



Hub group works to help residents claim tax credits

Jin-ah Kim

It's 7:15 p.m. on a Thursday night in February, and at the intersection of Washington and Ruggles streets, the Roxbury Resource Center is packed.

Inside the center, five people look at Form 1040s reflected on their computer monitor screens, crunching numbers on their keyboards as they sift through reams of papers. A dozen people wait for their names to be called. One, a weary-eyed woman, comforts her irritated young children.

These days, scenes like this are commonplace at the Roxbury Resource Center, one of the 24 free tax preparation sites that are part of the Boston Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition, which kicked off its sixth tax season last month.

Originally approved in 1975 to offset the burden of social security taxes and provide an incentive to work, the EITC is a federal and state tax credit available to many low- and moderate-income working families and individuals. To qualify, according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Web site, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax

return, even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return.

Those interested in finding out if they meet the requirements can call the coalition at 617-918-5275, or visit www.bostontaxhelp.org.

that could go towards job creation and boosting the economic activity of the whole city," said Menino in a statement announcing the opening of the coalition's two-dozen free tax prep sites.

According to the 2007 Boston EITC Campaign Taxpayer Data Report, 8,877 taxpayers received, on average, a federal refund of \$1,514 and a state refund of \$363 through the coalition last year. The average combined earned income credit (EIC) was \$1,692.

"Last year, our free tax prep sites returned almost \$15 million in federal and state refunds to families across the city," Menino said. "Ultimately, the EITC benefits all Boston neighborhoods and results in greater economic opportunity."

Jazmin Vasquez of Roxbury is one Boston resident taking advantage of the benefit. Vasquez, a receptionist at Massachusetts Housing Partnership with a 10-month-old daughter and a 3-year-old son, is eligible for the EITC, which this year will account for about half of her total refund.

Vasquez has filed her taxes for free at the Roxbury Resource Center

"When working families do not claim the EITC, which they have worked hard for and are entitled to, money is lost to the entire community that could go towards job creation and boosting the economic activity of the whole city."

— Mayor Thomas M. Menino

This year, residents who qualify for the EITC can receive up to \$4,536 in refunds. But, as Mayor Thomas M. Menino recently noted, if eligible citizens don't claim the funds, everybody loses.

"When working families do not claim the EITC, which they have worked hard for and are entitled to, money is lost to the entire community

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Trombonist Fred Wesley, a legendary sideman who played with the likes of James Brown and Maceo Parker, rocks the house at the Berklee Performance Center last Thursday evening. Wesley performed with Berklee's Music of James Brown Ensemble, a group of students dedicated to Brown's back catalogue. (Tony Irving photo)

Winning isn't everything

Socialist campaign stresses workers' rights

Talia Whyte

This is a fact: Róger Calero has absolutely no chance to become president of the United States.

He is still running nevertheless, and while his campaign has not triggered a single blip on the national political radar, his lack of name recognition is not the real reason his campaign is doomed from the start.

Some of his choices haven't helped his political career, but none of them, really, are blocking his entrance to the Oval Office either. During his high school days, for instance, he sold marijuana to an undercover Los Angeles police officer and, according to a 2002 article by The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Calero "agreed to a plea bargain and received a suspended 60-day sentence with three year's probation and a \$50 fine."

And his decision to run as the nominee of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) is not — at least in theory — a deathblow to his presidential aspirations, even though the far-left party's designated standard-bearer hasn't earned more than 41,000 counted votes in a presidential election in over three decades.

No, the real reason that Róger Calero, 38, has absolutely no chance to become president of the United States is because he wasn't born in this country, and according to Article

1, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution, "No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President."

So why is this Nicaraguan native — whose campaign bio says he has lived in the U.S. since his family moved to L.A. in 1985, and who, according to multiple published reports, has been a permanent resident alien since 1990 — traveling across the country, holding campaign events, talking to voters and, you know, actually running for the Oval Office?

Because Róger Calero said he feels he is the true voice of America's working class, and he's willing to tilt at some windmills if that's what it takes for that voice to be heard.

As part of the Massachusetts leg of his national campaign tour, which has included stops in Houston, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Newark, N.J., Calero — a writer for the SWP newsweekly The Militant and editor of its Spanish-language section, El Militante — spoke passionately to a small but enthusiastic group of potential voters in East Boston Saturday evening, discussing how he differs from the mainstream presidential candidates and explaining why he feels a socialist alternative is needed in Washington.

The reality of Calero's no-chance candidacy does have its benefits

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AN APOLOGY DELAYED

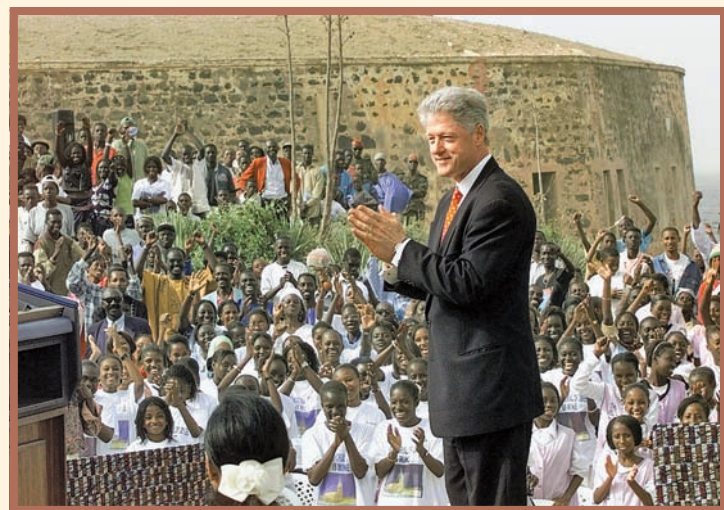
Ten years ago, domestic problems, slavery haunted Clinton on historic tour

Howard Manly

President Bill Clinton's trip to Africa couldn't have come at a better time. Daily news reports of extramarital affairs had the White House staff in a tizzy, constantly scrambling from one subpoena to another with no end in sight, never knowing what bombshell would drop next.

The latest one had come on Sunday, March 15, 1998, a little more than a week before Clinton was scheduled to start his 11-day, six-nation tour. Kathleen Willey, a former White House aide, appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes" and told Ed Bradley — and 30 million viewers — how the president had groped her against her will.

As bad as that was, the show could have been worse — Kenneth Starr was scheduled to appear on the segment, but the independent investigator backed out after lengthy negotiations with CBS. Starr's appearance didn't matter. He already had the name Monica Lewinsky and had expanded his



President Clinton acknowledges cheers from children of the Margaret Amidon Elementary School in Washington, D.C., during his visit to Gorée Island, off Senegal's coast, on April 2, 1998. Thousands of Africans were sent into slavery from Senegal, where Clinton closed out his tour of sub-Saharan Africa by paying homage to those who endured the horrid passage to slavery in a new continent. (AP photo/Greg Gibson)

Black HISTORY

obstruction of justice investigation to probe possible witness tampering.

It later came out that

Willey's claims of unwanted advances were dishonest.

But the damage was done. Perceptions are reality, es-

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