

GET MONEY OUT

Maryland

[GET MONEY OUT - MARYLAND, INC. \(GMOM\)](#) is a group of volunteers trying to get big money out of our political system and make our elections fairer. By working to pass Maryland's [Democracy Amendment Resolution](#), we are pursuing a U.S. Constitutional amendment to guarantee every citizen's right to vote, reserve Constitutional rights for human beings, and regulate money in politics.

A Crisis as Profound as the Civil War, World Wars, Depression: We Must Stand Together

Pandemic response in the U.S. continues to follow a devastating pattern of letting working people suffer and die while corporate welfare knows no limits. Millions are still waiting for their first unemployment check. Millions of small businesses were denied Paycheck Protection loans or have decided that they wouldn't benefit given the complex rules of the program.

[Click here to tell Congress: Human Need Not Corporate Greed and Fair Elections, Too](#)

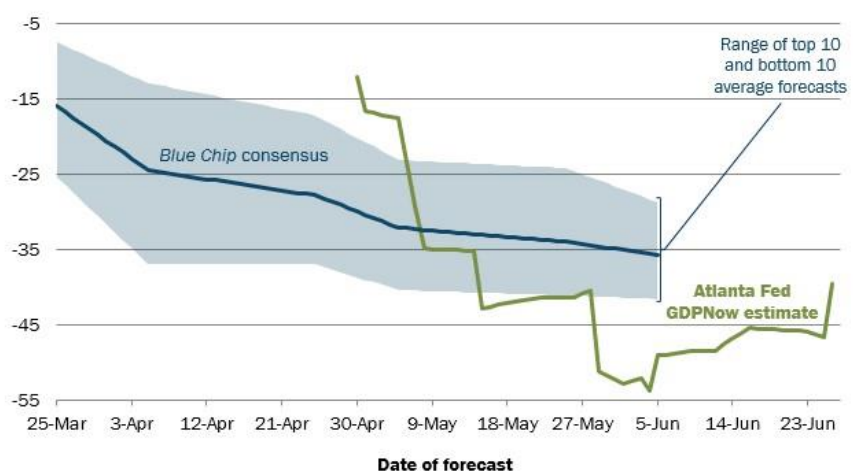


People are losing their health coverage and are being charged for COVID-19 testing and treatment. As a precaution before a camping trip, Jimmy Harvey and Pam LeBlanc were [tested for coronavirus](#) at the same place in Austin. The emergency room charged Mr. Harvey \$199 in cash. Ms. LeBlanc, who paid with insurance, was charged \$6,408.

With the injection of \$3 trillion to Wall Street, the Federal Reserve has largely rescued the stock markets. Meanwhile, the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank has estimated that U.S. Gross Domestic Product [will drop](#) an unprecedented 36.8% in the second quarter! Nations with rational public health responses (like [South Korea](#) and others) have maintained economic activity much better.

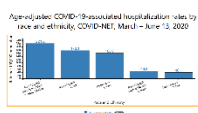
Evolution of Atlanta Fed GDPNow real GDP estimate for 2020: Q2

Quarterly percent change (SAAR)



Sources: Blue Chip Economic Indicators and Blue Chip Financial Forecasts

Note: The top (bottom) 10 average forecast is an average of the highest (lowest) 10 forecasts in the Blue Chip survey.



(Click on the small graph for more info.)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control report that age-adjusted hospitalization rates are four or five times higher among ethnic and racial minorities such as American Indians, Blacks, and Latinos, as of June 12, 2020.

Inequality is the Kiss of Death

We at GMOM are fighting for political equality. We believe that voter suppression, corporate overreach, and big money in politics have skewed policy in the U.S. to maintain and grow the wealth of a tiny elite at the expense of more than 99% of working people. The suffering in this pandemic is one example of the human consequences. But there are a few hopeful signs of growing recognition of the fundamental problem.

- Research from the [Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco](#) shows a clear link between economic inequality and financial-crisis risk. After studying 17 countries over several decades, the author concluded that a widening income share for the top one percent is the best predictor of a crash.
- *The NY Times* published an [editorial](#) decrying the treatment of workers in our nation. They chronicle how workers' wages, benefits, and working conditions have deteriorated over the past 40 years. For example, slaughterhouse workers – many of whom have been forced to work and have suffered COVID-19 infection – made \$24 per hour in 1982 and \$14 per hour now. The political shift has cost workers, on average, around \$12,000 per year. They are denied "the fruits of their own labor." The *Times* says that both political parties are at fault and that we must limit the influence of the wealthy on our government. We must revive democratic power of the working class to stop wage theft, stock buybacks, and the continued shenanigans on Wall Street. Worker political power can win back wages, benefits, working conditions, and revive anti-trust enforcement.

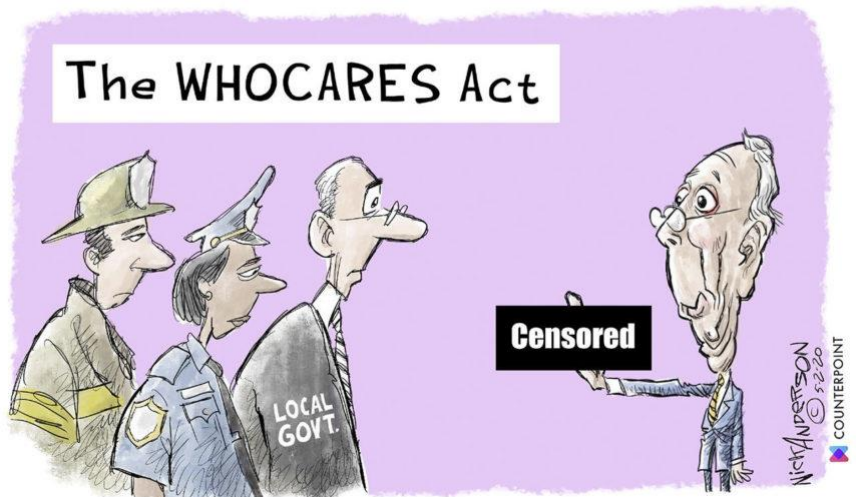
Mitch McConnell Is Going on Vacation

While the Democrats have earned their share of blame for making small businesses and millions of workers jump through bureaucratic hoops during this crisis, most Republicans in the Senate, led by Mitch McConnell, ignore workers' interests to curry favor with their uber-rich campaign funders. In an [interview](#) with a Lexington, KY, news outlet, the Senate Majority Leader expressed two concerns:

1. Employees should not be able to sue employers over dangerous working conditions; and
2. Federal debt should be controlled.

He said that the next pandemic relief bill will originate in his office, thus dismissing the [HEROES Act](#) passed by the House of Representatives in May. Employer immunity from lawsuits is "non-negotiable," he vowed. No similar urgency was expressed about conditions for those who are sick, hungry, and scared.

As of June 29, McConnell [has decided](#) not to begin talks with Democrats about additional pandemic relief for two weeks while the Senate observes the July 4 holiday.



NICK ANDERSON
© 5.2.20
COUNTERPOINT

TAKE ACTION NOW

CLICK HERE to tell Congress: Human Need, Not Corporate Greed - and Fair Elections, Too

Why does our petition require your address and phone number? Our petition instantly emails your message to the Congressperson and Congress requires this information. We do not share your information with anyone.

A Failed Election Is Staring Us in the Face

We at Get Money Out have called for a hybrid election across the nation, which would mean that every voter would have a choice of voting by postage-paid mail, dropping off a ballot at a secure drop box, or voting in person over several days as well as on election day. Our proposal would require far fewer poll judges on election day and would allow each voter to select his or her own method of voting that balances safety, convenience, and confidence. The hybrid election would require a functioning U.S. Postal Service, but it has had ruinous revenue losses during the pandemic. Each state runs its own elections, and their revenue is plummeting. Only the Federal government has the financial resources to stave off chaos on election day. We have called for \$2 to \$4 billion in aid to the States for the election plus a rescue plan for the Post Office. We think this is more important than a Senate recess.

[Click here to tell Congress: Human Need Not Corporate Greed and Fair Elections, Too](#)

In the Past couple of weeks, Maryland Senate president Bill Ferguson and Paul Pinsky, Chair of the Senate committee with jurisdiction over election matters, issued a written call to Gov. Larry Hogan to order a 'hybrid mail-in preferred election.' Republican senators J. B. Jennings and Stephen Hershey, however, want a traditional, in-person election because of their concerns of fraud in the vote-by-mail process. A recent Washington Post analysis of mail-in ballots found a 0.0025% rate of voter fraud. Then on last Friday, Maryland's local election officials in the 24 jurisdictions made a more detailed proposal similar to that of senators Pinsky and Ferguson. The local election officials, Democrats and Republicans alike, say that there would not be sufficient polling places available or election judges willing to work during the pandemic to hold a traditional election.

Bonus Resources

Maryland lawmakers, including eight out of thirteen members of the [Workgroup](#) to Address Police Reform and Accountability in Maryland, have accepted nearly [\\$600,000](#) in campaign contributions from police PACs since 2015. Reach out to ericTtien@gmail.com to hold them accountable."

Past Issues

[Corruption Busters #1](#)

[Corruption Busters #4](#)

[Corruption Busters #2](#)

[Corruption Busters #5](#)

[Corruption Busters #3](#)

GMOM Teleconference
Monday, July 6, 7:30 pm

Two ways to join the conference

- 1) Dial 1 301 715 8592, meeting ID: 931 3066 2622. Call 410-624-6095 for the password.
- 2) [Click](#) on your device if you have downloaded the app from [Zoom](#).

Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Our U.S. Senate letter-writing campaign;
- 2) State Board of Elections use of privatization;
- 3) Exploring paths to win a Democracy Amendment;
- 4) Research on Senate inaction, pandemic relief, threats to the upcoming elections, and police union political spending.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

