NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you’re thinking. Anonymous responses will be included in summary reports on the forums and in research to help us better understand how people are thinking about current issues.

Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?

1. Sharply cut military spending EVEN IF it results in base closures that hurt communities and allows hostile nations to match our power and weaponry.

2. Raise the income cap so people pay Social Security taxes on more of what they earn EVEN IF higher-income people end up paying far more into the system than they will receive in benefits.

3. Amend the Constitution to force Congress and the President to balance the budget EVEN IF this triggers deep cuts in programs and shocks the economy.

4. Have the federal government fund a massive infrastructure program EVEN IF it means adding significantly more to the national debt.

For questions 5-8, let us know which statement comes closer to your view. If you’re not sure, please let us know.

5. We should take swift and strong action to shrink the debt.
   VERSUS
   Drastic action to shrink the debt will mean higher taxes and reduced government spending, which could devastate our economy.
   OR:
   Not sure

6. Our most important commitment is to insure that older Americans receive the Social Security and health-care benefits they were promised.
   VERSUS:
   Our most important commitment is to make sure we don’t saddle the next generation with dangerous levels of debt.
   OR:
   Not sure

7. It may be painful, but we need higher taxes to cover all of our spending.
   VERSUS:
   In order to spur the economy, we must keep taxes low to create growth and investment.
   OR:
   Not sure

8. The federal government should be much smaller than it is.
   VERSUS:
   Reducing the size of government would mean getting rid of too many crucial programs that people depend on.
   OR:
   Not sure
9. How much disagreement was there about this issue in your forum?
   - [ ] A lot of disagreement
   - [ ] Some disagreement
   - [ ] Hardly any disagreement at all
   Why did you answer the way you did? ________________________________________
   ________________________________________
   ________________________________________
   ________________________________________
   ________________________________________

10. Did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn’t considered before?  
    - [ ] Yes  
    - [ ] No  
    If so, please explain. ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________

11. Were there ideas or proposals that you tended to favor coming into the forum that you now have second thoughts about?  
    - [ ] Yes  
    - [ ] No  
    If so, please explain. ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________

12. What could citizens, working together, do in their own communities to address this problem?  
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________
    ________________________________________

13. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?  
    - [ ] 0  
    - [ ] 1-3  
    - [ ] 4-6  
    - [ ] 7 or more  
    - [ ] Not sure  

14. Are you male or female?  
    - [ ] Male  
    - [ ] Female  
    - [ ] Other (please specify) ___________________

15. How old are you?  
    - [ ] 17 or younger  
    - [ ] 18-30  
    - [ ] 31-45  
    - [ ] 46-64  
    - [ ] 65 or older  

16. Are you:  
    - [ ] African American  
    - [ ] Asian American  
    - [ ] Hispanic or Latino  
    - [ ] Native American  
    - [ ] White/Caucasian  
    - [ ] Other (please specify) ___________________

17. Where do you live?  
    - [ ] Rural  
    - [ ] Small Town  
    - [ ] Large City  
    - [ ] Suburb  

18. What is your ZIP code? ______________  What state do you live in? ______________

19. Were you born in the United States?  
    - [ ] Yes  
    - [ ] No  

20. What issue would you like to see covered in a future forum?  
    ________________________________________

Please give this form to the moderator, email to forumreports@nifi.org, or mail to:  
National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459.

You may also fill out this questionnaire online at www.nifi.org/questionnaires.