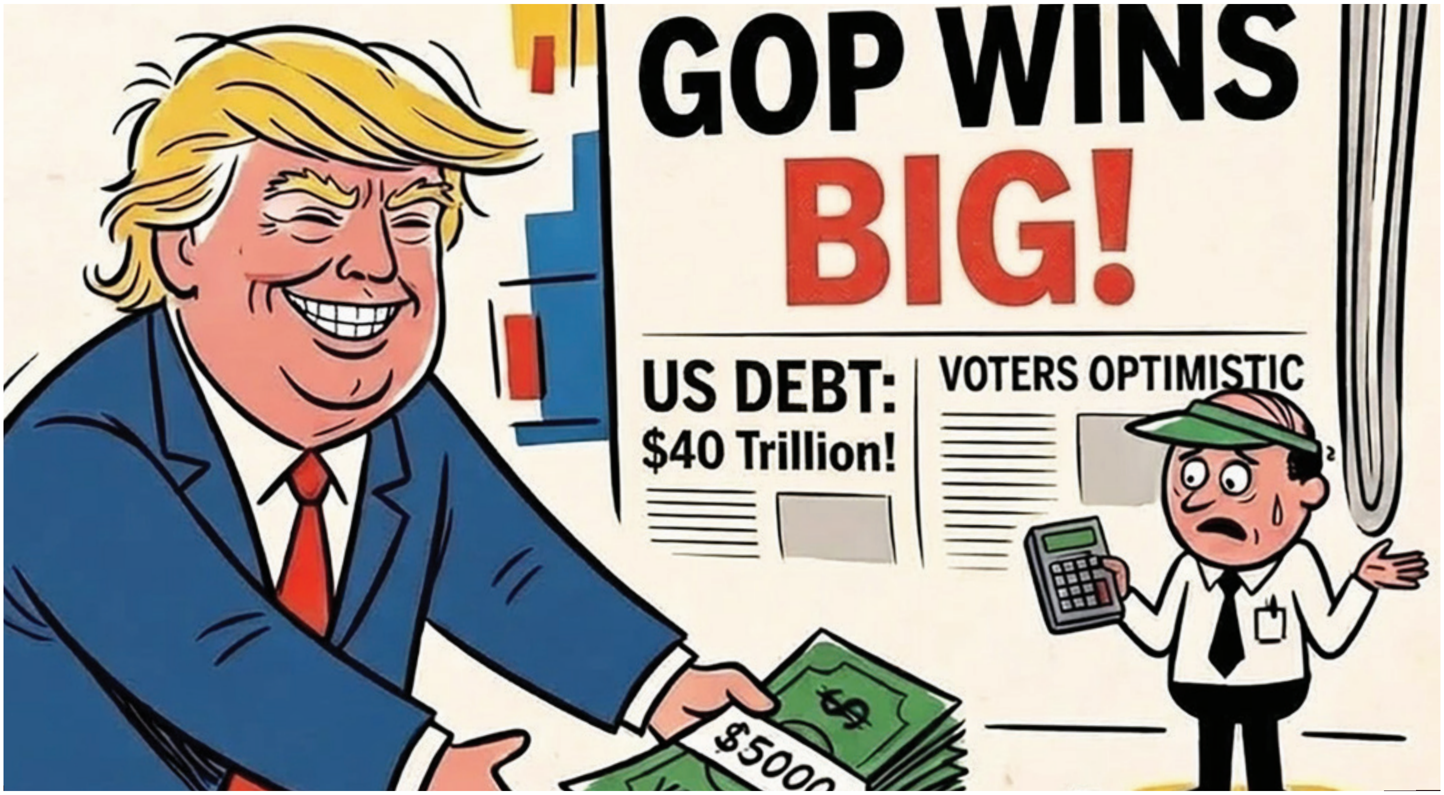
CommonSense

Paul Jacob



Minus the Five Grand

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"If the Republicans win, you win with us, and you get $5,000," President Donald Trump promised last week before assembled Republicans at the party's midterm convention as well as a national television audience. "It will be called the Trump dividend."

The cost of making good on his pledge, bribe, deal? A cool $1.3 trillion.

I don't believe Mr. Trump has that much money.

"Because of our tremendous strength and success economically, I will issue a dividend to every adult citizen in the United States of America for $5,000," intoned the president. "Very much like a successful company will do a cash distribution to its shareholders."

Dividends are paid out of profits; this operation known as the federal government doesn't turn a profit. Instead, it's running past $40 trillion in debt.

Can we afford to go trillions further into the red? Or pay more in taxes for this additional trillion-dollar-plus giveaway?

As if trying to outdo the president in folly, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick declared "we're going to deliver" but "not from taxpayer money," detailing several precarious plans . . . to come up with less than half the needed dough.

On *Fox News*, Bret Baier brought the vice president into the conversation. J. D. Vance described the current deficit budget in terms of revenue — there is "an extraordinary amount of revenue," he said — as if the revenue that is not extraordinary enough to cover all current spending is somehow enough to spend $1.3 trillion more without additional debt.

Eric Boehm at *Reason* says the $5,000 bribe shows that MAGA has run out of ideas.

In an election year when Democrats are featuring wannabe communists, why are Republicans demonstrating a similar lack of sanity?

I think the American voter might be more persuaded by even the smallest dose of common sense. I'm Paul Jacob.