

# Competing Visions:

## President Obama, House Budget Committee, and Congressional Progressive Caucus Release Budget Proposals for 2017

*National Priorities Project examines how new budget proposals stack up to Americans' priorities.*

By Jasmine Tucker

| <b>Domestic Spending</b><br>(Total Non-Defense Discretionary)<br>Americans want to invest in our future. And they're <a href="#">willing</a> to pay for it.   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| President Obama   | House Budget Committee  | People's Budget<br>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invests \$519 billion in domestic spending in 2017</li> <li>• Calls for an increase of \$194 billion in domestic spending programs over 10 years</li> <li>• Keeps to spending levels under the budget deal (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015) for 2017 and then eliminates all spending caps</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invests \$519 billion in domestic spending in 2017</li> <li>• Calls for \$887 billion in domestic spending cuts over 10 years</li> <li>• Calls for \$30 billion in cuts to mandatory spending, and \$140 billion over 10 years</li> <li>• Keeps to spending levels under the budget deal (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015) for 2017</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invests \$599 billion in domestic spending in 2017</li> <li>• Calls for an increase of nearly \$2.4 trillion in domestic spending programs over 10 years</li> <li>• Eliminates all spending caps</li> </ul> |

| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jobs and Economy</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">75 percent</a> say the economy is a top priority.<br/> <a href="#">64 percent</a> say jobs are top priority.</p>   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>President Obama</b>   | <b>House Budget Committee</b>   | <b>People’s Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invests \$32 billion per year over 10 years in a clean transportation package to create hundreds of thousands of jobs</li> <li>• Expands Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) benefits for childless workers</li> <li>• Reforms unemployment insurance so more workers are covered and for longer periods of time</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new funding for job creation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invests \$1 trillion over 11 years in infrastructure spending</li> <li>• Expands Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</li> <li>• Reforms unemployment insurance so workers are covered for longer periods of time</li> </ul> |

| <b>Education</b><br><a href="#">66 percent</a> say it's a top priority.   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>House Budget Committee</b>   | <b>People's Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invests \$61 billion over 10 years to provide two years of free community college</li> <li>• Invests \$66 billion over 10 years for Preschool for All</li> <li>• Increases Pell grant funding by \$2 billion over 2016 levels</li> <li>• Increases funding for Head Start by \$434 million over 2016 levels</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes substantial cuts to domestic spending, including education</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invests in Debt Free College program for every student</li> <li>• Invests \$66 billion over 10 years for Preschool for All</li> <li>• Invests \$412 billion over 10 years to allow students to refinance loans at lower rates</li> </ul> |
| <b>Social Security</b><br><a href="#">62 percent</a> say it's a top priority.   |   |   |
| <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>House Budget Committee</b>   | <b>People's Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises \$10 billion per year by 2025 by closing loopholes available to some high-income earners</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevents individuals from collecting Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Insurance benefits at the same time</li> <li>• Calls for \$30 billion in cuts to mandatory spending programs (\$140 billion over 10 years), which could mean cuts to Social Security</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises \$10 billion per year by 2025 by closing loopholes available to some high-income earners</li> </ul>   |

## Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)

[54 percent](#) want Congress to keep it, or scale it up or down, rather than repeal it.

| President Obama  | House Budget Committee  | People’s Budget<br>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains the Affordable Care Act with small tweaks</li> <li>Extends Affordable Care Act’s three years of federal support for Medicaid expansion in states</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeals the Affordable Care Act, including the law’s Medicaid expansion, currently implemented in 32 states</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains the Affordable Care Act with small tweaks</li> <li>Repeals the excise tax on high-priced plans and introduces a new “public option” for insurance</li> </ul> |

## Medicare & Medicaid

[77 percent](#) say Medicare is a very important government program.

[63 percent](#) say Medicaid is a very important government program.

| President Obama   | House Budget Committee  | People’s Budget<br>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extends Medicare Part A (hospital care) by an additional 15 years</li> <li>Lowers prescription drug costs under Medicare Part D</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raises premiums on wealthy retirees</li> <li>Converts Medicaid into a block grant administered at the state level and cuts about \$1 trillion from the program over 10 years</li> <li>Allows Medicare beneficiaries the option to switch to private insurance beginning in 2024</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowers prescription drug costs under Medicare Part D to save \$157 billion over 10 years</li> </ul> |

## Safety Net

[54 percent](#) say dealing with problems of the poor and needy is a top priority.

[71 percent](#) say the government has a responsibility to deal with hunger.

| President Obama   | House Budget Committee   | People's Budget<br>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invests \$12 billion over 10 years to provide low-income kids with food benefits during the summer months</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevents Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients from receiving work requirement waivers</li> <li>Converts the food stamp program into a block grant administered at the state level</li> <li>Calls for \$30 billion in cuts to mandatory spending programs (\$140 billion over 10 years)</li> <li>Targets \$799 billion in safety net programs for potential cuts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invests \$10 billion over ten years for child nutrition programs, including improvements to summer meals</li> <li>Expands food stamp benefits to enhanced levels under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)</li> </ul> |

### Pentagon and Military Funding

[59 percent](#) say we spend enough or too much on the military.  
 A [majority](#) support cutting the Pentagon budget.

| <b>President Obama</b>   | <b>House Budget Committee</b>  | <b>People’s Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$551 billion for the Pentagon’s base budget and related spending in 2017</li> <li>• Increases Pentagon funding by \$285 billion over 10 years</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$551 billion for the Pentagon’s base budget and related spending in 2017</li> <li>• Increases Pentagon funding by \$267 billion over 10 years</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$551 billion for the Pentagon’s base budget and related spending in 2017</li> <li>• Increases Pentagon funding by \$82 billion over 10 years, and does away with slush fund</li> <li>• Audits the Pentagon for the first time ever</li> </ul> |

### Pentagon Slush Fund (“Overseas Contingency Operations”)

[58 percent](#) say the U.S. campaign against ISIS is not going well.

| <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>House Budget Committee</b>   | <b>People’s Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$59 billion in Pentagon slush fund for 2017 in addition to Pentagon base budget, continues reduced slush fund until 2021</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$59 billion in Pentagon slush fund for 2017 in addition to Pentagon base budget, continues reduced slush fund until 2021</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds complete withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2016 and ends slush fund thereafter</li> </ul> |

| <b>Corporate Taxes</b><br><a href="#">69 percent</a> say corporations pay too little in taxes.  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>House Budget Committee</b>  | <b>People’s Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises \$111 billion over 10 years by implementing a new fee on large financial institutions</li> <li>• Requires companies to pay tax on income earned abroad</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for lower tax rates for corporations and small businesses</li> <li>• Closes some special interest loopholes but does not specify which ones</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises \$114 billion over 10 years by implementing a Financial Institution Excise Tax</li> <li>• Closes a variety of corporate tax loopholes to raise \$1.4 trillion over 10 years</li> <li>• Requires companies to pay tax on income earned abroad</li> <li>• Introduces a Financial Transactions Tax</li> </ul> |
| <b>Individual Taxes</b><br><a href="#">62 percent</a> say the wealthy pay too little in taxes.  |  |  |
| <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>House Budget Committee</b>  | <b>People’s Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises \$955 billion over 10 years by closing certain loopholes for the wealthy, such as implementing the Buffett Rule, which ensures the wealthiest Americans pay at least 30% in income taxes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for lower tax rates for individuals and families</li> <li>• Closes some special interest loopholes but does not specify which ones</li> <li>• Eliminates the Alternative Minimum Tax that sets a minimum tax for the wealthy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises \$1.5 trillion over 10 years by closing certain loopholes for the wealthy</li> <li>• Increases tax rates for top earners to raise more than \$1.5 trillion over 10 years</li> <li>• Implements the Hard Work Tax Credit</li> </ul>   |

| <b>Deficit Reduction</b><br>56 percent of Americans say it's a top priority   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>House Budget Committee</b>  | <b>People's Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$2.9 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years, primarily through health, immigration, and tax reforms</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$7 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years, primarily through spending cuts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for \$5.4 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years, primarily through health and tax reforms</li> </ul> |
| <b>Topline Spending</b>   |  |   |
| <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>House Budget Committee</b>  | <b>People's Budget<br/>(Congressional Progressive Caucus)</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposes \$4.2 trillion in total spending for 2017</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposes \$3.9 trillion in total spending for 2017</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposes \$4.4 trillion in total spending for 2017</li> </ul>  |

*SOURCES: All numbers and analysis drawn directly from budget proposals released by the [White House](#), [House Budget Committee](#), and the [Congressional Progressive Caucus](#).*