Make America Great Again?
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Donald Trump has managed to **Make America Hate Again**. Racism is back and unapologetic, vulnerable populations are demonized, and hate crimes against Muslims, Jews, and African-Americans have risen sharply since his inauguration.

He's also working hard to **Make America Broke Again**. His "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" is projected to add nearly $2 trillion to the cumulative deficit while doing little for average Americans.

Ironically, he's also (unwittingly) delivering on his promise to Make America Great Again.

He's energized activists and awakened disengaged Americans. The turnout in last year's midterms was the highest in over a century and up more than one third from the 2014 midterms. If one measure of a democracy's greatness is the engagement of its citizens, Trump has helped set America on the road to being great again.

The high turnout in the midterms allowed Democrats to recapture the House and return the gavel to the greatest Speaker of the modern era. During her original tenure, Nancy Pelosi prevented George W. Bush from privatizing Social Security and then spearheaded the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The ACA brought health insurance to 20 million previously uninsured Americans, saving tens of thousands of lives. If another measure of a country's greatness is the way it treats its most vulnerable citizens, having Nancy Pelosi in the Speaker's chair is certainly making America great again.

Trump is also making America great again by opening the eyes of at least some of his working class supporters to the fact that they were played for suckers. He promised that he'd cut their taxes, but 80% of the benefits in his tax bill go to the top 1% of taxpayers and 60% go to the top 0.1%.

He promised that he'd eliminate loopholes enjoyed by multimillionaires that are unavailable to working stiffs, and yet his tax "reform" left these loopholes intact. Multimillionaires will still pay a lower tax rate than their executive secretaries or the night manager at a Burger King.

He promised to replace Obamacare with "something beautiful," a plan that would provide "insurance for everyone." He not only failed to do so but made insurance unaffordable for millions of Americans by eviscerating the Affordable Care Act's Individual Mandate, causing insurance costs to spike.

He promised to protect people with pre-existing conditions, but now argues in court that insurance companies should be relieved of this obligation. In short, many of his supporters have moved from voting against their economic interests to voting against their lives. Call it suicide by ballot.

He promised he wouldn't cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid. Yet his budget calls for $1.9 trillion of cuts in such safety-net programs. That figure is roughly equivalent to the revenue loss resulting from his "tax reform" bill. The only thing preventing him from forcing elderly, poor, and working class Americans to fund tax cuts to billionaires is that Democrats now control the House.

Last and certainly not least, revulsion with Trump has allowed Democrats to reclaim one third of the seats lost in state legislatures during President Obama's tenure. They have also picked up seven governorships and now hold the majority of state attorneys general.

This is significant because when Republicans had even greater statehouse gains in 2010 they used them to engage in widespread gerrymandering and voter suppression. That enabled

Republicans to retain their House majority in 2012 despite receiving [1 million fewer votes](#) nationally, and to be overrepresented in the House in every subsequent election.

Gerrymandering and voter suppression are not only antithetical to democracy but are anathema to that radical promise of our founding document to create a government that will treat all people as equal and endowed with unalienable rights. And if realizing America's original promise is the ultimate measure of our greatness, the best way to "Make America Great Again" is to consign the Republican Party to the dustbin of history in 2020.