

Endorsement, from Mike Ball

May 2, 2025

Throughout my career – first as a U.S. Marine, then as a state trooper and investigator with the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, and finally as a Republican member of the Alabama House of Representatives for two decades – I have always believed public service means putting the people first. During my time in office from 2002 to 2022, I worked to honor that commitment, including authoring Amendment No. 8 to the Alabama Constitution, which passed in 2012. That amendment tethered legislative pay to the median household income in our state — a reform rooted in the belief that those who serve the people should only prosper when the people do too. And time has proven my common-sense proposal successful.

That's why I support Operation Abigail.

Operation Abigail is a national long-term incentive plan that seeks to reverse wealth concentration in America by tying the future wealth growth of ultra-rich households to the well-being of the middle class. The plan introduces an initial 10,000:1 ratio between the net worth of the wealthiest households and the national median. In essence, if the middle class isn't growing, neither is the top. This isn't redistribution — it's incentive alignment.

What I appreciate about Operation Abigail is that it's not a conventional tax-and-spend redistribution plan. Its goal is not to take from the rich and give to the poor. Its purpose is to promote wealth de-concentration through market actors themselves, by making it in their direct financial interest to support a thriving middle class. That's a fundamentally conservative and capitalist idea.

As a former Republican legislator in the Deep South, I know the many arguments that have been raised against taxation — and many of them have merit. Taxes should be limited, fair, and justified by necessity. But taxation is a necessary evil when there is no other reasonable enforcement mechanism available. Operation Abigail does entail a heavy tax on households exceeding the 10,000:1 ratio, but I support it for several reasons:

- It's the only practical way to enforce the incentive plan. If we truly want to restore the middle class — which is vital to saving our republic — then we must accept that tax enforcement, in this case, is unavoidable. It's not that objections to ultra-rich taxation are wrong, it's just that, in the context of an incentive plan, they speak to a lower priority than the restitution of the middle class.
- It includes a path to grandfather existing fortunes, provided that those households meet reasonable conditions, including repatriation of movable wealth, compliance with the law, and withdrawal from politics. Operation Abigail is designed to avoid existing wealth confiscation and to operate prospectively only while limiting the inherent danger to a free society resulting from the excessive concentration of political power by a minute number of individuals.

- It applies only to a very small number of households — those with the level of market power necessary to influence national economic outcomes. Fewer than 700 households currently surpass 10,000x the median net worth.
- It imposes no real hardship. Whatever compliance obligations this plan places on covered households, they are a nuisance, and not in any way debilitating.
- It locks in protections for everyone below the 10,000x cap, including small businesses, the middle class, the upper-middle class, and even the lesser rich.
- It does not target businesses or punish entrepreneurship. In fact, by restoring upward mobility, it strengthens the very foundation upon which opportunity is built.

In short, while Operation Abigail's use of taxation may resemble other tax proposals on the surface, it is very different in spirit and design. This is not a program to fund socialism or democratic-socialism – it's a plan to prevent them from taking root by restoring the middle-class foundation that makes limited government possible. As a Reagan Republican, I understand that government can only get smaller when the middle class gets bigger. Operation Abigail also understands this truth.

Moreover, Operation Abigail builds on the same principle I championed with Amendment No. 8 – median benchmarking. In that case, we tethered legislative pay to the economic condition of our citizens. Operation Abigail scales that principle to the national scale, applying it to the household net worth of market actors. In both cases, the goal is to create positive-sum incentives, where public prosperity benefits everyone, including those at the top.

At its heart, Operation Abigail is about preserving the democratic-republican model of government by addressing the underlying middle-class insecurity that fuels rising polarization and authoritarianism. That mission speaks deeply to me, not just as a legislator or a patriot, but as someone who believes that public service must be rooted in humility and purpose.

I have always believed that leaders should have a servant's heart. Operation Abigail reflects that belief. It expects our leaders to live up to the words of Abigail Adams, who wrote: "*If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind, whom should we serve?*"

Operation Abigail will not be without its detractors and its criticisms — no meaningful policy ever is — but it points us in the right direction. And in these times, we cannot afford to ignore solutions that have potential to benefit everyone, particularly the middle class. I'm proud to endorse it.

Mike Ball

Former U.S. Marine

Retired Alabama State Trooper & ABI Investigator

Member, Alabama House of Representatives (2002–2022)

Author of Alabama Constitutional Amendment No. 8 (2012)