
Pledge News: Hightower Lowdown Pledge Issue

Roger Hickey via ActionNetwork.org <sorrellsjl@gmail.com>

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CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S **FUTURE**

Pledge Featured in *The Hightower Lowdown*

Jim Hightower, populist agitator, Pledge signer, and editor of *The Hightower Lowdown* newsletter, has devoted his [May issue](#) to the Pledge. Take a look, and if you like what you see, please subscribe to *The Lowdown*. Subscriptions to the [digital edition are available here](#). To receive the print edition of *The Lowdown* in your mailbox every month, [follow this link](#). Tell your friends to sign the Pledge – *and subscribe to The Hightower Lowdown*, an inspiring source on all our planks for economic change.



Progress is a nice word we like to use,” Bobby Kennedy once said. “But change is its motivator. And change has its enemies.” Over the decades, the tension between progress and change has confronted every group of Americans who’ve endeavored to advance our society’s democratic ideals of fairness, justice, and opportunities for all. From the revolutionaries of the 1770s to today’s grassroots rebels, every inch of progress in

Share these “bread-and-butter” ideas with your neighbors.

securing democratic rights has been vehemently (and often violently) opposed by entrenched enemies of change. Invariably, the upstart activists of democracy movements find themselves trivialized as unworthy and uppity by elite protectors of the status quo. *What is it those people want, anyway?* they ask with

dismissive sneers. . . .

Progress! Meaning a national commitment to advance the economic, political, and social circumstances of workaday families and poor people. Yes, that requires major change, and it will definitely make powerful enemies among wealthy elites plotting to impose Koch-style plutocratic rule. Nonetheless, most voters want BIG populist changes in government policy that will lift up average Americans and hold down corporate greed and abuse.

One major proposal to do just that is the 11-point [Economic Agenda for America's Future](#) drafted by a broad coalition of some 80 progressive thinkers and doers (see box).

Coordinated by Roger Hickey of the Campaign for America's Future and

Larry Cohen, a renowned labor agitator who chairs the board of Our Revolution, this document is both a to-do list for restoring economic democracy and a rallying cry to move today's burgeoning democratic movement from mere resistance to insistence on a bold, percolate-up alternative to Republican/Democratic trickle-down economics.

“IF TRUMP AND THE GOP MAJORITY were to disappear tomorrow,” Hickey says, “our society would still face the challenge of restructuring our economy.”

“If Trump and the GOP majority in Congress were to disappear tomorrow,” Hickey notes, “our society would still face the challenge of restructuring our economy—after many decades of leaders allowing inequality to spread and letting our public infrastructure fall apart.” The agenda draws from solid analyses of America's widening inequality by such esteemed economists as Joseph Stiglitz, Thea Lee, Jamie Galbraith, and Robert Pollin...[click here for rest of article](#).

Please take a look, and if you like what you see, [subscribe to the Online Lowdown here](#) – or to the [Print Lowdown here](#).

An Employment Plan for America

Madeline Janis, is an early pledge signer, and she is the Executive Director of [Jobs to Move America](#). Previously, she co-founded and served as national policy director of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE). She has become an influential leader in the effort to build a new economy based on good jobs, thriving communities and a healthy environment.

Jobs to Move America has developed the U.S. Employment Plan – which is showing cities and states how their infrastructure spending – on things like subway cars – can make sure good jobs are created in those communities. This article in [Medium](#) explains how it works. A model for other cities and states – and for the Federal government.

How cities are using billions in federal dollars to create good jobs .



A New Report on Inequality and CEO Pay

Rep. Keith Ellison has released a hard-hitting report based on the data corporations now have to disclose about the gaps between their CEO and worker pay (see press release below). His report calls for building on this progressive victory by tying pay ratios to tax, contracting, and subsidies policies. Portland, Oregon is already imposing a tax penalty on companies with pay gaps above 100 to 1 that will hit many big firms, from Wells Fargo to Walmart.

For more, see this [Guardian article](#) on the Ellison report and the [blog and video Sarah Anderson](#) of the *Institute for Policy Studies* put up on [Inequality.org](#). They've also done a handy [resource guide](#) with links to pay ratio tax bills in six states, etc...You can stay up on this through their weekly [inequality newsletter](#).

Onward for Jobs and Economic Justice!



Roger Hickey

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