



SOCIALIST PARTY OF THE ATLANTIC COMMONWEALTH

The following is the transcript from the policymaker's panel at Habitat for Humanity's event at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The featured candidates include /u/unorthodoxambassador, /u/GreenMachine11713, and /u/Mistas-T.

Chairman: Hello all and welcome to the Habitat for Humanity Town Hall organized by the Brookings Institute! It is so nice to see such an impressive turnout, I believe the doormen said they counted nearly 6,000 of you all. Here with us today are Atlantic Assembly candidates Unorthodox Ambassador, Green Machine, and Mistas T. and we will be discussing many topics such as poverty in America, public housing, as well as an array of social welfare programs which are up for debate in the Assembly. First I think we would like to get a concise introduction from all the candidates before we move onto our policy discussion. How about we go from right to left.

Ambassador: Hello everyone, I am Unorthodox Ambassador, a socialist candidate, and I am running for the Atlantic Commonwealth assembly. I would like to extend a thank you for being here today to talk about the issues. As some of you probably know the size of the middle class is shrinking and no it's not because they are getting richer. My goal in the assembly will be to rid the Commonwealth of what some dub "trickle-down economics" and replace it with a more progressive or European economic theory which is often dubbed "middle-out economics."

Green Machine: Hello everyone, I am GreenMachine and like my colleague, I am running for the Assembly here in the Atlantic Commonwealth as a Socialist. Poverty is an issue which we should not be dealing with in the richest nation in the history of the world. Wages have been stagnant since the 1970s while the cost of living has skyrocketed. It is of no wonder as my colleague said, that the middle class is currently shrinking and more and more people are finding it hard to afford their everyday needs.

Mistas-T: Hello, I am Mistas-T and like the rest of the people on this stage I am running as a Socialist in the Atlantic Assembly. I think we are all in agreement that things in the United States are not *fine*. There are serious issues that the federal government's ruling party, the Republican coalition, refuses to take on. They would prefer to cross their fingers and hope that it all goes away, but that is the difference between us Socialists and the Republican Party; while we prefer radical and effective change, they would prefer to be class traitors who provide vapid reforms that really hurt the middle class more than help it.

Chairman: Well said, you guys. I'm sure that will make for a great TV advertisement. Attorney General. Ambassador, you spoke about, and correct me if I am wrong, "middle-out economics." Could you tell us a little about that?

Ambassador: Certainly, since the 1980s and rule of Republican Mosiah Ronald Reagan, the United States has been practicing what is called "trickle-down economics." This is an economic theory that if you put more in the hands of the rich that they will be able to somehow better the economy. I believe that the current state of the country, which hasn't even fully recovered from the 2008 financial crises which happened over a decade ago, proves that this theory is intellectually dishonest. I mean how patronizing is it to expect the bottom 99% to wait and wait for the 21st Century Robber Barons to reward them with a "trickle" of wealth. Middle-out economics has proven itself far more useful. Look at Europe, they have a strong social welfare program, and no one thinks that it's a "handout." That is a brilliant word given to us by right-wing think tanks to associate any degree of welfare as a negative thing. In reality, welfare should be viewed as a return on investment by the taxpayers. How can we as taxpayers expect the government to take our money every year on April 15 and not give us anything in return? The people should be demanding to see their money spent on them whether that be through Universal Higher Education, a High-Speed Rail, public housing, or really anything else.

Chairman: Excellent. Mr. Green Machine, what policy suggestions do you have which would come to the aid of the shrinking middle class?

GreenMachine: Thank you, Chairman. I believe that as my colleague said we need comprehensive social programs. The school of thought today is that the middle class' tax dollars can go towards fossil fuel subsidies but not to public housing. That is a ridiculous notion! Imagine if the good that could come from public housing in Manhattan. Finally, there would be affordable apartments so that the working class doesn't have to spend hours and hundreds of dollars commuting from the boroughs or New Jersey every week. Imagine the benefit to the working class if they could afford their student loans or even better not have to worry about

them, but rather the other multitude of stressors of everyday life like raising a family, paying rent or their mortgage, and their work.

Chairman: Brilliant! Mr. Mistas-T, could you elaborate on the shortcomings of the Republican coalition's plan on poverty.

Mistas-T: Certainly! The Republican Party, particularly in the Atlantic Commonwealth, wants nothing but to hurt any already existing protections of the working class. They would see to the installation of right to work laws which would gravely hurt union jobs. They somehow believe that the minimum wage is too high and should be lowered, and furthermore, they prefer to levy taxes on the working classes rather than the richest of us all. Just to elaborate on that last point, they want to abolish the state income tax and shift it to a higher sales tax. They do this in Texas and it has been proven that the amount paid in taxes is ultimately the same, if not more, and if they ever needed to raise revenue they would raise property taxes (which Texas does nearly every year).

Chairman: Wow?! Onto the next topic, Attorney General Ambassador, could you please explain to us what the Socialist Party wants to about the rising rates of homelessness which are prevalent throughout the country and the state?

Ambassador: I would love to. My colleague Parado-I has submitted a bill to the Atlantic Assembly named 'The Ending Homelessness Act.' This legislation would be the first of its kind in the United States allocating millions of dollars to new public housing in our most expensive cities like New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. Furthermore, the legislation would fund nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity to the tune of millions to build 21st century "smart homes" equipped with solar panels and made from recycled materials in cities and towns throughout the state. The legislation would ensure that no one would sleep on the streets, and would ensure that everyone has a safe and dignifying place to live and build out their new lives.

Chairman: That is quite brilliant kudos to Assemblyman Parado. GreenMachine could you tell me how the Socialist Party plan to aid those who fall below the poverty line?

GreenMachine: Of course. This is actually something that we need to redefine. When we calculate whether or not someone is below the poverty line we don't take into account the cost of their healthcare, childcare, or debt. Unfortunately, we have no real indication of how many people really are suffering from poverty in our state because of this reason. This is why the Socialist Party has brought about the "Just Society" legislative package. We would ensure that

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people are earning livable wages, in addition to providing them with the necessary tools to climb the social ladder such as tuition-free public college and universal childcare.

Chairman: Lastly, Mr. Mistas could you tell us why we should be voting for the Socialist Party in this upcoming election?

Mistas-T: I don't believe we have any Republican candidates in attendance? This clearly shows that only one of the parties running in this election are willing to take on the issue of poverty and homelessness seriously. The Republicans only wish to take what little we have for the sake of "small government" and because it's "socialism." But in reality, big government is okay when they want to crush unions and socialism is okay when they want to fund Exxonmobil to the tune of billions of dollars. The Socialist Party is a party based on the idea that we have a government to help out our fellow countrymen. As the saying goes "We are only as strong as our weakest link."

Chairman: Thank you, that concludes our policymaker's panel here at the annual Atlantic Commonwealth Habitat for Humanity convention.

