



Walton County Democratic Party
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What can be done to keep jobs from migrating to foreign countries? Are there ways local officials can attract and retain business interests to this area?

Beginning with NAFTA and accelerating under the Bush (George and Jeb) Administrations, our federal and state elected officials are changing our trade and tax laws to favor large international corporations at the expense of small companies and workers in all countries, not just the United States. Our trade and tax laws dictate the financial impact of a corporation's decision to move off-shore, invest in technology or outsource jobs. Not only do these "free trade" laws favor creation of goods and services in foreign countries by cheap labor, they also encourage corporations to move off-shore and avoid paying any U.S. taxes. Furthermore, these mostly under-developed foreign countries have little or no laws governing worker pay and safety, or environmental abuse by these corporations.

Jobs lost in the manufacturing and farming communities (estimated at 766,000) received little concern from most Americans during the last ten to twenty years; however, job losses are now exploding across the white collar professions. Professionals in the computer, engineering, architectural, medical research, communication, sales, management, design, and many others are subject to being outsourced at any time. Over 3,000,000 jobs have been lost in the last 3 years. Only service jobs such as food service, retail, trucking/distribution and construction are currently stable and relatively secure.

These laws created and written by multi-national corporation lobbyists for our elected officials are destroying the financial well being of our remaining workers. Legally allowing outsourcing gives remaining employers the perfect weapon when workers try to organize in the United States, employers threaten to move operations abroad. Studies show that over 50% of all employers made threats to close all or part of their plants during organizing drives and contract negotiations. This has resulted in lower wages and loss of benefits as well as roll-backs on many workplace protections for US workers. In fact, income for the bottom 90% of American families has dropped almost 10% in the last 20 years, yet it has risen by almost 200% for the top echelons.

Trade and tax laws allowing large corporations to gain and maintain a choke hold on American workers by controlling our elected officials are destructive and must be repealed. The ultimate insult that should cause all American taxpayers to raise their voices in a war-cry of dissent is the outsourcing of federal and state jobs to foreign

workers. Our federal government actually rates departments on how many jobs are outsourced. In fact, most government jobs are under attack; all-American jobs like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Service Center and VA Property Management are being outsourced.

Our federal government's VA Property Management is outsourced to Ocwen Federal Bank and then the actual work is outsourced to India. This impacts local Real Estate Brokers. In order to participate, Ocwen requires local brokers to perform property analysis at greatly reduced rates and communication from India is extremely inadequate for critical real estate transactions. In Florida, Jeb Bush is doing the same with our state's Human Resources workers. He fired them all and contracted with Convergys to do our Human Resources work. Convergys is having this work done in India. Most outsource companies are politically well connected and contribute millions to the Bush campaigns. The companies skim millions of dollars of "financial cream" off the top and have "cheap labor" actually perform the work. Unlike Florida and our federal government, many states are passing laws that prevent outsourcing of any jobs paid for by tax payer dollars.

Under our existing federal and state administrations, local officials can do little to attract new business except service industries such as a transportation and distribution facility. This can be done by providing concessions such as no local taxes and free or cheap infrastructure and utilities. In order to attract good employees, businesses have historically moved to areas with good schools and medical care. However, when they can freely move their jobs to a foreign country the bottom line is their only concern.

The Democratic Party believes that America's working families are under the greatest sustained financial and psychological attack in our country's history. If our citizens cannot succeed in convincing our elected officials to dramatically change our trade and tax laws, then we must change our elected officials. Citizens of the United States can no longer allow multi-national corporations to control our government. Our trade laws must require wage adjustment taxes on imported goods and services currently outsourced to foreign countries. When large corporations control our government, working families lose and free enterprise dies.