

## GOP Debate Primer on Fiscal Policy

Policy	Taxes	Social Security	Medicare & Medicaid	Balanced Budget
<b>Cruz</b>	<p>Comprehensive flat tax reform plan: 10% individual rate, 16% business rate; abolishes the IRS; eliminates payroll taxes &amp; most breaks (keeps mortgage, charity); full expensing; territorial system.</p> <p><b><u>Costs \$3.6 - \$8.6 trillion (static)</u></b>  <b><u>Costs \$0.8 trillion (dynamic)</u></b></p>	<p>No official plan. Would raise retirement ages, protect benefits for those near retirement; offer personal accounts for younger workers, means-test benefits for higher earners, have initial benefits grow with inflation.</p>	<p>No official plan; for Medicare would increase retirement ages.</p>	<p>Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment.</p>
<b>Kasich</b>	<p>Framework for comprehensive income tax reform: 28% top individual rate; 25% corporate rate; 15% capital gains rate; keeps tax breaks for charity, mortgage, and increases breaks for research and EITC; full expensing; territorial system.</p>	<p>No official Social Security plan. Would lower benefits for high-earners &amp; lower initial benefits by indexing to prices instead of wages &amp; prices; supports a bipartisan study of solutions for solvency;</p>	<p>Framework for per-person block grants for Medicaid, increased managed care in Medicare Advantage, reformed Medicare payments to reward value. Targets 5.3% annual Medicare growth.</p> <p><b><u>Claims Savings of \$790 billion</u></b></p>	<p>Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment; designed plan to reach “on-budget” balance (excluding Social Security) by 2025.</p>
<b>Rubio</b>	<p>Comprehensive income tax reform: 35% top individual rate; 25% rate for businesses; eliminates capital income taxes &amp; most tax breaks (keeps mortgage, charity); replaces standard deduction with credit; expands child credit; full expensing; territorial system.</p> <p><b><u>Costs \$6.1 - \$11.8 trillion (static)</u></b>  <b><u>Costs \$2.4 trillion (dynamic)</u></b></p>	<p>Framework for reform to protect 55 and older, raise retirement ages with life expectancy, change benefit formula to reduce benefit growth for high earners, and increase benefits for lower earners. Also eliminates payroll tax for people over 65.</p>	<p>Framework for Medicare reform to protect those near retirement, transition to premium support, strengthen Medicare Advantage. Medicaid plan for per-capita block grant.</p>	<p>Supports a Balanced Budget Amendment.</p>
<b>Trump</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b><u>Costs \$9.5 to \$12 trillion (static)</u></b>  <b><u>Costs \$10.14 trillion (dynamic)</u></b></p>	<p>Opposes cuts to Social Security; Promises to achieve solvency by eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, and allowing people to voluntarily decline benefits. Together, this would have a negligible effect on solvency.</p>	<p>No official plan; Promises not to cut Medicare or Medicaid.</p>	<p>Would insist on a balanced budget “relatively soon” after becoming President.</p>

