

# GOP Debate Primer on Taxes, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Balancing the Budget

Policy	Bush	Carson	Christie	Cruz	Fiorina
<b>Taxes</b>	Comprehensive income tax reform: 28% top individual rate; 20% top corporate rate; eliminates tax breaks (keeps mortgage, charity); caps deductions at 2% income; full expensing; territorial system. <b><u>Costs \$3.4 - \$7.1 trillion (static)</u></b> <b><u>Costs \$1.2 - \$2.1 trillion (dynamic)</u></b>	No official plan. Supports a flat tax with a rate between 10 and 15 percent, no deductions, and a repatriation holiday for multinationals to bring income back to the U.S. at a low rate. Unclear what tax base would be.	Framework for comprehensive income tax reform: 28% top individual rate; 25% corporate rate; eliminates or reforms enough tax breaks to pay for cuts (keeps mortgage, charity, and research); territorial system. <b><u>Claims revenue neutrality</u></b>	Comprehensive flat tax reform plan: 10% individual rate, 16% business rate; abolishes the IRS; eliminates most tax breaks (keeps mortgage, charity); full expensing; territorial system. <b><u>Costs \$3.6 trillion (static)</u></b> <b><u>Costs \$0.8 trillion (dynamic)</u></b>	No official plan. Supports reducing rates and tax breaks. Would reduce the tax code to three pages.
<b>Social Security</b>	Comprehensive plan to raise retirement ages, decrease early- and increase delayed-retirement benefits, progressively reduce benefit formula, adopt chained CPI, and other reforms. <b><u>Closes 105% of shortfall and achieves sustainable solvency</u></b>	No official plan. Supports raising retirement age and using tax credits in lieu of Social Security benefits, which obligates the General Fund instead of the Social Security Trust Fund to pay benefits.	Comprehensive plan to raise retirement ages, means-test benefits for higher earners, adopt chained CPI, reform SSDI, and other reforms. <b><u>Closes 60% of shortfall</u></b>	No official plan. Would raise retirement ages, offer personal accounts for younger workers, means-test benefits for higher earners, and adjust inflation measure.	No official plan. Won't change Social Security until government is reformed elsewhere.
<b>Medicare &amp; Medicaid</b>	Comprehensive Medicare reform plan to increase means-tested premiums, reform provider payments, and adopt premium support when private and public plans compete. <b><u>Saves \$170 billion over ten years and \$725 billion over twenty</u></b>	No official plan. Formerly called for replacing Medicare and Medicaid with health savings accounts that receive \$2,000 per year in government funds; now calls for allowing seniors to opt-out of Medicare and receive \$12,500 per year.	Comprehensive Medicare reform plan to increase means-tested premiums, reform cost-sharing, and raise retirement age. Medicaid plan to hold per capita growth to inflation, increase co-pays, and expand waivers. <b><u>Saves \$725 billion over ten years</u></b>	No official plan; for Medicare would increase retirement ages, adopt premium support, strike Medicare Part D as unconstitutional.	No official plan. Not prepared to discuss entitlement reforms until she accomplishes other spending reforms first.
<b>Balanced Budget</b>	Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment.	Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment; Proposes freezing spending for "3 or 4 years" to balance budget.	Has not spoken on a Balanced Budget Amendment.	Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment.	Has not spoken on a Balanced Budget Amendment.



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Policy	Huckabee	Kasich	Paul	Rubio	Trump
<b>Taxes</b>	Supports the FairTax to establish a national sales tax of 30% (23% inclusive rate) while eliminating payroll and income taxes.	Framework for comprehensive income tax reform: 28% top individual rate; 25% corporate rate; keeps tax breaks for charity, mortgage, and increases breaks for research and EITC.	Comprehensive flat tax plan with 14.5% rate for businesses, individuals, & investment; eliminates most tax breaks (keeps charity, mortgage, EITC) <b>Costs \$1.8 - \$15 trillion (static)</b> <b>Saves \$0.7 trillion (dynamic)</b>	Comprehensive income tax reform: 35% top individual rate; 25% rate for all businesses; eliminates capital gains tax; eliminates most tax breaks (keeps mortgage, charity); expands child credit; full expensing; territorial system. <b>Costs \$6.1 - \$11.8 trillion (static)</b> <b>Costs \$2.4 trillion (dynamic)</b>	Comprehensive income tax reform: 25% top individual rate, 15% corporate rate, eliminates some tax breaks (keeps mortgage, charity), increases number of non-income taxpayers, worldwide system. <b>Costs \$10.1 - \$12 trillion (static)</b> <b>Costs \$10.14 trillion (dynamic)</b>
<b>Social Security</b>	Opposes cuts to Social Security that would impact current workers, implying no benefit changes for 50+ years. Calls for replacing payroll taxes with FairTax.	Will not release Social Security plan. Recognizes cuts will have to be made and supports bipartisan study of solutions for solvency.	No official plan. Supports gradually raising retirement age and means-testing benefits based on yearly earnings.	Framework for reform to protect those in or near retirement, raise retirement ages, change benefit formula to reduce benefit growth for high earners, and increase benefits for lower earners.	Opposes cuts to Social Security; has suggested allowing people to voluntarily decline benefits, which would have a negligible impact on solvency.
<b>Medicare &amp; Medicaid</b>	No official plan. Supports preventative medicine, protecting Medicare from cuts, and prosecuting fraud.	Framework for per-person payments to states for Medicaid, increased managed care in Medicare Advantage, reformed Medicare payments that reward value. Targets 5.3% annual Medicare growth. <b>Claims Savings of \$790 billion</b>	No official plan. Has Medicare bill to raise retirement ages, shift seniors to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.	Framework for Medicare reform to protect those in or near retirement, transition to premium support, strengthen Medicare Advantage. Medicaid plan for per-capita block grant.	No official plan; Promises not to cut Medicare or Medicaid.
<b>Balanced Budget</b>	Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment.	Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment. Has plan designed to reach “on-budget” balance (excluding Social Security) by 2025.	Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment, abolishing federal agencies, and steep spending cuts.	Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment.	Would insist on a balanced budget “relatively soon” after becoming President.

