

>> A Nation in Debt: How Can We Pay the Bills?

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. The only realistic way to deal with our budget problems is by raising taxes and cutting spending.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Investing in the research and development of innovative new technologies would spur growth and produce more tax revenues in the long term.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Americans demand more benefits from the federal government than the country can afford.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Deep, across-the-board spending cuts would threaten the nation's economic recovery.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. We need laws and procedures that compel legislators to balance the budget.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Elected officials lack the political will to tackle the unsustainable growth of popular entitlement programs, to balance the budget, such as Social Security and Medicare.	<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. Federal and state governments should establish "sunset" dates requiring periodic review of all programs and agencies, EVEN IF this means that those who run them would spend more time justifying their existence and less time doing their jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. We should amend the Constitution to require a balanced federal budget, EVEN IF most economists agree that running a deficit is sometimes what the country needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. We should reduce the tax deduction for mortgage interest and health-care expenses, EVEN IF that would increase taxes on already hard-pressed middle-class families.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. We should increase tariffs on imported goods to protect U.S. jobs, EVEN IF this invites retaliation and could, in the end, start a trade war or costs jobs in U.S. companies that export goods.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Congress could reduce payroll taxes for new businesses for two years, EVEN IF that adds to the deficit in the short run.	<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 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| f. We should cut military spending, EVEN IF this would make us less capable of responding to threats in an increasingly volatile world. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. We should reduce corporate tax rates, EVEN IF this would reduce federal government revenues. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. We could raise tax rates for the wealthiest families, EVEN IF this would lead to less investment in enterprises that create much needed jobs. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. We could invest in research and development to spur competitiveness in global markets, EVEN IF many economists believe such investment would be more efficient if it came from the private sector instead of the government. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Legislators should ban all earmarks, EVEN IF this reduces or eliminates funding for thousands of badly needed local projects. | <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 issues 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?

- 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? _____

Please give this form to the moderator, or mail it to National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-2777.