



## The Coffee Party USA Fact Sheet

The Coffee Party USA, founded as a Facebook page in January 2010, has grown to a network of over 500,000 members and supporters determined to make an impact on our nation's deliberative process. We maintain independence from all political parties and labels, and act as a trans-partisan organization. This does not mean we cannot take positions, but rather Coffee Party members arrive at positions based on principles and facts, not party affiliation. We embrace the diversity of thought and background that is found across the country, and believe it leads us to our highest potential to understand and contribute to society.

The Coffee Party is powered entirely by volunteers and small donations from everyday Americans; not by corporate lobbyists or partisan think tanks. This allows us to advocate for the interests of the American people without having to answer to more powerful interests.

The Coffee Party understands that the Federal Government is *not* our enemy, but an expression of our collective will. We support leaders who work towards positive solutions and hold accountable those who obstruct them. Rather than destroy our government, our goal is to fix it and restore self-governance to the People.

Our path to restoring democracy in America includes:

- Identifying and advocating for legislative fixes to reform **campaign finance laws, Wall Street regulations, and the tax code.**
- Promoting cultural changes to address political disengagement, polarization, and widespread misinformation.

The combined effect of the power of money in Washington and the impoverished state of political dialogue cripples Washington's ability to serve the People from which their legitimacy should be derived. This is why the Coffee Party supports campaign finance reforms such as the **Fair Elections Now Act** (S. 750 and H.R. 1404), the **DISCLOSE Act** (H.R. 5175), the **Amendment on Citizens United**, and the **Shareholders Protection Act** (H.R. 2517).

Unemployment remains at 9.1%. This is *the* national economic crisis. Meanwhile, global corporations are slashing their workforces and sending jobs overseas in order to protect their profits. The economic situations of corporate managers, hedge fund brokers, and major stockholders have stabilized, but the incomes of millions of middle- and working-class Americans are still missing. This is why the Coffee Party commits to the principle that **no bank is too big to fail** and tax payers should not be forced to subsidize the big risks taken by financial institutions. We support the **Glass-Steagall Resoration Act** (H.R. 2451), which would separate investment banking from commercial banking, and promote a strong **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**.

Never before has our nation seen such drastic income inequality, with the bottom 90% of earners (approx. 100 million people) earning \$31,000 per year while the top 1% earns on average \$1.1 million per year. Census Bureau data from 2010 shows that 44 million Americans are on food stamps and 25% of our nation's children live in poverty. It is time to address the income inequality that is fostered by our tax code. In order to accomplish this, the Coffee Party supports a **financial transaction tax** of 0.5%, which according to *The New York Times* could raise up to \$175 billion in revenue a year, even if the number of transactions were reduced by half. We support the **closure of the "Carried Interest" loophole in the Capital Gains Tax**, which could raise \$20 billion over the next decade. Lastly, **end tax breaks to oil companies**: the big five oil companies have made more than \$1 trillion in the last decade, even as gas prices have risen.

The Coffee Party calls upon the American people to transcend the hyper-partisanship that is so common today and move toward organizing communities around the mutual desire for ongoing, responsible civic engagement. We must commit as a people to the concept of a government of, by, and for the people. We are the government. The government is us. We want to fix the problems in our government, not turn against the idea of government.