

The Declaration of Independence - Taxation without representation / Taxation with representation

We hold these truths to be self-evident – all men are created equal, and they have unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Pretty profound, and yet pretty simple and straightforward, too.

Governments are instituted among men, deriving powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive to those ends, it is the right of the people to alter it. We agree.

The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations. The Declaration of Independence went on to list each of the colonies' grievances, which included – For imposing taxes on us without our consent. For abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments. For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

The passages above pretty much summarize the grievance commonly referred to as “taxation without representation”. So, what do our current public opinion polls indicate about how today’s citizens feel about the current state of our government(s)? Those polls indicate that the population is not very pleased with the current approach towards “taxation *with* representation”.

Setting aside the poll results - how effective is our current representative form of government, and how effective is the citizenry’s oversight of those legislative functions? Unfortunately, it’s not very good. The feeling is that we have created an entrenched legislature that is taxing the population fairly heavily, but at the same time is spending even more than what the government is taking in.

Our Editorial Board supports taking whatever steps are needed to reduce the size of the US government, and collect the tax revenues that are needed to begin paying down the US debt over a reasonable period of time. We also need to make sure that we have an effective legislative branch and an effective executive branch that will fulfill their “checks and balances” responsibilities, to ensure that we do not begin repeating these same mistakes in the future.