

Tax March: Thousands March Countrywide Demanding that Donald Trump Release his Tax Returns

Many people believe that openness and honesty are important qualities in a great leader, which is why thousands marched on Saturday, April 15 to demand that President Donald Trump release his tax returns, and reveal any secrets he may be hiding from the citizens of the United States. Trump broke a long-held American tradition while on the campaign trail by not releasing his tax returns. While it is not mandatory for presidents to release their tax returns, they have all voluntarily done so since the 1970s.

The original idea for a national tax march came from Jennifer Taub, a law professor who was infuriated by presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway's statement that Trump not releasing his tax returns was not a big deal because "people don't care". Taub first shared her idea on January 21 on Twitter, one day after Trump's inauguration, and the idea of a nationwide protest against Trump's unwillingness to show his paperwork quickly became more and more popular. Taub's tweet read, "Let's plan a nationwide #DivestDonald and #showusyourtaxes protest for Saturday, April 15." At the march in D.C., Ms. Taub said, "I wanted to express myself, and never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be standing here today, seeing this idea that I tweeted out in January come to life." March organizers across the nation have stated that "the president is accountable to the American people, and he must answer to us".

The nationwide protest occurred on April 15 because this particular day in April has traditionally been recognized as the deadline to file taxes. Dozens of protests broke out around the country, the most noteworthy being the demonstration that took place in Washington D.C. In

D.C., protesters first rallied in front of the Capitol, then proceeded to march west along Pennsylvania Avenue. Dissenters in South Florida even marched to the President's Mar-a-Lago resort, where Mr. Trump was staying during the weekend of the protest. Many protests included an inflatable chicken as the march's unofficial mascot. In New York City, a state senator spoke, as well as many activists and comedians. Other speakers at the rally in New York City included City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Public Advocate Letitia James, and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Brewer said there were at least 25,000 participants in the New York City march.

One of the many protests that transpired on the fifteenth happened right here in Santa Cruz county. The march was organized by Santa Cruz Indivisible, a liberal political group dedicated to resisting Trump's presidency and the Republican agenda. People met at Santa Cruz City Hall and marched on and around Pacific Garden Mall, chanting and holding signs. On their website, Santa Cruz Indivisible stated their reason for marching: "the president is accountable to the American people, and he must answer to us."

President Trump responded to the national tax march with a Tweet stating that "The election is over!" and then went on to argue with the protest saying, "I did what was almost an impossible thing to do for a Republican - easily won the Electoral College! Now Tax Returns are brought up again?" Many people forget that Trump promised to release his taxes after his IRS audits were over. Trump also seems to be avoiding the fact that during the investigations regarding Trump's association with Russia, it is likely that members of the House or Senate intelligence committees will want to access his tax returns anyway. Details regarding why Trump is refusing to release his paperwork are so far unavailable, and will likely remain unknown for

some time. Until then, objectors around the country will have to decide whether the release of the president's tax returns is important enough to themselves and the country to continue fighting for.



