

*The numbers behind the*

# Budget Showdown

## The Wealthiest 1%

As a percentage of their earnings, the wealthiest 1% of Americans receive nearly six times (5.87) *more* in tax savings than the poorest 20% of Americans. *This is the very definition of a regressive tax.*

## The Wealthiest 2%

Tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% of the U.S. population will cost the U.S. Treasury an estimated \$83 billion in lost revenue in 2013. Meanwhile, sequestration would cut non-defense discretionary programs by \$54.7 billion, also in 2013. In other words, the 2013 cost of tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% = 151% of non-defense discretionary sequestration cuts.

## Magnitude and Meaning

- \$83 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% in 2013 averages out to \$9,474,886 in lost revenue every hour, or \$157,914.77 every minute. \$157,914.77 is nearly three times the U.S. median household income.
- In 2011, 636,017 individuals were homeless in the United States. Buying one house per minute, it would take 442 days' worth (1.2 years) of 2% tax cuts to house all who are without homes.
- In 2011, 67,495 veterans were homeless. It would take 46.9 days' worth of 2% tax cuts to house them.

## Tax Cuts for Wealthiest 2%

### Relative to Education

- \$14.5 billion for Title I grants to schools = 63.8 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$595 million for grants to states for adult education = 2.6 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

### Relative to Housing

- \$3.1 billion for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) = 13.6 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$19.1 billion for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program = 84 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

### Relative to Food Security

- \$82 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps  
SNAP = 360.6 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$7 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) = 30.8 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$19.7 billion for child nutrition (school breakfast and lunch, summer food service, and child and adult care) = 86.6 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

### Relative to Labor

- \$1.2 billion for WIA Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities = 5.3 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$3 billion for the Federal-State Unemployment Insurance program = 13.2 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

### Relative to Infrastructure

- \$3.2 billion for the Bus and Rail State of Good Repair program = 14.1 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$32.4 billion for the National Highway Program = 142.5 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$2.4 billion for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports program = 10.6 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

*NOTE: All above program funding levels are based on the Obama Administration's FY2013 budget request.*



NationalPriorities.org

### SOURCES:

National Priorities Project's "Cost of Tax Cuts," <http://costoftaxcuts.com/>  
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The "Fiscal Cliff": Macroeconomic Consequences of Tax Increases and Spending Cuts  
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