



Facts and Truth on Food Stamps:



65
slides

Prepared by Max Beauregard, Houston Community College
Govt. 2305 & 2306, Summer 2013, cell 832/892-2123

Purpose

- To explain and provide documentation of the economic conditions since 2008 that have resulted in conditions of high poverty and therefore an increasing need and demand for food stamps.
- To explain conditions in Texas regarding utilizing and administering the federal SNAP food stamp program administered by Texas Dept. Human Services.
- To explain the widening wealth gap between rich and poor, and inability of the middle class to increase its share of wealth even with education and hard work.

Both poverty and family incomes have been declining consistently for decades verifying the adage “rich get richer and poor get poorer”.

FED SURVEY

June 12, 2012

U.S. families' net worth lowest in 20 years

Middle class has sustained the largest percentage losses in both wealth and income

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The recent economic crisis left the median U.S. family in 2010 with no more

wealth than in the early 1990s, erasing almost two decades of accumulated prosperity, the Federal Reserve said Monday. A hypothetical family

richer than half the nation's families and poorer than the other half had a net worth of \$77,300 in 2010, compared with \$126,400 in 2007, the Fed said. The crash of housing prices directly accounted for three-quarters of the loss. Families' income also continued to decline, a

trend that predated the crisis but accelerated over the same period. Median family income fell to \$45,800 in 2010 from \$49,600 in 2007. All figures were adjusted for inflation. The new data comes from the Fed's release Monday of its Survey of Consumer Finances, a

POVERTY AT 51-YEAR HIGH IN U.S.

■ 4.3 million people across Texas among impoverished, census shows

By RENÉE C. LEE
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

More than 43 million Americans lived in poverty last year, the largest number in 51 years, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

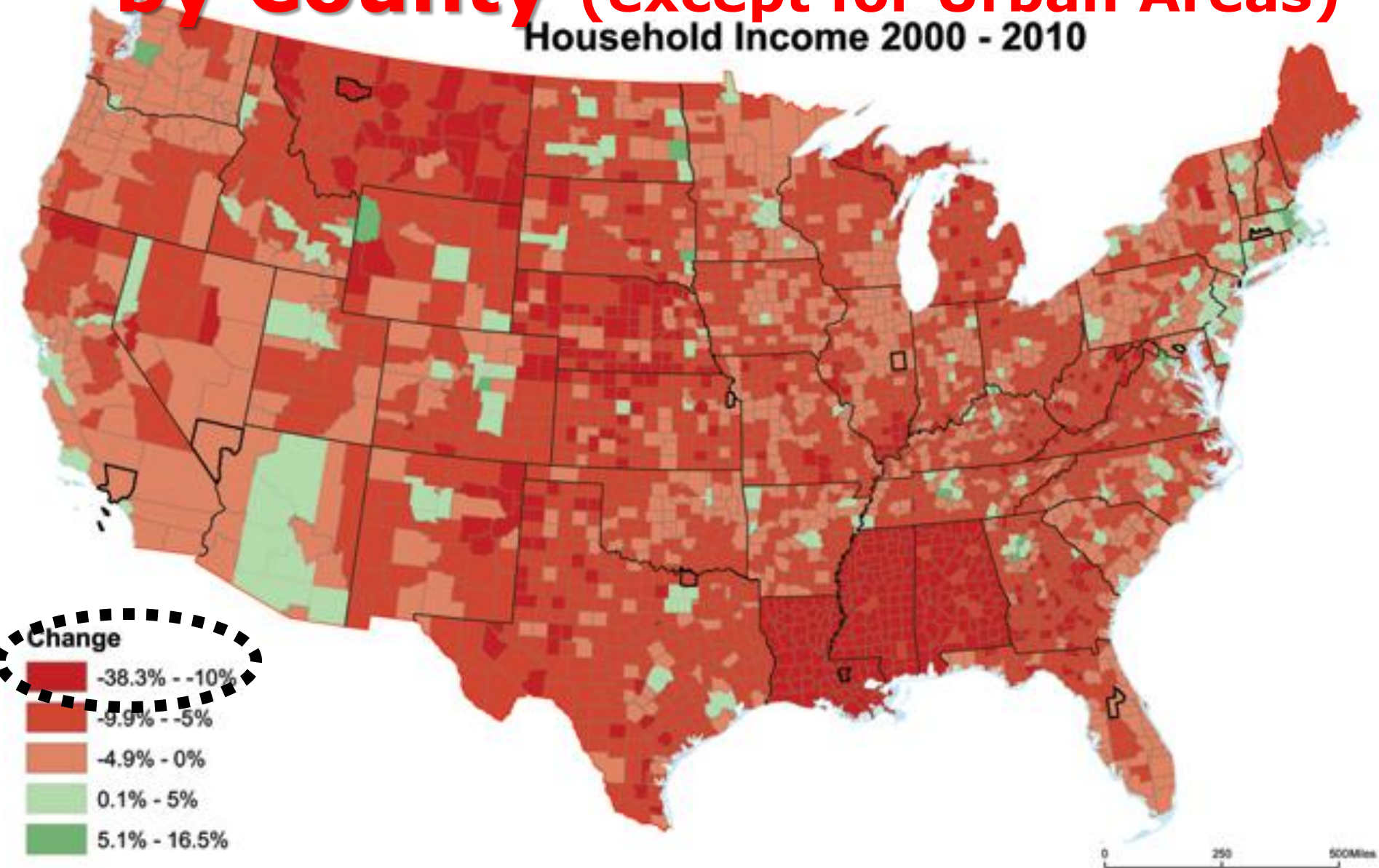
The figure pushes the national poverty rate to 14.3 percent, up from 13.2 percent in 2008, statistics released Thursday show.

In Texas, there were about 4.3 million people living in poverty in 2009, increasing the state's poverty rate to 17.3 percent, up from 15.9 percent the prior year.

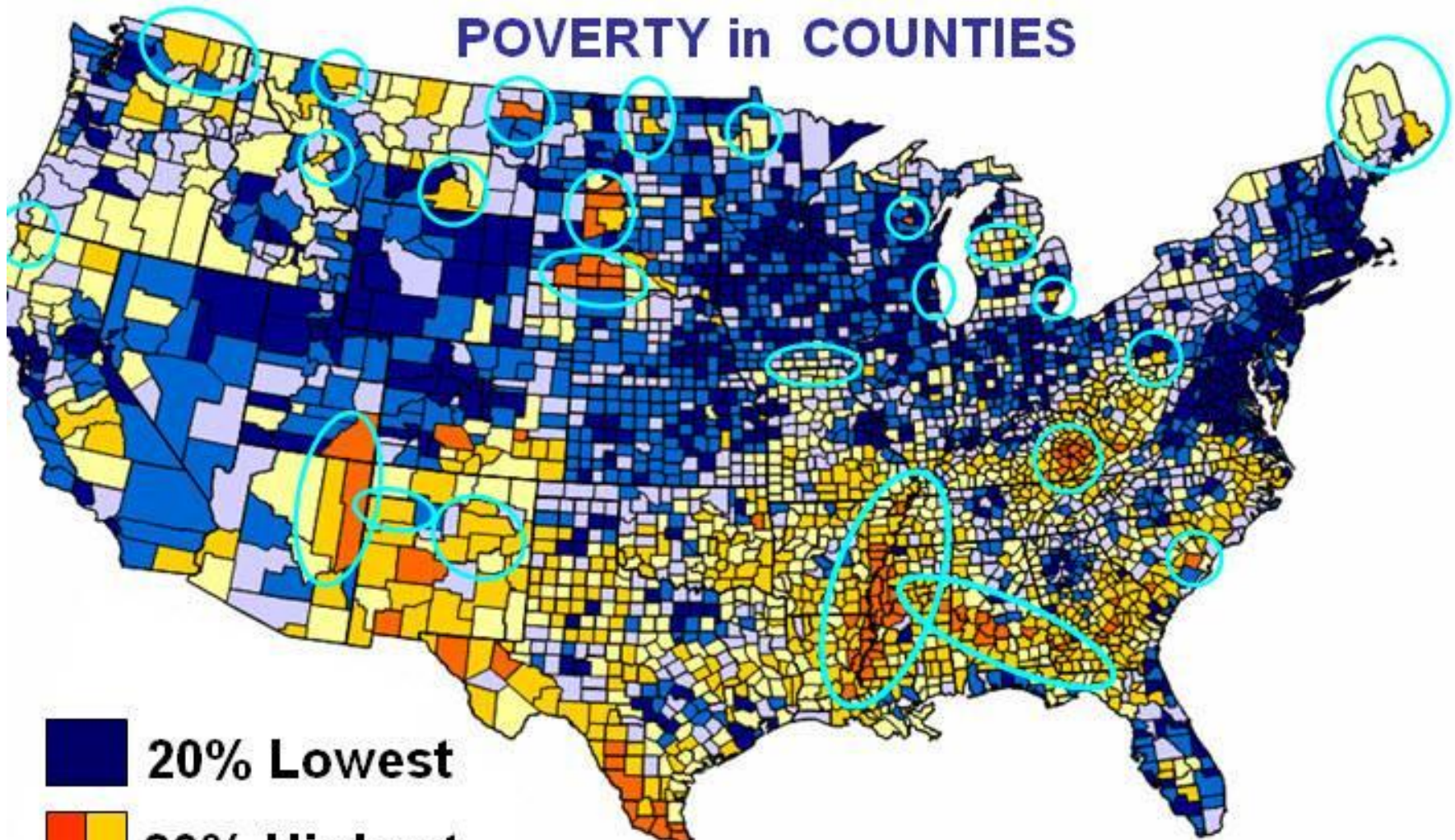
The lack of long-term, historical wage growth is the reason behind Obama's *2013 State of the Union* goal to link minimum wage to annual, consumer price increases.

Declining Household Income by County (except for Urban Areas)

Household Income 2000 - 2010



POVERTY in COUNTIES



20% Lowest
20% Highest

Matthew Cooper, 2009

0.0 to 10.0	611	19.5%
10.0 to 12.7	639	20.4%
12.7 to 15.6	624	19.9%
15.6 to 19.4	637	20.3%
19.4 to 30.0	537	17.1%
30.0 to 56.0	92	2.9%
No data		

Houston poverty rises in 2012

9/21/12

A mixed picture in Texas cities

The U.S. Census Bureau released new estimates of poverty, median income and the percentage of the population without health insurance in 2011. *

	Percent living in poverty	Percent without health insurance	Median household income
Houston	23.8%	28.9%	\$42,877
San Antonio	19.9%	21.7%	\$42,613
Dallas	25.3%	31.2%	\$40,585
Austin	20.3%	21.0%	\$49,987
El Paso	22.0%	26.2%	\$40,702

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

* Figures are for Texas' five largest cities, not metropolitan areas

Houston Chronicle

Median household income defines the 'middle class', yet Romney thought 'middle class' was over \$200K.

2 min. Video: Poverty has relocated to the suburbs.

<http://www.upworthy.com/1-minute-and-45-seconds-that-ll-make-you-think-twice-about-poverty?g=2&c=upw1>

Food stamps and education

Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, has grown fastest since 1980 among those with some college education.

PERCENTAGE OF BENEFIT RECIPIENTS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

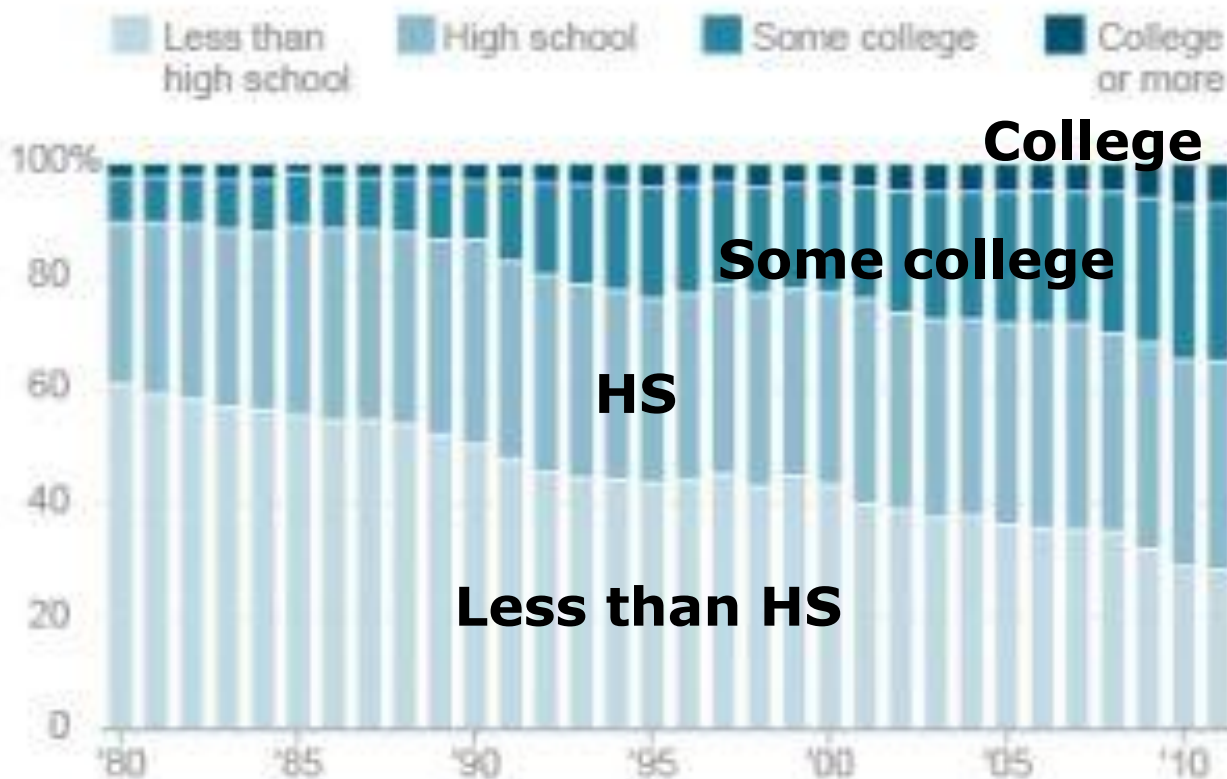


Photo By
s.mccrory/AP

Graphic shows food stamp recipients by level of education.

NOTE: Numbers may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

SOURCE: University of Kentucky analysis of census data

AP

Decline of the middle class and the increasing gap between rich and poor.

Growth Of Family Income



Prior to the Reagan Admin in 1980, all income segments of society grew equally, but since then, only the wealthy 1% have excelled.

Wealth Gap & Income Inequality in America

Watch this 6 minute VIDEO on income inequality:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM>

ACTUAL
Distribution of
Wealth in the U.S.



What Americans
THINK
The Distribution Is



Graph shows differences in actual and perceived wealth gap by Americans.

Distribution
92% Choose as
IDEAL



BOTTOM 20% SECOND 20% MIDDLE 20% FOURTH 20% TOP 20%

Pre-tax household income

1979-2007

Growth of the Wealth Gap since 1980 and Decline of the Middle Class



If you are in the bottom 80 percent of American households, you've gained essentially no economic ground in the past three decades.

There is very little growth in real income for Americans in the last 30 years.

Poverty is at an all time high for all age groups.

Joel Olsteen's house

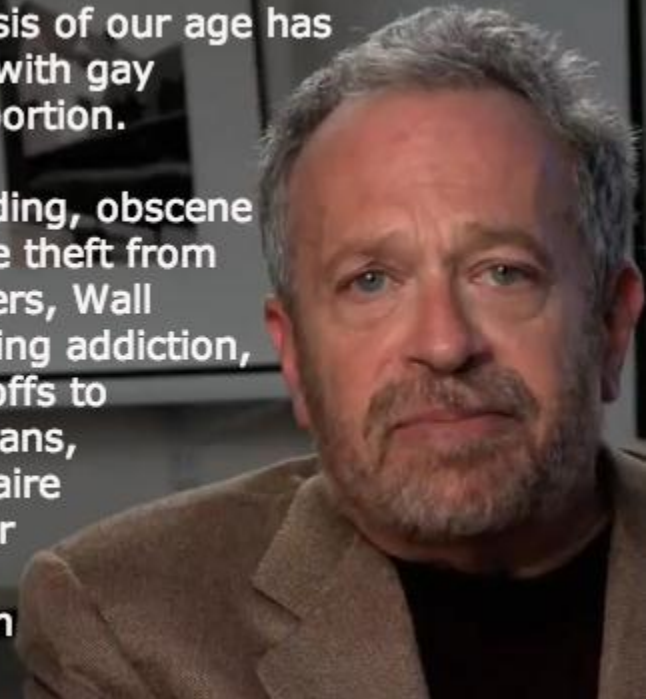


Can't you tithe just a little more...you know, for the poor?

"The moral crisis of our age has nothing to do with gay marriage or abortion.

It's insider trading, obscene CEO pay, wage theft from ordinary workers, Wall Street's gambling addiction, corporate payoffs to friendly politicians, and the billionaire takeover of our democracy."

— Robert Reich



Who are the 1%? Beyonce buys Blue Ivy a diamond- studded Barbie worth \$88,000.
Obviously we are not part of the 1%.



1 minute video:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/id/3032619/ns/NBCNightlyNews/#52977126>

The gap between the richest 1 % and the rest of America is the widest it's been since the 1920s.

Rising inequality in U.S. undermines our society

9/14/2013



Paul Krugman says America must work to find a solution that narrows the income gap that threatens the foundation of our country's values.

A few days ago, the New York Times published a report on a society that is being undermined by extreme inequality. This society claims to reward the best and brightest regardless of family background. In practice, however, the children of the wealthy benefit from opportunities and connections unavailable to children of the middle and working classes. And it was clear from the

rough time. The college graduate serving lattes at Starbucks is a cliché, but the cliché reflects a very real situation.

What's driving these huge income gains at the top? There's intense debate on that point, with some economists still claiming that incredibly high incomes reflect comparably incredible contributions to the economy. I guess I'd note that a large proportion of those super-

How do they get so rich?

The NFL has 14 team owners on Forbes list of richest Americans. Three are asking taxpayers in their city to help underwrite the cost for new stadiums or massive renovation projects to further enhance the value of their teams, players, and personal wealth.

Meet Three Billionaires Asking Taxpayers To Buy Them New NFL Stadiums:

Owner name	Owner net worth / rank in NFL	Team	Amount requested from taxpayers for stadiums
Stan Kroenke	\$5.3 billion / 2nd	St. Louis Rams	\$700 million
Stephen Ross	\$4.8 billion / 3rd	Miami Dolphins	\$380 million
Arthur Blank	\$1.7 billion / 10th	Atlanta Falcons	\$200 million
Bud Adams	???	Houston Oilers 1997	Moved the team to Tennessee when Houston refused to build

Many taxpayers are not aware that their tax money is often for a subsidy to offset costs and to enhance profits for private business.

Forbes Magazine 2015 list of *Billionaires*

14 Houstonians make the list

By Katherine Feser

Houston had a respectable showing on the Forbes magazine annual ranking of the world's billionaires, even as half of the local billionaires were a bit lighter in the pocket with the drop in oil prices.

Pipeline magnate Richard Kinder cracked into the Top 100 with \$12 billion in net worth after

Some of the city's billionaires ranked by Forbes have a little less money because of the plunge in crude oil prices

Dannine Avara, Scott Duncan and Milane Frantz, three of the heirs of the late Dan Duncan who also gained wealth through pipelines, shared the No. 230 spot with \$6.2 billion each in net worth, down \$100 million from

of Hilcorp, saw his net worth fall by \$600 million to \$4.9 billion, which earned him a ranking of 318. George Bishop, the founder of GeoSouthern Energy, erased \$800 million of his net worth from the previous year for a total

Texas ranch to Shell Oil in 2010, according to Forbes.

Richard Kinder was joined by five other Houstonians who added to their net worth in 2015.

After Kinder, Dan Friedkin of Gulf States Toyota added the most to his net wealth — \$800 million — bringing him in at No. 534 with \$3.3 billion.

Robert McNair added \$400 million, Fayez Sarofim add-

Houston's richest

Fourteen people from the Houston area are included on this year's global list of 1,826 billionaires:

No. 100: Richard Kinder

No. 230:

Dannine Avara

No. 230: Scott Duncan

No. 230: Milane Frantz

No. 240:

Randa Williams

No. 318:

Jeffery Hildebrand

No. 534: Dan Friedkin

No. 690:

George Bishop

No. 714: John Arnold

No. 737: Tilman Fertitta

No. 782: Robert McNair

No. 847: Fayez Sarofim

No. 1118: Joe Jamail, Jr.

No. 1190:

Leslie Alexander

**March
2015**

World's richest

No. 1: Bill Gates

No. 2:

Carlos Slim Helu

No. 3: Warren Buffett

No. 4: Amancio Ortega

No. 5: Larry Ellison



SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS' GUIDE TO CORPORATE FREELoadERS

Unfortunately and unknown to most Americans, corporations are not paying their share of taxes and they are simultaneously receiving massive tax benefits via loopholes.

People who are against entitlement programs for people are totally unaware and being distracted from the real issues, which are the massive tax subsidies to corporations and the wealthy.

Large corporations use “loopholes” to avoid paying their share of taxes.

1 **Exxon Mobil**'s 2009 profits totaled \$19 billion, yet according to its SEC filings, the company received **A \$156 MILLION REBATE** from the IRS. **PLUS, IT DIDN'T PAY ANY FEDERAL TAXES.**

2 **Bank of America** made \$4.4 billion in profits last year. This was after it received **A \$1 TRILLION BAILOUT** from the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department, and **A \$1.9 BILLION TAX REFUND** from the IRS.

3 **General Electric** has made \$26 billion in profits in the United States over the past five years. It's also received **A \$4.1 BILLION TAX REFUND** from the IRS. **GE HAS CUT A FIFTH OF ITS AMERICAN JOBS** in the past nine years, and is boosting jobs overseas—where tax rates are lower. And where it can continue evading U.S. taxes.

4 **Chevron**'s IRS **REFUND LAST YEAR TOTALED \$19 MILLION**, but its 2009 profits came to a whopping \$10 billion.

5 **Boeing** received a \$30 billion contract from the Pentagon to build 179 airborne tankers. It also received a **\$124 MILLION REFUND FROM THE IRS.**

6 Valero Energy made \$68 billion in sales and received a **\$167 MILLION TAX REFUND** check from the IRS. Over the past three years, it has received a \$134 million tax break thanks to the oil and gas manufacturing tax reduction.

7 Goldman Sachs paid **1.1% OF ITS 2008 INCOME IN TAXES**. Yet it made a **PROFIT OF \$2.3 BILLION**. And guess how much it received from the Federal Reserve and U.S. Treasury Department? \$800 billion.

8 Citigroup profits last year totaled more than \$4 billion. But it paid zero dollars in federal income tax, and **RECEIVED A \$2.5 TRILLION BAILOUT** from the Federal Reserve and U.S. Treasury.

9 ConocoPhillips' profits from 2007 through 2009 totaled \$16 billion. **BUT IT WAS STILL AWARDED \$451 MILLION IN TAX BREAKS** because of the oil and gas manufacturing deduction.

10 Carnival Cruise Lines is apparently getting pretty good business: Its profits over the past five years totaled more than \$11 billion. **ITS FEDERAL INCOME TAX RATE, HOWEVER, CAME TO JUST 1.1%**.

IN 2013 YOU PAID THEM



\$2,479,143 \$666,130 \$762,377
In Salary & Expenditures
For doing practically nothing

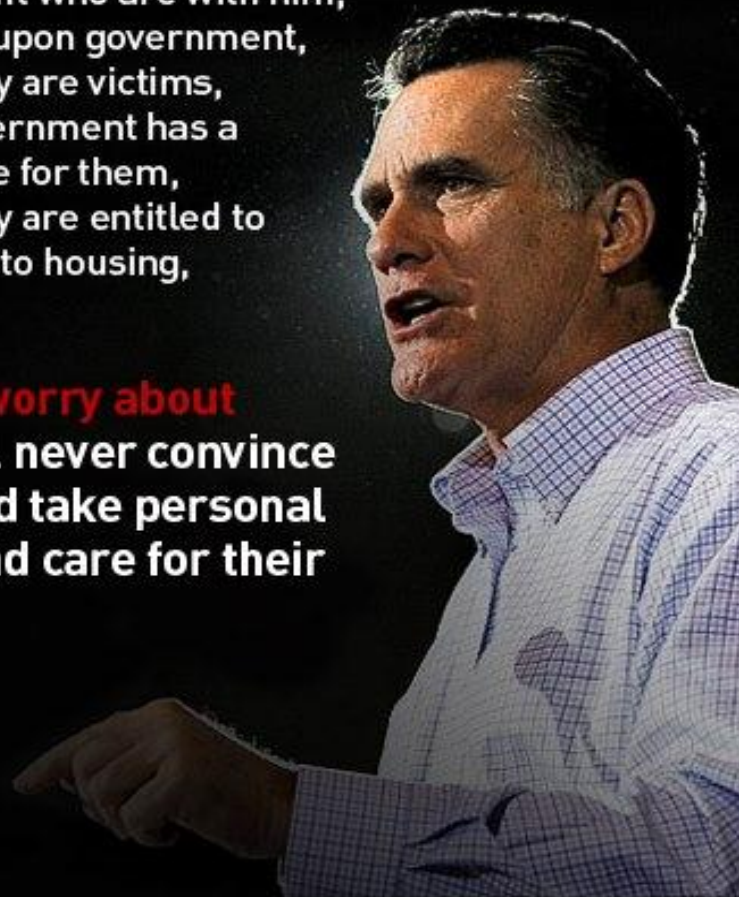
**Yet they say millions
of Americans who actually
earn their pay only
deserve \$7.25 an hour.**

This has been a message from FORWARD FJW

Romney's remark about the 47% may prove to be the turning point in the 2012 election because people began to better understand his lack of understanding and caring. Immediately afterwards, his popularity dropped in the polls (most critically in the swing states) and remained so until the election.

“There are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it.

My job is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives.”



- Mitt Romney, caught on tape at a private fundraiser

[SOURCE: Mother Jones 9/17/2012]

Romney's derogatory comment about 47% as "parasites or moochers" on government assistance and for not paying income taxes is accurate, but insulting to those who need help.



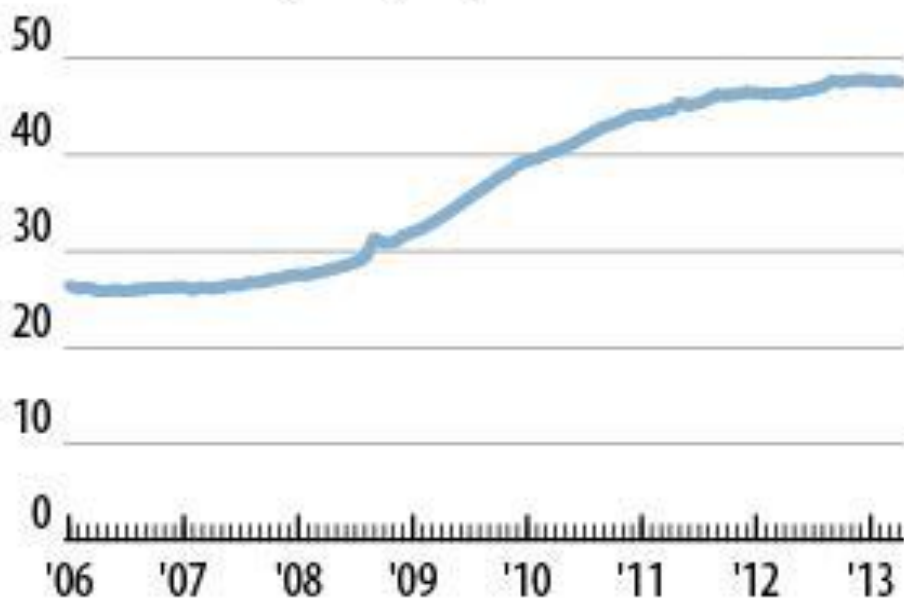
THE REAL 47%
THE UNEMPLOYED
THE ELDERLY
THE DISABLED
THE WORKING POOR
THE US MILITARY



- Medicaid: 26%
- Social Security: 16%
- Food stamps: 16%
- Medicare: 15%
- Women, Infants and Children food program: 8%

Why are 47% of people (1 in 6) on food stamps? Numerous others could be eligible, but are not participating.

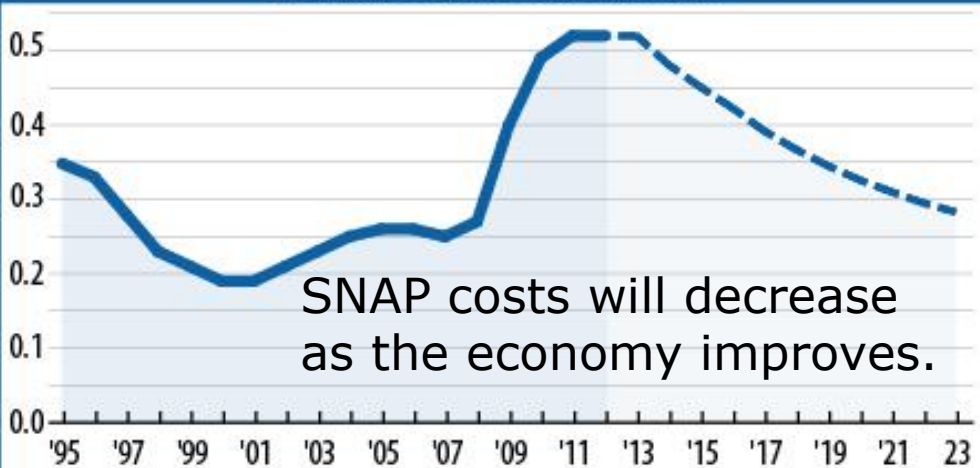
Number of SNAP participants, in millions



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

Figure 2
Congressional Budget Office Projects SNAP Costs Will Shrink
As a Share of Gross Domestic Product



SNAP costs will decrease as the economy improves.

Sources: Congressional Budget Office, CBO May 2013 baseline outlay and economic forecast and Office of Management and Budget historical data.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

Labor Day 2013 is met with increasing frustration over lower wages and inequality between the "haves & have nots". 25% of Americans are living in poverty plus the other 25+% without healthcare.

Monday, September 2, 2013

A growing crisis greets Labor Day

Frustration is boiling over, expert says, with low wages, sense of inequality

By L.M. Sixer

It was mostly janitors and fast-food and other low-wage workers on the front lines last week protesting their pay, but the movement for a "livable"

wage may resonate with a broader swath of Americans who lost ground during the recent recession.

"We're in a situation where a quarter of Americans are earning poverty wages," said Arne

L. Kalleberg, author of "Good Jobs, Bad Jobs." For a family of four, that's a little less than \$24,000 a year.

The rallies across the nation last week focused on boosting wages to \$15 an hour, which is more than double the federal minimum of \$7.25.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that in the next

decade, seven out of 10 of the fastest-growing jobs will be in low-wage industries such as fast food, personal services and retail, said Kalleberg, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina.

Middle-income jobs such as manufacturing, clerical and administrative roles are not growing as quickly.

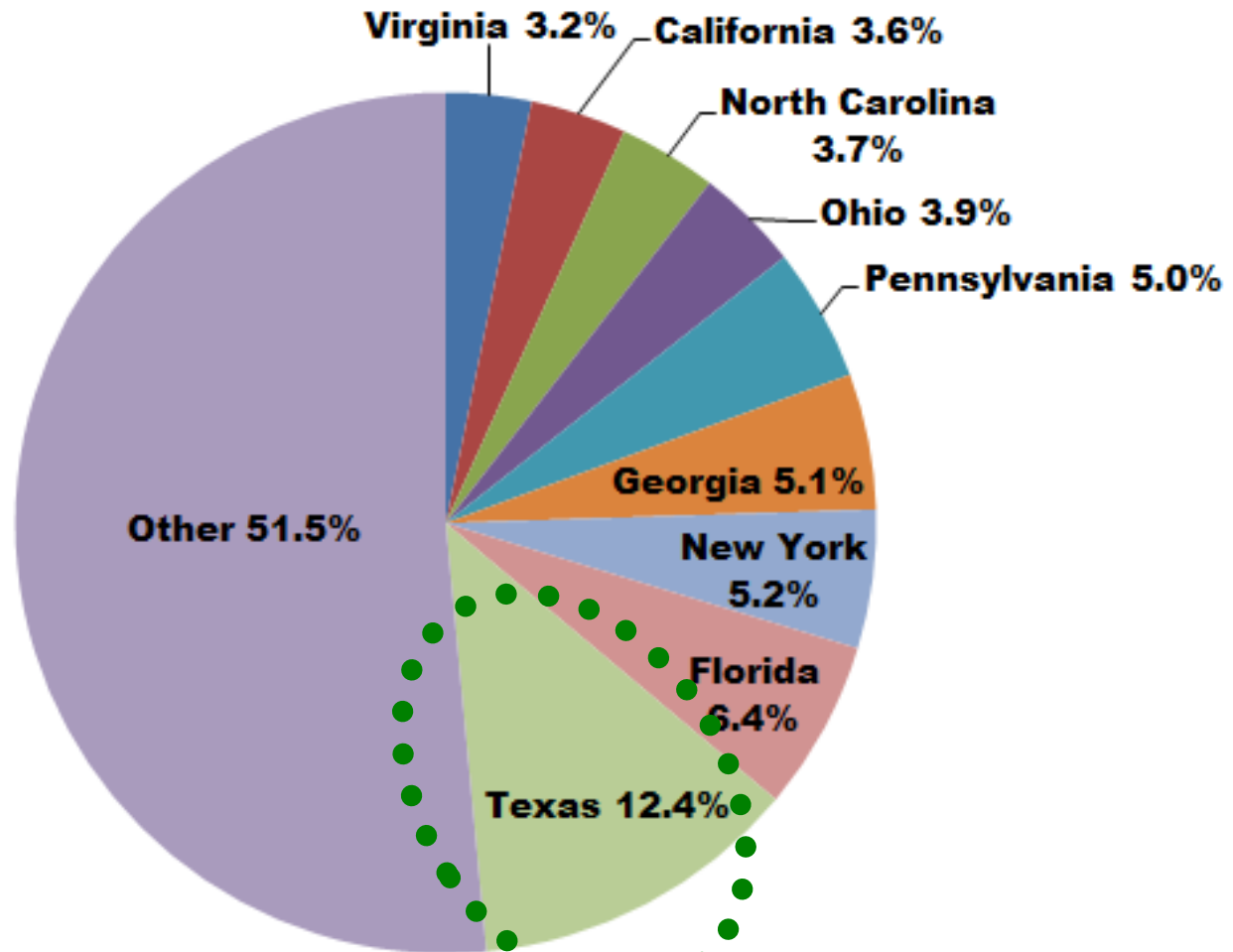
"Lots of folks are working hard and not getting anywhere," he said. "Frustration is boiling over."

That growing sense of polarization gave rise to the not-so-distant Occupy Wall Street movement that spread around the country. While the rallies have stopped, the rallying cry

Frustration continues on A13

Where Do Minimum Wage Earners Live?

(BLS, Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers 2011)



Texas has more workers earning minimum wage than any other state.

Current Value & Variable Buying Power of the Minimum Wage

Obama's objective in the 2013 State of the Union speech was to index minimum wage to the CPI so wages grow consistent with inflation.

Inflation erodes the purchasing value of a dollar such that increases in wages are always needed. Minimum wage value in the 1960s had greater buying power than today (\$10.56 vs. \$7.25 today), thus the middle class is in worse economic condition now than 40 years ago.



- The **actual dollar amount** of the minimum wage is higher now (**\$7.25**) than in history, **but its buying power in 2013 is less than 1960s** due to inflation **when its value was \$10.56**
- Obama advocates raising minimum wage to **\$9.** in his 2013 State of the Union speech **which still is below 1968 levels.**

CNNMoney, however, has **debunked the myth that raising the minimum wage in America is the only element necessary to raise a family out of poverty.** For a family of four making at least \$9/hr., and while taking advantage of several key tax breaks, CNNMoney writes that **the new rate would be barely enough to lift the family above the poverty line,** and **hardly enough to raise their standard of living by much in light of the US's dependence on a tax code that has been decried as "broken" by many.**

**IMPORTANT
CONCEPTS**

While raising the minimum wage would be a step in the right direction towards addressing poverty in the US, advocates for economic justice argue that helping people find higher-paying jobs is another, more effective, means of fighting poverty.

WALL ST

Strength of the economy lies in the middle class, yet the division of wealth has become so exaggerated that the Wall St. 1% are the only survivors.

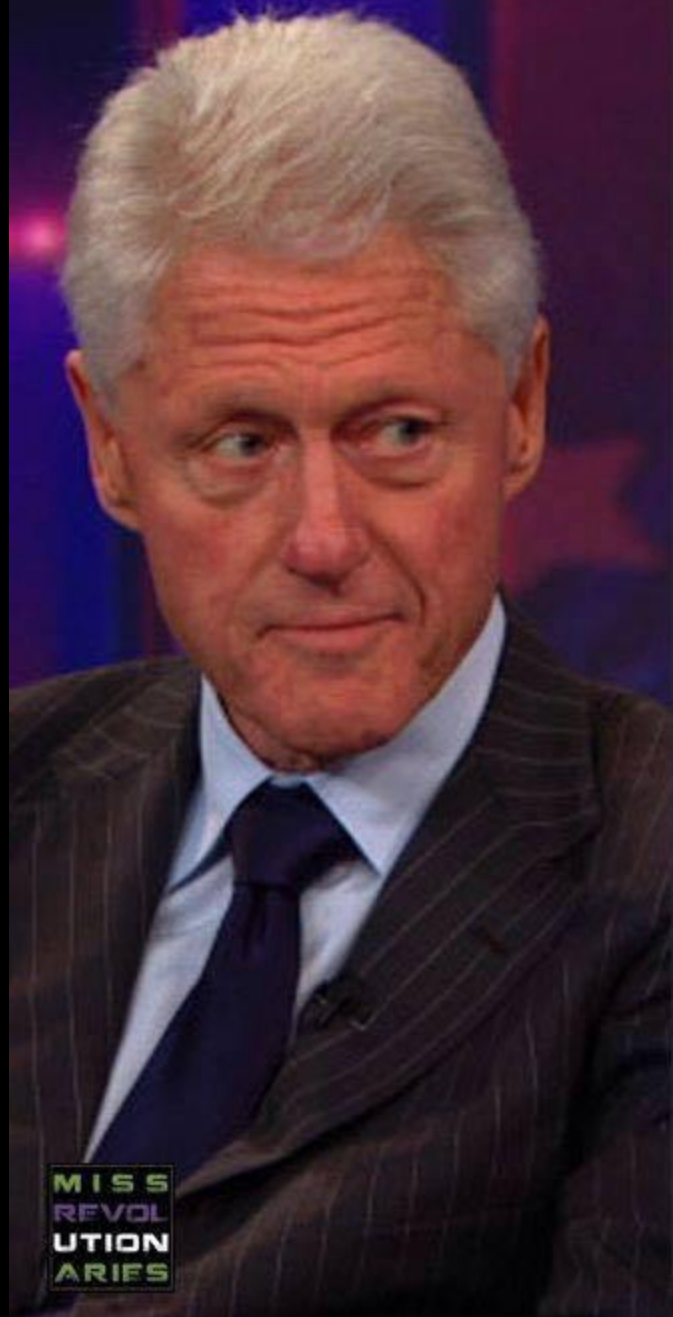


**SINCE 1938, THE MINIMUM WAGE
HAS BEEN RAISED 23 TIMES.**



**IT WAS RAISED 21 TIMES DURING
DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSES, AND ONLY
TWICE DURING REPUBLICAN ONES.**

**STILL THINK BOTH
PARTIES ARE THE SAME?**



**MISS
REVOL
UTION
ARIES**

**“IF YOU RAISE THE
MINIMUM WAGE IN A
PHASED WAY, IT ALWAYS
CREATES JOBS. WHY?
BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO
MAKE THE MINIMUM WAGE
OR NEAR IT ARE
STRUGGLING TO GET BY,
THEY SPEND EVERY PENNY
THEY MAKE, THEY TURN IT
OVER IN THE ECONOMY,
THEY CREATE JOBS, THEY
CREATE OPPORTUNITY, AND
THEY TAKE BETTER CARE OF
THEIR CHILDREN. IT’S JUST
THE RIGHT THING TO DO,
BUT IT’S ALSO VERY GOOD
ECONOMICS.”**

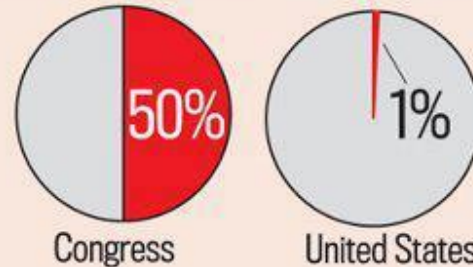
BILL CLINTON

THE ABSURD CONTRADICTIONS OF CAPITALISM

by LiberationNews.org



Percentage of Millionaires



Source: Center for Responsive Politics



In the richest country in the world...

49 Million IN POVERTY
+ 97 Million 'NEAR POOR'

146 Million
(HALF THE U.S. POPULATION)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



“In 1952, corporate America paid 32% of all federal taxes. Today, despite record-breaking profits, they pay less than 10% and 1 out of 4 large profitable corporations pay NOTHING in federal income taxes. The wealthy and large corporations must pay their fair share of taxes. We need real tax reform.”

– Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

And even by 2012, cartoonists portrayed the pay gap between men and women to be as much as 23% lower.

...A GENDER GAP
WOMEN REALLY
CARE ABOUT...



WIT
HINDLEMAN
New York

Gender & Pay Inequality



DESPITE PERCEIVED EQUITY AMONGST THE GENDERS, THERE WAS NO LAW TO INSURE EQUAL PAY UNTIL OBAMA SIGNED THE LAW IN 2009.

This precluded lawsuits by victims who alleged **ongoing pay discrimination because of gender**, but who did not discover it until years after the discrimination began.

2009

Obama's **1st signed legislation** was the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** to insure equal pay for women. Prior to this, there were no federal laws guaranteeing equal pay or equal rights for women.



President Obama signs the Act into law; to his right is the new law's namesake, Lilly Ledbetter



APRIL 9, 2014

**Every Single Republican Voted
Against Equal Pay For Women.**

Every. Single. One.



aattp.org

HELLO. I'M LILLY LEDBETTER.

First federal law to guarantee equal pay for women, 2009.

Equality is fundamental to most animals and people.

Watch this reaction of 2 monkeys who do not get equal treatment:

VIDEO:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=meiU6TxysCg

CONSERVATIVE FEMALES WOULD RATHER VILIFY ME FOR SUPPORTING OBAMA THAN RESPECT ME AS A WOMAN WHO FOUGHT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO RECEIVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

White men



\$1.00

White women



\$0.77

Black women



\$0.69

Hispanic women



\$0.57

Woman
earn less
than men
and
minority
women earn
even less.



Jun 14, 2013

VETOED FAIR PAY ACT FOR TEXAS WOMEN

Texas Governor Rick Perry has some bad news for Texas women. Perry called legislators that Texas would not join the federal government and 42 other states that have addressed gender-based wage discrimination. Their bill, which installs state-level legal protections similar to those enacted by the federal Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, had a lot of momentum before reaching Perry's desk. Last month *the legislation, along with two separate amendments, cleared both of the state's chambers, and it would have made Texas the 43rd state in the Union to have passed such legislation.*



State Senator Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, [cancels her appearance at Macy's to promote Tax Free Weekend. The liberal group Progress Texas started an online boycott of Macy's and Kroger, asking folks to sign on and refrain from shopping at the stores until they support "equal pay for equal work."](#)

Summer 2013, Perry vetoed women's equal pay bill in Texas because Kroger & Macy's asked him, so to avoid law suits in state court that would be cheaper and easier than filing in federal court.



VIDEOS: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/14/rick-perry-equal-pay_n_3443591.html

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/06/rick-perry-macys_n_3714546.html

Members of **Texas Retail Merchants Assoc.** (an *interest group*) lobbied Perry for the veto, which would protect large corporations from wage discrimination law suits filed in state court that would save them huge amounts of money. This process is an example of **POLITICS** on the law-making process to influence the outcome which is different than the will of the people. It is not illegal.

**THESE COMPANIES URGED
GOV PERRY TO VETO A BILL THAT
WOULD FIGHT PAY DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST TEXAS WOMEN** (which he did)



Will you continue to shop at these stores knowing that they do not support equal pay for women in Texas?

**SPEND YOUR LOWER
WAGES WISELY LADIES**

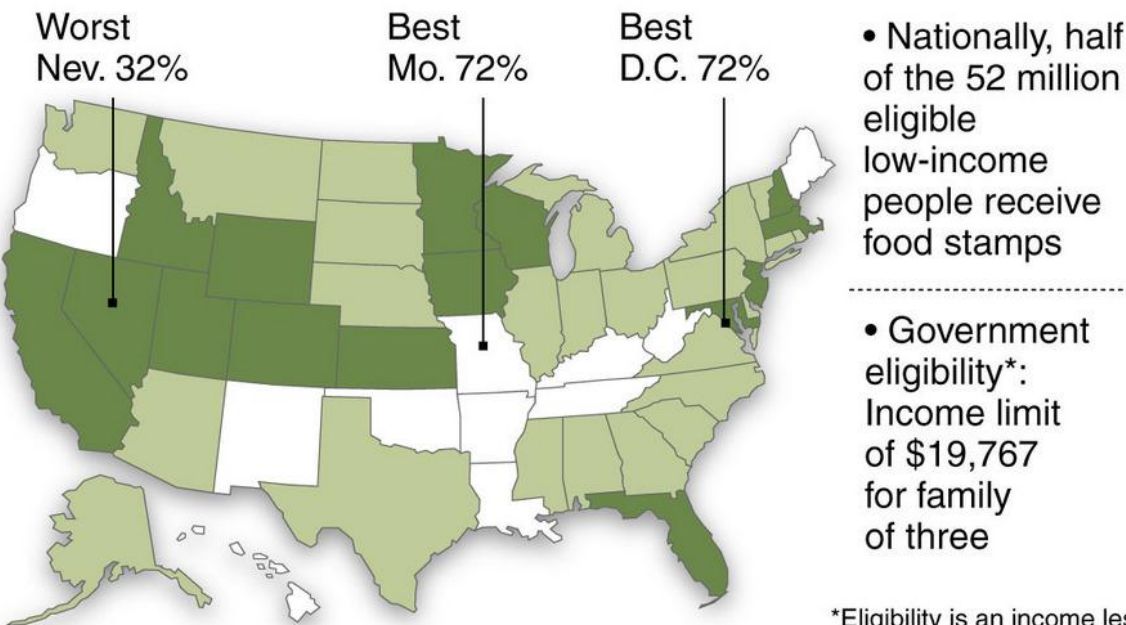
Facts and Truth on Food Stamps:

This program is funded by Congress, but each state administers it, so it is different. Republicans have cut it substantially, but increased aid to farmers. Benefits are supposed to be processed in 30 days, but Texas SNAP program delayed up to 6 months (a long time when you are hungry) and was fined \$4. million a few years ago.

Who's getting food stamps

The percent of eligible poor Americans getting food stamps varies considerably from state to state. The rates for 2004:

■ 32%-45% ■ 46%-60% □ More than 60%



*Eligibility is an income less than 130% of the poverty level



facebook.com/vocalprogressives facebook.com/lbranen

FOOD STAMP MYTHS

1. MYTH: People who get SNAP don't work.

FACT: The overwhelming majority of SNAP recipients who can work do work.

2. MYTH: SNAP is a drain on taxpayers.

FACT: every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.73 in economic activity.

3. MYTH: SNAP is rife with fraud and abuse.

FACT: SNAP has one of the most rigorous quality control systems of any public benefit program with a fraud rate less than 3%.

4. MYTH: SNAP benefits go to undocumented immigrants.

FACT: Undocumented immigrants have never been eligible for SNAP. They are less likely to apply because they fear being deported.

FEED PEOPLE NOT LIES source: hunger coalition

2013 Republican Congress votes to cut food stamps by \$4billion

- Average benefit is \$4.50/day/person (\$135. month)
- 82% of all participants are families with children; 25% are elderly and disabled
- 12 page application process; renewal must be made every 6 months
- **50% or recipients have jobs and are working; only 4% had not worked the previous year**
- Florida drug testing ended up costing \$45,780. In 2011, only 108 of 4,086 (2.6%) of Floridians failed their drug tests.
- Texas has no welfare. This is a a temporary program to help in crisis. Half of all new cases receive food stamps for fewer than ten months, and nearly three-quarters leave after two years
- Among the 254 counties where food stamp recipients doubled between 2007 and 2011, Republican Romney won 213 of them in 2012. Owsley County **KY**, which backed Romney with 81% of its vote, has the largest proportion of food stamp recipients among those that he carried.

Texans June 2013 **divided on food stamp proposal**

By Sarah Ferris

WASHINGTON — As the House of Representatives began whittling down 103 Farm Bill amendments on Wednesday, Texas lawmakers remain divided over the high-stakes, half-trillion-dollar legislation that could strip funds for food stamps.

The biggest conflict concerns the \$20.5 billion in food stamp cuts in the House bill, which Democrats attack as unfair to low-income families and Republicans defend as necessary to reduce wasteful spending.

David Gibson, a longtime lobbyist with the Texas Corn Producers Association, said the bill's future appears uncertain after House Democrats blasted the food stamp cuts this week.

"We've gotten real mixed

Farm bill continues on B3

New farm bill will cut food stamps by \$4B.



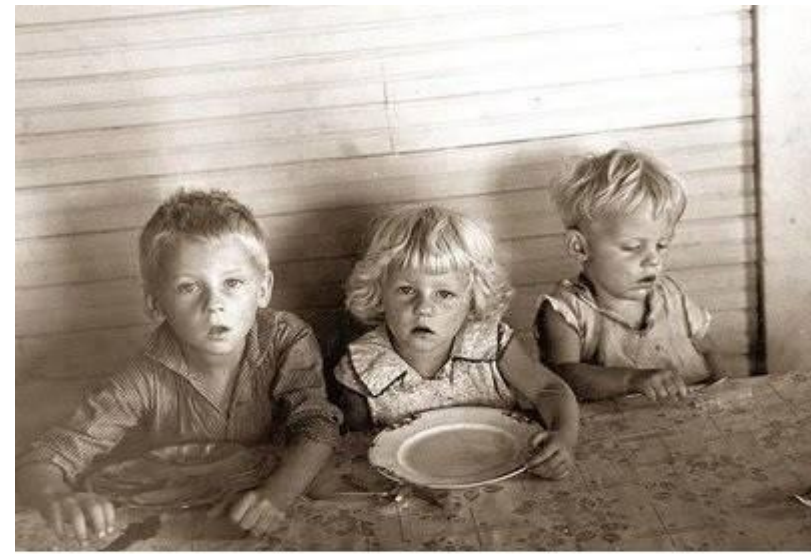
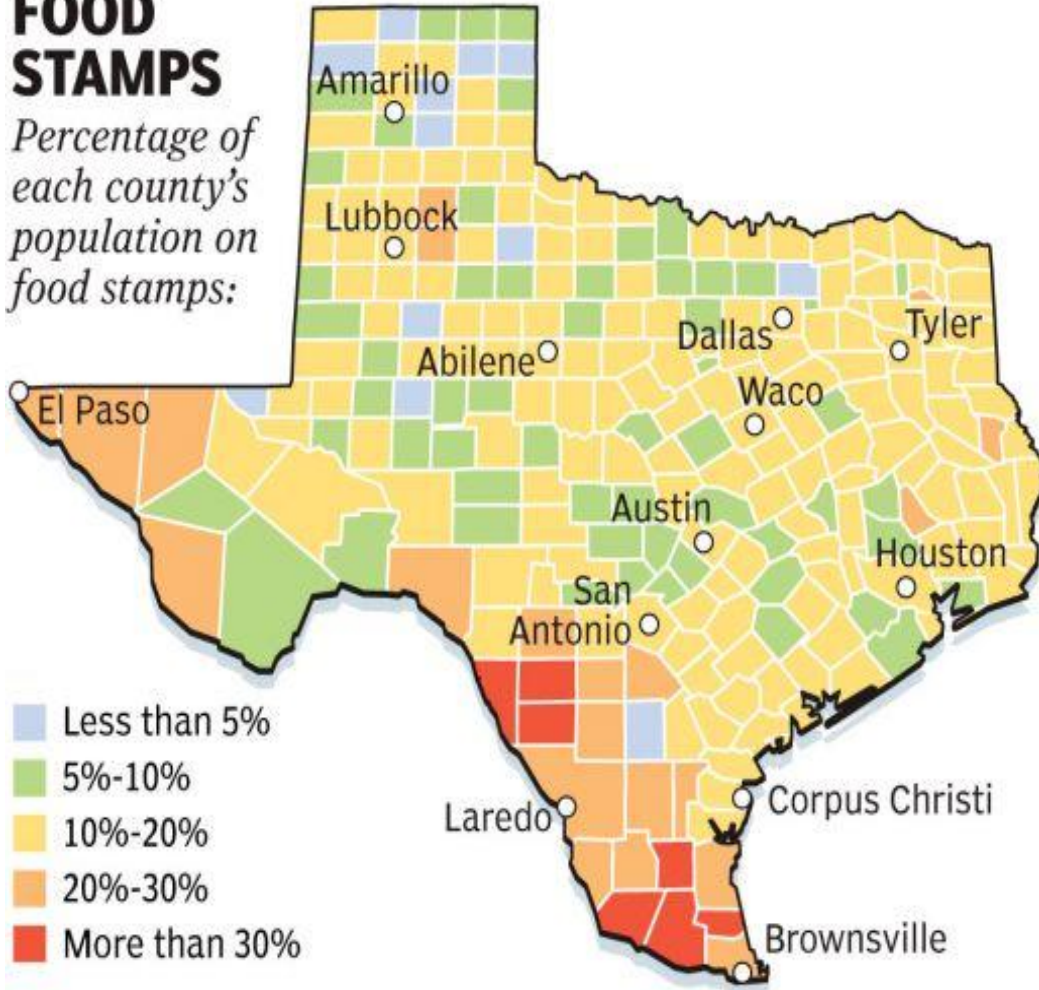
CONGRESS CUTS \$93 MILLION IN FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

PUTS TAXPAYERS ON THE HOOK FOR WALL STREET INVESTMENTS WORTH \$300 TRILLION

Food Stamp Recipients by County

FOOD STAMPS

Percentage of each county's population on food stamps:



Your government just voted to cut Food Stamps by \$8 billion. No mention was made of the \$83 billion a year taxpayer subsidy of the banking industry.

SNAP Recipients in the Houston area

Because of the severity of the 2007 Recession, more people than ever before needed assistance with basic sustenance like food. Some counties nearly doubled in 4 years.

LOCAL RECIPIENTS

San Jacinto county tops the region in percentage of population depending on food stamps:

County	Population	SNAP* RECIPIENTS			RECIPIENTS AS A PERCENT OF POPULATION		
		2007	2011	Percent change	2007	2011	
San Jacinto	26,384	2,869	5,375	87%		11%	20%
Liberty	75,643	7,347	11,482	56%		10%	15%
Harris	4,092,459	304,315	549,507	81%		7%	13%
Galveston	291,309	22,327	32,447	45%		8%	11%
Waller	43,205	2,757	4,804	74%		6%	11%
Austin	28,417	1,584	3,121	97%		6%	11%
Brazoria	313,166	15,513	28,746	85%		5%	9%
Montgomery	455,746	21,651	40,722	88%		5%	9%
Chambers	35,096	1,343	2,580	92%		4%	7%
Fort Bend	585,375	21,873	40,403	85%		4%	7%
Whole region	5,946,800	401,580	719,186	79%		7%	12%

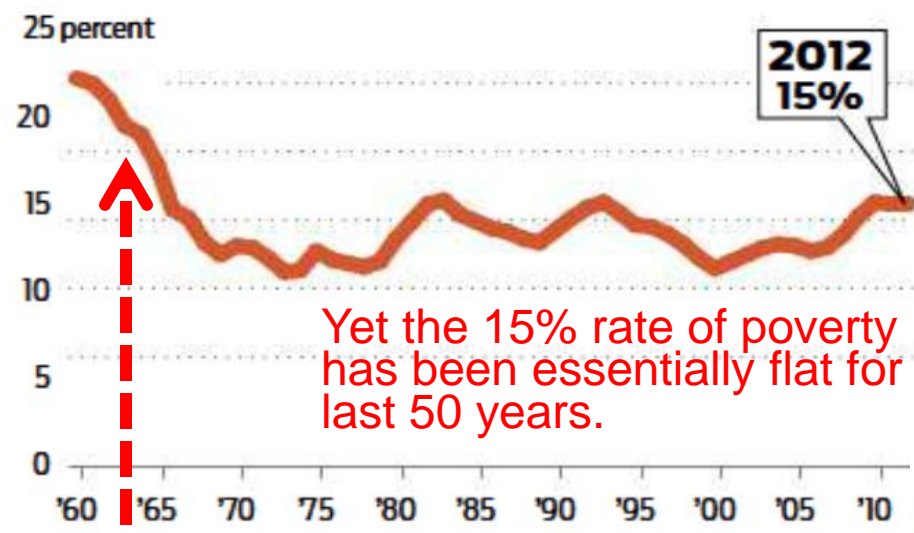
Everything You Need to Know About Food Stamps in One Easy to Remember Lesson

1. 76 Percent of food stamp households include children, elderly or disabled persons.
2. The food stamp program has the lowest fraud rate of any federal government program.
3. Every dollar spent on food stamps returns 2 dollars to the economy.
4. No one in the U.S.A. should go hungry... EVER.



Poverty's persistence

For a third straight year, the number of people in the United States living in poverty has remained at 15 percent:

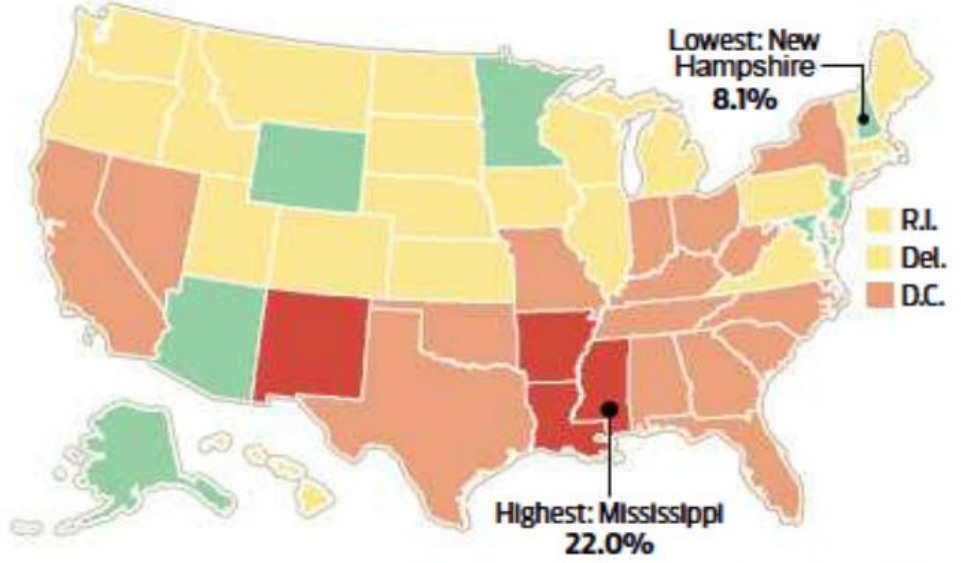


Source: Census Bureau

LBJ's "War on Poverty" of the 1960s reduced the percent of people in poverty from about 25% to current average of 15%, but there has been no improvement since then. Since the 2008 Recession, poverty has resumes its upward climb.

Texas does not have the highest rate of poverty, but certainly not the best.

PERCENTAGE LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2012 BY STATE:



Where Poor and Uninsured Americans Live

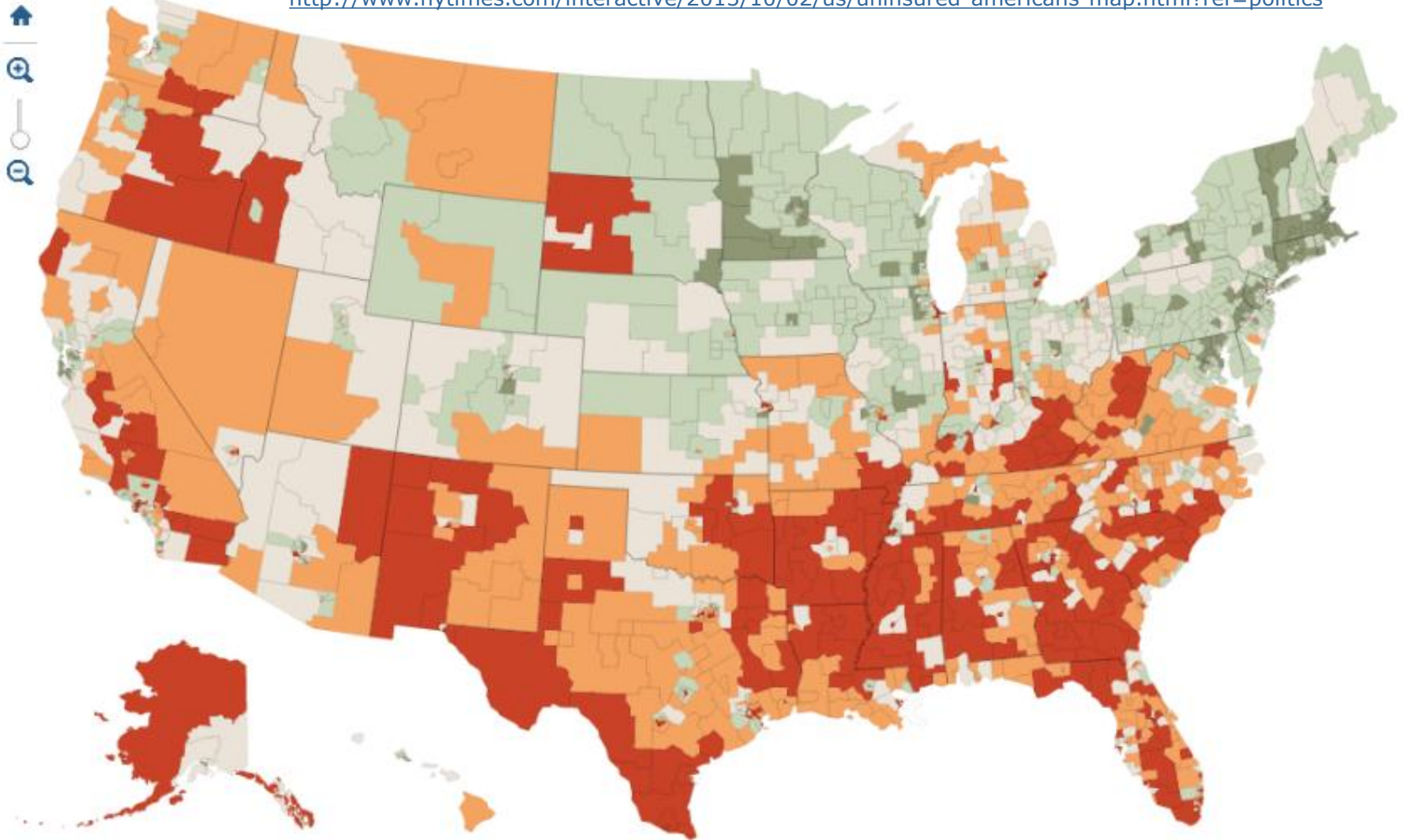
SHARE OF ELIGIBLE ADULTS WHO
ARE POOR AND UNINSURED



MAP STYLE  **Colored by share**  Sized by number

Adults ages 19 to 64, excluding residents of institutions and ineligible immigrants

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/10/02/us/uninsured-americans-map.html?ref=politics>

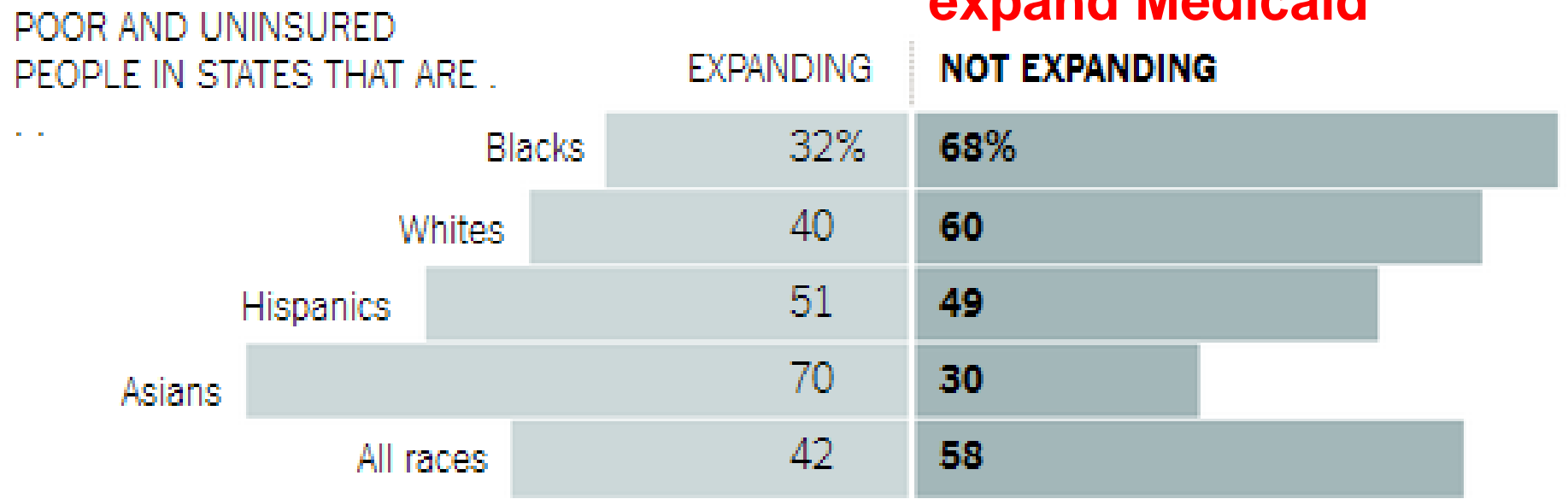


MEDICAID is a federal/state program to help defray medical costs for low income people. Some of the benefits are paid by the states and **the states that have the most poor are doing the least to improve it.**

How Different Groups Are Affected

More than half of the nation's poor and uninsured live in states that are not participating in the expansion of Medicaid, and the share among blacks is even higher.











TEXAS has no plans to expand Medicaid



The Recession and technology have eliminated good paying jobs, so many people are forced into minimum wage, part-time, low-skill, and service jobs with no benefits or healthcare.

The Most Common Occupations Nationally

Many workers who are poor and uninsured have jobs in the service industry.

	Total jobs in U.S.	Number poor and uninsured	Percent of total	
Cashiers	3,823,000	715,000	19%	
Cooks	3,051,000	520,000	17%	
Nursing aides, orderlies, attendants	3,811,000	420,000	11%	
Retail sales clerks	3,858,000	404,000	10%	
Waiters and waitresses	2,307,000	378,000	16%	
Laborers (outside construction)	2,336,000	355,000	15%	
Janitors	2,570,000	327,000	13%	
Construction laborers	1,733,000	315,000	18%	
Truck, delivery, and tractor drivers	3,862,000	308,000	8%	
Housekeepers, maids, butlers, stewards	1,447,000	273,000	18%	

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?

■ **Income limit varies depending on family's situation**, but it's up to \$2,915 a month for a family of four or \$1,430 a month for a single person.

■ **The minimum food stamp benefit is now \$14 per month** (up from \$10 before October). The maximum amount is \$176 a month for a single person or \$588 for a family of four.

■ **The average payment also increased** from \$24 in September to \$272 in October due to federal changes in the food stamp program.

■ **Most recipients have to renew their benefits every six months**, but some able-bodied adults have to reapply every three months and some elderly get benefits for 12 months.



Texas administers the federal FOOD STAMP program, but there is no cost for the benefits to the State.

Texas sued over delay in food stamps. Federal government wants applicants certified in 30 days, but some are waiting months. Aug. 10, 2009

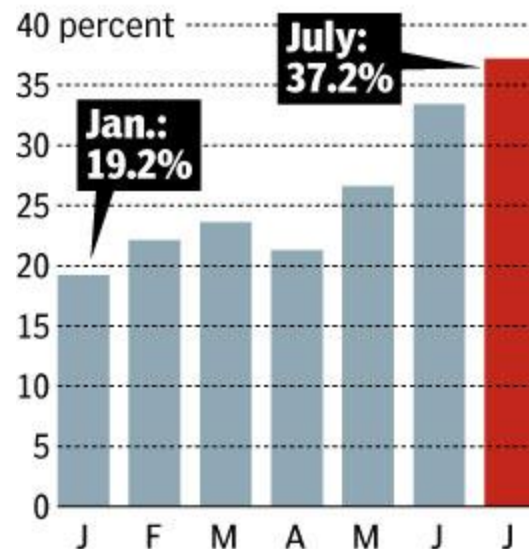
\$20./day for food for a family of 4.

\$4./day individual

There is NO welfare in Texas and these meager benefits are all that are offered to underprivileged or victims of the worst Recession since the great depression.

FOOD STAMP DELAY

Federal rules require states to process 95 percent of food stamp applications within 30 days. The percentage of Texas applications not processed on time has been rising steadily since the beginning of the year:



Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission

JAY CARR : CHRONICLE

Are these people lazy or "slackers" that we want to cut off from basic nutrition?

ECONOMY

7/16/12

Food stamp rolls jump as more seniors struggle

By Cindy Horswell and Renée C. Lee

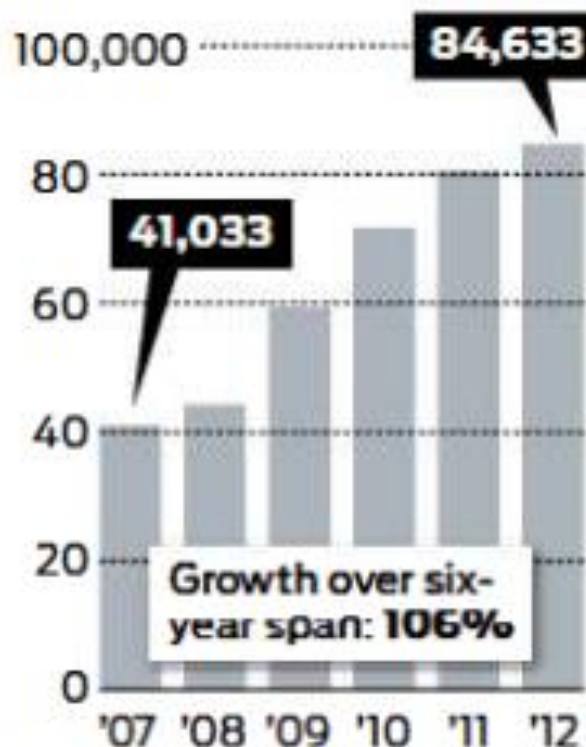
At age 64, Paulette Lanius is a "Golden Boomer" — one of the 76 million American babies born after World War II, a legacy of the legions of men and women described as the Greatest Generation.

But the future for this Houston woman and thousands of other seniors appears to be far from great.

The fastest-growing group of Texans receiving food stamps is the 60-64 age bracket. In the past six years, those residents receiving food assistance — now issued in the form of a benefit debit

On the rise

Here's a look at the increasing number of senior citizens — ages 60 to 64 — in Texas receiving food stamps (now called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program):



Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Houston Chronicle

Texas Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Managing Agency Texas <http://www.state.tx.us>

Program Description

Many Texans have trouble making ends meet each month. After paying for rent, utilities, transportation, and child care, there's often little left over to buy nutritious food. But it doesn't have to be that way. Each month, hundreds of thousands of families across the state turn to the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) to receive help in the form of SNAP benefits to help feed their families. Read on to learn how you can receive help if you qualify.

SNAP is a Federally funded program that helps low-income families buy nutritious food from local food stores. SNAP assistance is available to qualifying families, elderly people, and single adults. Applicants must reside in Texas, and must apply in the county in which they reside.



Food Stamp Facts:

- ❑ **Federal government wants applicants certified in 30 days, but some are waiting months**
- ❑ **Two years ago, 2.3 million Texans depended on the food program.**
- ❑ **Today that number has grown to 2.8 million.**
- ❑ **More than 364,000 Harris County residents were on food stamps last month, about 63,000 more than in July 2007.**
- ❑ **The average Harris County family receives \$324 worth of food aid per month.**
- ❑ **Ratio of recipients per worker — roughly 779 today.**
- ❑ **Food stamps offer unrestricted choice in what is purchased**
- ❑ **Only 50% of eligible recipient in Houston actually receive the benefits they deserve**

With the lowest state food stamp participation rate in the country, local Houston grocers have become outraged over the lost revenues that are redirected to other states because Texas is so inefficient with the program administration. Feds are now finding new ways to directly certify food providers such as the **Houston Food Bank.**

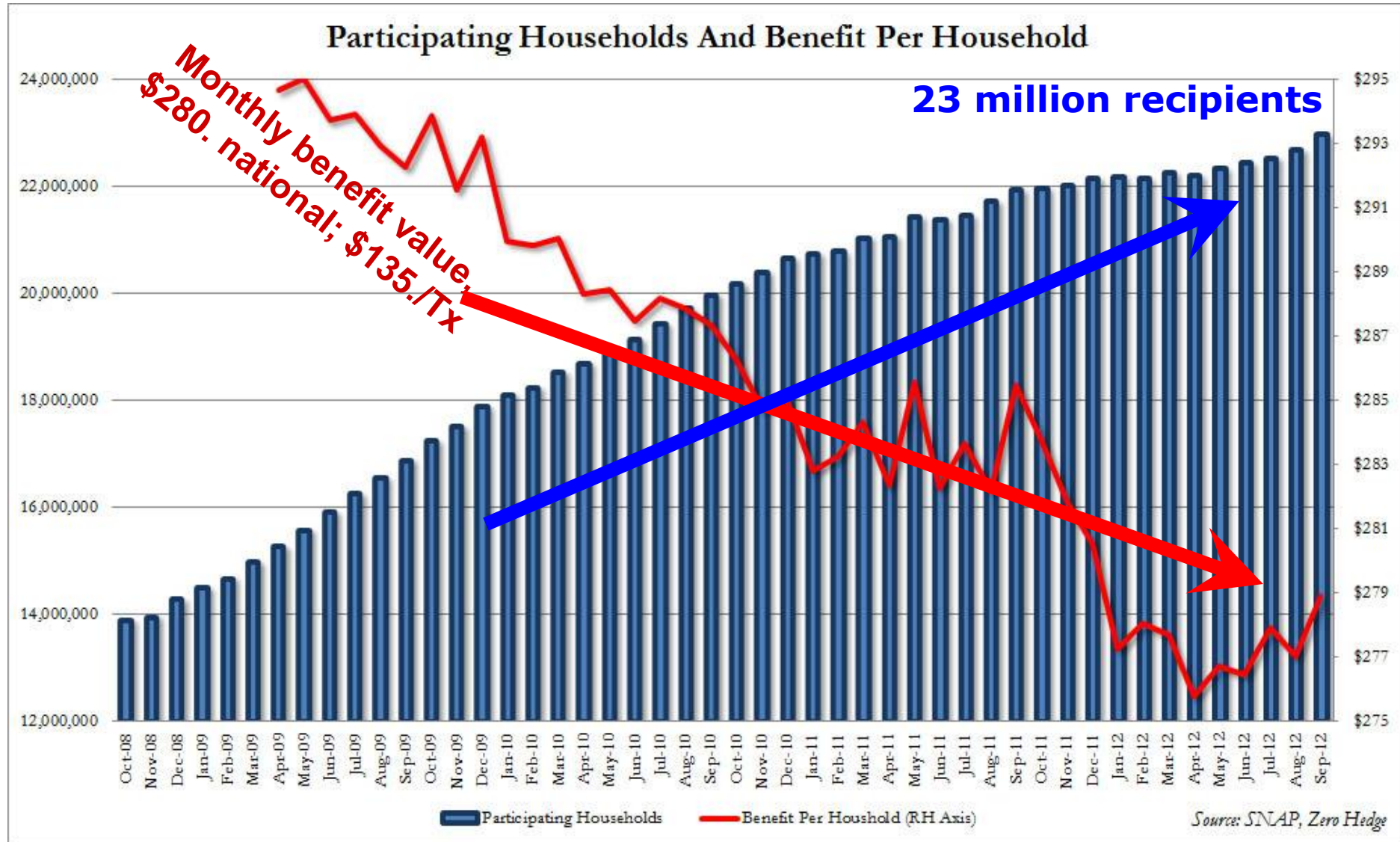


- **HARRIS COUNTY FOOD STAMP NUMBERS**
- Nearly 442,000 Harris County residents are receiving food assistance this month in the form of food stamps. That is about 88,000 more than last August and worth \$56 million to area grocers. The average family gets \$323 worth of food for the month.
 - Source: Health and Human Services Commission

WIC (**Women, Infants and Children**) is a nutrition program that provides only the basics:

- * Healthy foods (*but the cheapest brand*) such as milk, juice, cereal, cheese, eggs, infant formula, tuna and carrots
- * Nutrition education to improve family health
- * Breastfeeding advice and support
- * Referrals to doctors, dentists, and other community services.

As a result of the Recession, more people get less money.



THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM:

GOP MYTH

VS.

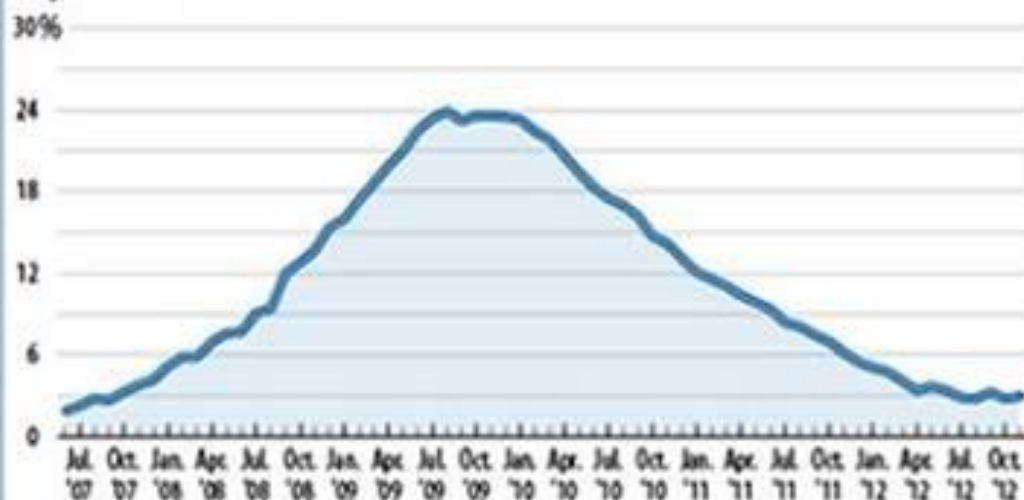
FACT



**FOOD STAMP
SPENDING "DOUBLED
AGAIN UNDER
PRESIDENT OBAMA"**

- REP COLE (R-OK), 6/6/2013

Annual Rate of Growth in SNAP Participation During and After Recession, Adjusted For Disasters



Note: In order to estimate the underlying trends in SNAP participation, CBPP used USDA published Disaster SNAP data to exclude individuals who participated in Disaster SNAP.

Source: USDA SNAP participation data, with CBPP adjustment to remove spikes from Disaster SNAP participants.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM:

GOP MYTH

VS.

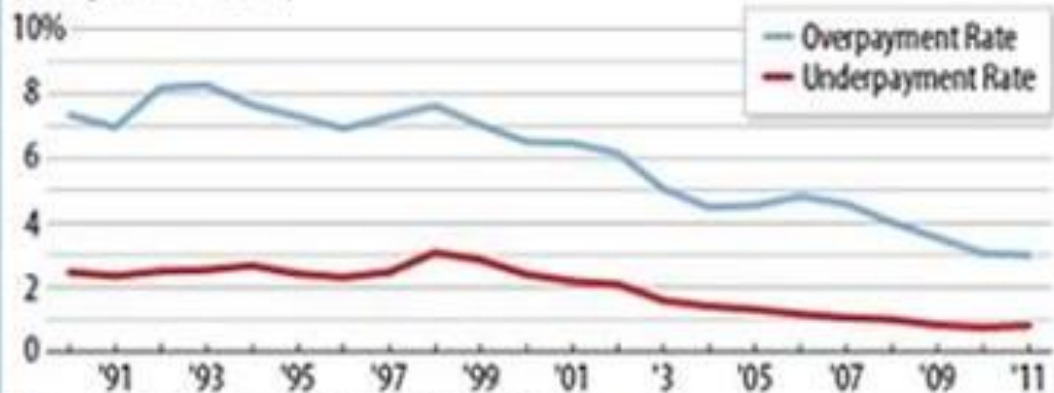
FACT

**"SKYROCKETING
FRAUD AND A
DYSFUNCTIONAL
ENFORCEMENT
SYSTEM"**

-REP. ISSA (R-CA), 3/8/2012

SNAP Error Rates Are at an All-Time Low

(Fiscal years 1990-2011)



Source: Quality Control Branch, U.S. Food and Nutrition Service.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM:

GOP MYTH

VS.

FACT

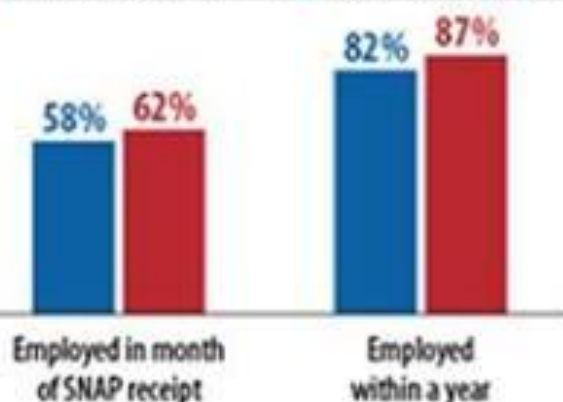
**"THEY'RE ABUSING
THE PROGRAM AND
WE'VE GOT TO GET
THEM OFF OF IT."**

-REP. MULLIN (R-OK), 8/9/2013

SNAP Households with Working-Age Non-Disabled Adults Have High Work Rates

Work participation during the previous and following year
for households that received SNAP in a typical month

■ All SNAP households ■ Families with children



Source: CBPP Calculations based on 2004 SIPP Panel data.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

Republican Congress:

- Cutting Food Stamps by \$40 Billion
- Will Not Raise The Minimum Wage

**Average
Food Stamp
Recipient:**

**Southern White Child With Parent
Earning Minimum Wage**



Are You
Listening?



**83% of all SNAP
(food stamp) benefits go to
households with a child,
an elderly person or
a disabled person.**



**IS IT POSSIBLE TO EAT HEALTHY
ON A FOOD STAMP BUDGET?**



A top-down view of a white ceramic plate on a dark wooden table. The plate is mostly empty, with scattered brown and tan food crumbs. A silver fork is positioned vertically in the lower-left quadrant, and a silver butter knife is positioned diagonally in the upper-right quadrant. The text "THE END" is superimposed in the center of the plate in a large, bold, yellow, sans-serif font with a thin white outline.

THE END