



## Woodchuck Chuck's Blog

### **Rep. Chuck Fleischmann's Hypocrisy about Lowering the Deficit Shows at May 21<sup>st</sup> Republican Candidates Debate**

Representative Chuck Fleischmann gives a lot of lip service of wanting to lower the deficit and reduce government spending. He said, quoting the GOP Tea Party line, "We have a spending problem. To actually come to the American people and say it can even begin to be solved with revenue is wrong." At the debate he proudly announced that he had pledged (sold his soul), along with 270 other GOP legislators, to conservative lobbyist Grover Norquist of the Americans for Tax Reform, to never raise taxes. Fleischmann also boasted about how he had voted to cut taxes to save "the people's money", but failed to reconcile how more unfunded tax cuts for the wealthy would lower the deficit. He is a hypocrite or lives in some dream world where you get everything you want and never have to pay for it.

As a rubber stamp for the GOP Tea Party policies, Fleischmann will continue to vote for more tax cuts, "tax favors", and Wall Street deregulation for the wealthiest Americans. The GOP is unwilling to cut the military budget, which is at least 8 times larger than the next largest military. They are unwilling to have the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share of the revenue that is needed to run our country so that we have quality schools for everyone, good roads and other infrastructure, and the social safety net for our seniors and those most unfortunate Americans with disabilities or health conditions that prevent them from being more productive citizens.

What this means is that the only thing left to cut is the safety net of Medicaid, cut or privatize Medicare benefits, and reduce Social Security benefits. The GOP calls these programs "entitlements", forgetting that most people work all their lives paying into these programs so they will have some security if they become disabled or when they are elderly. Since the GOP mostly represents the one percent of the wealthiest Americans and big corporations, their main concern is to structure the tax code and regulations (or lack of them) for the benefit of those few people. I don't think this is fair and if the wealthiest would quit stacking the deck

against the middle class with their “trickle down economics” that has never worked, they would realize that the more money the middle class has to spend, the more money they will make. They have had huge tax breaks for at least a decade and it has only caused higher deficits and lose of jobs. It’s time they started paying their fair share again.

The solution to our economic problems will require everyone in both political parties to work together. It will require spending cuts AND revenue generation. **We can’t afford to send people like Chuck Fleischmann to Congress who refuse to even consider revenue generation.** The truth is that most people like and want Medicare and Social Security. It is time we stopped trying to balance the budget on the backs of seniors and the disabled and started figuring out how to reduce costs and paying for what we want. Maybe it is time we started sending Democrats to Congress who are willing to compromise to get solutions to our nation’s problems and work to rebuild the middle class. Perhaps we should send a mother to Congress who is use to working out compromises between children.

This is your friend,

*Woodchuck Chuck*

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