

## Memo

From: Bill Wilt (independent, The Preamble Party, candidate for Representative)  
 To: Registered Voters of the 7<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Congressional District  
 Subject: What's needed to Take Back America

I'm among those of us who think our nation is off the tracks, on the wrong course, headed in the wrong direction. But I'm tired of complaining about it, standing on the sidelines, sitting in the bleachers watching as the increasingly painful — and lethal — show goes on.

So I thought I'd get out on the field, get up off my duff, jump in the water, onto the boards — pick your metaphor — and run for office. Here's a list of the things I would take on:

1). The economy: It's a shambles. Friends of the government get to do stupid, greedy things. And when they lose money, you and I, citizens/taxpayers, are made to pay for it by government folks who answer to those who paid for their campaigns, not those of us who merely cast our votes.

There are two solutions, at least, to this problem: a) Get the money out of campaigning; and b) Keep our money away from Washington, where we have no control over how it's spent. (It's easier to take the bus, T or commuter rail to get to Beacon Hill than it is to take Amtrak train or the Greyhound, Peter Pan or the Fung Wah buses.

1a) So, here's how to get the biggest chunk of money out of political campaigning:

First, we create a few broadcasting channels for FREE campaign and political advertising—all day long, all year long (lots of channels were left over when we went to digital broadcasting, because the new digital signal takes only one quarter of the bandwidth that the old analog signals took). That'll cut maybe 70% of the cost.

Second, we make campaign donations and receipts completely transparent. Donors AND receivers must post all "things of economic value" overnight on their special Internet web site. We'll let lobbyists (anybody who asks something from their government—which would include you and me, even if we send just a letter) give any gifts, in any amount, to our elected officials. That should keep the rich folks at Goldman Sachs, etc., very happy.

Third, not only must they post these gifts overnight, but the gifts also must appear in the Statement of Financial Benefit to be included on every piece of legislation and every rule and regulation passed. That is, Goldman Sachs would have its contributions/gifts/bribes listed ON THE LEGISLATION, ALONG WITH THE AMOUNT OF BENEFIT THEY EXPECT TO RECEIVE WHEN IT GOES INTO EFFECT. This amount will be tracked through the life cycle of the legislation. And the legislators/ regulators, etc., would have their names and gift amounts (and from whom) listed, as well. And posted overnight of the day the legislation, rules, reg.s are submitted.

At the end of the year, all of the lobbying expenses are added up, and all of the financial benefits are added up. Subtract the expenses from the benefits, and you have the lobbyists' profit, their Return on Political Investment, or ROPI. Then comes the Windfall ROPI Tax. Let's allow the lobbying firms a reasonable profit, say, what, 8%, 16%? You pick a figure that's about average for your business. Say it's 16%. The Windfall ROPI Tax kicks in on any profit over, say, 16%. And the tax rate is a simple, easy-to-understand, easy-to-calculate 100%: any profits greater than 16% go right back into the Treasury. No more of this "Donate \$10 million and get back \$782 TRILLION" stuff that our elected officials have shoved down our throats—or more accurately, reached down our throats and pulled out of our stomachs; they've been selling our country to the Political Donor Class for tenths of a penny on the hundred dollars—earning ROPI, political profits, in the THOUSANDS OF PERCENTS. How would YOU like to get a return of \$1,872 for one of your dollars? Not 8%, not 18%, but 1,872% for your hard work — hard work like golfing in Scotland, dining in Paris, sipping piña coladas at a Rockefeller ranch in Venezuela. This should make Goldman Sachs and their ilk very **unhappy**.

Fourth, we have to give lobbyists and legislators an incentive to do all this posting. We'll use the negative incentive of fines and prison time. Failure to post, inaccurate posting, untimely posting of exchanges of financial benefits earns a fine of 100 times the amount of the benefit received or anticipated, and twice the length of time in office the recipient has served. For the recipients, same deal: 100 times the amount of the gift and twice the length of recipient's time in office as a prison term. That would be, say, 68 years in prison for not posting a gift to someone who has served 34 years in office. This also should make Wall Street and its "Doing God's Work" CEO Lloyd Blankfeins **very** unhappy.

1b) And here's how to keep our money away from Washington.

The Supreme Court has just ruled that Corporations Are People, Too (*United Citizens vs Federal Election Commish*). We, the People, can turn that holding on its head, by noting that **People** Are Corporations, Too. And acting on it, by incorporating every family, every single person, every "other" personal business unit as a Domestic Domestic Corporation. *Domestic* in the first sense, as being incorporated in the state or commonwealth; *domestic* in the second sense, as being of the home, of the household.

All of us people (who are corporations, too) are in the business of leading profitable, productive lives, of raising competent, happy, productive children. Certainly none of us

is working hard to lead an **unprofitable** life for ourselves or our children.

Here's how it works: You're the Smith Family Corporation, a Domestic Domestic Corporation (DDC). Your state legislature declares, or you negotiate, that any and all money you previously received as wages, is now corporate-to-corporate payment on the basis of contracts. All 1099 stuff. No withholding. No FICA. (You might need training in drafting and negotiating contracts—perhaps the out-of-work unions could be of service here—and running a business, paying corporate taxes, etc. Schools could help, too—Home Economics (or Home Ec., as it's usually called). would take on an entirely new meaning, for boys as well as girls, when it becomes all about running a real corporation. Imagine your children in the class on negotiating golden parachutes.)

As a business, the family, the DDC, can deduct all reasonable and necessary expenses for the running of that business. Cost of maintaining the corporate headquarters (formerly known as the home) is deductible. Whether you buy it or rent it. Loans, loan interest, amortization, property taxes, maintenance — all deductible. Corporate cafeteria (formerly known as the kitchen) costs, deductible. Half of entertainment costs. Transportation costs (and amortization for the vehicles used). Deductible. Corporate uniforms (formerly known as clothing), deductible. Education, deductible. And so on.

At the end of the year, what used to be called family savings has now become corporate profit. And that's what you pay taxes on. Not much left over at the end of each year, is there? So not much tax. And unless you pay yourself a salary as a corporate director, you have no personal income to tax, either.

But the states get to tax their own corporations (\$456.00 is the minimum tax for Massachusetts corporations). They also have annual franchise or license fees (\$125 in Mass.) which will have to be raised. However, when you complain about proposed corporate tax increases, the tax mavens from General Electric and Raytheon and Gillette, for example, will be sitting right alongside the CEOs of our new Domestic Domestic Corporations. The playing field just got a bit more level, now that people are corporations, too.

I'm not saying this is a simple solution. You would have to learn about negotiating contracts, about bookkeeping—or perhaps CPAs would have so much business they couldn't handle it and would have to ship the accounting and corporate tax prep work to Mumbai or the Channel Islands. On the other hand, your children in Home Economics course would be learning to do the books, as well, and could help their parents with the corporate work. And anyway, millions of us have been forced into becoming self-employed entrepreneurs already, because of all the jobs that have been shipped overseas — that “giant sucking sound” that one independent presidential candidate described years

ago. Seems he was right — it was the sound of jobs leaving America.

**Further reforms:** We need to institute **ombudsmen** to oversee Congress and our executive branch and judicial branch activities. These are the people who make certain that “the system” works for the nation's citizens. Unlike legislators, who thrive on broken systems — because they allow the legislators to do “constituent work,” or “favors” by working around the breaks in the system in return for votes (if the systems weren't broken, there would be no favors to grant, and legislators would have to focus on making systems that did NOT break. And the ombudsmen would be there with ample proposals). Meanwhile, of course, the systems remain broken for everyone not astute enough or noisy enough to rattle the cages of their government officials. Or rich enough. (But now money doesn't matter so much, with free campaign advertising.)

**Filibusters in the Senate:** Since senators no longer filibuster (they just file a document threatening to do so), we need to stop using the term. I'd propose “Throw a Monkey Wrench Into The Works” as a descriptive alternative. Take a look at the movie *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* to see what a filibuster used to look like. It was an endurance test for both the *filibusterer* and the *filibusterees*—which now must look too much like work to our senators, so now they just fake it.

**Banking:** We need to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act's separation of banks, insurance companies and gambling houses. We also need to change the words we use about “investment” and “banking.” You should reflect that if an individual pays money to a corporation and gets in return the company's IOU -- a share of stock or a bond -- you have invested in a corporation. You pay the money, the corporation gets the money. But every transaction thereafter — you selling your stock to another person — that is NOT investing. I'd call that gambling, pure and simple. It doesn't look or smell like the race track or the locker room or the pool hall or the craps table. The company doesn't get any benefit from the third-party transactions (unless they're also gambling with their own shares). The stock market, in other words, is a side-show, of, by and for gamblers. Some are long-term bettors, some are short-term bettors/day-traders/micro-minute traders. But all are in this side-casino, placing bets upon bets upon bets. And, as in any gambling casino, “the house always wins.” (Why do you think Lloyd Blankfein is so happy that he can brook the unmitigated gall to say he is “Doing God's Work”? And why do you think the other casino owners at the dinner listening to him didn't throw the crockery at him and run him out of town?) And we need to make the private “federal reserve system” completely transparent—or do away with it. There's nothing in the US Constitution that permits a bunch of private gamblers to control the nation's money supply—which is supposed to be in gold and silver coins, absent a constitutional amendment. The UK & European countries

also have these privately-owned “central banks” running their economies. How did we all let that happen? Is it that we’re really all that stupid? Or just busy with other things like making money and raising kids, and not paying attention? Now that 20% or so of us do NOT have jobs, that should free up some time to actually pay attention, don’tcha think?

**Off-shore corporations:** Either they return to these shores, or they’re barred from doing business in America.

**Schools:** We need to stop teaching to the tests. And we need teachers who teach. There is something to the old saw that “Them as can, do; them as can’t, teach; and them as can’t teach, teach teachers,” however harsh it sounds. The Domestic Domestic Corporation (formerly known as “the family”) and teachers are key to having educated Americans, and neither the families nor our inspiring teachers are paid enough. In substantial measure because the wealth of our nation has been flowing into the pockets of the top 1%, or top 0.01% of the wealthiest Americans – that the rich get richer & the poor get poorer has been the reality in the US for far too long.

**Energy Policy:** Every one of our last eight presidents said we needed an energy policy – a way to break our addiction to foreign oil, according to a piece by Jon Stewart on the Daily Show. One of these presidents even signed into law the Clean Waters Act, the Clean Air act and the Endangered Species Act. But, as Stewart pointed out, that same president also espoused universal health care for Americans, which meant that he was really a Communist, according to the lobbyists who fought so hard to keep universal health insurance/health care in the control of Big Pharma and Big Insura. So he didn’t get an energy bill. The president? Richard Nixon. Pretty funny, huh? (By the way, you *do* know that Medicare and the VA hospital systems are run by the government, right?)

So for an energy policy, we need a New Manhattan Project, a crash program (with as few crashes as possible) to develop solar energy alternatives to fossil fuel. And we had better manufacture all of that stuff right here in the United States. Does anyone think risking the entire globe for fossil fuel is a good idea? Like the Gulf of Mexico, where The Leak Goes On? We definitely did not need a New Pearl Harbor that killed the many and benefits the few.

**Wars:** My quixotic suggestion is that wars be fought by the men and women who declare them. And that they be fought two people at a time, starting with the Presidents or heads of state of the nations (or groups) that declare them. The survivor of the first duel lives to fight his second duel with the second-in-command, and so on, until the list of elected officials is depleted. Last man or woman standing wins.

Can you picture George W. Bush dueling with Saddam Hussein at 20 paces, each with a one-shot pistol? Or Dick

Cheney facing off against Chemical Ali? If this were how we fought our wars, I can almost guaran-dang-tee that there would have been no Afghan invasion, war and occupation, no Iraq invasion, no war & occupation were this the way we fought our wars. We would need no War (formerly Defense, previously War) Department. No standing army.

In the present cases of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and soon Iran, probably, we need to change over to civilians, our own and others who speak the native languages of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan & Iran, to rebuild what we have already destroyed and what we will have destroyed. Halliburton would be made to donate all of its work, given the damage it has inflicted and money it has mulcted from the war effort. I believe it’s called “disgorging ill-gotten gains.”

**Looking Backwards:** Every vehicle has a rear-view mirror, for good reason. And although Satchel Paige said, “Don’t look back; they may be gainin’,” that’s exactly the point. Who and what is gainin’ on us now are all the unpunished crimes committed, in the name of the United States and all its citizens, by a few berserkers, only some of whom we know. To that end, those who recommended torture and participated in it need to be held to account or, as one of the chiefs among them liked to put it, “brought to justice.” The initiating crime was on 9/1/2001. We still don’t know what really happened to bring down the three World Trade Center buildings (Towers #1 and #2 at 110 stories, and #7 at 47 stories) and blew a hole in the most heavily fortified side of the Pentagon. We need to commence a criminal investigation immediately, if not sooner (it’s nine years overdue).

Then we can take on handling the war crimes—the violations of the Geneva Conventions on Treatment of Prisoners of War, non-combatants, etc., which are also codified in our own US War Crimes Act. (You probably didn’t know that, because of the abysmal performance of our “mainstream media.” And you probably also don’t know that if a prisoner of ours dies under torture—there have been approximately 120 verified so far—the punishment imposed can be the death sentence. 18 USCode §2441). It looks like the UK may actually beat us to the punch on this one; they’re starting their inquiry on torturing prisoners of war right now. And already, folks like Henry Kissinger, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney and George Bush have been forced to stay out of European countries, because they fear they’ll be arrested and put on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity – those Geneva Conventions thingies. There are now several “long reads” out (formerly known as books) analyzing in detail the legal hazards faced by our “leaders” who frightened the US into wars under false pretenses.

You might think that this is all water over the dam, under the bridge, not worth worrying about. But guess what: the people who said several years ago that if we let the unconstitutional

conduct of our leaders go unchecked, it would continue, unabated in every subsequent administration, were right. The old abuses have been picked up and adopted, almost wholesale. We might have change we can believe in, but I used to believe in the Tooth Fairy, too. Believing is very, very easy. No facts required. No logic. What we need is change we can SEE (that old saw, “seeing is believing” applies – but of course we know enough to beware of magicians, hustlers, gamblers, shills, hoaxes, lies and liars, frauds, scams, mirrors, hidden wires, propaganda, television, movies, ads, PhotoShop, don’t we?). One for instance: in one administration, a former Goldman Sachs CEO becomes Secretary of the Treasury. In a different administration, a former Goldman Sachs CEO becomes Secretary of the Treasury. In different administration, a former Goldman Sachs CEO becomes chief economic advisor. That’s like changing sweaty underwear – the clothing changes, but what’s inside’s still the same. And he still sweats. I don’t want change I can smell or believe in. What we likely all want is a thriving, safe, sustainable nation, even world, where there’s a more perfect Union, where Justice is established and

solid, where domestic Tranquility is insured, the common defense provided for, where the general Welfare is promoted, and where we can secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. That stuff in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America. One 52-word sentence. That’s what we ordered the government we ordained and established to stand and deliver back there in 1789, after they’d pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to breaking away from England. And all of our contemporary oath-takers have raised their right hands and promised us that they’d do just that, support and defend. They’ve stood, all right. But they’ve failed to deliver to all but their friends and contributors. If you’re one of the 30,969 or so friends and contributors – that top one hundredth of one percent (0.01%) of Americans, you’re probably doin’ jes fine, thankee. But that leaves the other 306,592,555 of us in the deep, cold, oily, polluted water, going under the bridge, headed over the dam, on a rickety raft without benefit of paddle. Time to row this boat ashore, don’tcha think?

--(more later)--