



# AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

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## HELL IN A HANDBASKET: LIFE UNDER A DEMOCRAT CONGRESS

Democrats running for office this year complain a lot about America and the cost of living. What might surprise you is that most of the backsliding in the American way of life has happened while Democrats control the U.S. Congress. Below are a few key examples:

	Election Day 1994 (11/8/94)	Democrat Senate 2001 (5/24/01)	Election Day 2002 (11/5/02)	Election Day 2006 (11/7/06)	Latest Figure (10/24/08)
Gallon of Gas <sup>1</sup>	\$1.12	\$1.70	\$1.42	\$2.23	\$2.91
Loaf of Bread <sup>2</sup>	\$0.77	\$1.00	\$1.05	\$1.14	\$1.38
Gallon of Milk <sup>3</sup>	\$2.88	\$2.89	\$2.72	\$2.99	\$3.77
Dozen Eggs <sup>4</sup>	\$0.86	\$0.88	\$1.08	\$1.35	\$1.98
Cong. Approval <sup>5</sup>	23%	51%	47%	26%	18%
Dow Jones Average <sup>6</sup>	3,830.74	11,122.42	8,678.27	12,156.77	8,691.25
Stock Market Wealth <sup>7</sup>	\$5.716 tril	\$13.173 tril	\$10.075 tril	\$17.002 tril	\$17.294 tril
Net Worth <sup>8</sup>	\$25.039 tril	\$40.797 tril	\$39.212 tril	\$55.943	\$55.993 tril
Real Per Capita GDP <sup>9</sup>	\$30,284	\$34,805	\$34,945	\$37,880	\$38,447
Inflation Rate <sup>10</sup>	2.67%	3.62%	2.20%	1.97%	4.94%
Unemployment Rate <sup>11</sup>	5.6%	4.3%	5.9%	4.5%	6.1%
Real GDP Growth <sup>12</sup>	4.8%	1.2%	0.2%	1.5%	2.8%
Average Wage <sup>13</sup>	\$22,940	\$28,940	\$30,340	\$33,980	\$36,400
Dollar vs. Euro <sup>14</sup>	n/a	1.17	1.00	0.79	0.78

<sup>1</sup> Department of Energy

<sup>2</sup> Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Gallup

<sup>6</sup> Yahoo Finance

<sup>7</sup> Federal Reserve Flow of Funds

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

<sup>10</sup> Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

<sup>13</sup> Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>14</sup> Yahoo Finance

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