

News

Jobs Boom Favors Democratic Counties, Not Trump Strongholds

58.5 percent of the job gains in the past year were in counties that backed Hillary Clinton

By Josh Boak
AP Economics Writer

MONACA, Pennsylvania — The United States is on pace to add about 2.6 million jobs this year under President Donald Trump's watch. Yet the bulk of the hiring has occurred in bastions of Democratic voters rather than in the Republican counties that put Trump in the White House.

On average for the year-ended this May, 58.5 percent of the job gains were in counties that backed Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, according to an Associated Press analysis of monthly government jobs data by county.

Despite an otherwise robust national economy, the analysis shows that a striking number of Trump counties are losing jobs. The AP found that 35.4 percent of Trump counties have shed jobs in the past year, compared with just 19.2 percent of Clinton coun-

ties. The jobs data shows an economy that is as fractured as the political landscape ahead of the 2018 midterm elections. As more money pools in such corporate hubs as Houston, San Francisco or Seattle, prosperity spills over less and less to smaller towns and cities in America's interior. That would seem to undercut what Trump sees as a central accomplishment of his administration — job creation for middle class and blue-collar workers in towns far removed from bustling urban centers.

Job growth in Trump's economy is still concentrated in the same general places as it was toward the end of Barack Obama's presidency — when roughly 58.7 percent of the average annual job gains were in Democratic counties.

Yet the lack of transformative job growth in Trump areas hasn't seemed to erode his support among Republicans, while hiring in Democratic areas have done little to improve his standing with those voters. For Trump's core supporters, cultural issues such as gun rights, immigration and loyalty to the president have

become dominant priorities.

Trump has pointed with pride at a strengthening national economy in hopes that voters will reward the Republican Party by preserving its

majorities in the House and Senate this year. The government reported the fastest quarterly economic growth since 2014 and the unemployment rate is a healthy 3.9 percent. At a Pennsylvania

rally on Thursday, the president declared, "Our economy is soaring. Our jobs are booming."

But other issues pre-occupy the minds of the party faithful in Trump strongholds such as Bea-

ver County, Pennsylvania, northwest of Pittsburgh.

Chip Kohser, the county Republican chairman and the bristle-bearded

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Pet Staycation: Preparing Your Home for a Pet Sitter

By Jasmine Streeter, DVM
Special to The Skanner
News

August is a popular months for travelers. Whether your packing up for a last-minute vacation out the country or heading off to a family reunion, it's possible you may not be able to take your fur baby with you. I traveled extensively this summer and listed a few tips that helped keep my peace of mind while away from my little ones.

Caregiver:

Choose a responsible adult who truly enjoys spending time with your pets. Your pets should like them too! Give the caregiver a range of times to arrive and take care of your animals. It's best to emulate their normal schedule as much as possible. For exam-



Dr. Jasmine Shanelle Streeter
Veterinarian



Soleil enjoying her Staycation

ple, you might suggest they come between 7-9 a.m. and 12-2 p.m. Also, make sure the person you choose has adequate transportation so your pets won't be placed in an uncomfortable position.

Food & Water: Provide detailed instructions on feeding your pet while away. Write the amount of food to be given, how often to feed, and location where feeding should occur. Also inform the sitter of any quirks your pet has during meals or if they display food aggression. Note the location of food bins and where to find fresh water since many sitters may not be familiar with your home. Also provide enough food for the duration of your trip so your pet isn't left hungry.

Medication:

Pets that require daily medications or special supplements should continue to receive their medications even if you are on vacation. Provide

detailed descriptions and if possible a tutorial on how to administer your pets medication. Try to choose individuals who are comfortable and have experience administering pet meds. Make sure medications are clearly labeled and kept out of reach of nosypets.

Walks: If your pet sitter will be going on walks, show them the routes in your area that your dog or cat likes. Take them on a walk with you before leaving so you can answer any questions they have. Inform them if you pet is fond of other animals and dog parks or if they would appreciate a quiet stroll in Forest Park.

Dog & Cat Proofing:

When moms away, your pets will play. Many pets behave differently when separated from their families and may even become destructive. Take the time to puppy/kitty-proof your home before leaving to reduce the risk of acci-

dents.

Emergency Contact:

Always leave an emergency contact in your area that can be contacted if something goes wrong. Inform the person you have listed so they will be aware they may be receiving a call. Hopefully everything runs smoothly, but its best to be prepared.

Veterinary Information & Contact:

Consider briefly reviewing a copy of your pet's vaccine and medical history with your sitter. Provide your veterinary hospital information and nearest emergency hospital number in case your caregiver needs medical attention.

Wishing you amazing travels filled with beautiful moments, and for your pets, rest and relaxation on these hot summer days. Enjoy!

You can ask Dr. Jasmine your pet question or email your pet photo to drjasmine@theskanner.com. Your topic may be discussed in a future column!

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