



About This Document

At the request of the House and Senate Committees on the Budget, the Congressional Budget Office periodically issues a compendium of budget options to help inform federal lawmakers about the implications of possible policy choices. This report, the latest in the series, presents 83 options for altering spending and revenues to reduce federal budget deficits.

The options come from a variety of sources, including legislative proposals, various Administrations' budget proposals, Congressional staff, other government entities, and private groups. The options are intended to reflect a range of possibilities rather than to rank priorities or present a comprehensive list. The inclusion or exclusion of a particular option does not represent an endorsement or rejection by CBO. In keeping with CBO's mandate to provide objective, impartial analysis, this report makes no recommendations.

This report is the result of work by more than 110 people at CBO, whose names are listed on the following pages, as well as the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation. The report is available on CBO's website (www.cbo.gov/publication/56783).

CBO continually seeks feedback to make its work as useful as possible. Please send any comments to communications@cbo.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Swagel", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director
December 2020

Overview

The spending estimates that appear in this report were prepared by the staff of CBO’s Budget Analysis Division (supervised by Theresa Gullo, Leo Lex, Sam Papenfuss, Christina Hawley Anthony, Chad Chirico, Sheila Dacey, Paul Masi, David Newman, and Susan Willie); Health, Retirement, and Long-Term Analysis Division (supervised by Julie Topoleski, Chapin White, Molly Dahl, Tamara Hayford, Alexandra Minicozzi, and Lyle Nelson); and Financial Analysis Division (supervised by Sebastien Gay). Most of the revenue estimates were prepared by the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, although some were done by CBO’s Tax Analysis Division (supervised by John McClelland, Joseph Rosenberg, Edward Harris, and Joshua Shakin) and Budget Analysis Division.

The discussions of the options were written and reviewed by analysts and managers throughout CBO in the four divisions just mentioned, along with the Microeconomic Studies Division (supervised by Joseph Kile and Xiaotong Niu) and the National Security Division (supervised by David Mosher and Edward G. Keating).

Molly Dahl, Noelia Duchovny, and Molly Saunders-Scott coordinated work on the report and reviewed it in conjunction with Mark Doms, Mark Hadley, Jeffrey Kling, and Robert Sunshine.

Chapter 1

Noelia Duchovny and Molly Saunders-Scott wrote Chapter 1.

Chapter 2

Yash Patel and Jordan Trinh wrote and coordinated work on the options for mandatory spending. The following analysts contributed to the budget options in the chapter:

Nabeel Alsalam	Justin Latus	Matt Schmit
Tiffany Arthur	Scott Laughery	Janani Shankaran
Elizabeth Bass	Noah Meyerson	Logan Smith
Susan Yeh Beyer	Erik O’Donoghue	Emily Stern
Sheila Campbell	Hudson Osgood	Robert Stewart
Xinzhe Cheng	Jeffrey Perry	Aurora Swanson
Heidi Golding	Lisa Ramirez-Branum	Natalie Tawil
Stuart Hammond	Mitchell Remy	David Torregrosa
Justin Humphrey	Asha Saavoss	Carolyn Ugolino
Brian Klein-Qiu	Rebecca Sachs	Emily Vreeland
Leah Koestner	Sarah Sajewski	Ellen Werble

Chapter 3

Pranav Bhandarkar and John Kerman wrote and coordinated work on the options for discretionary spending. The following analysts contributed to the budget options in the chapter:

Adebayo Adedeji	Justin Falk	William Ma
Nabeel Alsalam	Madeleine Fox	Stephen Rabent
David Arthur	Heidi Golding	Dan Ready
Perry Beider (formerly of CBO)	Jennifer Gray	Robert Reese
Michael Bennett	Raymond Hall	Dawn Sauter Regan
Sheila Campbell	Nadia Karamcheva	Jon Sperl
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Chapter 4

Tess Prendergast wrote and coordinated work on the options for revenues. The following analysts contributed to the budget options in the chapter:

David Austin	Nadia Karamcheva	Naveen Singhal
Elizabeth Bass	Amber Marcellino	Logan Smith
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Dorian Carloni	Shannon Mok	Natalie Tawil
Terry M. Dinan	Nathan Musick	David Torregrosa
Justin Falk	Charles Pineles-Mark	Ellen Werble
Ronald Gecan	Molly Saunders-Scott	James Williamson
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Edward Harris	Jennifer Shand	

Editing and Publishing

The editing and publishing of the report were handled by CBO's editing and publishing group, supervised by Benjamin Plotinsky, and the agency's web team, supervised by Deborah Kilroe. Caitlin Verboon was the editor, and Casey Labrack was the graphics editor. Annette Kalicki prepared the online version of the report, and Julia Heinzl prepared a consolidated table of the options to be posted online.