Dynamic Scoring of Tax Proposals

Speaker Biographies

Howard Gleckman is a senior fellow in the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where he edits the fiscal policy blog TaxVox and the daily news summary The Daily Deduction. He is also affiliated with Urban’s Program on Retirement Policy, where he works on long-term care issues. Before joining Urban, Gleckman was senior correspondent in the Washington bureau of Business Week, where he was a 2003 National Magazine Award finalist. He was a 2006–07 media fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation and a visiting fellow at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College from 2006 to 2008. Gleckman writes two regular columns for Forbes.com, on tax policy and elder care. He is author of the book Caring for Our Parents and speaks and writes frequently on long-term care issues.

Doug Holz-Eakin was chief economist of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers from 2001 to 2002, where he helped formulate policies addressing the 2000–01 recession and the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He was also a senior staff economist on the council from 1989 to 1990. From 2003 to 2005, he was the sixth director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which provides budgetary and policy analysis to Congress. During his tenure, CBO assisted Congress with numerous polices, including the 2003 tax cuts, the Medicare prescription drug bill, and Social Security reform. In 2007 and 2008, Holz-Eakin was director of domestic and economic policy for the John McCain presidential campaign. Holtz-Eakin built an international reputation as a scholar doing research in applied economic policy, econometric methods, and entrepreneurship. He began his career at Columbia University in 1985. While at Syracuse University from 1990 to 2001, he became trustee professor of economics, chairman of the department of economics, and associate director of the Center for Policy Research at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Benjamin R. Page is a senior fellow at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. He leads the center’s efforts to estimate the macroeconomic effects of tax policy and incorporate those effects into analyses of tax proposals (a process called dynamic analysis). Before joining the Urban Institute, Page was closely involved in dynamic analysis at the CBO, including macroeconomic analysis of presidential budgetary proposals, the long-term outlook for the federal budget, and the effects of stimulus policies. From 2013 to 2016, he was unit chief of the fiscal policy studies unit of the CBO’s macroeconomic analysis division. Page received an AB in economics from Stanford University and a PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Louise Sheiner is a senior fellow in Economic Studies and policy director for the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy at the Brookings Institution. She had been an economist with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System since 1993, most recently as the senior economist in the fiscal analysis section for the research and statistics division. While at the Fed, she was appointed deputy assistant secretary for economic policy at the US Department of the Treasury (1996) and was senior staff economist for the Council of Economic Advisers (1995–96). Before joining the Fed, Sheiner was an economist at the Joint Committee on Taxation. Sheiner researches health spending and other fiscal issues. She received her undergraduate degree in biology and doctorate degree in economics from Harvard University.
Kent Smetters is the Boettner professor in the department of business, economics, and public policy at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the faculty director of the Penn Wharton Budget Model, a faculty research fellow in the aging program at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a research associate in NBER's public economics program, a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, and a research associate of the University of Michigan Retirement Research Center and the Pension Research Council. Smetters has a strong record of research in public economics and work experience in the public sector. He spent 17 months as deputy assistant secretary for economic policy at the US Department of the Treasury. He subsequently became a member of the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Dynamic Scoring, convened by the Joint Committee on Taxation. His experience also includes a position as an economist in the CBO and as a consultant for the World Bank and the Urban Institute. Smetters’s research has appeared in leading journals, including the American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, and the Quarterly Journal of Economics. He is often cited in major news outlets, such as the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and Marketplace, and he hosts the program “Your Money” on Wharton Business Radio. Smetters earned bachelor’s degrees in economics and computer science from Ohio State University and received his master’s and doctorate degrees in economics from Harvard University.

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