



Gray Panthers' Federal Budget Solutions

The Gray Panthers, an inter-generational social justice organization, supports a federal budget that responds to the needs of all Americans. We want our taxes to be spent in ways that put people before profits. We seek progressive budget policies that preserve the dignity of all Americans, not just the wealth and power of the few. These are our priorities and positions in the federal budget:

TAXES

- Make the tax code more fair by using the same standards for capital gains, dividends, and inherited fortunes that apply to average Americans' paychecks.
- Implement a fee on Wall Street transactions, a Robin Hood tax.
- Require the wealthy to pay their fair share of taxes by creating and enforcing a new tax bracket for the very wealthiest Americans and implement the "Buffett rule".
- Eliminate corporate loopholes to ensure that corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- Scrap the cap on income subject to Social Security payroll taxes.
- Increase the consumer price index to assure adequate benefits for the most vulnerable. Use the CPI-E (Consumer Price Index – Elderly) to better reflect living expenses of older persons.
- Reject technical solutions, such as the chained CPI, that effectively cut benefits.
- Protect benefits of veterans, survivors and people with disabilities by strengthening SSI.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID

- Allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices.
- Implement measures to slow the growth of health care spending without cutting benefits.
- Protect Medicare from voucher schemes that will bankrupt seniors.
- Protect tomorrow's retirees from a higher eligibility age.
- Protect consumers by rejecting block grants that cut funding and create 50 state systems.

PENTAGON

- Return military spending to 2006 levels.
- Focus on modern security needs.
- Close unnecessary military bases overseas.
- Reduce high cost weapons systems, e.g., the F-35 fighter jet and nuclear weapons stockpiles.

STUDENT LOANS/EDUCATION

- Increase the funding and availability of college student loans.
- Expand vocational training so people of all ages can find meaningful careers.

ECONOMIC SECURITY/JOBS

- Create jobs by investing in infrastructure, education, renewable energy, and public works.
- Maintain safety net programs so low income Americans can live with dignity.
- Expand the earned income tax credit.
- Adopt living wage policies so fewer people need to use federal programs.