



## Letter writer concerned about negative headlines

Dear Editor,

With headlines like ND GOP Convention: Divided but unity with Strip Club ..., North Dakota GOP Convention Sees Dramatic Decline in ..., Numbers are down compared to years past, and it's causing ..., and Party conventions open in North Dakota with GOP divided ... ; it just goes to show how much people have forgotten about the history of this great nation, and are more interested in political opinion pieces.

In 1787, the Constitutional Convention was held to revise the Articles of Confederation. The delegates were deeply divided. Each delegate thought they held the plan for the best way

forward. These men, our founding fathers, were ready to walk away, and let their ego's get in the way of progress. But did they, no. There were many disagreements. Disagreements over the issue of slavery, the strength of the executive branch, commerce, equal representation, and state vs. federal powers. But to the surprise of many there was what they called the "Great Compromise". They debated, they screamed and yelled from the top of their lungs. However, in the end, the greatest Constitution in the world was penned.

Now, I am in no way comparing this past weekend's ND GOP Convention to the Con-

stitutional Convention. I am just using it as an example to prove, just because there is division, just because there is debate, and just because there may be a little yelling and screaming doesn't mean the ND Republican party is in any trouble or imploding on itself.

Every great moment in U.S. Political history has had division and disagreements. From the Revolutionary War and the Constitutional Convention to the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement, significant turning events and accomplishments in American history have been accompanied by fierce debates. Opposing perspectives on the

function of government, rights, and equality, all essential components of American political development, often give birth to these divisions.

We see it still today in politics. We saw it at this past weekend's NDGOP Convention, and it's ok that it happened. It is healthy to have disagreements and debate, if everyone agreed on everything all of the time, that's when we should be worried. A fundamental component of democracy is the existence of an opposition. When all politicians or delegates agree, it frequently indicates a lack of pluralism, which means that different points of view are not being represented. This

might be a sign of an authoritarian trend. As a watchdog, an opposition party examines laws and holds the government responsible. There are no obstacles for the ruling power when there is no dispute, which results in less accountability and openness.

The 2026 NDGOP Convention was a well-attended, enjoyable experience, and complete success. When I read some of the articles, I mean opinion pieces, it makes me think of an old adage, "Those that can, do. Those that can't, criticize". It's easier to pass judgement on those that have the guts and heart to step forward and try to make change, than to

join those that are willing to step up and use their talents to actually fight to make change.

Because the American experiment is structured as a government by public opinion, where the popular will is supposed to be the source of all authority, the "voice of the people" is frequently seen as the ultimate weapon. Through democratic processes like elections, protests, and public discourse, this principle enables citizens to hold their government responsible, serving as a check on authority and directing policy.

Verified Monday, March 30, 2026 by phone - LAO

## Opinion: A Tax on Billionaires? Oh, The Horror!

Should billionaires pay a small, one-time wealth tax to support the common good? One calls it "the greatest tragedy ever."

By Jim Hightower, OtherWords Opinion Columnist

We Americans are barraged these days with multiple crises, so I hate to add anything else to our list of worries.

But I'm told this one is an epic disaster, so we must respond! It started in California, and one financial leader there now calls it "the greatest tragedy this state has ever felt."

Holy Titanic! What can it be?

Uh... it's a tax. Does that mean it would add to the burden of hard-hit poor and middle-class families? No, it wouldn't apply to them at all, or even to mere millionaires.

Rather, it's a ballot initiative to put a one-time wealth tax on the über-rich — *the billionaire class*. Indeed, only about 200 royally rich California folks would pay anything under this proposal.

But those billionaires are squealing like stuck pigs, and they've hired hordes of lobbyists, lawyers, PR flacks, and front groups to try killing the proposal.

Such overprivileged plutocratic ninnyes as Peter Thiel and Mark Zuckerberg have even declared that they'll just pack up and leave California if required to



Hightower

pay a pittance of their fortunes to support the basic needs of common people.

Californians, though, seem not to care. In recent surveys, only 28 percent of the state's voters oppose the wealth tax. Indeed, nationwide, 60 percent of us want billionaire tax dodgers to start paying their fair share.

People are sick of the greed of... well, let's call them what they are: the filthy rich.

There's a fast-spreading attitudinal shift from the right wing's long insistence that the rich are to be admired and coddled. Instead, majorities today are reconnecting to the eternal truth that "the love of money is the root of all evil."

*OtherWords columnist Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*



## Opinion submissions policy at the Devils Lake Journal

Devils Lake Journal Opinion Policy:

The Devils Lake Journal welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns (preferably on issues of interest to our readers, like local concerns). The writer's full name, signature, home address and telephone number must be included with the sub-

mission so we can verify it. Letters with multiple signatures are discouraged. Address and telephone numbers are not published in the paper. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for potentially libelous content, good taste, grammar, punctuation, length and spelling. Please, no more than one submis-

sion per month! We have limited space in our print edition. Due to space limitations, we request letters to be 300 words or less and guest columns 800 words or less. Submissions should be sent to the Devils Lake Journal by e-mail to loleson@cmpapers.com or mrobinson@cmpapers.com

*The First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

## Contact List for Politicians

There are some ways the general public are able to express their views and concerns to elected officials.

### 5 Calls

One way that North Dakotans have found easy to use is called the Five Calls app - available at <https://5calls.org/> online. A number of local people have used this app to express their

concerns and opinions to elected officials.

On the 5calls page it lists several issues - as of this printing there are 46 issues listed, for example: The War With Iran, Demand Full Epstein Case File Release and Public Hearings (updated March 10), etc.

5 Calls Civic Action is a 501(c)4 non-profit that

helps the public make their voices heard.

Other ways to contact those who represent us in congress:

**North Dakota Senate**  
[www.hoeven.senate.gov/contact](http://www.hoeven.senate.gov/contact)

[www.cramer.senate.gov/contact/newsletter-sign-up](http://www.cramer.senate.gov/contact/newsletter-sign-up)

**Minnesota Senate**  
[www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/)

email-amy  
[www.smith.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/](http://www.smith.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/)

If there is someone you would like to contact personally, please send that name to [mrobinson@cmpapers.com](mailto:mrobinson@cmpapers.com) or [loleson@cmpapers.com](mailto:loleson@cmpapers.com) and we will try to obtain the contact information for that individual, if it is available.

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