

CLUB FOR GROWTH ACTION – “TAKE HIS KEYS” FACT CHECK

OVERVIEW

- Matt Rosendale supported the tax law that will add \$2 trillion to the national debt, while enriching the wealthy and corporate shareholders and threatening cuts to Medicare and Social Security.
- Jon Tester has repeatedly fought for a balanced budget at the national level and has cut spending in his own office, returning \$3.3 million from his office budget. He passed legislation to cut down on waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government, which was signed into law by President Trump.
- Matt Rosendale brought the swamp to Montana, and would be nothing more than a rubber-stamp for the dark money and outside groups propping up his campaign with more than \$10 million in spending. He voted against increasing campaign finance transparency in our elections and even dropped fines and charges against a top campaign donor after he took office as Montana State Auditor.
- Jon Tester is the only working farmer in the Senate who still farms the land his grandparents homesteaded more than 100 years ago. He has pushed back against wasteful Congressional perks, like fighting to end automatic pay raises and banning taxpayer-funded oil paintings for members of Congress.

CLAIMS

FACTS

V/O: In Montana, people know when somebody else should drive.

O/S: IN MONTANA PEOPLE KNOW WHEN SOMEBODY ELSE SHOULD DRIVE

JON TESTER: I'm not about to put my kids future and opportunity on the line so I can spend money like a drunken sailor. I am gonna be fiscally responsible.

MATT ROSENDALE-BACKED BUDGET-BUSTING TAX PLAN WILL ADD NEARLY \$2 TRILLION TO THE DEBT, ENRICHES THE WEALTHY, AND THREATENS CUTS TO MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN WILL ADD OVER \$1.5 TRILLION TO THE NATIONAL DEBT WHILE ENRICHING WEALTHIEST

HEADLINE: “Final Tax Bill Could End Up Costing \$2.2 Trillion.” [Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, [12/18/17](#)]

University Of Pennsylvania Study: Republican Tax Plan “Increases Debt By Between \$1.9 Trillion To \$2.2 Trillion Over The Next Decade.” [Penn Wharton Budget Model, University of Pennsylvania, [12/15/17](#)]

- **Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget: Final Republican Tax Plan Could Add Between \$1.5 Trillion And \$2.2 Trillion To The Deficit.** [Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, [12/18/17](#)]

- **FactCheck.Org: “Correct” That Republican Tax Plan Would Increase The Deficit By At Least \$1.5 Trillion.** [FactCheck.Org, [3/7/18](#)]

HEADLINE: “Trump’s Tax Cuts in Hand, Companies Spend More on Themselves Than on Wages.” [New York Times, [2/26/18](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tax Cut Scoreboard: Workers \$6 Billion; Shareholders \$171 Billion.” [CNN, [2/16/18](#)]

Fortune: Republican Tax Bill Cut Income Tax Rates “For The Richest Americans.” [Fortune, [12/16/17](#)]

<p>O/S: JON TESTER PROMISED NOT TO SPEND LIKE "A DRUNKEN SAILOR"</p> <p>SOURCE: 2006 Candidate Debate</p> <p>V/O: But then Jon Tester voted to increase the budget deficit 830 billion dollars</p> <p>O/S: BUT TESTER VOTED TO INCREASE THE BUDGET DEFICIT \$830 BILLION.</p> <p>SOURCE: US Senate Roll Call Vote 2/13/09</p> <p>V/O: And defended billions in wasteful earmarked spending.</p> <p>O/S: TESTER: DEFENDED BILLIONS IN WASTEFUL EARMARK SPENDING.</p> <p>SOURCE: Daily Signal, 7/19/18</p>	<p><u>Washington Post:</u> Final Republican Tax Plan Included “A New Tax Cut For The Rich” That Amounted To “A Significant Tax Break For The Very Wealthy.” [Washington Post, 12/15/17]</p> <p><u>New York Times:</u> Corporations Used “Much Of The Money” From The Republican Tax Plan To Buy Their Own Shares, With Nearly 100 Corporations Announcing More Than \$178 Billion In Planned Buybacks. [New York Times, 2/26/18]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>New York Times:</u> “The Buybacks Are Also Most Likely To Worsen Economic Inequality Because The Benefits Of Stocks Purchases Flow Disproportionately To The Richest Americans.” [New York Times, 2/26/18] • <u>New York Times:</u> “The Vast Majority Of The Billions Of Dollars In Planned Share Purchases Will Benefit The Richest 10 Percent Of American Households, Who Own 84 Percent Of All Stocks.” [New York Times, 2/26/18] • <u>Reuters:</u> “Massive Stock Repurchases Are...Contributing To Widening Income Inequality By Rewarding Executives With Ever Higher Pay, Often Divorced From A Company’s Underlying Performance.” [Reuters, 12/10/15] <p><u>REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN WAS EXPECTED TO LEAD TO DRAMATIC CUTS IN PROGRAMS LIKE MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY</u></p> <p>HEADLINE: “After Tax Overhaul, GOP Sets Sights On Medicare, Social Security.” [U.S. News & World Report, 12/7/17]</p> <p>AARP: Republican Tax Bill Will Likely Lead To “Dramatic Cuts” To Medicare And Medicaid And Other Programs Serving Older Americans. [News Release, AARP, 12/18/17]</p> <p><u>U.S. News & World Report:</u> “The Most Likely Targets For Cuts And Restructuring In The Coming Months Are Likely To Be Medicare And Social Security Benefits.” [U.S. News & World Report, 12/7/17]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>New York Times:</u> “Marco Rubio...[Told] Business Leaders That The Tax Cuts Were Just The First Step; The Next Is To Reshape Social Security And Medicare For Future Retirees.” [New York Times, 12/2/17] • Paul Ryan: “We’re Going To Have To Get Back Next Year At Entitlement Reform, Which Is How You Tackle The Debt And The Deficit...It’s The Health Care Entitlements That Are The Big Drivers Of Our Debt.” [Washington Post, 12/6/17] • Republican Joint Economic Committee Report: “Ultimately Entitlement Reform Is Necessary To Reverse The Unsustainable Trajectory” Of Federal Debt. [Joint Economic Committee, 3/13/18] <p><u>JON TESTER HAS CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT FOR A BALANCED BUDGET AND AGAINST WASTEFUL SPENDING</u></p> <p><u>JON TESTER HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION</u></p>
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	<p>Jon Tester Cosponsored A Balanced Budget Amendment To The Constitution Twice. [S. J. Res. 18, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, 7/9/15; S. J. Res. 20, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, 7/11/13]</p> <p>2016: Jon Tester Proposed A Constitutional Balanced Budget Amendment, Arguing “We Cannot Keep Voting For Budget Resolutions — Like Last Week’s — That Add \$9 Trillion To The Debt And Swipe The Credit Card Of Our Kids And Grandkids.” [Billings Gazette, 1/22/17]</p> <p>2011: Jon Tester Voted For A Balanced Budget Amendment That Exempted Social Security And Spending In Times Of Congressional Declared War Or In The Face Of A Serious Military Threat. [CQ, 12/14/11; S.J.Res. 24, Vote 228, 12/14/11]</p> <p><u>JON TESTER HAS RETURNED UP TO \$3.3 MILLION FROM HIS OFFICE BUDGET FUNDS BACK TO THE TREASURY</u></p> <p>FY2007-FY2017: Jon Tester Returned Up To \$3.32 Million In Unspent Taxpayer Funds Allocated For His Office to The Treasury – 10.32 Percent Of His Budgeted Funds. [Report of the Secretary of the Senate, 2007-2018]</p> <p><u>JON TESTER AUTHORED AND VOTED FOR BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO HELP TAXPAYER WATCHDOGS EXPOSE FEDERAL WASTE AND ABUSE</u></p> <p>HEADLINE: “The Second Bill President Trump Signed Strengthens The Government Accountability Office’s Oversight Powers.” [GovTrack Insider, 3/1/17]</p> <p>HEADLINE: “Congress...Expands Watchdog Powers.” [NextGov, 1/20/17]</p> <p>Roll Call: Jon Tester “Originally Authored” And Voted For The GAO Access And Oversight Act, Signed Into Law By President Trump. [Roll Call, 1/17/17; S. 17, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, 1/3/17; Public Law 115-3, H.R. 72, 1/31/17; CQ, 1/17/17; H.R. 72, Vote 28, 1/17/17]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GovTrack: “Supporters Say The Bill Will Increase Transparency And Efficiency By Bolstering One Of The Few Nonpartisan Agencies Tasked With Ensuring Government Accountability.” [GovTrack, 3/1/17] • E&E News: GAO Access And Oversight Act “Would Strengthen The Federal Government’s Top Watchdog.” [E&E Daily, 1/17/17]
<p>V/O: Jon Tester, he's gone Washington.</p> <p>O/S: JON TESTER HE'S GONE WASHINGTON.</p>	<p><u>MATT ROSENDALE BROUGHT THE SWAMP TO MONTANA AND WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN A RUBBER-STAMP FOR HIS DARK MONEY BACKERS</u></p> <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE’S CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN PROPPED UP BY MILLIONS IN OUTSIDE SPENDING ATTACKING JON TESTER AND BOOSTING HIM</u></p> <p>9/25/18: Outside Groups Had Spent \$10 Million Attacking Jon Tester And Propping Up Matt Rosendale’s Campaign. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 9/25/18]</p> <p>NBC News: “Koch-Backed Americans For Prosperity Is Launching A Six-Figure Ad Campaign In Montana Supporting Republican Senate Candidate</p>

V/O: CFG
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Matt Rosendale...Bring[ing] The Group's Total Spending In The State To More Than \$1 Million. [NBC News, [8/28/18](#)]

- **2015: Matt Rosendale Earned A 100 Percent Score From Americans For Prosperity For His Voting Record In The Montana State Senate.** [2015 Legislative Scorecard, Americans for Prosperity – Montana, captured [7/19/17](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE VOTED AGAINST EXPANDING CAMPAIGN FINANCE TRANSPARENCY IN OUR ELECTIONS

HEADLINE: "Montana House Backs Bill To Require 'Dark Money' Groups Disclose Donors." [Missoulian, [3/26/15](#)]

- **Matt Rosendale Voted Against The Montana Disclose Act, Requiring Dark Money Groups Participating In Elections To Disclose Their Donors And Campaign Expenditures.** [KRTV, [4/22/15](#); Vote 1560, SB 289, [4/15/15](#)]

HEADLINE: "Montana Senate Backs Bill Requiring 'Dark Money' Groups To ID Donors." [Missoulian, [3/26/13](#)]

- **2013: Matt Rosendale Voted Against The Bipartisan TRACE Act, Which Would Require Anonymous Dark Money Political Groups To Disclose Their Donors.** [Vote 1148, SB 375, [3/27/13](#); Missoulian, [3/26/13](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS PUSHED POLICIES THAT BENEFIT HIS BIG DONORS

HEADLINE: "State Auditor Drops Fines Against Top Campaign Donor." [Montana Free Press, [9/25/18](#)]

- **Insurance Commissioner Matt Rosendale Dismissed Two Of Three Charges Against Friedel, LLC The Day After An In-Person Meeting With The Company, Whose Employees Had Donated \$13,000 To Rosendale's Political Campaigns.** [Montana Free Press, [9/25/18](#)]
- **"Longtime Government Ethics Watchdog" Bob Stern: "The Appearance Is Terrible [...] The Appearance Is That [Rosendale] Made The Decision To Drop The Lawsuit Because These People Gave His Campaign A Bunch Of Money."** [Montana Free Press, [9/25/18](#)]

MTN News: Matt Rosendale Raised \$16,000 From Short-Term Health Insurance Executives And Then Supported Short-Term Health Insurance Plans. [MTN News, [9/5/18](#)]

- **MTN News: "The Money Raised...Was Used To Pay Off The Debt From [Rosendale's] 2014 U.S. House Race...So The Money To Pay It Off Goes To Rosendale."** [MTN News, [9/5/18](#)]

JON TESTER IS THE ONLY WORKING FARMER IN THE SENATE AND HAS FOUGHT TO CUT CONGRESSIONAL PERKS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

JON TESTER, THE SENATE'S ONLY WORKING FARMER, STILL FARMS THE LAND HIS GRANDPARENTS HOMESTEAD MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO

Jon Tester, The Senate's Only Active Farmer, Returned To The Big Sandy Farm His Grandparents Homesteaded A Century Ago To Work The Land. [New York Times, [6/3/18](#)]

- **Washington Post:** "Tester Spent His Break On A Tractor, Tilling The Land For Organic Peas On An 1,800-Acre Farm That Has Been In The Family For More Than 100 Years." [Washington Post, [5/2/17](#)]

JON TESTER HAS FOUGHT TO END AUTOMATIC RAISES FOR CONGRESS

March 2009: Jon Tester Was One Of 10 Democratic Senators To Vote To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress. [CQ, [3/10/09](#); Vote 95, S. Amdt. 621 to H.R. 1105, [3/10/09](#)]

March 2012: Jon Tester Introduced Measure Eliminating Cost Of Living Adjustment For Members Of Congress. [S. 2210, Text, Library of Congress, [3/20/12](#)]

- **September 2012: Jon Tester Voted In Favor Of A Continuing Appropriations Measure That Denied Congressional Pay Adjustment.** [Public Law 112-175, [9/28/12](#); H.R. Res. 117, Vote 199, [9/22/12](#); Congressional Research Service, [6/21/16](#)]

2009-2016: Jon Tester Cosponsored Bipartisan Measures To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress. [S. 17, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [9/8/16](#); S. 133, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [1/25/11](#); S. 542, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [3/10/09](#)]

JON TESTER COSPONSORED SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION BANNING TAXPAYER-FUNDED OIL PAINTINGS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Jon Tester-Cosponsored Legislation Prohibiting Federal Funds For Official Portraits For Members Of Congress Was Signed Into Law. Cosponsors, S. 188, Library of Congress, [4/24/17](#); NPR, [3/28/18](#)]