



LAME DUCK TALKING POINTS

Nov. 29, 2012

Core Message: It's time for Congress to end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent and to protect middle-class tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans.

- **The 2012 election was a mandate: voters want Washington to support the middle class over millionaires.** [[Hart Research post-election poll](#)]
- **That starts by ending the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent and protecting middle-class tax cuts for the other 98 percent.** It's time for the wealthiest Americans and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. Ending tax cuts for the richest 2 percent will [raise a trillion dollars](#) – money desperately needed to grow the economy and reduce the deficit.
- **Middle-class tax cuts will create jobs.**
 - Extending the middle-class portion of the Bush tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans and patching the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) will [create 1.6 million jobs](#), according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, and boost economic growth by 1.3 percentage points.
 - Tax breaks for the wealthy are one of the least effective ways to create jobs.
- **Middle-class tax cuts should not be held hostage to tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.**
 - The Senate has passed legislation that would extend middle-class tax cuts for the 98 percent of Americans making less than \$250,000. The House is holding middle-class tax cuts hostage to get another huge tax break for the richest 2 percent. It's time for Republicans in the House to pass this bill that President Obama said he will sign.
 - Conservatives are prepared to block middle-class tax cuts that are worth [\\$2,200 a year to a typical family](#) in order to give [millionaires a \\$160,000 tax cut](#). We can't let that happen. Congress needs to extend middle-class tax cuts now.
- **We do not need to go over the fiscal cliff. Republicans would be wrong to push us off the cliff in order to preserve huge tax breaks for the richest 2 percent.**
 - There is a simple way to avoid the fiscal cliff: pass what we can all agree on now – a tax cut for the middle class. But Congress should not agree to an unfair deal because Republicans threaten to take the government over the cliff. The American people won't stand for that kind of blackmail. We agree with Republican Congressman Tom Cole, who said that we ought to extend tax cuts for families making under \$250,000 right now, without holding them hostage to the tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

- **Our leaders in Washington face a clear choice: Who should pay – the richest 2 percent or the middle class?**
 - If we give more tax breaks to the richest 2 percent, we won't be able to protect middle-class priorities like education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. The richest few who've done well in America need to do right by America.
 - Congress already [cut federal spending by \\$1.5 trillion](#) in the first round of deficit reduction without raising any taxes. Most of the cuts came from programs important to families such as education, food safety, environmental protection and law enforcement.
- **Congress needs to do more than just end tax cuts for the richest 2 percent. It should support President Obama's goal to raise at least \$1.6 trillion in new revenue to reduce the deficit and start by raising rates on the wealthiest followed by limiting their deductions.**
 - The President locks in nearly \$1 trillion in revenue by ending the Bush tax cuts on the richest 2 percent. Higher tax rates on the richest 2 percent will guarantee the savings.
 - Another [\\$600 billion is raised by limiting tax subsidies](#) for the richest 2 percent. The middle-class will not be affected. The President does this by limiting the tax benefit of itemized deductions and certain other tax subsidies to 28 cents on the dollar (compared to 35 cents on the dollar for someone in the top tax bracket).
 - Closing tax loopholes and deductions sounds nice, but the Republican plan doesn't add up. It doesn't come close to raising enough revenue unless you raise taxes on the middle class and thumb your nose at charities by taking away the charitable deduction, [according to a White House analysis](#) and one by a [respected think tank](#).
 - Trickle down failed. Lower income tax rates for the wealthy don't help our economy grow faster. They just make the already rich richer.
- **A deficit-reduction deal should not be used to lower tax rates for corporations.**
 - We oppose corporate tax reform that lowers rates and does not increase revenues. Big corporations need to do their part by contributing MORE in taxes, not less, if we are going to reduce the deficit and invest in our economic future.
 - More than [two dozen big corporations paid no federal income taxes](#) in the last four years, including GE, Verizon and Boeing.
- **A deficit-reduction deal should not be used to give tax breaks to companies that ship jobs and profits overseas through a so-called "territorial" tax system.**
 - Corporations should not be able to use tax loopholes to shift U.S. jobs overseas and to disguise their domestic profits as "foreign" profits to avoid U.S. taxes.
 - Voters were clear in 2012: they want to end tax breaks for companies that ship U.S. jobs and profits overseas.