

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."

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.

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.

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.

The New York Times

July 16, 2020

Ocasio-Cortez Pushes Cuomo to Back Billionaires' Tax

A recent analysis by **Americans for Tax Fairness** found that the wealth of New York's 119 billionaires increased by \$77 billion from March to June, a period that saw the state gain a new billionaire. The total net worth of New York's billionaires grew to \$600.7 billion from \$521.5 billion from March to June, according to an analysis of data from Forbes. "You are barely slowing down their growth in wealth," said **Frank Clemente**, the executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**. "The pandemic has been fabulous for helping people understand how vulnerable so many millions of Americans are, and just how upside down the economic system is."

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**.

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."



January 29, 2020

Tom Steyer would pay \$18M more in taxes under Democrats' proposals

Steyer, who reported almost \$1.4 billion in total income between 2009 to 2019, would see his tax obligation jump to 32 percent from 22.1 percent, according to an [analysis](#) published by the **Americans for Tax Fairness** on Monday. That's still below the top federal income tax rate of 37 percent. "The robust effect the Millionaires Surtax would have on the tax liability of one of the nation's richest men is a good illustration of how effective this simple reform would be in ensuring the super wealthy pay something closer to their fair share," Frank Clemente, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, said in a news release.



May 29, 2020

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.



July 19, 2020

Will America's Elite Get a Hidden COVID Bailout?

Frank Clemente, executive director of the nonprofit **Americans for Tax Fairness**, which is pressing Congress to nix the deduction, says, "This is a ridiculous tax break that will just give businesses more money without the public knowing about it. They get a subsidy at the front end from taxpayers and then use that subsidy to claim it as a business expense to reduce their taxes at the back end. It's Alice in Wonderland stuff."



July 17, 2020

Trump Wants to Cap Coronavirus Spending. OK, Repeal the Trump Tax Cuts Then

A bigger tax break has been termed the "Millionaire's Giveaway" by **Americans for Tax Fairness**. This \$135 billion tax break allows people with partnerships or other structures to carry forward losses from previous years and offset gains in their taxes in future years. It only affects people making half a million dollars in income from the partnership or more.



July 1, 2020

Billionaires Spent 41 Times More On 2016 Election Compared To 2008

Billionaire campaign spending reached a high in 2016, according to the [report](#) from The Institute for Policy Studies and the liberal group **Americans for Tax Fairness**, contributing over \$684 million—more than 41 times higher than the \$16.6 million billionaires collectively given in the 2008 election. "Billionaires have an outsized influence on our economy, politics and society," said **Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness**. "In addition to its practical impacts, their dizzying wealth is a symbol of America's dangerous economic and racial imbalance."



August 20, 2020

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.



January 1, 2020

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.



November 12, 2020

President-Elect Biden's Ambitious Economic Proposals Face a Divided Congress

While President Trump signed a series of bills amounting to roughly \$3 trillion in federal spending, those efforts revised the tax code in such a way that the largest corporations and the richest Americans ended up as the biggest beneficiaries. From March 18 to Oct. 13, the wealth of 644 U.S. billionaires jumped from nearly \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion—a 32% increase—according to two progressive groups, **Americans for Tax Fairness** and the Institute for Policy Studies. Biden, in contrast, has promised an economic agenda that focuses more narrowly on public investment.

THE NEW YORKER

Dec. 10, 2020

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.



July 1, 2020

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**.



November 16, 2020

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.”



October 26, 2020

How Trump Took the Middle Class to the Cleaners

The benefit of the Trump tax cut, insists **Frank Clemente**, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, “trickles up” to executives whose compensation is tied to share prices. “They’re feathering their own nests by buying back their own shares,” Clemente says.



September 30, 2020

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.

Bloomberg

September 10, 2020

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.

SELECTED STATE CLIPS



September 29, 2019

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?



June 25, 2020

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.

Des Moines Register

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.

THE DENVER POST

July 24, 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.

The Mercury News

The Newspaper of Silicon Valley

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.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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."

The Dallas Morning News

June 22, 2020

8 of Texas' wealthiest saw their worth rise by more than \$1 billion since pandemic began

The Forbes data was publicized by the nonprofit **Americans for Tax Fairness** and progressive think tank Institute for Policy Studies, and analyzed by The Dallas Morning News. The data excludes three Texas billionaires — grocery store magnate Charles Butt, home builder Donald Horton and real estate investor John Goff — because their March net worth wasn't available. **Americans for Tax Fairness** executive director **Frank Clemente** said the pandemic era gains by wealthy Texans shows how "fundamentally flawed our economic system is."



July 23, 2020

Michigan's billionaires got \$2.8B richer during first 3 months of coronavirus pandemic

Five of Michigan's eight billionaires saw increases in wealth in the three months since the pandemic began, to a combined \$33.4 billion, according to analysis of Forbes data by the Institute for Policy Studies and **Americans for Tax Fairness**. "It's immoral that billionaires are getting richer and richer while average Americans are trading water if they are lucky, or drowning, from the economic crash caused by the pandemic," said **Frank Clemente**, executive director of **Americans for Tax Fairness**, in a news release.

SAN ANTONIO CURRENT

July 20, 2020

While Texans Lost Jobs During the Pandemic, the State's Billionaires Got 10% Richer

As a group, Texas billionaires' valuations jumped from \$238.9 billion to \$276.3 billion between March 18 and June 17, according to the report by **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)** and the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS).