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## CRFB's Revamped Debt Simulator Debuts June 26, 2014

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget unveiled today an updated version of its ["Stabilize the Debt" budget simulator](#), giving Americans a new opportunity to identify how to get the nation's finances under control.

When presented with budget choices, everyday Americans are more likely to be successful than politicians -- who have moved from crisis to crisis without making the difficult decisions needed to restrain our deficits. According to two years of data from the previous version of CRFB's "Stabilize the Debt" budget simulator, Americans have shown a remarkable willingness to make the tough choices and have found a great deal of consensus in the process.

Along with today's relaunch of an updated simulator with the latest budget numbers and new options, CRFB is releasing results from the previous version. The online simulator allows participants to make budget choices in a variety of categories with a goal of stabilizing U.S. public debt at 60 percent of the economy.

Since its launch in May 2010, the budget simulator has been visited over 600,000 times. About 12,000 users voluntarily submitted their results for analysis, with 20 percent of submitters identifying as Republican, 24 percent as Democrat, and 56 percent as Independent or with no party affiliation. Fully 80 percent of the submitted results achieved the simulator's goal of reducing the debt to GDP ratio to 60 percent by 2021.

Among their top choices:

1. Reduce active-duty Army levels to 482,400 troops – 83%
2. Include all new state and local workers in Social Security – 83%
3. Reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – 79%
4. Reduce Iraq/Afghanistan troop levels to 30,000 – 78%
5. Raise the Social Security normal retirement age to 68 – 77%

Other numbers of note:

- 72% opted for "chained CPI" for Social Security cost-of-living adjustments
- 67% chose to reform federal retiree benefits
- 65% chose a 5.6% surtax on income above \$1 million

The updated budget simulator can be accessed at <http://crfb.org/stabilizethedebt/>.

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