

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment.

Let's not label people as conservative or liberal, since most people are liberal in some areas of their lives and conservative in others. So, instead of the label, let's discuss the role we want our government to play in our lives. There are those who want big government. They believe government should take care of everyone's needs, and they believe if this happened, utopia would exist. This type of government would naturally need higher and higher taxes from its citizens in order to provide goods and services for all the people, and as long as the money got spread around equally, everyone would be happy. This group of people are dependents, because they are truly dependent on the government for their existence. On the other hand, there are those, like myself, who want a smaller government. We believe people are responsible for their own welfare, hard work is usually rewarded, and the government should not be overly involved or invasive in the lives of the people. This government would not excessively tax its citizens and tax revenue would be used for necessities like education, defense, and infrastructure. This government would take care of the poor, not the lazy. Most people believe this is the correct role of our government, unfortunately, we have devolved into a society that is completely unaware of how grossly mismanaged our government really is. Currently, if the national debt were divided equally amongst its citizens, every man, woman, and child would owe over \$52,000 - \$21,000 of which has accumulated on President Obama's watch, and yet Obama is campaigning that we cannot afford to embrace the policies Romney is proposing. How ironic, when Obama's policies have clearly failed, since 40 cents of every dollar this country owes has happened with Obama in charge. My daughter and

son-in-law have three children. They are a young family who work very hard to make ends meet, and in three and half short years, Obama's debt has tacked on over \$105,000 for their family – again, if divided equally among the population. When most of us acquire debt it is in exchange for an asset. What asset has Obama secured for these young families? NOTHING. We haven't seen any improvement with this monstrous debt. In fact, every family has seen their personal net worth plummet as well. When Obama took office the average family had a net worth of \$126,000 and today it has dropped to \$77,000. This is nearly a 40% decline. It is crystal clear that we are in a financial tail spin never experienced before. President Obama is a financial failure, and for that alone he doesn't deserve to be reelected. This is why he can't stand on his record – it won't even be mentioned in his campaign. Instead, he attacks his opponent. If an auditor analyzed the financial health of this country, he would recommend that we file bankruptcy. We are financially insolvent and Obama's desk is where the buck stops. He is head of the household in a house that spends more than it takes in. Today we are going into debt at a rate of over two million dollars every minute of every day. In the time it takes me to read this comment President Obama will add over six million dollars of new debt to our country. This election isn't about which party is in control. It is about removing the most fiscally irresponsible man who has ever held office. This election will determine if our country can remain the country of opportunity, or will we collapse under the burden of debt. This isn't a Republican or Democrat issue: it is an American issue. Obama has FAILED.

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