Mending the Wealth and Income Gap

**TAX JUSTICE**

No tax policy change should exacerbate the income gap, especially the racial/ethnic and gender wealth gaps.

**LIVING WAGES**

National legislation should move from adjusting a minimum wage to creating a living wage.

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACES**

The needs of women and families should be integrated into federal workplace policies.

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**WISCONSIN SENATE CANDIDATES ON MENDING THE GAPS**

**RUSS FEINGOLD**

- Russ Feingold knows "some of the worst inefficiencies in Washington happen when Congress ‘spends through the tax code,’ often as giveaways to the very powerful and wealthy." He supports closing special interest corporate loopholes, ending tax inversions, and stopping preferential policies for oil and gas companies.¹

- Russ Feingold supports raising the minimum wage to $15. He believes "Americans who work full-time deserve a living wage" and "even raising the minimum wage to $12 would mean a raise for nearly 400,000 women in Wisconsin and help to close the gender wage gap."²

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**RON JOHNSON**

- Ron Johnson voted against legislation that would close tax loopholes that for corporations that move jobs overseas.³ He supports simplifying the tax code and wants all candidates to prioritize “cutting red tape and reducing our regulatory burden; and promoting pro-growth tax reform.”⁴

- Ron Johnson does not want to raise the minimum wage, saying: "In addition to lost jobs, as business costs rise, prices would increase for everyone—including those left jobless by the increase in minimum wage. The most effective way to boost incomes for hard-working Americans is to pursue policies that result in a robust economy where businesses compete for workers by offering higher wages.”⁵

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¹http://apps.cqpress.com/3-S-14tax/?state=WI
²http://nssnfeingold.com/issue/eliminate-special-interest-loopholes/
³http://www.politico.com/story/2013/06/roll-call-lists/roll-call-vote-cfm?id=14435307
⁴http://csmonitor.com/2014/0204/2014-02-04/01-republican-debate
day2-wisconsin
⁵http://www.epi.org/minimumwage tracker/
⁶http://nssnfeingold.com/issue/economic-opportunitywisconsin families/
⁷http://info.ronjohnson.senate.gov/press/2014/05/04/ronjohnson comments-on-republican-debate
day2-wisconsin

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Russ Feingold supported voting rights in 2006 during discussion of the Voting Rights Act, which he called "the most important piece of federal legislation ever passed." He also said, "without a meaningful chance to vote, there can be no equality before the law, no equal access to justice, no equal opportunity in the workplace or to share in the benefits and burdens of citizenship."  

Ron Johnson does not have a clear position on voting rights. As a senator, he has not co-sponsored the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2013, which would restore the Voting Rights Act and require states with a history of discrimination to get federal approval before changing their voting laws.  

Russ Feingold voted for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 and is "focused on increasing access to healthcare through the framework of the Affordable Care Act." In 2009, he said the ultimate goal of healthcare reform is to create whatever legislation we have in a way that could be developed into something like a single payer system.  

Russ Feingold joined his Senate colleagues in 2010 in support of comprehensive immigration reform because it "means reuniting families, modernizing existing immigration programs, and giving immigrant college-aged students a chance at the American dream."  

Ron Johnson believes the Affordable Care Act should be repealed and replaced with market-based solutions. He recently introduced a bill, "Preserving Freedom and Choice in Health Care," that would repeal the ACA's mandate for employers to provide insurance to their employees, and believes the mandate is a burden. The bill "begins to replace Obamacare's expensive mess with patient-focused, market-based reforms."  

Ron Johnson voted against the 2013 Senate comprehensive immigration reform bill. He believes that "we have to secure the border as opposed to comprehensive reform." He is chair of the Senate Homeland Security Committee and believes that in order to "keep this nation safe, we need to defeat ISIS [and] secure our border."  

Ron Johnson does not support government involvement and funding for housing programs. In 2012, he voted against appropriations bills which would increase federal funding for Section 8 housing assistance, including vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness.  

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3. https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/885/related-bills/p#r=0&search%265%26review%265%26body%26concert%265%26resultIndex=1
5. http://freebeacon.com/pollitics/russfeingold dilemma stops himself from saying he supports singlepayer health care
6. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vxxvyszpveg
10. https://votesmart.org/publicstatement/45456/feingold-hails-increase-
in-funding-for-affordable-housing
12. https://www.newsmac.com/newsmac/1/1/1/russjohnson/borders