

IN THE NEWS:

The Proposed Trump Administration Tax Plan

Overview:

- White House economic adviser Gary Cohn and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin unveiled the Trump administration's tax plan outline, a [one-page overview of proposed changes](#).
- The tax plan would consolidate the seven existing individual tax rates down to three (including lowering the top rate from 39.6% to 35%) and lower the business tax rate from 35% to 15%.
- While the plan doesn't include much detail, a partisan split of opinion is already developing. Democrats have described the plan as an "elite giveaway," while Republicans have shown some support, calling the plan's elements "critical guideposts" for reform.
- Questions also remain about how this plan would impact President Trump personally, as his tax returns are still private, something [a majority of Americans would like to see change](#).

Required Reading:

- [What Will Trump's Tax Plan Actually Do?](#), BBC
- [Trump Administration Vows "Biggest Tax Cut," "Largest" Overhaul in History](#), NPR
- [Fleshing Out Trump's Tax-Reform Proposal](#), National Review (Op-ed)
- [How the US Tax Code Drives Inequality – And What We Can Do To Fix It](#), Ford Foundation
- [Kasich Calls Out GOP on Cost of Trump's Tax Plan](#), The Hill
- [Federal Balancing Act: An Interactive Budget Simulation](#), Bipartisan Policy Center

Questions for discussion:

- How do businesses benefit from tax cuts? Individuals?
- What are the risks and rewards of Trump's proposed restructuring of taxes?
- Is the U.S. tax code fair? Does the current tax system favor some people over others? Would the proposed changes move us towards a system of greater equity?
- If you were able to build a tax system from the ground up in the U.S., what would you identify as the priorities for the system?
 - What are the goals of a tax system?
 - How important is simplicity to a tax code? Why?
 - What are the ethical considerations in developing a tax code?
- Is it important to know the financial situation of government leaders? Do you think Trump should release his tax returns? Why or why not?