



TALKING POINTS & POLLING: TAX SCAM ROUND 2 (#TaxScam2)

July 26, 2018

NOTE: Don't refer to Round 2 as making some tax cuts "permanent". Permanent is usually good. Always refer to Round 2 as giving "even more" or "new" tax cuts for the wealthy & corporations. Go [here](#) for a letter of opposition to #TaxScam2 signed by 130 national organizations.

- **This second round of tax cuts that President Trump and Republicans are trying to pass to benefit their campaign donors before the November election will give even more tax breaks to the wealthy and corporations and force even deeper cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, education and other critical services.**
 - Working families cannot afford the first round of the Republican tax cuts that are mostly benefiting the rich and big corporations. We sure can't afford a #TaxScam2 that puts the interests of the wealthy over everyone else.
- **With #TaxScam2 Republicans are coming back for even more tax breaks for their wealthy campaign donors and big corporations.** In December, they doled out tax cuts costing \$2 trillion that mostly benefit the wealthy and big corporations. Now, they are proposing what may be \$800 billion more in tax breaks mostly benefiting the wealthy and big corporations.
- **New tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations will blow a much larger hole in the deficit, giving Republicans even more excuses to demand even deeper cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education and more.** The House Republican budget will slash \$5 trillion, including:
 - Medicare (\$537 billion)
 - Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (\$1.5 trillion)
 - Food for families (\$157 billion from SNAP)
 - Veterans benefits (\$59 billion)
 - Transportation and infrastructure (\$317 billion)
- **Huge additional tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations will give another massive windfall to the richest Americans.** They're already getting 83% of the tax cuts from the first round. They don't need any more handouts at the expense of working families. Instead, we should make sure the rich and big corporations pay their fair share of taxes. We need this to protect critical priorities like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and education. We need to invest in our families and communities by strengthening public education, rebuilding infrastructure, making health care more affordable, and providing a secure retirement.
- **The evidence is clear: the first round of tax cuts has not improved or strengthened the economy. Once again, Republican claims that tax cuts for the rich and corporations will trickle down to working families has been shown to have no basis in reality.**
 - Working families have not come close to getting the \$4,000 raise that Trump promised.
 - Just 4% of workers have gotten a one-time bonus or wage hike from the Trump tax cuts.
 - Just 400 out of 6 million employers have given their workers bonuses or wage hikes.
 - Corporations are doling out their huge tax breaks to wealthy CEOs and shareholders.



WHAT POLLING SHOWS

1. Only about one-third of voters approve of the Trump-GOP tax cuts.

- By a seven-point margin—36% to 43%—the public disapproves of the tax law [[Real Clear Politics](#) average of all polls, Apr. 2 – July 17, 2018].
- [Gallup](#) found that by a 13-point margin—39% to 52%—the public disapproves of the tax law [April 11, 2018]. Over half of respondents were unsure what impact the law had made on their own taxes—including 44% of Republicans. This means there is limited awareness of the law’s benefits , leaving voters more open to arguments about the harm it will do.
- [Quinnipiac Poll](#) has a 7-point margin: 39% approve and 46% disapprove [June 14-17]. While men somewhat narrowly approve (48-41), women disapprove by a 20-point margin (51-31). Democrats should be able to exploit this gender and intensity gap.
- Disapproval of the tax cuts has remained fairly steady since their passage, while approval has steadily declined. In the latest [Monmouth survey](#), for example, approval of the tax cuts dropped from 44% in January to 34% in June. Those 10 points migrated to “Don’t know,” suggesting an increasing openness to arguments against the law.

2. Most people are not seeing their tax cuts now.

- 25% said they’ve seen an increase in their paychecks due to the tax cuts, 52% say they’ve seen no increase. [[Morning Consult/Politico](#), [June 22-24]. This is very similar to an April poll: 22% had seen an increase and 55% said they had not seen an increase in the last several weeks due to the tax overhaul. [[Morning Consult/Politico](#), [April 19-23]
- 18% say their federal income taxes have gone down and 56% don’t know whether their taxes have gone up, down, stayed the same, or say they are unsure. [[Gallup](#), April 2-11, 2018]

3. Most believe the tax cuts are mostly benefitting the rich and corporations, which means they are not likely to believe GOP promises that a new bill will help the middle class.

- 51% say they believe the tax cuts mostly helps the rich, with only 30% saying it helps the middle class and just 7% saying it helps the poor. [[Public Policy Polling](#), June 8-10]
- Of people familiar with the new law, 77% believe it helps large corporations and 73% say it benefits the wealthy, while 42% say it helps middle-income families. [[Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research](#), March 14-19]
- 53% viewed the tax bill negatively because it will increase the federal deficit and mostly benefit the wealthy and big corporations; 39% viewed it positively. [[NBC/WSJ](#), April 8-11]