

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 \$49.7 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% = 91% of non-defense discretionary sequestration cuts.

Magnitude and Meaning

- \$49.7 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% in 2013 averages out to \$5,676,826 in lost revenue every hour, or \$94,613.77 every minute. \$94,613.77 is nearly twice 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 883 days' worth of 2% tax cuts to house all who are without homes.
- In 2011, 67,495 veterans were homeless. It would take 93.7 days' worth of 2% tax cuts to house them.

Tax Cuts for the Wealthiest 2%

Relative to Education

- \$14.5 billion for Title I grants to schools = 106.5 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$595 million for grants to states for adult education = 4.4 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

Relative to Housing

- \$3.1 billion for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) = 23.1 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$19.1 billion for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program = 140 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

Relative to Food Security

- \$82 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) = 601 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$7 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) = 51.7 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$19.7 billion for child nutrition (school breakfast and lunch, summer food service, and child and adult care) = 144.5 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

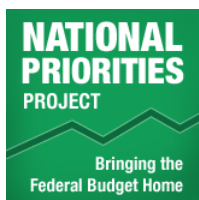
Relative to Labor

- \$1.2 billion for WIA Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities = 97 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$3 billion for the Federal-State Unemployment Insurance program = 22.17 days' worth of 2% tax cuts

Relative to Infrastructure

- \$3.2 billion for the Bus and Rail State of Good Repair program = 23.57 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$32.4 billion for the National Highway Program = 237.7 days' worth of 2% tax cuts
- \$2.4 billion for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports program = 17.87 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 Bush Tax Cuts and the Economy," Congressional Research Service report R41393, December 10, 2010, <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41393.pdf>