



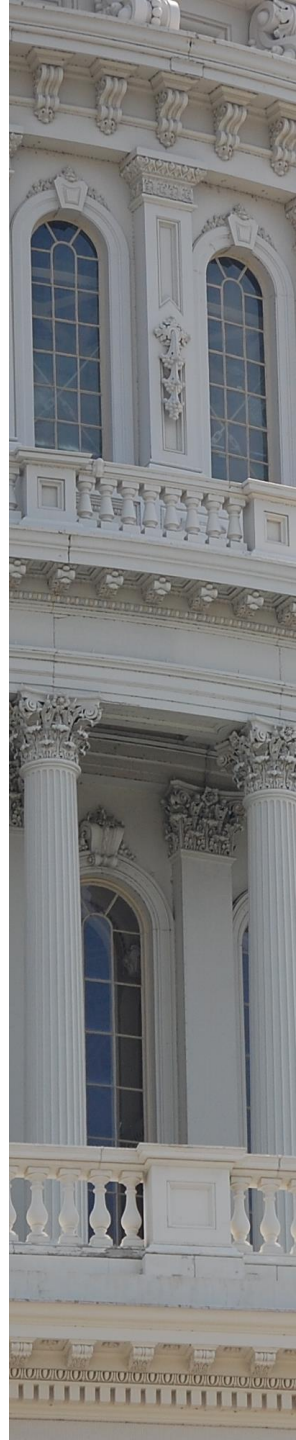
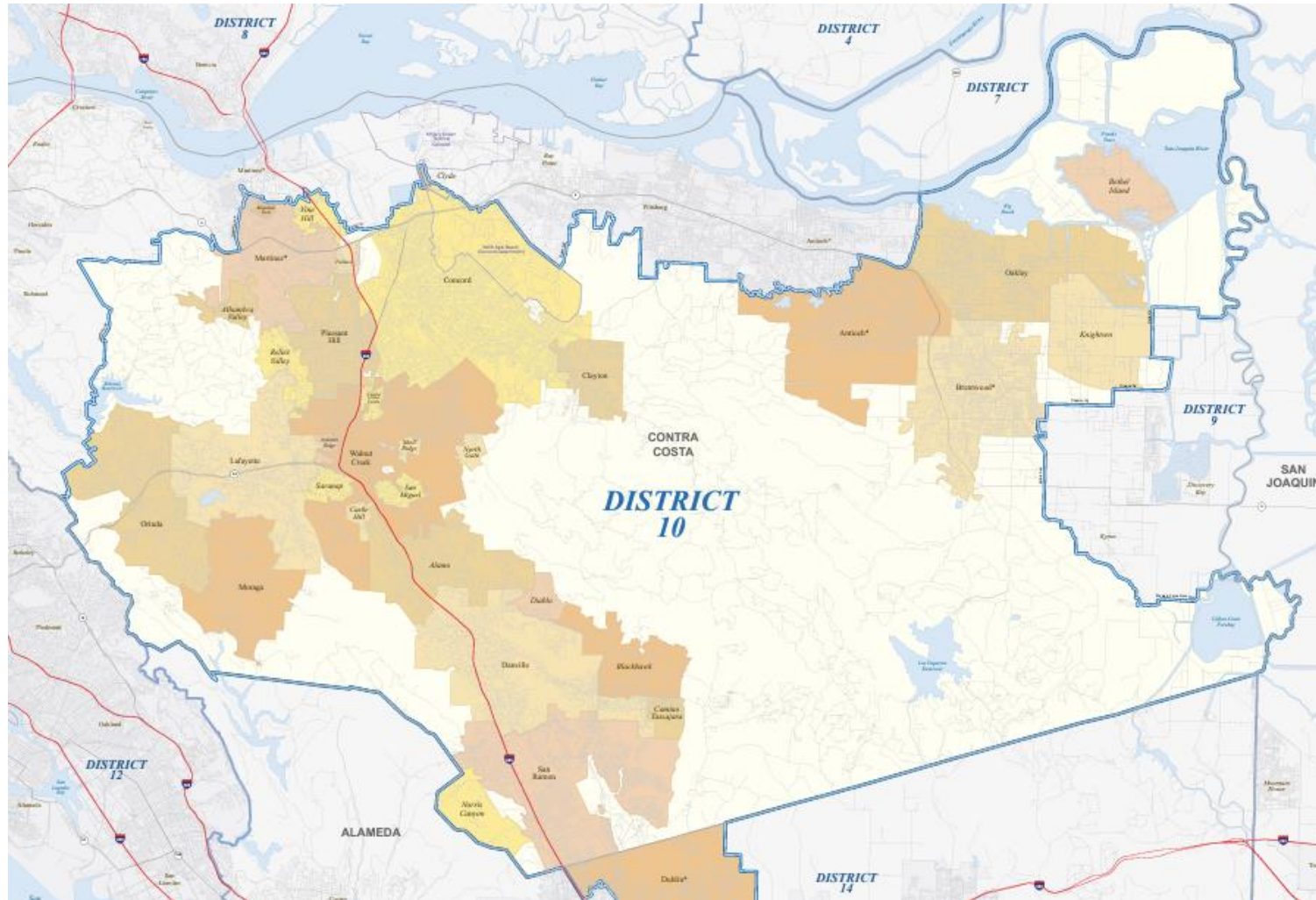
Town Hall: Fighting Back against the Administration

Hosted by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-10)

February 20, 2025

California's 10th Congressional District

CA-10 includes
most of Contra
Costa and part
of Alameda
County



Committee Assignments

Ethics Committee

- *Named Ranking Member (top Democrat) by House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries last week*

Education and Workforce Committee

- *Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions*
- *Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development*

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- *Subcommittee on Aviation*
- *Subcommittee on Highways and Transit*
- *Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials*
- *Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment*



Accomplishments of the Biden-Harris Administration

Inflation Reduction Act

- \$891 billion investment to lower costs of prescription drugs, health care, and energy while addressing the climate crisis, requiring big corporations to pay their fair share, and reducing the deficit.
 - \$380 billion in new investments to build the clean energy economy, including electric vehicle tax credits.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

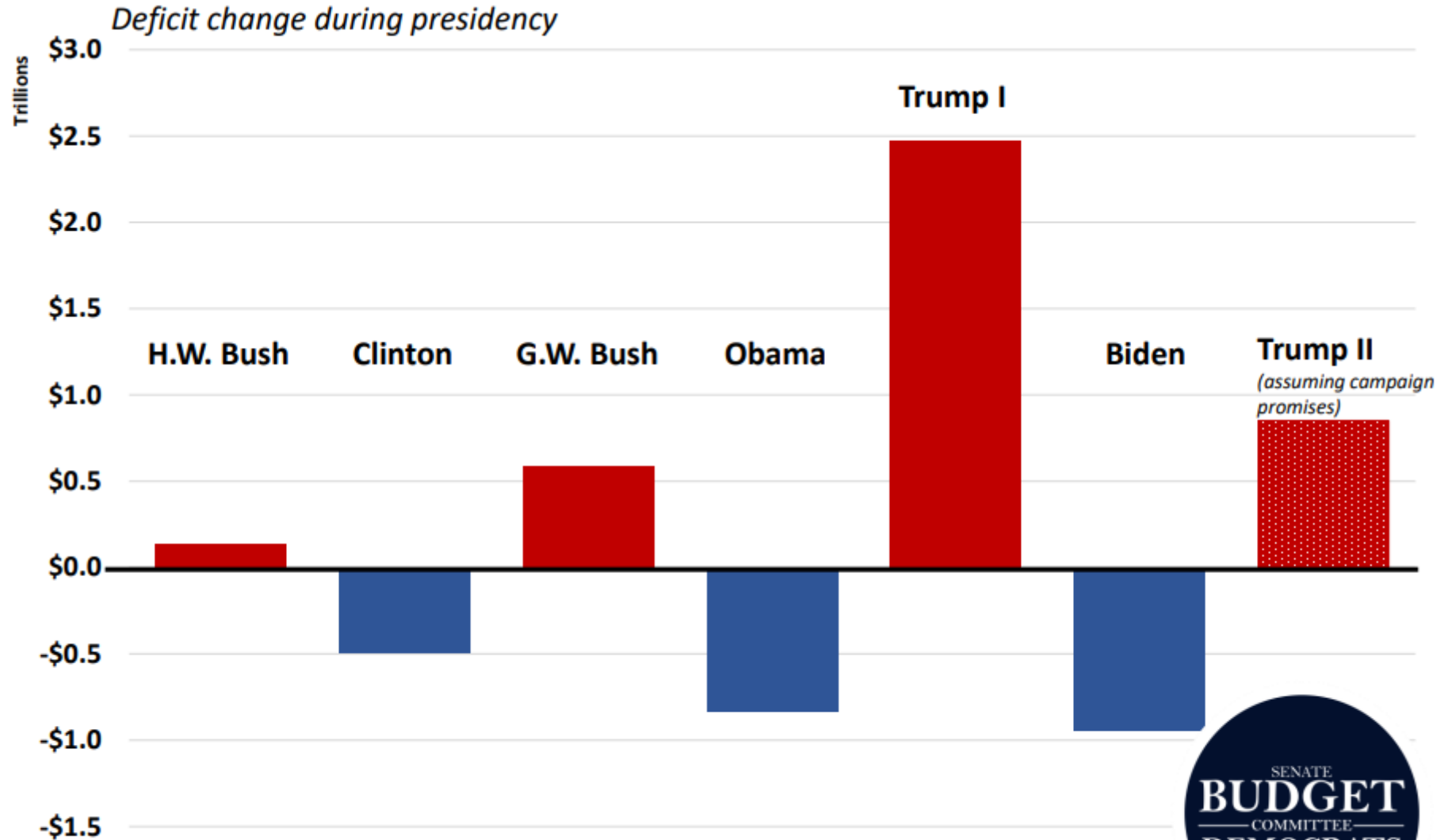
- \$1.2 trillion investment to repair roads and bridges, improve public transportation, expand the EV charging network, and bolster water and airport infrastructure.
- \$1.25 billion for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grants, which includes the Clean Corridors Act grant program.

And More

- CHIPS and Science Act, expanded benefits to toxic exposed veterans, over 17 million jobs added to the economy, first significant gun safety law in 30 years.



History of Balanced Budgets



Source: CBO, showing the difference between the first year and last year. "Trump II" projections are Senate Budget Committee calculations based on CBO, JCT, and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.



The Administration's Illegal Funding Freeze

On Monday, January 27th, the Administration issued a memo freezing all federal financial assistance, including grants and loans.

- **Affected programs could include:**
 - **Head Start and Early Head Start Grants that provide funding for preschool services for low-income families with children from birth to age five.**
 - **Loans and disaster assistance from the Small Business Administration.**
 - **Federal support for state and local law enforcement.**
 - **Grants from the National Institutes of Health that support biomedical research.**
 - **Funding to assist wildfire preparedness and response.**



Funding Freeze (cont.)

- The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 prevents the President from unilaterally deciding to not expend funds appropriated by Congress.
- In response to a lawsuit, a federal court issued an injunction against enforcement of the memo and scheduled a hearing on the case.
- On January 29th, the Administration withdrew the memo, but says the funding freeze remains in effect, attempting to circumvent legal challenges.
- Our office has been working with partners to push back on this illegal and harmful action. I recently joined 29 colleagues in writing to the Administration expressing concerns about these actions and requesting that the Administration provide clarity to those affected.
- The situation is very much in flux and further legal action is likely, but I will continue to forcefully push back against this illegal overreach.



Additional Executive Actions by the Administration

Since taking office on January 20th, the new Administration has:

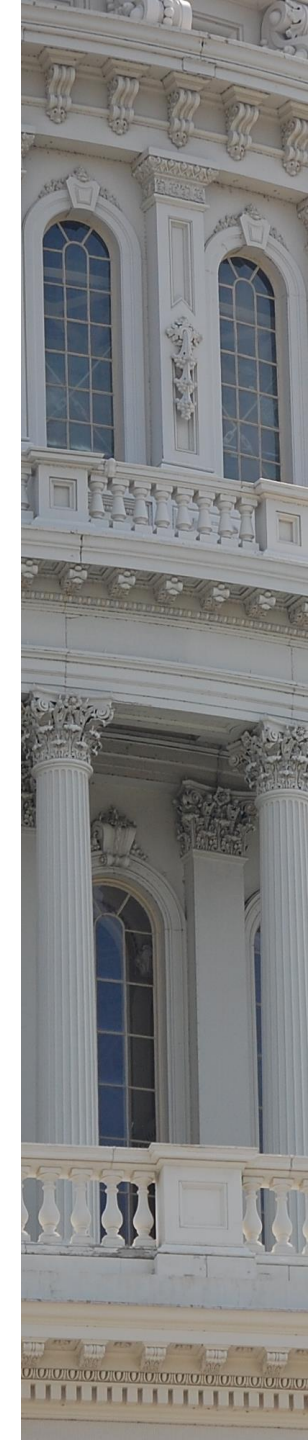
- Pardoned around 1,500 January 6 insurrectionists, including those who committed violence against police officers.
- Halted thousands of infrastructure projects, threatening jobs and critical repairs in communities across the country.
- Moved to increase oil drilling and paused new offshore wind projects, derailing climate efforts.
- Ended protections for LGBTQI+ Americans.
- Started deploying the U.S. military to the U.S.-Mexico border and opened up previous safe spaces like churches and schools to ICE raids.
- Attempted to end the constitutional right to citizenship for children born in the U.S. to undocumented immigrants.
- Began withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Eliminated programs dedicated to increasing diversity and equity.



Actions by the Administration (cont.)

The new Administration also has:

- Frozen most U.S. foreign aid for 90 days and dismantled the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which provides humanitarian aid across the globe, protects the U.S.' standing in the world, and ultimately keeps Americans safe.
- Imposed a 25% tariff on foreign steel and aluminum.
- Withdrawn the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- Banned transgender individuals from serving in the military and blocked transgender women and girls from participating in women and girls' sports.



Budget Reconciliation

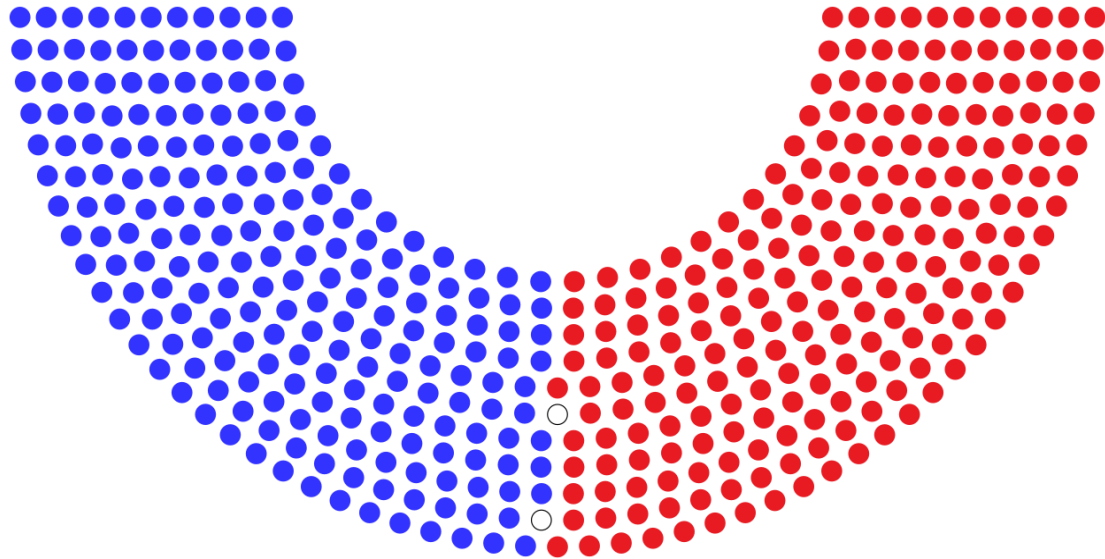
- Republicans in Congress are using a special procedure known as budget reconciliation to quickly implement their agenda.
- Using budget reconciliation, House Republicans are planning to eliminate at least \$1.5 trillion in federal spending, which could result in massive cuts to programs like Medicaid and SNAP.
- At the same time, Republicans are looking to cut taxes for the wealthy and corporations, which would add trillions to the deficit.
- Budget reconciliation is not subject to the Senate filibuster, so these enormous spending and tax changes can be made on a party-line vote.
- The House Budget Committee kicked off the process last Thursday.
 - Next steps: House and Senate Republicans agree on overall spending targets (budget resolution), committees advance legislation to meet those targets, combined legislation passed by House and Senate and signed by the President.



Republicans Hold Majorities in Both Chambers of Congress

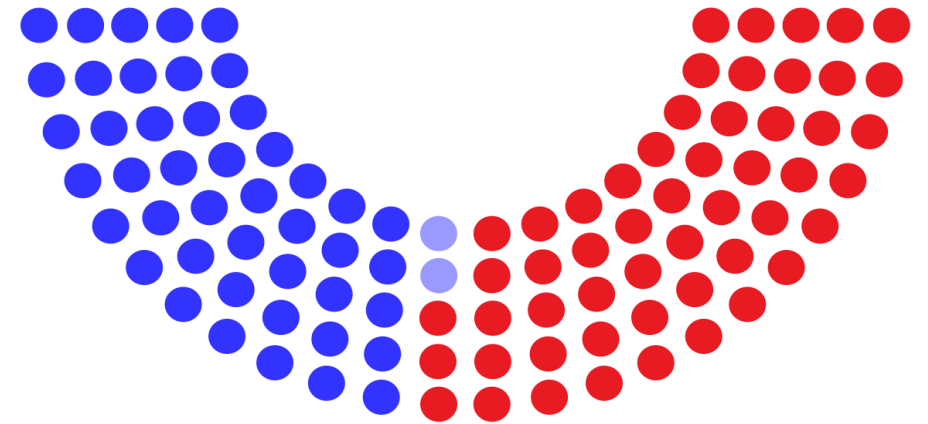
U.S. House

218 **Republicans**, 215 **Democrats**, and two vacancies (FL-01 and FL-06)



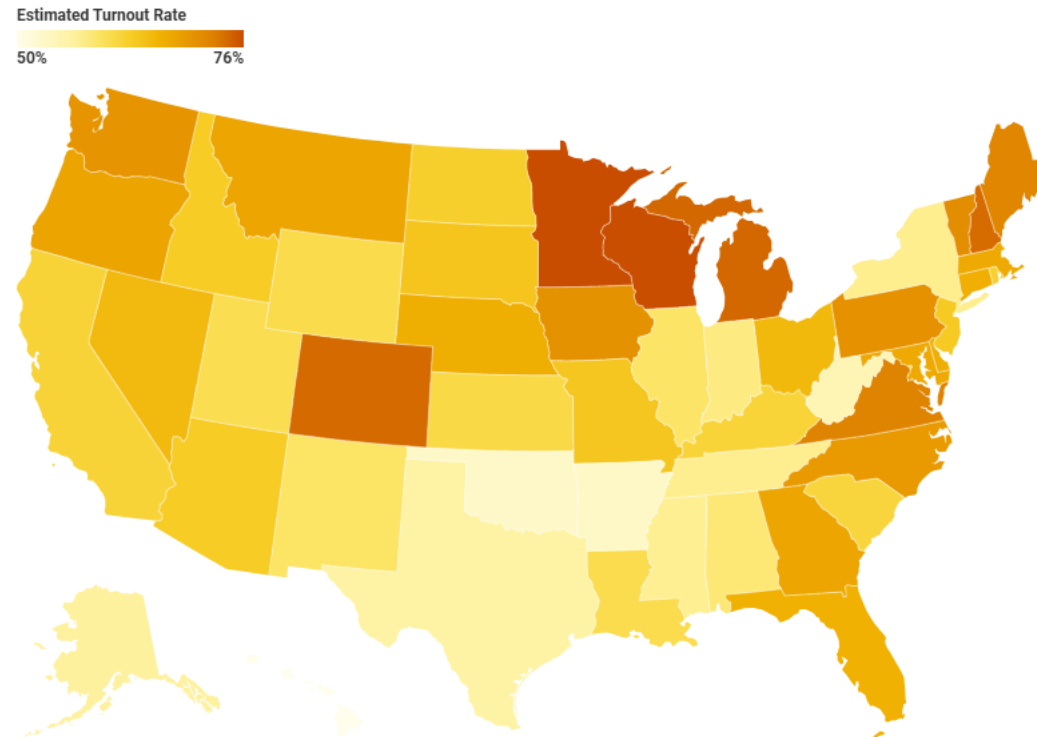
U.S. Senate

53 **Republicans**, 45 **Democrats**, and two **Independents**



Voter Turnout in 2024 vs. 2020

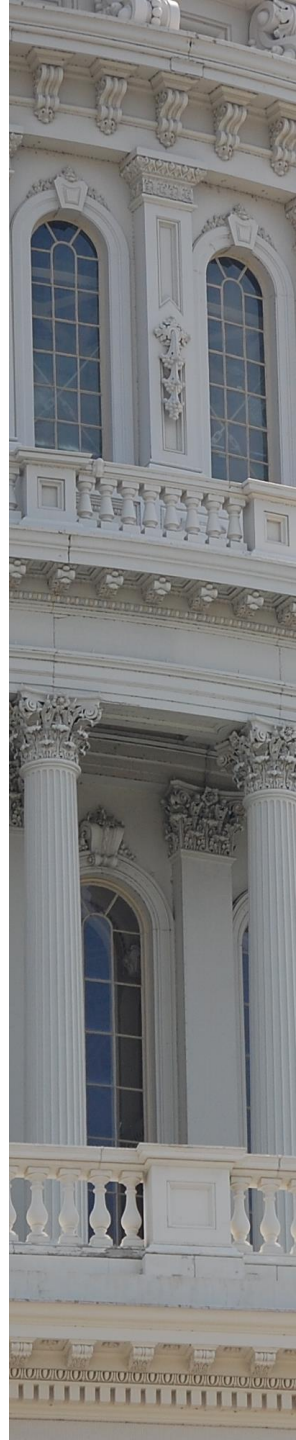
- 63.9% (or 156 million out of 245 million) of eligible voters cast a ballot in 2024, down from 65.3% (or 158 million out of 243 million eligible voters) in 2020.
- Over 88 million eligible voters stayed home in 2024, which is 4 million more than in 2020.
- 42% of youth voters voted in the 2024 election
 - This is a decrease from 2020, where over 50% of youth voters voted



*Americans 18 years or older, minus ineligible noncitizens and felons.

Map: Seth Cline | U.S. News & World Report • Source: University of Florida Election Lab

USNews



Pushing Back Against the Administration

- **Legislation Supported**
 - **Taxpayer Data Protection Act (H.R. 1101)**, which seeks to stop Musk and DOGE's unlawful access to Americans' sensitive data.
 - **Resolution condemning the President's pardons for insurrectionists who assaulted Capitol Police Officers (H.Res. 116).**
 - **Resolution supporting K-12 schools and condemning efforts to defund public education or weaken the Department of Education (H.Res. 94).**
 - **Resolution condemning the President's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement (H.Res. 68).**








Pushing Back Against the Administration (cont.)

- **Letters Signed**
 - Letter requesting Treasury Secretary Bessent rescind a stop work order at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
 - Letter to Transportation Secretary Duffy expressing concerns about how the President's Executive Orders will impact transportation project funding.
 - Letter to the Department of Health and Human Services expressing concerns about payment delays to Head Start programs.
 - Letter requesting a meeting with the Acting Secretary of Education to discuss the Administration's plans for the Department of Education.
 - Letter to Secretary Rubio expressing concern about the impact of a foreign aid pause on global health programs, particularly PEPFAR.
 - Letter expressing concerns about the impact of a funding freeze on the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
 - Letter expressing outrage at the illegal firing of NLRB Member Gwynne Wilcox.
 - And more...



Recent Litigation Against the Administration

- There are now over 55 pending lawsuits against the Administration's executive orders and administrative actions filed by unions, civil society groups, former federal workers, and others.
- Federal courts have paused several of the Administration's more sweeping actions pending review.

Admin Action		Legal Outcome
EO ending Birthright Citizenship		Multiple District Courts Issue Preliminary Injunction
Trump's "Buyout" Offer for Federal Employees		District Court Issues Temporary Restraining Order
OMB Federal Funding Freeze		Multiple District Courts Issue Preliminary Injunction
DOGE Access to Taxpayer Data		Multiple District Courts Issue Temporary Restraining Order
Purge of FBI Agents (<i>class action</i>)		District Court Issues Temporary Restraining Order
Dismantling of USAID		District Court Issues a Narrow Temporary Restraining Order
DOGE Access to Treasury Payment Systems		Multiple District Courts Issue Temporary Restraining Order

Increasing Inequality Under the New Administration

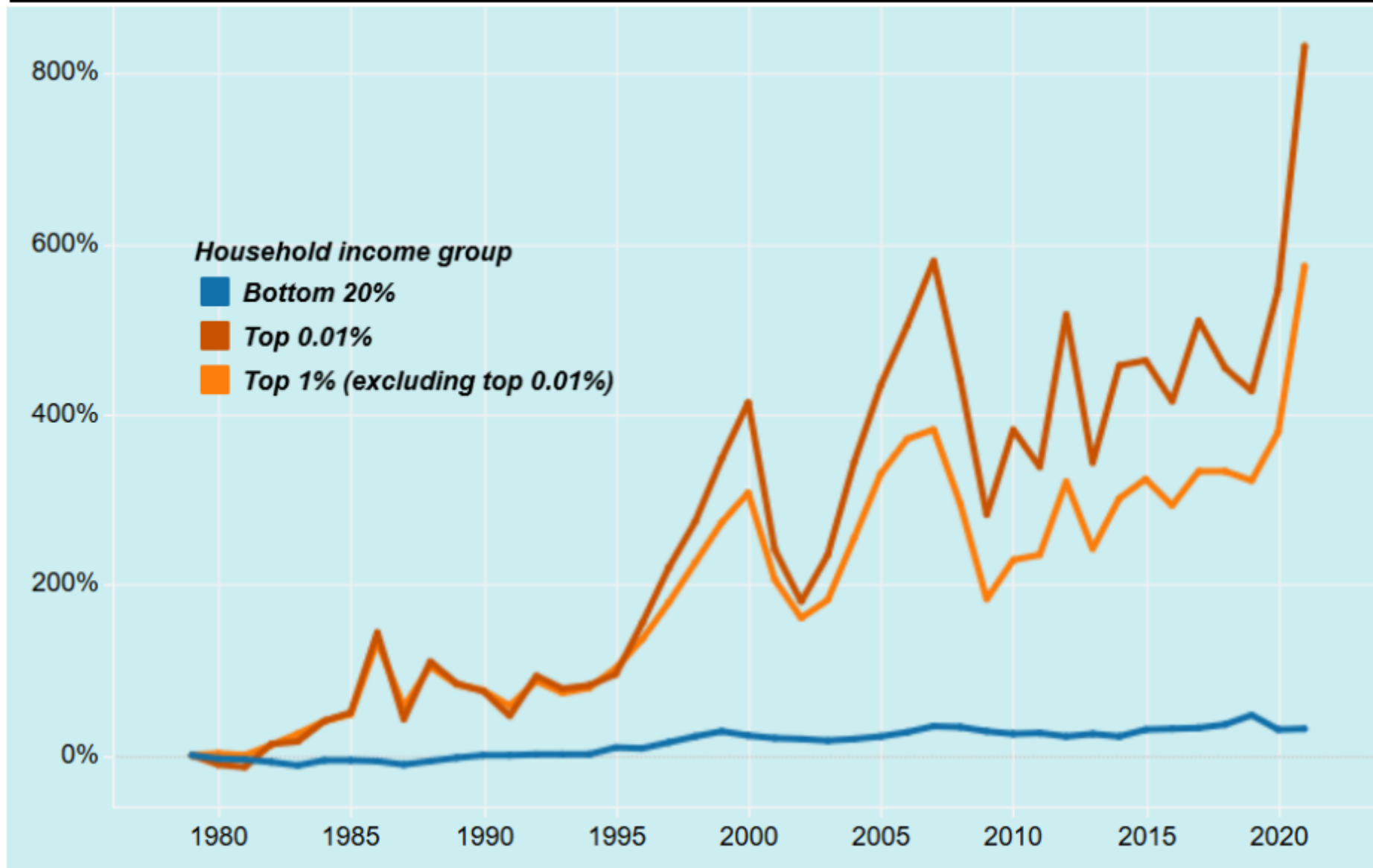
- The 3 wealthiest men in America - pictured here in the front row at the recent inauguration - have the same cumulative income as the bottom 165 million Americans.
 - Meanwhile, the new Administration and his unelected allies like DOGE Head Elon Musk have continued to signal a desire to cut taxes AGAIN for the ultra-wealthy.



“We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we cannot have both.” – Justice Louis Brandeis

Average Incomes for the Richest Americans Have Skyrocketed

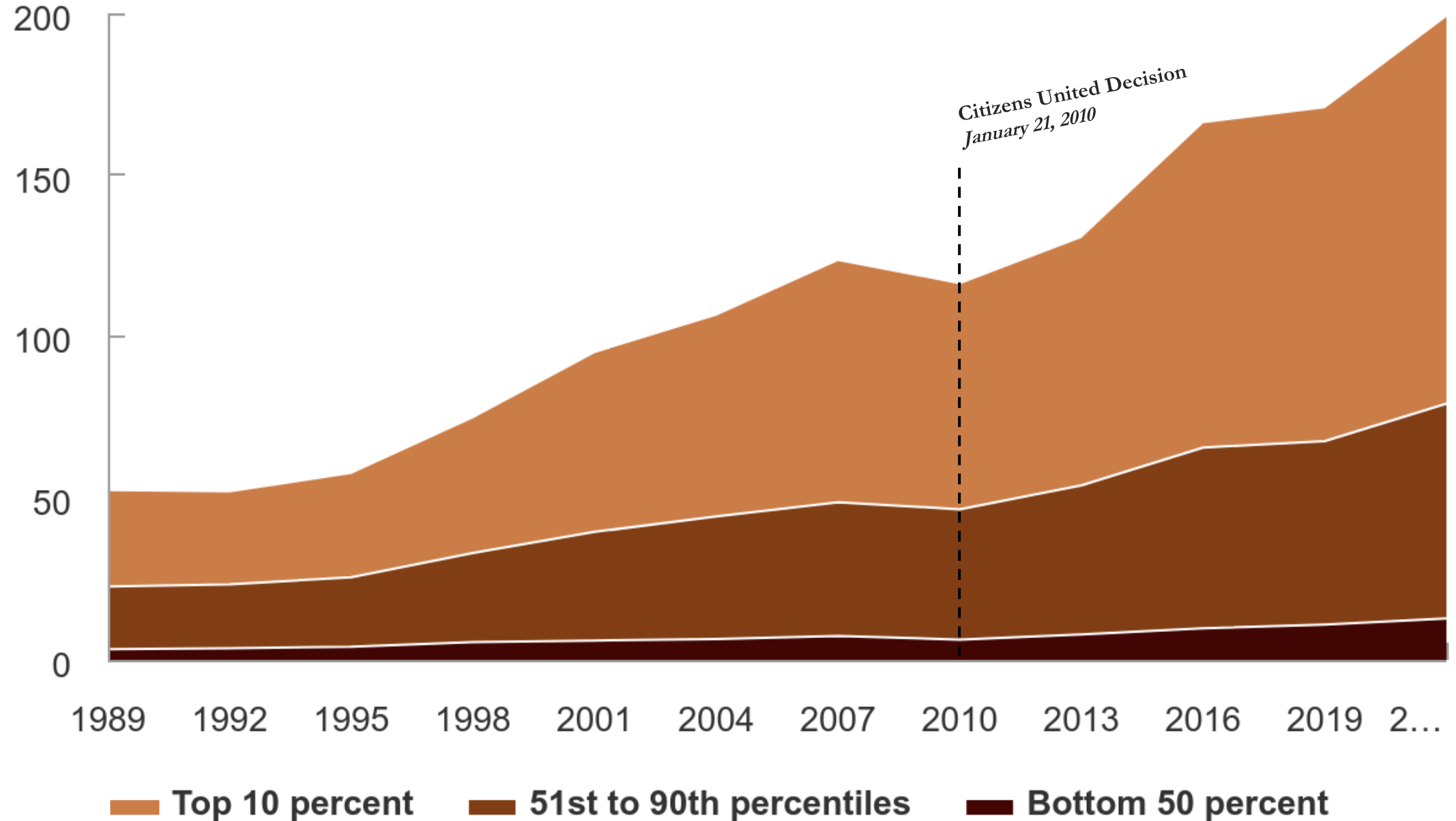
Cumulative growth in U.S. household income before taxes and public assistance, 1979-2021



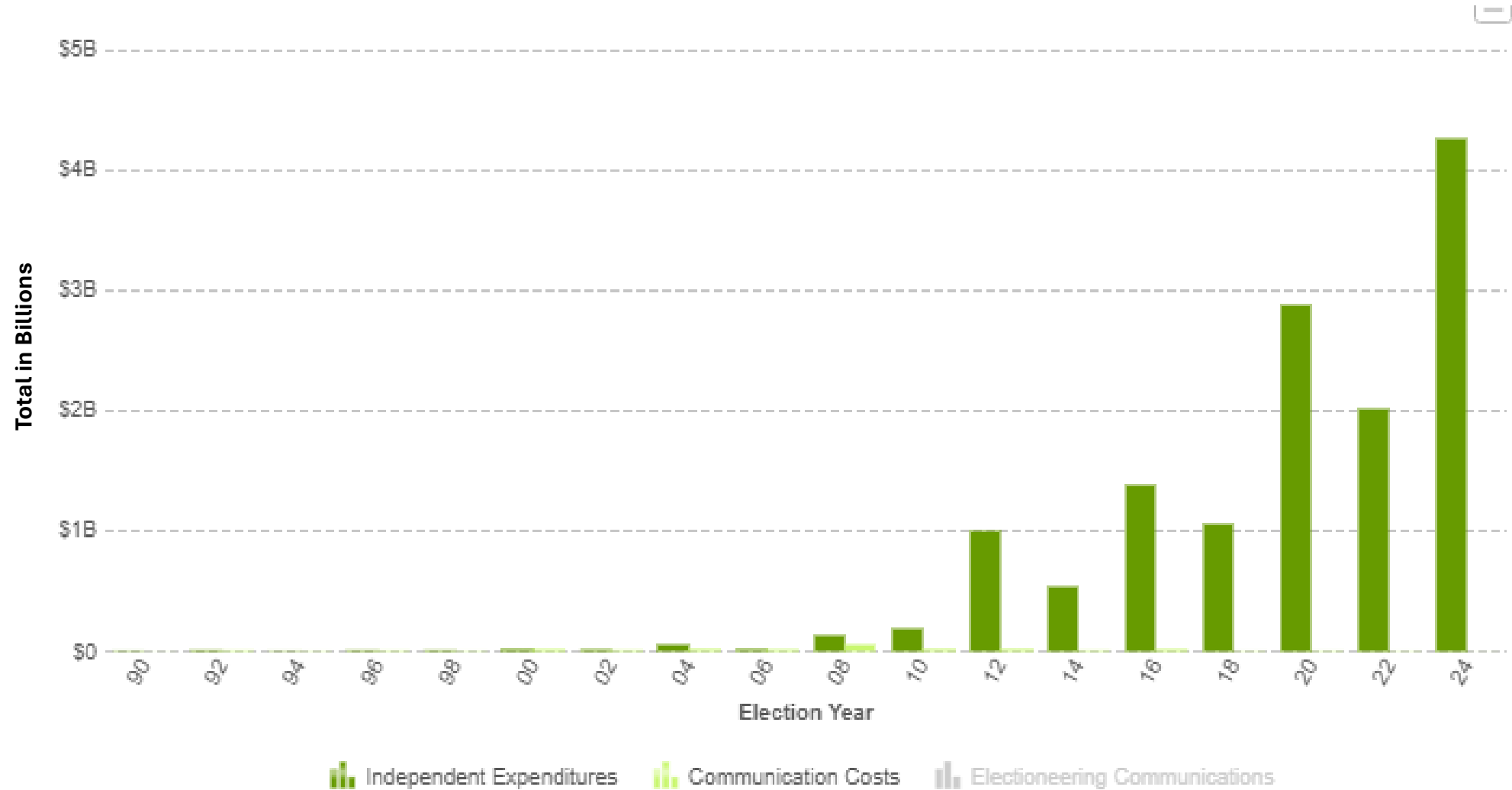
Source: Congressional Budget Office

Total Family Wealth, by Wealth Group

Trillions of 2022 dollars



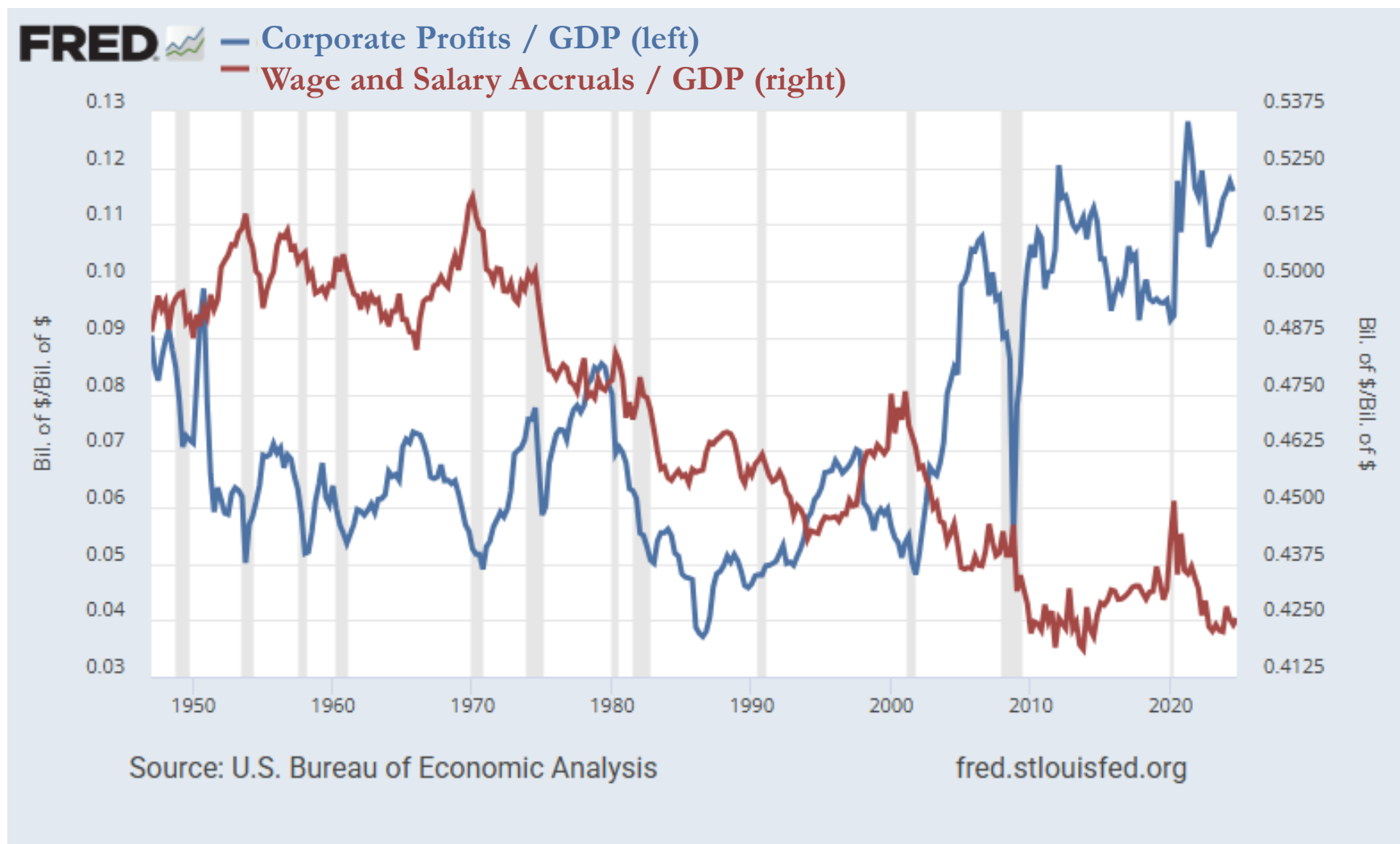
Total Outside Spending by Election Cycle, Excluding Party Committees



Source: Open Secrets

Inequality

As the rich get richer, workers are being left behind. The inequality between employers and employees continues to grow and to support the workforce, we need to get it back on track.



Opportunities in 2025 and 2026

- Many members of Congress will be looking for opportunities to work across the aisle to pass bills that benefit working Americans and block legislation that might take away constitutional rights or threaten our democracy.
- No matter who is in power, Congress has a responsibility to perform oversight over federal agencies and executive actions.
- The Administration will need bipartisan support in Congress to advance many of its priorities, including raising the debt limit, so compromise will be necessary.



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