



nationalpriorities.org
research@nationalpriorities.org
(413) 584 9556

March 14, 2013

**Competing Visions:
Rep. Paul Ryan, Sen. Patty Murray, and House Progressives
Release Budget Proposals for 2014**

*National Priorities Project examines how new budget proposals stack up
against what Americans want.*

By Chris Hellman and Mattea Kramer

	Public Opinion: What Do Americans Want?	Rep. Paul Ryan and the House Budget Committee	House Congressional Progressive Caucus	Sen. Patty Murray and the Senate Budget Committee
Job Creation	95 percent say restoring the job market is a top priority.	No new funding for job creation.	\$4.2 trillion over 10 years for job creation through infrastructure investment, tax credits, and aid to the 50 states.	\$100 billion in near-term spending for job creation, including \$50 billion for transportation infrastructure and \$10 billion for worker training programs.
Medicare	88 percent say it is very important to preserve the long-term stability of Medicare.	Beginning in 2024 seniors would receive a lump sum of money to buy private insurance. The lump sum would keep pace with inflation but not the rate of health care cost growth.	Negotiates for lower prescription drug prices to save \$157 billion over 10 years.	Saves \$275 billion over 10 years by accelerating health care reforms that reward quality of care rather than pay fee-for-service.

	Public Opinion: What Do Americans Want?	Rep. Paul Ryan and the House Budget Committee	House Congressional Progressive Caucus	Sen. Patty Murray and the Senate Budget Committee
Social Security	88 percent say it's very important to preserve the long-term stability of Social Security.	Requires the president and Congress to submit plans for the long-term financial outlook of Social Security.	No proposed changes.	No proposed changes.
Tax Loopholes	80 percent want to see loopholes closed for big corporations, while 66 percent want to see loopholes closed for wealthy taxpayers so that money can be used for deficit reduction.	Plans to close tax loopholes but does not specify which ones.	Closes loopholes that favor oil, gas, and coal companies, and that create incentives to move jobs overseas. Eliminates corporate loopholes for stock options, private jets, and meals and entertainment. Also eliminates the home mortgage-interest deduction for vacation homes and yachts.	Plans to close tax loopholes for \$975 billion in deficit reduction but does not specify which ones. Plans to target loopholes that currently benefit the wealthy and major corporations.
SNAP (food stamps)	75 percent oppose cuts to SNAP.	Makes deep cuts to SNAP funding and converts the program to a block grant administered at the state level.	Increases funding for SNAP as part of an overall increase of \$312 billion over 10 years for income security programs.	No proposed changes.

	Public Opinion: What Do Americans Want?	Rep. Paul Ryan and the House Budget Committee	House Congressional Progressive Caucus	Sen. Patty Murray and the Senate Budget Committee
Education	73 percent say it's very important to make a college education more affordable, while 83 percent oppose cuts to K-12 education.	Freezes the maximum Pell grant award at the same level for the next 10 years, provides financial aid to fewer families, and reduces general discretionary spending for education.	Expands the education budget and provides \$25 billion over 10 years to hire back 300,000 laid-off teachers and modernize 35,000 public schools.	Calls for supporting elementary and secondary education and making college more affordable but does not specify how.
Individual Taxes	70 percent want a simpler tax code with lower rates and 66 percent want to see higher taxes on the wealthiest taxpayers.	Steeply reduces tax rates for top earners by replacing the current tax brackets with just two brackets of 10 percent and 25 percent.	Ends the Bush-era tax cuts for families earning over \$250,000, creates five new tax brackets for millionaires and billionaires, and ends special low tax rates for investment income.	Places limits on tax expenditures claimed by the top 2 percent of income earners.
Corporate Taxes	64 percent want to see corporations pay more in taxes, while 73 percent want to prevent corporations from avoiding taxes by shifting profits overseas.	Reduces the top corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent and releases overseas profits from U.S. taxation.	In addition to closing tax loopholes (specified above), creates a "Wall Street sales tax" on financial transactions including the sale of stocks and bonds.	Proposes changing corporate tax provisions that allow corporations to avoid taxes with offshore operations.

	Public Opinion: What Do Americans Want?	Rep. Paul Ryan and the House Budget Committee	House Congressional Progressive Caucus	Sen. Patty Murray and the Senate Budget Committee
War Funding	60 percent favor removing troops from Afghanistan as soon as possible.	Provides \$47 billion for war funding in 2014, a cut of 53 percent below the 2013 level. Maintains annual war funding of \$37 billion or more for the next decade.	Calls for an expedited troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and ends war funding beginning in fiscal 2015.	Based on current plans to end the Afghanistan war in 2014, provides \$100 billion in fiscal 2013, \$50 billion in fiscal 2014 and \$25 billion in fiscal 2015.
Military Funding	58 percent would like to see major reductions in military spending.	Prevents across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration from impacting the military budget.	Reduces military spending by \$897 billion over 10 years through a smaller force structure and reductions in Cold War-era weapons.	Would gradually reduce military spending beginning in fiscal 2015, for a savings of \$240 billion over 10 years.
Medicaid	52 percent support the expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare, while 46 percent oppose any cuts to Medicaid.	Makes deep cuts to Medicaid funding and converts the program to a block grant administered at the state level.	Maintains the expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare and increases funding for Medicaid through supplemental grants to states over the next two years.	Maintains the expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare.

Budget Totals				
	Public Opinion: What Do Americans Want?	Rep. Paul Ryan and the House Budget Committee	House Congressional Progressive Caucus	Sen. Patty Murray and the Senate Budget Committee
Total Proposed Change in Spending	56 percent want to see a mix of spending cuts and tax increases; 35 percent want cuts only.	\$5.7 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years.	\$3 trillion in spending increases over 10 years.	\$837 billion in spending cuts over 10 years.
Total Proposed Change in Tax Revenue	56 percent want to see a mix of spending cuts and tax increases; 5 percent want only tax increases.	No change in tax revenue.	\$5.7 trillion in additional tax revenue over 10 years.	\$923 billion in additional tax revenue over 10 years.
Total Deficit Reduction	72 percent say deficit reduction is a top priority.	Reduces deficits by \$5.7 trillion over 10 years.	Reduces deficits by \$2.7 trillion over 10 years.	Reduces deficits by \$1.8 trillion over 10 years.

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