

## Tax-day protest

# Demonstrators in Cleveland call on Trump to release returns

*Plain Dealer staff*

Close to 500 people rallied in downtown Cleveland on Saturday morning, joining more than 150 other demonstrations and marches nationwide calling on President Trump to release his tax returns and protesting his administration's policies. Buffeted by fierce winds and rain that tore at signs and sometimes drowned out voices, they heard a succession of speakers decry budget outlines and policy on health care, education, the environment, immigration and foreign affairs, as well as tax reform efforts they said will largely benefit large corporations and the wealthy.

"We will not let Donald Trump put his interests ahead of ours. The cost of not speaking up is too high a cost to pay," said organizer Yvanka Hall, outreach director of the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, who said she was pleased at the turnout in bad weather on a holiday weekend.

Director Debbie Silverstein of Single-Payer Action Network Ohio said Americans "tolerate levels of injustice that would be unthinkable in other advanced nations. In no other industrialized nation do people have to beg strangers for money so they or a loved one can live."

Timed to coincide with the traditional tax day of April 15 — though this year's deadline for filing returns was pushed back to Tuesday — the rally at Willard Park was followed by a march chanting "Release the returns," down East Ninth Street and to Cleveland State University.

Earlier in the morning, about 75 white-coated doctors rallied on Public Square with U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge, a Democrat from Cleveland.

Physicians from all major health systems and private practices voiced support for the Affordable Care Act and criticized administration policies in a variety

of areas that they see threatening health care.

The tax day rally and march was sponsored by a coalition of more than 20 local organizations.

Homemade signs displayed a variety of messages that included "Feed the needy, not the greedy" and "Grab him by his tax returns," and said they would show the president their taxes if he showed them his.



**Soaked marchers deal with rain and wind as they walk south on East Ninth Street during the tax-day protest in downtown Cleveland on Saturday. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM FERAN | THE PLAIN DEALER**