

Economic Inequality/Poverty

The Augusta County Democratic Committee believes that economic inequality in our country today poses a danger to all of our futures. Today's extreme levels of income and wealth inequality are bad for our people, bad for our businesses, and bad for our economy. From extreme poverty, to wage gaps and wage stagnation, to the shrinking middle class, economic standing and opportunity has gone awry. We believe:

- In the richest society the world has ever seen, it is inexcusable that entire communities are left in despair by the scourge of poverty. We need to accept our responsibility to ensure that all Americans enjoy a decent standard of living.
- Children are especially vulnerable to living in poverty. Child welfare and assistance programs in place need to be strengthened and enhanced. At the barest of minimums, no child should ever be left hungry and without clothes and shelter.
- The current minimum wage is a starvation wage and must be increased to a living wage. We are tired of tax payers subsidizing the payroll of billion dollar corporations that refuse to pay a living wage.
- Women and minorities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of economic inequality and poverty; therefore, special attention must be given to these groups.
- The middle class that has made this country strong is disappearing. The system is not working when we have an economy in which ordinary Americans work longer hours for lower wages, while most new income and wealth go to the top one percent. Wages of the middle class have stagnated while the rich have just gotten richer.
- Greed, recklessness, and illegal behavior on Wall Street that amplify economic inequality must be brought to an end.
- We must ensure that everyone has a fair shot at home ownership as a step towards a more solid economic standing.
- At a time of massive income inequality, the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations must pay their fair share of taxes. It is not unreasonable to ask those that have benefited the most to contribute the most.