

# STATEMENT

*Janelle Stelson claims to be “solidly middle-class” and in a “terrible tax bracket.” Stelson has a net worth of up to \$1.4 Million but supports raising taxes on middle-class families. Stelson even bragged about her husband paying her student loans as a birthday present.*

## **Verification**

### **NET WORTH**

**According To Her Financial Disclosure Report Filed In 2024, Stelson Reported She Has \$525,000-\$1,400,000 Worth Of Assets.** ([Clerk of the House of Representatives](#), Filed 2/1/24)

**VIDEO: “I Am Fairly Solidly Middle Class At This Point And I’m In A Terrible Tax Bracket.”** MODERATOR: “I’d like to take a moment to talk about the economy. By many objective measures, the economy’s doing quite well. And yet polls suggest that the public doesn’t really feeling it. SO why is there a disconnect here? And is there anything about President Biden’s economic policies that you might approach differently?” STELSON: “Well, we all know that the chasm between the haves and the have nots is widening. And we can do a lot about that large and small. Let’s start with minimum wage and we can also talk about a living wage. Minimum wage in Pennsylvania is \$7.25 and it has been for years. The two last Democratic governors have tried to raise it. Republican state lawmakers have kept it from happening. Not only is it \$7.25 here, but in almost every state around it’s double that. West Virginia has a higher minimum wage than Pennsylvania does, and the cost of living is very different there. Let’s also talk about a living wage; I’m really proud that I have a lot of unions endorsing me because they fight for the middle class. Those are the kinds of jobs that are family sustaining that build our communities and make America what it is. I’m proud that we have the most pro-Union that we’ve ever had because I think this is really, really important. And let’s talk about the tax structure. Let’s talk about the Top 55 companies in the country, paying little or no taxes. When we start talking about expanding Social Security—which by the way Scott Perry just over the last couple of days voter to raise the age, thankfully, not many people are listening to him, so it doesn’t pass again. But he votes against us at every turn. These corporations, if they were paying their taxes the same burden, I know I am fairly solidly middle-class at this point and in a terrible tax bracket. That’s who’s being burdened. The living men—the working men and women. If we can take some of the onus off them and have corporations pay their fair share, unlike Scott Perry and his Republican fat cat friends, or trying to always do—that would go a long, long way. So—thank you. I would just like to say we have enough money for social security. It can stay solvent. We just need to rearrange our priorities and get some of the billionaires to pay what they—they—you know, their fair share. Thank you.” (WIFT Pennsylvania Candidate Forum, [Clipped](#), 3/25/24) Minute 1:05:45-1:06:04, 1:14:09-1:16:19

### **Personal Student Loan Debt**

**VIDEO: “I Had Student Loan Debt Too. One Of The Greatest Days Of My Life Is When My, Not Ex-Husband, Paid If Off On My Birthday.”** STELSON: “I will say one of the things we need to do is fully, equitably fund public education. And for me, that’s where it all starts. You get the good education, then you get the good job. You know, not everybody takes the same track; some like to do tech things, some like to do—go and, you know be a college professor or whatever you’re going to do brain surgeon. But everybody needs to reach the twelfth grade—the end of the twelfth grade-graduation. You know, the one thing I didn’t hear when the supreme court overturned affirmative action, I did not hear—I heard a lot of booing on both sides, ‘we need it’ ‘we don’t need it.’ What I didn’t hear, one politician say is, ‘how about we shore up our pre-K through twelve educations, so that when everybody graduates, they actually are on a level playing field and can do whatever they want after that. Education is a huge component of this. Also, we cannot continue to saddle students with so much debt, we just can’t. You got to give somebody; I mean I had---okay—sorry. I had student loan debt too. One of the greatest days of my life is when my, now ex-husband, paid if off on my birthday.” (Dauphin County Democrats Candidate Forum, [Clipped](#), 1/13/24) Minute 2:01:00-2:02:12

**VIDEO: Stelson Says That She Wants Everyone To Have Government Health Care.**

MODERATOR: “As we all know there are a lot of health care disparities, whether its age, gender, racial, and—and more. Are you aware that doctors, specifically specialists, can refuse to treat patients? Only emergency rooms cannot refuse to treat people. What do you view as the government’s obligation, if any, to help American workers secure access to health care? If so, why or why not, and how would you pay for it?” STELSON: “My eighty-eight-year-old mother is here for three-months, she flew from Seattle, even though she has serious mobility issues. She wanted to help on my campaign. I would like for her to have the same health care that Congress has. I would like you to have the same health care that Congress has. I would like to have the same health care as Congress has. That is just not the way it goes. Over the next year, health care is something—you know it’s a primary thing to be healthy, it’s a right, if you will. Over the next year, we need to hammer Scott Perry on his record on health care. He has repeatedly voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act—Obamacare—that gave millions of Pennsylvanians, millions of Americans, insurance—health insurance. Some of them for the first time in their lives it must be expanded not ever taken away. I’d also like you to know that Scott Perry, though he touts himself as a fiscal conservative, also voted against the government’s ability to negotiate prescription drug prices with drug companies. And I’d like you to know that he did that while he was taking money from big pharma. And that’s a mic drop. What has he done over the past twelve-years to help any of us struggling with any issue related to heath care, bupkis. And that will not be the way I will work for you.” (Dauphin County Democrats Candidate Forum, [Clipped](#), 1/13/24) Minute 1:27:45-1:28:17, 1:36:52-1:28:25

**In October 2019, *The Hill* Reported That Medicare For All Would Cost About \$32 Trillion Over 10 Years.** “A new study finds that a full-scale single-payer health insurance program, also called “Medicare for All,” would cost about \$32 trillion over 10 years.” (Peter Sullivan, “New study: Full-scale ‘Medicare for All’ costs \$32 trillion over 10 years,” [The Hill](#), 10/16/19)

**According To The Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget, Taxes For Middle-Class Families Would Increase In Order To Pay For Medicare For All.** “While taxes would need to go up on the middle class in order to pay for Medicare for All, total costs for middle-class families may go up or down – and median costs are likely to fall, as most taxes are more progressive than current premiums.” (“Would Medicare For All Require A Middle-Class Tax Hike?” [Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget](#), 10/22/19)