

## Tax freedom in Puerto Rico

Want to pay no federal income tax? Move to Puerto Rico. Really. If you move to the island, you can legally pay none. There's also no capital gains tax. You just have to give 4% of your income to Puerto Rico.

The tax break was started by a Puerto Rican politician who'd watched years of high taxes fail to improve life on the island. He decided to try something different.

Obviously, it's a popular idea, when people learn about it.

Tens of thousands have applied for the exemption, and applications tripled last year.

YouTube star Logan Paul moved his show from California to Puerto Rico to take advantage of the tax deal.

Investor Peter Schiff says, "I did it for the obvious benefit of being able to keep most of what I own ... It's too bad that Puerto Rico didn't do this decades ago. They wouldn't be in the economic trouble they are today."

"A lot of people are moving down here," says social worker Melissa DaSilva in my newest video. Two years ago, she ran a therapy business in Rhode Island. Now she runs it remotely from Puerto Rico. "I'm saving 25% of my income."

She loves her new life. "I wake up, and I have the ocean in front of me. I go out my back door, the rainforest is off in the distance. It's just a magical place to live."

Given that this tax break is so big, it's surprising that most Americans haven't heard about it.

"People just don't really talk about it much," says DaSilva. "There's this fear that people from the state side are going to come down and take over everything."

Given Puerto Rico's history, she says, that fear is justified. "The Spaniards came and decided it's going to be their island and decimated all the native people. Then the United States comes down, and they decide it's going to be their island."

But these new Puerto Ricans aren't exactly conquerors.

They're a mix of entrepreneurs, tax haters, crypto millionaires and ordinary people who just want to keep more of their money. By bringing wealth and skills to Puerto Rico, they create opportunity for Puerto Ricans. One report says they have already created 40,000 new jobs.

"If you don't pay taxes, aren't you hurting Puerto Rico?" I ask DaSilva.

"I do pay taxes," DaSilva replies. "I provide other things as well." She sells digital art and donates part of her sales to local nonprofits.

Billionaire Brock Pierce moved to Puerto Rico and now helps run the charity Toys for Tots. He also is renovating a hotel that was abandoned after Hurricane Maria. That's expected to create 300 jobs. Others are building hurricane-resistant farms, tech companies and schools.

But some people always see such investment as a problem. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., calls the tax incentive "horrifying."

"It's an example of the continued colonization of the people of Puerto Rico," she complains. "We are essentially importing a ruling class."

She seems to think that if someone makes money, others must lose, as if there are only winners or losers. This is zero-sum thinking.

It's true in politics. But it's not true in most of life. Wherever markets are free, new wealth gets created. Then almost everyone wins.

DaSilva has an answer to Ocasio-Cortez's zero-sum thinking:

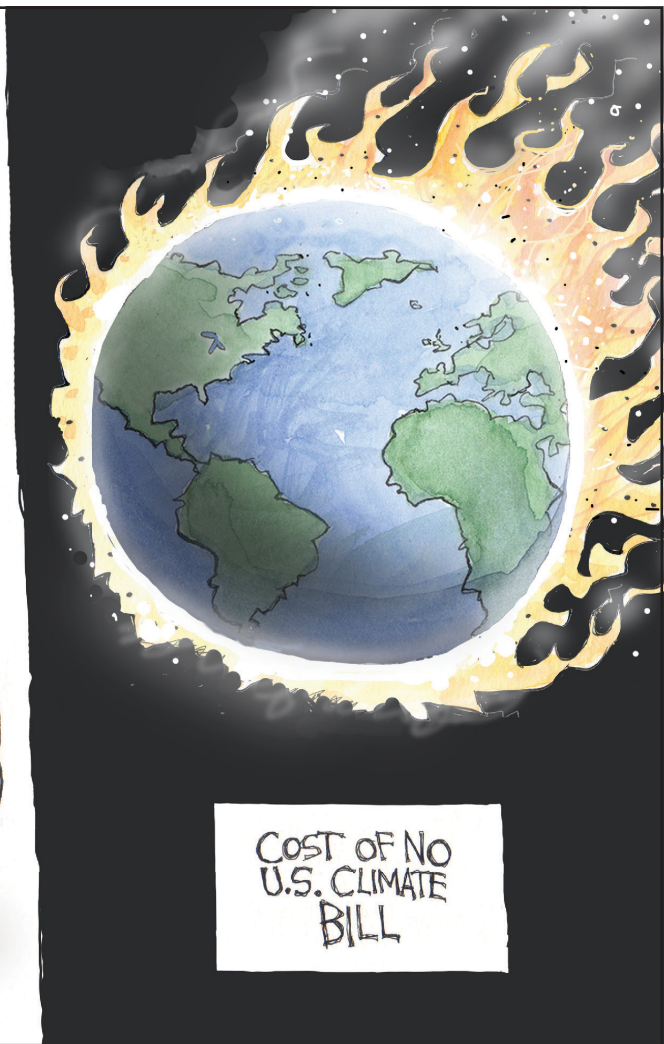
"All ships rise with a tide," she says. "Let's all grow with this."

Puerto Rico has tried big government, strict regulations, high taxes on businesses, handouts to favored groups, heavy borrowing and declaring bankruptcy.

I bet tax breaks work better.

**JOHN STOSSEL** is author of "No They Can't! Why Government Fails — But Individuals Succeed."

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### Letter to the Editor

#### There is a double standard in our nation

Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision.

Abortion activists tried to intimidate the court through threatening Supreme Court justices and protesting at their homes. The Biden administration, predictably, turned a blind eye to these criminal activities while Democrat leaders encouraged them.

Title 18, Section 1507 of the US Code states "Whoever, with the intent of interfering with, obstructing, or impeding the administration of justice, or with the intent of influencing any judge, juror, witness, or court officer, in the discharge of his duty, pickets or parades in or near a building housing a court of the United States, or in or near a building or residence occupied or used by such judge, juror, witness, or court officer, or with such intent uses any sound-truck or similar device or resorts to any other demonstration in or near any such building or residence, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one

year, or both." There is a double standard in our nation. Biden's administration has weaponized agencies like the DOJ and FBI against conservatives. Activists utilize threats and violence with impunity. The national media selectively covers and omits coverage of illegal actions if they further the leftist narrative.

The majority opinion of the Dobbs case exposed serious issues. First, there is no constitutional right to abortion. Second, the federal government assumed control in matters belonging to the states. Third, the constitutional balance of power between the executive, judicial, and legislative branches is being violated, setting precedents that could lead to a totalitarian state.

Additionally, there are serious issues regarding the preborn, their humanity, and right to life that have not been addressed adequately, including an arbitrary denial of their personhood.

Woke abortion advocates claim it is racist to abolish abortion, because abolition would affect minority women disproportionately. But, what

about the disproportionate number of girls, ethnic minorities and disabled children who are dying in this holocaust?

Woke ideologues adopt the Marxian categories of oppressor and oppressed in regard to the woman and abolition of abortion, claiming that abolition would be an act of oppression towards minority women.

But why don't woke ideologues use the Marxian language of oppression to describe the relationship between the woman and her preborn offspring? Is it not oppressive for a woman to destroy her weaker, preborn offspring in pursuit of her gods of sexual immorality, materialism, convenience and comfort? The glaring inconsistencies of the woke are astounding.

Like the Nazis and their dehumanization of Jews, the pro-abortionists dehumanize the preborn by calling them "clumps of cells" or parasites. From a materialist perspective, all of us are "clumps of cells" in different stages of development. And no preborn child is a parasite. Parasites are a different species than the host.

No, each child is an image-bearer of God and possesses full humanity at conception. Only those without a fear of God would dare participate in their murder.

Sadly, it seems some Indiana legislators (even Republicans) aren't serious about eliminating abortion, leaving significant exploitable exceptions. I encourage Christians to contact legislators to urge them towards abolition. If our legislators don't share our values, we should consider other candidates in line with biblical values during primaries.

I recommend reading a fantastic, recent book exposing abortion called "Tearing Us Apart: How Abortion Harms Everything and Solves Nothing" by Alexandra DeSanctis Marr and Ryan T. Anderson. If you prefer, several good videos on Youtube feature these authors.

Additionally, I have a Facebook page and Twitter account called Conservative Christian News Junkie (@conservonews) where I post conservative news items if you are interested.

**Robert Sparkman**  
Rome City

## Make the most of the dog days of summer

The dog days of summer appear quickly and seemingly out of nowhere. I am not a hot weather fan, yet the lazy days of summer stretch forth like a copse of trees far off in the distance. My lazy days of summer always include pulling the last weeds of the garden, watching the last of the fireflies and hosting the four Charleston children for the month. It is a tradition and now expected as I clear the calendar to give way to the whims of grandchildren.

I plan carefully always knowing each moment is precious, and I rarely use that word. While tucking 5-year old Faith into bed last night she looked up at me and said, "I will miss you when I leave. You know there is always something to miss. That is how life works." I had to laugh and cry at the same time. How did this 5-year old get so wise?

We settle into a routine. The chores are listed on the chalk board each morning so there really are no surprises! The older two girls now can help with laundry and dishes and bath time and watering the garden. The Littles still just have to make their beds and clean up their toys ... not too much to ask. Most days the household runs smoothly. Then there are those other days when the doorknob breaks, the garden gate breaks, the refrigerator is empty ... again! Ahh ... everything is fixable and the grocery and Farmers Market are a quick stone's throw from my front door ... kind of.

I choose every day to be an adventure for them. Swimming with Aaron and Rachel (and my one chance to scrub down the bathrooms!), Pokagon, Commons Park,

Collins School House ... well, I could go on and on, but where do I stop? Brianna got to spend the day with the plein air painters on Thursday. It was a milestone for her as she watched and listened to the artists. I was so proud of her as I just dropped her off and let her paint.



**LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR**

Of course, my back yard is full of treasures. We have a new wading pool, of course. We have gardens and a secret gate in the back that is just like in the Secret Garden. Best of all, we built a faery garden under an old tree. Every morning the twins run out to the garden to see if the faeries left them small treasures. Usually there are shiny new marbles or sea glass with bits of glitter for small faerie feet. Except the night Holly and I watched a late-night movie, and I forgot. Luckily for me it rained that night, and I could tell them faeries can't fly in the rain because it gets their wings set. They bought the story, and all was well.

Yet to come are more movies at the Brokaw, chocolate pudding by midnight, and more poetry and books which are piled high in their rooms. The Arts Fest is today in our downtown along with the downtown sales so make sure you get downtown. Make a stop at the Farmers Market too! The Hippiie Fest is this weekend, and our wrap up LCYC summer party is today also. Tonight, late, when the town begins to

sleep, I am taking my four little darlings out to watch for meteors. The Perseid showers peak next weekend, but the full moon will block out them out so we are going out tonight. We will carry sleeping bags, blankets, pillows and bug spray and watch the night sky. Then we will come home at midnight to chocolate pudding. What can I say? It is tradition.

The summer comes. The moments fly by whether we are paying attention or not, but oh what glorious times if we just give in to the moments. Children, grandchildren, neighbor kids ... just share some time. Walk on the dew-filled early morning grass. Sit out on the stoop and watch the stars. Catch a lightning bug even if you send it back out into the night. Lemonade always tastes better from a lemonade stand! (Ours is on Monday if you want to stop by!) And if faeries have come to your garden this summer, be grateful.

I guess it is good to have someone give you permission to play. I give that permission to you now. Make the most of these dog days for just as quickly as they come, they will leave on the north wind.

Be curious. Be enchanted. Be in the moment.

**LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR** lives in Angola at the White Picket Gardens where you can find her gardening or writing late into the night under the light of her frayed scarlet lamp. She is a storyteller, teacher, writer, actress and a collector of front porch stories. She can be contacted at [loketof-time@aol.com](mailto:loketof-time@aol.com).