



BUSH TAX CUTS TALKING POINTS

October 2012

- **Core message:** We need to end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent – raising \$1 trillion in revenue. It's time for the wealthiest Americans and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.
- **Our tax system is rigged** in favor of the wealthy and big corporations. It isn't working for most Americans.
- **The Bush tax cuts give a \$160,000 tax break on average to someone who makes \$1 million a year.** We applaud financial success, but when the rich get special tax breaks they don't need and the country can't afford the middle class has to make up the difference.
- **Washington faces a stark choice:** Who should pay for investments in our country's future and to reduce the deficit – the richest 2 percent or the rest of us.
- If we give more tax breaks to the richest 2 percent, we won't be able to afford to protect middle-class priorities like education and Medicare from deep cutbacks.
- If we give more tax breaks to the richest 2 percent, we won't be able to get the deficit under control, and we will have to keep borrowing billions from China.
- **Instead of massive across-the-board spending cuts** that will kill jobs and hurt our families, we should end the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent. This will generate \$1 trillion – about the money needed to reduce the deficit required by sequestration.
- **Raising taxes on the wealthy will not harm economic growth and job creation.** Just 3 percent of small business owners make over \$250,000 a year, so allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire for upper-income households would not affect our nation's most important job creators. We had these higher tax rates when Bill Clinton was president and job growth was robust.
- **Bottom Line:** Politicians stacking the deck in favor of their wealthy campaign contributors and sticking the rest of us with the tab is not right. It's time the wealthy and big corporations played by the same rules and paid their fair share.