

**Tax Policy Center**  
Urban Institute AND Brookings Institution

# RIISING PRESSURE FOR TAX REFORM

The Urban—Brookings Tax Policy Center 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



**TAX VOX**





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Urban Institute and Brookings Institution

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**The Urban—Brookings Tax Policy Center**  
**2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Urban Institute, 2100 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037  
The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036  
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# Letter from the Directors

**T**ax policy matters to everyone. But policy debates often emphasize rhetoric over substance and fiction over fact. That's why the Tax Policy Center works so hard to provide policy-makers, journalists, advocacy groups, and citizens with solid information, rigorous analysis, fresh ideas, and clear communication about how our tax system works and how changes would affect taxpayers and the federal budget.

That vision served the Center well in 2010 as tax issues moved to the front of domestic policy debates. Pressure has been building for tax reform, both to address the needless complexity, inefficiency, and inequity of our current tax code and as a way to raise revenue for deficit reduction. At the same time, policymakers have been grappling with a weak economy and a tax system full of temporary provisions.

The most urgent issue in 2010 was the potential expiration of the 2001–03 income and estate tax cuts, along with several provisions from the 2009 stimulus. Throughout the year, TPC provided timely information about how those expirations might affect taxpayers, the economy, and the federal budget. Our researchers testified before the Senate Finance Committee about the distributional implications of the tax cuts, published a widely cited report documenting how the potential tax savings varied by income levels, and prepared extensive additional analyses, widely quoted by the media, including in prominent graphics by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. TPC also introduced an innovative, online Tax Calculator that visitors used nearly a quarter-million times to explore how extending some of or all the tax cuts might affect family tax burdens.

The past year also witnessed rising concern about America's unsustainable fiscal outlook. Through reports, commentary, testimony, and events, the Center documented the formidable fiscal challenges that we face, evaluated options for addressing them, and demonstrated the benefit of doing so sooner rather than later. TPC also provided essential behind-the-scenes support to two major deficit reduction efforts, President Obama's fiscal commission and the Domenici-Rivlin Debt Reduction Task Force. TPC researchers analyzed a broad range of tax reform options for both these efforts; in addition, TPC director Donald Marron and founding director Len Burman both served on the Domenici-Rivlin task force.

The need for tax reform also gained attention during 2010. TPC published widely cited analyses of the two major tax reform proposals put forward by Congressman Paul Ryan and by Senators Judd Gregg and Ron Wyden, as well as the reform proposals by the two deficit commissions. TPC also released widely read reports examining the potential impacts of introducing a value-added tax and comparing the effects of a value-added tax with the current corporate income and payroll taxes.



While tax cut extensions, debt reduction plans, and tax reform proposals dominated headlines during the year, our team engaged on many other vital issues as well. TPC researchers developed proposals to strengthen and simplify the tax provisions that benefit low-income families and children, examined ways to reform the mortgage interest deduction, analyzed the distributional implications of taxing corporate income at the shareholder instead of the corporate level, and testified before Congress about small business job creation. The Center convened a series of public events, addressing such issues as the need for economic stimulus, opportunities to reduce the burden of filing taxes, and the effect of the housing crisis on state and local governments. And our well-known blog, *TaxVox*, continued to increase its readership for timely commentary on all variety of tax and fiscal issues.

We experienced several leadership changes during the year. Rosanne Altshuler stepped down as director to return to Rutgers University as professor of economics. We are indebted to Rosanne for her enthusiastic leadership and thrilled that she maintains close ties with the Center. Donald Marron replaced Rosanne in May, bringing his years of fiscal policy experience including stints as acting director of the Congressional Budget Office and member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. In recognition of his wide-ranging contributions to the Center, including leadership of our modeling team, Eric Toder was promoted and joins Bill Gale as codirector of the Center.

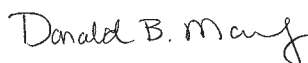
TPC welcomed two new senior scholars to the TPC team, Jim Nunns and Adam Looney. Jim brings a wealth of experience on both federal and state tax issues after many years as a senior tax researcher at the Office of Tax Analysis at the U.S. Treasury and as director of tax policy for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. Adam was the senior economist for public finance and tax policy with the President's Council of Economic Advisers and has been an economist at the Federal Reserve Board. He concurrently serves as the policy director of the Hamilton Project. TPC also bid farewell to Renee Hendley, who had ably managed TPC's finances for many years; she is now a senior research scientist at the National Opinion Research Center. Marisa Faria, an experienced financial manager, replaced Renee at mid-year.

Tax policy will continue at the forefront of domestic policy in 2011 and beyond. As policymakers grapple with our broken tax system and daunting fiscal outlook, the need for clear, unbiased, timely information about the impact of policy options on families and our economy will be greater than ever before. With the support of our generous funders, the Tax Policy Center looks forward to continuing our work.

We are extremely grateful for your interest and support.



William Gale



Donald Marron



Eric Toder



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# Productivity at a Glance, 2010



## Research and Testimony

**54** discussion papers, research reports, policy briefs,  
articles, and commentaries

**7** testimonies before Congress and the  
President's fiscal commission

**183** *TaxVox* blog entries



## Public Outreach

**8** public policy symposia attracting  
**2,981** guests (in person or via webcast)

**105,926** sites linked to the *TaxVox* blog, almost  
**120 percent** more than in 2009



## Media

Featured in more than **930** major media articles,

**21** network television news programs,

and **9** radio programs



## Web Site

**970,351** unique visits

**10,338,922** web hits



# Informing Debates on Tax & Budget Choices

## Expiring Tax Cuts

In 2001 and 2003, President George W. Bush signed major tax reductions, almost all of which were scheduled to expire at the end of 2010. As the date drew near, public interest in the expiring tax cuts skyrocketed. The Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center played a key role in informing the debate over how to deal with the expiration.

TPC used its state-of-the-art tax model to prepare the most detailed published analyses of the distributional effects of the tax cuts. These results were presented in TPC director Donald Marron's testimony to the Senate Finance Committee and in an oft-cited report by Brookings' Adam Looney. TPC also created an innovative online Tax Calculator that allows citizens, the media, and policy analysts to examine how the expiring tax cuts and alternative policies would affect the tax bills of specific households.

When President Obama and House Republicans agreed on a compromise tax bill to extend the tax cuts temporarily and to implement other tax provisions for 2011 and 2012, TPC quickly analyzed the provisions and added them to the tax calculator so policymakers and citizens could see how the compromise would affect specific situations. Policymakers and the media used TPC's findings extensively, including in a full-page *New York Times* graphic and an interactive graphic on *The Washington Post* web site. Evaluations of the compromise in the media relied heavily on TPC's analysis to show the act's effects.

*"When the economy strengthens two or three years down the road, we don't want our hands tied in a way that makes it more difficult to balance the budget. We really do need to make some tough decisions in the medium term so that we don't have real problems. The sooner we do it the easier it's going to be. The longer we wait the bigger the problem becomes."*

**Roberton Williams, "President Obama, GOP Tout Tax Cut Deal, but Extension Comes at a Heavy Price," ABCNews.com, December 8**



Donald Marron testifying before the Senate Committee on Finance about the individual tax system.



## Fiscal Challenges

TPC continued to play an active role in documenting the fiscal challenges that face the United States and in analyzing ways to address them. TPC staff testified before Congress, published

reports and commentary, and organized forums to discuss alternatives to help reverse the worsening federal budget deficit.

In January, TPC brought together academic economists, lawyers, and practitioners for “Train Wreck: A Conference on America’s Looming Fiscal Crisis.” Held in Los Angeles and cosponsored with the USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics, this event was the second in a series of annual outside-the-Beltway TPC conferences. The forum focused on the fiscal challenges that face federal, state, and local governments. Rosanne Altshuler, Donald Marron, and Len Burman presented papers at the all-day conference. The *National Tax Journal* subsequently published all the conference papers.

Len Burman, Jeffrey Rohaly, Joseph Rosenberg, and Katherine Lim developed a model to simulate how the economic costs of rising debts could feed back into even-faster growing deficits. Burman presented their paper, “Catastrophic Budget Failure,” at the Los Angeles conference.

TPC codirector William Gale and University of California at Berkeley economics professor Alan Auerbach cowrote a series of papers and commentaries about the nation’s fiscal outlook. Two papers—“Déjà vu All Over Again: On the Dismal Prospects for the Federal Budget” (April) and “The Federal Budget Outlook, Chapter 11” (September)—delineated the unsustainability of plausible ten-year budget projections and increasingly dire long-term fiscal problems.

These two papers provided a platform for *The New York Times*’s online Budget Deficit Puzzle project. Introduced in November, *The New York Times* developed a budget deficit calculator

*“Tax policy continues to command attention on national and state policy agendas, and given long-term deficit projections, it is likely to stay there for the foreseeable future.”*

**Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**

*“The starting point for our calculation is work done by Alan Auerbach and William Gale, two economists who are experts on the federal budget. Mr. Auerbach and Mr. Gale have written two recent papers that review what they call the dismal prospects for the federal budget.”*

**“Behind the *Times*’s Deficit Project,”  
Economix, November**



William Gale, codirector of TPC and coauthor of “Déjà vu All Over Again: On the Dismal Prospects for the Federal Budget” and “The Federal Budget Outlook, Chapter 11.”

encouraging readers to create a deficit reduction plan for the year 2030 based on a menu of major options included in popular deficit proposals. The puzzle drew a vast audience, receiving more than 1 million page views and more than 11,000 posted Twitter messages.

## Tax Reform

TPC played an active role in discussions about broad-based tax reform and its relation to deficit reduction.

TPC provided essential behind-the-scenes analytic support to the president's fiscal commission as it evaluated tax reform options. In addition, four TPC researchers and affiliates testified before the commission. Donald Marron and former TPC director Rosanne Altshuler reviewed options for fundamental tax reform at a closed-door session of the commission's tax reform subcommittee. Affiliated scholar Gene Steuerle discussed the flaws of our current tax system with the full commission, and affiliated scholar Rudy Penner talked about taxes and the long-run budget outlook.

TPC provided extensive technical support to the Bipartisan Policy Center's Debt Reduction Task Force (often called the Domenici-Rivlin task force). TPC examined the revenue and distributional implications of many options to reform the tax system and to raise new revenue. In addition, Donald Marron and former TPC director Len Burman both served on the task force.

TPC analysts estimated the effects of the two major tax reform plans sponsored by current members of Congress. Joseph Rosenberg evaluated the distributional

*Bruce Reed—the executive director of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (the Bowles-Simpson Commission) and former chief domestic policy advisor for Bill Clinton—told a standing-room-only audience at a UI program televised on C-SPAN that “nobody has done more to produce credible tax numbers for all three deficit/debt reduction commissions than Institute Fellow Eric Toder of our Tax Policy Center.”*

**Urban Institute-Tax Policy Center event “Tax Reform and Deficit Reduction: Proposals of Recent Budget Commissions,” December 7**



Eugene Steuerle, Ruth Wooden, and Rudy Penner discuss the nation's fiscal future at the TPC event “Trillions of Reasons to Get Serious about Our Fiscal Future.”

effects of the tax reform plan included in Representative Paul Ryan's (R-WI) Roadmap for America's Future Act of 2010. Jim Nunns and Jeffrey Rohaly analyzed the revenue provisions in the Bipartisan Tax Fairness and Simplification Act of 2010, sponsored by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Judd Gregg (R-NH).

## Tax Expenditures

As growing concern has focused on the long-term budget problem, policy analysts have questioned the more than \$1 trillion in annual revenues lost to tax expenditures—provisions in the tax law that allow a special exclusion, exemption, or deduction or provide a special tax credit, a preferential tax rate, or a deferral of tax liability. Many tax expenditures promote important social goals, but some may no longer serve a useful purpose or could be more effective if restructured.

TPC analyzed the revenue and distributional impacts of tax expenditures in detail for both the president's fiscal commission and the Domenici-Rivlin commission. In addition, TPC codirector Eric Toder, Benjamin Harris, and Katherine Lim cowrote a paper showing how the three largest groups of tax expenditures—those for health care, saving, and owner-occupied

housing—provide relatively larger benefits to high-income families than to low- and middle-income ones. In another paper with Margery Austin Turner and Liza Getzinger of the Urban Institute's Center on Metropolitan Housing and Communities, Toder and Lim showed how changing the mortgage interest deduction to a credit could provide more benefits and a greater incentive for low- and middle-income families to own homes. Finally, in "Government Spending Undercover: Spending Programs Administered by the IRS," Toder and TPC affiliated scholar Lily Batchelder explained some of the problems with using the tax system for backdoor spending.



Eric Toder testifies before the Senate Committee on Finance.

## Value-Added Tax

The past year has seen increased discussion of using a value-added tax (VAT) like those used in all other developed economies to help close America's long-term budget gap. In "Effects of Imposing a

Value-Added Tax to Replace Payroll Taxes or Corporate Taxes,” Eric Toder and Joseph Rosenberg explored the revenue potential of a VAT, its effect on the distribution of revenues and income, and the use of refundable credits to make the tax less regressive. In “A Value-Added Tax for the United States: A Part of the Solution,” William Gale and Benjamin Harris argued that a VAT could be part of a constructive solution to America’s long-run fiscal problems. TPC also posted a new module about VATs on its web site ([www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxtopics/VAT.cfm](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxtopics/VAT.cfm)).

*“If you’re looking for more revenue, I think raising rates under the current income tax probably is not a good idea and could do significant economic harm.” By contrast, a VAT “doesn’t interfere with where goods are produced... and doesn’t interfere with savings, investment, and capital formation.”*

**Eric Toder, “U.S. Weighs Tax That Has VAT of Political Trouble,” *The Wall Street Journal*, July 12**



# Tax & Social Policy

## Taxation and the Family

In 2010, TPC provided estimates to policymakers, published several studies, hosted events, and participated in working groups concerned with family and children issues.

One key concern is the complexity that the tax code imposes on low-income families, particularly those with children. Senior research associate Elaine Maag pursued several studies documenting that complexity and exploring ways to reduce it. In a paper published in the *National Tax Journal*, for example, she summarized the major tax provisions affecting low-income families and children, discussed how they overlapped and created complexity, and examined ways to design a simpler, more effective child credit. In a related paper, she used TPC's tax model to examine how to strengthen work and child credits by simplifying them and

clearly distinguishing a single work credit and a single child credit. She and a coauthor documented that many young childless men work at low incomes but receive very little assistance. Distinguishing child and work credits could benefit them.

In a study for the College Board, Kim Rueben and Elaine Maag analyzed the possible use of information reported on federal income tax returns in place of data collected on traditional financial aid forms to determine eligibility for student loans. They found that using data from tax returns could simplify the financial aid process for many families. Maag also advised the president's tax commission on ways to reform education tax benefits.



Elaine Maag studies social assistance in the tax system, particularly for low- and middle-income families.

## Retirement Savings

The Tax Policy Center furthered its analysis of retirement savings as the nation's demographics continued to shift toward an aging population. In *The Shrinking Tax Preference for Pension Savings: An Analysis of Income Tax Changes, 1985–2007*, Eric Toder and Gary Burt-



less observed that the value of the tax preference for pensions depends on the marginal tax schedule and the tax treatment of income from assets held outside a pension account. They found that changes in U.S. tax law—especially the reduction in tax rates on capital gains and dividends, but also the decline in marginal tax rates—have sizably changed the value of the pension tax preference. On balance, the value of the pension tax preference to worker-savers is modestly lower than it was in the mid-1980s and substantially lower than it was in the late 1980s.

From May through July, TPC staff members participated in a series of Capitol Hill events surrounding Social Security hosted by the Urban Institute’s Program on Retirement Policy. The first event, “Securing Social Security: Does It Need to Be Fixed Now?” featured Eugene Steuerle and Stephanie Rennane’s “Social Security and the Budget.” In the brief, Steuerle and Rennane argued that Social Security’s role as the flagship for social welfare policy positioned it to lead the efforts for budget reform. If done correctly, Social Security reform could generate higher national output, personal income, and revenues for Social Security and other purposes—helping the nation achieve budget sustainability and a stronger Social Security system.

## Health Care Reform

Health care reform was among the most highly debated topics in 2010. In March, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or PPACA. Eugene Steuerle and Stephanie Rennane analyzed the new law in *Health Reform: A Four-Tranche System (Updated and Revised)*. They developed a series of tables and refined their analysis of the interactions among four different provisions of government support in the new law: Medicare, Medicaid, insurance subsidies offered through the exchange, and employer-sponsored insurance. Steuerle subsequently discussed the findings from that analysis in a *TaxVox* post, “Health Reform: How Will Employers and Employees React to Differential Subsidies?” and in a *The Government We Deserve* column, “Fixing the Nation’s Four-Tranche Universal Health System: Next Steps for Both Republicans and Democrats.”



Eugene Steuerle, Richard B. Fisher Chair at the Urban Institute, cofounder of the Tax Policy Center, and creator and writer of *The Government We Deserve* series.

## Tax Simplification

The U.S. tax system is notoriously complex. Taxpayers must grapple with numerous worksheets and forms, and some then get to wrestle with the baffling alternative minimum tax. To manage these burdens, nearly 90 percent of taxpayers now use paid preparers or commercial software, and most who use preparers or software file returns electronically. As a result, new IRS data reveal, compliance costs have fallen for individual taxpayers, despite the increased complexity.

An April TPC event examined the latest IRS findings on taxpayer compliance costs, the potential benefits and costs of return-free tax systems, and ways to help low-income taxpayers cope with complexity. William Gale identified the low-hanging fruit of potential tax reform efforts and argued that well-designed tax reforms could save millions of Americans from the nuisance of filing tax returns each year. Elaine Maag offered her top-five list of potential simplifications, emphasizing the particular challenges that low-income families face in navigating the maze of confusing child and work benefits.



John Guyton, Bill Gale, moderator Howard Gleckman, Robert Weinberger, and Elaine Maag at TPC's event "Tax Complexity: Can Technology Make Us Free?"

# State & Local Finances

TPC continues to focus on the fiscal challenges facing state and local governments. In a two-day conference cosponsored by TPC and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, analysts explored the effects of the housing downturn on state and local governments. Conference papers examined the causes and predictability of the downturn and the financing challenges that state and local governments face. TPC Senior Fellow Kim Rueben organized the conference, cowrote a summary of the conference findings, and is helping combine them in an edited volume of *Regional Science and Urban Economics*. Rueben also analyzed the composition and consistency of local revenue sources in a paper with Tracy



Kim Rueben and Edward Montgomery discuss the expenditure-revenue gap facing states, the dreary employment situation, job creation strategies, and their budgetary implications.



Panelists Richard Ravitch, Margaret Simms, Robert Lerman, and Raymond Scheppach discuss problems facing the states at “Challenges for New Governors: Healing Battered Budgets and Employment Woes.”



Gordon and examined school finance centralization in work with Daphne Kenyon of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

In November, TPC hosted “Challenges for New Governors: Healing Battered Budgets and Employment Woes.” An expert group of panelists, including New York Lieutenant Governor Richard Ravitch and National Governors Association executive director Raymond Sheppach, addressed topics ranging from the trade-offs and conflicts state governors face to the ways states can generate economic growth and jobs.

## TPC Microsimulation Model

TPC’s research capabilities rely heavily on its microsimulation model of the U.S. federal tax system—one of the most comprehensive models of its kind. Like the models used by the Congressional Budget Office, the Joint Committee on Taxation, and the Treasury’s Office of Tax Analysis, TPC’s model generates revenue and distributional estimates for both current and proposed tax law.

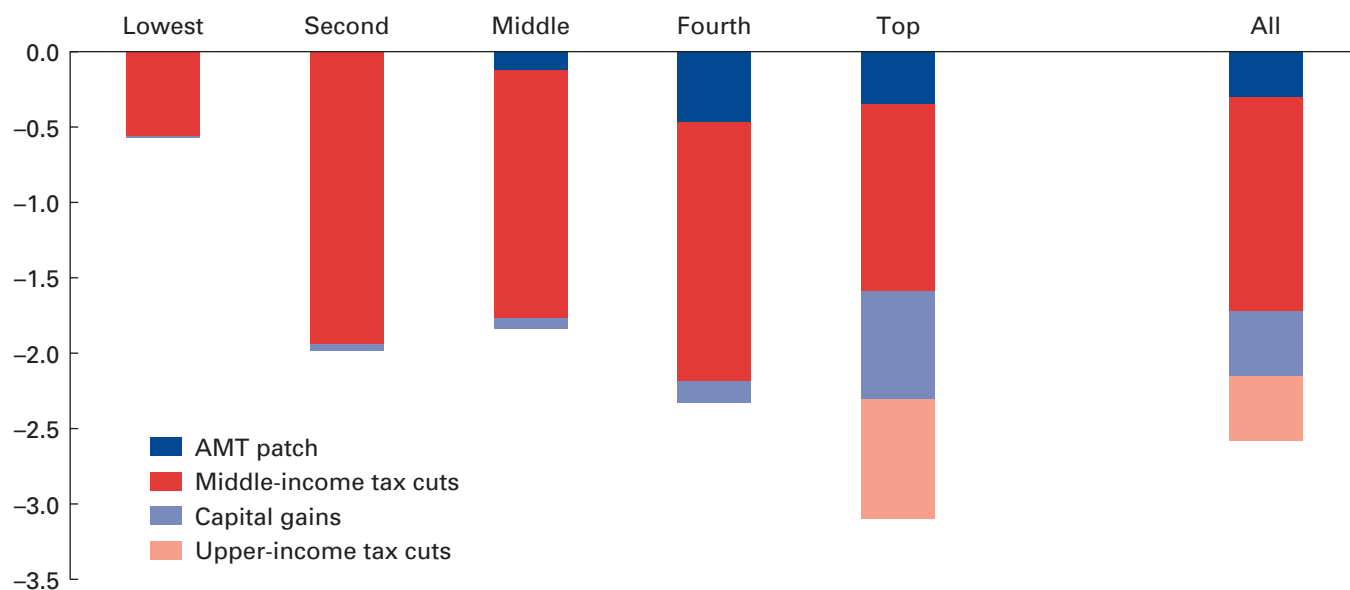
TPC made numerous improvements to its modeling capabilities in 2010. We

- updated the economic forecast in our long-run version of the tax model, enabling us to estimate the revenue and distributional consequences of tax policies through the year 2050;
- created a new way to perform distributional analyses of broad-based consumption taxes such as a value-added tax;
- developed a new methodology for targeting distributional assumptions in tax reform efforts;
- constructed new approaches to analyze how child and work credits might substitute for spending programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income;
- implemented new algorithms to estimate the revenue and distributional consequences of repealing various tax expenditures that are not directly captured in the main tax model; and
- updated the retirement saving module to match observed participation rates and amounts contributed.

TPC used the tax model to produce more than 375 revenue and distribution tables in the past year, analyzing tax proposals in response to requests from media, other think tanks, TPC researchers, and Hill staffers. These efforts included distributional and revenue analyses of the expiring 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, the Medicare taxes included in the health reform legislation, the estate tax, the alternative minimum tax, and alternative designs for the child credit. TPC also examined the distribution and source of the business income reported on individual tax returns. We also published detailed estimates of the tax provisions in President Obama’s 2011 budget.

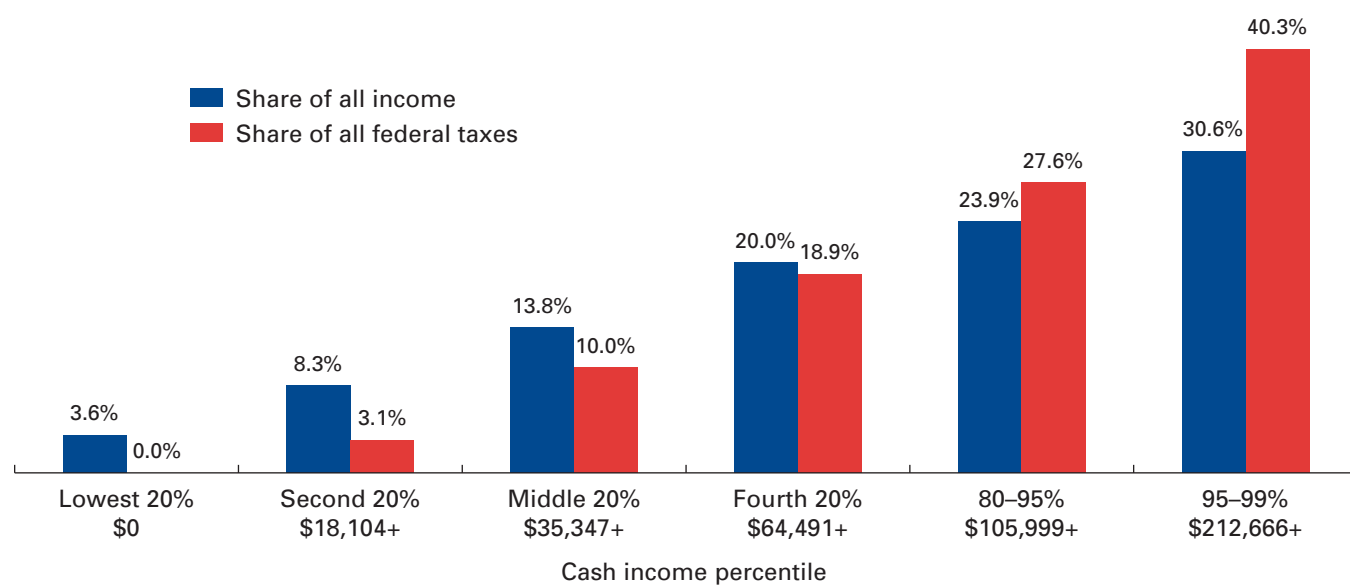
## Change in Average Tax Rates from Extending the Tax Cuts by Income Quintile

(percentage points)



Source: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0509-5).

## Comparing Shares of Income Earned vs. Shares of All Federal Taxes Paid in 2010



Source: Tax Policy Center.



# TPC Outreach

## TaxVox

*TaxVox*, TPC's blog, has continued to expand its reach by partnering with other high-profile web sites. The Christian Science Monitor ([csmonitor.com](http://csmonitor.com)) and [Forbes.com](http://Forbes.com) regu-

*"Howard Gleckman of the Tax Policy Center has written an excellent post on the taxes included in the new health legislation. Gleckman is a straight-shooter .... He is very knowledgeable about the extent of the revenue needs of the federal government, and he has followed tax policy debates for many years. And so I found his take on the various revenue provisions of the new health legislation very useful."*

**"Will We Ever Pay the 'Cadillac' Tax?"**  
**National Review Online, March 24**

larly repost *TaxVox* articles on their web sites, while other high-profile sites, including [CNNMoney.com](http://CNNMoney.com), republish selected *TaxVox* posts. The Christian Science Monitor reports that *TaxVox* was their business page's number-one guest blog in 2010, generating more traffic than any other. Sites such as Real Clear Politics and economic blogs at *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal* frequently link to *TaxVox* articles.

*TaxVox's* monthly readership has grown steadily from 16,500 in October 2007 to an average of more than 300,000 in the past year. *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, [MSNBC.com](http://MSNBC.com), and the *American Prospect* often cite *TaxVox*, and *The Wall Street Journal* has named *TaxVox* one of the nation's best economics blogs.

## TPC Web Site

Overall traffic to the TPC web site climbed steadily in 2010 as TPC's pioneering analyses of the expiring tax cuts, the fiscal outlook, and tax reform attracted visitors. Unique visits to the site climbed to 1.3 million, 30 percent more than in 2009.

In 2010, we upgraded our search engine to make searches more efficient and to display search results in a more



Howard Gleckman, resident fellow and *TaxVox* editor, moderates the TPC event "Tax Reform and Deficit Reduction: Proposals of Recent Budget Commissions."

useful format. The addition of a new contextual search capability allows users to focus their search and narrow down choices to the most relevant resources.

In September, TPC debuted an online tax calculator ([calculator.taxpolicycenter.org](http://calculator.taxpolicycenter.org)) that allows users to compare the effects of different tax policies on the federal income tax owed by specific households. Since September, more than 90,000 visitors have run over 240,000 cases, and the media have used the calculator to create examples for many tax-related stories. The Today Show's web site (LifeInc.com) featured the calculator in December, and *The Wall Street Journal* praised the calculator as having "plentiful information but no editorial slant." Users appreciate both its ready-made cases and the flexibility of creating different examples.


TPC expanded *Tax Topics*, adding pages on the 2011 budget, the scheduled expiration of the 2001–03 tax cuts, tax reform proposals, and the value-added tax, and updated older entries.

Some of the most popular publications viewed on the TPC web site in 2010:

- *Effects of Imposing a Value-Added Tax to Replace Payroll Taxes or Corporate Taxes* by Joseph Rosenberg and Eric Toder
- *How Middle-Age Retirement Adds to Recession Woes* by Eugene Steuerle
- *5 Myths about Your Taxes* by Rosanne Altshuler and Roberton Williams
- *It's Not About Economic Equality* by Roberton Williams

### What Would You Owe?

*This year's extreme tax confusion has yielded one useful outcome: a bumper crop of free online calculators allowing taxpayers to estimate their federal income tax bills under various scenarios, such as the current law, with the Bush tax cuts in place; the law in 2011, if the Bush cuts expire; and President Barack Obama's proposals for 2011.*



The sites tend to hone their message for taxpayers of varying ideological hues. For those tilting right, the Tax Foundation has a site ([www.mytaxburden.org](http://www.mytaxburden.org)) that asks, "How much more will we owe when the [Bush] tax cuts expire?" Left-leaningers may prefer the Citizens for Tax Justice site ([ctj.org/ctjreports/2010/09/ctjs\\_online\\_tax\\_calculator.php](http://ctj.org/ctjreports/2010/09/ctjs_online_tax_calculator.php)), which reminds users, "Unless you are among the richest 2 percent, you will find that President Obama's tax proposal" is better than the Bush tax cuts.

For the rhetoric-averse, the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has just unveiled a calculator ([calculator.taxpolicycenter.org](http://calculator.taxpolicycenter.org)) with plentiful information but no editorial slant.

Despite the monstrous complexity of the U.S. tax code, all three calculators are fairly easy to use. None appears to give highly biased results, though their assumptions—and your results—may vary. All factor in variations in income, deductions and family configuration, so it's best to arm yourself with a recent tax return before using them.

To show the effects of the three scenarios currently in play, here's how a prototypical family—two parents with two teenage children 17 and 15 years old—would fare at five different income levels. The results, which were calculated by the Tax Policy Center, use national averages for variables like state tax deductions, donations and capital gains, meaning that your own outcome might differ considerably—especially if you live in a high-tax area like New York City or a low-tax one such as Wyoming.

INCOME	2010 TAX	2011 TAX (BUSH CUTS EXPIRE)	2011 TAX (OBAMA BUDGET)
\$75,000	\$4,038	\$6,175 (+\$2,137)	\$3,918 (-\$120)
\$150,000	19,744	21,680 (+1,936)	17,788 (-1,956)
\$300,000	63,828	64,510 (+682)	58,969 (-4,859)
\$600,000	146,349	172,129 (+25,780)	168,155 (+21,806)
\$1.2 million	321,558	383,356 (+61,798)	384,350 (+62,792)

Source: Rachel Johnson, Tax Policy Center

"Tax Wars," *The Wall Street Journal*, September 11.

## Public Forums

In 2010, TPC sponsored nine public events that brought together tax policy experts and others to discuss important tax issues. The forums focused on a broad range of topics ranging from tax reform and deficit reduction to tax simplification. The events attracted an average audience of nearly 300 people, either in person or via live audio webcast.



Alice Rivlin and TPC Director Donald Marron discuss deficit reduction plans issued by Bowles-Simpson, Bipartisan Policy Center, and the National Academy of Sciences–National Academy of Public Administration.

## Media Coverage

TPC continues to be the media’s go-to source for objective, nonpartisan analysis of tax and budget issues. Our clear explanations of technical tax issues speak to a broad audience, open up the discussion, and inform and educate voters. During 2010, more than 900 articles, editorials, and letters to the editor cited TPC’s facts, findings, and expert perspectives. News articles, radio recordings, and television clips citing TPC are available on our web site ([www.taxpolicycenter.org/press/multimedia.cfm](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/press/multimedia.cfm)).

## Social Networking

One of TPC’s goals is to engage the public in debates about fiscal issues. To reach a broader audience, we are using social networking web sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Our social media engagement through those web sites increased more than 50 percent in 2010. Our TPC Facebook fan page includes short, informal discussion videos about why people should care about tax policy, catastrophic budget failure, and value-added taxes. Facebook offers a less formal way to initiate discussion of *TaxVox* articles with a more general audience. In 2010, TPC’s Twitter feeds surpassed 1,000 followers.

## Partners

Coordination with other research groups has enabled TPC to reach a much wider audience. The Center’s research has become an essential input into the work of many research and advocacy organizations from across the political spectrum. A representative sample of products published in 2010 by research and advocacy groups using TPC data and analysis appears in the “Leveraging TPC Analysis” section on page 35.

**T**PC once again has an ambitious work plan in 2011. As always, our exact projects will depend on policy developments—one of our strengths is the ability to shift our work plan quickly to focus on the most current and relevant issues—and funding availability.

Current plans include the following:

- **Fiscal Outlook.** TPC will continue to highlight the nation's long-run fiscal challenges and options to address them.
- **Tax Reform.** TPC will continue to play a leading role in analyzing proposals to reform the tax system. TPC will publish distributional and revenue analyses of prominent tax reform proposals, issue papers on the value-added tax, and cosponsor a conference at Loyola Law School on reforming “tax expenditures”—tax subsidies that are often costly, inefficient, and regressive.
- **Families and Children.** TPC will publish an online resource and report documenting all the ways the United States provides assistance to children via the federal income tax system and examine how potential tax reforms and policy may affect the safety net for low-income families and children.
- **Current Analysis.** TPC will continue to provide detailed commentary and analysis of current tax and budget proposals. These will include web modules, revenue tables, distribution tables, policy briefs, and commentaries offering timely information on evolving tax proposals.
- **State and Local Finances.** TPC will launch a new state and local initiative. Led by Kim Rueben, the initiative will examine the fiscal challenges facing state and local governments and how they might confront them. TPC will also assess how federal tax reform proposals might affect state and local governments.
- **TPC's Microsimulation Modeling.** TPC will completely update our tax model, the cornerstone of our work, to incorporate new techniques for dealing with such key issues as retirement savings, education, and health care and to reflect the latest data from the IRS, the Census Bureau, the Congressional Budget Office, and other sources.
- **TPC's Web Site.** We will revamp our web site to make it easier for users to find relevant material. This effort will include redesigning the look and feel, improving the search engine, and totally reorganizing the content. We will also update the Tax Calculator and add educational videos and narrated slideshows.
- **TaxVox Blog and Social Networking.** TPC will continue to provide timely commentary on tax and budget issues through our blog, our syndication partners (such as *The Christian Science Monitor* and *Forbes*), Facebook, and Twitter.



# Support TPC

Contributions to TPC help keep our mission intact and ensure excellence and innovation in all our work. We are funded largely through grants and contributions and could not exist without your help. TPC recognizes with immense gratitude all those who supported us this year.

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**A** key to our success is our staff, which includes some of the most respected tax and budget policy experts in the nation. We also draw on exceptional colleagues at the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution to contribute extraordinary expertise on particular program areas related to tax policy.

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**T**PC's credibility is paramount. The Center strives to be independent and objective because it exists largely to clarify tax policy debates that frequently get bogged down in inaccurate partisan claims. To help establish and maintain credibility, our advisory board represents a broad range of tax policy interests and expertise. The board meets (by conference call) twice a year, and our scholars informally solicit input from board members more frequently. Current advisory board members and their affiliations include the following:

- **Jodie Allen**, Pew Research Center
- **Leonard E. Burman**, Maxwell School of Syracuse University
- **Robert Greenstein**, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
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- **Therese McGuire**, Northwestern University
- **Jean Ross**, California Budget Project

# Communication Products

## Congressional Testimony

Committee	Date	Testimony and author
National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform	July 22	<i>Tax Reform Options</i> Donald Marron and Rosanne Altshuler
	June 23	<i>Reforming Taxes as Part of Budget Reform</i> Eugene Steuerle
	April 27	<i>Choosing the Nation's Fiscal Future</i> Rudolph G. Penner
Senate Budget Committee	February 15	<i>Choosing the Nation's Fiscal Future</i> Rudolph G. Penner
Senate Committee on Finance	July 14	<i>The Future of Individual Tax Rates: Effects on Growth and Distribution</i> Donald Marron and Leonard Burman
	February 24	<i>Tax Issues Related to Small Business Job Creation</i> Eric Toder
Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, House Ways and Means Committee	March 23	<i>Taxes and the Budget</i> Leonard Burman

## Research Publications

Outlet	Date	Title and author
Research Reports	November 22	<i>Simplicity: Considerations in Designing a Unified Child Credit</i> Elaine Maag
	November 4	<i>A New Tax Bracket for Millionaires</i> James Nunns and Rachel Johnson
	September 16	<i>The Federal Budget Outlook, Chapter 11</i> Alan Auerbach and William Gale
	August 12	<i>The Debate over Expiring Tax Cuts: What about the Deficit?</i> Adam Looney
	July 22	<i>A Value-Added Tax for the United States: Part of the Solution</i> William Gale and Benjamin Harris
	July 19	<i>Extending Tax Credits for Low-Income Families</i> Elaine Maag

Outlet	Date	Title and author
Research Reports (continued)	July 14	<i>Kids' Share 2010: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children through 2009</i> Julia Isaacs, Eugene Steuerle, Stephanie Rennane, and Jennifer Ehrle Macomber
	July 14	<i>The Impact of the Bipartisan Tax Fairness and Simplification Act of 2010 ("Wyden-Gregg") on Effective Marginal Tax Rates</i> Katherine Lim and Jeffrey Rohaly
	May 26	<i>Reforming the Mortgage Interest Deduction</i> Eric Toder, Margery Austin Turner, Katherine Lim, and Liza Getsinger
	May 24	<i>Preliminary Revenue Estimates and Distributional Analysis of the Tax Provisions in the Bipartisan Tax Fairness and Simplification Act of 2010</i> Jim Nunns and Jeffrey Rohaly
	May 19	<i>The Shrinking Tax Preference for Pension Savings: An Analysis of Income Tax Changes, 1985–2007</i> Gary Burtless and Eric Toder
	May 19	<i>Capital Income Taxation and Progressivity in a Global Economy</i> Rosanne Altshuler, Benjamin Harris, and Eric Toder
	April 29	<i>Déjà vu All Over Again: On the Dismal Prospects for the Federal Budget</i> Alan Auerbach and William Gale
	April 22	<i>Government Spending Undercover: Spending Programs Administered by the IRS</i> Lily Batchelder and Eric Toder
	April 13	<i>The Effect of Proposed Tax Reforms on Metropolitan Housing Prices</i> Benjamin H. Harris
	April 7	<i>Effects of Imposing a Value-Added Tax to Replace Payroll Taxes or Corporate Taxes</i> Joseph Rosenberg and Eric Toder
	March 9	<i>Preliminary Revenue Estimate and Distributional Analysis of the Tax Provisions in A Roadmap for America's Future Act 2010</i> Joseph Rosenberg
	February 19	<i>Tax Proposals in the 2011 Budget</i> Rosanne Altshuler, Daniel Halperin, Benjamin H. Harris, Joseph Rosenberg, Eric Toder, and Roberton Williams
	December 30	<i>Who Benefits from the Dependent Exemption?</i> Elaine Maag
Tax Analysts, Tax Facts	December 10	<i>State Revenue Responses to Fiscal Shortfalls</i> Kim Rueben
	November 5	<i>Tax Savings from an Additional Child</i> Eric Toder

(continues)



## Research Publications (continued)

Outlet	Date	Title and author
<i>Tax Analysts, Tax Facts</i> (continued)	June 16	<i>Top Federal Individual Income Tax Rates</i> Jim Nunns
	June 9	<i>Why Nearly Half of Americans Pay No Federal Income Tax</i> Roberton Williams
	May 11	<i>State Individual Income Tax Rates</i> Carol Rosenberg and Kim Rueben
	May 6	<i>Capital Income by Tax Treatment</i> Benjamin Harris
	March 4	<i>Held Harmless by Higher Income Tax Rates?</i> Rachel M. Johnson and Eric Toder
	February 22	<i>Variation in Effective Tax Rates</i> Katherine Lim and Jeff Rohaly
<i>The Government We Deserve</i>	November 4	<i>Our Newly Elected Tax Collectors</i> Eugene Steuerle
	September 20	<i>Can Budget Offices Help Us Address Demographic Pressure?</i> Eugene Steuerle
	July 15	<i>The Fight Over Fiscal Rectitude: Politics or Economics?</i> Eugene Steuerle
	June 30	<i>How Social Security Can Costlessly Offset Declines in Private Pension Protection</i> Eugene Steuerle
	June 2	<i>How Middle-Age Retirement Adds to Recession Woes</i> Eugene Steuerle
	May 12	<i>Why Economic Growth Isn't Enough</i> Eugene Steuerle
	May 6	<i>How the President's Budget Commission Can Increase Its Probability for Success</i> Eugene Steuerle
	April 6	<i>Individual Health Mandates and a Silly Court Battle</i> Eugene Steuerle
	January 11	<i>Lessons Unlearned? Who Pays for the Next Financial Collapse?</i> Eugene Steuerle
	January 4	<i>Bernanke's Double Bubble Bind</i> Eugene Steuerle

## Opinion Editorials

Outlet	Date	Title and author
<i>CNNMoney.com</i>	April 14	<i>Health Mandate: It's Just a Tax Break in Disguise</i> Leonard Burman
<i>Forbes</i>	April 15	<i>The Myth of Income Tax Freeloading</i> Leonard Burman

Outlet	Date	Title and author
<i>Milken Institute Review</i>	April 26	<i>Countdown to Catastrophe</i> Leonard Burman
<i>New York Times</i>	December 16	<i>It's Not about Economic Equality</i> Roberton Williams
	November 23	<i>Clean Up the Tax Code</i> Donald Marron
	October 18	<i>The Biggest Tax Policy Mistake of the Year</i> Donald Marron
	September 30	<i>The Bush Tax Cuts: The Least Effective Stimulus</i> William Gale
<i>NonProfit Times</i>	March 1	<i>A New April 15: Make It a Day of Giving (Efficiently)</i> Eugene Steuerle
<i>USA Today</i>	January 27	<i>The U.S. Is Broke. Here's Why.</i> Eugene Steuerle
<i>Washington Post</i>	November 28	<i>Five Myths about Cutting the Deficit</i> William Gale
	August 3	<i>Five Myths about the Bush Tax Cut</i> William Gale
	April 4	<i>5 Myths about Your Taxes</i> Rosanne Altshuler and Roberton Williams
	February 2	<i>Let's Freeze More than Chump Change</i> Leonard Burman
<i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>	August 27	<i>Lowering the Heat around Raising Retirement Age</i> Eugene Steuerle

## TPC Conferences

Date	Cohost	Title
December 7	The Urban Institute	Tax Reform and Deficit Reduction: Proposals of Recent Budget Commissions
November 2	The Urban Institute	Challenges for New Governors: Healing Battered Budgets and Employment Woes
September 17	The Urban Institute	The Great 2010 Tax Debate: A Briefing for Reporters
May 20–21	The Urban Institute	Effects of the Housing Crisis on State and Local Governments
April 8	The Urban Institute	Tax Complexity: Can Technology Make Us Free?
March 2	The Urban Institute	Desperately Seeking Revenue
February 25	The Urban Institute	Trillions of Reasons to Get Serious about Our Fiscal Future
January 29	The Urban Institute	Does the Economy Need—and Can We Afford—Another Jolt of Stimulus?
January 15	USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics	Train Wreck: A Conference on America's Looming Fiscal Crisis

## Articles from TaxVox, TPC's Tax and Budget Policy Blog

Month	Title
December	<i>To Our Readers: TaxVox Has Moved to a New Platform</i>
	<i>Tax Reform Won't Happen in 2011 (or 2012)</i>
	<i>The Tax Vox 2010 Lump of Coal Award, Job-Killing Edition</i>
	<i>Obama-GOP Compromise Tax Plan on TPC's Tax Calculator</i>
	<i>How the Tax Deal Helps Manhattan Real Estate Developers in the Name of 9/11</i>
	<i>Johnny Depp and the New Tax Law</i>
	<i>The Obama-GOP Tax Deal May Be Bipartisan, but It Isn't Stimulus and It Isn't Smart</i>
	<i>Resurrecting the Estate Tax as a Shadow of Its Former Self</i>
	<i>Obama Should Send His Fiscal Commission's Budget Plan to Congress</i>
	<i>The Obama-GOP Deal: A Tax Hike for the Working Poor</i>
	<i>Obama-GOP Tax Deal: Winners and Losers</i>
	<i>Obama and the Republicans Reach an Odious Tax Deal</i>
	<i>The Lame-Duck Congress: So Many Tax Issues, So Little Time</i>
	<i>Scoring Tax Reform: Budget Baselines Don't Really Matter</i>
	<i>The Obama Deficit Panel's Tax Reform Version 2.0</i>
November	<i>Deficit Reduction, Tax Reform, and Budget Baselines</i>
	<i>Deficit Plans Cut Marginal Tax Rates, but Raise Average Rates, for High Earners</i>
	<i>Bipartisan Policy Center Debt Plan Shifts Benefits to Childless Workers</i>
	<i>Americans Against Tax Reform</i>
	<i>Bowles-Simpson Deficit Plan Taxes Health Insurance, but Would We Owe Payroll Tax Too?</i>
	<i>Deficit Reduction, the Tax Code, and the Social Safety Net</i>
	<i>New and Improved: Tax Calculator 2.0</i>
	<i>The Bipartisan Policy Center's Bold, Controversial Stab at the Deficit and Tax Reform</i>
	<i>Bowles-Simpson Deficit Plan Would Hike Taxes Across the Board</i>
	<i>The Bowles-Simpson Plan: Tax Hike or a Tax Cut?</i>
	<i>Deficit Panel Co-Chair Plan Is Tough, Creative, and Credible, but What Next?</i>
	<i>Does the GOP Really Want to Slash Spending in a Weak Economy?</i>
	<i>The Lame-Duck Congress and the Fate of the Bush Tax Cuts</i>
	<i>Just Say No</i>
	<i>Election 2010: What the Democratic Debacle Means for Fiscal Policy</i>
October	<i>The Tax Increase No One's Talking About</i>
	<i>Death Tax Revival Murders Yeoman Ranchers</i>
	<i>Would Trimming the U.S. Corporate Tax Rate Matter?</i>
	<i>Secret Campaign Giving and Abusing the Tax Law</i>
	<i>Why Nobody Noticed Obama's Tax Cuts</i>
	<i>Pledging Our Way to Fiscal Disaster</i>
	<i>The Biggest Tax Policy Mistake of the Year</i>

Month	Title
October (continued)	<p><i>Taxes and Income Inequality</i></p> <p><i>The Year of Magical Thinking</i></p> <p><i>Rising Federal Revenues—but Only from Firms and the Fed</i></p> <p><i>How to Cut the Budget Deficit</i></p> <p><i>State Estate Taxes: Windfall Gold in Expiring Tax Cuts</i></p> <p><i>Estate Taxes, Capital Gains, and Paperwork</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal State of the Union</i></p>
September	<p><i>No Estate Tax, but 2010 Still May Not Be So Great for Heirs</i></p> <p><i>Will Congress Miss Another Tax Deadline? AMT Patch Déjà Vu</i></p> <p><i>How Not to Create New Jobs</i></p> <p><i>The GOP Pledge: Smaller Government, Bigger Deficits</i></p> <p><i>The Obama Tax Plan: Who's in the Crosshairs?</i></p> <p><i>Mitch McConnell, the Bush Tax Cuts, and the Future of Government</i></p> <p><i>In the Tea Party Free Zone: A Serious Debate on the Budget Deficit</i></p> <p><i>TPC's New Tax Calculator</i></p> <p><i>Tax Cut Smackdown: Obama v. Boehner (and Orszag)</i></p> <p><i>Obama's Business Tax Cuts</i></p> <p><i>Talk of the Homebuyer Credit: It's Baaaaack</i></p>
August	<p><i>Keep the Bush Tax Cuts for a Couple of Years, but Reshuffle the Dollars</i></p> <p><i>Uncompassionate Economics: Blaming Unemployment Compensation for Our Job Woes</i></p> <p><i>Obama's Tax Reform Panel: A Missed Opportunity</i></p> <p><i>Comments on Social Security Reform</i></p> <p><i>Stand and Deliver: Do Lawmakers Want to Cut the Deficit or Not?</i></p> <p><i>Save the Making Work Pay Tax Credit but Narrow It</i></p> <p><i>Will Social Security Reform Cut Benefits?</i></p> <p><i>Misrepresenting the Bush Tax Cuts, or the Return of Death Panels</i></p> <p><i>Between a Fiscal Rock and a Hard Place</i></p> <p><i>Another View of the Bush Tax Cuts</i></p> <p><i>More on Individual Tax Rates and Small Businesses</i></p> <p><i>There Is Nothing New about Families Paying No Income Tax</i></p> <p><i>Déjà vu All Over Again</i></p> <p><i>In Defense of Congressman Paul Ryan</i></p> <p><i>The Bush Tax Cuts and Small Business: What We Know</i></p> <p><i>Extend the Bush Tax Cuts? It's the Wrong Question</i></p>
July	<p><i>Congress, the Bush Tax Cuts, and the Perils of Pauline</i></p> <p><i>Why The Heritage Foundation Is Wrong about the CLASS Act</i></p> <p><i>Starving the Beast or Free Lunch?</i></p>

(continues)

## Articles from TaxVox, TPC's Tax and Budget Policy Blog (continued)

Month	Title
July (continued)	<i>Marty Feldstein Is (Mostly) Right about Tax Expenditures</i> <i>Philanthropy and the Estate Tax</i> <i>Extending the Bush Tax Cuts</i> <i>Raising the Social Security Retirement Age</i> <i>In Life, Baseball, and the Estate Tax, Timing Is Everything</i> <i>We Can't Always Get What We Want: Why Governing Americans Is So Hard</i> <i>Doing the Roth Roll: The Quiet Explosion in IRA Conversions</i> <i>Why Taxes Are Going Up</i> <i>The Senate Struggles with Unemployment Benefits</i> <i>Happy New Year to the States?</i> <i>How Bad Is the Budget Outlook?</i>
June	<i>Flaky Debt Reduction</i> <i>Why Auto-enroll 401(k)s May Reduce Retirement Savings</i> <i>The Homebuyers Credit: Is It Better to Laugh or Cry?</i> <i>Gaming the Budget Window</i> <i>Steny Hoyer and the Deficit: "We're Lying to Ourselves and Our Children"</i> <i>The Non-Jobs Bill</i> <i>The Budget Uncertainties of Health Reform</i> <i>Salience and Subways</i> <i>Taxing Carried Interest and the Sale of Private Equity Firms</i> <i>A Small Step toward Tax Equality for Same-Sex Couples</i> <i>The Tea Party: Tax Cuts and Smaller Government, but More Red Ink</i> <i>More on Taxing Banks</i> <i>How Blurry Is the Line between Monetary and Fiscal Policy?</i> <i>Does a Bank Tax Make Sense?</i>
May	<i>Should We Dump the Home Mortgage Interest Deduction?</i> <i>The Property Tax: Unsung Hero</i> <i>How a Jobs-Creating, Loophole-Closing Tax Bill Does Little of Either</i> <i>The Wyden-Gregg Tax Reform: More Progressive and Roughly Revenue Neutral</i> <i>An Estate Tax Deal: Pay Now, Die Later</i> <i>The U.S. Is Not (Yet) Greece</i> <i>James Galbraith on Deficits: Dick Cheney of the Far Left</i> <i>Take the State Corporate Income Tax... Please!</i> <i>Another Run at Taxing Carried Interest</i> <i>The Senate Climate Bill Misses an Opportunity</i> <i>Feldstein Says Don't Make the Bush Tax Cuts Permanent</i> <i>Taxing Bank Risk</i>



Month	Title
May (continued)	<i>The Political Economy of Consumption: 'Tis Better to Give, and Give, and Give</i> <i>Why We're Going to Keep Patching the AMT—and Why It Will Cost So Much</i>
April	<i>More Dismal Prospects for the Federal Budget: It's All Greek to Me</i> <i>The Homebuyer Tax Credit Land Rush</i> <i>The Obama Deficit Commission: Five Issues to Watch</i> <i>Shutting Down Virginia's iFile</i> <i>Old Tricks: The Senate Budget Committee's Fiscal Plan</i> <i>More on Conservatives and the VAT</i> <i>Taxes and Housing Prices</i> <i>Conservatives and the VAT</i> <i>Should We Help Low-Income Families with Tax Credits or Direct Subsidies?</i> <i>Why We Run Subsidies through the Tax System</i> <i>Was Don Alexander Right: Should We Stop Using the IRS to Run Social Programs?</i> <i>About Those 47 Percent Who Pay "No Taxes"</i> <i>The VAT Buzz Grows, but What Would It Mean?</i> <i>How to Fix the Advanced Earned Income Tax Credit: A Lesson from Health Reform</i> <i>Should the IRS Fill Out Our Tax Returns?</i> <i>What Will the Capital Gains Rate Be in 2013?</i> <i>Health Reform: How Will Employers and Employees React to Differential Subsidies?</i> <i>How Not to Spend a Sunny Weekend</i> <i>The Other Price of Tax Complexity</i>
March	<i>The Other Individual Mandate: Tax Prep</i> <i>The Individual Health Insurance Mandate and Taxes</i> <i>Health and Taxes</i> <i>Where Are the Profits, and Why?</i> <i>Charitable Giving When Filing Your Tax Return</i> <i>Government Spends Too Much on Senior Health, but So Do Seniors</i> <i>Obama's Medicare UnPayroll Tax</i> <i>Ryan Responds to TPC's Analysis of His Roadmap</i> <i>Rep. Ryan's Tax Roadmap Falls Short of His Revenue Goals</i> <i>Stimulus Expectations Meet Reality</i> <i>Tax Credits Make Small Businesses Health Reform Winners, Not Losers</i> <i>Charles Rangel</i> <i>Desperately Seeking Revenue: The Panel</i>
February	<i>Why Is the U.S. Olympic Committee Tax-Exempt?</i> <i>Why So Few People Pay Income Tax</i> <i>Kucinich Jobs Bill: Lower the Retirement Age</i>

(continues)

## Articles from TaxVox, TPC's Tax and Budget Policy Blog (continued)

Month	Title
February (continued)	<i>Senators Wyden and Gregg Climb Aboard the Tax Reform Bandwagon</i> <i>Winners and Losers in the Obama Budget</i> <i>Obama Would Hit Investments with Medicare Tax, Water Down Insurance Levy</i> <i>Is the Corporate Tax Progressive?</i> <i>Is China Turning Bearish on the U.S. Treasury?</i> <i>Dueling Jobs Credits: And the Winner Is—Obama</i> <i>Rep. Ryan Responds to Concerns about His Roadmap</i> <i>Cigarette Taxes: Where There's Smoke, There's Money</i> <i>Hints of a Bipartisan Jobs Bill, but Will It Create Jobs?</i> <i>The Ryan Roadmap: Assume a Can Opener II</i> <i>What the Long-Term Revenue Changes in Obama's Budget Would Achieve</i> <i>Assume a Can Opener</i> <i>The Obama Tax Reform Panel May Still Issue Its Own Report</i> <i>Obama's Tax Reform Commission: RIP</i> <i>Obama Expands the Baseline—Again</i> <i>The Stealth Tax Credit</i> <i>Obama's Mind-Numbing Budget</i>
January	<i>Obama's Newest Tax Credit: First Houses and Cars, Now Jobs</i> <i>Obama after a Year: Reality Bites</i> <i>The Jobs Tax Credit May Be Back</i> <i>Warm Thoughts about Obama's Freeze</i> <i>Obama, Deficits, Freezes, and Commissions</i> <i>More Childless Workers Should Get the Earned Income Credit</i> <i>Not by Income Tax Alone</i> <i>Health Reform: Killing a Plan Bush Might Have Loved</i> <i>An Overleveraged Economy: Tax, not just Bank, Reform</i> <i>Don't Give Special Tax Breaks for Haiti Relief</i> <i>Should Congress Abolish the Joint Committee on Taxation?</i> <i>Why the Left Should Support Entitlement Reform</i> <i>Why the Refundability Threshold for the Child Tax Credit Matters</i> <i>The 71.2 Percent Solution</i> <i>How Much Damage Did the Market Crash Do to Retirement Security?</i> <i>An All-Star Conference on the Fiscal Crisis</i> <i>Bad Tax Prep Is a Symptom, Not the Disease</i> <i>Rev. Rick Warren's Extreme Philanthropy</i>

# Leveraging TPC Analysis

(Use of TPC Data and Analysis by Research & Advocacy Groups in 2010)

Organization	Publication
AARP	White House, Congress Poised for Battle Over Tax Breaks in Lame-Duck Session
	Cutting the Deficit Means the Rich Lose Tax Cuts
	Extend the Federal Tax Cuts or Let Them Expire: The Impact on Your Taxes
	George Steinbrenner and Estate Tax Insanity
	America Needs a VAT
	Trash Fee Plan Met with Skepticism
	Not Much Impact from Repeat Buyer Credit
	Top-Earning U.S. Households Averaged \$345 Million in '07
	Why Congress Should Extend the Estate Tax
American Enterprise Institute	Health Care Plan Hits Rich with Big Tax Increases
	The High-Income Rate Reductions: The Neglected Stepchild of the Bush Tax Cuts
	The Medium-Term Budget Outlook
	The Case against the Millionaire Surtax
	The Impact of the Recovery Act on Economic Growth
California Budget Project	The Deficit Endgame
	What Has the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Meant for California?
Campaign for America's Future	Understanding the Tax Swap
	Progressive Breakfast: The Divide
	Progressive Breakfast: The Income Abyss
	McConnell Repeats Debunked Lies to Promote More Tax Cuts for Multi-Millionaires
	Conservanomics: A Church without Bishops (but It's Got Sarah Palin and Invisible Tax Fairies!)
	Change to Believe In or Focus for Hate-Mongering?
	The "Party of No" May Now Rate a New Label
	Superwealthy Deathly Afraid Estate Tax Would Reduce Deficit
	Not Soak the Rich, Just a Little Sprinkle
	The House Health Care Bill Is Right on the Money

(continues)

Organization	Publication
Care 2	<p>Why America Turned on Obama</p> <p>Renew the Tax Cuts—Petition to Sign &amp; Share Aggressively!</p> <p>1 Million Reasons the Millionaire Bailout Is a Bad Idea</p> <p>Experts: Ryan Roadmap Balloons Deficits While Taxing Middle Class, Slashing Entitlements</p> <p>Business Lobbyists Push to Revive Estate Tax They Tried to Kill—BusinessWeek</p> <p>Child's Tax Credit Stimulus</p>
Cato Institute	<p>Paul Ryan's Roadmap, and the Difference between Costs and Spending</p> <p>A War We Can't Afford</p> <p>Yes, Mr. President, A Free Market Can Fix Health Care</p> <p>All the President's Mandates: Compulsory Health Insurance Is a Government Takeover</p> <p>Playing Good Cop, Bad Cop</p> <p>Will Obama Raise Middle-Class Taxes to Fund Health Care?</p> <p>The Effects of American Recession-Fighting Policies on Economic Freedom</p>
Center for American Progress	<p>Another Tax Break for the Rich. Have They No Shame?</p> <p>Penny Wise, Pound Foolish</p> <p>Three Good Reasons to Let the High-End Bush Tax Cuts Disappear This Year</p> <p>A Path to Balance</p> <p>Think Again: "History" Isn't a Dirty Word</p> <p>Bush Budget Bomb about to Blow</p> <p>Progressives and the National Debt</p> <p>More Can Be Done to Expand the Child Tax Credit</p>
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	<p>Ryan Plan Makes Deep Cuts in Social Security</p> <p>Unlimited Estate Tax Exemption for Farm Estates Is Unnecessary and Likely Harmful</p> <p>Income Gaps between Very Rich and Everyone Else More Than Tripled in Last Three Decades, New Data Show</p> <p>Stalled Proposal to Cut Estate Tax Further Is Deeply Flawed and Should Not Be Revived</p> <p>Changes in Medicare Tax on High-Income People Represent Sound Additions to Health Reform</p> <p>Federal Income Taxes on Middle-Income Families at Historically Low Levels</p> <p>Testimony: Robert Greenstein Executive Director, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, on the Need to Implement a Balanced Approach to Addressing the Long-Term Budget Deficits</p> <p>Ryan's Response to Center's Analysis of "Roadmap" Is Off Base</p> <p>The Ryan Budget's Radical Priorities</p> <p>Changes in Medicare Tax on High-Income People Represent Sound Additions to Health Reform</p>



Organization	Publication
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities <i>(continued)</i>	<p>Don't Let the Ideal Prevent the Necessary</p> <p>Failure to Extend Improvements in Child Tax Credit Would Harm Millions of Low-Income Working Families</p> <p>Contrary to Claims, Allowing Estate Tax to Expire Would Make Family Farms and Small Businesses Worse Off Overall</p> <p>Congress Should Not Weaken the Estate Tax beyond 2009 Parameters</p> <p>House Health Bill's High-Income Surcharge Is Sound and Well Targeted</p> <p>Berkley Estate Tax Bill Would Add Billions to the Deficit While Benefiting Only Wealthiest 1 in 500 Estates</p>
Citizens for Tax Justice	<p>CTJ Responds to Attack from Anti-Estate Tax Foundation</p> <p>Extending Bush Tax Cuts for High-Income "Small Business" Owners Would Further Enrich the Wealthiest Taxpayers While Doing Nothing to Create Jobs</p> <p>Millionaires' Surcharge in the House-Passed Health Care Reform Bill</p> <p>Federal Home-Buyer Tax Credit Prompts Cheating</p>
Economic Policy Institute	<p>The Wobbly Stool: Retirement (In)security in America</p> <p>How to Lose Over a Million Jobs: Sacrifice Investments to Cut Taxes for the Rich</p> <p>Cheaper Than You Think—Why Smart Efforts to Spur Jobs Cost Less Than Advertised</p> <p>The House Health Care Bill Is Right on the Money</p> <p>Highest Earners Get Biggest Tax Breaks for Saving for Retirement</p>
Factcheck.org	<p>Sunday Replay</p> <p>Toss-ups: Wayward Ads in Washington State</p> <p>AFSCME's Big, Brazen Attack</p> <p>2011 Tax Increases</p> <p>A Final Weekend of Whoppers?</p> <p>Obama's State of the Union Address</p>
The Heritage Foundation	<p>Obama Tax Hikes: The Economic and Fiscal Effects</p> <p>More Americans Receiving Government Benefits While Fewer Pay In</p> <p>Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey Have the Highest Percentage of Taxpayers Paying the Alternative Minimum Tax</p> <p>TPC's Hits and Misses on Ryan's Roadmap</p> <p>Representative Paul Ryan Gets It Right on Entitlement Reform</p> <p>Tax the Wealthy Even More? That's Rich</p>
National Center for Policy Analysis	<p>Millions Face Tax Increases under Dems' Budget Plan</p> <p>Obstacle to Deficit Cutting: A Nation on Entitlements</p> <p>Estate Tax Could Come Back with Sharp Bite</p> <p>"Spreading the Wealth" Isn't Fair</p> <p>Nearly Half of US Households Escape Federal Income Tax</p> <p>Obamacare's Worst Tax Hike</p>

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Organization	Publication
National Women's Law Center	<p>Financing Health Care Reform and Improving Tax Fairness: Make Wealthy Investors Pay Their Fair Share of Medicare Taxes</p> <p>The Expanded Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit in the Family Tax Relief Act of 2009 Would Help Make Child Care More Affordable for Millions of Families</p>
New America Foundation	<p>The Politics of Social Security: Why Wage Growth Is the Best Way to Ensure the Program's Solvency</p> <p>Effects of Imposing a Value-Added Tax to Replace Payroll Taxes or Corporate Taxes</p> <p>Holes in the Safety Net</p> <p>A Penny Saved Is Mobility Earned</p>
OMB Watch	<p>The \$80 Billion Middle-Class Tax Hike</p> <p>Modernization at IRS Could Help Reduce Tax Gap and Shrink Deficit</p> <p>It's the Lack of Jobs That Causes Unemployment</p> <p>TPC Releases New Long-Term Federal Budget Projections</p> <p>Americans for a Fair Estate Tax Statement of Principles on Estate Tax Legislation</p> <p>Forgotten Tax Policy: The AMT</p>
The Tax Foundation	<p>How Would Expiration of Bush-Era Tax Cuts Affect State and Local Budgets?</p> <p>Summary of Latest Federal Individual Income Tax Data</p> <p>Over One-Third of Tax Revenue Would Come from Business Income if High-Income Personal Tax Cuts Expire</p> <p>Bush Tax Cuts Calculator Documentation</p> <p>Wall Street Journal Editorial Highlights Tax Foundation Distributional Analysis of Health Care Reform</p> <p>Rich Pay 40% of Nation's Tax Burden, Hillary Clinton Says It's Not Enough</p> <p>Star-Ledger Letter to the Editor</p> <p>Should Congress Tweak Tax Law to Encourage Haiti Relief?</p> <p>Regulating Tax Preparation</p> <p>Friday Links: Tax Proposals in Idaho, Maryland, Utah; Feds Top Debt Limit and Debate Retroactive Estate Tax</p>



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