

>> America's Future

What Should Our Budget Priorities Be?

NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with those of thousands of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who took part in the forums, as well as officeholders, members of the news media, and others in your community.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?					
a. We will never get our economy under control until we sharply cut what we spend on federal entitlement programs, such as Social Security and Medicare.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The best way to bring down federal expenses is through across-the-board cuts in government spending.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Investing in strategic areas, such as infrastructure and education, will do more to grow the economy and thereby reduce the deficit over the long run than severely slashing the budget.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Congress should raise the tax rates for people with higher incomes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Since the world continues to be a dangerous place, we cannot afford to scale back on military expenses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Raising the minimum wage will help the economy by growing the middle class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
a. We should raise the age of eligibility for Social Security to 68, EVEN IF this would be a hardship on those about to collect Social Security, especially those who have spent a lifetime doing strenuous work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. We should lower the corporate tax rate to encourage investment, EVEN IF that means corporations might keep the savings rather than invest them to create more jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. We should raise the capital gains tax, EVEN IF this might discourage investors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Medicare should become a means-tested program—so that more benefits go to people in need and fewer to those with higher incomes, EVEN IF that could drain the savings of many middle-class seniors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

>> QUESTIONNAIRE

(Question 2 continued from previous page)

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
e. We should sharply cut the federal budget in the next few years, EVEN IF that might stifle recovery from the recession.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. We should increase payroll taxes to help stabilize Social Security and Medicare, EVEN IF this may mean employers will hire fewer workers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. We should reduce Medicare reimbursements for services rendered, EVEN IF that would cause more doctors to turn away Medicare patients.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. We should make significant cuts in the defense budget, EVEN IF that would risk leaving the United States vulnerable to attack.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. We should put a stop to the procurement of high-priced military hardware the Pentagon doesn't even want, EVEN IF that will cause serious economic problems for communities where these systems are built.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum? Yes No
 If yes, how? _____

4. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before? Yes No
 If yes, please explain. _____

5. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum?

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

7. Are you male or female? Male Female

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

9. Are you: African American Asian American Hispanic or Latino Native American
 White/Caucasian Other (please specify) _____

10. Where do you live? Rural Small Town Large City Suburban

11. What is your ZIP code? _____ What state do you live in? _____

Please give this form to the moderator, or mail it to National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459.