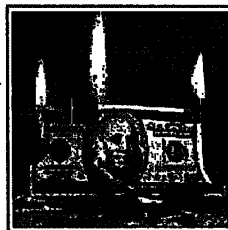
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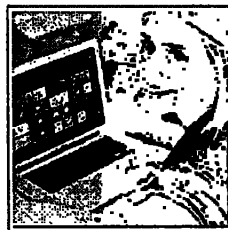
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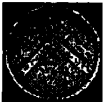
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HeadHunter54 · a month ago

That was the endgame of IRS intimidation, to prevent donations. PERIOD.....

16 ^ | ▾ Reply Share ›

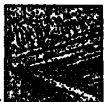


Ioshombre · a month ago

For the dimbulbs who can't quite get it together, that was the whole flaming point. Illegal, smegal, the IRS scares the bejesus out of the donors, the IRS says "oops, our bad," and promises not to do it again. Only a stone fool or an Obot would believe them and that was the purpose of this exercise.

Unless somebody in the IRS or the government experiences some personal pain (which is as likely as the sun rising in the west), nobody is going to take their apology (however grudgingly given) seriously.

9 ^ | ▾ Reply Share ›



BMF · a month ago

They need to look into filing a civil law suit against Hull.

This would do one of two things. Either Hull was acting on his own and needs to be held responsible or Hull was acting on higher orders and he will likely spill the beans to avoid prosecution.

Unfortunately, small tea party organizations don't have the same unlimited resources the government has to pursue you into a hellish nightmare.

13 ^ | 1 ▾ Reply Share ›



RichPorardo → BMF · a month ago

Third possible result . . . Hull gets "Vince Fostered".

1 ^ | ▾ Reply Share ›



JulianG3 → BMF · a month ago

A member of the MD Bar could also file a complaint against this guy.

^ | v Reply Share >



riseabove · a month ago

Seems to me Cummings is the one portraying all kinds of opinions and emotions, not Issa. Cummings has gone from one end of the spectrum to the other. Issa has shown time and again that he can act in a nonpartisan manner. I've seen him interviewed numerous times on television and he isn't given to premature conclusions or emotional outbursts. He appears to conduct his investigations in a methodical and fair way.

Either somebody spanked Cummings or he's afraid somebody's going to spank him. This is what you get when you elect politicians who are guided by constituencies rather than principles.

8 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



badbadlibs · a month ago

Democrats have become nothing more then smarmy, third rate, banana republic tyrants. Every. Last. One.

7 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



MicahStone · a month ago

"Tea party group targeted as an example by Carter C. Hull: Our members are afraid to send in donations"

...and OBOZO once again brings out his "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" banner.

7 ^ | 2 v Reply Share >



acers2 · a month ago

If there is one thing Hull, needs, it's a board up side his stupid looking face. That's exactly what Hull and the IRS done to the Tea Party. What I'm wondering is, where is Hull's, Organ Grinder? Ohhhhhh, I know, he's in the White House!

5 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Citizen Loring · a month ago

They shouldn't let the IRS thugs intimidate them.

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



Kakarot → Citizen Loring · a month ago

Rad, you're kind of missing the point.

^ | v Reply Share >



johngaltfla.com · a month ago

Of course this and the NSA scandal are tied together. Do the Nixon math folks DBCS 288

The NSA Scandal Explains how Mitt Romney Lost the Election

<http://johngaltfla.com/wordpre...>

2 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



JEANNIEMAC2 · a month ago

Purchase postal money orders with cash. Sign with a "signature". Mail. No return address on envelope. No paper trail.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



supie · a month ago

Why are these teabaggers ashamed to have their name connected to the political organization they are donating money to... Of course, the real reason these fruitcakes are not sending money anymore is because the tea party is circling the drain... close to being a footnote of history, and a small one at that... give your money to the Salvation Army.

4 ^ | 9 v Reply Share >



badbadlibs → supie · a month ago

You'd be the first one crying to your mommy (you do have one of those, right?) if it was YOU being audited because of your political beliefs or had your tax returns posted on line. You people are nothing but cowards.

9 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



tpc4545 → supie · a month ago

you're a good example has to why the country is going in the sewer,your kind can't think past the free stuff.Do you work or live in mommy cellar?

6 ^ | 2 v Reply Share >



supie → tpc4545 · a month ago

You know, you teabaggers were so proud a couple of years ago, braying about all "the little folk" that were building your new political movement... hundreds of thousands of people sending in 5, 10 - 20 dollars at a time... and now - you tell us

the I R S is auditing you for 20 bucks ? The I R S is after the big wig thugs that took the money from you idiots in the first place... you satisfied ? and did you learn anything ?

1 ^ | 3 v Reply Share >



putthehammerdown → supie · a month ago

It's not shame, it's pure unadulterated fright at What The IRS Has Done, and can & will

DBCS 289

do, it allowed to continue.

Only a Progressive would slam someone who is really, truly frightened of what Big Gov't has, can, and will do, if it is let off it's chain.

You just go on and slam 'em. Pray the day never comes when it's you getting anally-probed, and people who can have you locked up are 'telling' you what you can and cannot do. [People that you never ever voted for, yet can make up rules that become Laws]

Your posts are front and center examples of how public education in this country is not working out so well. Congratulations on this 'honor', and by all means, wear it & brag it up, proudly.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



supie → putthehammerdown · a month ago

Thank you.

^ | v Reply Share >



BoJester · a month ago

Aaaah, teabaggers AFRAID to donate to conservatard groups? Guess they must not want to take a tax deduction for contributing to ignorance and stupid people party politics. In a word... GOOD.

Hopefully more teabaggers will follow this groups lead, and cease all funding t the various teabag parties.

1 ^ | 8 v Reply Share >



badbadlibs → BoJester · a month ago

I've always wondered something about liberal democrat, boot licking idiots such as yourself....did you take lessons on stupidity or does it come natural?

North Korea called, they miss you.

7 ^ | 1 v Reply Share >



BoJester → badbadlibs · a month ago

Too stupid to comprehend the gist of the article are you? Reduced to personal attack and feeble name-calling. Aaaah yes, the conservatard war on education claims another victim.

^ | 2 v Reply Share >



badbadlibs → BoJester · a month ago

Did I get on your last nerve? Ha ha....Oh wait, you things don't have nerves..

It's fun messing with wilful morons! :-)

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



BoJester → badbadlibs · a month ago.

You must be feeling very foolish as you walk around with **DBCS 290** Simb:

~~YOU MUST BE FEELING VERY FOOLISH AS YOU WALK AROUND WITH YOUR HEAD TIGHTLY~~
secured in your rectum. They sell novelty trophies depicting that very scenario. You must be a multiple winner.

^ | v Reply Share ›



DemCrazyLies → BoJester · a month ago

Nice name Barack Obama Jester huh. So in your feeble, double standard, progressive, Organizing for Action mind you think political targeting is Good?

Well if thats the case lets just see what happens to your King Obozo after the 2014 Elections.

Dont worry we wont play by your third world country Alinsky tactics(you know the Alinsky courses Obama taught as a jr. professor), we will just impeach the constitution breaking, lying, forked tongue, double talking, Mans country member, idiot, king you love...

Tell Reggie Love and Larry Sinclair hello.

6 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



BoJester → DemCrazyLies · a month ago

Tsk, tsk, tsk, you are an angry little low intellect goober aren't you? Reduced to personal attack because you are too stupid to have a coherent thought about the article. Hopefully you are unable to breed and re-produce, there are enough conservatard idiots running around loose.

2 ^ | 5 v Reply Share ›



DemCrazyLies → BoJester · a month ago

Please, Take your Alinsky BS back to Chicago. You and your ilk are mentally weak and have to use lies, smears and distractions to get your way.

2 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



BoJester → DemCrazyLies · a month ago

So the conservatard war on education has claimed you as another victim? You are proof that conservatardism is hazardous to the health of this nation.

^ | 2 v Reply Share ›



DemCrazyLies → BoJester · a month ago

USC is a bad college compared to yours I'm sure.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless Phone

2 ^ | v Reply Share ›



BoJester → DemCrazyLies · a month ago

And yet you are compelled to continue make moronic posts? I guess I

DBC's 291

now own you and your liberal arts degree (really?) from USC. The school must have really needed tuition to accept you.

^ | 1 v Reply Share >



DemCrazyLies → BoJester · a month ago

Isolate freeze and attack. Standard Alinsky. I think America gets it. Liberals are so smart and conservs. Idiots. Great except Detroit and Chicago prove progressive policies don't work. Texas and Virginia prove coserv. Values do work. My bottom line Id rather be stupid than be you.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless Phone

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



badbadlibs → BoJester · a month ago

The only problem, (ok, it's not the only problem) with your contention is, it's you leftists that have destroyed any semblance of a proper education in this nation.

It's liberalism that has destroyed many other nations, America is just the last on the list.

Democrats were decent people until....nah...they never were...carry on.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



BoJester → badbadlibs · a month ago

And yet you are a conservatard? very dumb indeed.

Please pull your head from your rectum before you make any more feeble posts.

^ | v Reply Share >



almostsixty → DemCrazyLies · a month ago

I seriously doubt you ever read Alinsky.

^ | 1 v Reply Share >



DemCrazyLies → almostsixty · a month ago

Oh I know you have read Alinsky. Hello Chicago. OFA IS A BUNCH OF SPINELESS SYCOPHANTS.

Democrats= Hypocrisy on crack with:

1. NSA Phone Tapping- oops Obama was against it before he was for it.
2. NSA PRISM- collecting all digital data on everyone- Overreach of Patriot act and Obama was against it before he was for it.
3. Guantanamo- That was closed years ago right? Oh crap Liar in chief didnt do that.
4. Transparency-Obama said Bush was secretive in patriot act? Uh ohh Obama wont release search warrant by FISA court.

5. Wam. Obama was against war, thats why he illegally DBCS 292-6

Targeted tea party group: Our members are afraid to donate | The Daily Caller

5. vva's- Obama was against war, that's why he illegally ran around taken out and Islamist installed.

Hows arab spring doing?- Hows turkey working out for you

6. Obamacare- Obama said prices will go down. How about 146% increase in Ca and 88% Increase in Ohio? Hows that working out?

7. Economy- Arnericans have a 49.3% workplace participatlon rate. The lowest rate since the 60's when most mothers were stay at home. Also Amerioans have lest \$7000 per hoasehold per year under your king.

see more

2 ^ | v Reply Share >



badbadlibs → almostsixty · a month ago

I don't doubt you embrace him and believe his vile book.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



badbadlibs → BoJester · a month ago

You were looking in the mirror when you wrote that, moron. You can't take the truth, you see your vicious un-American party going to hell in a handbasket because of your inept leadership and you come here to let off...or in your case, get off.

^ | v Reply Share >



SWohio → BoJester · a month ago

And you will feel the same way when a Republican adiministration uses the IRS to target you, won't you?

I know we are looking forward to hearing you support it when you becme the target.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



BoJester → SWohio · a month ago

Actually, I don't want any group with a political agenda which means liberal, conservative, or libertarian, to have tax exempt status. If the issue or the candidate is important enough, then supporters should pay for the promotion. Politics masquarding as social welfare or education is just wrong.

^ | 1 v Reply Share >



Paul of Alexandria → BoJester · a month ago

Irrelevant. The tax laws say what they say, and both sides must be allowed to take equal advantage of them.

1 ^ | v Reply Share >



putthehammerdown → BoJester · a month ago

Then just stop taxing the donations of any of them, of any stripe, and call it GOOD.

Sound like a plan to you?

^ | v Reply Share >



BoJester → putthehammerdown · a month ago

No, tax them all, to the limit. After all, rich conservatards like the krotch bros. can afford it.

^ | v Reply Share >



putthehammerdown → BoJester · a month ago

For your info, You Do Not get an income reduction [or tax credit] on your Yearly Tax forms for contributing to a 501-C-4 org. The exemption is for the org. to not be taxed on any of the donations, as income.

Go and look it up, doofus.

Oh and next time there's a rally near you, go and attend, and tell one of them they're 'TeaBagging'.

Bring Band-Aids and iodine,... you'll be needin' 'em.....and don't forget those pesky grass stains on your bum.....

^ | v Reply Share >



al1949 · 25 days ago

There you have it! Government intimidation getting the job done the way they want it!

^ | v Reply Share >



leftyl7mc · a month ago

If you are afraid to donate or stand up for what you believe in then you are letting the libtards and progressives win. That's what all this is about in the first place besides the NSA already knows everything about you so what is there to lose at this point.

^ | v Reply Share >



disqus_TtWRhF647C · a month ago

Don't be a coward. Join or support a Tea party today. Don't let the crony progressives deny you your voice. I have no intention of being swayed by fear. Those on the left can kiss my you know what.

^ | v Reply Share >



Patriotson2 · a month ago

Carter Hull is the traitor to the American system of trust and honesty. He should be under prosecution for violating the rights of Americans and operating a dept. that encouraged intimidation; extortion; unlawful acts in order to do Obama's bidding to silence his enemy's and opposition. Next go to the source and prosecute Obama for sedition and treason. The NSA leaker should be awarded for revealing the sedition and tyranny our government is conducting against its own citizens. We want this socialist president to resign or be impeached.

^ | v Reply Share >



BloggerDave · a month ago

Be afraid... Be very afraid.....LOL...

^ | v Reply Share >



Adrian Vance · a month ago

They built the IRS for all the guys who missed the Gestapo.

See The Two Minute Conservative via Google or: <http://adrianvance.blogspot.co...> and when you speak ladies will swoon and liberal gentlemen will weep.

^ | v Reply Share >



Jim McCormack · a month ago

Hull and wife are Commuists

^ | v Reply Share >



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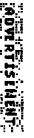
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June 20, 2013

Yes, IRS Harassment Blunted The Tea Party Ground Game

By Stan Veuger

The controversy over the IRS's harassment of conservative groups continues. President Obama's team continues to blame low-level bureaucrats. Some conservatives suspect a more sinister explanation: that the levers of government were used to attack an existential threat to the president's 2012 reelection. The president and his party dismiss this as a paranoid fantasy. The evidence, however, is enough to make one believe that targeting Tea Party groups would have been an effective campaign strategy going into the 2012 election cycle.

It is a well-known fact that the Tea Party movement dealt the president his famous "shellacking" in the 2010 mid-term election. Less well-known is the actual number of votes this new movement delivered—and the continuing effects these votes could have had in 2012 had the movement not been de-mobilized by the IRS.

In a new research paper, Andreas Mådestam (from Stockholm University), Daniel Shoag and David Yanagizawa-Drott (both from the Harvard Kennedy School), and I set out to find out how much impact the Tea Party had on voter turnout in the 2010 election. We compared areas with high levels of Tea Party activity to otherwise similar areas with low levels of Tea Party activity, using data from the Census Bureau, the FEC, news reports, and a variety of other sources. We found that the effect was huge: the movement brought the Republican

Party some 3-6 million additional votes in House races. That is an astonishing boost, given that all Republican House candidates combined received fewer than 45 million votes. It demonstrates conclusively how important the party's newly energized base was to its landslide victory in those elections, and how worried Democratic strategists must have been about the conservative movement's momentum.

The Tea Party movement's huge success was not the result of a few days of work by an elected official or two, but involved activists all over the country who spent the year and a half leading up to the midterm elections volunteering, organizing, donating, and rallying. Much of these grassroots activities were centered around 501(c)(4)s, which according to our research were an important component of the Tea Party movement and its rise.

The bottom line is that the Tea Party movement, when properly activated, can generate a huge number of votes—more votes in 2010, in fact, than the vote advantage Obama held over Romney in 2012. The data show that had the Tea Party groups continued to grow at the pace seen in 2009 and 2010, and had their effect on the 2012 vote been similar to that seen in 2010, they would have brought the Republican Party as many as 5 - 8.5 million votes compared to Obama's victory margin of 5 million.

President Obama's margin of victory in some of the key swing states was fairly small: a mere 75,000 votes separated the two contenders in Florida, for example. That is less than 25% of our estimate of what the Tea Party's impact in Florida was in 2010. Looking for a 1 to 2012 in 2010 undermining the Tea Party's efforts there must have seemed quite appealing indeed.

Unfortunately for Republicans, the IRS slowed Tea Party growth before the 2012 election. In March 2010, the IRS decided to single Tea Party groups out for special treatment when applying for tax-exempt status by flagging organizations with names containing "Tea Party," "patriot," or "9/12." For the next two years, the IRS approved the applications of only four such groups, delaying all others while subjecting the applicants to highly intrusive, intimidating requests for information regarding their activities, membership, contacts, Facebook posts, and private thoughts.

As a consequence, the founders, members, and donors of new Tea Party groups found



RealClearMarkets - Yes, IRS Harassment Blunted The Tea Party Ground Game

themselves incapable of exercising their constitutional rights, and the Tea Party's impact was muted in the 2012 election cycle. As Toby Marie Walker, who runs the Waco Tea Party, which filed for tax-exempt status in 2010 but didn't receive approval until two months ago, recounted recently: "Our donors dried up. It was intimidating and time-consuming." The Richmond Tea Party went through a similar ordeal, and was only granted tax-exempt status in December, right after the election—three years after its initial request. Its chairman explained the consequences: the episode cost the Richmond Tea Party \$17,000 in legal fees and swallowed time the all-volunteer network would have devoted to voter turnout, outreach in black and Latino neighborhoods and other events to highlight the constitution and "the concept of liberty."

It might be purely coincidental that the government targeted precisely this biggest threat to the president. It may just be that a bureaucracy dominated by liberals picked up on not-so-subtle dog whistles from its political leadership. Or, it might be that direct orders were given. In any case, it doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to note that the president's team was competent enough to recognize the threat from the Tea Party and take it seriously. The Obama campaign has made no secret of its efforts to revolutionize turnout models for the most recent campaign. Its remarkable competence turning out its own voters has been widely discussed, and it seems quite plausible that efforts to suppress the Republican vote would have been equally sophisticated.

We may never know to what extent the federal government diverted votes from Governor Romney and thus, how much it influenced the course of a presidential election in the world's oldest democracy. At the very least, however, Americans of all political persuasions can be forgiven for a little cynicism when the president has the nerve to say, as he did on May 5th in his commencement address to graduates of the Ohio State University: "You've grown up hearing voices that incessantly warn of government as nothing more than some separate, sinister entity that's at the root of all our problems. You should reject these voices." And that cynicism, that lack of trust in the country's governing institutions, becomes harmful quite easily: when the people are asked to have faith in the NSA's efforts to protect the nation from terrorist threats, for example.


Stan Veuger is an economist at the American Enterprise Institute.

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M Decci


Im not TP, but I was genuinely surprised in 2012 by their lack of participation. I wonder at the time, where are all those Tea Partiers that show so much strength, unity and impact in the 2010 elections? How could they carry out such a big sweep and now their presence is almost absent? After all it is not like things have changed much.

Well, there is the answer to that: IRS impeding them from doing their GOTV initiatives, while at the same time the government allowing millions illegal aliens to vote in states like Nevada and California. Powerful combination that one.

The whole thing was carefully coordinated and crafted by the Obamacamp. They realized that even after all the efforts made by their accomplices in the media of taming, ridiculing, demonizing the TPs, still wasn't enough since they still showed plenty strength in 2010. So next was to find a way to physically and technically prevent them from repeating that success in 2012. What to do? Use Admin resources that could identify their donors, their proselitizing activities and the finances needed to carry them out. So Voila! The IRS was that resource.

It is now clear like water that that is what the Obamacamp did.

2 weeks ago 46 Likes Like Reply



GladAsHell

RealClearMarkets - Yes, IRS Harassment Blunted The Tea Party Ground Game

It's all very convenient to claim that this was all a dastardly plot, and that the IRS "re-elected Obama", but it's self-serving nonsense. You're forgetting an inconvenient thing about non-presidential elections: Few people bother to show up to vote. Those that do vote tend to be older, more settled, more wealthy, and overall, far more conservative. Especially if a president has just been elected two years ago whose supporters are essentially expected to re-write the laws of physics and make the Mean Bad Republicans go away and magically support his agenda. That "failure" discourages naive liberal voters even more than they would be otherwise.

However, once the Tea Partiers get into power and start re-structuring states, the opposite occurs. Liberals get energized, and they start voting again. In many ways, the Tea Party's failure in 2012 was an ironic result of their dominating success in 2010.

The Tea Party "advantage" in 2010 was a fluke and a freak occurrence that is simply not sustainable in a high-turnout election.

Besides which, nothing the IRS did physically prevented donors from donating to any of these campaigns/groups. They could even do so anonymously, to groups with far more reach and power than any of these local groups that applied to the IRS for 501c4 status. Any wealthy individual who honestly feels "intimidated" by disclosure rules on political campaigns should not live in the USA—he/she should move to Russia, where nondisclosure and cronyism reigns supreme. If conservatives (or liberals, for that matter) truly withheld funds from political campaigns because they didn't want anyone to know that they were doing so... well, they have a problem with sunshine and openness, plain and simple.

2 weeks ago in reply to M Deccl 1 Like Like Reply



rhcrest

It wasn't just the donations, what this article fails to mention for some reason is that many of these people and their businesses were audited, sometimes repeatedly. That will suck the life out of anyone.

2 weeks ago in reply to GladAsHell 10 Likes Like Reply



hotscot

"allowing millions illegal aliens to vote"
Really? I'm solidly against illegals but what's your credible source on this?

2 weeks ago in reply to M Deccl Like Reply



CherylGodfrey

So in 2010, without any 501c34s, they had enough power and momentum to take over congress, but in 2010, because of IRS targeting a few filings that didn't exist in 2010, kept enough people from the polls to swing an entire presidential election? Doesn't really make much sense to me. None of the 501c34s have that kind of membership. The 2010 people weren't part of any particular organized group, but a mass enthusiasm fueled by opposition to Obamacare. When that faded away, so did their influence.

2 weeks ago in reply to M Deccl Like Reply



ajedrez

I think it is equally probably that the Obama campaign's voter demographics database and get out the vote effort was "supplemented" by data collected (using tax payer money) by the NSA. Only the naive would trust this administration after all of the lies that they have been caught telling.

2 weeks ago 37 Likes Like Reply



Soquel by the Creek, A Right-Leaning Radical Moderate (or something l...

While the IRS was "investigating" the Tea Party, "patriot", and generally ANY Conservative group, one hyper-political, highly-partisan group did receive their 501(c)(4) tax-free status—President Obama's Organizing for Action (OFA), created

RealClearMarkets - Yes, IRS Harassment Blunted The Tea Party Ground Game from his Organizing for America campaign organization.
<http://soquelbythecreek.blogspot...>

So much for "equal justice" under the Obama Administration.

2 weeks ago 25 Likes

Like Reply



Sashland

look at the re-election campaign records - the link is direct through 'bundlers'.

What was the campaign strategy against 'tea-party' groups? Is was through statements made in public that the 'tea party' was targeted. Who made the statements? P. Obama and D. Senators and Reps. - they gave public orders. This is directly analogous to the recent decision by a Judge that Obama had interfered in a military sexual harassment court case and prejudiced the trial by command interference. Obama is the ultimate leader of the IRS and he gave them public orders to target the 'tea party', just as they illegally did so. Go to the re-election campaign records - just like Nixon and Watergate...

2 weeks ago 18 Likes

Like Reply



Mike Buschke

This is the strongest reason yet to implement the Fair Tax.

<http://www.fairtax.org>

This does away with the IRS as we know it and also gets rid of all of the crooked Congressmen being bought off by special interests/corporations. Should appeal to both the left and the right...

2 weeks ago 13 Likes

Like Reply



John Morris

No. Before you support something you should 'think like a prog' and consider this question: "If I were a prog and facing the prospect of the Fair Tax being implemented, what would my response be?"

Well if I were a prog I'd be doing the Brier Rabbit bit and denouncing it while praying it passed. The Prebate is the exploitable flaw that any prog with a brain (and there are some) would ride to victory with. The IRS stays in business and now gets to send every single person in America a check every month. How many milliseconds would it take the Party's Media to rework the name of the thing into "Your Fair Share" that of course is "pitiful, not nearly enough to lift a family out of poverty" and is this way because of the wicked greedy Republicans. If people would only elect some more Democrats "The People" would finally get what they deserve, their "Fair Share." Every election cycle would revolve around a bidding war to see who would increase the "Share" the most.

2 weeks ago in reply to Mike Buschke 2 Likes

Like Reply



Patrick Shrier, War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignoran...

It is nice to hear the voice of another person that sees the "Fair Tax" as the disaster in waiting that it really is.

I was starting to feel a little lonely in opposing the "Fair Tax."

2 weeks ago in reply to John Morris 1 Like

Like Reply



LSU Statman

So what you are saying is that the Fair Tax is ripe for fraud by people who assume multiple identities and then get multiple prebates? Sure that's a fair problem, but one that can be resolved using the already in existence Social Security number network.

It simply see no reason to perpetuate the current situation. It is way more open to potential fraud, it misses a significant amount of the "cash-only" economy, and uses enforcement regimes (guilty until

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proven innocent, mandatory self-reporting and invasive inquiry into personal activities) that were deemed clearly unconstitutional before the passage of the 16th Amendment.

The FairTax has some problems (like driving up the cost of new products inordinately causing a flood of the used markets—wait, that's "recycling" and it can be good.), but the invasiveness of the current regime is simply not compatible with the concept of liberty.

2 weeks ago in reply to John Morris

Like Reply



John Morris

No, you miss my point. Assume the IRS has the NSA dataset and can totally eliminate fraud in the form of people collecting multiple 'prebates.' Because my concern doesn't require it, it is an exploitable bug in the system even if it operates totally above board.

The IRS transforms from a hated thing sucking the life out of people, terrorizing them with audits, etc. into Santa. It enshrines (in a Constitutional Amendment no less) the notion that every American is entitled to a monthly check. The details of it being a (pre)rebate of taxes paid will be obliterated from the public mind before it even came into effect.

THINK

Think what happens the first prog POTUS elected after it went into effect, imagine the artwork that would show up on the cards. Once they transform it in the public mind from an accounting trick to leave the poor untaxed into everyone's birthright 'Fair Share of the Wealth' the one thing it will be universally agreed to be is 'too damned small.' And every election after that will be a bidding war to make it 'Fair', deliver 'economic justice' and every other socialist, progressive, communist, etc. bit of sophistry in their perverted devil's dictionary.

Notice I assume zero perversion of the law as written, something that would be unique in modern history. The reality would thus almost certainly be even worse. How long before the first 'martax' on items/people progs don't like and exemptions on things they do? With the costs carefully hidden in the price of items it would be a temptation they couldn't resist and wouldn't. Look at existing sales taxes for ideas on how fudged up it would get in a few years.

2 weeks ago in reply to LSUStatman

Like Reply



LSUStatman

So, the tradeoff is the government having way too much information on us? Besides, don't look now, but a lot of people (47%?) look at the government as Santa.

In reality, the pain of a sales tax at the purchase of any new item would probably nix any notion of the Prebate being a bag of goodies from a generous Uncle Sam.

That said, your point does show the need to write such a law with iron-tight wording for all items being taxed the same way and for all prebates being based on the inflation rate, and not on the whims of politicians.

Which, of course, means the whole idea is a pipe dream. The political class in this country will never agree to such a surrender of their power.

No one who can get themselves elected should ever

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be allowed to serve." - Douglas Adams

2 weeks ago

Like Reply

in reply to John Morris



BoilerFan

As a participant in three different Tea Party functions (2009 and 2010), I was surprised by the dearth of similar functions in 2011 and 2012. The actions of the IRS clearly played a role in discouraging some Tea Party-related activities in the run-up to the 2012 election, helping Obama in his bid for re-election last November. However, I think their lack of enthusiasm for Mitt Romney also had a lot to do with the less visible presence of the Tea Party last year. I held my nose and cast my vote for Romney/Ryan. I suspect that more than a few of my TP allies were content to hold their noses and stay at home, not wanting to cast their vote merely for "the lesser of two evils."

2 weeks ago 10 Likes

Like Reply



Freedom+Fan

More evidence of the #CriminalObamaRegime

2 weeks ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



ohioan123

Shut the IRS down, just shut it down.
Especially since now we know IRS is getting BONUSSES, yes, bonuses. They're corrupt, they already wasted millions on IRS phony conferences.... and now they get bonuses as a reward.

Its a Slap in the face to all Taxpayers.

2 weeks ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



MM

Great - now what? With 3-7 scandals does anyone believe that this is going to touch Obama? Does anyone think that Obama will resign..like Nixon? Does anyone believe that Republicans will hold impeachment hearings for the "First Black President"? Here we are in the midst of multiple scandals and the Republicans are about to hand the Democrats and by extension Obama "the gift of a Lifetime" in amnesty...or at the very least a campaign platform.... "see Republicans hate Latinos". The ultimate "Grass-Roots" movement of the last 50yrs was the tea-party and this administration, either directly or indirectly went after them...what did the republicans do...yes that's crickets yse hear...nothing...oh wait they sent a few letters and then were lied to....thanks guys...way to look out for the very people that got you elected and gave you the House in 2010. Notice to Marco Rubio...instead of pushing through another 1986 amnesty bill - try looking out for the very groups that got you elected!! I guess Hillary was right - "at this point what difference does it make?"

2 weeks ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



Linda+Drum

The Tea Party and Social Welfare...the criteria for getting a tax exempt status. Tea Party/Social Welfare... the very newest oxymoron.

2 weeks ago in reply to MM 1 Like

Like Reply



analytic observer

I dont expect much in the way of objectivity from the Enterprise Institute. For example there is nothing in the analysis that shows the effects of the very poor candidates that ran and the very extensive publicity that their very silly remarks generated. Nor is there anything to show the effect of things like the "47" remark of Romney. Etc.

It would be a simple thing to trace the drops in the polls of the various poor candidates and to show whether or not that is a dominant factor--and it doesnt take a genius to think of that!



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However, the article does reflect what the base LOVES, and I guess that is a more important goal!

Just as an aside, the article: 4 facts you might not have known about the IRS Scandal, Tamara Keith, June 20, 2013, (npr) might be food for thought for anyone looking for some additional material on this matter.

2 weeks ago 2 Likes

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INSPECTOR GENERAL
FOR TAX
ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

July 3, 2013

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This letter responds to your June 3, 2013 letter requesting information on TIGTA investigations. On June 21, 2013, we held an in-person briefing with your staff, which generated a follow-up e-mail on June 25, 2013 that clarified and supplemented your original request.

You requested information on TIGTA investigations involving audits of political candidates and unauthorized accesses to tax records of political candidates or donors. In our briefing with staff, we noted that we do not track statistically by category whether cases involve political candidates or donors. However, we have conducted a search of our records to identify the cases in which the political activity of a complainant or victim was noted in the case tracking system as relevant to the matter under review. This includes cases involving candidates or donors themselves, as well as their spouses and entities associated with political donors and candidates. We have identified the following information as responsive to your request.

Question One:

Since 2006, in how many instances has TIGTA found evidence that the IRS targeted for audit any candidates for public office? In our meeting, your staff expanded this request to include allegations and investigations on this topic.

We did not identify any closed cases from 2006 to the present involving allegations that the IRS targeted for audit candidates for public office. We are currently reviewing two allegations on this topic.

Question Two:

Since 2006, in how many instances has TIGTA found evidence that the confidential tax records of any political donor or candidate for public office were inappropriately accessed by any IRS employee or other Federal or State government officials? In our

Letter to the Honorable Charles Grassley
July 3, 2013
Page Two

meeting, your staff expanded this request to include allegations and investigations on this topic.

We identified eight items involving allegations of unauthorized access or disclosure of tax records of political donors or candidates.

Our reviews determined that in four of these eight cases, the allegations were not substantiated by evidence. In one case, we determined that no access occurred, and, in three cases, access occurred, but there were legitimate business reasons for the access.

In the other four of the eight cases, we found evidence that unauthorized access or disclosure occurred. In three of these cases, we determined that the unauthorized access or disclosure occurred, but was inadvertent and there was no evidence of willfulness. We referred one of these three cases to the Department of Justice for additional review, and the Department of Justice concurred with our assessment that there was no willfulness and declined prosecution. In the fourth case, we presented evidence of a willful unauthorized access to the Department of Justice, but the case was declined for prosecution.

As we have discussed, we believe this is the level of detail that we are able to provide on these cases consistent with the confidentiality restrictions of 26 U.S.C. § 6103. We can provide additional details on these cases if authorized by the Chairman of the Committee on Finance.

I hope this information is helpful. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact me at 202-622-6500 or Deputy Inspector General for investigations Tim Camus at 202-927-7160.

Sincerely,



J. Russell George
Inspector General



August 19 Issue



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E-mails Suggest Collusion Between FEC, IRS to Target Conservative Groups

By Eliana Johnson
July 31, 2013 6:00 AM

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Print Text

Embattled Internal Revenue Service official Lois Lerner and an attorney in the Federal Election Commission's general counsel's office appear to have twice colluded to influence the record before the FEC's vote in the case of a conservative non-profit organization, according to e-mails unearthed by the House Ways and Means Committee and obtained exclusively by NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE. The correspondence suggests the discrimination of conservative groups extended beyond the IRS and into the FEC, where an attorney from the agency's enforcement division in at least one case sought and received tax information about the status of a conservative group, the American Future Fund, before recommending that the commission prosecute it for violations of campaign-finance law. Lerner, the former head of the IRS's exempt-organizations division, worked at the FEC from 1986 to 1995, and was known for aggressive investigation of conservative groups during her tenure there, too.



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“Several months ago . . . I spoke with you about the American Future Fund, a 501(c)(4) organization that had submitted an exemption application the IRS [sic],” the FEC attorney wrote Lerner in February 2009. The FEC, which polices violations of campaign-finance laws, is not exempted under Rule 6103, which prohibits the IRS from sharing confidential taxpayer information, but the e-mail indicates Lerner may have provided that information nonetheless: “When we spoke last July, you had told us that the American Future Fund had not received an exemption letter from the IRS,” the FEC attorney wrote.

The timing of the correspondence between Lerner and the FEC suggests the FEC attorney sought information from the IRS in order to influence an upcoming vote by the six FEC commissioners. The FEC received a complaint in March 2008 from the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party alleging that the American Future Fund had violated campaign-finance law by engaging in political advocacy without registering as a political-action committee. The American Future Fund responded to that complaint in June 2008, telling the commission that it had applied for tax exemption in March of that year and was a “501(c)(4) social-welfare organization that was organized to provide Americans with a conservative and free-market viewpoint and mechanism to communicate and advocate on the issues that most interest and concern them.” According to the e-mail correspondence, a month after receiving the American Future Fund’s response, the FEC general counsel’s office — which is prohibited under law from conducting an investigation into an organization before the FEC’s six commissioners have voted to do so — contacted Lerner to investigate the agency’s tax-exempt status.

The FEC general counsel’s office, in its recommendation on the case, apparently didn’t tell the agency’s commissioners about how it had obtained the information about the group’s tax-exempt status. Recommending that the commissioners prosecute the American Future Fund, the general counsel’s office wrote, “According to its response, AFF submitted an application for tax-exempt status to the Internal Revenue Service . . . on March 18, 2008.” The footnote to that sentence reads, “The IRS has not yet issued a determination letter regarding AFF’s application for exempt status. Based on the information from the response and the IRS website, it is likely that the application is still under review.” In fact, an FEC lawyer knew that the organization had yet to obtain tax-exempt status because Lerner provided the confidential information.

The general counsel’s report was issued in September 2008, but it was over five months before the six FEC commissioners voted, in late-February 2009, on whether to prosecute the American Future Fund for violations of campaign-finance laws. (The typical lag time between the submission of a general counsel’s recommendation and a commission vote is about a month, according to a source familiar with the workings of the commission.) As the vote approached, on February 3, 2009, the FEC lawyer went back to Lerner for an update on the status of the American Future Fund’s application. “Could you please tell me whether the IRS has since issued an exemption letter to the American Future Fund? Also if the IRS has granted American Future Fund’s exemption, would it be possible for you to




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send me the publicly available information and documents related to American Future Fund?"

Despite the recommendations of the general counsel's office, the six FEC commissioners split on whether to pursue the American Future Fund's case and voted six-to-zero to close the case.

House Ways and Means Committee chairman Dave Camp and oversight-subcommittee chairman Charles Boustany are calling on the IRS, in the wake of these revelations, to provide all communications between the agency and the FEC between 2008 and 2012. "The American public is entitled to know whether the IRS is inappropriately sharing their confidential tax information with other agencies," Camp and Boustany write in a letter they will send to acting IRS administrator Danny Werfel on Wednesday.

The FEC enforcement attorney also inquired about the tax-exempt status of another conservative organization, the American Issues Project. "I was also wondering if you could tell me whether the IRS had issued an exemption letter to a group called the American Issues Project? The group also appears to be the successor of two other organizations, Citizens for the Republic and Avenger, Inc." Also sought were "any information and documents that would be publicly available in relation to the American Issues Project, Citizens for the Republic, or Avenger, Inc."

Lerner was placed on paid administrative leave in late May after she revealed the IRS had inappropriately targeted conservative groups. The IRS has yet to respond to requests from lawmakers about her current employment status with the agency.

UPDATE: This piece has been amended since its initial posting.

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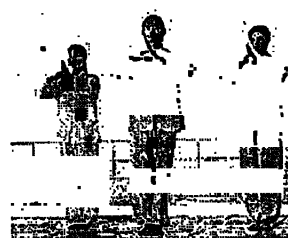
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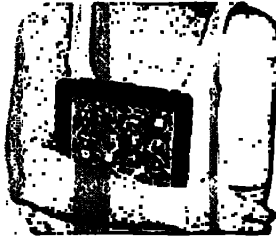
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AceOfSpade · 15 hours ago

Snowden has the right idea of leaving America and running toward freedom.
Team Ed.

^ | v Reply Share



Quinn Hamlin · 17 hours ago

Why can't she testify? If the right is blowing smoke we'll know quick enough. Benghazi is tragic, even if it is incompetence. The left can hardly complain though, they've been getting high to CSN's "Four dead in Ohio" (Tin Soldiers) for forty years now. It may be time to "move on" for everyone. Just sayin'

^ | v Reply Share



Jon · 17 hours ago

My understanding is that it is legal to say a group has not received a determination letter. Indeed, the only permissible response is yes or no. This is Public information. You can't state if they've applied or been rejected, neither of which occurred. Everything in those letters implies proper procedure was being followed, but that people looking for a scandal will use their ignorance and manipulation by the leakers to find one.

1 ^ | v Reply Share



CDooge · 18 hours ago

Let me get this straight, the same organization that was claiming to be a tax-exempt social welfare operation is now claiming harrassment from the FEC because of its political activities? If you don't have a story, you say things "suggest" things and you lead with "appear to" and "may have provided...". The FEC asks the IRS for "publically available" information and this reporter somehow makes this into a conspiracy because of the "timing" with no proof, no evidence, nothing whatsoever except a hunch of conditional verbs about information that "may have been provided?" As one critic once said, "It's not journalism, it's typing."

1 ^ | v Reply Share

GATESTONE INSTITUTE

JULY 30, 2013

"Last Monday the EU bravely managed to ban what it terms the 'military wing' of the terrorist group Hezbollah. It has not, of course, banned the 'political wing.' As noted here before, nobody in Iran, Lebanon or, come to that, Hezbollah itself, believes that such a distinction exists."

FROM *Hezbollah's Military Wings*
BY Douglas Murray

CLICK HERE TO READ



DavidHart · 21 hours ago

This email is meaningless. Exactly what "confidential" information was disclosed? The very status of an organization as tax-exempt or not tax-exempt is provided to the public through Publication 78 and other means.

1 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



Jon → DavidHart · 17 hours ago

Its a case of lazy journalism. They don't understand the law or procedures, so when a perfectly legal information request is leaked, they assume it is a scandal because the leakers told them so, and it was an exclusive leak! Who wants to admit to being a rube manipulated by a congressman with an agenda?

1 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



gjsmith_62 · a day ago

So, not content doing damage to dissidents from within her perch at the FEC, Lerner moves to the IRS and keeps her "contacts" at the FEC up to date with confidential IRS data.

Lovely. The IRS should be repealed.

8 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



CDooge → gjsmith_62 · 18 hours ago

Why don't you READ this piece of non reporting. No where does it actually say that confidential IRS data was shared. The reporter had nothing, so she just wrote this worthless piece of innuendo about things that "might" have happened that "may suggest" something. Pretty thin.

^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



Stephen Behel → CDooge · 17 hours ago

Well considering the track record of the IRS in this matter, I'd say it is likely they did. Of course since they are tea party people they deserve it. I'm sure you don't have any problem with that.

1 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



gjsmith_62 → CDooge · 17 hours ago

Why don't you stuff it where the sun don't shine?

"The FEC, which polices violations of campaign-finance laws, is not exempted under Rule 6103"

1 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



Jon → gjsmith_62 · 17 hours ago

Thank goodness the FEC was clear that it wasn't seeking confidential information and Ms. L was clear in indicating she wasn't providing any. Only legally available public information was requested, and she even sought confirmation before providing that. Otherwise I couldn't laugh at the gullible rubes.

^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



gjsmith_62 → Jon · 17 hours ago

Thank goodness fascists have their useful idiots, aka you.

1 ^ | 1 v Reply Share ›



Jon → gjsmith_62 · 12 hours ago

I'm not the one gleeful that congressmen are accessing 54 million pages of taxpayer information for clearly political purposes. I am horrified that a bureaucratic mistake is being used to breach the carefully constructed bipartisan wall protecting taxpayer information from political misuse.

^ | v Reply Share >



gjsmith_62 → Jon · 12 hours ago

What a load. The IRS is political, you just hate the idea that their nefarious plot has come to light.

Mistake? Right, from Paz to lerner to Hull to Wilkins, but sure, it was a mistake.

And why should the Feds have this information in the first place?

^ | v Reply Share >



Vicki Cubeiro · a day ago

What are all thos Obama czars (40) doing? There is a sub government going on as well.

9 ^ | v Reply Share >



okokok · a day ago

Putting the nail in the phony-scandal coffin

By Steve Benen

Thu Aug 1, 2013

The Democratic posture on the so-called "scandals" that erupted in May has clearly shifted as more information has come to light. When the IRS controversy first began in the spring, Democratic officials were quick to condemn any political favoritism or unfair treatment based.

But as the "scandal" evaporated into nothing, Dems apparently realized it was time to stop criticizing IRS misdeeds that apparently didn't happen, and it's time to start mocking Republicans relentlessly for making baseless allegations with no foundation in reality.

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee released this video yesterday, which is just a brutal takedown of Republican claims. This week, instead of doing ~~network House GOP leaders are eager to hold "message" votes related to the~~

[see more](#)

2 ^ | 7 v Reply Share >



TheFirstRule → okokok · a day ago

Unraveled? The WH hasn't even bothered to show the knot yet. And Carney did intimate that the attack was a phony scandal, nor have I read anywhere that he said the attack itself was phony. Someone is definately making things up, but it isn't the right.

8 ^ | v Reply Share >



okokok → TheFirstRule · a day ago

it's completely the right--trying to tie bureaucratic incompetence coupled with those RWNJs on the USSC re Citizens United--nothing leads to Obama--find another bs scandal...lol lol

1 ^ | 3 v Reply Share >



TheFirstRule → okokok · 21 hours ago

So, President Obama was kept in the dark about Benghazi? Had no knowledge of it? Then he is still responsible for allowing his staff that kind of latitude.

The IRS? The same applies - his appointed persons either kept him in the blind or is shielding him from the fallout. Either way, it all leads to the President. He is DIRECTLY responsible. He is the leader, and he chose the people who work for him. And the fact that the Obama Administration

is fighting so hard to prevent anyone from testifying, is enough to demand the truth come out. Oh, and it also ties him to them, even if it turns out to be after the fact.
8 ^ | v Reply Share >



This comment was deleted.



TheFirstRule → okokok · 20 hours ago

I am the ideologue? Seriously? You are amusing at best. Bush was accused of that nonsense and more, but lets go with that. If you have proof that President Bush or one of his appointees committed war crimes, by all means, I would be happy to take them to task. In fact, I would insist on it. Let us take Abu G - that was a definat scandal, and it was not brushed aside by the right as phoney. It was taken seriously and evidence provided as requested by Congress- a Congress run by President Bush's own party by the way - people went to JAIL over that. He was ashamed of the actions and held those responsible accountable for their actions. President Obama doesn't even have the character to be ashamed over IRS and Bengazi - both of which are at a minimum on par with Abu G. No, to him and his lapdogs, they are just phoney scandals and who gives a damn. And I am the ideologue. You need to read a dictionary.
7 ^ | v Reply Share >



LOL → okokok · a day ago

In summary: The scandals didn't happen because the Democratic Party, the White House, and Steve Benen (along with others of his ilk in the media) say that they didn't happen. Obviously, any and all evidence which suggests that coverups occurred should be ignored. Internal probes which suggested that there was a serious problem in a major government department should be ignored. Suspicious behavior on the part of high level government officials who have refused to testify should also be ignored. Witnesses which were initially denied access to the public and Congress before finally being allowed to give testimony about a major terrorist attack which was immediately identified by high level government officials as a terrorist attack and then presented to the American public during a contentious presidential election campaign as a random act of Muslim violence should also be ignored. Evidence that certain ambassadors were experiencing serious concerns about the local security situation should also be ignored.

Obviously, we should listen when those who would be most negatively affected by a scandal insist that the scandal does not exist. I don't know about anyone else, but I'm certainly convinced. It's too bad that people who like FoxNews are just too stupid to realize that 2+2 can equal 5 if we all want it to.
10 ^ | v Reply Share >



Gary lampaglia · a day ago

Impossible, Lois Lerner said she did nothing wrong. This must be one of those phony scandals obama spoke about!!
8 ^ | v Reply Share >



Jon → Gary lampaglia · 12 hours ago

FEC asked whether the entity had received a determination letter. Answering whether an entity has received a determination letter is the JOB of the IRS. There emails showed legal business, properly conducted. How is legal business properly conducted a scandal?

[reply](#) [share](#)

Judy Reinhardt · a day ago

When you read about all this collusion, remember they will have ALL of your healthcare records to release to whomever they please. How in the world can the IRS be tasked with our healthcare enforcement?

10 ^ | v [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Jon → Judy Reinhardt · 17 hours ago

What you have here was an IRS official properly protecting data from disclosure. In the meantime, politicians are trying to get their hands on 64 million pages of your confidential tax data and you sit here happy as clams because you trust congress. Let's strip the IRS of its protections against political influence. Our pigs are more trustworthy. Bill Buckley is rolling in his grave!

^ | v [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Educated Professor · a day ago

You know, there were a group of guys who didn't want to pay their taxes. They were overtly anti-government too...

They're called the Nazis. and They didn't like the Weimer Republic telling them what to do!

Glad you guys, along with Rush and Glenn Beck, can continue the tradition!!!

^ | 4 v [Reply](#) [Share](#)

emiliani → Educated Professor · 21 hours ago

Well, while you like Germany for some reason, let's confine ourselves to our continent. There was another group of men who didn't like gov't intrusion (by housing foreign troops), paying taxes (stamp, etc.), and having minimal say in their government; they rebelled, and the United States of America were founded. Couldn't bring yourself to mention OUR actual history, could you. You're so pathetic.

4 ^ | v [Reply](#) [Share](#)

gjsmith_62 → Educated Professor · 21 hours ago

And which part of National Socialism do you adhere to? The coercion? The industry collusion? The hatred of certain groups?

Sorry, it is the liberals who are the fascists today. Then again, "Professor" are you pals with terrorists too, just like your pal Obama?

Comical too, the idea that Hitler was charismatic, dogmatic and sought scapegoats just like Obama. Will you blindly go along with a "Reichstag fire" and jail dissidents and political opponents to consolidate power?

4 ^ | v [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Edward J Baker → Educated Professor · a day ago

Not educated enough to recognize the fallacy of the undistributed middle I see.

2 ^ | v [Reply](#) [Share](#)


steve5656546346 → Educated Professor · a day ago

Ignorant ideological fool would be a better handle. The Nazi's were SOCIALISTS. God that? SOCIALISTS. Socialists are find with big government and paying taxes.


But there really were a group of people as you describe: we call them our founding fathers.

3 ^ | v [Reply](#) [Share](#)


chewinmule → steve5656546346 · a day ago

 Democratic Socialists of America. Read about it in Peoples Weekly World formerly the propaganda rag for the Communist Party USA! Rep Barbara Lee (CA) has received numerous awards from DSA/CPUSA for her trips to communist countries like Cuba, Granada, Nicaragua, to name a few. Progressive Caucus in the House are all democrats and DSA affiliates. Congressional Black Caucus are all Democrats and affiliates of and some admit to being members of DSA.


2 ^ | v Reply Share >

 Gary lampaglia → Educated Professor · a day ago
What do you teach, how to put condoms on a cucumber. It sure can't be history. Please take your medication with the koolaid and lie down for a while.


7 ^ | v Reply Share >

 Ace → Educated Professor · a day ago
Educated by the Socialist nut cases of MSNBC...


6 ^ | v Reply Share >

 Cleon2 → Educated Professor · a day ago
Indoctrinated professor, they were national socialist german workers party and their political opponent included republicans

4 ^ | v Reply Share >

 Ace · a day ago
The current administration is by far the most corrupt that has ever been in place. They make Nixon look like an amateur.


11 ^ | v Reply Share >

 takpro · a day ago
I suspect that they are concerned that if they don't continue to pay her, she might tell the truth. That is what they fear the most.


3 ^ | v Reply Share >

 Loudsouda · a day ago
The most transparent administration in history! Transparently corrupt!


10 ^ | v Reply Share >

 JD · a day ago
why are we still paying her? Your govt a work here folks nothing to see but make sure we give IRS full access to healthcare records. Sounds like a really bad idea me as they cannot be trusted and this has been proven time and time again.

12 ^ | v Reply Share >

 Jon → JD · 12 hours ago
Actually, this was an example of her doing her job properly. She did not commit disclosure but answered in the exact correct legal manner. The fact that some people in the press, ignorant of disclosure regs, were manipulated by a phony "scandal.leak" has nothing to do with health care.

^ | v Reply Share >

 Jerry Fischer · a day ago
When do people start going to jail?

www.buycarss.blog.com

10 ^ | v Reply Share >

 trashman · a day ago
colluded...Hmmm sounds more like plotting and planning...conspiracy anyone?

12 ^ | v Reply Share >



E Pluribus Chaos · a day ago

And yet the muslim Boston bombers flew under the radar. Mexican drug cartels and illegal immigrants flood across our borders. More American troops are dying in Afghanistan than ever before.

It's clear that this administration doesn't hold American national security as the same priority and it does keep an eye on its political enemies. We can forget about any future elections being honest and fair when it comes to the power this administration wields. You can bet that they'll go after anyone who doesn't tow the liberal line. Congress is weak and emasculated. It's trying to be "liberal lite." They have the same goals as the libs but with half the calories.

The only way that Americans can ever regain their freedom and liberty is to fight for it. Our forefathers did it...so can we.

Oath keepers, keep your oaths.

Morte tyrannos.

15 ^ | v Reply Share



Joseph Lessard · a day ago

And they took their marching orders directly from Obama.

10 ^ | v Reply Share



Cal_1962 → Joseph Lessard · a day ago

You do realize that the dates on this show it started in 2008...right?

2 ^ | 1 v Reply Share



dude911 → Joseph Lessard · a day ago

How true.

The IRS didn't benefit from it.
The FEC didn't either.

The DNC, however, did.

And its representatives are sitting in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of our government. They are responsible for creating and supporting unions as well, that have infiltrated the government with employees who endorse the DNC, and the progressive movement. The DNC did all of this, with the intent to alter the very foundation that created this nation. They want to remove our individual rights and bankrupt the USA so they can cry out how terrible freedom is, and then they move in with socialist control, and ignore the Constitution. The marching orders were handed out more than 2 generations ago. The current generation is doing nothing more than what was mapped out by the Communists long before the fall of the USSR.

10 ^ | v Reply Share



Joseph Lessard → dude911 · 4 hours ago

That's why they disbanded the communist party in America decades ago. The democratic party was already doing the job for them—fact.

^ | v Reply Share




dude911 → Joseph Lessard · 3 hours ago

Contrary to your claim, the CPUSA is doing just fine and dandy. Has been now for several decades. McCarthyism of the 50s nearly shut them down, but they are registered as a valid US Political Party, established in 1919. They are still active today. Check your facts.

^ | v Reply Share

 Ratt Stone · a day ago

 Hey Obama, still a phony scandal dude? Oh, that's right the Paid Liar said it was phony so that's that.

16 ^ | v Reply Share >



Jon → Rat Stone · 12 hours ago

A FEC employee asked an IRS employee if a letter of determination was issued. This is public information. Other than the fact that the FEC was asking the head of EO rather than a secretary (I assume because they know each other) whats the scandal? DID YOU FIND A HIDDEN CODE IN THE EMAILS?

^ | v Reply Share >

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Updated: 5:27 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2013 | Posted: 5:27 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2013

GOP: IRS targeted conservatives more than liberals

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status were more closely scrutinized by the Internal Revenue Service than their progressive counterparts, according to a report Tuesday by House Republican investigators.

Tea party and other conservative groups were, on average, asked three times as many questions as progressive groups, said the report by Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee. Conservative groups were less likely to be approved for tax-exempt status and more likely to have their applications delayed, the report said.

The IRS has been under siege since May when agency officials acknowledged that agents working in a Cincinnati office had improperly targeted tea party groups for extra scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status. The IRS has since released documents suggesting that progressive groups may have been targeted, too.

Democrats in Congress have highlighted the possibility that liberal groups were also abused to counter charges by some Republicans that the targeting was politically motivated.

Congressional investigations have so far shown that IRS supervisors in Washington — including lawyers in the chief counsel's office — oversaw the processing of tea party applications. But there has been no evidence that anyone outside the IRS directed the targeting or that agents were politically motivated.

"The facts are very clear — not only were conservative groups targeted by the IRS, but they received much higher scrutiny than progressives," said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

"However, this is just the tip of the iceberg," Camp said. "We have received less than 3 percent of the documents responsive to the investigation. So, Congress will continue to investigate how the targeting began, why it was allowed to continue for so long and what the IRS is doing to resolve this. Americans deserve to know the full truth."

The IRS said in a statement that 70 agency lawyers are working full-time to review documents for congressional inquiries.

"The IRS is aggressively responding to the numerous data requests we've received from Congress," IRS spokeswoman Michelle Eldridge said. "We are doing everything we can to fully cooperate with the committees, and we strongly disagree with any suggestions to the contrary."

DBCS 323

A report by the IRS inspector general said the agency gave extra scrutiny to 298 groups when they applied for tax exempt status from the spring of 2010 to the spring of 2012.

A total of 104 applications included the labels "conservative," "tea party," "patriot" or "9-12" in their names, according to the Ways and Means report, which is consistent with the inspector general's report. Seven included the words "progressive" or "progress."

While processing the applications, IRS agents asked the progressive groups an average of 4.7 questions and eventually approved all seven applications, according to the analysis by Ways and Means Republicans. Some progressive groups, however, complained about lengthy delays.

The conservative groups were asked an average of 14.9 questions and, as of May 31, only 48 applications had been approved. The other 56 applications were either pending or withdrawn. None was denied.

Rep. Sander Levin of Michigan, the top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, said the analysis omits other liberal or progressive groups that don't have the word "progressive" in their names.

"This is a recurring problem in this investigation — the release of incomplete information," Levin said. "Indeed, that is exactly what led to fundamental flaws in the (inspector general's) report."

During the 2010 and 2012 elections, IRS agents singled out groups that had "tea party," "patriots," and "9-12" in their applications, according to a May report by IRS inspector general J. Russell George. George's report determined that these groups received extra, sometimes burdensome scrutiny that delayed their applications for more than a year.

George's report did not mention progressive groups. He told a congressional committee this month that, despite a yearlong inquiry, the IRS just recently provided him documents suggesting that progressive groups may have been targeted.

The IRS was screening the groups' applications because agents were trying to determine their level of political activity. IRS regulations say tax-exempt social welfare organizations may engage in some political activity, but the activity may not be their primary mission. It is up to the IRS to make that determination.

"The inspector general just testified that his audit was based on an incomplete set of documents that was missing key information about progressive groups, and now House Republicans are making the same mistake," said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the top Democrat on the House oversight committee. "Rather than conducting a responsible investigation to determine all of the facts, Republicans are desperate to continue making completely unsubstantiated accusations of political motivation."

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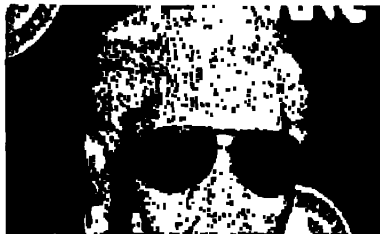


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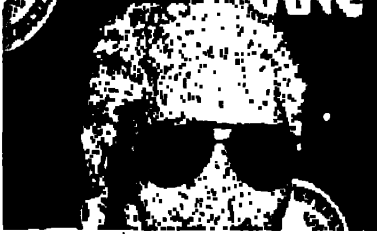


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it's all politics

wonky

Report: IRS Scrutiny Worse For Conservatives

by TAMARA KEITH

July 30, 2013 9:31 PM



Susan Walsh/AP

House Republicans investigating IRS targeting of groups for extra scrutiny say they have proof conservatives had it worse.

A House Ways and Means Committee staff analysis of the applications of 111 conservative and progressive groups applying for tax exempt status found conservative applicants faced "more questions, more doicals, more delays," says committee Chairman Dave Camp, R-Mich.

That is, when the IRS sent groups letters asking for further information, conservative groups were asked more questions — on average, three times more. All of the groups with "progressive" in their name were ultimately approved, while only 46 percent of conservative groups won approval. Others are still waiting for an answer or gave up.

Here's a chart laying out the committee's findings:

IRS Targeting Statistics of Files Produced by IRS Through July 29, 2013

Organization Names	Total	Questions Asked	Average Questions Asked	Approved	Approved %	Outstanding or Withdrawn
Conservative	8	100	12.5	3	38%	5
Tea Party	72	1012	14.1	33	46%	39
Patriot, 9/12	24	440	18.3	12	50%	12
Subtotal of Conservative Organizations	104	1552	14.9	48	46%	56
Progressive	7	33	4.7	7	100%	0

*1 file in the enumerated categories has not been provided by the IRS despite numerous requests.

House Ways and Means Committee majority staff

A Bit About The Methodology

The majority staff dug into the applications of both conservative groups and progressive groups given extra scrutiny by the IRS, but for the purposes of the analysis looked only at groups with names that included terms the IRS used for flagging. The terms included "conservative," "Tea Party," "patriot 9/12" and "progressive."

The committee opted not to make any judgments about the political leanings of other groups given extra scrutiny by the IRS, sticking only with those listed on IRS "Be on the Lookout" watch lists.

The analysis is the closest so far to an objective numerical accounting of how the groups were treated by the IRS. Still, the top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee insists the study is flawed.

"The Republican analysis makes no mention of the time period of applications reviewed, no mention of whether they were the same applications reviewed by TIGTA [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration] in connection with the audit, and no mention of the fact that there are terms that reflect liberal organizations other than 'progressive.' What's more, it doesn't disclose the overall number of conservative groups — compared with liberal groups — who applied for tax-exempt status. This is a recurring problem in this investigation — the release of incomplete information. Indeed, that is exactly what led to fundamental flaws in the TIGTA report," Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., said in a statement.

For Camp, the committee's chairman, these numbers validate ongoing Republican concerns that conservative groups were singled out.

"Conservative groups were treated differently and were given more questions," he said in an interview with NPR. "[They] were denied their ability to get approved and had their applications delayed. That means that they were targeted."

Delay, Frustrate, Impede, And Obstruct

In other IRS news, House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa sent an angry letter to the acting head of the IRS saying the agency has systematically "attempted to delay, frustrate, impede, and obstruct the Committee's investigation."

The letter asserted that the IRS identified some 64 million pages of

documents, but has turned over only 12,000 pages so far. It points out that amounts to "a mere 0.019 percent" of what the committee is seeking, though it's not clear how anyone could read that many pages of emails and internal documents. But Issa is threatening to use the committee's subpoena powers if necessary.

"If the IRS continues to hinder the Committee's investigation in any manner, the Committee will be forced to consider use of compulsory process," the letter concludes.

All of which is to say, Congress may be going on a monthlong recess at the end of this week, but the IRS scandal isn't going anywhere, at least as far as House investigators are concerned.

irs scandal

older

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newer

As His Campaign Craters, Weiner Picks Fight Over Flight

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Q & A: Your one-stop guide to the IRS tea-party 'scandal' [video chat]

May 15, 2013 | By Michael Hiltzik

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It can be hard to figure out any Washington "scandal" without a scorecard, and harder when it involves an opaque agency such as the IRS.

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Obama, lawmakers denounce IRS for targeting

That's the case with one of the scandals du jour, which revolves around the IRS' scrutiny of political organizations seeking a tax exemption. So here -- as a companion piece to my column on the subject, and with the help of a just-released report from the agency's inspector general -- we're providing a quick guide to what's wrong and maybe not-so-wrong with what the IRS was up to.

VIDEO CHAT: Join us for a live chat at 2 p.m. Pacific

Why was the IRS scrutinizing applicants for tax exemptions? Certain nonprofit "social welfare" organizations are entitled to tax exemptions under section 501(c)4 of the tax code -- they're known as C4s. But they're not permitted to do significant electioneering. The IRS was trying to winnow out applicants that might have been campaign organizations masquerading as "social welfare" groups.

Why would a political group want to be a C4? Mostly because C4s don't have to disclose the

conservative...

May 13, 2013

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names of their donors. For some donors, especially corporations and rich persons, anonymity is as good as gold. Starting in 2010, suspicions ran high that campaign groups were seeking C4 designations they didn't deserve.

What did the IRS do wrong? The inspector general concluded that staff at the IRS used "inappropriate criteria" to identify C4 applicants that might be crossing the line into politics. Starting in early 2010, they screened applicants for names with "political sounding" terms such as "tea party," "patriots," or "9/12."

Did IRS higher-ups OK this? No. The inspector general found that supervisors ordered the criteria changed when they learned about them in mid-2011. Eventually -- in January 2012 -- the criteria were changed to "political action type organizations involved in limiting/expanding government, educating on the Constitution and Bill of Rights, social economic reform/movement."

Did President Obama or any other administration figures know? The IG report says no. It says IRS officials all state that the screening was not influenced "by any individual or organization outside the IRS."

Were conservative groups the only ones given special scrutiny? No. Of 298 applications given special attention, only 96 had those three terms in their names. The IG doesn't characterize the other 202.

Were most of these applicants innocent? Not necessarily. The IG also says that nearly 70% of the applications selected for special scrutiny actually did show indications of "significant" political activity that might have invalidated their C4 status.

Why were IRS staff looking for a shortcut? Because their workload had mushroomed. Applications for C4 status rose from 1,735 in 2010 to 3,357 last year. Meanwhile, budget cuts had reduced the staffing of the Cincinnati office processing the applications.

Shouldn't this be a routine process? Yes, but it isn't, because the standards for permissible political activity are vague. The C4 law says an organization must be "exclusively" devoted to social welfare -- it's designed to cover community groups like volunteer fire departments, homeowner associations and cultural organizations. The IRS has interpreted this to mean that a group can be a C4 if no more than 49% of its activity is electioneering. But it's unclear how to define this political activity or calculate the percentage. The poor souls on the IRS front lines have to figure that out. The IG says they tried to do so without any help from management.

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Did the staff do anything else wrong? The IG says a questionnaire sent to 170 of the 298 applicants was too intrusive. Among the "unnecessary" questions, the IG says, were the names of donors, the plans of officers or directors to run for office, and the applicant groups' positions on various public issues.

Did the IRS reject tea party groups' applications? No. None of those with "tea party," "patriots," or "9/12" in their names were rejected. Indeed, the IG says that several groups that should have been rejected actually were approved.

Join us for a live video chat at 2 p.m. Pacific with business columnist Michael Hiltzik and Chris Ashby, a conservative election lawyer who has represented Tea Party groups that have been targeted by the IRS. The chat will be moderated by deputy business editor Joe Bel Bruno.

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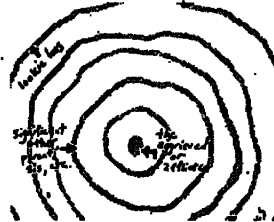
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Assessment

(U//FOUO) Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment



Office of Intelligence and Analysis

A S S E S S M E N T

(U//FOUO) Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment

7 April 2009

(U) Prepared by the Extremism and Radicalization Branch, Homeland Environment Threat Analysis Division. Coordinated with the FBI.

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This product is one of a series of intelligence assessments published by the Extremism and Radicalization Branch to facilitate a greater understanding of the phenomenon of violent radicalization in the United States. The information is provided to federal, state, local, and tribal counterterrorism and law enforcement officials so they may effectively deter, prevent, preempt, or respond to terrorist attacks against the United States. Federal efforts to influence domestic public opinion must be conducted in an overt and transparent manner, clearly identifying United States Government sponsorship.

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(U) Key Findings

(U//LES) The DHS/Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) has no specific information that domestic rightwing terrorists are currently planning acts of violence, but rightwing extremists may be gaining new recruits by playing on their fears about several emergent issues. The economic downturn and the election of the first African American president present unique drivers for rightwing radicalization and recruitment.

- (U//LES) Threats from white supremacist and violent antigovernment groups during 2009 have been largely rhetorical and have not indicated plans to carry out violent acts. Nevertheless, the consequences of a prolonged economic downturn—including real estate foreclosures, unemployment, and an inability to obtain credit—could create a fertile recruiting environment for rightwing extremists and even result in confrontations between such groups and government authorities similar to those in the past.*
- (U//LES) Rightwing extremists have capitalized on the election of the first African American president, and are focusing their efforts to recruit new members, mobilize existing supporters, and broaden their scope and appeal through propaganda, but they have not yet turned to attack planning.*

(U//FOUO) The current economic and political climate has seen similarities to the 1990s when rightwing extremism experienced a resurgence fueled largely by an economic recession, criticism about the outsourcing of jobs, and the perceived threat to U.S. power and sovereignty by other foreign powers.

- (U//FOUO) During the 1990s, these issues contributed to the growth in the number of domestic rightwing terrorist and extremist groups and an increase in violent acts targeting government facilities, law enforcement officers, banks, and infrastructure sectors.*
- (U//FOUO) Growth of these groups subsided in reaction to increased government scrutiny as a result of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and disrupted plots, improvements in the economy, and the continued U.S. standing as the preeminent world power.*

(U//FOUO) The possible passage of new restrictions on firearms and the return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks.

^a (U) Rightwing extremism in the United States can be broadly divided into those groups, movements, and adherents that are primarily hate-oriented (based on hatred of particular religious, racial or ethnic groups), and those that are mainly antigovernment, rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely. It may include groups and individuals that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration.

- (U//FOUO) *Proposed imposition of firearms restrictions and weapons bans likely would attract new members into the ranks of rightwing extremist groups, as well as potentially spur some of them to begin planning and training for violence against the government. The high volume of purchases and stockpiling of weapons and ammunition by rightwing extremists in anticipation of restrictions and bans in some parts of the country continue to be a primary concern to law enforcement.*
- (U//FOUO) *Returning veterans possess combat skills and experience that are attractive to rightwing extremists. DHS/I&A is concerned that rightwing extremists will attempt to recruit and radicalize returning veterans in order to boost their violent capabilities.*

(U) Current Economic and Political Climate

(U//FOUO) DHS/I&A assesses that a number of economic and political factors are driving a resurgence in rightwing extremist recruitment and radicalization activity. Despite similarities to the climate of the 1990s, the threat posed by lone wolves and small terrorist cells is more pronounced than in past years. In addition, the historical election of an African American president and the prospect of policy changes are proving to be a driving force for rightwing extremist recruitment and radicalization.

- (U) A recent example of the potential violence associated with a rise in rightwing extremism may be found in the shooting deaths of three police officers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 4 April 2009. The alleged gunman's reaction reportedly was influenced by his racist ideology and belief in antigovernment conspiracy theories related to gun confiscations, citizen detention camps, and a Jewish-controlled "one world government."

(U) Exploiting Economic Downturn

(U//FOUO) Rightwing extremist chatter on the Internet continues to focus on the economy, the perceived loss of U.S. jobs in the manufacturing and construction sectors, and home foreclosures. Anti-Semitic extremists attribute these losses to a deliberate conspiracy conducted by a cabal of Jewish "financial elites." These "accusatory" tactics are employed to draw new recruits into rightwing extremist groups and further radicalize those already subscribing to extremist beliefs. DHS/I&A assesses this trend is likely to accelerate if the economy is perceived to worsen.

(U) Historical Presidential Election

(U//LES) Rightwing extremists are harnessing this historical election as a recruitment tool. Many rightwing extremists are antagonistic toward the new presidential administration and its perceived stance on a range of issues, including immigration and citizenship, the expansion of social programs to minorities, and restrictions on firearms

ownership and use. Rightwing extremists are increasingly galvanized by these concerns and leverage them as drivers for recruitment. From the 2008 election timeframe to the present, rightwing extremists have capitalized on related racial and political prejudices in expanded propaganda campaigns, thereby reaching out to a wider audience of potential sympathizers.

- (U//LES) Most statements by rightwing extremists have been rhetorical, expressing concerns about the election of the first African American president, but stopping short of calls for violent action. In two instances in the run-up to the election, extremists appeared to be in the early planning stages of some threatening activity targeting the Democratic nominee, but law enforcement interceded.

(U) Revisiting the 1990s

(U//FOUO) Paralleling the current national climate, rightwing extremists during the 1990s exploited a variety of social issues and political themes to increase group visibility and recruit new members. Prominent among these themes were the militia movement's opposition to gun control efforts, criticism of free trade agreements (particularly those with Mexico), and highlighting perceived government infringement on civil liberties as well as white supremacists' longstanding exploitation of social issues such as abortion, inter-racial crimes, and same-sex marriage. During the 1990s, these issues contributed to the growth in the number of domestic rightwing terrorist and extremist groups and an increase in violent acts targeting government facilities, law enforcement officers, banks, and infrastructure sectors.

(U) Economic Hardship and Extremism

(U//FOUO) Historically, domestic rightwing extremists have feared, predicted, and anticipated a cataclysmic economic collapse in the United States. Prominent antigovernment conspiracy theorists have incorporated aspects of an impending economic collapse to intensify fear and paranoia among like-minded individuals and to attract recruits during times of economic uncertainty. Conspiracy theories involving declarations of martial law, impending civil strife or racial conflict, suspension of the U.S. Constitution, and the creation of citizen detention camps often incorporate aspects of a failed economy. Antigovernment conspiracy theories and "end times" prophecies could motivate extremist individuals and groups to stockpile food, ammunition, and weapons. These teachings also have been linked with the radicalization of domestic extremist individuals and groups in the past, such as violent Christian Identity organizations and extremist members of the militia movement.

(U//FOUO) Perceptions on Poverty and Radicalization

(U//FOUO) Scholars and experts disagree over poverty's role in motivating violent radicalization or terrorist activity. High unemployment, however, has the potential to lead to alienation, thus increasing an individual's susceptibility to extremist ideas. According to a 2007 study from the German Institute for Economic Research, there appears to be a strong association between a parent's unemployment status and the formation of rightwing extremist beliefs in their children—specifically xenophobia and antidemocratic ideas.

(U) Illegal Immigration

(U//FOUO) Rightwing extremists were concerned during the 1990s with the perception that illegal immigrants were taking away American jobs through their willingness to work at significantly lower wages. They also opposed free trade agreements, arguing that these arrangements resulted in Americans losing jobs to countries such as Mexico.

(U//FOUO) Over the past five years, various rightwing extremists, including militias and white supremacists, have adopted the immigration issue as a call to action, rallying point, and recruiting tool. Debates over appropriate immigration levels and enforcement policy generally fall within the realm of protected political speech under the First Amendment, but in some cases, anti-immigration or strident pro-enforcement fervor has been directed against specific groups and has the potential to turn violent.

(U//FOUO) DHS/I&A assesses that rightwing extremist groups' frustration over a perceived lack of government action on illegal immigration has the potential to incite individuals or small groups toward violence. If such violence were to occur, it likely would be isolated, small-scale, and directed at specific immigration-related targets.

- (U//FOUO) DHS/I&A notes that prominent civil rights organizations have observed an increase in anti-Hispanic crimes over the past five years.
- (U) In April 2007, six militia members were arrested for various weapons and explosives violations. Open source reporting alleged that those arrested had discussed and conducted surveillance for a machinegun attack on Hispanics.
- (U) A militia member in Wyoming was arrested in February 2007 after communicating his plans to travel to the Mexican border to kill immigrants crossing into the United States.

(U) Legislative and Judicial Drivers

(U//FOUO) Many rightwing extremist groups perceive recent gun control legislation as a threat to their right to bear arms and in response have increased weapons and ammunition stockpiling, as well as renewed participation in paramilitary training exercises. Such activity, combined with a heightened level of extremist paranoia, has the potential to facilitate criminal activity and violence.

- (U//FOUO) During the 1990s, rightwing extremist hostility toward government was fueled by the implementation of restrictive gun laws—such as the Brady Law that established a 5-day waiting period prior to purchasing a handgun and the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act that limited the sale of various types of assault rifles—and federal law enforcement's handling of the confrontations at Waco, Texas and Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

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— (U//FOUO) On the current front, legislation has been proposed this year requiring mandatory registration of all firearms in the United States. Similar legislation was introduced in 2008 in several states proposing mandatory tagging and registration of ammunition. It is unclear if either bill will be passed into law; nonetheless, a correlation may exist between the potential passage of gun control legislation and increased hoarding of ammunition, weapons stockpiling, and paramilitary training activities among rightwing extremists.

(U//FOUO) Open source reporting of wartime ammunition shortages has likely spurred rightwing extremists—as well as law-abiding Americans—to make bulk purchases of ammunition. These shortages have increased the cost of ammunition, further exacerbating rightwing extremist paranoia and leading to further stockpiling activity. Both rightwing extremists and law-abiding citizens share a belief that rising crime rates attributed to a slumping economy make the purchase of legitimate firearms a wise move at this time.

(U//FOUO) Weapons rights and gun-control legislation are likely to be hotly contested subjects of political debate in light of the 2008 Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* in which the Court reaffirmed an individual's right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, but left open to debate the precise contours of that right. Because debates over constitutional rights are intense, and parties on all sides have deeply held, sincere, but vastly divergent beliefs, violent extremists may attempt to co-opt the debate and use the controversy as a radicalization tool.

(U) Perceived Threat from Rise of Other Countries

(U//FOUO) Rightwing extremist paranoia of foreign regimes could escalate or be magnified in the event of an economic crisis or military confrontation, harkening back to the "New World Order" conspiracy theories of the 1990s. The dissolution of Communist countries in Eastern Europe and the end of the Soviet Union in the 1990s led some rightwing extremists to believe that a "New World Order" would bring about a world government that would usurp the sovereignty of the United States and its Constitution, thus infringing upon their liberty. The dynamics in 2009 are somewhat similar, as other countries, including China, India, and Russia, as well as some smaller, oil-producing states, are experiencing a rise in economic power and influence.

— (U//FOUO) Fear of Communist regimes and related conspiracy theories characterizing the U.S. Government's role as either complicit in a foreign invasion or acquiescing as part of a "One World Government" plan inspired extremist members of the militia movement to target government and military facilities in past years.

— (U//FOUO) Law enforcement in 1996 arrested three rightwing militia members in Battle Creek, Michigan with pipe bombs, automatic weapons, and military

ordnance that they planned to use in attacks on nearby military and federal facilities and infrastructure targets.

- (U//FOUO) Rightwing extremist views bemoan the decline of U.S. stature and have recently focused on themes such as the loss of U.S. manufacturing capability to China and India, Russia's control of energy resources and use of these to pressure other countries, and China's investment in U.S. real estate and corporations as a part of subversion strategy.

(U) Disgruntled Military Veterans

(U//FOUO) DHS/I&A assesses that rightwing extremists will attempt to recruit and radicalize returning veterans in order to exploit their skills and knowledge derived from military training and combat. These skills and knowledge have the potential to boost the capabilities of extremists—including lone wolves or small terrorist cells—to carry out violence. The willingness of a small percentage of military personnel to join extremist groups during the 1990s because they were disgruntled, disillusioned, or suffering from the psychological effects of war is being replicated today.

- (U) After Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-1991, some returning military veterans—including Timothy McVeigh—joined or associated with rightwing extremist groups.
- (U) A prominent civil rights organization reported in 2006 that “large numbers of potentially violent neo-Nazis, skinheads, and other white supremacists are now learning the art of warfare in the [U.S.] armed forces.”
- (U//LES) The FBI noted in a 2008 report on the white supremacist movement that some returning military veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have joined extremist groups.

(U//FOUO) Lone Wolves and Small Terrorist Cells

(U//FOUO) DHS/I&A assesses that lone wolves and small terrorist cells embracing violent rightwing extremist ideology are the most dangerous domestic terrorism threat in the United States. Information from law enforcement and nongovernmental organizations indicates lone wolves and small terrorist cells have shown intent—and in some cases, the capability—to commit violent acts.

(U//LES) DHS/I&A has concluded that white supremacist lone wolves pose the most significant domestic terrorist threat because of their low profile and autonomy—separate from any formalized group—which hampers warning efforts.

— (U//FOUO) Similarly, recent state and municipal law enforcement reporting has warned of the dangers of rightwing extremists embracing the tactics of “leaderless resistance” and of lone wolves carrying out acts of violence.

— (U//FOUO) Arrests in the past several years of radical militia members in Alabama, Arkansas, and Pennsylvania on firearms, explosives, and other related violations indicates the emergence of small, well-armed extremist groups in some rural areas.

(U) Outlook

(U//FOUO) DHS/I&A assesses that the combination of environmental factors that echo the 1990s, including heightened interest in legislation for tighter firearms restrictions and returning military veterans, as well as several new trends, including an uncertain economy and a perceived rising influence of other countries, may be invigorating rightwing extremist activity, specifically the white supremacist and militia movements. To the extent that these factors persist, rightwing extremism is likely to grow in strength.

(U//FOUO) Unlike the earlier period, the advent of the Internet and other information-age technologies since the 1990s has given domestic extremists greater access to information related to bomb-making, weapons training, and tactics, as well as targeting of individuals, organizations, and facilities, potentially making extremist individuals and groups more dangerous and the consequences of their violence more severe. New technologies also permit domestic extremists to send and receive encrypted communications and to network with other extremists throughout the country and abroad, making it much more difficult for law enforcement to deter, prevent, or preempt a violent extremist attack.

(U//FOUO) A number of law enforcement actions and external factors were effective in limiting the militia movement during the 1990s and could be utilized in today's climate.

- (U//FOUO) Following the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, the militia movement declined in total membership and in the number of organized groups because many members distanced themselves from the movement as a result of the intense scrutiny militias received after the bombing.
- (U//FOUO) Militia membership continued to decline after the turn of the millennium as a result of law enforcement disruptions of multiple terrorist plots linked to violent rightwing extremists, new legislation banning paramilitary training, and militia frustration that the "revolution" never materialized.
- (U//FOUO) Although the U.S. economy experienced a significant recovery and many perceived a concomitant rise in U.S. standing in the world, white supremacist groups continued to experience slight growth.

(U//FOUO) DHS/I&A will be working with its state and local partners over the next several months to ascertain with greater regional specificity the rise in rightwing extremist activity in the United States, with a particular emphasis on the political, economic, and social factors that drive rightwing extremist radicalization.

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Armed Homeland Security agents monitor Tea Party at IRS protests

TEA PARTY | MAY 22, 2013 | BY: JOE NEWBY



Armed DHS guards at IRS protest

Credits: Jim Hoft

On Tuesday, demonstrations took place at [IRS](http://www.examiner.com/topic/irs) offices nationwide as various [Tea Party](http://www.examiner.com/topic/tea-party) groups protested being targeted by the agency. Keeping an eye on several protests, however, were armed agents of the Department of [Homeland Security](http://www.examiner.com/topic/homeland-security). [The Blaze](http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/05/21/why-were-dhs-agents-seemingly-monitoring-multiple-tea-party-irs-protests-across-the-country-on-tuesday/) (<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/05/21/why-were-dhs-agents-seemingly-monitoring-multiple-tea-party-irs-protests-across-the-country-on-tuesday/>) reported.

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Jason Howerton reported that it remains unclear why "federal officials felt the Tea Party presence required more than the attention of local law enforcement."

Jim Hoft of the [Gateway Pundit](http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2013/05/woah-armed-dhs-guards-outside-irs-in-st-louis/) (<http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2013/05/woah-armed-dhs-guards-outside-irs-in-st-louis/>) said that

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armed DHS guards greeted Tea Party activists in St. Louis.

"Around 300 protesters turned out anyway," he wrote.

According to an account

(<http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2013/05/dhs-sends-in-chopper-to-intimidate-tea-party-protesters-in-la/>)

posted by Hoft, DHS used a helicopter against Tea Party protesters in Los Angeles and told the group they were not allowed on federal property.

"Many of our 300 tea party folks were approached immediately by Homeland Security and told they could not be on federal property. My lawyer told me as long as I didn't block passage we were OK. Many Homeland Security trucks and a helicopter above us scared many patriots so most of group went to public side walk to rally," an unnamed Tea Party activist told Hoft.

A report at BizPac Review

(<http://www.bizpacreview.com/2013/05/21/homeland-security-monitors-tea-party-at-florida-irs-protest-71096>)

said the DHS also made an appearance at a Tea Party protest (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/protest>) in Florida.

"Under the watchful eye of Homeland Security — yes, they were present — protesters carried signs that read 'We Do Not Consent to Tyranny,' 'Abolish the IRS' and 'Don't Target me Bro!,' making it clear they do not condone the use of the IRS as a political weapon," Tom Tillison wrote.

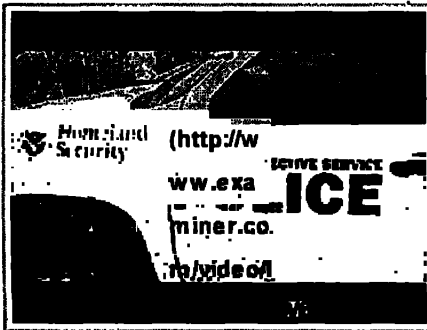
A protest in Fort Wayne, Ind., actually had more police than Tea Party. Howerton said that a lone woman "was reportedly accompanied by three visible security guards in the IRS parking lot, which included a Homeland Security officer."

"The DHS appears to have finally found a use for all those bullets it's been buying," Paul Joseph Watson wrote at Prison Planet (<http://www.prisonplanet.com/armed-dhs-guards-protect-irs-from-tea-party-protesters.html>), echoing a sentiment at Fire Andrea Mitchell.

"Amazing how Obama can send out his stormtroopers for peaceful IRS protests by the tea party, yet couldn't bother with the 'bumps in the road' in Benghazi," Fire Andrea Mitchell (<http://www.fireandreamitchell.com/2013/05/21/police-state-obama-sends-dhs-armed-guards-to-tea-party-protests/>) said.

According to reports, the Tea Party protests concluded without incident.

Video of the protest in St. Louis can be seen here (<http://www.examiner.com/video/irs-protest-st-louis-county-may-21-2013>).



IRS protest St. Louis County — May 21, 2013
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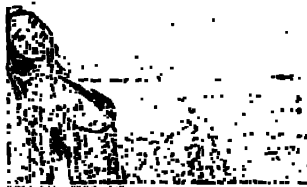
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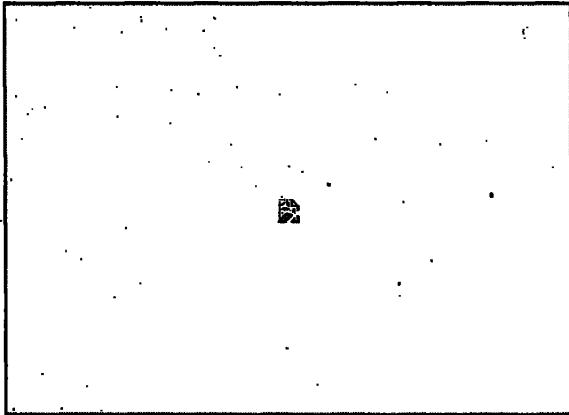
Joe Newby is an IT professional who has been involved in conservative politics for years. In 1991, he ran for City Council in Riverside, California, and has served as a campaign manager for local conservatives in California and Idaho, including former Idaho State Representative Jeff Altus. For...

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Source: FBI Spied On Tea Party Protesters Nationwide

Paul Joseph Watson
 Prison Planet.com
 Monday, April 20, 2009





The FBI were spying on Tea Party protesters nationwide during last week's demonstrations as part of a covert program conducted without the knowledge of local law enforcement, according to a source named as a current FBI agent.

The Northeast Intelligence Network reports that a concerned unnamed FBI agent risked his career in blowing the whistle on the fact that Tea Party protesters were subject to covert surveillance.

The FBI agent allegedly told Doug Haggman, "The Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Assessment that is receiving so much attention is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg, and the true patriotic citizens of this country are on the Titanic. This is what bothers me. But it goes far beyond that assessment. There have been very significant changes made over the last few years that redirect the focus and assets of the intelligence community internally. These changes have greatly accelerated under this administration, and the threats have been redefined to include those who used to be patriots. It's not only chilling but absolutely insulting to God-fearing Americans."

The source claims that a single page FBI directive was dispatched from FBI headquarters in Washington DC on March 23 requesting that Special Agents in Charge (SACs) "verify the date, time and location of each TEA Party within their region and supply that information to FBI headquarters in Washington."

Agents were then instructed to compile information on the organizers of the different protests and also send the information back to FBI headquarters. On April 6, they were subsequently asked to conduct covert surveillance and data collection of the protesters attending the Tea Party demonstrations. Surveillance was to be performed from "discreet fixed or mobile positions" and was to be performed "independently and outside of the purview of local law enforcement," according to the source.

Although the level of detail collected from each operation is unclear, the information was reportedly submitted to Washington, where, "at the level of the National Security Branch (NSB), this information was to "include the office of the Directorate of Intelligence (DI), and integrated with a restricted access database, one that reportedly is accessible to only two agencies" [of the 14 agencies that comprise the U.S. intelligence community, according to the source.

"The implications to the citizens of the U.S. are ominous. It seems that there is a hostile political agenda coming from Washington that characterizes the supporters of our constitutional freedoms as threats to our domestic security, which is totally absurd. The redirection, the refocusing of domestic threats from al Qaeda cells to 'flag waving right-wingers' is something that has gone from a murmur a few years ago to a roar today."

[efbods]

The notion that the FBI would be conducting covert surveillance and building databases on attendants of the Tea Party protests is thoroughly disturbing if not unsurprising. Indeed, before any major political event the FBI prosecutes aggressive surveillance of political groups to the point of harassment and beyond. Before the 2004 Republican Convention, the FBI initiated a nationwide campaign to track down leaders of protest groups and interrogate them, as "part of a national effort to chill dissent in this country," according to William Dobbs, the spokesman for United for Peace and Justice.

Not long after 9/11, the FBI returned to tactics that were first made infamous during the days of J. Edgar Hoover, by collecting extensive information on anti-war and other protest groups. To highlight the non-partisan threat of the police state, the FBI is now treating so-called "right-wingers" and conservatives with the same disdain. Basically anyone who seeks to exercise their constitutional rights to peaceably assemble and express free speech is considered a threat and even a potential terrorist, as a recent Homeland Security directive implied.

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From 1956 to 1971, the **FBI's COINTELPRO program** worked to monitor and disrupt protest movements across America as part of an effort to stifle dissent. **FBI Director Hoover** ordered FBI agents to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize" the activities of these movements and their leaders. The final report of the Church Committee, which was tasked with investigating the legality of the program, concluded that the FBI had performed "unlawful and vicious tactics" in undertaking "secret surveillance of citizens on the basis of their political beliefs, even when those beliefs posed no threat of violence or illegal acts on behalf of a hostile foreign power."

As we reported last week, The Maryland National Guard was put on alert in anticipation of the nationwide Tea Party protests, while a Homeland Security spokesman refused to deny that protesters would be under surveillance from the DHS.

The Maryland National Guard issued a Force Protection Advisory on April 11 which warned the National Guard to be on alert during the Tea Party protests because Guardmen and Guard facilities might become "targets of opportunity." The contact point for the document was listed as the Antiterrorism Program Coordinator.

The advisory was almost exactly the same as a United States Army Reserve Command Force Protection Advisory that was issued last November before the nationwide End the Fed protests, warning that protesters were congregating across the country to demonstrate against the private Federal Reserve.

During an interview on the Roger Hedgecock Show before last week's demonstrations, Sean Smith, Assistant Secretary of DHS for Public Affairs, refused to deny that Homeland Security officials would be spying on Tea Party protesters when pressed by Hedgecock.

"Is the department sending people to video or record in any way the Tea Parties?" asked Hedgecock during the interview.

"Um, I can't speak to sort of things that are law enforcement sensitive. Um, so I can't speak to any current law enforcement operations," responded Smith.

FBI surveillance of Tea Party protesters highlights the fact that the architecture of the police state, which was massively expanded under George W. Bush, has not been dismantled or relaxed by an Obama administration that promised "change," and if anything has only grown bigger.

The Obama administration's announcement that the illegal warrantless surveillance of American citizens, a program initiated under Bush, will continue and in fact intensify under Obama, is another shining example of the fact that – no matter who is in power and no matter the political persuasion of those being watched – all Americans who have the temerity to exercise constitutional rights are considered dangerous and worthy of being targeted by the federal government with surveillance tools supposedly introduced to fight terrorists.

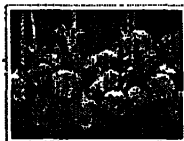
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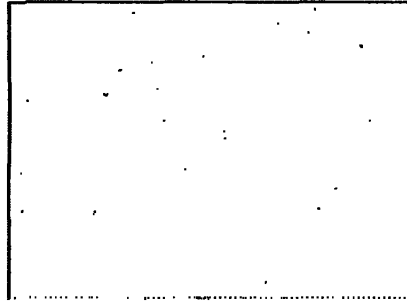
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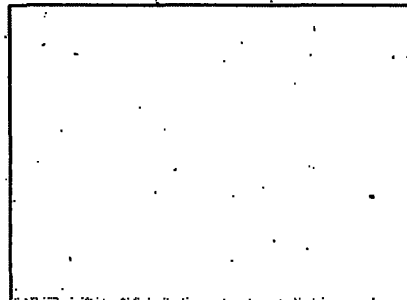
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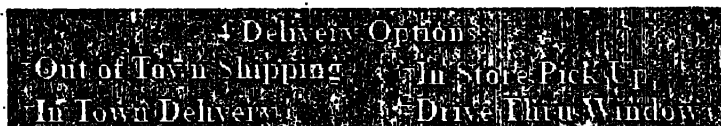
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US Depts of commerce and agriculture targeting TEA party

DBCS 356

Monday, 13 May 2013 17:45 | Written by Ronald E. Johnson |  |  | 

I am a TEA party advocate, and express my political convictions in articles, letters to editors, and speeches at TEA party rallies. The recent action by the US IRS is alarming; however, that abusive issue is now compounded by the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of Commerce. During the past winter and this spring, I have been targeted by the US Departments of Commerce and Agriculture to fill out extensive, intrusive questionnaires on my rural property in Texas. The questionnaires arrived via regular mail, with a bold warning that stipulated I was required by law to answer every question and to return the forms to the applicable departments.

The questions included identification of every resident on my property by age, ethnicity, income, employment, social security number, gender, etc. The agriculture form tasked me to reveal all income earned by sale of specific animals, fowl, and crops. Page-after-page pried into my personal affairs. I tossed the forms in file 13. A second wave of questionnaires arrived with a stern warning that I was required under penalty of law to complete the questionnaires. I disposed of that form also. A phone call was placed to my home; the spokesperson for the US Department of Commerce admonished me for neglecting to perform my civic duty to help the US government compile vital information to help restore our economy.

The agent then proceeded to ask the same questions that were on the printed form. I informed the person that I would not answer her questions. I hung up the phone. Last week, the spokesperson showed up unannounced at my door and proceeded to ask questions. I politely informed her that the questions were intrusive, and that all the US government needed to know about me was available on my annual federal income tax form. She smiled and told me that the only way the US economy would revive would be through the US government having access to information that could be used to stimulate the economy. I reminded her that capitalism was a proven way to restore the nation's economy. The spokesperson asked for my name. I smiled and said that she did not need to know my name. Her question was simply an attempt to get me involved in responding to the inappropriate government questionnaire. She asked, "Are you against government?" I did answer that question: "No, except intrusive government." She said, "Well, I am instructed to report you to my superiors. I smiled and replied, "You do that. Good day."

I am not a conspiracy theorist; however, the intrusive questionnaires are all too similar with the questions asked by German Gestapo agents during WWII, and by Communist KGB agents in Eastern Europe after WWII. The recent exposure of abuse by IRS agents adds to awareness that the current Washington, DC administration seems unusually interested in identifying and harassing anyone who challenges White House practices that smell like progressive socialism. I must ask a hard question of all US citizens, "Are we being pushed into socialism while we occupy ourselves with entertainment, apathy, and tolerance of an intrusive federal government?"

Respectfully,

Ronald E. Johnson

Zephyr, Texas 76890

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President Obama: GOP Opposition to Stimulus 'Helped to Create the Tea-Baggers'

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By Julie Percha May 4, 2010 9:07am

Three days after he decried the lack of civility in American politics, President Obama is quoted in a new book about his presidency referring to the Tea Party movement using a derogatory term with sexual connotations.

In Jonathan Alter's "The Promise: President Obama, Year One,"

(http://books.simonandschuster.com/Promise/Jonathan-Alter/9781439101193)

President Obama is quoted in an November 30, 2009, interview saying that the unanimous vote of House Republicans vote against the stimulus bills "set the tenor for the whole year ... That helped to create the tea-baggers and empowered that whole wing of the Republican Party to where it now controls the agenda for the Republicans."

Tea Party activists loathe the term "tea baggers," which has emerged in liberal media outlets and elsewhere

(http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/cnn/its_hard_to_talk_when_youre_teabaggin as a method of mocking the activists and their concerns

(http://www.businessandmedia.org/articles/2009/20090414140746.aspx).

On Saturday, the president delivered a commencement address at the University of Michigan (http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-university-michigan-spring-commencement) where he said one way "to keep our democracy healthy is to maintain a basic level of civility in our public debate ... But we can't expect to solve our problems if all we do is tear each other down."

The book also describes many of the president's top advisers cautioning him against trying to tackle health care reform in the first year because it might be too much to take on at the same time as the recession.

"I begged the president not to do this," White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel says.

"They'll give you a pass on this one," Vice President Biden told the president.

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-jpt

UPDATE: Some liberal bloggers, taking issue with this post, have noted that some Tea Partiers coined and originally embraced the term "tea-baggers." That seems true, and I didn't address the coinage of the term above. But it was fairly soon, by April 2009, when anchors on CNN and MSNBC were employing the term with mocking innuendo, as seen in the links above, and pretty quickly after that Tea Party activists began taking umbrage with it. It's now a common way for some on the left to mock Tea Partiers.

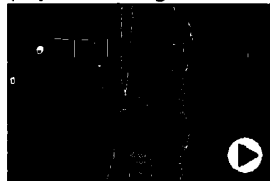
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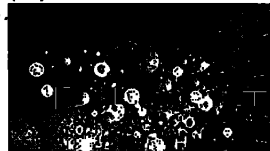
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Debra Blouin - 2 months ago

I have never heard a Tea Partier use the term "tea-bagger." Perhaps the lack of objection to the term when it first came out was that so many conservatives didn't have a frame of reference for it. I know I didn't. But I still didn't like it. When I became aware of the reference, I realized how powerful an insult it was. It trivializes the movement, but also attaches a certain "dirtiness" to the insult. It is especially offensive that our president would use that term. Given his present predicament with the IRS scandal, Obama should be blamed for creating the culture which allowed for his minions to engage in perhaps the most egregious violation of the taxation power in US history. Shame on him.

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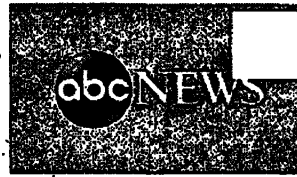
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Obama Says Race a Key Component in Tea Party Protests

In a new book, President Obama talks candidly about race and the presidency

By KENNETH T. WALSH

March 2, 2011

Backlash. There were many effects stemming from Obama's presidency, both those that were expected and those that were not. One was a surprising surge in the number of black Republican candidates in the midterm elections of November 2010. At least 32 African-Americans were running for Congress as Republicans . . . the largest number since Reconstruction, according to *The New York Times*. The last time there was a black Republican serving in the House was 2003, when J. C. Watts of Oklahoma left office after eight years. The *New York Times* found that "many of the candidates suggest that they felt empowered by Mr. Obama's election, that it made them realize that what had once seemed impossible—for a black candidate to win election with substantial white support—was not." The states where these candidates were running included Arkansas, Arizona, and Florida.

[Top aide] Valerie Jarrett told me, "I think at the time of his victory, there was an enormous amount of historical significance to this country being able to elect a person who was African-American as president. I think that there are probably people who still see him as an African-American president favorably and unfavorably. But the vast majority of people, I think, see him as their president. I think that because he inherited such a crisis on all fronts—two wars, an economic meltdown, a fiscal meltdown, the largest deficit in our nation's history, and a health crisis, energy crisis, education crisis, confidence crisis around the world—because of this extraordinary moment in history when he stepped in, I don't think there has been a lot of time to focus on his race. People just want to know, 'Are you going to be able to improve the quality of my life?'"

But Obama, in his most candid moments, acknowledged that race was still a problem. In May 2010, he told guests at a private White House dinner that race was probably a key component in the rising opposition to his presidency from conservatives, especially right-wing activists in the anti-incumbent "Tea Party" movement that was then surging across the country. Many middle-class and working-class whites felt aggrieved and resentful that the federal government was helping other groups, including bankers, automakers, irresponsible people who had defaulted on their mortgages, and the poor, but wasn't helping them nearly enough, he said.

[See a gallery of Tea Party editorial cartoons.]

A guest suggested that when Tea Party activists said they wanted to "take back" their country, their real motivation was to stir up anger and anxiety at having a black president, and Obama didn't dispute the idea. He agreed that there was a "subterranean agenda" in the anti-Obama movement—a racially biased one—that was unfortunate. But he sadly conceded that there was little he could do about it.

His goal, he said, was to be as effective and empathetic a president as possible for all Americans. If he could accomplish that, it would advance racial progress for blacks more than anything else he could do.

The excerpt selected originally appeared in Kenneth T. Walsh's Family of Freedom: Presidents and African Americans in the White House (Boulder, Colo.: © Paradigm Publishers 2010). Permission granted courtesy of Paradigm Publishers.

- Check out our editorial cartoons on President Obama.
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Tags: John Cornyn, 2010 Congressional elections, deficit and national debt, national security terrorism and the military, unemployment, Congress, Republican Party, Harry Reid, energy policy and climate change, health care reform, Obama administration, Democratic Party, Barack Obama

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Obama Slams Tea Party 'Core' as Fringe Radicals, Birthers

Tuesday, 30 Mar 2010 12:42 PM

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WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama says he believes the tea party is built around a "core group" of people who question whether he is a U.S. citizen and believe he is a socialist.

But beyond that, Obama tells NBC he recognizes the movement involves "folks who have legitimate concerns" about the national debt and whether the government is taking on too many difficult issues simultaneously.

Editor's Note: See a clip from NBC's Obama interview below

During an interview broadcast Tuesday on NBC's "Today" show, Obama said he feels "there's still going to be a group at their core that question my legitimacy." But he said he didn't want to paint tea party activists "in broad brushes" and he hopes to win over members who have "mainstream, legitimate concerns."

Obama told NBC's Matt Lauer that "there's some folks who just weren't sure whether I was born in the United States, whether I was a socialist, right?"

"There is a broader circle around that core group, of people who are legitimately concerned about the deficit, who are legitimately concerned that the federal government may be taking on too much."

Obama said he hopes to allay these fears as time moves on.

And those core tea partiers? "That group we're probably not going to convince," Obama said.

Today's political divisions, including death threats against Democrats who backed the healthcare bill, are part of a "pattern of polarization" that stretches back to the presidency of Bill Clinton and continued through the Bush administration, Obama said. He called it an environment fostered to some extent by the modern news media.

"Frankly, it gets spun up in part because of how the media covers politics, in the 24/7 news cycle, cable chatter, and talk radio, and the Internet, and the blogs, all of which try to find the most extreme sides of any issue instead of trying to narrow differences and solve problems," Obama said.

The comments come as the debate over Obama's healthcare overhaul continues to anger

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a sizable majority of the American public.

A new Rasmussen Reports poll reveals that the tea party movement is resonating with U.S. voters. This is despite attempts on the part of many mainstream and left-leaning media to label the tea party as a fringe group.

The poll specifically asked voters to express their opinions about the tea party compared with Congress. Among the findings:

- 47% reported that their own views are closer to the tea party than to Congress
- 26% said their views are aligned more closely with Congress
- 46% reported that the average tea partyer is more ethical than the average member of Congress
- 27% believe that members of Congress are more ethical
- 52% reported that the average tea partyer has a better understanding of the issues facing America than the average member of Congress
- 30% believe that members of Congress have a better understanding of the issues

The Tea Party Express tour is on a 44-city nationwide tour culminating in an event on April 15 in Washington, D.C. Many of those scheduled stops are in key battleground states where Democrats are fending off serious challengers in the midterm elections.

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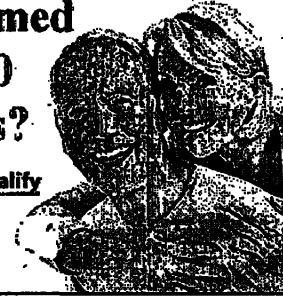
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Obama team fires back at Koch brothers

Posted by Aaron Blake on 02/29/2012 02:29:20 PM

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President Obama's re-election campaign is accusing the Koch brothers-funded conservative group Americans for Prosperity of faking its grassroots support.

The claim, in a new letter from campaign manager Jim Messina, is part of a growing back-and-forth between the Obama team and the billionaire Koch brothers.

"You argue that Americans for Prosperity is a grassroots organization of everyday citizens," Messina wrote in the letter, an early copy which was obtained by The Fix. "But its emphasis on ridding back environmental protections and blocking a clean energy economy appears to be nothing more than an effort to promote the corporate interests of your employers and others who lavishly, and secretly, fund its operations."



President Obama meets with Senior Advisor Pete Rouse, Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, Counsel to the President Bob Bauer, Chief of Staff Bill Daley, Senior Advisor David Plouffe, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Jim Messina (now Obama campaign manager) in the Oval Office, Jan. 7, 2011. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

On Friday, the Koch brothers — oil magnates Charles and David — sent Messina a letter deriding a fundraising e-mail from the Obama campaign. The fundraising letter accused the Kochs of "jacking up prices at the pump" and committing as much as \$290 million to defeating Obama's re-election.

In the letter, Koch Companies president of government and public affairs Philip Eliender argues that Americans for Prosperity is a grassroots organization practicing democracy.

In Messina's response, he scoffs at that notion, calling on the Koch brothers to disclose their donors if they want to prove their grassroots support.

"...it is a cynical stretch to describe the political activities of your employers as furthering democracy when they are courting huge checks from special interest donors to pay for negative ads, with no public disclosure of the identity of those donors," Messina writes.

"There is no campaign in the country that believes more in the active participation of Americans in the electoral process than this one," Messina added. "When you attempt to drown out their voices through

Blog Contributors

Chris Cillizza

Chris Cillizza is founder and editor of The Fix, a leading blog on state and national politics. He is the author of *The Gospel According to the Fix: An Insider's Guide to a Less than Holy World of Politics*

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unlimited, secret contributions to pursue a special interest agenda that conflicts with what's best for our nation, you must expect some scrutiny of your actions."

In the Koch's letter Friday, Ellender argues that Messina and the Democrats were demagoguing private citizens simply trying to make their voices heard.

"...It is an abuse of the President's position and does a disservice to our nation for the President and his campaign to criticize private citizens simply for the act of engaging in their constitutional right of free speech about important matters of public policy," Ellender wrote. "The implication in that sort of attack is obvious: dare to criticize the President's policies and you will be singled out and personally maligned by the President and his campaign in an effort to chill free speech and squelch dissent."

The Koch brothers have proven a strong fundraising tool for Democrats, who regularly feature them in e-mails seeking financial support.

Here is the online letter:

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Dear Mr. Ellender:

I am writing in response to your letter, in which you portrayed the oil and gas executives you represent as average citizens trying to make their voices heard. Having built a campaign across the country from the ground up, one in which we encourage all Americans to engage in the political process, I believe that is an admirable goal.

But it is a cynical stretch to describe the political activities of your employers as furthering democracy when they are pouring huge chunks from special interest donors to pay for negative ads, with no public disclosure of the identity of those donors.

You argue that Americans for Prosperity is a grassroots organization of everyday citizens. But its emphasis on rolling back environmental protections and blocking a clean energy economy appears to be nothing more than an effort to promote the corporate interests of your employers and others who lavishly, and secretly, fund its operations.

Moreover, the negative ads AFP has run have been challenged as false by independent fact checkers.

The Los Angeles Times has reported that in 2010, Koch Industries and its employees marshaled hundreds of thousands of dollars behind the election of their Republican allies on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, who have pursued their interests in Congress. In fact, nine of the 12 new Republicans on the committee signed AFP's pledge to oppose President Obama's proposal to regulate greenhouse gases.

And now it's been reported that your employers and those close to them intend to spend \$200 million in an attempt to defeat the President. You note in your letter that Americans for Prosperity has tens of thousands of members and contributors from all walks of life across the country, suggesting that this is the source of AFP's funding. There is one way to verify your point: disclose those donors for the public to make that judgment.

What is known about the Kochs' agenda and business practices would give most Americans pause. According to the Kansas City Star, Koch Industries has enriched itself by keeping oil off the market, storing it in offshore tankers and waiting to cash in when the cost of oil rises. The Koch brothers have also been vocal critics of the administration's investments in clean energy alternatives. Our energy strategy cannot be set by what's best for the pocketbooks of politically-connected oil and gas executives. It must be driven by what's best for the American people, our economy, and our energy security.

In your letter, you expressed the Kochs' concerns about debt. We share your concern. That is why the President introduced a plan to reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion and put us on a path to solvency. The Kochs must be concerned about the tax and budget plans the Republican candidates have proposed. Those plans would add trillions of dollars to the deficit by massively increasing defense spending to an arbitrary level, and extending and expanding unaffordable and unnecessary tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

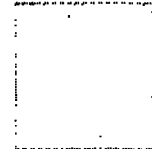
There is no campaign in the country that believes more in the active participation of Americans in the electoral process than this one. When you attempt to drown out their voices through unlimited, secret contributions to pursue a special-interest agenda that conflicts with what's best for our nation, you must expect some scrutiny of your actions.

Sincerely,

Jim Messina

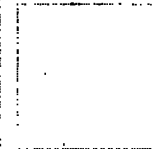
and an MSNBC contributor and political analyst. He also regularly appears on NBC and NPR's The Diane Rehm Show. He joined The Post in 2005 and was named one of the top 50 journalists by Washingtonian in 2009.

Juliet Elperin



Juliet Elperin covers the White House for the Washington Post. She served as the Post's House of Representatives reporter from 1998-2004, covering the impeachment of Bill Clinton, lobbying, legislation, and five national congressional campaigns. Since 2004 she has been one of the country's leading reporters covering the environment, reporting on science, policy and politics in areas including climate change, oceans, and air quality. She is the author of two books, "Fight Club Politics: How Partisanship is Poisoning the House of Representatives," and "Demon Fish: Travels Through the Hidden World of Sharks." Follow her on [Twitter](#)

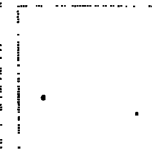
Ed O'Keefe



Ed O'Keefe covers Congress and politics for the Washington Post. He previously covered the 2008 and 2012 campaigns and reported on federal agencies and federal employees as author of The Federal Eye blog. Follow Ed on

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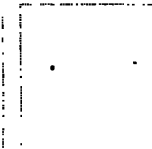
Aaron Blake



Aaron Blake covers national politics at the Washington Post, where he writes regularly for "The Fix," the Post's top political blog. A Minnesota native and summa cum laude graduate of the University of Minnesota, Aaron has

also written about politics for the Minneapolis Star-Tribune and The Hill newspaper. Aaron and his wife, Danielle, live in Annandale, Va. Follow him on [Twitter](#).

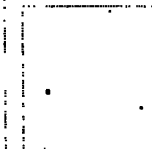
Sean Sullivan



Sean Sullivan covers national politics for "The Fix." Prior to joining the Washington Post in the summer of 2012, Sean was the editor of Hotline On Call, National Journal Hotline's politics blog. He has also worked for NHK Japan

Public Broadcasting and ABC News. Sean is a graduate of Hamilton College, where he received a degree in Philosophy. He lives in Washington, D.C. Follow Sean on [Twitter](#)

Scott Clement



Scott Clement is a survey research analyst for Capital Insight, the independent polling group of Washington Post Media. Scott specializes in public opinion about politics, election campaigns

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3/3/2012 9:20 AM EST

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since when is firing back—fomenting lies about Obama's documented desire to push fuel prices to a new threshold?

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shovav wrote:

3/1/2012 3:38 PM EST

Well, we all know many rich business people want their voices to be heard in favor of fewer taxes on corporations and the rich, and many of them have earned the money to make it so. However, Obama also wants his voice to be heard — he wants to get re-elected by buying the votes of the welfare class with promises of more welfare monies, stolen from people like me who actually pay federal income taxes (a bit over 50% of the voters). Who is the more moral — the Koch brothers who are financing their propaganda with their own money or Obama who is financing his vote buying with my taxes?

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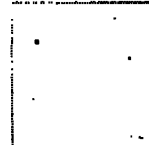


hitwithafade responds:

3/2/2012 11:02 AM EST

and public policy. He helps design and analyze all Washington Post polls, including the Washington Post-ABC News poll. Follow Scott on [Twitter](#)

Rachel Weiner



Rachel Weiner covers national politics for Post Politics and The Fix. She came to the Washington Post in 2010 as a political web editor and anchored the Post's 2012 election blog. She was previously a web editor at The

Huffington Post. Follow her on

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unlike pseudo rich union socialists hell bent on control of the debate

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axfg6730 wrote:
3/1/2012 3:10 PM EST

GOP/TP are all sorts of outraged that one of their largest donor's is being discussed openly by the opposition party. It appears that they are more than willing to blame organizations (and to name names of those with a different political POV) in their argument.

It is telling in that they are fire with secret donor's as long as they support their political POV and are outraged when those opposed to their position do the same thing?

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TDED1 wrote:
3/1/2012 3:03 PM EST

Americans for Prosperity?

Rather, Americans for Plutocracy.

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bethg1841 wrote:
3/1/2012 2:52 PM EST

The Washington Post is really working overtime for the Obama campaign. Where is the verbal letter from Ellender, the Koch representative? My guess is that they didn't send a copy of the letter to the Post for publication with instructions on how to use it politically. Can't say the same for the White House. Obama has a few billionaires and the unions in his pocket who are spending millions on his campaign but resents the Koch brothers because they don't support him? This is pathetic, small-minded and an abuse of the office of the president against private citizens.

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wavereader responds:
3/1/2012 2:58 PM EST

The Koch brothers are no ordinary citizens. The fact that they—as 2 individuals—are pouring so much money into campaigns—aiming to shape the discourse to so explicitly serve their own financial interests—is a threat to our democracy and to the free speech of everyone. In this post-citizens-united day and age, it may be that President Obama is the only one who can put a check on the unprecedented political power of billionaires.

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bethg1841 responds:
3/1/2012 3:28 PM EST

While encouraging George Soros, who has made it his life's work to destroy global economies, influence elections through the investment of millions in organizations such as MediaMatters and MoveOn.org and "to shape the discourse to so explicitly serve their own financial interests—is a threat to our democracy and to the free speech of everyone".

Like Liked by 3 readers · Flag



PaulCezanne responds:
3/2/2012 12:28 PM EST

Typical corporate politics as usual. Spend hundreds of thousands now to prevent regulation - make hundreds of millions later in the "free" market. This is a Koch brothers specialty.

Capitalism is the greatest form of government... for those with capital.

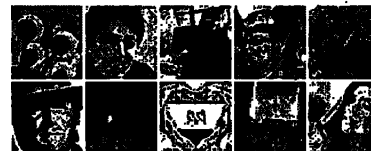
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align responds:
3/2/2012 8:27 PM EST

Big oil is obviously at odds with the White House, and vice versa. They are natural enemies. But lets not limit the players to the Koch brothers. There are many other names on the list. If we remember the aftermath of the 911 holocaust, within 24 hours, all the Saudis, including all family of UBL were swiftly evacuated from NYC. This was accomplished by the then POTUS, a name lacking most favored ranking by the current occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. This act of assistance and friendship, was probably greatly appreciated by the oil barons of the Saudi Peninsula. I doubt if they have forgotten. So when Iran cut off the flow of their black gold to the UK and France two weeks ago, the Saudis announced that they would increase production to compensate. However the very next day, they announced that due to a decreased demand they would instead decrease oil production. I suspect that they were responding to influences outside of the Middle East. Now, in recent days, the Koch brothers came under fire. The current administration has managed to squeeze itself between a rock and a hard place. They want high gas prices to encourage green energy, but as the price of fuel rises, the meager gains in the recession and unemployment will diminish. If the price rises too high, the economy will truly suffer more significantly, and be a major reason why BO would lose in November. Now add to that the fact that control of the flow and price of oil is primarily in the hands of people like the Koch brothers and, yes, the Bush family among others. By the time we have our election in November, the price of oil will be higher than even Obama wants it to be, since he really has little or no control over it. The opposition does have quite a bit more influence. The bad news is the economy is going to suffer until after the election, the silver lining is, it should get much better when a Republican sits in the Oval office.

Like Liked by 1 reader · Flag

wjpoupare responds:
3/5/2012 10:42 AM EST

I'm sorry if the republicans of the GOP can't take criticism of their shady and underhanded dealings. If you would find the facts rather than only listening to the self-serving anti government, anti freedom, anti human dignity and misleading or completely false promotions of Foxnews and your GOP mouthpiece Rush you could become a more productive citizen.

Like · Flag

billianice wrote:

3/1/2012 11:58 AM EST

ABC News caught David Koch leaving his Park Avenue apartment this week, but the tea party billionaire quickly fled to his car, avoiding questions about a scandal involving his company's trade with Iran.

A recent report in Bloomberg Markets magazine revealed that Koch Industries had been caught paying bribes to win contracts, engaging in possibly-illegal trade with Iran, price fixing, and ignoring environmental regulations.

The magazine also uncovered a Koch Industries document admitting that they had violated federal law.

"It's a document right there on the record, right out of the lips of Koch Industries," Bloomberg Markets reporter David Evans told ABC News.

"I think there are enough of these payments that I think any prosecutor would want to look further," Columbia University Law School professor John Coffee explained.

Like Liked by 3 readers · Share · Flag



fatone wrote:

3/1/2012 10:58 AM EST

The Kochs have a long history of efforts to push America to the right. Many years in the late 1960s the father was a central figure of the John Birch Society. Among the ways they sought to influence local politics was by getting people elected to school boards who could influence what books could be purchased for teaching history and for school libraries. In Wichita and elsewhere, along with men like W. C. Coleman, they sponsored campaigns premising young minds could be influenced by ultra conservative ideas. The sons have followed along the same path. Their name is seldom out front, but they have found ways to wield influence far beyond what their actual numbers would seem to warrant. There is nothing illegal about what

they do with their money for the most part. But the devious means by which they attempted to influence thought turned many against them, and the John Birch Society become an impotent organization. They have never given up though. They have continued to support right wing causes from a distance. They were behind the people who gave us Watergate, Oliver North and Iran-Contra, support for "militia groups that were anti-government, the various investigations that led to the impeachment of Clinton, "social boaters", etc. Any centrist - and both Clinton and Obama are centrists - were portrayed as un-American - or in Carter's case as incompetents. They must be frustrated now with the continued success of both Clintons and with Obama's likely re-election in spite of the many millions they have spent.

Like Liked by 4 users · Share · Flag



Gracefulboomer wrote:

3/1/2012 10:53 AM EST

For six decades around the world, Koch Industries has blazed a path to riches — in part, by making illicit payments to win contracts, trading with a terrorist state, fixing prices, neglecting safety and ignoring environmental regulations, funding 34 ultra conservative influence peddling organizations, and hand-picking candidates to run for Congress, Senate, and sponsoring and promoting and funding candidates who run for elected Court systems, such as Judges and Attorney Generals and state Inspector Generals.

Like Liked by 2 readers · Share · Flag



sesit wrote:

3/1/2012 10:26 AM EST

The Kochs are involved in un-American activities, they better get used to scorn. They have seen nothing yet. The sooner they and those like them are charged with un-American activities the better. Didn't America stop bushie prescott from dealing with Hitler? We have the right to stop the Koch bros and should.

Like Liked by 3 users · Share · Flag



Gracefulboomer wrote:

3/1/2012 10:09 AM EST

Koch Brother Industries Paid Bribes To Win Contracts

Koch Brothers Flout Law Getting Richer With Secret-Iran Sales
By Asjlyn Loder and David Evans - Oct 3, 2011 1:28 PM ET

In May 2008, a unit of Koch Industries Inc., one of the world's largest privately held companies, sent Ludmila Egorova-Farines, its newly hired compliance officer and ethics manager, to investigate the management of a subsidiary in Arles in southern France. In less than a week, she discovered that the company had paid bribes to win contracts.

"I uncovered the practices within a few days," Egorova-Farines says. "They were not hidden at all."

By September of that year, the researchers had found evidence of improper payments to secure contracts in six countries dating back to 2002, authorized by the business director of the company's Koch-Glitsch affiliate in France.

Egorova-Farines wasn't rewarded for bringing the illicit payments to the company's attention. Her superiors removed her from the inquiry in August 2008 and fired her in June 2009, calling her incompetent, even after Koch's investigators substantiated her findings. She sued Koch-Glitsch in France for wrongful termination. (cont.)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-02/koch-brot...>

This is how Koch Brothers Industries operate, they fire employees who uncover illegal behavior and cover up their findings until they have no other choice but to disclose.

Like Liked by 4 users · Share · Flag



bethg1841 wrote:

3/1/2012 10:06 AM EST

We know that the Koch brothers are on the White House enemy list. Can't have them donating to conservative causes or supporting conservatives.

The Washington Post must have gotten the memo from a MediaMatters/White House meeting to step up the use of "radical", "extremist" and "Koch Brothers".

Like Liked by 2 readers · Share · Flag



CWBaris responds:
3/1/2012 12:07 PM EST

No its the Koch brothers who have declared publicly their undeclared was on the average citizen. Like Messina said, disclose your donors; its your right nowadays to give as much as much as you want but don't try to pretend your massively funding attack ads.

Like Liked by 11 readers · Flag



erinocconnell responds:
3/1/2012 12:24 PM EST

The Koch brothers are on most Americans' hit list. Their devious attempts to undermine democracy should rankle conservatives, too. This has nothing to do with donating to conservative causes, and you know it.

Like Liked by 3 readers · Flag



KBrustmeyer2003 responds:
3/1/2012 6:23 PM EST

The Koch brothers also funded Wisconsin Governor to take away union rights and cut jobs and funding to schools. I say they are public enemy number one. It should be a crime to utilize there Billions to manipulate the American electorate with there propaganda.

Like Liked by 1 reader · Flag



wjpouppore responds:
3/5/2012 10:52 AM EST

The only way you could make a statement like that is to be completely and totally oblivious to the facts. You seem to have a computer, use it to get the factual information you need to make informed declarations and decisions. The policies these republicans are advocating are the same ones which got us into the financial mess we are in now.

Like · Flag



Gracefulboomer wrote:
3/1/2012 9:47 AM EST

Report: Conservative Koch Bros. Sidestepped U.S. Trade Ban on Iran
By Sara Sorcher
Updated: October 4, 2011 | 11:18 a.m.

The unyielding conservatives allegedly used a foreign subsidiary to do business with the country.

Koch Industries, a business run by billionaire brothers long known for funding a variety of conservative causes, sold millions of dollars of equipment to Iran, circumventing a U.S. trade ban with that country, Bloomberg Markets magazine reports. Internal company documents show Koch Industries, one of the world's largest privately held companies, used foreign subsidiaries to bypass the ban, which prohibits American companies from doing business with Iran. Offices in Germany and Italy sold to Iran as recently as 2007, though a spokeswoman said the company has since stopped all of its units from trading with the country, Bloomberg Markets magazine reports. (cont.)

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/re...>

Koch Industries, with multinational foreign branches continued to do business with Iran in defiance of U.S. law and while our Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines are engaged in overseas combat operations.....

Like Liked by 4 readers · Share · Flag



herbert515 wrote:
3/1/2012 9:42 AM EST

Bob Kerry is a breath of fresh air after Ben Nelson who seemed to be going in circles...

Like 1 liked by 2 readers · Share · Flag

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POLITICO**Sources: Joe Biden likened tea partiers to terrorists**

By JONATHAN ALLEN and JOHN BRESNAHAN | 8/1/11 4:07 PM EDT
Updated: 8/2/11 3:25 PM EDT

Vice President Joe Biden joined House Democrats (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0811/60414.html>) in lashing tea party Republicans Monday, accusing them of having "acted like terrorists" in the fight over raising the nation's debt limit, according to several sources in the room.

Biden was agreeing with a line of argument made by Rep. Mike Doyle (<http://topics.politico.com/index.cfm/topic/MikeDoyle>) (D-Pa.) at a two-hour, closed-door Democratic Caucus meeting.

"We have negotiated with terrorists," an angry Doyle said, according to sources in the room. "This small group of terrorists have made it impossible to spend any money."

Biden, driven by his Democratic allies' misgivings about the debt-limit deal, responded: "They have acted like terrorists."

Biden's office initially declined to comment about what the vice president said inside the closed-door session, but after POLITICO published the remarks, spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff said: "The word was used by several members of Congress. The vice president does not believe it's an appropriate term in political discourse."

Biden later denied he used that term in an interview with CBS.

"I did not use the terrorism word," Biden told CBS Evening News anchor and managing editor Scott Pelley.

Earlier in the day, Biden told Senate Democrats that Republican leaders have "guns to their heads" in trying to negotiate deals.

The vice president's hot rhetoric about tea party Republicans underscored the tense moment on Capitol Hill as four party leaders in both chambers work to round up the needed votes in an abbreviated time frame. The bill would raise the debt limit by as much as \$2.4 trillion through the end of next year and reduce the deficit by an equal amount over the next decade.

Democrats had no shortage of colorful phrases in wake of the deal.

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) called it a "Satan sandwich," and Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) called seemed to enjoy the heat analogy, saying: "the Tea Partiers and the GOP have made their slash and burn lunacy clear, and while I do not love this compromise, my vote is a hose to stop the burning. The arsonists must be stopped.

The deal was consummated (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0711/60344.html>) Sunday night, the text of the bill

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was posted in the wee hours of Monday morning, and the House was expected to vote first on it Monday afternoon or evening. But there are still plenty of concerns in both parties and in both chambers.

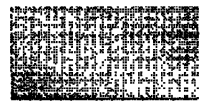
Liberal Democrats have had the most averse reaction to the plan (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0811/60380.html>), which ensures between \$2.1 trillion and \$2.4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next decade without requiring any of it to come from tax increases.

Biden told Democratic lawmakers that the deal would take away the tea party's "weapon of mass destruction" — the threat of a default on U.S. debt obligations.

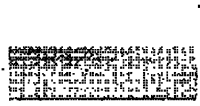
"They have no compunction about blowing up the economy to get what they want," Doyle told POLITICO after the meeting.

Authors: Jonathan Allen (@jonallenc), John Bresnahan (jbresnahan@politico.com)

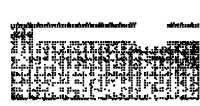
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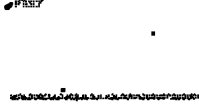
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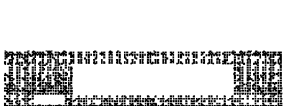
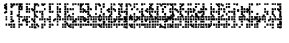
Jesse Jr.'s absence duly noted back home

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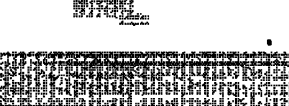
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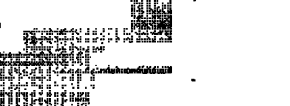
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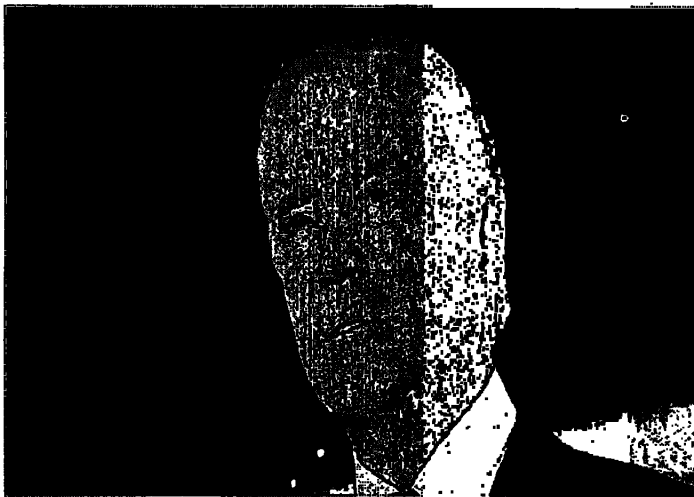
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Joe Biden rouses Virginia Democrats, gives GOP a tea party label



By ASSOCIATED PRESS | 6/29/13 10:55 PM EDT

RICHMOND, Va. — Vice President Joe Biden continued a busy political pace Saturday, appearing with Virginia's Democratic gubernatorial candidate at the swing state's premier party fundraiser and ridiculing this fall's conservative Republican statewide ticket as extreme captives of tea party ideology.

Biden brought about 1,000 Democrats to their feet repeatedly at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner barely four months ahead of the nation's only competitive governor's race. His appearances at state fundraisers have evoked speculation that he is laying his footing for a 2016 presidential bid.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we stand for equal rights and women's rights," Biden said. "With virtually zero support from the Republicans, the president and I have moved the country from the worst recession since the Great Depression to 38 months of private-sector growth."

(PHOTOS: 2016: Who's next? (<http://href.li/?http://www.politico.com/gallery/2012/07/2016-whos-next/000316-006768.html>))

With Democratic gubernatorial nominee Terry McAuliffe at his side, Biden took aim at McAuliffe's opponent, state Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who won the GOP nomination with strong tea party support and his socially conservative ticket mates.

"There is so much they stand for that is so at odds with the value set of Virginians," Biden said.

The vice president warned that a GOP victory in Virginia would only galvanize the tea party's grip on the GOP in Congress, where he said even longtime moderate Republicans are fearful of a primary challenge if they don't do the tea party's bidding.

"They are so afraid of a challenge by the tea party that they vote against what is the right vote. Imagine what they will

DBCS 378

do to Barack and me if Terry McAuliffe loses," he said.

A McAuliffe victory, he said, would "send a strong signal to Republicans across America that there's no reason to be afraid of these extreme guys."

Before speaking to activists who paid \$175 or more per ticket, Biden joined McAuliffe, a longtime confidante of Bill and Hillary Clinton, in surprising patrons at a Richmond restaurant, shaking hands before wolfing down two plates of fried whittog.

Among other campaign events this season, Biden aided Democratic Rep. Ed Markey in a Massachusetts special election — Markey won, thus keeping Secretary of State John Kerry's old seat in Democratic hands — and held a series of closed-door "donor-maintenance" events in Washington.

Sen. Tim Kaine, elected on the same Virginia ballot as President Barack Obama last fall, said it's too early for Democrats to take sides in a potential nomination contest between Biden and Hillary Clinton, but he counseled both to try pragmatism over progressive partisanship.

"I think the Virginia Democratic success model is, we'll let the other guys be the ideology people and we will be the work-together, compromise, make-things-happen party. That's been the model that has allowed Dems to win," said Kaine, like McAuliffe, a former Democratic National Committee chairman.

In speeches warming up the crowd, Kaine and Sen. Mark Warner congratulated gay-rights activists for the ruling that cleared the way for same-sex marriages in 13 states but not in Virginia, where a 7-year-old amendment to the state Constitution prohibits it. And both hailed the immigration reform bill that they supported — it now faces an uncertain future in a conservative Republican-led House.

The Cuccinelli campaign joined the Virginia GOP in using Biden's visit as an occasion to attack the ticket for Obama's clean-energy initiative, warning that it will devastate Virginia's struggling coal industry and drive up utility bills.


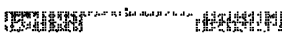

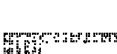


"With no economic plan or message to tout, Vice President Biden and Terry McAuliffe doubled down on an empty strategy of division and false attacks tonight," the campaign said in a statement that referred to the "Obama/Biden/McAuliffe War On Coal" and government-run healthcare as "harmful to job growth and economic opportunity in Virginia."

State GOP Chairman Pat Mullins called it "the most anti-coal slate of candidates ever fielded in the history of Virginia," a distinction intended to lock up the rural, rugged but independent southwestern tip of the state for the GOP in a neck-and-neck governor's race.

Republicans weren't alone in protesting Biden's trip. About three dozen environmental activists opposed to construction of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline stood on a street corner as Biden's motorcade passed, waving placards that read "Say No to Big Oil" and chanting "Hey, Joe, you ought to know, Keystone pipeline's got to go."

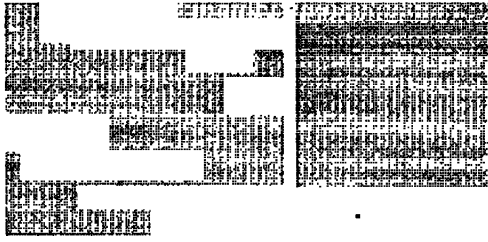
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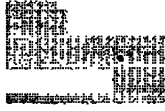
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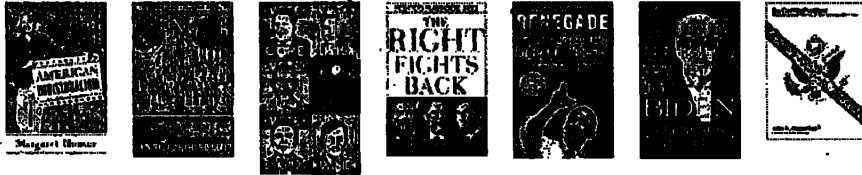
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Secretary Of Labor Calls Out 'Teabaggers'

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Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis



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(http://www.businessinsider.com/blackboard/hilda-solis) embraced the derogatory term used to describe members of the tea party in an appearance at the Florida Democratic Convention over the weekend.

"I'll be darned if I'm going to set that aside now because a few tea baggers want to somehow muzzle my voice," she said, according to the Tallahassee Democrat

([http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20111030/NEWS01/110300341/Democrats-call-citizen-revolt-against-GOP?](http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20111030/NEWS01/110300341/Democrats-call-citizen-revolt-against-GOP?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage)

odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage). "We don't have to sit back and allow a minority in the Congress, known as the tea party, to dominate the discussion in our households."

This story is just getting picked up in the national press, so expect to hear more about it in the coming days — perhaps even a call for an official repudiation from the White House.

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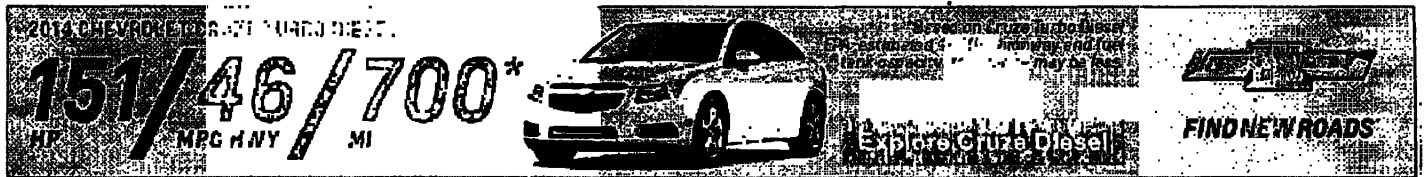
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Outgoing Labor Secretary Blames The Tea Party For Hurting Economy

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Hilda Solis, Next CA Gov? All Options Open for Outgoing Labor Secretary

By Bryan Llenas

Solis said her biggest disappointment as Secretary of Labor was that she wished she would of, "had the ability to really get more businesses to understand the importance of having confidence in the economy and hiring up more people," and hoped business leaders would help more young people coming out of college with more emphasize internships and mentorships.

Solis also said that in many ways the Obama administration "did not get the kind of support we needed originally when he took office for the American Recovery Act funds" and blamed "a small group known as the tea party movement" for not engaging with the president and "hurting the American public, our economy, and the future of our country."

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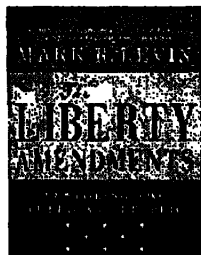
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By Mark Levin

The Liberty Amendments: Restoring the American Republic

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Obama's transportation secretary hails Chinese infrastructure

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Echoing the laments of pundits like Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times*, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood argued Saturday that China outpaces the United States in building major transportation infrastructure like high-speed rail because of its authoritarian system and because the Chinese don't have the Republican Party holding up progress.

"The Chinese are more successful [in building infrastructure] because in their country, only three people make the decision. In our country, 3,000 people do, 3 million," LaHood said in a short interview with *The Cable* on the sidelines of the 2012 Aspen Ideas Festival on June 30. "In a country where only three people make the decision, they can decide where to put their rail line, get the money, and do it. We don't do it that way in America."

LaHood said that despite this, democracy is still preferable. "We have the best system of government anywhere on the planet. It is the best. Because the people have their say," he said.

During his conference session at the festival, LaHood blamed Republicans in Congress, especially the Tea Party freshman class elected in 2010, for the relative lack of progress in moving forward

thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/07/05/obama_s_transportation_secretary_hails_chinese_infrastructure

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with high-speed rail even though the administration has obligated more than \$11 billion to the effort.

"Two years ago, between 50 to 60 Republicans were elected to the House of Representatives to come to Washington to do nothing, and that's what they've done and they've stopped any progress. Those people don't have any vision about what the government can do. That's been a real inhibitor in our ability to think outside the box and think big," he said.

"We used to be No. 1. We're not No. 1 anymore. We're No. 23," he continued. "Previous generations have always left something to the next generation. We owe it to the next generation to leave them something. We shortchange the next generation if we don't leave them high-speed rail. That's our obligation."

LaHood boldly predicted in his remarks at the conference that 80 percent of Americans will be connected with passenger rail within the next 25 years. He said that this will be accomplished through a series of commitments by the federal government, state governments, and the private sector.

"That's how they did in Europe, that's how they did it in Asia, and that's how we will do it in America," he said. "There's no turning back on this. We're not going to turn back. And you know why? Because that's what the people want. That's why... there's no stopping high speed rail."

LaHood heavily criticized the governors of Wyoming and Florida, who have rejected federal attempts to move forward with high-speed rail in their states, and he fought off a heckler from California who said that high-speed rail was not a wise investment of taxpayer money.

"Doing nothing is not acceptable. Don't be coming here and telling me it's not acceptable if you don't have an alternative. It's coming to California," LaHood exclaimed. "All the studies show, if you build it they will come."

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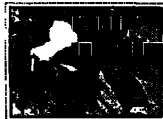
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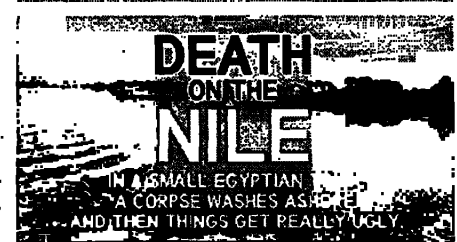
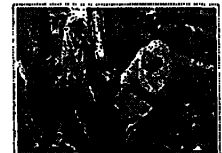


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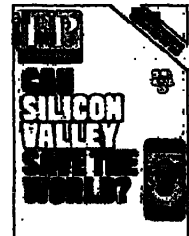
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@FP_Magazine @joshrogin Why is it that in DC, Democrats have the vision, & Republicans have the no's?

Conversation on FP.com



longdrycreek

LaHood wants the Chinese option and American democracy. The pesky Tea Party freshmen are the fly in the transportation ointment, according to him, The "heckler" from California makes sense but it does not fit LaHood's

vision.

In the U.S., you will never have rail that will serve 90% of the people. After one gets out of the Northeast Corridor,

the population scatters excepts for major cities and suburbs. Even in the major cities and suburbs, passenger rail is under utilized because people need to move more rapidly than stationary rail provides.

LaHood has a government limo for his work. Does he use D.C. transit? Of course not. He is special and deserves all of the perks we can offer.

His kind are a dime a dozen, as Friedman of the NYT. They think others should do what they say and want; but for them they are special and deserve recognition for the brilliant, their vision.

Vision without reserves of common sense is a disaster in the making.

On the Chinese rail: How many Chinese died to build the model rail?

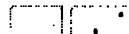
1 YEAR AGO



PHIBest

@longdrycreek; The ideology that LaHood represents, is even worse than you think it is. The USA is one of the world's most productive large economies BECAUSE of low urban land costs and relatively free markets in urban land which has led to lower density. The policy focus on density and rail transit as an end in itself, is misguided in the extreme. No nation which has high urban land costs, will ever catch up to the USA economically. No-one should ever have expected Japan to catch up. China will never catch up unless it works out what policies make urban land costs lower rather than higher. The UK economy has been dropping further and further behind for decades because of its absurdly inflated urban land costs. Attempting to "concentrate" population by regulatory coercion just to rail transit or HSR is viable, is making a policy target out of the wrong variables. It is very sad that policy makers in the USA have wasted, and are wasting so much public money because they do not even understand the reasons for their own economic success. The former USSR had absolute political power to make people live in apartment blocks and catch trains, but this was NOT economically efficient at all, it was an inherent part of the reasons the whole "planned economy" experiment FAILED.

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bobakly2000

It sounds to me like what he is saying is . . . 'Hey, I think government ought to be able to railroad the people any time, anywhere, any way it wants, and who are you to tell me what we can't do?'

It is not surprising to see a democrat lament the fact that there is someone out there who wants to stop his party's attempts to make big government bigger, boost his sponsoring financiers' stranglehold on our economy and tax every American citizen into destitution and slavery while enriching and endorsing those countries whose policies our grandfathers died to stop from getting to our shores.

1 YEAR AGO



etexfisherman

Yep I agree we should leave something for the next generation but don't agree with what he and his boss want to leave them, which is a bankrupt America. How about a balanced budget and our middle class paying manufacturing jobs being brought home so we can grow our economy?

1 YEAR AGO



coggcog

Muddled US Media Moguls and @webworldismyoster.com

1 YEAR AGO



JoanneNewnam

Amos Wright - Thank you for your august and thoughtful words.

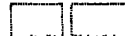
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JoanneNewnam

ADJ NYC _ i am extremely well read, a graduate of a Jesuit university, and a student of WWII history. It is you who doesn't know his history or have been purposely not taught the truth about Hitler and his socialist party. Point is socialism always leads to dictatorship. The history is there for anyone to examine.

1 YEAR AGO



LiberalsHateUs

LaHood is either insane or like his boss, a pathological liar. The latter is most likely.

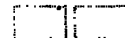
"All the studies show, if you build it they will come."

Uh... NO! Try Phoenix, where they built a spur between Tempe and Phoenix and NO ONE RIDES! Neither this sad sack liar nor Obama nor anyone else will get Americans out of their cars because we do not WANT your high speed rail. Know what a California ticket will cost? ESTIMATED \$143 ONE WAY. It'll be a lot more, too. Who in his or her right mind will get on a freaking train for that insane sum?

They do NOT ride in Phoenix, they do NOT ride elsewhere, and they will NOT ride in California.

Another catastrophic rip-off of American taxpayers. I live in Florida, and I elected and will reelect Gov. Scott precisely BECAUSE he vetoed this abomination. And because he supports guns for the people. And because he's R..publican, not Marxist.

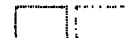
1 YEAR AGO



Spanky Spankster

LiberalsHateUs IRC, when they built a light-rail system between downtown St Louis and Lambert Field, the most noticeable effect was an increase in crime in the airport area.

1 YEAR AGO



Spanky Spankster



LiberalsHateUs I also recall in the SF Bay area when they tore out perfectly good trolley lines on the SF Bay Bridge in order to justify spending many billions on BART underneath the Bay.

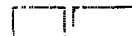
1 YEAR AGO



PhilBest

"If you build it, they will come"? In California? A very good point made by Ed Glaeser in his recent book, "Triumph of the City", is "...Few slogans are as silly as the environmental mantra, Think Globally, Act Locally... (e.g.) harming the environment by pushing new building away from the Berkeley (California) suburbs, which have a temperate climate and ready access to public transportation, to (places that are) all about cars and air conditioning. ..." So Mr LaHood had better be very sure that the people are going to be allowed to come, so as to justify the HSR project. Glaeser says that California should resemble Japan's population level and density and urban system layout. Of course HSR makes sense in Japan because of its population density and urban system layout. One more serious doubt I have about going ahead too fast with HSR right now, is that Mag-Lev COULD very soon turn out to be a viable and far superior system to anything based on conventional rails. Read Jesse Ausubel on Mag-Lev, it would be a shame to have invested heavily in a shortly-to-be obsolete system just a few years before its obvious successor came to commercial fruition. And then there is the scope for "convoyed" (at high speed) automated-control cars.....

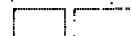
1 YEAR AGO



JohnSteele1

Arrogant SOB. Fine if you are one of the three or even the three thousand. But how about the rest of us peasants - the one that you think you have the right to boss around - you bastard? God in Heaven I hate these people.

1 YEAR AGO



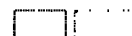
JohnSteele1

Dear Jackass:

If the people wanted High Speed Rail, PRIVATE INDUSTRY would have found a way to accomplish it. They didn't because its a loser.

Another "Big/Bigger/Biggest Government is the answer to everything" moron.

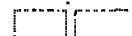
1 YEAR AGO



spinoneone

Your ignorance is spectacular. Do you believe Hitler was a leftist or a rightist? On what do you base your answer? As far as "teabagging" is concerned, it seems the Dems have a lock on that, seeing as to how you all are in favor of gay marriage, etc.

1 YEAR AGO



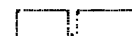
AJD_NYC

spinoneone My ignorance is spectacular? Please elaborate.

What do I think about Hitler? Well, it's agreed upon by credible experts of Nazism and fascism like Robert O. Paxton that he was an extreme rightist, but what I think is that you should look up something called "Godwin's law."

Oh, and I'm glad you made a homophobic remark, complete with a reference to a sex act. You're so clever.

1 YEAR AGO

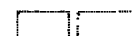


LiberalsHateUs

AJD_NYC

spinoneone OOOOOOOOH, oh me, oh my, a "homophobic" remark. What shall we do, what shall we do?

1 YEAR AGO





AJD_NYC

spinoneone It's worth mentioning that historical fascist movements typically presented themselves as transcending the left and right and drawing ideas from both.

1 YEAR AGO



AJD_NYC

Whatever the system of government China has, it's hard not to admire how it's managed to pull hundreds of millions of people out of levels of poverty that were once on par with sub-Saharan Africa, and build a lot of shiny new infrastructure to boot. I think it's easy for us, as Americans, to take for granted what we have in this country.

That being said, a lot of the admiration of China in this country would likely disappear if the Teabaggers actually showed some real interest in making it a better place for future generations rather than just doing everything they can to prevent anything from getting done so that they achieve their goal of making Obama fail. Instead of offering comprehensive and thoughtful ideas, they just prattle off some harebrained libertarian claptrap, shout pinkat-sign slogans, repeat conspiracy theories and denounce anyone who doesn't agree with them as a socialist.

The Teabaggers use a detriment to the public interest because the very concept of the public interest is anathema; the Tea Party is nothing but "me me me, only I'm important, on my interests matter, I don't wanna pay no taxes, wahhhhhllll!" disguised as a political ideology.

1 YEAR AGO



Spanky Spankster

AJD_NYC Why are liberal males obsessed with teabagging?

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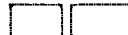


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1 YEAR AGO



AmosWright

You don't seem to actually know what the argument is, do you? The basic principle is that the government which governs least, governs best. It is interested in the public interest. It just believes that the public interest is best served by reducing the number of things the government does to the public and increasing the number of things the public does for itself. It's really quite simple if you give it a moment's thought. Your premise: that you have to have government ideas or you're not contributing is the problem. You're trapped inside a very narrow view of human action. This may come as a shock to you, but outside of things that are by definition collective actions - say, the military or the prevention of epidemics - few and rare are the things that government can do that people acting on their own cannot. There's nothing magical about a massive, unthinking bureaucracy. What's more, people acting on their own create winning situations for everyone. Whereas govt action does not. When private industry makes a decision it begins with its own resources, so it is more likely to be efficient with those resources. When those resources are spent in trade, a win-win situation must occur. Otherwise, no trade takes place. When public forces make decisions, they do so with other people's resources. There is no need to aim for an efficient return on the dollar. This is why China wastes a lot of resources, too, and has a way of doing things you may not like so much. Thousands of villages were literally submerged for all time when they dammed up the Yangtze. Little effort was made to preserve anything there, including artifacts and relics of their own culture. When govt action takes place, often the deal is made between two parties, neither of which is paying the bill. This is the definition of a public sector union: an organization that conspires with the politicians it helps to elect in a scheme to rob the taxpayer and split the boodle. Oh, and maybe provide some services when they're not on vacation. Between the hours of 9 and 12 and 1:30 and 5. Well, ok. 4:30. Another thing that you may not understand about China making good of itself is that it has done so by using humans in a fashion not dissimilar to the resource curse in other countries. China is beginning to slip, and will continue to do so, by the way, as other players in the region and parts of Africa and

Latin America begin using their excess labor in the way China has. Furthermore, you, like the Obama administration, are holding things by the wrong end. China is only able to do anything for its infrastructure because they entered the market as hard as they could. It was trade and capitalism that paid for the infrastructure. Not socialism. (And yes, it's socialism, it might be the form of it you like, but it's still socialism. If you protest that definition, then please let us all know where the bright red line is between the ideology of the Democratic Party and socialism. When will you "social justice" and all that nonsense stop? If you cannot define it, then we can assume that it will not, and that what you are after is socialism by degree rather than by revolution. It's still poisonous.) As far as the "They wanna hurt my Obama" line, puhlease. You whine a lot for a New Yorker. (BTW, that doesn't impress anyone. Even in New Jersey. We all think you're just parasites living off of the things built by better men long dead.) We don't care so much about Obama. What we care about are the bankrupt ideas of his missing communist daddy. Since he is a container for those things and little else, he's got to go. You are taking for granted what you have in this country. What you have is something that was built mostly by private industry. Those parts that were built with public effort had to be done at the cost of private investment. As far as authorities on the matter of Nazism, well, Aristotle settled the matter of appeals to authority more than 2000 years ago. Look it up. The question is what were they? In fact, they were only right-wing in the sense that they held nationalistic ideas. The actual right wing, if you remember your history, was the monarchy and the Church. Right wing collectivism are older than left wing collectivism, but that is both a matter of historical accident and economic reality. You can't get to left-wing collectivism until your society has some wealth to blow through and to support the oxygen-sucking State. In fact, Mussolini was a man of the left, and Nazi was a "worker's party." More importantly, every - EVERY - communist and socialist State resorts to some form of nationalism at some point, round-eye yanqui gringo. The Soviets fought the Germans for the Motherland, not for the Revolution. The Khmer Rouge thought they'd teach the Vietnamese and Chinese how "real" communism was to be done. Barack Obama's missing communist daddy was an Afro-Marxist, a believer in a special kind of Marxism focused on the unique qualities of African people, whatever fool thing that's supposed to mean. Since we are on the subject of comparative organizational principles and infrastructure, allow me to offer an anecdote: the worst excesses in American industry (until the present collusions with the State of which your state is particularly notorious) can be traced to the robber barons - notably the railroad tycoons, oil and steel. What private industry did with railroads was makes it possible, if not highly profitable for people to move out into the middle of nowhere, get land of their own when they had no prospect of it in the early states, and make a living, albeit a meager one, as a farmer or rancher. That's pretty rough play. But what have governments done with their rail lines? I dare say that shipping food from the middle of nowhere into the cities at high cost is far more moral than the big government inclination to ship humans from the cities into the middle of nowhere for free.

And that really is the crux of it. The tool you want to use - the State - sounds wonderful when it's in your hands. Less so when someone else is beating you with it. Better to just set it down and trade with one another freely, fairly, honestly and with mutual respect. (And Hope! and Change! aren't picket slogans? Jeez.)

1 YEAR AGO

**AmosWright**

Apologies for the lack of paragraph returns. When I had typed it out, they were there. Probably soft returns.

1 YEAR AGO

**PhilBest**

@AmosWright I have the problem with the paragraph returns too. I agree in principle with some of what you say, but there are some points you may not be aware of. Many of the capitalists who have made the most money in history and often earned the title of "robber baron" in the process, actually fill a historically significant place in the history of economic development because what they did to make their money, was bring the price of something significant, DOWN, and bring it within the reach of "the masses". Carnegie with Steel, Morgan with rail travel, Rockefeller with petrol, Ford with

cars. Without this phenomenon, things like "mobility" remain the preserve of the very rich. There does not yet seem to have been any example of someone providing good and services to the masses that were once unique to the very rich, on a purely charitable basis, or as a government monopoly provision. Scumpeter said the beauty of capitalism is that it does not provide more and more stockings to princes, it provides stockings to millions of young women who could not afford them before. On the question of low cost mobility, few people realise that this finally ended the problem that Karl Marx identified, that rising incomes from rising productivity, actually resulted in rising "rents", leaving the workers with no more discretionary income than before, and the benefit of the rising productivity being captured by land owning oligopolies. Frank Lloyd Wright pointed out in the 1920's, the potential for automobiles to end "the tyranny of rent". Rail systems never accessed enough new land at once, to make the market for land for urban development truly competitive. Land accessible by rail is of course just long narrow strips. But roads and cars potentially bring so much land into the urban economy, that no oligopoly class can stop the prices from falling. Alfred Leavitt was a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, and he and other developers simply started building new suburbs out beyond where the monopolists owned all of it. This actually ended the monopoly practices surrounding urban development, and made housing costs more affordable than ever before in history, because the price of rural land does NOT rise with the incomes of urban workforces like the price of urban land does. Of course "crony capitalists" tried for decades and finally succeeded in many countries and States and cities, in having "urban planning" to "contain urban sprawl" and in these cities, the problem Karl Marx identified has returned with a vengeance. Housing "median multiples" prices typically hover around 3 as long as there is freedom to convert rural land to urban, but median multiples always rise above 6 (and often to 10 and over) once "urban growth constraint" is practiced. This is a classic illustration of the difference between true free market capitalism and "crony capitalism" or "statist capitalism". Many people do not realise, that whenever some capitalist is truly "gouging" the market, there is always an enabler in government and regulations somewhere. It is simply not true to claim that the advantages of reducing the urban footprint are worthwhile. The cost of urban land when it is "growth constrained" always rises far faster than people can reduce their consumption of land; new developments end up with lots only one tenth of an acre in size priced at several times as much as a whole acre still costs in the cities with freedom to develop. (eg 200 cities in the USA are still like this). The UK has median multiples over 6 and, fluctuating as high as 9, even though their average new development now has 17 homes per acre. It is totally false too, to claim that there are sufficient savings on transport costs to offset this increase in housing costs. In so far as "compact urban form" correlates to reduced energy consumption, the mechanism by which this occurs is simply squeezed "discretionary incomes after housing costs are deducted", and collapsed birth rates due to a lack of space and discretionary income with which to raise a family. Employment in free markets decentralises just as rapidly as households, so that job-housing balance keeps travel times relatively stable. In fact congestion in higher density cities (less road lane miles per person) always more than negates the single-digit-percentage "gains" in transit use, walking and cycling. This is all yet another classic illustration of crony capitalism and the unintended consequences incurred by stupid leftwing politicians and bureaucrats and "planners" who are the crony capitalists useful idiots.

1 YEAR AGO

**PhilBest**

I also should have said that congestion when density is deliberately increased gets exponentially worse not just because there are more cars in the same old road space, but because traffic speed on a higher proportion of the network for much of the day, falls from "flowing" to "stop-start", compounding the problem. Not only are more cars trying to get through, they are getting through at a much lower speed. Add to this, "spill-back" effects from bottle-necks, and it is no wonder that the increased-density cities show worse outcomes, while the many low density low land cost cities in the USA

have had very stable commute-to-work times. The data are very embarrassing to the advocates of urban growth containment, and increased density. The cities that do use more petrol and have greater vehicle miles travelled, have this because speeds are higher and hence people can travel further in the same time; they also have the discretionary income after housing costs to do more discretionary travel and to buy thirtier vehicles; and they also have more children, resulting in education and shopping related travel and so on.

1 YEAR AGO



James Norton

AJD NYC You're an even bigger idiot than I thought if you think our goal is to see "Obama fail." Actually, it's rather revealing of the way you think, everything...EVERYTHING...is focused squarely on how it affects Obama in your view. I do find also very amusing that equate "making a better place for future generations" with creating bigger and more incompetent government and creating trillions of dollars in debt for said future generations to pay off. Here's an idea, stop spending money that isn't yours. And stop with stupid self righteousness, what you do is not to make the world a better place. It is to increase your control over people's lives and telling them how to live.

1 YEAR AGO



Spanky Spankster

The USA has a well-used and thoroughly tested highway system, around which our industry has evolved.

If we add HSR, that won't get rid of the highway system. We'll still need it for truck traffic and, since HSR goes only between select major hubs, we'll still need highways for mesh-style passenger travel.

1 YEAR AGO



spinoneone

Let's see, I started riding HSR in Japan in 1966. Tokyo to Nagoya in about 2 hours. But, the cost was not zero. It only was even close to break even at the time because Japan had and has a very high population density.

Remember, dufus, that the interstate highway system was invented and brought into being by an old white guy by the name of Eisenhower. Our current electric grid was build by private industry between 1960 and 1980. The space program, just cancelled by Obama, was done by old white guys and brought you such things as velcro and Tang, plus a huge amount of manufacturing technology.

What you defined as "socialism" is actually communism. Obama finds that to be an interesting idea. He is currently trying his damnest to rule without bothering to ask Congress for laws. What he seems to be aiming for is Fascism, i.e., national control of transportation, communications [MSM is already in his pocket; that's why he complains so loudly about Fox], public services, and control of if not ownership of industry. With the new tax authority just granted to the Executive by the Supreme Court he will probably plan to grab that brass ring too, if he can.

1 YEAR AGO



AJD NYC

spinoneone Uh, no it isn't. Socialism is an economic system in which the government directly controls the economy. Communism is a political ideology that seeks to take a socialist economy and use it to achieve full social and economic equality.

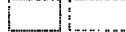
I'm not undervaluing the contributions made by people to the past, but I am saying that we as a nation need to plan for the future, not cling to a mostly imagined view of the past in order to assuage the fears of change of a bunch of selfish, cranky old white

people.

And who said there's anything wrong with private industry building infrastructure? I never did. But I don't think there's anything wrong with government doing it either, especially when it would serve the public good.

And regarding HSR systems that cost a lot and don't break even, so what? The same could be said of the Army and the FDA - so should we just get rid of those as well?

1 YEAR AGO



AJD_NYC

spinoneone: You really need to learn to think for yourself if you sincerely believe that Obama is aiming for fascism, socialism or communism. I'm just astounded that people can be so ignorant as you.

A major reason why people complain about Fox is because of the levels of ignorance it produces, as evidenced by your post. If it's still any mystery to you why so many people have such a low opinion of the Tea Party, then please read your post again, especially the last paragraph.

1 YEAR AGO



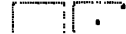
LiberalsHateUs

AJD_NYC

spinoneone: The only "amazing" thing, and the ignorance is from the mouth of a warped NYC liberal. Did you feed on liberal oats this morning, or just Obama projectile vomit bile?

Crawl back into your liberal cave and read s'more Mao.

1 YEAR AGO



AJD_NYC

I wonder how many of the Teabaggers here have actually used high-speed rail.

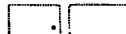
I actually was in China recently and rode the train from Nanjing to Tianjin, a 563 mi journey that only took four hours. By contrast, Boston to Washington (about 450 mi) on the Acela would take 6-7 hours, while flying the same distance would take about 1.5-2 hours plus an hour to get to the airport, getting their two hours in advance and an hour to get from the airport to the city at your destination.

And admiring the speed at which China has built these things isn't tantamount to endorsing their system of government as a model for governance in the United States.

It's hard to even begin to describe how annoyingly ignorant and simple-minded you people are.

Do you know why America's declining? It's not because of Obama. It's because of people like you: Cranky old white people who wish it was still the 1950s and who have no vision for the future or any understanding that if we want to be a prosperous country now, it means we have to invest in things like education and infrastructure and R&D, let alone any understanding that investing in such things is no more socialist now than when we did it in the 1950s or the 1850s.

When every aspect of the U.S. economy - all the manufacturing, retail and everything else - is seized and directly controlled by the government, then you can complain that we're becoming socialist, because that's what the definition of socialism is. Anything else is still capitalism, but the kind of libertarian/Ayn Rand system you people dream of has never existed in this country and would only exist in a failed state like Somalia.



Spanky Spankster

AJD_NYC

First, why are liberal males so obsessed with the term and concept



of tea bagging? Maybe you can answer that one honestly for us...

Second, you present a false dichotomy - it's either socialism or Somalia.

Third, you remind us of just how extremely arrogant and elitist liberals really are.

AJD_NYC

Spanky Spankster

Wow, nice that you start off with sexual innuendo. That really adds some credibility to your response.

The Teabaggers are the ones presenting the false dichotomy here and the ones most prone to using the term "socialism" without actually knowing what it means. They're the ones who scream "socialism" and preach fiscal restraint whenever the idea of investing taxpayers' money in infrastructure, education and R&D comes up. But how many of the old people you see at Tea Party rallies would voluntarily forfeit their Medicare and Social Security (probably few, if any)? How many of them voted in 2004 for Bush, arguably the most fiscally irresponsible president in the country's history (probably most, if not all)?

Ultimately, they're nothing but hypocrites who fear change and cling to some fictitious, idealized past, totally oblivious to the fact that clinging to the past is what's dragging this country down.



Spanky Spankster

AJD_NYC:

"nice that you start off with sexual innuendo."

Uh YOU'RE the one who used the term "teabagger."



AJD_NYC

Spanky Spankster

Well, you're the one who chose to emphasize that instead of actually addressing any of my arguments.



MrsG1962

Ray LaHood...praising Communists. Nice.

Isn't he a NObama appointee?

Somehow that figures.



JoanneNewnam

Ray, dear, the Chinese have all our money, that's why they can build 'infrastructure' a/k/a rails/train, but they don't have a major interstate road system linking their whole country which is paid for and maintained by all Americans through their gasoline taxes. We didn't need a communist government to get it done. So, Ray, you are a Communist? Oh, by the way, Ray, thank God, for the Republicans holding your communism at bay. We have seen the results on Marxism in Russia, Germany (yes, friends, Hitler was a follower of Marx), Cuba, Argentina, European Union, Venezuela. China (now resorting to capitalism to get its economy going but controlled by a few elite family party members and by the way some on the business shows have reported an economic tumdown for China) and my favorite of all time, North Korea. A stark contrast - North Korea vs. South Korea a/k/a Marxism/socialism/communism vs free market economy!

AJD_NYC



JoanneNewnam "yes, friends, Hitler was a follower of Marx"

Typical Teabagger ignorance. Get out of your suburb and read some history for once. Hitler declared Marx (who was Jewish, FYI) an enemy early on and relentlessly persecuted German communists once in power.



JodyJohns Really? Ever heard of Amtrak? How's that working out?



Mel43 Lahood you are leaving the next generation something a 16+ trillion deficit!!!



Spanky Spankster **Mel43** Based on what Dems spent since they took total control of Congress on 1/3/2007, the federal debt will be over \$21T by 2017 - with no end in sight.



ocschwar **Mel43** No, the Republicans did that by financing the Wall Street bailout in 2008. At least Lahood is trying to get stuff BUILT.



Spanky Spankster **ocschwar** **Mel43** Which party controlled the 110th session of Congress, which was seated on 1/3/2007 - and expanded that control through the 111th session?



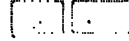
Spanky Spankster **ocschwar** **Mel43** "At least Lahood is trying to get stuff BUILT."

Lahood is trying to transfer wealth to Dem contributors.



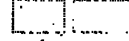
neax
The infrastructure was built on investment & export income
Today the ECB, UK and others lowered their bank rates, also without the flags of warning China also lowered its bank rate.
So if one places themselves in a position of an investor today would you buy the EU market that is in recession or borrow from that program or would you invest in a 7% growth rate of China or borrow from China that is cheaper and has an under valued currency?
Well the result was clear today as the hope of the EU fell flat as investors did not buy into the EU
Now did China do this knowing that it would win the day against the EU? YOU BET THEY DID.
The holiday in the USA was a situation that others seen as a gain and they acted on it.
If they had failed in acting the trend would be else where, the fact that they ACTED is key.
Without action nothing is gained.
The infrastructure of some parts of China is developed to high levels while other parts are very much that of a troubled nation.
If America does not take Action under wise Leadership we will not only remain stalled but we will decline while others continue to grow through action.
America is not in the best place, Canada has united with a private veterans group out of the USA to bring USA Vets into Canada to employ them on the Keystone pipe line oil project that Obama

said no to . Why Obama said no to the project China quickly said yes to Canadian oil days later.
America needs action under LEADERSHIP , Romney is a man of action | fast talk of hollow results is Obamas record & the jobs report & economic situation is the product of Obama's failed record .



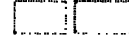
entropy_factor

neax Romney is controlled by the same puppetmasters as Obama, unfortunately.



jjdco

The attraction of totalitarianism has always been the apparent ease with which decisions are made. Unfortunately, success is not determined by the ease of decision-making but by the correctness of the decisions. Ever heard of the Nazis? This country doesn't need a high speed rail system.



jv_6409

I do believe eventually we will have a high speed rail system. But who is going to build it? It will spiral down hill can imagine newly found rail workers union bargaining through the process of this gigantic task. That will cost too much of course. Then there is the environmental agencies who give the our oil drilling companies hell for killing birds at a well. How will we be able to construct an elevated rail line through our precious forests. On top of all that, the airlines will lobby the SHIT out of it. Southwest has halted the development of a line through their home base of Texas already. So until we have tons of poor people willing to work this task like hack in 19th century. Maybe we could legalize all our undocumented migrants to start work! FAIL. and I'm a moderate



spinoneona

Hey, Ray, why don't you ask Lisa Jackson over at EPA what she thinks about your plan. I'm sure she'll agree that you have it right.

HSR in Wyoming? Lowest population density in the USA. If you want to build one from New York to Washington I wouldn't be surprised to find that the price was a billion dollars per mile. Truly cost effective.



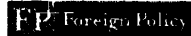
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AOL

HUFF
POST POLITICS

Joy Resmovits

Joy.resmovits@huffingtonpost.com

Arne Duncan To Defend Common Core, Call Tea Party Critiques 'Outlandish'

Posted: 06/25/2013 3:02 pm EDT | Updated: 06/25/2013 3:55 pm EDT

Over the last few months, the louder critics of the Common Core learning standards have associated the initiative with varying degrees of evit vampires, zombies, brain tracking, Hitler.

In a Washington, D.C. speech to the American Society of News Editors Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is expected to add one more to the list.

"Traditionally, this event has been an opportunity for federal leaders to talk about touchy subjects," Duncan will say, according to prepared remarks. "For example, you asked President Kennedy to talk about the Bay of Pigs. So, thanks for having me here to talk about the Common Core State Standards."

Duncan will say that the standards are "under attack," call on the editors gathered to separate fact from fiction, and label some of the initiative's critics "fringe groups."

The Common Core is a set of learning standards that 45 states and Washington, D.C., agreed to. The standards, developed by governors, policymakers and teachers organized by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, and with funding from the Gates Foundation, are supposed to help students from all states get "college and career ready" for a global economy. The standards focus on cognitive skills and stress more informational testing and depth over breadth. The federal government has incentivized the adoption of such standards through tools like the Race to the Top competition and the No Child Left Behind waiver program.

Critics say that the Core standardizes education, giving the federal government too much power over an area that has traditionally been the domain of local school districts. Others who might be generally supportive of the Core worry about potential difficulties in implementation, especially at a time rife with changes for teachers and schools. Recently, some states pulled back from the Core; the Core was initially a bipartisan effort, with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) issuing several vocal defenses, but the right-wing outrage over the standards makes it a harder for Republican governors to maintain.

Congressional Republicans have spoken out against the Core, with Rep. Scott DesJarlais (R-Tenn.), a member of the House education committee, saying the standards are "watered down" and that they achieve "mediocrity at the expense of states' sovereignty and local control." At a No Child Left Behind hearing last week, Rep. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.) accused the federal government of coercing states into buying into the Core. "I don't think Congress has any policy to make on common standards," House education committee member Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.) told HuffPost. "Somehow it's become a talking point on the Tea Party right."

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Duncan will give a full-throated defense of the Core in his ASNE speech. The Obama administration has been sensitive about the Core because its perceived closeness to the initiative can be seen as dampening Republican support. But Duncan is expected to relate what he calls the "powerful" Core to America's future prosperity.

"Today, for the first time in American history a child in Mississippi will face the same expectations as a child in Massachusetts," Duncan's speech says.

DBCS 404

"We are no longer lying to kids about whether they are ready. We are finally telling them the truth, telling their parents the truth, and telling their future employers the truth. We are finally holding ourselves accountable to giving our children a true college and career-ready education."

Duncan will also stress the administration's refrain that the standards were in development before Obama came into office. "It was voluntary — we didn't mandate it — but we absolutely encouraged it," Duncan will say.

He will also blast the Core's critics. "The Common Core has become a rallying cry for fringe groups that claim it is a scheme for the federal government to usurp state and local control of what students learn," the speech says. "When the critics can't persuade you that the Common Core is a curriculum, they make even more outlandish claims. They say that the Common Core calls for federal collection of student data. For the record, it doesn't, we're not allowed to, and we won't. And let's not even get into the really wacky stuff: mind control, robots, and biometric brain mapping."

These critiques, Duncan will suggest, are tantamount to lowering the level of student learning. "If your state lowers standards, you lose a high bar for reading, for critical thinking, for writing, and for taking ideas seriously. You lose one of the cornerstones of democracy."

"Because the power of democracy depends upon an informed electorate — and a free press."



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In a Tight Spot, Pelosi Calls Health Care Critics 'Un-American'

Published August 10, 2009 / FoxNews.com

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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi turned the health care debate up a notch Monday, penning a column along with her top deputy that questioned the patriotism of those disrupting town hall meetings to air their complaints.

Pelosi and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer claimed such behavior is "simply un-American."

It's hardly the first time Pelosi, who earlier this year accused the CIA of lying to Congress and repeatedly has called Republicans unpatriotic, has employed some serious name-calling to characterize her opponents' views.

The jab Monday drew swift scorn from Republicans and critics who say the health care demonstrations are as American as apple pie.

"I, like most Americans, would find that kind of characterization of citizens exercising their First Amendment rights to be offensive," Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., told FOX News. "There's nothing more American than letting your elected representatives know how you feel about important issues facing the nation."

House Republican Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, released a statement calling the charge "outrageous and reprehensible."

Pelosi and Hoyer made the accusation as part of a lengthy column in USA Today stressing the need for action on health care reform. The piece was published as lawmakers return to their districts for summer recess, a period that could imperil the legislation if health care critics cause moderate Democrats to lose their stomachs for sweeping

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reform.

Critics have confronted lawmakers about the bills, sometimes shouting at them, at a number of town halls in the past week alone.

On Monday, Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill tried a new tack in rebutting the protesters while also minimizing their complaints. She got several hands when she asked audience members at a town hall meeting to raise their hands if they're so spared about the federal government running health care that they "can't think straight."

For Pelosi and Hoyer, they charged that an "ugly campaign" is afoot to misrepresent the legislation, "disrupt" the public meetings and prevent members of Congress from "conducting a civil dialogue" on the topic.

"Let the facts be heard," they wrote. "These disruptions are occurring because opponents are afraid not just of differing views – but of the facts themselves. Drowning out opposing views is simply un-American. Drowning out the facts is how we failed at this task for decades."

The "un-American" dig was a sign the debate is heating up. In a tight spot, Pelosi is known for employing tough rhetoric and accusations to muscle her way out.

Back in September 2008, Pelosi used similar language to complain about Republicans who weren't showing up to talks on a Wall Street bailout package.

"I thought it was very unpatriotic of them not to show up, not to show up, in some ways, boycott the meetings earlier in the week," she said.

She also reportedly called the GOP budget in 2006 "unpatriotic" because it drove up the national debt.

This past May, she accused the CIA of lying to Congress, as she was facing questions about how much she knew early on about the Bush administration's interrogation policies.

Then last week, with the health care debate growing more heated, she invoked Nazi Germany, accusing protesters of "carrying swastikas and symbols like that" to meetings. A spokesman for Pelosi later said the speaker was referencing a photo taken at a town hall meeting hosted by Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., which showed a protester holding a sign of a swastika crossed out over President Obama's name and a question mark.

2


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Yes, and President Obama is interfering with that right

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Yet the language Pelosi is using for health care critics is nothing like the language she used to describe anti-war protesters criticized by war supporters as unpatriotic.

Pelosi, who led efforts to withdraw from Iraq before troops had finished the job, tolerated anti-war hecklers on several occasions.

"It's always exciting," she said of protesters who interrupted a meeting in January 2006, according to an account in the San Francisco Chronicle. "This is democracy in action. I'm energized by it, frankly."

At an event in June 2007, she told anti-war protesters "just go for it, I respect your enthusiasm," according to another account.

The charge of "un-American" behavior by critics is not something made by President Obama, who on Monday withheld criticism of his health care detractors.

"We are having a vigorous debate in the United States and I think that's a healthy thing," he said, speaking at a North American summit in Mexico.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said there's not really any "substantive difference" between the anti-war protests of MoveOn and Code Pink then and the health care reform criticism today — other than the subject being addressed.

Cornyn told FOX News he thinks the latest charge of being "un-American" is a "pretty harsh statement" about Americans who have serious concerns about the health care legislation.

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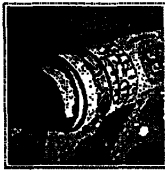


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Pelosi: Town Hall Protesters Are "Carrying Swastikas"



Nancy Pelosi claims protesters are "carrying swastikas and symbols like that to a town meeting on healthcare."

NEW VIDEO (8/7): Obama: "I Don't Want The Folks Who Created The Mess To Do A Lot Of Talking"

VIDEO: Man At Town Hall: "You Need To Get The Government The Hell Out Of Our Way"

VIDEO: DNC Web Ad Attacks Protesters At Dem Town Halls

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Posted on August 5, 2009

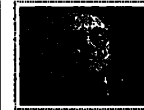
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MIKE HUCKABEE: You have said that you thought the prosecutor ought to be



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AL SHARPTON: It goes to the Justice Department. Really there are grounds for

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"This Week" Roundtable On Spitzer, Weiner, Skewering Washington Insiders



"Meet The Press" Panel: Immigration, Washington Dysfunction, Zimmerman Verdict



"Face The Nation" Panel Examines Zimmerman Case, Immigration, Iran



Mark O'Hara: Zimmerman Has "Even More Reason Now" To Carry His Returned Gun



David Webb: "This Isn't A Racial Case, It Was Made A Racial Case"



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