

THE DEBT FIXER

AN INTERACTIVE TOOL FOR LEARNING ABOUT THE FEDERAL BUDGET



Educators, community leaders, elected officials, and civic and business groups across the country are using the Debt Fixer to help educate people about the federal budget and national debt.

This online interactive tool allows groups large and small to gather and debate the difficult trade-offs necessary to put the United States on a sustainable economic budget path. Participants spend time negotiating and selecting budget priorities, including in areas like health care, defense, Social Security, taxes and other domestic spending, which demonstrates how such choices impact our national debt. Recent updates to the Debt Fixer reflect the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

The Debt Fixer was developed by the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, an organization led by budget experts that has provided objective research and analysis of budget issues for over 35 years.

For group facilitators: We are happy to provide you with a slide deck to accompany this exercise, a dedicated link for the aggregate customized results of your group, or you can arrange for us to facilitate this exercise with you in person. There is no cost for an in-person facilitator, but we would ask that your organization cover the cost of travel.

This exercise is best conducted when large groups break into smaller groups with each having web access on a laptop or tablet. Each group will have a leader who will input their group's results on dedicated sites, which will then appear on the facilitator's dedicated back-end page. Please contact us! DEBTFIXER@CRFB.ORG.

"The Debt Fixer brought to light the hard choices our federal policy-makers face every day – how do we provide meaningful goods and services to society while still being fiscally responsible?"

Students learned there are no easy solutions."

Carla Flink
American University
Washington, DC

"When our municipal leaders went through the exercise, they enjoyed it thoroughly. It was a terrific experience to see the debt discussion through the lens of local government officials."

Sam Mamet
Colorado Municipal League
Denver, Colorado

"The Debt Fixer shows students that there is no magic behind balancing the budget; it is simply a matter of prioritizing and making decisions."

Snorri Gislason
University of West Florida
Pensacola, FL