In 2020, the work of Americans for Tax Fairness was featured almost 1,600 times in major media outlets. These highlights are from news stories about ATF’s work, opinion pieces from editorial boards and columnists influenced by ATF, and op-eds drafted and/or placed by ATF. (Control & Click on story headline to hyperlink to article)

The Washington Post
October 22, 2020
Amid economic downturn, Biden sticks by proposed tax hikes on businesses and wealthy Americans
“Biden has taken strong positions on raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy. If he wins, he will have a mandate,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness, a left-leaning tax group. “Moderate Democrats on the Hill will need to follow his lead and not cower from corporate lobbyists.”

CBS NEWS
October 20, 2020
U.S. billionaires gained almost $1 trillion in wealth during the pandemic
The wealth of the nation’s billionaires rose to $3.88 trillion as of October 13, a jump of $931 billion from March, an analysis from Americans for Tax Fairness and the Institute for Policy Studies, two left-leaning groups, found. That’s almost twice the $2.1 trillion in wealth held by the bottom half of the U.S. population, or about 165 million people, they added.

Newsweek
May 22, 2020
The 5 wealthiest Americans have gotten 75 billion dollars richer while a pandemic guts the economy
Between March 18 (when many states were issuing stay-at-home orders) and May 19, the total net worth of billionaires Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Bill Gates (Microsoft), Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook), Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway) and Larry Ellison (Oracle) grew by $75.5 billion, according to an Americans for Tax Fairness report.

REUTERS
September 29, 2020
Major U.S. reforms should follow latest Trump tax scandal
Op-ed by Frank Clemente, Americans for Tax Fairness
The New York Times investigation reveals that Trump paid a total of $1,500 in federal income taxes over 13 years between 2000 and 2017, while living a lavish lifestyle and occupying a place on the Forbes list of U.S. billionaires every year, according to Forbes data maintained by Americans for Tax Fairness. His wealth over those years, according to Forbes estimates, ranged from a low of $1.7 billion in 2000 to a high of $4.5 billion in 2016.

Bloomberg
July 8, 2020
Billionaires’ Political Spending Grew 37-Fold in 10 Years
During the 2018 election cycle, billionaires gave $611 million, up from $17 million in 2008, according to the report from Americans for Tax Fairness and The Institute for Policy Studies, two self-described “progressive” research organizations. “Billionaires have an outsized influence on our economy, politics and society,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness.

Reader’s Digest
October 2, 2020
10 Secret Places Rich People Hide Their Money
According to the non-profit organization Americans for Tax Fairness, shell companies and other tax loopholes help U.S. corporations avoid paying as much as $90 billion per year in taxes to the IRS.

THE HILL
April 14, 2020
Business tax provisions in coronavirus relief law spark controversy
Frank Clemente, executive director of the progressive group Americans for Tax Fairness, said that the generous carrybacks reward businesses who performed poorly “in the good years.”
**Salon**

**Billionaire CEO Elon Musk gets a nine-figure payout as economy sputters**

Income inequality is becoming an increasingly sensitive subject in the pandemic era. A report from Americans for Tax Fairness and the Institute for Policy Studies’ Program for Inequality earlier this month concluded that American billionaires increased their wealth by $434 billion between mid-March and mid-May. The top five billionaires on that list — Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Oracle CEO Larry Ellison and Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett — saw their combined wealth increase by $76 billion within the two month period covered by the study.

**MarketWatch**

**It is time to levy a one-time pandemic wealth tax on billionaires’ windfall gains**

Op-ed by Frank Clemente, Americans for Tax Fairness and Chuck Collins, Institute for Policy Studies

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died from COVID-19 and over 32 million have lost their jobs. U.S. households lost an estimated $6.5 trillion in wealth during the first quarter of 2020 alone. But billionaire wealth is surging. Since March 18, the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, the 467 U.S. billionaires have seen their wealth increase by over $730 billion, or 30%, according to an analysis of Forbes data by Americans for Tax Fairness and the Institute for Policy Studies.

**Los Angeles Times**

**The Trump tax cut has amounted to nothing but broken promises for the middle class**

Op-ed by Frank Clemente and William Rice, ATF

President Trump’s radical Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which took effect Jan. 1, 2018, has now been around long enough for a fair assessment. The verdict’s not good. The second anniversary is an apt time to review some of the law’s biggest failures — especially since the president is inviting more trouble by considering another tax-cut boondoggle as an election-year ploy.
The Billionaires Who Profited from the Pandemic Should Help Pay for Our Recovery

The collective wealth gain of roughly a trillion dollars that the billionaires have enjoyed is more “than it would cost to send a stimulus check of $3,000 to every one of the roughly 330 million people in America,” the report states. “A family of four would receive over $12,000.” The authors of the report don’t argue that taxing the recent gains of the mega-rich would cover the entire fiscal cost of the pandemic. They stress, instead, the undoubted fact that, at the very apex of U.S. society, there is now a staggering—and historic—amount of wealth that could be taxed. “Never before has America seen such an accumulation of wealth in so few hands,” Frank Clemente, the executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness, said in a statement accompanying the report.

Billionaires are spending more on political contributions, here are the three biggest spenders

Political contributions from billionaires soared from $32 million in 2010 to $611 million in 2018, according to a study from Americans for Tax Fairness and The Institute for Policy Studies. While billionaires accounted for less than 1% of total federal campaign contributions in 2010, they accounted for nearly 10% of total contributions in the 2016 and 2018 elections cycles, the report said. “Billionaires have an outsized influence on our economy, politics and society,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness.

Divided Dems agree: Repeal Trump tax cuts for Biden’s big-spending agenda

“We will pull every lever we can to bring pressure on the administration to pursue its mandate,” said Frank Clemente, the group’s executive director. “We’re saying that he has a mandate on taxes, on what we call a ‘fair-share tax system,’ and so we will bring in all the pressure we can from constituencies that helped elect him to demand that a fair-share tax mandate be pursued.” “I think on the challenging side is normally you don’t raise taxes when the economy has crashed. But we’re not talking about raising taxes across the board,” Mr. Clemente said. “Biden’s proposal raises taxes on the richest Americans, and most of the richest Americans have done well, if not really well, during the pandemic.”

How Trump and other real estate professionals get away with paying ‘zero tax’

Still, Trump has paid far less in taxes than many Americans. In 2017, U.S. wage earners who made between $30,000 and $40,000 paid average income taxes of $877, according to Americans for Tax Fairness, which cited data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those who earned between $50,000 and $75,000 paid $4,920 on average. And those earned between $100,000 and $200,000 paid $17,106.

Biden Offshore Tax Plan Unlikely to Renew Rust Belt Factories

Americans for Tax Fairness, a progressive group, said Biden’s “Made in America” goal was admirable, “Corporations already don’t pay enough in taxes and don’t need any further tax breaks. Removing the perverse tax incentives to move jobs overseas should be enough to restore them here,” the group said in a statement.

Trump’s tax bill and our rotten code: He’s corrupt and sleazy, but the system lets him get away with it

Op-ed by Frank Clemente and William Rice, Americans for Tax Fairness

Fresh revelations in the New York Times about President Trump’s decades of tax dodging are shocking while also confirming long-held suspicions. A billionaire going years without paying a cent in federal income taxes, even as working families go without health care and our infrastructure crumbles, offends the conscience. But given what we know about Trump and our rigged tax system, who’s really surprised?

Nevada billionaires see fortunes rise in first three months of the pandemic, Forbes reports

An Americans for Tax Fairness analysis of Forbes data shows that the total net worth of U.S. billionaires climbed from $2.9 trillion to $3.5 trillion. During the same period, 45.5 million Americans filed for unemployment.
January 9, 2020

Debate should explore transformed tax and spending landscape

Op-ed by Frank Clemente, Americans for Tax Fairness

As Democrats gather for the final presidential debate before the Iowa caucuses, among all the worrying daily news there’s a hopeful long-term development. The candidates and their Democratic colleagues in Congress have finally and fully rejected trickle-down economics and budget austerity in favor of bold progressive tax and spending visions. This fundamental shift in economic and political philosophy, the kind that only happens a few times a century — think the New Deal and Reaganomics — should be celebrated.

July 2, 2020

Colorado’s billionaires make billions more during pandemic and recession

Between March 18 and July 22, Colorado’s 10 billionaires increased their net worth by a combined $6.9 billion — a 22% gain — according to Forbes data analyzed by Americans for Tax Fairness. “So few Americans can live such a fabulously wealthy life while everybody else is toiling away, trying to keep their head above water, trying to make it day to day and struggling,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness, a national group that advocates for progressive tax policies.

August 13, 2020

Coronavirus economic fallout sparks more talk of taxing California’s richest

A recent analysis by the Institute for Policy Studies, a think tank based in Washington, D.C., and Americans for Tax Fairness, a nationwide campaign that advocates for taxing the wealthy, found that the net worth of California’s 166 billionaires — the most of any state — increased by $235 billion since the beginning of the pandemic.

May 29, 2020

Pandemic relief makes the rich richer

Op-ed by Frank Clemente, Americans for Tax Fairness

But perhaps the greatest scam was the one approved by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27. The $2 trillion rescue measure known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act delivered a $135 billion tax break for the wealthy elites like hedge-fund investors and real estate tycoons.

July 20, 2020

Wanted: CEO to fight income inequality by cutting executive pay

“In three months, about 600 billionaires increased their wealth by far more than the nation’s governors say their states need in fiscal assistance to keep delivering services to 330 million residents,” Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness, said. “Their wealth increased twice as much as the federal government paid out in one-time checks to more than 150 million Americans.”