

America: Democracy or Oligarchy?



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For last fifty years and more, we Americans have been indoctrinated with the massive propaganda that America is the greatest democracy in the world. This propaganda is carried out by the mainstream news-media which is controlled by a handful of mega-corporations which are in turn controlled by billionaire oligarchs...super rich individuals.

So let's find out how democratic America is. As we all know, a genuine democracy means a majority rule. In a democracy, the government acts according to the will of the majority of its people. Hence, here are the numbers of what majority of Americans want:

- Medicare for all: Poll after poll finds that Medicare for All is supported by the vast majority of Democrats, many independents and even large number of Republicans. According to Hill-HarrisX poll conducted in April, 2020, 69% of voters support Medicare for All.

- Tuition Free State and Public College: As per Hill-HarrisX poll of September, 2019, majority of Americans support free college and wiping out of student debt.
- Paid Maternity Leave-Some 75% to 85% of Americans support paid maternity leave program.
- Minimum Wage: According to Pew Research Center survey conducted between April 29 2019 and May 13, 2019, 67% of Americans want minimum wage to be raised from \$7.25 per hour to \$15 per hour.
- Higher Taxes for the Wealthy: Survey after survey, majority of Americans support higher taxes for the wealthy. The concept has gained more support since the passage of the Tax Cuts and jobs Act of 2017 that has disproportionately benefited the richest Americans and the world's biggest corporations. As per Reuters/Ipsos recent poll, nearly two-thirds of Americans strongly agree that the very rich should pay higher taxes.
- Wealth Tax: According to a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll, 64%--77% Democrats and 53% Republicans-- strongly agree that the very rich should contribute an extra share of their total wealth each year to support public programs. A 2019 CNBC poll, some 60% of millionaires said that they would support an Elizabeth Warren-style wealth tax of 2% on assets over \$50 million and 3% on assets over \$1 billion.
- Trump Impeachment Trial: Majority of 75% of registered voters wanted to hear the witnesses. Without witnesses, the trial is incomplete and a farce. 51% of Americans wanted Trump removed from office; the poll was conducted on January 16 to 19, 2020. The Republican supported Senate had blocked witnesses from testifying.
- Election of the President/Electoral College: A Pew Research survey found that as of January, 2020, a majority of Americans want the president elected by a majority of votes. They want the Electoral College removed by amending the constitution.
- Gun-Control: Majority of us Americans—60%-- want stricter gun-control according to the Pew Research conducted in September, 2019.
- Foreign Wars: America goes to war every few years as its past history confirms. As James Carden writes in Nation Magazine of January 9, 2018, as per J. Walling Opinion Research undertaken in November of 2017, revealed that majority of Americans—78% of Democrats, 64.5% of Republicans and 68.8% of independents-- supported restraining military actions overseas.

In a nationally syndicated radio show the Thom Hartmann Program on July 30, 2015, the former President Jimmy Carter said that the United States is now an “oligarchy” in which “unlimited political bribery” has created “a complete subversion of our political system as a payoff to major contributors.” Both Democrats and Republicans, Carter said, “look upon this unlimited money as a great benefit to themselves.”

An April 16, 2014 study (report) by Princeton and Northwestern Universities concluded that “The U.S. government does not represent the interests of the majority of the country's citizens, but is instead ruled by those of the rich and the powerful.”

As you can see from above, majority of Americans want these items passed by the U.S. Congress; for a long time. But are our Congressmen and Senators following the majority opinion? No. They are not obeying the majority will because their paymaster which are the billionaires and mega-corporations--through their lobbyists—do not want these laws to pass. In other words, most laws are passed or not passed for the benefits of these paymasters. Our Congressmen and Senators do the bidding of their paymasters. They are not working for their constituents...the American people.

So the question is: Is America a Democracy or an Oligarchy? I leave it to the readers to make their own judgement.

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