



YOUR VOICE AT THE IRS



Tax Reform Suggestion Box: Selected Comments

The National Taxpayer Advocate established the tax reform suggestion box in January 2011 to allow taxpayers to share their thoughts about [tax reform](#). We are asking taxpayers to tell us what provisions they would give up if doing so would make taxes simpler, and what provisions they think most unfair. The National Taxpayer Advocate believes true tax reform will not take place until the taxpayers themselves demand it.

This selection of comments is not meant to be statistically representative of the larger group of comments we've received. The suggestions below represent a range of comments that illustrate the diversity of thought and the seriousness with which taxpayers responded. We thank everyone who has left comments, and encourage others to [join this dialogue](#).

Check back often for updated comments and a new display - coming soon!

To reduce the DEBT, which was created by the POOR Spending Habits of the HOUSE AND SENATE? 75% of all political campaign contributions should be taxable and go directly to paying off the debt. So you raise a dollar in political donations, you get to spend 25 cent, the other 75 cents goes to paying off the debt.

Healthcare deduction is a joke...How about a dollar for dollar deduction. I paid \$16000 in 2010 and was only able to deduct \$3500. No taxes on Social Security benefits. Maintain Home ownership deduction on a primary residence only...no second homes, RV's or boats.

Tax stock transactions. Like a sales tax. \$1 per transaction would result in over a billion dollars a day in revenues.

Eliminate subsidies and tax breaks for corporations that have total revenues above \$20,000,000 per year. Institute a flat tax rate for all personal income levels with the exception of those living at or below 150% of the national poverty level. Eliminate tax on Social Security income and unemployment benefits. Eliminate personal deductions for children, elderly dependents, home ownership, state taxes paid, etc.....make it easier for all Americans and above all make it FAIR AND CONSISTENT.

Simplify the tax Code by imposing a 6% tax on income. No deductions, no credits, etc. A flat 6%. Anyone making over \$25,000 per year.

It's simple - move to a flat 8% tax on all income. For individuals and companies of every size.

Simply make it a flat tax. I don't care if your rich or poor you should pay your fair percent for the benefits you receive. The lowest tax bracket should pay the same as the highest tax bracket in percentage, with no loop holes, deductions. It would save millions alone on printing the enormous tax law books and audits

I would make the first \$50,000 of personal earnings tax free for all wage earners. After that a graduated system would go into effect. Many, many jobs would be created.

Simple. One tax rate for all persons with no exemptions. I'll guess a rate of about 25% would balance everything nicely. Fair, and man would the rich really start paying their fair share!

VAT tax. This is the only fair way to tax at this point. The tax system is very complicated and I couldn't do my own taxes if I wanted to. If I did I would lose out on deductions or credits because the tax code changes so much every year. Frankly the system is broken!

FLAT TAX NO MORE LOOP HOLES OR CREDITS EVERYONE PAYS SAME RATE

1. Institute a national sales tax on non-essential items - anything outside of food purchased at a grocery store, clothing (within reason), and housing (within reason). 2. Reduce the income tax rate on middle and lower income taxpayers. 3. Raise the income tax rate on individuals earning over \$500k and families over \$750k. 4. Remove the child tax credit.

To fix social security and alleviate Medicare (and Medicaid) deficits, eliminate the ceiling at which social security deductions are no longer applied to income. I believe the current ceiling is around 104K. However, for income earners over that ceiling, only the individual would continue to make his/her contribution and the employer would be exempt from a matching contribution.

Replace the income tax with one based on a flat rate of personal net-worth. Those that own the most should pay the most. Get rid of all tax credits, but allow deductions for things that need encouragement such as children and state-of-the-art technology, especially energy and infrastructure. Public support for public health items such as food, shelter and a place to sleep should be guaranteed for every citizen with caveats - remember jail is such a place.

Tax hedge fund managers' income as income and not as capital gains. Gamblers get their winnings taxed as income, so should hedge fund managers.

Make the tax code simpler, either through the Fair Tax (National Sales Tax) or through a flat tax. Either way, no deductions, no loop-holes.

I think we should have a single flat rate. Everyone should pay a percentage of *ALL* monies earned. No cap on how much is taxed, tax all of the earnings, example someone making \$40,000 a year pays 10%=\$4000 tax. Someone making 40,000,000 a year pays 10%=\$4,000,000. No deductions, no credits, no incentives, no dependents. Everyone pays the same percentage. Example is...10% of my \$40,000 hurts me in the pocket as much as 10% of someone wealthier \$40,000,000 hurts them. Regardless of how much we pay, it should be the same percentage.

We need a national sales tax implemented slowly to the point of eliminating the need for any income tax. It would simplify the tax system reduce the IRS and for those business that move their headquarters overseas to avoid corporate taxes they would pay for doing business in this country. I know it's more complicated, but we are the consumer nation.

I believe that there should be a minimum tax for EVERY legal entity in the United States. Any person or organization which has legal standing should contribute to the general burden. Call it a tax for the privilege of being in our system. It need not be large, say 2 % for individuals, 5 % for any entity grossing over \$1,000,000 per year. Allow everyone their current breaks and exemptions, but if the tax owed is below the minimum the tax kicks in. EVERYONE, whether they be an individual, a corporation, a "nonprofit" a school, university, labor union, PAC, church, synagogue, trust, foundation, whatever. Far too many, making a lot of money are paying nothing. All should contribute toward making our system work.

The IRS should impose a flat tax of 30% of any income over \$10,000.00 and get rid of any deductions or credits. For example, if I make \$50,000.00 I will pay 30% of \$40,000.00. Simple. Also, corporate tax loopholes need to be closed.

All income should be taxed the same percentage with no exceptions, so that everyone pays, not just people that don't have tax lawyers. Any personal income over 100 times the national average American income should be taxed 100%. If the average worker earned \$50,000 a year, then the income "Cap" would be \$5,000,000. It would give people something to strive towards, but keep greed in check. The profits from a company could then be put towards expansion or employee benefits, or even just making the products better, instead of just giving it to a few people so they can buy a 3rd and 4th summer home.

I submitted earlier but should have included....unemployment payments and social security payments should not be taxed under any circumstances. These people have nothing left to give. Recipients of Social Security should not have tax penalties placed on their SS money if they continue to work. Only the earned *work* money should be taxed and SS reviewed yearly to reflect higher payments for work performed.

I have a few suggestions for simplifying the tax code. They are: a) Eliminate All tax breaks except for implementing a revised standard deduction that everyone can use. b) Setup a "consumption-based" tax; tax based on what we BUY. It is frustrating that honest, hard-working Americans pay their fair share and more and people with shady dealings don't pay a dime. c) For every business with greater than 50 employees, setup a graduated tax rate that changes with the percentage of people they hire domestically versus the percentage of people they hire abroad. For example a 100% domestic employment ratio would be taxed at 25%, a 75%/25% ratio would be taxed at 35%, a 50% ratio would be taxed at 45% and a 25% ratio to be taxed at 55%. The idea here being to encourage companies to hire locally. d) Apply the capital gains tax rates ONLY on the first \$X dollars... anything above that should be taxed as regular income. So, for example, you could say that the first \$250,000 of capital gains income will be taxed at X% (depending on whether it is short term or long term) and anything above that would be taxed as regular income tax. e) Eliminate the AMT. f) Provide a tax "credit" for interest on mortgages only for those that buy a home BELOW a specific amount to help those with lower incomes qualify. For example, someone purchasing a home for <\$250,000 and has household income less than \$100,000. g) Create a small transaction tax on all stock/bond/etc. investments (i.e. 0.5% per transaction) to lower overall tax rates on individuals and companies. h) Simplify, simplify, simplify!!! It should be a 1 or 2 page form... i) Provide "vouchers" for private school education. If local public schools cannot meet the standards expected by parents, parents should have the right to put their money where they think it will be best utilized. j) Create private accounts for Social Security. We should be able to fund our own retirements and see what we have in our accounts at any time...

Flat rate tax for all people- on pure income. If you sell stock, you pay the tax- if it sits and makes a profit you do not pay until you sell. If you take a loss, that reduces your income that year. Otherwise, no deductions for anything, no credits for anything. KISS principle.

Set 5 tax brackets based on total income: 0 - \$50000 7% \$50001 - \$100000 12% \$100001 - \$200000 17% \$200001 - \$500000 25% > \$500001 40% Eliminate child tax break. Capital gains tax should be the same rate as other income, based on tax bracket.

I believe we should charge a straight flat tax. The same percentage would apply to EVERYONE. No credits, no loopholes just a straight flat tax. The same would apply to businesses. This way everyone would pay their fair share. a federal lottery or how about a two percent tax on any purchase over ten thousand

I want a consumer based tax. No loopholes. Everyone would pay their fair share naturally as the more income one has, the more spending. Even criminals would pay!

A National Sales tax to replace income tax: 1. reduces the number of returns, size of system needed to collect the revenues, makes it easier to collect revenues. 2. Commodity and service price increases would be offset by increased personal incomes. 3. Reduction in size of IRS. 4. No special interests. 5. Initiation can be ramped up with overlap in systems bumping federal income to reduce deficit. Bonus: National weekly \$1 lottery with one winner per state each week. Prize - lifetime freedom from paying taxes. Use revenues to pay down government deficit.

Government should get, like the church, 10% of the income of every income generating entity. Federal government - 10%. State and local government combined - 10%. That is 30% of a person's income going to public/social services. No sales tax, no social security tax, no Medicare tax. Everything should be managed out of the 20% going to Federal, State, and local government. Many entitlements should be eliminated as they have created dependents. All subsidies should be eliminated as the private sector and market conditions work to sort out the good from the bad. Cafeteria benefits should be established and let citizens choose what to pay into for protection or insurance. Forcing the responsible to pay in for the sake of the irresponsible is foolish.

Remove the ceiling on income taxed for SS. If you did this, you could reduce the tax rate for SS down to possibly 2%. Currently, you tax incomes at 6.2% up to \$106,800. This means the majority of us will always pay SS tax on our incomes our whole working lives. If you leverage your argument for why people without kids still pay taxes to schools (which you state as a societal benefit, raising the education and betterment of our society for all Americans) then, the rich contributing to SS income will also help ALL Americans by meeting the financial needs of the elderly. Especially if you can drop the tax rate down to 2-3%, this would give an immediate raise to many Americans, help our companies, increase consumption, and help put people back to work. In addition, it could make the SS system solvent!

Raise the taxes on those earning more than \$100,000 by 20%; lower the tax of those earning \$30,000 20%, and keep everyone else the same.

If they want to get rid of the home mortgage deduction, why don't they do it gradually? Over 20 years the amount of the deduction for mortgage interest could be reduced just 5% per year. It would be so much less painful that way. The government would get additional money without a huge shock to the taxpayer. The same could be done with the tax credit for children ... just phase it out.

Get rid of ALL deductions of ALL kinds and replace with a revenue-neutral FLAT tax. I should be able to figure out how much tax I owe by simply multiplying my gross income by the required rate.

Adopt a flat tax for ALL INCOME BRACKETS. Reinstate the Estate TAX. Those earning above 1 million should be taxed at 5% higher. Eliminate all special tax breaks: most especially corporate welfare and any industry specific tax breaks. Reserve tax breaks for Eco friendly or energy conservative businesses: only!

Go to a flat sales tax on everything and do away with income taxes period. That way a guy that buys a Lear jet for business has to pay the same as me for buying a car to get to work. You know it will work just come up with a number.

Close the IRS Implement a National Sales Tax.

VAT tax. Not on food, shelter and clothing. The necessities for life. Rebate of the tax for low income people when they file taxes.

I believe everyone should pay taxes based on their income, period. It should be a flat rate tax. Let's make it easy. The IRS has made it so convoluted.

SALES TAX SALES TAX SALES TAX Place a national sales tax on non-essential items and let the government revenue be user based. IF you don't consume; you don't pay. Decreases the need for expensive enforcement so you are cutting cost of revenue collection significantly as well....double savings...and SIMPLE...imagine that! This will help ALL build wealth and spur future consumption...thus future revenue...thus ability to supply more services...it makes sense!

I would give up all tax breaks, deductions, etc. in exchange for a simple flat tax on all income. That means all, from any source.

Make it simple. Move to a flat tax. 6% would be more than adequate. Without all of the deductions, it is fair to everyone. Plus you could take it a step farther by trimming down the IRS division of the government. Every employer deducts the taxes currently anyway, so why does the consumer have to report / file tax returns? If you move to a flat tax, employers can report and transfer the taxes. No more need for tax forms, divisions to review returns or claims. Everything is streamlined. IRS divisions can then devote themselves to control of the reporting from the businesses that report the taxes. If you are self-employed, you would have to have a business setup and follow the same procedures.

Flat 10% tax on anyone above poverty level no deductions at all. Anyone at or below poverty level pays no taxes. Any and all corporations pay the same 10% tax on all earnings here and abroad no tax shelters.

Stop Taxing SSI, Medicaid & Etc. & Unemployment Give Drug tests to anyone asking for Public Assistance. Also if they are able to work put them to clean street parks & etc. Keep Tax Credits for Kids

1. Lower everyone tax rate 5%; but then allow no deductions for anything. 2. Lower business tax rate to 10%; but then allow deductions only for salaries fewer than 1 million and job creation. For money made off-shore but returned to US; tax at 5% if creates more than 1,000 sustainable jobs. 3. Create 2 new tax rates. For millionaires -35% no deductions and for people currently exempt; between 1 to 5% with no deductions. 4. A 5% VAT on imported finished goods only. If components, being assembled in US, tax is eliminated 5. Nobody gets more money back in taxes that they put in.

How about a FLAT tax for EVERYBODY regardless of how much you earn?

America needs a more simplified tax system. I would like to see something like a flat tax where we pay a lower tax rate, but are not able to take as many deductions. There should be no deductions for luxury items such as corporate jets. Lower income wage earners should pay no income tax, middle and upper income earners should shoulder the income tax burden at a reduced overall tax rate. The simplified system would reduce fraud and tax cheats who take advantage of the complicated tax credit and tax deductions. It would also reduce tax preparation costs for businesses and families.

We should ban personal income tax altogether. Instead, we should define a consumption based tax following the "Fair-Tax" models.

Federal: cap all personal income 10%, all corporate income %5. Eliminate ALL tax breaks: interest, children, medical, retooling, loss, depreciation, on-shore, off-shore, etc., EVERYTHING! Cap SS, at 2% of all income with a matching 2% from employers. Cap Medicare 1% and Medicaid 1% of all income with a matching 1% from employers. Employers = LLC, Inc., Self-employed, any entity paying income! Pass a one page "balanced budget" amendment - with NO exceptions! Eliminate ALL State income taxes! For state revenue, institute a 3% - "50-state" sales tax on every purchase (homes, food, equipment, clothes, etc.): corporate or personal. DONE!

Simplicity itself, a national sales tax. No exemptions and those who consume the most, pay the most.

Everyone above \$25,000 pays a flat percentage of their income. No exceptions, not deductions, and no forms to do. If not that then a flat national sales tax and let me keep everything. No SSI, FICA, Income tax. (Fair Tax)

Only persons that pay taxes should be able to vote. In that way, tax laws cannot be warped by persons that have no "skin in the game" and therefore, only vote for representatives that share their "hand out" mentality.

1) Eliminate all tax deductions and credits. If the government would like to provide incentives for certain industries or activities let them do so through other means (such as grants that people could apply for). Revenue collection is (or should be) a separate process. 2) Treat all income the same. Why should earned income, wages, tips, etc. be treated differently than capital gains or various other "un-earned" incomes? Income is income and people make their living in various different ways but that should not affect their tax burden. 3) Eliminate corporate income tax. Let businesses focus on their business, and the profits will translate into personal income that will then be taxed appropriately. The government is an entity of the citizens not the corporations. 4) Keep the graduated tax bracket system; keep the income tax system (vs. VAT or national sales tax).

Flat tax - ZERO deductions for ANYTHING... and that includes corporations. 15% - 20% on 1MM and up Exempt those below 75K Married & below 50K singles

The income tax as it currently stands should be completely scrapped and replaced with a consumption tax. Note this is not a VAT tax in addition to the income tax but rather a national consumption tax. If worked properly the feds could work with the states to make one central filing and payment point. This would reduce the number of monthly tax returns to one that would encompass all jurisdictions. Currently my company files over 100 sales & use tax returns per month. This could be reduced to one a month. It would eliminate the need for complex tax departments both within the government and in business thus eliminating unnecessary, non-value added costs to the economy. It could also be worked to do away with the "Amazon Benefit". If you sell something you must charge, collect and remit sales taxes. This would be an immediate economic boon to the states that are losing revenue to the Amazon scheme. Best of all you will now be taxing the criminal element. When that drug dealer buys the \$200k Ferrari, he will be paying tax on it. There will be no tax returns for the general public to complete and file, no endless record keeping for deductions etc. It's an overall win-win for all involved - except the tax attorneys, tax accountants (FYI: the sales & use tax department in my company reports to me) and the bureaucrats.

Make it simple. EVERYONE, EVERYONE pays 10% their income. No other rule. But everyone must pay 10%.

Do away with all tax subsidies. All federal and state elected officials should not have any perks like insurance or pensions. Pay them \$10,000 more but make them find out how to pay for these things that we all pay for. Go to a flat tax with absolutely no deductions. Even for dependents.

Simplify the tax code in this way. Each taxpayer over 18 receives a \$3,000 tax exemption. After that, all taxpayers pay at a flat rate (such as 20 percent) on ALL income. No deductions, no further exemptions, no excuses.

Get rid of all loopholes and deductions and lower the rates. Fifty percent of earners pay no taxes. Everyone should pay a fair share, not just the rich. There should be no tax shelters, no exemptions, and no exceptions. Everyone should be able to do their own taxes without having to pay a CPA.

I can already see your problem...I just wrote that everyone should pay 10%. I didn't specify that I meant everyone who earns any income. Not every person (such as children in a family or a stay-at-home spouse with no income). If everyone who earned income paid 10% it would be simple and fair.

Flat tax! The only way it will ever be fair for all people of any income. Everyone pays the same percentage, regardless.

I can already see your problem...I just wrote that everyone should pay 10%. I didn't specify that I meant everyone who earns any income. Not every person (such as children in a family or a stay-at-home spouse with no income). If everyone who earned income paid 10% it would be simple and fair.

A flat tax could be applied equally to all classes. IRS agents could then be converted from a collection agency to a recovery agency auditing companies and corps, cutting Medicare and Medicaid fraud as well. With a flat tax loopholes could be eliminated for a fair tax system. Credits could be awarded to companies and corps that invest in green tech, or hire American workers to promote innovation and domestic hiring.

Unemployment benefits should not be taxed. Agree that is kicking the person when they are down. Child tax credit should not be removed. It costs far more to raise a child, than for those who don't have children, whether they opt this option or not. They have more money to spend on themselves by not having children. Remove the tax break incentives from corporations. If I don't get a break when I buy a home, why should they get a break? If you have the means, then by God pay for it. Way back when, our grand or great-grandparents didn't have these breaks. They worked. I realize their standard of living wasn't nearly as good and their longevity was shorter, but we have become a society of whiney spoiled children about what we are entitled to. You are entitled to death and that is it - guaranteed.

Provide a flat tax to both individuals and corporations to alleviate confusion and the ability of Congress to adjust rates. Provide a % above the flat tax that can be utilized to incentivize certain activities.

1-tax capital gains as regular income 2-phase out deductions/exemptions for; mortgages, children, local property taxes 3-no joint filing

Simplify!! Give everyone a flat tax on earned income and get rid of deductions. It would ultimately save everyone money as we wouldn't have to have accountants do the returns.

A mandatory flat tax would simplify our tax system. It would be applied to all monies that are earned by any method by any individual or business. There would not be a tax break or return system for any reason. It would also eliminate the entire IRS freeing up resources that are sorely needed elsewhere in our economy.

As long as you tax income, the special interests will play games with it. Tax consumption instead, with only an exclusion for healthy food and cheap clothes. That will minimize the effect on the poor, encourage savings, and may even make a dent in the nation's obesity rate!

Remove all deductions from all taxpayers including all businesses. All to pay tax on all income. Automatic deductions from salary. Result would be lower taxes for most and higher for some, specifically big business and high end earners

Flat tax of 15% for "all" private citizens (includes the 47% of Americans that pay no tax at all), and businesses. Elimination of all write-off's for private citizens, business write-off's limited to only those investments made in the US and limited to a maximum of 10% of declared income. Write-offs are tied to job creation and/or environmental improvement in their processes. Value Added Tax (VAT) of 10% on all goods and services - it is a consumption tax. The more goods and services you consume the more you pay obviously in taxes.

Adopt a tax free lottery with profits used to reduce the deficit. Each taxpayer who files would get one set of numbers, similar to Social Security number. Have 3 jackpot winners of \$5 million each in each state. Numerous smaller prizes. Drawing held on April 15. Prizes not claimed before next drawing applied to deficit reduction.

My suggestion is to simplify the tax code by switching to a flat tax with no deductions. In addition, I believe that every citizen should be required to pay a minimum tax, regardless of income, so they have some skin in the game.

HR25 - FAIRTAX! It makes sense on so many levels. It would curtail illegal immigration by making things more expensive for those not here legally. It would help companies hire more, would help people save more, and would give a boost to our economy. It's not perfect, but I think it's much better than our current system.

I think we need to go to a national sales tax. It is the only way to ensure that all people living in USA are actually taxed. I can't think of another way to tax the illegals and end the burden on the government.

For personal tax returns individuals/married couples could be taxed on all income (earned, business, investment) as follows: on the first \$50,000: 10% on the next \$50,000: 15% on the next \$150,000: 17% on the next \$250,000: 20% on all income above \$500,000: 25% No personal deductions would be allowed under this system. Adjustments to the five tax rates (and possibly the tax levels) could be made by Congressional approval every 5 years. Initiate this new tax program for everyone born on or after 1995. Allow older individuals to opt-in to the new simplified tax program every year. New individuals born between 1990-1994 could opt-in to the program in the 2nd year; individuals born between 1985-1989 could opt-in to the 3rd year, etc. At the end of 20 years require all individuals not already in the program to change over to the new simplified tax code. This would phase out the burdensome individual tax laws, and allow adequate time for individuals (and businesses related to tax accounting and preparation) to make the necessary adjustments. By starting this program with those who haven't really started earning a living, it would have very little impact on most people. The gradual addition of individuals would allow for minor adjustments to be made. The ultimate benefit is that 20 years down the road there will no longer be a complicated tax law regarding personal income tax.

Anyone who receives government assistance does not receive a tax refund (i.e. housing, health care, food stamps, etc). Maybe with the exception of if you are over the age of 70.

Best of all, eliminate the personal income tax and move to a national sales tax or some sort of VAT. (And do it right. Don't start setting up exemptions, exceptions and different rates, thus forming loopholes and allowing workarounds, requiring tweaking and clarification, thus creating another monster.) As an alternative, at the very least, simplify, simplify, simplify the personal income tax code. Eliminate *all* deductions and credits including medical expenses, child credit and home mortgage deduction, tuition and temporary incentives (energy credits, etc.). I benefit or have benefited from all of these but a willing to give them up for a simpler, more straightforward way of paying taxes. On a personal level, I resent having *had* to spend my hard earned money to purchase tax prep software. We have simple paycheck income. No capital gains. No offshore oil investments. No depreciation of whatever. You get the idea. I know how to read, write and follow directions and flow charts (even complex ones). BUT after spending hours of time with forms, worksheets, fine print definitions, and literally shedding tears over a previous 1040, I filed my best effort. And got back a check from the IRS because their system found an additional credit for me. Ridiculous.

Dump the ENTIRE system. Dissolve the IRS. Go with a national sales tax. It is the only thing that is fair. If you have or make more money, you will spend more and pay more taxes. Perhaps exempt groceries or medicine from taxation.

I think a simpler tax system is the key though there are some ramifications to it. I think that a flat 10% or 15% (or whatever) tax rate for all employees would significantly simplify the tax system. I think we should eliminate many/all tax credits that complicate things. Certain tax deductions such as donations to non-profits should stay in effect as-is but there should be a limited number of possible deductions and they should be clearly listed and defined. These deductions should only be deducted when you file for taxes and not taken into consideration when deciding how much is taken out from your paycheck. The amount from your paycheck should be a fixed rate regardless of individual and deductions would only give a refund at the end of the year. The consequence/side effect for this is that many tax accountants would find themselves jobless or with significantly reduced income. For businesses, I think overall the current system of taxing profit works and would provide jobs for accountants though the tax code should be simplified as well. Tax credits should be somewhat standardized for certain incentives (such as alternative fuel for example) and should be applied for rather than listed at tax time. If the tax credit application is accepted, then it should just be automatically added to their account during tax season. Most importantly, after simplifying the tax code, I think the IRS should implement an online tax system similar to something like TurboTax Online (or similar programs) to make it incredibly simple for an individual to file their taxes. Businesses should have a different system which would naturally be a little more complex, but individuals should just have to go to the IRS website and quickly files their taxes. Businesses would also have to fill out a simple form online to tell how much an employee made and how much they took out for taxes. (Note that this would mean a bracketed tax system wouldn't work because an employer wouldn't know if their employee works multiple jobs or what-not for extra income which would change tax brackets) Then at tax time, the employee would basically just have to verify their identity, tell the IRS how much they made and how much was taken out in taxes and compare it to what the businesses filled out for accuracy. There would be a SMALL list of deductions that are available and the individual can either enter deductions or just skip and press file. If deductions were entered, then the system would let the person know how much of a refund they would be getting. Those are my thoughts on the matter.

A flat tax of 10-15%! Everyone pays the same on any money earned except interest on any type of savings. Do away with SSI in 2050 and cut disability payments by 50% immediately. No tax filing, no breaks, nothing. If someone is getting SSI or Disability, tax it!

Two "extreme" thoughts: 1> Regardless of income, everyone should contribute something (a 7%-10% minimum?). 2> If you don't pay it in, you don't get it back. (no credits that would allow you to get more from the government than you paid in) For the past 10 years, I personally have been among the half of Americans who end up NOT paying any federal income tax. Through credits and the like, I actually get back not only what I paid in, but substantially more through credits and the like. While I love money as much as the next guy, I feel guilty not to contribute and even worse to receive additional money back through credits while the small businessperson is taxed to death. Can the nation really afford this "generosity"? If more citizens contributed to the tax base, revenues would modestly increase, but more importantly, these citizens might wake up, consider their sacrifice, and demand that this money be spent more responsibly -- (spending less than we take in). Thanks for reading.

Tax everyone equally based on a percentage of income/interest earned. Make shell companies illegal, and modify, or eliminate laws that allow individuals and groups to hide behind incorporation.

Adopt Rep. Fattah's concept of dropping all income taxes, all business income tax, all capital gains taxes and tax all transactions 1% until debt paid off, then drop tax to 1/2%.

First of all get rid of all social taxes which should be made illegal. This includes any taxes that are imposed on a select group of taxpayers and not on others. i.e. special tax rates on items that some people wish were illegal but are not like cigarettes and alcohol. Most of these taxes end up being paid by the poor anyhow. The next step is to get rid of all inheritance taxes. The final step is to outlaw income taxes and go to a sale tax only system that is across board with no write offs. This would force congressmen and senators to reign in their spending because any tax increase would be faced by all. I believe that Food, Medical items and rent should all be tax free so that the poor can afford to live. The final item would have to do with corporate taxes. Any company that sells things here should have to pay a corporate tax that would be a percentage of however much income they bring in annually with no write offs. These items would all have profound effects on our country and our freedom. Item one (Social taxes) would equalize taxes among Americans and take away unfair taxation on the poor as it occurs now, Item two (Inheritance taxes) stops the theft of money earned by individuals for their families long term health, money for which they have already paid taxes when it was earned. Item three would end runaway spending and secret taxes from congress, More importantly it would cause all of the countries that want to sell things here to pay an equal amount of taxes as do companies that actually make things here. (The upsides of this are stronger jobs growth, equal prices for foreign and domestic items, and more importantly American taxpayers will have more money in their bank accounts making them money and less in credit costing them money. Finally the corporate tax issue. Over the past 20 years, American companies have transferred their business units overseas in order to get around our corporate tax laws. This final issue would make them pay their fair share of corporate tax no matter where they are headquartered at.

I suggest that all deductions and credits be ended and that people would not have to file tax returns. Just tax everyone at the graduated tax rates. Instead of filing a return, everyone gets a return in the mail that is already calculated (because the government does it anyway). If it is ok

with you, you do nothing other than wait for your refund or send a check for what you owe. If you have self-employment income or there are other inaccuracies, you have until a certain date to file a correction. This is similar to the UK system, which could be used as guidance on how to make it work.

Simple...FLAT TAX. No loopholes and no one feels that the "rich" who make over \$250,000 per year won't be paying their "share" even though they already pay over 70% of ALL taxes. A flat rate of 18-20% will be all we need to meet current spending standards.

I think the child credit is silly. I know people that get back more than they pay in taxes because they have children. Also, how is it that corporations, which rake in millions, can pay less than the average person? It's time to close these huge loopholes and make corporations pay their share.

No tax deductions after two kids. No tax deductions for mortgages. Tax companies that do business in the USA and then have corp offices like in Panama. No tax on Unemployment benefits. Increase SS Tax for those who make more than \$110,000.

Flat percentage of income for everyone, no exceptions, no deductions, no tricks. If you make \$100 your tax is y% of that. Simple. If you make \$100,000 your tax due is y% of your total income as well. Same for corporations. No breaks, no shelters, no nothing... if you make x, then y% of that income is what you owe. You reduce government, fewer IRS employees (sorry). Simplify enforcement of figuring out who is not paying. You reduce the expense of people having to go to expensive tax specialist for even the simplest returns because the current system is so horribly complex you have to. And most importantly here EVERYBODY PAYS THEIR FAIR SHARE!!!! No more billionaires paying less in taxes than us poor suckers stuck in the middle. The TRICKLE DOWN economy theory is snake oil. IT DOES NOT WORK!! The rich don't spend the windfall or create jobs or invest. They KEEP IT!! DUH!

Everyone should pay 10% of their income to Federal Taxes. No tax code! Just one formula. Take out 10% from every check.

Move to a flat tax structure! All income over 200% of the poverty rate should be taxed at the same rate. There are only 2 exemptions, First the mortgage interest deduction up to a limit based on the average current mortgage interest over the tax year. The total amount deductible would be based on 300% of the national median home price. Completely stripping away the interest deduction would destroy an already weak housing sector, and cause another down turn in the economy. By retaining the deduction for the majority of Americans we keep housing stable. The second tax change should be for capital gains and dividends. They should be taxed at a flat 10% up to a limit of 50% of total income. Once again most of us will see a reduction and only the minority, which is usually wealthy, will pay a higher rate on a portion of their unearned income. The flat tax rate for both corporations and individuals should be between 14% and 17% based on what the CBO determines in necessary to reduce the deficit and fund operations of the USA.

Make all credits non refundable once a person's tax liability reaches zero. Not paying taxes is one thing, making a profit off of a variety of credits is another.

Adjust for cost of living...earning \$100K in say Syracuse, NY is not the same as earning \$100K in NYC.

My preference would be for the "Fair Tax" that has some momentum, but nowhere near enough. The beauty of this system is that it would eliminate the IRS and get tax dollars from the huge "underground economy". We possibly could evolve to this system over time...first by moving to a flat tax (maybe 14%, for example) with all deductions, credits, etc. removed. The IRS could be seriously downsized and April 15th tax forms could be on a postcard sized return...name, SSN#, income, tax. Actually, filing could be avoided if everyone was taxed at the same rate...taxes could be deducted from payrolls or at the time securities are cashed in. This would not capture the "underground economy", but that could be phase 2.

Increase the taxes on the ultra-rich to the Clinton rates and close corporate loop holes. The country needs revenue to pay the 14 trillion off. Cuts alone won't get it done.

Flat Tax and consumption tax

Get away from the IRS tax forms and go to a "straight tax" - which means that the tax is included in the purchase of items - a higher percentage of tax for more luxurious items. That way if you have the money and you purchase more high end items you pay more in taxes and if you purchase the bare essentials you pay less in taxes. No loopholes, no tax forms, no frauding the tax system.

I would flip the tax rates. If you are under 65 and make more than \$250K in capital gains income, tax at 35%, but any work related income - 15%. Over 65 AND Retired - tax any income (salary or Capital Gains) at 15%. Any WORK related - salary - tax at 15% regardless of income levels. Remove all income caps on contributions to both SS and Medicare from payroll taxes.

First of all do away with income tax altogether. Create a 25% to 30% sales tax on all items sold. That way any items sold to individuals or corporations would be fair across the board. 5% of that would go to social security, 5% to Medicare/Medicaid witch would go into interest bearing accounts witch could not be touched by any govt. agency. The rest could go to state and federal govt. this would create equal retirement and medical care for all. The tax to the states is already around 5% so they wouldn't be losing anything and 10% to federal govt is plenty to run it. Second by doing this would keep all tax payers honest, with less govt to monitor it. Just a thought simple but effective and fair for all.

Sorry, IRS, it is time to say good-bye to you as you are currently known. Listening to the constant grumbling from one end of the U.S. to the other, it is clear that the average American has one thought in mind. GET RID of the current Income Tax system and all the hidden allowances that comes with it. It is time that every paycheck earning - tax paying American pay the same percentage of their earnings towards their Income Tax. If we make \$2M a year or \$1,000 - we all will be paying an equal fair share. AND, have a spending tax, that way we STILL will be paying our fair share for whatever we purchase. We will be able to pay off the national debt. We also need to start taxing all the corporations that left our country to get cheap labor overseas. Tax breaks need to be a thing of the past. It's time we bring this country back together!

Eliminating the IRS would save this government billions of dollars. Simple tax code reform would be to tax everyone 10% on their gross income, eliminate all other taxes and the government would find it has more than enough money to run the government and pay down the debt. Everyone would pay 10% from the poorest to the wealthiest including corporations. This tax system would eliminate most of the IRS too.

No more refundable tax credits! Any tax credits in excess of tax liability for any given tax year should only be allowed to be carried forward, and even then for a maximum of three years. Refundable tax credits are just another form of welfare.

Eliminate all deductions for individuals and corporations. Instead, establish a graduated flat tax that eliminates taxes completely for the lowest incomes and gradually increases as income increases. Unemployment and social security benefits should not be taxed at all.

Flat Tax Charge everyone the same rate. Eliminate all exemptions. And eliminate 98 percent of the IRS.

Have a flat tax for all income, regardless of where it originated, have different age brackets (elderly on fixed income should not have to pay as much as a young working person with the same income), and have different income brackets with different rates. Do away with all deductions, credits, etc.

Simply get rid of all deductions except the standard, based on the official poverty level, and dependents, put in a flat tax rate of say 18%, and we could fill out our tax returns on a postcard. If you did not make any income outside of your job, then you could not overpay or underpay your obligations, as your employer would take out the exact amount owed.

Eliminate all tax deduction for everyone who makes more the \$500,000. Also eliminate tax on all unemployment. Also eliminate the death tax. Scale back the IRS by eliminating possible tax loopholes. As I see it the tax code is far too complicated, meaning, that the average everyday tax payer cannot understand it. The tax code needs to be simplified.

We should move to a progressive flat tax. Annual Income Tax Rate \$0 - \$25,000 0.00% \$25,001 - \$35,000 8.00% \$35,001 - \$50,000 10.00% \$50,001 - \$150,000 15.00% \$150,001 - \$500,000 20.00% \$500,001 - \$2,500,000 25.00% \$2,500,001 and over 30.00% No deductions, no credits just a flat tax. The brackets and rates can be adjusted to whatever congress authorizes.

People should pay income tax according to how much they make. Therefore if you make more money, you pay more. When the tax burden is on the middle class and the wealthy have a lot of ways to avoid paying taxes, that's not fair at all. They keep getting richer and we are barely struggling to keep what we have. There are too many ways that the wealthy can get around paying taxes-cut those out. It's amazing how lop-sided things are!!

1. Make the 45% who pay no federal taxes pay their fair share. 2. Close the biggest tax loopholes of them all: 3. Tax political campaign contributions as income. 4. Eliminate the charitable contribution deduction. 5. Tax contributions to and earnings of churches as income. 6. Tax contributions to and earnings of NGOs as income. 7. Tax contributions to and earnings of all other charities as income. 8. Tax contributions to and earnings of all educational institutions as income. 9. Remove the earnings cap on Social Security contributions. Fiscal problem solved. NOTE: Repeal of IRC Secs. 170, 501, 2055 and 2522 would cover much of the above.

Create a flat tax of 13% for everyone including corporations, with no deductions. Create a 30% import duty for any goods that the production formerly was in the US.

Everyone including business should pay .11 cents on the dollar and never have to file period let's get rid of all the red tape would make me happy

We need a flat tax rate where everyone pays into. No tiers. Everyone uses the roads, government help, so they should pay in. It would be easier and less fraud.

I believe that the progressive tax system in the US is unfair and unconstitutional. A flat tax system would eliminate this unfairness, make the tax code simpler and encourage capital formation, savings, and even consumption which are the main driver of the US economy.

The answer is scrapping the income tax and replacing it with a National Sales Tax, here's why: Mechanisms are already in place to collect state sales tax in most states, a few simple modifications to this system would collect the applicable revenues and abstract the complexities from the consumer, states would simply forward national revenues to the treasury. This would eliminate the need for the IRS as we know it today, an agency which has historically failed to (understandably) adequately manage the monumental workload of overseeing hundreds of millions of individual and corporate returns. With enough flexibility in month to month tax rates the purpose served by the Federal Reserve insofar as adjustments to the intra-bank lending rates would now fall with congress, or a department of the government. Who knows, maybe this will be a

new function of the IRS after the change. How is this? adjusting the prime rate is a method to combat inflation but takes months to effect a change in the actual economy since the rate only effects the lending rates between banks making money more or less "expensive" and expanding or shrinking the economic bubble by decreasing or increasing the availability and utilization of capital credit. This change would make the consumer the crux of our national revenue system. The more the consumer spends, the more revenue our country takes in. Want to increase spending and increase the size of the capitalist "bubble?" decrease the national sales tax for a month, want to curtail spending? Hike it up. The effect would be nearly instantaneous and would put our country's revenue capability squarely in line with our economy, as opposed to the current income tax system of competing interests, government and economy. The government would, for once, have a vested interest in keeping the economy strong. If you need proof that reducing (or eliminating) a sales tax for a short time will increase spending, go to Staples one day in any of the state's offering a "back to school" no sales tax weekend and, if you aren't run over by a manic mother battling for school supplies, I'll be surprised. To those detractors decrying the effect on the poor, certain necessities such as food, perhaps utilities, etc. could be exempt.

Get rid of taxes on unemployment benefits. Get rid of child tax credits and shift a portion of that credit over to daycare benefits. Single income households are harder and harder to survive on, meaning daycare needed for 2-working-parent homes - and the amount allowed now is NOT reasonable for daycare costs borne by the market. Tie mortgage interest deductions to the price of the home and gross incomes. Make it graduated like our current tax rates, but inverse. Those that can only afford a 70k-80k home should be able to exempt all interest, higher value homes can pay a little more. Not only increase revenues, but encourage sound fiscal decisions when home-buying. KEEP higher education tax credits and deductions. This BENEFITS society by creating more able and competitive labor force. Get rid of ANY subsidy, tax credit or deduction for companies that off-shore SKILLED labor. I like the idea of voluntary donations to decrease our deficit, BUT (big but), the government needs to spend time, effort and a bit of capital on an EDUCATION campaign to explain to taxpayers what their \$50 donation means. It would be lovely to simplify the system into a flat tax, but I don't have confidence that sound financial minds are being listened to in Washington. If they come along (those that listen to ECON policy rather than Political rhetoric), then by all means - float the idea to them.

We need to go to a flat-tax system with no deductions, no add-ons, no subtractions. This is the ONLY way for everyone to have a "fair share" in the funding of our government at all levels.

As a home owner (bank loan) I would not like to see the interest on home loans removed. That said I don't like paying taxes for the people that have 12 kids and get breaks for each of them. I don't like interest deductions on second homes/boats/etc., either. So I would agree to a flat tax on gross income like 10%. My wife's retirement from being a police officer is a disability retirement (no tax) so I would like that to continue. I am also 60 my wife is 53. We both have paid into SS for a long time as have my present and past employers. I don't like the thought of paying income tax on SS benefits but I don't like SSI (people getting \$'s because they are drunks or drugies. This should be eliminated. Businesses should pay tax also. A previous employer had three partners (LLC). Each of them plus their wives got a company car. This expense was written off and reduced the amount of tax they paid although none of them claimed the value of the car/gas/insurance on their personal taxes. Get rid of the deductions - if you make money - pay a tax. Period. Thanks for the opportunity to share my viewpoint.

Change the entire system to tax consumption instead of income (i.e. a national sales tax). Then EVERYONE pays! This includes criminals, tax dodgers, everyone that makes a taxable purchase, even when with laundered money.

Go to a flat tax - no breaks, no credits, and no loopholes. No forms should even be necessary - an entity sends you money then they send Treasury (not a now non-existent IRS) the fixed percentage first. Simple. Effective. Which means it's an impossible condition for our Government to enact.

SIMPLIFY THE [word removed] SYSTEM! It is far too complicated and costly to run which makes it subject to fraud. It is also costing everyone money and time to prepare tax returns. Almost everyone should be able to complete them in a couple of hours...not in a day or two. It should be easy enough for 99% of tax payers to do themselves. Simplify deductions. Most of the current deductions should be eliminated. Maybe only catastrophic loss caused by property damage or major health expenses should be allowed. A simple 4 to 5 bracket system with tax percentage to be multiplied against net income. A simplified tax system would be a fair and cheaper to run. It would also make tax fraud much more difficult. The IRS might be able to spend more time looking for unreported income which is probably the largest part of tax fraud.

How about taxing people on net worth rather than income?

I personally believe that we need to implement a national sales tax, and get rid of the IRS and the tax codes as we know them. This will create a flat tax for everyone, and the more money you make, means the more money you spend, thus translating to the more money you pay into the system. It will also eliminate a huge aspect of the government's budget with the dissolution of the IRS as we know it. Granted there would still be an IRS, but it would not exist on the same scale as it does today.

Stop taxing income. Tax consumption. The rich will pay more too.

I currently benefit greatly from the tax code that is currently written. I have 5 children that I currently have received child tax breaks on, this is now down to just 3 that are eligible, but it still will be substantial in any means. I haven't paid any taxes because of credits for years because of my children. My answer to this question about tax reform, which doesn't benefit me at all, is to eliminate all of the tax breaks for everyone. Create bottom line taxes that have no tax credits at all. Depending on your income, everyone will be in different levels of taxed income; these levels will dictate how every American will pay from the poor to the rich. Since there are no tax breaks any longer, each American will see higher pay checks throughout the week because the tax rates should be less than what they are currently because the Government is not giving any money back. I still believe that unemployment should be taxed, but at a significantly reduced rate. I also believe that military retirees should not be taxed. Putting all these years of service before their own needs should be rewarded. Retirees upon retirement take significant cuts to their payroll. This is a great way to give back to those that have sacrificed so much over the years. The tax code as currently written is way too big to keep around. Let's make it simple and make it that every American within each tax segment pays the same amount, no one should be able to escape paying taxes

We still need a progressive or graduated tax system where the richer you are the higher the percentage you pay. However we also need to eliminate all loopholes including the mortgage deduction. If we really eliminated ALL loopholes and special deduction for individuals, we could lower all rates and still collect more revenue from the higher income earners so that our revenues would be closer to those collected prior to 1980 when Reagan and the Republicans embarked on the dogma of tax cuts for the rich and eliminating regulations on the financial industry. This resulted in the largest redistribution of wealth in world history, from the poor and middle class consumers, to the rich. We are now paying the price for this as the American consumer has far less money to spend on goods and services and therefore the entire economy is suffering.

A simple across the board % of income for all. No deductions! If you earn it, you pay a %. I believe if everyone paid that it would be less for the average person.

Whatever happened to the FLAT TAX? It's the only equitable manner in which everyone pays their fair share. But, then, there's a bunch of folks in Washington who rebel at the idea of fairness when it comes to taxation. If I - on a fixed income, and having to work a part time job to meet ends meet - am willing to part with a fixed portion of my income, then why not those whose incomes are 10 to 100 times greater than mine? Of the Seven Deadly Sins, greed, avarice and pride will never let such a scheme gain traction. Such is the mindset of those who "have" as opposed to we who "haven't". Beats all I've ever seen in my 75 years.

Flat tax, 1st \$30K tax free, 10 - 15% tax rate, no exemptions / deductions except IRA / 401K type plans

Flat 15% tax on all individuals, 12% on Married filing jointly, and some sort of loophole guarded tax rate for corporations. A penalty tax for corporations registered in the US with more than 70% of its profits holdings overseas.

Look, it's real simple. A straight percentage of income. ALL income. Period. No loopholes, no write-offs. A very simple form. List incomes, multiply by a percentage, write the total. Corporate, capital gains, etc. All the same. I bet we would be able to get it into the single digits and still have plenty of money for the government. And no one, NO ONE could complain about it. What could be simpler, or make more sense? Thanks.

(1) Do away with all the refundable credits, or at least EITC. My taxes should not go to paying other people; they should be used to fund the Federal Government and its program/projects that benefit all citizens. (2) Establish one percentage (e.g. 20% of income) that all taxpayers pay instead of penalizing people that work hard by taxing them more and rewarding people that do not by taxing them less. I feel strongly that someone who makes millions (by the way I'm not one of these people) should not have to make up extra for those who make minimum wage. It's basically penalizing people for trying hard and succeeding in life. (3) Make all credits apply to all people. For example, the First Time Home Buyer Credit could not be claimed by single people making more than \$75,000. That is ridiculous, because a 1-bedroom house costs the same whether a single person or a married couple purchases it. Why penalize the single person? At least the cap should have been the same whether you file single or joint. (4) Stop incentivizing people to have children that they cannot afford. Do not allow anyone to deduct more than two dependents. (5) Make unemployment, welfare and other "hand-outs" taxable.

Drop the current system and go to a consumption tax on all purchase except medicine and groceries. This way EVERYONE would pay according to their spending habits/means and there would be no nasty surprise in April when you find you owe lots more \$\$\$\$\$\$.

I think that there should be one rate for all - individuals, businesses, etc. I wonder, if all loopholes, deductions, etc. were gotten rid of, at what rate would we all be taxed at to get the same revenue? Probably at a rate a lot less than we are taxed at now. And everyone should pay taxes, no matter how little or how much one makes.

A flat percentage of income with NO deductions 0 for under \$15K-face it that's poverty 5 for 15K-to 25K-a lot of part time workers 10 for 25K to 50K 20 for 50K to 500K 25 for 500K to 1 Million 30 for anything over 1 million and a ONE TIME rebate for the purchase of a primary residence only-no deductions on interest-we can't deduct interest on credit cards or car loans or student loans, why houses? The rebate can be applied toward the down payment or closing costs to help just like a car rebate, but no more free ride on interest.

Tax everybody a flat tax of somewhere between 10 to 15 per cent, period! Personal as well as corporate. Tax everybody a flat tax of somewhere between 10 to 15 per cent, period! Personal as well as corporate.

I feel that income taxes should be increased for everybody earning more than \$250,000/year. This is fair and equitable. The rich who have benefited so much ought to be willing to help our country. It's called economic patriotism!

Eliminate capital gains treatment and tax gains as ordinary income. there is no justification for stock gains to receive preferential treatment over interest income.

Change the depreciation schedule to three simple levels. 5 years straight line for capital equipment that was produced outside the US, 2 years for equipment where more than 50% of the labor to produce was from the US, and full depreciation in the year of purchase for any capital expense for which the labor to produce the item was more than 90% from US sources. Speeding up depreciation will encourage companies to make capital improvements, increasing the economic recovery. Giving a faster depreciation schedule for items produced with US labor helps keep the jobs created by economic expansion in the US.

Flat Tax! 10% across the board, the more you make the more taxes you pay. Very simple. That way I, as a single person making a lot less than \$50,000, won't be paying 35% taxes. Makes a lot of sense to me!

Flat tax across everyone including corporations.

1) Have a flat tax on all income across the board for all persons and businesses. 2) The standard deduction for personal taxes would be equivalent to the value of welfare benefits society, via government, deems appropriate, based on household configuration. 3) Where personal income falls is below item 2, supplement income in lieu of welfare, resulting in the elimination of the current welfare system in favor of a process that normalizes rather than marginalize those who need assistance.

Hello I would remove all the deductions and credits. I have kids and a house but think removing the credits for children and interest on a house is the way to go. I would remove charity deductions as well. A person should get taxed on what their total income is. That being said tax rates may need to be lowered to match what a person should be taxed.

The Earned income tax credit should be eliminated. This credit breeds fraud. An enormous number of recipients claim HOH to receive this credit, they are not eligible. They pay a fee to claim children and they are NOT the parents. Both should be fined heavily, the ones that use the children and the parent that allow the use. IRS & SSA should work together to prevent EIC fraud and ID fraud. Businesses should not receive tax credit that hired illegals period.

I am a strong advocate of a graduated flat tax. Even if low income people are required to pay only 1 or 2%, they are contributing. I also strongly feel that corporations should pay some type of flat tax, without all of the manipulation of lobbied deductions. Every corporation utilizes the benefits of roads and public services so why shouldn't they have a structured formula as well. If religious organizations and churches are allowed to lobby and get politically involved in local, state and national issues to push their sin laws, then why are they tax exempt?

I am a Tax preparer and I think they need to ditch the Earned Income Credit. The IRS pays out millions, maybe billions, to people that don't deserve it. I have seen hundreds of married couples, or couples living together as man and wife get back more than \$10,000.00 by lying on their Tax forms. This is the most abused Tax Credit that we have and I not heard one word about reforming it. Cracking down on this could save the country hundreds of millions of dollars.

This is the time to start working towards a 'Flat Tax'. This would be the simplest of all tax codes and would not require a degree in Economics to do your tax return. If this is not possible at this time, then start by reducing the tax credits. The child base credits are especially getting out of hand. The government (taxpayers) is not obligated to help out people who choose to have umpteen children. If we can't get rid of these credits completely then reduce them.

My tax reform suggestion is very simple. Initiate a flat tax system. No deductions, loopholes, just enter your income multiplied by a percentage and pay it.

US citizens residing overseas should not be required to file US taxes on their worldwide income. The US is the only developed western country with this policy. The hassle and expense of complying is crazy, especially when liability is effectively reduced to zero through treaties, but only after dozens of pages of forms. FUBAR and its ilk need to be reworked as well. Stop treating middle class citizens overseas as if they were US billionaires with Swiss accounts

Why let immigrants live off our tax paid services for 7 years without paying any taxes. How are they any different from our young adults who are also just starting out? Immigrants have an advantage over our nation's children. Let the immigrants pay taxes like everyone else.

Please move contributions to a 1040 line item.... then everyone would receive the benefit and contributions would increase, people shouldn't have to have a mortgage and itemize in order to get a deduction for contributions!!

Eliminate the income tax. Use a sales tax. Exempt certain basic living expense items from the sales tax like food, rental and housing allowance, basic clothing, etc. Have a very tiny federal bureau where every company submits its basic product for approval of the sales tax exemption. This is fair for everyone because if one only spends only on basic living items, then that person pays no taxes. If one spends on flat screen TVs and any other non-necessary expense, then that person pays the taxes. Therefore, it is a consumption tax. Warren Buffet and Bill Gates would pay taxes on everything they own except for the basics that come out of the supermarket and their housing allowance exemption.

Democracy is not working. I propose that we tax lobbyists 75% of their income. Churches have become too political. I suggest we remove tax exemptions for all churches. Big banks need to be audited more often by the IRS. So do big insurance companies. We need to be extra sure they aren't fiddling with our money. All refundable credits should be dumped. Only non-refundable credits should be used on tax returns.

Go to a flat 8 percent tax on everything.

I am a CPA and would suggest that the rules for depreciation be totally overhauled. There is no longer needs for anything other than a SL method over a fixed number of years. All the other methods should be eliminated. This would make all businesses equal in how depreciation is taken. Second, limit mortgage deductions to only 15,000 per year anyone deducting more than that has too large a mortgage and is putting the housing market at further risk just like in the past 10 years, Some of the adjustments to get to AGI are not fair and should be removed. Carried interest should be taxed at 35 percent as I work in the hedge fund business, these guys are getting away with too much money and too little tax period, the GOP should be ashamed of themselves. NOLS should not be part of the AMT; it's not fair to have a loss included back in and have to pay tax.

Simple flat tax. No credits, no exemptions and best of all, no need to file a tax return. Employers have a record of income that's reported to the IRS. Why should I have to tell them again?

I am a CPA and our tax code is the results of intellectual idiots. They think and think and think and always come up with something that is idiotic. 1) Straight forward tax rates that increase as your income increases - individuals and companies. 2) Corporations receive 100% deduction for cash dividend payouts. This will decrease fraud. Dividends taxed as regular income. First \$1,000 of dividend and interest income is exempt to offset people's interest expense. The big change that will blow your mind is a tax penalty for having or adopting children like China. This will decrease government over time, welfare payments, crime, and many ills of society. Thank you for reading.

I work at a farm equipment supply store. We are required to have farmers to fill out a tax exemption form for their purchases, we keep these forms on file and virtually all tickets printed thru our computer are generated with their name and address on the parts ticket and then those are each signed. So we have the parts ticket signed and we have the tax form filed away to correspond to that individual, which covers us if we are audited. Here is the problem. If someone comes in to purchase a tractor part I have to ask "Is this a taxable purchase or are you farm exempt? They might say well I have 8 acres so I am farm exempt. I usually say something like, well do you sell any produce off the average or do you file an F form when you file your taxes? Sometimes I get a vague answer to this. Anyway the bottom line is this: if they are willing to sign the tax exempt form we keep on file I do not charge them tax, I am not the IRS I cannot follow them home and check to see if all my customers are telling the truth. There are times that I am fairly certain that they are not exempt. It seems like all the farmers should apply for a tax exempt card from the IRS that they could keep in their wallet, if it had a number on it we could keep it recorded. Similar to a business having a Missouri Sales Tax Number. By the way I can assure you those are terribly abused also. If a business buys a product for resale my understanding is that it is non-taxable. If they buy it for their use (they are the end user) it is taxable. Try telling the business owners this; I believe many of them need a little education.

I think a flat tax is the answer - not a graduated plan just straight % for individuals. Think if you have children you should have thought about supporting them before you gave birth. Earned income tax credit - what a joke! Talk about redistribution of wealth. Other people's children are not my responsibility. I have two degrees but lost my job in 2009 and still had to pay tax on my unemployment and am still paying off the IRS. The fees and penalties are 1/3 of the balance due. When I wrote to them, they had the audacity to send me a letter telling me to expect a reply within 45 days. They actually wasted postage to send that. It is no wonder our country is broke! FLAT TAX 8% For everyone, businesses could if course deduct expenses such as payroll, raw materials but not corporate jets and other waste. Simple economics - pay tax on the profit after deducting the cost of doing business. Too many people get away with too much and the crooks in DC are the worst.

The IRS should give a break to the disabled folks in this country who have limited income, like in my case being a retired disabled Veteran.

I read an article maybe about a year ago about wealthy millionaires receiving unemployment benefits, and it wasn't just a few more like over a thousand or so. Seriously why would someone who earned a million dollars need unemployment. Let's stop this! Another thing why are the wealthy taxed 3 percent and the poor 12 percent. Seems really unfair that the wealthiest get taxed the least and the poor the most. Common

sense (logic) really doesn't make sense. Why aren't hedge fund managers/CEOs taxed? Are they too good that they can't be treated like everyone else? Sorry for rambling... just hoping for fairness and understanding. Thank you.

Enact the fair tax. A national tax at 25% on all new items purchased would eliminate the need to for all other taxes. Consumption in America grows regardless of recession. Over a 10 year period all taxes could be amalgamated making bubbles irrelevant.

Flat tax with the first \$50,000 deducted.

Eliminate itemized deductions, especially those for mortgage deductions, and compensate with a more progressive tax structure.

The premise of our tax system is sound, it just needs to be cleaned up, stripped down, and streamlined. Like any other living body of rules, our tax system has been a compilation and an evolution of a country in ever-changing flux. We need to dive into the tax code and rewrite everything into a more coherent piece before actually changing the system.

Bonuses and salary paid to top management of more than a certain percentage (say 300%) of the company's lowest full-time employee's total salary and bonus should have an additional tax surcharge.

I would advocate a flat tax, with credit to low income earners, but not to welfare recipients, as an incentive to have employment

A flat tax rates for individuals. A flat tax rate for businesses and corporations. No tax breaks, no credits, just keep it simple. Tax what you earn: earn a lot, pay a lot, earn a little pay a little. Too many loopholes in the current system

A flat rate no deduction for special interests or anything else. 10% of a hundred is \$10. 10% of one million is one hundred thousand. Eliminate the loopholes for the rich and let the other fifty percent who pay no taxes step up to the plate and quit crying poor me. .

Instead of a cap on Social Security and Medicare, how about no cap, but the first \$20,000 made is not taxed.

It is my understanding that 40% of Americans do not pay any taxes to the IRS at all. This is not fair! I would urge the President and Congress to reconsider the idea of a 10% to 15% flat tax that ALL Americans would pay with no deductions. You simply take your total earned income for the year and multiply it times 10% to 15%, then subtract the taxes you have already paid via employer deductions, monthly or quarterly payments,

etc., and then the person pays the balance. Everyone would contribute! This could be done on a one page tax form and save the IRS, U.S., etc. billions of dollars per year. My taxes are so complicated now that I have to pay a CPA \$500 per year to complete my IRS tax forms. Why won't the idiots in Washington wake up and do something that would generate money for the federal government, eliminate thousands of IRS jobs that would not be needed, and help balance the budget? The career politicians in Washington all need to be voted out of office and replaced by businessmen who know how to get things done. [Taxpayer Name]

Abolish income tax and create a fixed sales tax. The government would get way more money through sales (due to non-taxpayers then paying taxes and obviously there are way more sales than workers) and people would have a choice with their money rather than having the government steal it from them.

If you want parents to pay child support, make it tax deductible and eliminate the child tax credit and/or the exemption per child.

Reduce or eliminate taxes on wages, wages only, of \$50,000 or less, this can be offset by reducing tax breaks for top 1%. This lets workers keep more \$ to spend in our communities helping local small bus. And creating more jobs also reduces paperwork for business as they do not need all the paperwork associated with figuring out taxes and sending them to proper authorities, this is a win-win-win situation. Small businesses of fewer than 15 to 20 employees should get extra tax break because these are the type small business that employ many folks, the tax break combined with less cost for paperwork associated with collecting taxes on less than \$50,000 in wages would result in better bottom line leading to more \$\$ in profit which would be spent locally creating more jobs. thank you

Flat tax - no deductions and no credits to anybody for anything.... My tax form should be no longer than half a page and should take no more than three minutes to complete.

Drop child dependent deduction or at least limit it to just one or two. Eliminate home mortgage deduction or at least cap the maximum deduction at \$5000 per family. Increase taxes. Require minimum tax (5% or 10% of sales) on ALL big businesses.

While I feel the pain of balancing the budget and reducing deficits, I do not think that the child credit or mortgage interest break should be removed all together. These are vital elements of most middle-income families being able to support their families. While some argue that we don't need so many children these days to help on the farm, the US is inching closer to a negative birth rate and a massive exit of boomers from the workforce. We need to keep America young and active. I believe we should lower the limits on what most would term "middle income". The credits, etc., that are needed for lower and middle income families do not make sense generally for families making six figures. While I'm not a fan of "taxing the rich", I believe that the tax system should allow for certain breaks for those that are struggling to make ends meet.

Simple flat tax! All people pay the same percentage of their total income with no deductions.

Go to a flat tax on all earned and unearned income; no ifs, ands, or buts!

Flat Tax - the only deductions from income are for self and dependents (up to 3 children and up to two additional foster or adopted children) - Double the deduction for over 65.

Make more people, regardless of income level, participate in the income tax system. If you earn income, even at the poverty level, you must pay something in income taxes. It is very easy to get 70% of people to say "tax the rich" when 50% don't pay income taxes.

FLAT TAX IN A COUNTRY THAT HAS EQUAL RIGHTS WE SHOULD ALSO BE TAXED EQUALLY.

It can be so very simple. The first say \$50,000 of income is exempt for taxation. All income over \$50,000 is taxed at a flat rate of say 15%. No deductions of any kind. All sources of income are taxable. The exemption amount could higher or lower. The flat rate percentage could also be changed. How simple is that?

It is time that we eliminate tax free medical insurance paid for by the employer. Legitimately, it is an income and should be taxed. At the same time the tax break business gets because of paying for employer insurance must also be eliminated. This is a fair solution to all including those who pay for their insurance such as seniors and small scale business employees.

I believe we need a flat tax for everyone. It is not fair that someone who works smarter or harder to make more money is taxed more than someone who makes less. It demoralizes people to try and get ahead when they know they will have to pay more taxes.

Here are my suggestions: 1. Keep tax credits for low and middle income families, but don't make them refundable. Credits should reduce tax liability, not put government money into people's pockets. 2. Social Security payroll tax should not cap and should be much less percentage than it now is. 3. Make government smaller so we need less.

Anyone with an income over about \$150,000 does not need ANY tax breaks. They have benefited from this country, so let less tax be paid by those who are simply still trying to find the good life.

It should be like the PA tax code. A flat rate on all taxpayers regardless of how much they make. Include all sources of income except for social security and pensions. No deductions, so no way to avoid paying. You can give forgiveness for very low income earners. Business and corporations pay a slightly higher rate but with no deductions. Everyone needs to share the pain.

Bring on a flat tax for everyone with no deductions, the current tax code is written for lawyers and the rich.

Tax what you buy not what you make even food and medicine at least 1-2%, luxury goods 25% autos 8% imports 10%. You get the idea internet sales 10%. All stocks bought 3% of value. When sold 1% if it is a loss 2% if it is a gain. We already pay sales taxes in most states this would be easy to implement. Collecting daily from business is a staggering amount of money even more than having people file every year. When wages go down so does Internal Revenue. However, people will always need food and energy prices seldom drop. The government can accurately predict income and hopefully balance budgets accordingly. It will take work and determination to implement not sure we have anymore officials that have those qualities anymore.

Have a flat tax of 12 percent across board. No right offs for depreciation of purchases; it's part of doing business. Drop the unearned income credit. No child care credit. Can't write off house taxes or interest. Tax carries out food. Tax food bought in grocery stores. Start national tax of 3 percent to go toward the national debt only.

I think we ought to go to one of the following: Flat tax rate on ALL income except government subsidies to the poor. This includes everything including stock options and work related benefits. My actual preference is to get rid of income tax completely and go to a national sales tax, with the possible exception of necessary food (does not restaurant or take-out) and life-saving medicine.

A flat rate tax system with the only deductions based on dependents. Everyone, individuals, corporations, pays the same rate. [Taxpayer Name]

This is a very simple idea. 1. Change tax code to a sales tax, with essentials like food, medicine and whatever else non-taxable. This way, the underground economy gets to pay taxes as well. 2. Reduce the corporate tax rate to about 20% and get rid of ALL loopholes, period.

Put a check box for people to voluntarily donate money to reduce the national debt, with some or all of the donation deductible from gross income. Limit deductions for very wealthy. All medical expenses should be deductible by all but the very wealthy.

Simple, make it 5% across the board for all NO EXCEPTIONS and you're done.

1) Flat tax rate for all Americans for all income over the poverty line. 2) Elimination of all deductions, credits, tax breaks for all Americans and corporations. 3) Corporate taxes should only accrue for income in US. All other foreign income is outside of scope. 4) Application of a VAT.

I would like to see a new tax I will call a Frivolous Compensation tax. When an organization can afford to pay the top earners more than 50 times what the bottom earners make, then they easily have the money to pay more taxes. For example, if you can pay a ball player \$20 million, but you are not paying the groundskeepers at least \$400,000 per year, then the \$20 million compensation exceeds the 50 times rule, and the ball teams organization would pay the tax. In corporations, I believe this will help drive up the pay for the middle class because it will be in the interest of the top earners to avoid the Frivolous Compensation tax. It would be better to grow their business (for example more ball clubs with money available in the sport), or compensate all those in the middle class better (so those that clean and repair the locker rooms, etc don't have to worry about buying shoes for their growing children's feet while the players are buying their third luxury home).

I think we should have a simple flat-rate tax for all those that would like to opt into that sort of thing. For the rest of us, tread lightly on the current system as radical changes can wreak havoc on family finances. Many of the deductions and credits are good in many different ways. However, I do think that we should not have the government providing refunds in excess of what people have paid. In some cases (i.e., adoption) I can see merit in allowing this to carry forward to future tax years. But in most cases credits and deductions should just reduce an individual's tax liability.

The tax system should be much simpler. It should be a tiered system of increasing % with no cap! The number of dependents should be taken into consideration. There should not be tax credits, but the amount of taxes paid (county, city, etc.) should be deducted from the gross income. There should also be a voluntary contribution box for lowering our country's national debt. I think it is a crime that practically no one can file their taxes without the aid of an accountant. Any system that complicated needs to be corrected. I also think that unemployment compensation and social security income should be exempt from taxation.

I'd say make it simple and do a national sales tax. Then everyone will be paying taxes. It could be a low percentage, but it would be enough to start chipping away at the deficit. Once it gets established as the new norm, then the tax code could start getting simplified and we could do away with other taxes and credits, etc.

1) Make dividend income taxable at ordinary income tax rates, i.e., eliminate the special 15% income tax rate on qualified dividends. 2) Increase the long-term capital gains tax to 20%. 3) Eliminate the 0% capital gains tax loophole.

Drop the Federal Income Tax altogether. Add 10-15% to each states sales tax to compensate. Everyone pays as they go and they pay a tax only on what they purchase. If you buy more, you pay more. For those that are not well off, they will pay less since they will purchase less. The only two exceptions would be food and medicine. Everything else would be taxed.

1. Any adjusted gross income under \$20K is tax free - a real benefit to poor people. 2. Raise income tax on higher income brackets 3. Audit business tax write-offs and limit what can be used as a deduction 4. Eliminate loopholes - all of them, and penalize corporations for moving jobs off-shore. The purpose of government is not to give the people what they want, it is to create, as much as possible, a level playing field where those that want to succeed, can.

Two things that have not kept up with inflation: \$3,000 limit on capital losses and 14 cents per mile charitable driving mileage rate. Also, I do not support lower rates on dividends or not phasing out itemized deductions for incomes over \$100,000.

10% on all cooperate net profits no taxes on \$35,000 or less income per adult no taxes on couples (filing jointly) less than \$60,000 (marriage penalty off set by shared finances) 3,500 deductions for each child 5% on income from base to \$150,000. 10% on income \$150,000 to \$300,000. 15% above \$300,000 small business none below 100,000; 5% to 300,000*if some benefits for employees, 10% if not. 15% above \$300,000 plus some credit for health and retirement benefits. No loop holes or other deductions! Everyone except the poor pay a share. I'm in the "simplify" camp, too. I favor a flat tax. Happy to see it tiered. You make in this range, you pay x%. You make in this range, you pay y%. But I also want it to be fair. Everyone who works pays something. Not all the burden on only half of the workers.

Flat tax rate of 7.75% across the board; no loop holes. PERIOD Minimum gross to be taxed is <21,000. Everyone else, 7.7.5%

A national, flat sales tax would ensure that everyone pays their fair share. The rich pay more because they're spending more, the poor pay less because they're spending less. Don't allow exemptions, or credits, or deductions. By not allowing these, individuals do not need to file tax returns so the IRS could be slimmed down, saving tax dollars.

The tax code is way too complicated. Shouldn't Joe Citizen be able to determine their tax without using premade software or an accountant? Every person who earns any money should pay something in the form of taxes. It's crazy that 40% of people pay no taxes. A flat tax rate sure sounds good to me!

% of earnings = Flat tax

Plain and simple, a flat tax across the board for everyone. That way you know everyone is paying and it would probably produce a lot more money and a lot less collections through tax levy's knowing that everyone has paid.

Go to a flat tax of 15% for all income over \$20,000 for individuals and 20% for business income over 30,000 and do away with all credits and subsidies

Throw out the whole tax code and start over should be the first thing. Eliminate filing annual returns for most people. Do like Mexico and other countries. Take the taxes out of the paycheck and that's it. Make a simple one rate above a certain exemption level and let the employer submit the taxes withheld to the IRS. DONE!

Restrict dependent exemptions to 2 children - in this day and age of overpopulation, we do not need to subsidize large families.

Please eliminate the benefits that allow big corporations to not pay any tax. How can we allow people to make billions and yet threaten social security and Medicare programs? I am a registered Republican, but, think I may have made a mistake!

Simplify, simplify, simplify and close up those tax loopholes!

Eliminate deduction for mortgage interest for non-primary residence. If you can afford to have a vacation residence, you do not need the government to subsidize it.

Create a flat federal income tax of say 10%. Eliminate all deductions, credits, etc. Apply this same tax to individuals of all brackets and businesses. Take the politics and favoritism out of the tax code. Pass a Constitutional amendment that all taxes must be equal in either amount or proportion. Everyone should pay for the governance of America if they want to vote on the programs and policies. "No representation without taxation"...

Income tax should be calculated on the amount of income you make at the band level. i.e. income dollars \$0-15,000 = 7.5%, \$15,001-\$30,000 = 10%, \$30,001-\$55,000 = 11% etc... \$125,000-250,000 = 23.5%, \$250,001-500,000 = 25% and so on. Obama's segmenting the super wealthy that pay very little in taxes due to loopholes that only they can afford to take advantage of is fair (many of these people agree that this is fair, including me). On the 1st dollar after the \$250,000 I have earned in a year my tax rate goes up. My 250,001st dollar earned that year taxed at 25% (or whatever the right rate numbers would be - I'm just extrapolating).

Do not tax Social Security or Unemployment Benefits.

Go to a 10% Flat Tax on income right off the top - no exemptions, no exceptions, and no deductions.

Best thing for America would be to get rid of the IRS completely. Make things more simple with a small flat tax for everyone even businesses and a sales/use tax. No deductions and no exceptions. That way everyone will carry their fair share. Poor and rich alike.

I suggest we incorporate a flat tax with no deductions and no credits. Think of all the tax specialists that would have to learn a new trade and all the savings in paper. If most people paid exactly the same amount of tax, the overall savings would be huge.

Eliminate income taxes for income derived from federal employment or government contracts and reduce the amount paid to government employees and contractors by that amount. On the surface this may not seem fair to many taxpayers but think of the savings to the government by not having the cost of accounting both at the payroll side and tax side of this. And think of the savings to many federal employees by not having to pay for tax preparation unless they have other income or deductions such as mortgage interest deductions which you could apply a credit to and issue a refund. This could also apply to government contracts. Basically you would be taking the tax upfront and saving the accounting costs.

Eliminate or severely limit mortgage deduction.

Abolish the tax code as we know it. No yearly income taxes for anyone or any business, period. Strip all businesses and any foundation, charity, or organization of tax free exemptions. Institute a 5% VAT on everything except fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, and dairy. Everyone pays - citizens, foreigners, and business.

Eliminate FICA/Capital gains/estate/death taxes etc. Eliminate all deductions/credits etc. Have 1 flat tax rate. The entire US tax code should be 1 page, in language simple enough for my 10 year old to understand. You owe that to the people whose money you take. Thank you

Get rid of tax credit, deductions, and loopholes people/businesses should do thing because they can afford them not because of some tax benefit. Once you have eliminated the credits, deductions, and loopholes you can they reduce the overall tax rate on everyone. For people or businesses that report their taxable income to the IRS there need to be a better system for monitoring, perhaps monthly rather than quarterly submissions or more audits. As for publicly owned companies it only makes sense to tax then on the income they self-report to their shareholders. If this was done companies would not have the intensive to "cook the book" to raise their stock price as the penalty would be higher taxes. Oh, and everything is income....no other categories. We all try to earn money and support the economy the government should not give an advantage one kind economic activity over another.

Go to flat tax code (tax increases with income - say 10% up to 20 or 25%, below ~\$40K pay zero. Use VAT to hold the flat tax to minimum. VAT should not tax essentials and should be aggressively increased as to whether an object is considered luxury. Increase gasoline tax by \$.02/yr. to

go strictly to road improvements to a max of \$0.06. I would normally be considered a republican on SS but still working. Let's make a fair tax code and do away with deductions and balance the budget.

Taxes are unbelievably annoying come January-April, So, I suggest doing away with the IRS completely and since the U.S. is based on a Free Market economy, let the people keep 100% of their paychecks and do away with the income tax and payroll taxes completely and replace it with a Consumption tax. That way, those people who are in debt and need to pay off their debts will spend less therefor pay less taxes as well. And those than make more, spend more, therefor pay more taxes. And to make sure that the poor don't get ravaged, the government gives everyone a pre-bate up to the poverty line, that way we protect the poor. Our current tax code is over 30,000 pages; our founding fathers covered everything on 4 pages. It can be done.

Go with a flat rate consumption tax or a flat rate tax at a rate fixed by a Constitutional amendment (to keep the government from raising the rate every time they want to raise spending). Abolish the "progressive" tax system that penalizes anyone who happens to gain success (wealth). Abolish the estate tax (tax has already been paid on that property -- no double taxation, and makes retaining small businesses impossible, requiring heirs to come up with huge amounts of money to retain the business). Most of all, curb government spending, which will reduce the need for a massive tax system.

I don't think that social security or disability should be taxed. I don't feel that retirement should be taxed if it is below \$2500 a month. The disabled and seniors, who are on a fixed income, should be able to breathe, and find some enjoyment in their latter years. Seniors who have worked all their lives, and retire, should be able to enjoy the life they have left without being taxed. Those who are rich, and have plenty of money, overpaid CEO's, and others who have a very large retirement, should be taxed. Put some numbers to it, and don't expect those who barely get by, to be taxed.

Currently, employees pay a significant part of their unemployment insurance. Beyond that, it is very doubtful that reducing taxes reduces unemployment. Employers have an incentive to reduce their tax footprint. Since employment expenses are tax-deductible, when you increase taxes, you make it cheaper to hire workers. You lower taxes, and you give companies an incentive to squeeze the most out of their current workers. This certainly seems to have been borne out by history. A good use of this would be to increase taxes across the board. Then, use the money to create a voucher program for the unemployed, such that the longer a person has been unemployed, the greater the tax breaks you get from hiring him.

FLAT TAX, no exceptions for corporations or citizens.

Tax us all the same across the board @ 18% poor people and rich alike businesses too

1. Do not tax unemployment. Since it pays only a partial amount of previous pay (or matches if lower income) that infers someone receiving unemployment is having a hard time. Give them a break. 2. Simplify the code. There are too many special breaks that make the code impossible to understand. Of course this would have the effect of putting a bunch of CPAs out of work...

Capital gains and dividends taxes. Set a limit of say \$50,000 to \$75,000. After you reach that number you pay 30%. You could even bracket it higher.

Get rid of income tax altogether and replace it with a federal sales tax. Retailors already have to collect county and/or city tax, and sometimes even have to setup a categorization system for products since different products fall under different taxes. In short - retailors are used to collecting taxes, and would likely not care about adding another tax to collect. Plus, retailors collecting tax would dramatically decrease people cheating on taxes, and would boost income from "illegal aliens" and international visitors also contributing. Furthermore, by eliminating the other parts of income taxes, like investment taxes, the wealthy are more likely to invest in businesses, stocks and bonds, which would further stimulate the economy.

Go to a flat tax or something much simpler and less expensive to have a CPA do the taxes.

The child tax credit is in place to help fuel growth. Growing population helps grow consumer needs. Thus personally I believe in a consumption tax. If you spend more you pay more. No bias in status or wealth.

The US income tax should be a true 10% flat rate tax; no deductions no exceptions no surcharges and no possibility of adding deductions or exceptions or surcharges in the future. The tax should be automatically taken out of the pay of everyone making over \$999.99/year or the employer faces jail time; this way even the illegal workers will pay. If at the end of the year the person's pay was less than \$1,000.00 they can apply for a refund. I say the tax should start at \$1,000.00 not say \$20,000.00 so there is no pain/shock to someone making \$19,999.00 getting a \$2.00 raise and then having to pay the 10%.

The current tax table should be retained but modified to lower the percentages. To offset the lost revenue a national sales tax should be imposed on all goods except unprepared foods such as produce and raw meat. In this way people who use the most will be taxed the most. Frugal people who live simply and don't create waste will be taxed the least. Additionally, eliminate all tax credits and deductions which are easily manipulated by those who know how. Lastly, require corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

Eliminate income tax completely along with the IRS and reporting requirements and go to a National Sales Tax. That way EVERYONE pays their fair share including illegals.

10% tax across the board. No exceptions, no exemptions. 10% for everyone, no matter what you make, including unemployment. It would come out of your paycheck - no pain, no hassle.

I would like to see a flat tax system where everyone, except the very poor are paying the same percentage, somewhere around 8 to 10 percentage points of their total income with no exemptions.

Let's go to a flat tax...all sources of income minus entitlements multiplied by a rate. No tax for those below the poverty line.

I would just be happy with a flat tax for all. This would keep within the KISS system which most of us know as 'Keep It Simple Stupid'. No more deductions. This would cut down on the paperwork and costs of processing taxes including the dreaded tax audits....

Simple... End all deductions. A flat tax on all income for everyone and every company. Equal sacrifice for all...

Make the tax code simpler for starters. I have no issues with paying my fair share of taxes. I like making sure we have good schools and well-built roads, but taxes have become so complicated, I can't even file my own tax return any longer. Also, as unrealistic as this may be for some, doing away with income taxes altogether and implementing a larger 'sales tax' would be great (fair tax).

Why can't we have a straight sales tax that is administered in all states and territories? That way, we would get all of the money-legal citizens, illegal citizens, foreigners, etc. The rich would get taxed more because they would spend more. The "little guy" would get taxed a more accurate rate. This would provide more accurate statistics of what is TRUELY happening. Also, it would put the government on a budget, rather than "anticipate" what might/might not happen (money wise) in the future. Finally, NO ONE would be able to escape paying taxes because it is already figured into the cost of the product. I'm no economist, but it seems to make perfect sense to put EVERYONE on a budget that is easy to follow and is universal across the board.

A true flat tax is the only way to go. That makes it fair and equal for all taxpayers. If I pay 12% (for example) of my income in tax, then everyone above me AND below me in income levels can pay the same percent.

Repeal the entire tax code and replace it with a simple progressive three tier level of tax on all income that can be filed on a post card. No deducts or credits. Adjust rates accordingly to raise the same revenue as current.

I believe that one of the best things we can do for the tax code is to treat dividends and capital gains as ordinary income for the purposes of income taxes. First, there's a fairness component involved. Dividends and capital gains, under most circumstances, are taxed at a low 15-20%, far less than the 28, 33, or 35% that ordinary income is taxed at in the higher brackets. But since stocks and bonds are primarily owned by the wealthy and super-wealthy, they end up with a lower liability than would be expected based upon their actual income. But there is a stronger economic argument to this idea from the corporate side. Over the past few years, companies have been stockpiling trillions of dollars, deciding that stock buybacks and dividends are better for shareholders than hiring workers and investing in capital goods. By raising the taxes that shareholders have to pay, we can institute a Pigouvian taxation mechanism to correct for the positive externality arising from additional workers being hired as opposed to being laid off, reflected partially through lower crime rates, lower unemployment rates, greater GDP, etc. Clearly, such a policy would be vigorously opposed by big corporations, their shareholders, and others who would benefit from the status quo, but I feel that the benefits from such a policy are such that we should institute it as soon as possible.

Straight forward Flat Tax. *Everyone* pays "x" percent, less the first "y" amount of earnings. No deductions, no credits, no nothing except for the flat tax. For example: Let's say there is a 10% flat tax on all earnings above \$20,000. (This allows a base amount of money for survival to not be taxed). The first \$20,000 - regardless of family size is yours free and clear. After that, you pay 10% on all your earnings. The individual earning 50,000 pays \$3,000 (10% of 30,000) and the individual earning 500,000 pays \$48,000 (10% of 480,000). Every individual pays the same percentage, no matter their household status (head of household/married/single... doesn't matter!) If two individuals in a household earn money - they each pay the percentage, with the same \$20,000 'free' money per person. Period. End of discussion. What you choose to do with the rest of your money and your life (have a family/not have a family.... buy a house/not buy a house - is based on YOUR needs/wants/desires, not the tax code. Businesses go the same way. Straight percentages, so there are no tax havens or loop holes to skew investment decisions. It's market economy at its best, fairest, and simplest. [name removed]

Advocate a true flat income tax and only tax individuals. No exemptions, no credits, no incentives, etc. No tax on corporations or companies, tax the individuals that receive the profits (dividends, stock options, or however the income is titled). And this means income from any source -- bonds, gifts, gambling, work, lottery, any source.

No Deductions, period. Make it a sliding percentage scale like: Net Income under 36,000 would pay not tax. 37,000 - 100,000 15% 101,000-250,000 20% 251,000-500,000 25% etc. This is just an example - This would require a lot fewer IRS agents and save the taxpayers a boat load of money!

Recently, I was given the opportunity to participate in a deferred compensation plan, a 409 plan. What a racket! Why are we allowing people to defer paying taxes on these very high incomes?? I ultimately chose not to participate because I don't make enough to actually live without a paycheck, but I am sure plenty of other people took advantage of the plan. If it were up to me, I would end these plans tomorrow. I wonder how much additional tax revenue would come in then.

I WOULD STOP GIVING INDIVIDUALS TAX MONEY THEY DID NOT EARN OR PAY. I AM ALL FOR A SET TAX AMOUNT FOR EVERYONE ACROSS THE BOARD. IT WOULD MAKE THINGS SO MUCH SIMPLIER AND EVERYONE COULD UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS.

1. Resend the Bush tax cuts. 2. Reduce the corporate tax rate and CLOSE loopholes.

How about a flat tax? Everyone pays 12%, no deductions for anything.

Please make the tax code more simple. Also, do not force people to pay tax unemployment benefits. I think we need to get rid of so many loopholes and make everyone pay a more even share.

I support a flat tax, with everyone paying taxes based on a percentage. For example, if someone made \$500 per week gross, that person would pay \$50 per week in federal income tax based on 10%, for example. Flat rates could be worked out for the various income levels. The worker would know how much his income tax withholding would be each week. There would be no deductions and no tax refund at the end of the year. He would only have to confirm his income via a W-2 in April each year. Think about how the IRS could be downsized in such a situation, saving the government millions of dollars per year. I know CPA's and some other professionals would not like it, but isn't it time we simply government and reduce its costs? [name removed]

People should not be able to get a tax refund that is larger than the amount of taxes paid. This is not a "refund".

Scrap the complicated system in favor of a flat rate per income tier. No deductions, no credits, no complications. Consistency and ease of calculation should be primary concern in order for people to be able to plan better as well as spend less on accountants or tax return software for preparing taxes.

flat tax with sliding scale based on income

I would advocate for a flat tax of 2-3% of all income. No deductions, no exceptions. Crisis solved!

Make the tax rate a flat 10%, no exemptions or exceptions.

Tax spending not income. A national sales tax would work because any tourist from other nations would also contribute. It would help as drug dealers still buy cars and such, illegal immigrants as well. The self-employed that deduct income to the point of making nothing would finally pay their share as well. It would encourage our citizens to save some money as well since it would only be taxed when it was spent. We would need to price everything like we do gasoline with the tax already included. Corporations would still have to use the income tax. However I suggest closing the loophole of a tax rate based on the Headquarters location. If a company does business in the USA they should be required to pay a certain percentage in taxes on any and all income earned in the USA regardless of the location of the headquarters.

Each year there is a total amount of income earned in the United States. Each year there is to total amount of government spending in the United States. Each income earner, whether it is some type of company or an individual, makes a certain percentage of all income that can be earned in a year. I feel that the amount of taxes paid in order to run our government should directly correlate, percentage wise, to the amount an income earner makes. For explanation purposes let me provide a simplified example. Let's say all the money earned in the U.S. in a year was \$1,000,000,000. and I earned \$40,000 of this \$1,000,000,000. My portion of all income earned would be .00004 of \$1,000,000,000. Then, if total government spending for a year was projected at \$150,000,000, I would be responsible for paying $(.00004 * 150,000,000) = \6000 . Elimination of any tax loopholes would be necessary.

1. It is unfair to have a tax system where 1/2 the people pay nothing or large corporations pay nothing. 2. An incredible percentage of the taxes received by govt. is wasted on inefficiency, fraud and politically motivated spending projects. If a person had to spend their own money to run the government....instead of using funds coming from others or borrowing to continue the spending madness....the government would be 1/2 the size and run more efficiently. 3. Take the social engineering out of the tax code and make it simple.

Tax net income of over \$250,000 at 90%. Plug the deduction loopholes for the wealthy. Tax all privately owned hunting guns at a 35% rate and requires the owners to provide an annual inventory of weapons and ammunition. Tax automatic weapons at 90% and ammunition at 100%. Require owners to register anything over a bird rifle and keep a national data base.

I think the fairness approach is just to eliminate the tax code entirely, and go with a National Sales Tax. There would be no loopholes, foreign visitors would contribute to the tax base, etc.

Small business has been the job creator for 50 years. The majority of returns between 250k and 1m are S corporations filing as individuals. Increasing the tax on them kills jobs, don't do it. Lower corporate tax rates and reduce deductions/special exceptions (i.e. simplify). This can be revenue neutral in the short term and increase business activity and tax revenue in the longer run. even if such action increases effective tax payments somewhat we are better off without all the complexity and dysfunctional impact on productive capital investment with the current system. SIMPLIFY

Revert to the 2000 Tax schedule as a base. Adjust the Alternative Minimum Tax to apply only to gross income from all sources that exceeds \$500,000. Retain the mortgage interest deductions and Child Tax Credit. Remove the protection for corporate taxes on income not returned to the US and apply a minimum 5% rate to profits held outside the US. Institute tax incentives for companies that move jobs back onshore from foreign countries. Tax all income earned by foreign companies from US-based operations.

We need to have a flat tax for EVERYONE with no deductions available. Everyone pay their share and that's that.

I've always been for a 'flat tax' system. It is THE only fair system out there. Every year, the poverty level would be set and EVERYONE would deduct this from their earnings. This would be the ONLY deduction allowed. No mortgage deduction, no sales tax deduction, no deductions of ANY kind. No tax credits, no hiding offshore wealth, no tax deferred IRAs. Only the deduction of the poverty level/ Therefore. if you make less than the poverty level you pay no tax. If you make \$100,000, you pay tax on \$100,000 minus the poverty level. If you make \$40,000,000, you pay tax on \$40,000,000 minus the poverty level. One tax rate for all. This would also be easier for the IRA to verify!

Flat tax. 20% for all persons and businesses (If all men are created equal, then rates should be equal too). First \$50,000 of gross income not taxed. Interest deductible for one home purchased. All savings for Retirement is deductible. All medical expenses deductible. All R&D expenses deductible for businesses. To save Social Security, Retirement agree gradually raised to 70 (raised 6 months for each of the next ten years). No cap for contributions (every dollar you earn is taxed for SS). Maximum payout amount per month TBD. As for Medicare/Medicaid, combine the programs, means test for all. Contract with HMO's and block grant supplement the private costs as needed You have now lowered taxes, streamlined government, made businesses more competitive and eliminated the class warfare that exists today, while sparking home ownership.

I would love to see a flat tax across the board, or a national sales tax of 20-25% on everything, which would eliminate state taxes, property taxes, and all other taxes cities and towns like to impose. This would eliminate the tax filing and streamline the process. Want to bring down the deficit? Do a quarterly on everyone for 10-20 bucks.

A flat rate tax of 12% across the board for everyone. All businesses or companies that do business in the US, all rich, all poor, all middle class. No tax breaks or refunds of any kind. This simplified tax would ensure a simple and easy way to figure out taxes. All monies collected would then go to the Government.

no tax on the first \$35,000 of income no deductions, no tax credits, two rates; 12% between 35,000.01 and 150,000.00 17.5% on all income above 150,000.00 SS Keep employer cap no cap on individual income.

Why not a flat tax or at most a tiered, flat tax. No deductions; no loop holes. Everyone pays. We could probably get rid of half of the IRS and save that much on government spending and oversight.

We must ensure that more of the value creation is moved back to the US. This means that we have to make US manufacturing competitive with outsourcing to Asia. The way to solve this is to introduce a federal sales tax. The tax will cover all costs that the US employers have as a result of government mandated benefits and activities. This would ensure that products made in the US can compete. The federal sales tax should be the same for US made and foreign made products. This will also make products made for export more competitive as the sales tax only would be applied to goods sold in the US.

I am not aware that I have seen this in the Federal tax code, but I have seen our state 'estimate' the goods that I have in my home and levy a tax on goods that I was already taxed for. Excuse me? If we need to raise taxes to pay the bills, I do understand paying the bills. But hit me with it the first time, don't come sneaking around the fence to double tax me. And yes, we need to tax those who are working, not those who can't. That being said, I think the problem is putting them to work so that they can pay taxes (those who can). I don't think it is a bad idea to tax 'luxury items' heavier, if we can pay for the luxuries, we can pay the tax for them. That goes for the people making a 7 figure salary.

I think to simplify the tax code and get people to accept changes; we first need to educate people on what the tax rates mean. So many people feel that they are taxed too much while the people above them economically are taxed too little. I believe this is because percentages are always used to describe the rates people pay in taxes rather than the dollars paid. Start putting some real \$ numbers up there and people would better understand each other's true tax burden. Why not put out literature or a statement that shows several sample people at different economic levels with example deductions, etc., and then their total tax bill in dollars, not percentages. People could then see how much others are paying (such as how much a person who makes 200k per year pays relative to someone who makes 20k per year). They would hopefully realize that even if they both paid 10% in taxes, the 200k person pays 10 times as much in taxes for the same services. It certainly helps that higher tax brackets pay more money into the system. But the current climate creates a rich vs. poor mentality which is not accurate when you see the dollar amounts paid, not just the percentages. I believe that once people understand this simple concept (dollars paid vs. %) and then see how the total taxes paid by these individuals would be affected by any tax changes would they more amenable to that change.

Don't waste time or resources on tax reporting, collection, examination or enforcement on any individual earning under \$100,000. It is not worth the effort and harms the general economy at the same time. Give them money if you can. The essential ingredient of a consumer economy is consumers with money to spend.

Everyone making above the poverty level should pay a flat percentage of their income in taxes. Unless paying the taxes will put them below the poverty level. Whether it is 3% 5% or whatever. There are no deductions for anything, and all income is taxable. Just like a sales tax. Period!

It's way beyond time for a flat tax tied with a consumption tax. No exemptions, no loopholes and everyone pays the same rate. Churches, corporations, small businesses and wage earners pay the same basic rate. The consumption tax would offset any unfairness and everyone would pay that as well at the same rate. Thanks for listening, even if it's all in vain.

I suggest a graduated flat tax with no credits or deductions. So simple and no one can cheat.

1. Have one tax rate of 20% for both individuals and companies. 2. For ALL individuals, make the first \$20,000 of income tax free. All income (wages, salaries, tips, unemployment benefits, and social security payments, and returns on investments) should be counted as gross income. Eliminate ALL deductions of any kind. Provide \$2,000 EXEMPTIONS for taxpayers over 65 and who are blind. Provide no exemptions for dependents or for the taxpayer. 3. Eliminate ANY consideration of marital status. All person should be treated the same. Make everyone file a return. If a person has no income, then have them file a return saying "No income". For person making less than \$20K, make them file a return for recordkeeping/informational purposes. 3. For companies, base the tax on the net income (gross revenue - all expenses EXCEPT for "payroll" costs). To encourage hiring, provide a tax credit of 50% of "payroll" costs. Payroll costs are defined as costs for wages, salaries, bonuses, hiring, recruiting, training, relocation reimbursements, funding of retirement plans, matching funds for retirement plans, and employer share of Soc Sec -- basically, any cost associated with acquiring and having a person on the payroll. 4. Eliminate all taxes on estate/inheritance payouts...that money has already been taxed!! 5. Make the tax due date March 1 and do not allow any extensions. To make this happen the individual tax form should be VERY EASY for any high school graduate to fill out. It should be no more than one page long.

Make it simple, flat, and for every citizen regardless of marital (partner) status. alter daycare

I would keep 2-3 levels of tax brackets, and I would eliminate all exemption, deductions, credits, etc. Every wage earner would be required to file a tax return, and marital status would be irrelevant. If a wage earner makes \$20,000 a year, or \$50,000 or \$150,000 a year, they would pay exactly what everyone else in the nation at that income level pays in taxes. What's left over is theirs to live on, and their choice on how to spend the money. If they want to have 7 kids and an unemployed spouse, that's their business, and they should be the ones to pay for their choices. People should not receive tax benefits for the choices they make in life.

Fair tax. Many states get by just fine on a consumption tax.

Give due consideration to the Fair Tax plan without disregarding current status with IRA and Roth IRA issues (though I'm not sure how you would protect that.)

We do believe that there should be substantial tax reform, including the elimination of all deductions, credits and exemptions. We also believe that all income, earned, dividends, capital gains and interest should be treated the same for tax purposes, knowing that this position is anathema to most Republicans, but it is the only fair way to go. Why should a steel worker be taxed at a higher rate than an investor? Why should unearned income be exempt from Medicare and FICA taxes??

Allow individuals to allocate their taxes to governmental departments as they see fit. For example, 25% to Education, 15% to social security, 10% to infrastructure, etc. All would have to add up to 100%, and we pay the same total amount, but choosing where our money goes.

Honestly, I like the ideas behind Fair Tax. Tax what we purchase, not our income. It is far more balanced and doesn't require a person to find a Tax Attorney or CPA just to do their taxes at the end of the year. Also, currently if you don't do your taxes correctly, the penalties and fines can be high, and yet this whole system is FAR too complicated for the typical person to figure out on their own. True, there is software, but it's not perfect (I was audited one year based on what the software entered). The FairTax system is much simpler and goes back to taxing the items we purchase, not our income.

Drop the income tax and institute a national sales tax. No matter how much money a person makes, sooner or later they'll have to spend it.

Eliminate the loopholes that corporations use to pay little or no tax at all. Raise the tax rates for the wealthiest, and go after everybody who is hiding money offshore. That ALONE would erase most of the deficit. A flat tax is unfair to the lowest-end earners because they have little or no disposable income compared to the higher earners. But a more simplified set of sliding-scale rates, increasing as income increases, would be reasonable. Stop taxing unemployment benefits, and don't tax any income under 25,000 for individuals or 40,000 for families.

I believe that all Senators and Congressmen should be required to prepare their own tax returns, personally. The complexity would disappear overnight. [Taxpayer initials]

There should be an alternative minimum tax for corporations of 15%.

No deductions, no exemptions - just one flat tax for everyone and every business entity. Should the business rate be the same as the individual rate? I don't know. Unfortunately, this will eliminate a lot of jobs but it would also decrease the amount of government needed to process returns.

A combination flat tax and a national sales tax like the fair tax. I recently tried to amend my 17 year olds income tax return and sorry but could not figure it out. I had to send it to my accountant. Get rid of all the exemptions and loop holes no child deductions no mortgage deduction no charitable contributions treat everyone the same!! This would bring the tax rate down for everyone!! You make this you take this 3 lines and that is it !!!!!!!!!!!!! and do not even send a return in.

Have a national sales tax. - don't exclude anything. Get rid of the Income tax system with all of its credits for the rich and the empowered. If you buy it you pay tax on it. Those who buy more pay more.

1. Get rid of the alternative minimum tax 2. Get rid of all deductions for business use of automobiles. There is too much room for abuse. 3. Encourage higher education by making education credits simple- a percentage of tuition, lab fees, and books qualify for all education credits. 4. Have "weekend farmers/ranchers" be treated as passive activities if they have losses for more than one year even if they have small sales.

Deductions allowed for depreciations of rental properties seem to be one of the worst tax loopholes in the book. After the rental property becomes fully depreciated, the owner would move in and after a couple of years can sell it without owing any tax. In other words, a couple can deduct as much as \$500,000 from their earnings with a single rental property and without any tax obligations. Suppose a couple has rental properties worth 3 million dollars, it can deduct \$100,000 each year from its annual income for 30 years and for those 30 years the couple has not paid any income tax if its annual taxable income happens to be \$100,000 or less. The couple can move in the rental properties one at a time, live there a couple of years and sell it without owing any tax.

1) Tax everyone 15% including corporations with no exceptions and no deductions or credits. 2) Have in place a balanced budget amendment that requires government to spend less than how much it receives in taxes. 3) Simplify the tax code in plain layman English so that it does not go over 25 pages and is not too small to read.

Please make it a flat 15% with no deductions. This means I will be giving up over \$50k in deductions, but this is the only way to do a fair task where everyone gets to contribute.

How about a simple flat tax on all income, say 20%, for all entities, such as corporations, individuals, etc.? This country wastes too many resources from Congress people to accountants, to approve and utilize loopholes that only a "worthy" few can use.

Drop all deductions, credits, depreciations, ATM's, estate taxes etc. Make everything simple, you make XXX you pay Y % - period. You can still have the different brackets, so DC can play their politics of getting those "making too much". It would put a serious dent in the accounting world and tax lawyers but most importantly, it would wipe out 90% of all lobbyists and maybe get some honest folks in DC since there would be no lobbyists to grease the politicians. Since the politicians are the ones that would have to vote away "their grease" it will never happen.

Flat tax - eliminate most deductions. Keep stuff like mortgage interest, property tax, other income tax.

I believe that all wage earners in the US should be subjected to a "minimum income tax" based on a sliding scale by income. Every person in America, regardless of earning power, enjoys the benefits of being in the country, and should pay income taxes that pay for those benefits.

Replace all taxes with one Federal sales tax. No exemptions! Everyone that is in this country legal or not would have to pay sales tax on anything they buy. Want some expensive you pay more.

Only tax allowed is a sales tax with food, medicine and water exempted from the tax.

Drop the income tax and make a national sales tax. Everyone would pay when the purchased and item. There would be no corporate taxes and 90% of the IRS could be furloughed further reducing the national debt.

We should make it simple: How much does it cost to run the United states at the federal level? What is that number as a percentage of total income (Corporate and Individual) The tax rate should be this percentage plus three percent to be used to reduce the national debt. There should be no deductibles, no loopholes; corporate taxes should be due regardless of where in the world the income is realized.

Close the tax loopholes that allow the wealthy and corporations to avoid paying federal taxes. Raise taxes on those most able to afford it, and for the rest of us who literally live paycheck to paycheck, give us a break, already! Cut the working person a break, already and stop rewarding billionaires who are clever enough to find places to hide their money and avoid paying taxes that would support the greater good! Tax retirees at a lower rate since they are living on fixed incomes. Social Security and public employee retirement systems no longer give cost of living raises, so those folks living on their pensions are less able to get by year to year as prices skyrocket and benefit checks remain stagnant.

Return to "old ways". Do not tax Social Security. Allow double dipping. Those who do not have the opportunity to stay long enough for a full pension may earn another partial pension. Experts tell us that we will all have at least 3 difference careers in a lifetime. Let us keep what we can earn.

Tax credits and tax write-offs should be tied to the behavior that they are seeking. Therefore, if a tax break is given to create jobs require a level of new hiring or to the purchase of capital equipment, which will create domestic manufacturing. Any outsourcing off shore should meet with the loss of tax incentives. If you do not reward bad behavior and incent good behavior then the outcome will be realized. The tax code is both a revenue generator and an economic tool to direct activity we should use it as such.

No upper limit on social security tax or Medicare tax on all income.

Go to a simple flat tax. Even if we use a progressive tax rate as we do now, set it up without all the complicated deductions, additions, etc. One rate for each tax bracket (or income range).

[Taxpayer Name and email address]

Make it much easier. No deductions, no tax breaks (individual and corporate), one flat rate for all. 20% tax rate

Eliminate income tax and convert to a flat-tax system where everyone pays based on what they purchase. Much like sales tax, the more you purchase the more you pay. Such a system would level the playing field so everyone who uses roads, police, fire pay into the system, and not just those with tax deductions that adjust AGI to zero.

Flatten the Social Security Tax.

Do not take corporate annual income that is distributed as dividends to shareholders. Rather tax only retained profit at 45% rate. This will force corporation to distribute their profits rather than hold them. Also, business should be able to deduct capital expenditures in the year spent with carry over to subsequent years. This will force more investment of funds.

Yes, I would nullify the 16th Amendment and bring in the Fair Tax Code. I have heard say that it would not work and they would rather have a Flat Tax. Flat tax is how the 16th Amendment started and look where it has gotten us now. Fair Tax could work and probably make us all feel better about our incomes.

The tax code should be much, much simpler. If everyone, EVERYONE paid a flat 10% tax, the government would have a surplus of money. Not only individuals, but corporations here, and any foreign corporations that do direct business on our soil. This would eliminate about half of the tax fraud, and the companies and the extremely wealthy would have to pay their fair share. No adjustments for dependents, or home ownership, or tax loop holes. Just a flat 10% tax. More than fair!!

Steven Forbes had discussed in many presidential bids the concept of a flat or flatter tax structure. How about a 3-5 tiered structure with EVERYONE paying something - corporations and individuals. If even the richest had to pay 15 per cent with no loopholes and corporations the same or at 10 per cent how much revenue would the government gain? Forbes had some interesting ideas - how about dusting them off, simplifying government, AND raising revenue?

Have a flat tax no higher than 20% (maybe 18%), and ELIMINATE virtually all tax credits, deductions, and other loopholes. Should raise enough revenue, and people can't say that others aren't paying their fair share.

A national sales tax or vat tax system with very few exemptions would work fine. There should only be exemptions for basic life item such as housing related, and bread and milk.

a flat tax on everybody, no tax break for donations
Surcharge tax on EVERYTHING that isn't MADE IN AMERICA

The European VAT tax seems to work for all people in those countries.

Set a flat tax that is equal for everyone, eliminate all deductions. If the tax level is set at 26% and you make \$250,000 / year your state and federal tax is \$65,000. If you make \$10,000 / year your tax is \$2,600. This would provide a means to establish more consistent budgeting by providing a better understanding of incoming revenue.

I feel that there should just be a straight 10% tax on EVERYONE.

Eliminate all deductions for everyone and tax all earned income not employment benefits, inheritances, or personal capital gains.

The first guideline to my suggestion is NO loopholes, deductions or other tax reductions for anything. We should not use our tax structure to create policy or incent specific uses of public or private monies. Not even for religious or other donations. Taxes are for the government to run the country, and we should make it simple so EVERYBODY PAYS. \$0-8,500 annual income pays 10%; \$8,500-25,000 pays 15%; \$25,000-50,000 pays 22%; \$50,000-75,000 pays 25%; 75,000-150,000 pays 28% and \$150,000+ pays 30%. Without deductions and loopholes, we all pay. Your tax return is a postcard with your W2 info and the amount you paid in through the year. Any surplus is paid back as now, and any under paid tax is payable on the 15th with simple interest payback over extended periods simply by filling out a checkbox and term on the post card. Stop levying ridiculous penalties and late fees to run up the tax bills. Just make it an automatic payment plan with simple terms. Burn the current tax code, and stop allowing rich and powerful people and corporations pay attorneys and CPA's to avoid paying tax. We all pay, and it is completely understandable and straightforward. And tell congress to leave it alone.

1.) Eliminate any corporate taxes, or drastically reduce the corporate tax rate, in order to foster a welcome environment for businesses, and therefore, spawn jobs. 2a.) Flat taxes for everyone. No deductions, just a percentage on income earned - the same percentage for everyone - OR - 2b.) Eliminate personal income taxes and institute a VAT tax. That catches EVERYONE who spends money (drug dealers, tax cheats, etc.)

Charity begins at home...but should not stay there. Churches who are tax-free need to tithe their community.

Simple. Flat tax on everyone and every corporation that earns an income. Do away with a major portion of the IRS. Taxes come right out of payroll.

A flat tax. I propose that citizens pay a flat 15% tax on income up to \$100,000. Then add an additional 5% for each \$100,000 up to a cap of 35%.

As for corporations, taxes should be linked to profits. The more profitable they are, the more taxes they pay up to a cap. Also the more profitable they are, there should be less tax breaks for them. The fact that oil companies have speculators driving up the price of crude, which also drives up profits for those same companies is bad enough, but that they get tax subsidies is an epic failure by the US Government and the IRS.

A flat tax. I propose that citizens pay a flat 15% tax on income up to \$100,000. Then add an additional 5% for each \$100,000 up to a cap of 35%. As for corporations, taxes should be linked to profits. The more profitable they are, the more taxes they pay up to a cap. Also the more profitable they are, there should be less tax breaks for them. The fact that oil companies have speculators driving up the price of crude, which also drives up profits for those same companies is bad enough, but that they get tax subsidies is an epic failure by the US Government and the IRS.

Flat tax, no deductions for all income earners \$1-59,999 - 8% 60K - 250K - 20% 250K + - 28% Corporate - 28%

Child Support needs to be tax deductible and taxable income to the party receiving such income

Flat rate for all citizens and businesses. Remove all deductions; lower all rates to about 12%.

I am a TCE volunteer and each year IRS certified at the advanced level. One of the most abused credits is the EITC. Too often 'couples' want to claim the EITC, we say "nope" and explain the tax rules. Then they go somewhere else and "fudge" their filing status to claim the credit and receive \$4500 (welfare) for doing nothing! Many "low income folks" claiming this credit show up at tax sites with expensive phony fingernails and the most advanced cell phones. Tax dollars well spent!

Before you can change the tax system there are many other issues that have to be resolved. 1. Fix our illegal alien issue 2. Fix any type of welfare, food stamps, unemployment, Medicare, etc. 3. Provide health care to all U.S. citizens Roll in expenses; make less, for drugs and patient care. 4. Maintain social security and Medicare for seniors. Extend social security to age 70 for those born after 1950. No early reduced. 5. Lower our support to foreign countries 6. All federal candidates to be funded equally by the federal Government. 7. All media time shall be shared by candidates. 8. Any person found lobbying anyone associated with Government shall be imprisoned for 10 years for each offence. Taxes. Decide what income level should be exempt from taxes. The federal budget shall be a hard line number that can only be raised by VOTERS!!!!!!!!!!!! As it will determine their tax rates. Set a flat tax rate, which covers the Federal budget for individuals. Anyone paying workers under the table fined 10% of their income for the first offence and 10 years prison for 2nd. Corporations and business' to pay \$20,000 for the first offence and 10 years in prison for Top Manager. THERE ARE NO DEDUCTIONS FOR ANYTHING. Flat tax paid directly to federal gov. Corporations and business to pay a flat tax that aligns us with other 1st world countries. No loopholes or deductions from the flat rate. Use the monies to reduce the deficit. Too much info HUH?

Flat tax for all people, there should be no tax more for the rich or less for the poor. We all pay the same sales tax rate; we should all pay the same federal tax rate.

A flat tax for personal income - including gifts, inheritance and the like. The only deduction would be interest on mortgage and/or a simplified amount for renters. The tax would range from 1 to 15%. All would pay. Business taxes would be structured in the same manner - simple, very little deductions and a scale based upon profit that would be offset by numbers of jobs created or maintained. The maximum would be half of what they are paying now unless, they locate overseas whereupon that loophole would be closed - no free rides to out of country businesses.

Drop child tax credit - children are a choice - I'm 59 years old - chose not to have children yet have to pay for everyone else who chooses to have them (including school taxes etc.!) No one is paying the veterinary bills for the animals I choose to have! Or giving me a tax credit for them!

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion. I take this subject very seriously. It seems like everybody complains that the tax system isn't fair. So, if people really are not selfish, they should have no problems with my simple solution. Completely eliminate all write-offs and subsidies for everybody, including Corporations. Then make everybody pay a flat tax. Make it the exact amount for everybody. Thanks for your time and have a nice day!

[Taxpayer Name and city/state]

Changes I'd make: - Remove deductions... - For industries that have lost jobs overseas, make the companies not have to pay taxes for ten years so they make jobs here. - Get rid of capital gains tax, tax gains as ordinary income. - Keep the progressive tax system. In summary, simplify the system.

I would love to see a system where my deductions and credits are eliminated (I realize any meaningful reform will/should affect everyone) and replaced with a flat tax rate above a certain poverty level of income.

National sales tax on everything purchased.

Make it very, very simple, eliminate all credits, and do a flat % tax on all income. The amount of time and money spent trying to either to the right thing or evade taxes would go away!

Do away with all of the income deductions for individuals, to include mortgage interest, and yes, I do have a mortgage. And all the business deductions and credits for business. If a business has as their place of incorporation the US, then all income earns both in and outside the US should be taxed. No credit for taxes paid to another country. Install a flat tax for everyone, or possibly a graduated flat tax, with exception of those below the poverty line. I don't know where that flat tax may end up, but anything is better than what we have today with the current tax code.

Get rid of the earned income credit.

I would implement a transaction-based system, so all taxes would either be payroll or sales type taxes, so no returns would ever need to be files. No special deductions or credits, just taxes on income, investment gains/interest, and sale/use taxes. Sure, Wall Street would need to keep track of gains and collect taxes on them and it might be too hard to carry forward capital loses, but it would be vastly simpler and more equitable. Get rid of all tax deductions. Set the minimum tax rate at 0% for anyone making under \$50,000, with graduated rates of 1% for every extra \$50,000 up to a top rate of 50%. Add a 10% surcharge to those living in the US who are not US citizens, and give them a faster way of becoming citizens.

Go to a simple flat single tax rate, no deductions, no loopholes. Make a \$25,000 "poverty" line and everyone pays 10% on all earnings above that \$25,000 per year per adult. Corporations should all be treated the same way, a \$25,000 deduction from any and all income and a 10% tax on everything above that.

I don't believe citizens should remit taxes directly to the federal government. My taxes should go to my state government who would then be required to transmit its (the State's) tax to the federal government. State rights are being circumvented and/or duplicated when a citizen files state and federal taxes. This would also require federal government to get out of social security administration and make that a burden of state governments. Social welfare programs should be funded and used by local constituents.

Everyone should pay the same amount of tax. Keep earned income to help the poor. If the rich paid as much in taxes as the middle class, there would be no problem. The rich find loopholes and tax breaks the middle class don't have.

Terminate the Bush tax cuts!

Do away with the unearned income tax credit.

Please take a serious look at a flat tax. No deductions for personal or business - every personal should be a flat 17% and business a flat 20 - 25%. Yes, it would put many at the IRS and tax people out of business, but the income would greatly rise and could be put towards the national debt. Thank you.

Why not make everyone pay the same tax, say 10% on your earnings no matter if you make \$10.00 dollars or 10 billion in a year, everyone pays the same including businesses. If this were done, it would go a long way in paying off the national debt, and quit allowing benefits for non-citizens.

Set up where some of our taxes can be applied to the budgets of certain federal agencies. Very similar to how we can donate to non-profits via the United Way. This way, agencies that are not fiscally responsible to the American public, will not receive funding. Those that help, will.

Eliminate all deductions and have a simple 10% of gross rate with no way to get out of any percent of it. That would be easy to calculate and easy to budget off a fixed rate.

I would really just like to see us get it simpler, and my idea is a national sales tax, as I'm guessing many people would like to see. There are SEVERAL reasons that a sales tax would be a far superior method of collection as opposed to an income tax: 1) a sales tax is NOT technically unconstitutional, the way an income tax is. 2) By paying it as you buy goods and services, you spread it out and make it easier to pay (similar to the way income taxes are now withheld from your paychecks). 3) The people who buy things pay the tax. No more loopholes or special interests dodging payments, and no more rich people finding ways to avoid paying their share. You buy goods and services, and you pay it, simple as that. Rightly, the people who can afford to buy more stuff pay more tax. The poorer will naturally pay less. There would only be minor concerns to address, such as not requiring true non-profits to pay any taxes (or possibly as high a tax rate?). Most expert estimates show a national sales tax of somewhere around 8-10% would be enough to FULLY fund our government. Let's go this route and save EVERYONE a lot of time and trouble!

Drop income tax entirely and just have a sales tax. Those who can afford to purchase more will pay more, which will make the amount paid fair to all. This will also stimulate the economy because people will have more money to spend. It will also do away with loopholes.

Remove ALL tax breaks, credits, etc. and do 1 of two things: FLAT TAX PERCENTAGE on all households everywhere regardless of income so that people finally stop complaining about certain people not paying what's considered "fair share." Then, EVERYONE is paying a fair share for the services/infrastructure we all need and use. Do away with income tax altogether and use VAT.

10% tax for individuals, businesses, and non-profits. 20% for those making over \$250,000 per year.

Establish a ten year plan that will result in the elimination of all deductions, reduce all federal tax rates and end payment of all federal grants and subsidies.

I am all for making a simpler tax code. Is there a reason we can't more aggressively go after those companies at default on paying their taxes? I do not know if something like this already exists, but what about a special tax for those companies who choose to base their operations overseas b/c cost of labor is cheaper. tax them so they are encouraged to stay 'American'

I MAY BE WRONG, BUT DIDN'T RUSSIA START USING A FLAT TAX SYSTEM WHEN THEY BECAME MORE A CAPITOLISTIC SOCIETY? MY RECOLLECTION IS THEY INSTITUTED A 15% TAX ON EVERYONE & IT WAS WORKING QUITE WELL. IF I'M RIGHT, SHOULDN'T WE SERIOUSLY CHECK IT OUT? OUR TAX CODE IS ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS BENEFITING MOSTLY ONLY THE BIG CORPS, CPAS, LAWYERS, LOBBYISTS AND THE REALLY RICH WHO USE & BENEFIT FROM THE AFORE MENTIONED. I'M SURE THIS WILL NEVER BE CONSIDERED, AGAIN, BECAUSE OF THE AFORE MENTIONED.

Some credit for child support payments for responsible DADS! I pay over 2000k a month after taxes yet get no tax credit for that. Not a penny. WHY? 24k after taxes? That's literally 30k of wasted money. Either give me some credit or let my child support be tax free. Good Dads in this country are being exploited. HELP the good dads!!! please

Eliminate home mortgage interest deductions and use half the savings to increase standard deductions. This will trim the number of people filing Schedule A and so simplify the tax code for those people.

Toss the existing taxation methods and instigate a tax on what you spend. Since what you spend is directly related to what you earn or inherit. Tax spending. Flat rate applies.

I believe that everyone should pay a fixed percentage of their income and that all deductions should be removed. This percentage should be the same for everyone. This ensures that we all pay our fair share.

1 - start income tax rates at 15,000 per year and have rates based on percentage of income i.e. - 15-25K = 10% all the way up to a maximum rate of 50%, if you can make money in that 50% range you can go over and still pay 50%, then eliminate the loopholes and it would still be a fair system for everyone! 2 - Don't tax unemployment benefits - you're getting the benefits because you're not working, with the benefits you can (hopefully) still pay your bills and spend for food, clothes, etc. and help the economy at the same time.

Aside from simply paying too much, a primary complaint of tax payers is that they don't agree with where their money is going. If tax payers felt that they had more say in what their money was paying for, and what government programs they were supporting, perhaps they would be less reluctant to pay a little more for taxes. For instance, taxes could be organized into multiple categories (social, fiscal, international relations, etc.) and each category would be comprised of various government initiatives/programs (War in Iraq, education, women's rights, etc.). A taxpayer could then be told that they must chose at least X number of programs within each category to which their personal taxes will go towards. If they do not choose the full required amount, or do not choose any, then all or the rest of the tax money that hasn't been allotted to the programs they have picked will be distributed by the discretion of the government. The USA is such a melting pot that most programs will likely be picked, the categories will force people to choose programs within a variety of government needs (i.e. someone could not pick all social programs or ask that

all their tax money goes to the military etc.), and, surely, plenty of people will not take the time to fill out the extra paper work, which will still give the government some considerable flexibility with spending. If this latter part is a problem, then perhaps this system should only be applicable to, say, 60% of a person's total taxes. This system of choice provides more autonomy to individual tax payers, and will also provide another check on the government so that taxes accurately reflect what the population wants. Furthermore, controversial legislature, such as federally funded abortion, will cease to be such an issue, because individuals can make it known that they do or do not want their personal taxes to go towards those initiatives. If tax payers are happier to pay taxes, there will be less complaining, and more doing. [name, university, year, and email address removed]

All income, no matter the source (wages, investments, etc.) should be taxed at the same rates.

EVERYONE should pay taxes. If you only make 10 bucks, you pay 1 dollar. Those that make the least use the most government services and should pay their fair share.

I believe we should go to a graduated tax code with no loopholes. Start at 10% and increase based on income parameters. Do away with child tax credits (having a child is a personal choice and people that have chosen not to have children should not be penalized).

Tax the wealthiest of Americans, 250,000 a year and up, 1%. 1% will not break their banks, and if they are having a hard time living on 250,000k a year, shame on them, they should pay a consumption tax then as they are living too high. How many houses and cars does one really need??? Also, large families, 3 or more children should pay consumption taxes as well as they are stripping the world of its natural resources vs. someone who has practiced responsible breeding by not contributing to the overpopulated diseased earth. The fight has begun for clean air, food and water. The system is collapsing! What did Regan and Clinton do that worked? Look to countries where their economies are successful, the American Government is on a collision course to disaster and we are heading towards 3rd world living standards.

Taxes definitely need to be simpler! I'm a huge fan of a flat tax rate with a minimum threshold to pay in the first place and a graduated rate with no deductions. I also think the rates need to be higher, especially for those who make more money. We cannot expect our government to do the things we demand of it without the resources to make those services happen.

Simplify the 1040 long form. Too many items not readily evident and unknown until return is submitted. There is no reason for this except to cause confusion.

Get rid of Federal Income Tax completely. Pay a flat 15% tax on EVERYTHING, except food items. That way, everyone, including all of the illegals in this country, is paying the same thing. And the illegals are helping to pay for educating their children and for their health care.

remove all government subsidies for businesses and agriculture remove all tax credits and exemptions tax dividends as income lower rates by X% across the board (until revenue = expenditures)

Make a Flat Tax of 10% of income for everyone, including corporations. No credits, no exemptions of any kind. That is the only truly fair tax system.

One flat rate consumption tax. If you buy, you pay tax. Period. Whether it is a piece of candy to a \$100,000,000 yacht. No one is exempt. Remove all taxes from payroll etc. Pay everyone a gross salary and let them buy. Gradually phase in the tax over a 3 year period. 1st year 2.5%, second year 5%, 3rd year 10%. Put caps on how much it can be raised and when so we are not paying 70% taxes because govt officials can't budget. Allocate percentages to programs such as social security. States that have income tax should move to the same program of a state tax. Any visitor that comes to the state would pay the tax. This would cover illegal aliens and people that lie on their taxes. Items are non-taxable right now would remain that way.

Privatize the entire government. Tax only for constitutionally mandated responsibilities: national defense, highways and interstate commerce. Show the amounts of tax collected and exactly where that tax goes. You don't need a large tax gathering organization if you don't have a huge government to support. Easy. No need for a tax code.

Flat tax beginning at about \$15K of annual income with a tax rate of 1% and capping at a max rate of about 20% for all taxpayers on all income. No exemption or deductions. Low starting rate protects people earning minimum wage and the cap prevents the rate from continuing to increase to the point of taking 100% of income. Everyone pays a share.

Stop giving the rich tax breaks... a republican!

A simple percentage for everyone, say 15 percent, regardless of who you are.

The tax should be on income via check deduction only based on percentage of income level, a minimal property tax, and there should be sales tax only.

Income Tax, consider true flat tax on all forms of income for individuals. This should include earned, unearned and investment/ royalty income. Collect Social Security and Medicare on all earned income, public sector and private, including directors compensation deferred compensation above 401K limits, and bonuses, cash and non-cash, in the year awarded. No Caps, No Exceptions, Everybody Pays>

Flat 7% income tax for individuals and business exclusive of unemployment or total disability benefits.

A straight flat tax. Get rid of the mystery. Get rid of the loop holes benefiting some and not others. Possibly a tiered flat tax. For example: 0-15k a year=12% 15,001-35k = 14% 35,001- 80k = 16% etc. OR do away with the Illegal income tax altogether, get rid of the IRS and the federal reserve and have the government mint our own money.

Tax PACs and campaign contributions.

I would love to see income tax replaced with a national sales tax or a low flat rate tax. Either of these will simplify the tax code tremendously and result in savings when the IRS is mostly eliminated.

Everyone must pay taxes. No exceptions. NONE. Even poor person must pay. Even if it is a small token amount. This keeps everyone viewing taxes and government spending as their responsibility. Benefits derived from the government should NOT have any correlation to taxes, or the IRS. The IRS should only be responsible for assessment and collection. You want charity, or support, talk and deal with someone else. Keep taxes graduated to income. No deductions. NONE. NONE. None at all. All deductions do is complicate the desire for simple taxation. Investment income is just someone's way of working. It is ordinary income. Pay. Investment loses. Credit them against future ordinary income. Stop the \$3,000 limitation.

The easiest fix to the tax system is to replace the current system with a set percentage. Regardless of what the income is, everyone will pay the same percentage of their wages. This is fair for the poor, the wealthy and the middle class. Everyone is treated identically. Second would be to scrutinize the credits. Nobody should get more tax money back than what they paid in. Hearing stories of someone that paid in \$3,000 but got back \$8500 means that they took one person's tax money and gave it to someone else. Spreading the wealth like this is not what the tax code was meant to do. Everyone has the right to have children, but having so many beyond their fiscal means and then rewarding them by giving other people's tax money to them in credits is not fiscally sound. ONE TAX RATE, ONE NATION, ONE PEOPLE, ONE FAIRNESS, ONE EQUALITY

If we have to have an income tax, get rid of all deductions, credits, etc. and then lower the rates accordingly. All I should have to do is report my income for the year. Without deductions, credits, etc., there should be far fewer refunds to and payments by the tax payers. A better idea would be to get rid of the income tax and replace it with a VAT or something similar. People should be taxed on what they spend, not what they earn. This would also encourage people to save money.

There is a benefit named the "Crazy tax". That should be eliminated. There should be a consumption tax only same as in the EU. Everyone pays the tax, rich poor alike. You are rich you spend more you pay more tax. You are poor spend less you pay less tax. Easy-peasy-lemon-squeezy.

Our tax system is crazy stupid. Earn \$100 in the end you keep about \$30-\$40 the remaining goes for taxes. Taxes from the Federal income tax, FICA, States, Counties, Cities, tax call SPLOT Special Local Option Tax, tax on items purchased, the tax list is never ending. When looked at the taxes we consumers do not keep much of our money. Then what we can save is again taxed. In our effort to get ahead, even on meager incomes we may invest some of it, but again we are taxed on that growth. This government taxes us expecting us to live on less than we did prior to being taxed, but this government gives a gazillion dollars away to countries that are our enemies. Make it simple. A consumption only tax at the federal level.

A flat rate no deductions, no exemptions. 0-25,000 = 5% 25,000-50,000 = 10% 50,000-250,000 = 15%-18% 250,000-1,000,000 = 21% 1,000,000 -infinity = 25%

10% Tax for anyone making more than \$20K - It would be more than sufficient. - No exemptions, period! - Move the decimal point over one digit, DONE! - Take the 10% tax as you earn it, no filing at the end of the year. - Tax code would go from 5' of paper to one sheet. July 10-16, 2011 To keep everything fair, perhaps all deductions and tax credits should be removed. Get rid of all the loopholes and ask everyone to pay the same rate on realized income. Just make it simple and level the playing field. I understand this may greatly affect jobs in the accounting industry, but the tax code is just too complicated. Each citizen or earner should be able to file their own taxes.

Do away with individual income tax. Instead have a federal sales tax.

Switch to a consumption tax instead of an income tax. This way everyone will get taxed equally (on the goods that you purchase, not based on income). This will not only eliminate the "tax brackets" between the different income levels, but we would be able to collect taxes from all of the people who live on and get paid with Cash. (i.e. illegal immigrants and tourist) This will also put more money in consumer's pockets and possibly increase spending. The price of purchased good will go up, but I think that with the extra money coming in to our back accounts, we will gladly pay a little more.

Treat capital gains, interest and income the same way and tax it at the same rates. Create a step ladder style tax rate (smaller for less income and bigger for more), but make it a flat tax. Keep only the mortgage exemption, but also include a similar 'rental' exemption so the money you spend on housing is generally tax-free.

VAT is the way to go. It will eliminate sale taxes and it will satisfy states that are losing out to non-taxed internet sales. It will eliminate the paper burden on businesses and revenue departments. Also eliminate the salary cap on social security taxes. Everyone should pay social security taxes on whatever they make.

It should not require a degree in accounting to file your tax return. Simplify the entire process please.

Go to a flat tax system on individual income tax and everybody pays it, regardless of income level.

Don't laugh. Consider eliminating taxation and simply letting the government print its own money to pay for government projects and services. That would save the immense amount paid for the IRS and all the paper shuffling that companies and individuals do to satisfy the IRS, and would eliminate the political battles over how much the poor vs. the rich should pay, and the lobbying efforts over protecting or creating tax expenditures (i.e. loopholes). Yes, the money printed by the government would create inflationary pressures. But that inflation would affect everyone in the same way. Thus the political pressure that would be borne by our government officials would be evenly and unanimously to not spend unnecessary funds (i.e. don't print money and spend it unless it is good for the economy as a whole). It is true that you would have companies lobbying for projects (e.g. a new jet-fighter), but the political pressures from other lobbyists (competing defense firms) and from the public (i.e. "we don't need that and your spending the money will cause too much inflation") should balance the decisions of legislators. Besides, with the raising of debt limits, the government is already ignoring any budgetary constraints. So why borrow money and pay interest on it? I suspect the inflationary pressure on the economy would be no worse than the interest the government is paying on debt (especially if we default on that debt). True, congress would have to retake control of the money supply from the FED in order to print money - and that is an issue. But perhaps the FED (or another FED-like structure) could be created to keep the money supply out of political hands. There would probably need to be some kind of stop-gap limits on the amount the government could spend to prevent politically suicidal legislators from ramming through expenditures that really are detrimental to the common good. Perhaps the FED (or FED-like structure) could play a major role as a brake on governmental spending. The other major problem would be state and local taxation. But since they cannot print their own money, I think they would just continue with their own complicated tax codes - with the hope that competition from other states (i.e. states with simpler tax codes) would put pressure on out-of-control-state-taxation-complexity to simplify. I'm sure there would be many eyes rolling at even the thought of letting the government simply print money and spend it for our needed programs. But if companies and the public all had the uniform incentive to pressure the government not to spend money that unified political pressure should be an adequate check on out-of-control spending. It would certainly be better than the divide and conquer approach America now faces (i.e. the rich tax loopholes vs. the support for the poor vs. the mass of the mostly powerless middle-class). If at least the rich and the middle class were united in keeping the government from spending too much (because it would cause too much inflation), then that political pressure should keep the spending in check. Even the poor would not want inflationary spending on frivolous projects (i.e. that new weapon that is hugely costly but moot because we aren't in the cold war era anymore). And while spending on the poor would be inflationary, the rich and middle-class would not likely pull the rug out from under every program since they don't want to live in a dangerous world where people are starving on the street with untreated diseases and wounds. But there would be pressure to be smart about how that money is spent (i.e. not wastefully). So while the idea seems zany at first - it really is worth considering. And, after all, you're the ones who asked for ideas. Well try considering ideas that appear zany at first, but might really have some merit upon deeper consideration. I'm an attorney who studied tax in law school. If you think this zany idea at least deserves deeper research, then perhaps you would be willing to make a smallish grant for doing that research paper. I would be happy to compete for that grant with others who might have an interest in exploring the idea. I'm at [Email address].

A flat rate gross income tax with the first \$25K-75K (to be determined) tax exempt, next \$200K taxed at 15%, next \$250K taxed at 30%, and anything over that taxed at 45%. NO OTHER DEDUCTIONS, CREDITS, ETC. Eliminate all other federal income taxes (capital gains, inheritance, etc.) since ALL income would have to be included in the gross income amount.

I understand that my idea would never happen due to the fact that the IRS would almost be out of business, but why can't everyone pay 10% of their salary, no matter what it is. That would be fair taxation for all the people.

Eliminate all deductions except the standard deduction and make it realistic for a middle class family of four. Base the payroll amount deducted by employers on the percentage of the value created being paid to the employees (using a multiplier of 5), with a penalty against that percentage for executives making more than 10 times what the average worker makes. Tax all compensation when it is given. Let them buy the stock immediately at a discount.

Throw away the tax code and IRS agency as it is now. Install a tax on sales of everything but food, health care and hospitalization and on education. Same percentage of all people and corporations.

Institute a VAT or Consumption tax in lieu of every other tax ever invented and on the current books. Then everyone ends up paying their fair share.

Simplify the tax code by three categories of income: 1. Earned income (wages, self-emp, etc.) 2. Passive income (distributions from partnerships, dividends, interest, rental income, royalties, oil, gas, mineral interests, pensions, annuities, retirement plans, social security etc.) 3. Gain on sale income (stocks, bonds, real estates, businesses, tangible property, etc.) 4. \$10,000 standard deduction/exemption per person in a household (children as dependents) 5. Unlimited deduction for charitable contributions 6. Unlimited deduction for medical expenses paid over 5% of total income. You can choose to give the different types of income different tax rates, but to keep it simple for income less deductions equaling less than \$400,000 is flat 18%; amounts \$400,000 to \$1 million; 25% and amounts over \$1 million 30%. Additional revenue raiser on the 'intangible investments' by assessing a .5% (that's 5/1000th) tax on every stock, bond, mutual fund, insurance policy, annuity sold - - AS IT IS SOLD and it is directly deposited to the IRS. For example, just the NYSE traded around 4.5 billion shares one day in December. If the average share price is \$20 a share that's \$90 billion in stock. If we assume half were purchases and half were sales, we are talking about \$45 billion in taxable value and \$225 million a day. If we have 250 market days, that's \$56 billion per year just from the NYSE stocks. Add the other exchanges and other types of investments sold, we may be closer to \$300 billion per year to make up for the lower personal income tax. corporations - do away with credits except for research/development in qualified areas like energy & medical; flat 20%
[name]

FLAT TAX. Make all tax rates the same, 5-10%. It requires less to manage and ensures the "rich" pay their fair share. I would feel more comfortable with someone making \$25,000 a year paying \$183 a month (10% rate) and then someone who makes \$250,000 paying \$2,083 a month, then trying to determine how many credits can be conjured up to get the \$2,083 down to \$1500.

Eliminate all deductions and credits. Just have percentages of income.

Drop the credits and loopholes and just do a flat tax. It would be a lower rate and would be able to be completed on a postcard.

My suggestion is very simple. Drop all tax deductions and credits as the first step. The second step is to reset the tax rates. I do not know what the exact numbers would be but anecdotal evidence suggests that a simple system with two tax rates would result in individuals keeping more money in their pockets and the government dramatically increasing revenues. Hypothetically, everyone with annual income below \$150,000 would pay 10-15% in income taxes. Above \$150,000, the tax rate would be 20-25% in income taxes. These numbers are educated guesses but can be dialed in with a high degree of certainty with enough baseline data and analysis. The system would be extremely simple and without deductions and credits there will be a significant reduction in underpayment and sheltering of money. Government revenues would increase and consumers would actually keep more money in their pockets. The current system is too complicated and the idea of incentivizing certain behaviors through deductions and credits is fundamentally flawed in a free market economy. This is not a pie in the sky idea. In addition, for background, I spent 10 years as an Investment Portfolio Manager, obtained an MBA in Finance with honors from one of the top Graduate Finance programs in the world and underwent a career change to Management Consulting with a focus on asset valuation and finance. I am by no means a tax or finance expert, but simple math and common sense shows this plan would be a tremendous success if further researched, refined, and implemented in our country.

Most working people dislike having their income taxed, while those who are born rich have fewer burdens if they don't work and just live off investments and interest. Some conservatives call for a flat tax on income that is "fair"; I say, turn the idea in favor of the poor and give the conservatives what they want at the same time - a flat tax on individual net worth. Once per year, every American must add up their net worth in bank accounts, real estate (based on property appraisal), stocks (averaged over 6 months) and business capital; most of this information is already available. Then, a flat percentage is taken as a tax - perhaps 3%. This tax would be inherently progressive based on net worth, not income, and would be a fair tax based on individual collective wealth alone. No one would pay more than their worth allows and the rich would get a truly fair tax based on their own possessions. Credits could be offered for expenses to health care, education, childcare or business investment, but it would otherwise close loopholes for businesses due to its simplicity.

We need to think seriously about a flat tax. Too many people and corporations avoid paying their fair share of taxes by cleverly using/abusing deductions. I think the flat tax on income earned is the most honest way to insure that everyone pays taxes.

The best thing for our country is remove politicians from control of the tax base. Have a board of university heads, company CEOs, law proffs, and other esteemed ones make changes to a flat tax base as needed. These would not be worried about getting reelected.

There should be no breaks, deductions or credits of any kind. Just a simple percentage rate for each income tax bracket, which should be lowed to yield about the same amount of tax owed as with the deduction. No one should need an accountant to do the tax, just do a simple multiplication and it should be enough.

Everyone should pay a flat income tax rate of 3% of their income that is matched by the employer. Companies should have a 5% tax on profit across the board. This system would be fair to all with everyone paying the same rate. July 10-16, 2011
Drop the childcare tax credit after two children per one household; otherwise, the current tax code encourages some to be less than responsible. A flat tax system would be welcomed! [Taxpayer's Initials]

Dear IRS, I would like to see one tax for every person regardless of how much they earn. If you did not make any money you do not get taxed, if you earned \$15,000 or \$15 Million the same tax rate is applied. In addition, no credits or breaks for anybody. It does not get any simpler than paying x tax rate on x number of dollars earned. The states can fight for citizens by offering state tax incentives and deductions. Thanks
[Taxpayer's name and city/state]

I believe that the country would benefit greatly from a wonderful simplification of the income tax system: --Make it a flat 7% tax on all income above "minimum wage" for all immediate family directly supported. Self, spouse, children. Do the math. It should cover what the federal government needs to run its operations, including a minimal defense budget. --Keep Social Security and Medicare separate, funded by assessment divided among all people. -- Fund all wars by separate assessments, voted by congress, not funded by income taxes.

Flat tax for everybody including corporations - end all the write-offs. "fair for all" This way the companies actually pay what they should instead of these paper games they get to write down to pay next to nothing.

Eliminate all tax credits, go to a flat tax on all earnings and whatever that percentage is then everyone with income will pay that percentage. No loopholes. This includes churches also.

1. Collect social security tax on all personal income, not just the first \$80,000. 2. Go to a flat tax rate that does not contain any exceptions or exclusions. This is for business and personal. 3. Do not tax interest or capital gains. 4. This is the most important!!!! STOP GIVING US TAXPAYER MONEY TO INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY AND STOP GIVING MONEY TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE PEOPLES TAX DOLLARS SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY WHILE WE STILL HAVE PROBLEMS HERE AT HOME THAT ARE NOT BEING ADDRESSED. Thank you.

Adopt the simpler fair tax code - makes way more sense.

I have thought for years that some of the pet projects or things like Parks and NEA should essentially lobby the public for them to give their tax dollars to these special programs. Government has some functions that are required spending like defense, highways etc. But I think I would feel a lot better if I could select the pet projects I deem to deserve my money. I think every American should be allowed to designate 5% of their tax burden to the 100 or so areas they want to. If the NEA or NPR is what the people want, they would get the funds from the people that want it.

Personally, I would designate my tax dollars to go to Parks and Recreation projects, NOT the NEA or NPR. By allowing every American to choose where their tax dollars are spent, you eliminate or reduce funding to projects people really don't want. It also forces some of these Congressional pet projects to fall by the waste side.

Please implement a flat tax on all income. Eliminate credits and deductions for everything we buy/invest in. Flat tax rates of 10% across the board will simplify and make everyone liable for their fair share of income tax. I am fairly sure this would also increase tax revenues.

Stop giving refundable tax credits based on low income. That is using the system as a form of welfare, without regard to assets held. Lower the personal exemptions to 1/2 the current level and institute an extremely low tax rate on the amount the exemptions are lowered on each return. Say 2% so that more people have to pay taxes even with lower income. LIMIT THE number of exemptions that can be taken on a return. With the increasing population, the government should not be seen to be encouraging families to have more than 3 children.

Once we get past the question of whether income tax is actually a legal process my suggestion would be for the US to go to a graduated flat tax allowing for a minimum annual earning rate. With that being said, let the public decide what the base tax rate should be and when it should be increased. This would eliminate the tax code problem period as well as the need for the Internal Revenue Service (if you can call it a service).

Stop the corporate looting of America thru the tax code & increase the capital gains tax. It's not fair that people who actually sacrifice their time & labor working for \$\$ are taxed more than those whose excess \$\$ is just stuck in an account. Why are they favored? It's not fair.

Easy!! Flat tax for everyone including corporations & churches. No exceptions

While I fully support tax increases for the rich (which always seem to get mentioned by politicians) I think tax increases on the middle and lower classes are going to be required as well. This could come in the form of an elimination of certain credits or deductions (child care credit, mortgage interest deduction) or simply a raise in the overall rate we pay. Having nearly half of all Americans not pay any federal income tax is probably not a good way to run a country. No matter what action is taken, I think the single best way to implement it would be incrementally. Why can't the mortgage interest deduction be phased out over 10 years (90%, 80%, 70%, etc.)? Increase the middle class rate by a quarter of a percent each year for the next 20 years. Make the child tax credit a flat rate no matter how many kids you have. Raise the medical expense deduction minimum of AGI a little bit each year over the next decade. No politician will ever vote to eliminate any of these things outright, and once gone they would be too hard to implement again. But by taking the incremental approach, the pill becomes easier to swallow, the effect to taxpayers' wallets is not noticed as much (if at all) and politicians are more likely to do it. I also think asking taxpayers to designate how they want their money spent would be helpful. This should not be an official factor in how the money actually gets spent, but it can be a source of information for the government to consider and could be considered free of bias or error traditional polls inherently have built in them.

Simple - No deductions. 8% Federal Tax 5% State Tax 1% Local Tax

My idea is one that would NEVER be implemented, but I believe it is the "fairest" way to collect taxes -- and probably MORE of them. We should turn away from the current system with all the "loopholes" which allow rich people to pay less than their share. Instead, we should create a National Income Tax at whatever rate is necessary to "pay the bills" (15%, 18 %?) -- I have no way of knowing what that would be, but I know it can be calculated. Under this system, you only pay taxes if you spend and everyone spends. The rich spend more, so they'll pay more; the poor spend less, so they'd pay less, etc. No forms or rules, just a very simple way to collect revenue to operate our government! In fact, I'm guessing that by simply collecting taxes from those that either don't file or "cheat," we could easily "capture" lots of addition monies! Well, that's my idea, but unfortunately, we'd have to make most of the IRS "extinct," which would sadden most every taxpayer! HA! And, I don't foresee anyone in government having the audacity to enact such a radical shift! Oh, well...

A simple flat tax. No sales tax, estate tax, capital gains tax, or any of the other taxes.

I would get rid of all tax credits. The credits are not fair because most don't qualify for them anyway. I don't have kids or own a home so I don't qualify.

20% off the top of all wages including the over \$250,000.00 group this group does not get tax break except for charitable donations. No more tax breaks. Companies are showing considerable profit to shareholder and bonuses. They still have not hired any employees!!! That was the reason for tax breaks for big and small business. Big business in particular needs to start paying their share.

Why tax income? Why not tax consumption? Look at the "Fair Tax" proposal on this website (www.fairtax.org). One of the beauties of this proposal is that there could be a major simplification of the IRS. There would no longer be 130 million individuals and corporations filing income tax returns, but rather all businesses (which already collect sales taxes) would collect the fair tax amount and pay it to the federal govt just as they now collect and pay state and local sales taxes. A few million businesses collecting and reporting rather than 130 million should be easier to audit and police!

Compute corporate taxes on the same formula as personal taxes . . . Gross income minus taxes equals spendable income. If it's good enough for flesh-and-blood people, why not for non-human corporations?

As a psychologist working within the Social Service System I believe that a small tax on all but the most destitute would raise money for the government while at the same time providing a sense of involvement and participation by the lower SES population.

Drop all the elaborate code and go to a sales tax only system.

As a college student pursuing a career in scientific research, obtaining research internships from universities and other organizations is critical for acquiring experience within the scientific field. Due to the current tax system, my meager earnings from my internships are taxed as a private contractor/self-employed business. I was taxed about 18% of my income when my income is less than 9 thousand. When paying for school, housing, food, insurance and other expenses, 18% of my income going to taxes is ridiculous. College students, the future of America, should not be taxed in such ways. I am not opposed to being taxed, but I strongly feel that educational internships should be taxed much less, or at most at the normal income rate.

I think the IRS should have a flat percentage of tax to be paid by all with income. That's it.

We are legally responsible for our children until they are 21 but we lose the tax credit when they turn 17. However, if they are still in high school and we are supporting them we should be able to get the full credit on our taxes till they turn 19. The law should be made so that it makes sense. Most kids can barely get a job now a day with the economy the way it is, so we end up supporting them until they can find a job and move out. Doesn't anyone use common sense anymore?

Change can cause upheavals. Maintaining the status quo is not working though. Too many lobbyists dictate how things are run on behalf of big business. Govt in the USA is supposed to be run by the people, for the people, and it is not. Taxes (income) need to go hand in hand with expenses. As we manage our households, we also need to do the same with the country's budget. We can't spend what we do not have. It is amazing that it will take over 10 years just to reduce the amount we overspend and still not be balanced. X comes in, X goes out with a little saved for a rainy day. My suggestion: one single flat rate. Stop govt incentives, don't meddle with business. If you make only \$200 a year then contribute to the taxes. Surely, you shouldn't get a rebate. If you smoke a pack a day and spend 3k/yr why should you get handouts? Everyone should pay the same percent. 5% or 10% or 20%.or whatever is needed, regardless of your income level. And then strike out all the gas/booze/cig/sales/etc. taxes. Then we truly will see what we pay each year out of our income. It also will put all the tax folks out of business so I doubt it will come to pass.

Flat tax for everyone. 25% across the board. No breaks.

A fixed consumption tax that cannot be adjusted without voter approval. Only exemptions would be food, gasoline, medical care, housing up to \$250,000, autos to \$25,000, apartments/houses rental up to \$12,000. Abolish IRS and Tax code.

Everyone, including corporations, above the Poverty Line, pays the same. We all benefit the same. No tax credits for anything! You should be able to do your tax return on the back of a post card!!!

Tax all income with no deductions using a graduated tax rate based on income bracket, No tax return required if all income is reported on W2: 0-\$20,000 = 3% \$20,001-50,000 5% \$50,001-70,000 7% \$70,001-100,000 10% \$100,001-200,000 12% \$200,000- 15%

Married filing jointly should be available to ANY filers who are legally able to file joint returns for their state – (i.e. same sex couples).

I currently receive a mortgage deduction and deductions for 2 children. I also itemize deductions and so get some deductions for medical expenses, union dues, unreimbursed business expenses and charitable contributions, and occasionally other smaller items. It seems to me we should just go to a flat tax of 12-1/2% on everyone, beginning at a certain level such as \$20,000, below which is considered poverty level. The rate would graduate up for high-income earners to a maximum rate of 25% on incomes of over \$500,000. No tax would be assessed on Social Security income, unemployment benefits or other such government assistance. And the flat rate would apply to all income earners - personal and business - MO MORE LOOPHOLES, and eliminate all the deductions, credits, etc. Everyone pays their fair share unless they are below the poverty line.

Repeal the earned income credit.

We need a one-page tax return that wipes out all deductions and uses 15% or so of all income over a deductible. This by itself would encourage business and spending and bring us out of the Bush-Obama Great Recession. Congress needs to act, if they have the stones to do the right thing.

Reduce or eliminate mortgage interest deductions

Institute a flat rate tax -= one or two tiers, for example 10% & 15%, with no exemptions, deductions, or credits. The entire tax form could be on a "postcard". This would also eliminate need for much of IRS & its legal counsel - which is probably why big government would not consider such a simplification.

The US Tax Code needs to be completely scrapped and rebuilt from the ground up. Here's a very simple and fair solution that would work and more than double the annual revenue. The 25/10 Personal Income Tax Solution: Income Tax Withholding is 8% after Social Security Payment and paid by everyone. \$20,000 Deduction for everyone. First \$10,000 in unemployment benefits is non-taxable. Maximum Annual Social Security Payments of \$50,000 Subtract \$20,000 from Total Gross Income after Social Security =Adjusted Gross Income Adjusted Gross Income multiplied by .75 equals Taxable Income; Taxable Income is multiplied by .10 which equal Tax Owed Ex #1: \$50,000 G.I. after SS deductions \$50,000 minus \$20,000 = \$30,000 \$30,000 times .75 = \$22,500 Taxable Income \$22,500 times .10 = \$2,250 taxes owed \$4,000 Withholding minus \$2,250 taxes owed = \$1750 refund Ex #2 \$100,000 G.I. after SS deductions \$ 100,000 minus \$20,000 = \$80,000 \$ 80,000 times .75 = \$60,000 Taxable Income \$ 60,000 times .10 = \$6,000 taxes owed \$ 8,000 withholding minus \$6,000 = \$2,000 refund Ex # \$1,000,000 G.I. after

SS deductions \$ 1,000,000 minus \$20,000 = \$980,000 \$ 980,000 times .75 = \$735,000 Taxable Income \$ 735,000 times .10 = \$73,500 taxes owed \$ 78,400 withholding minus \$73,500 = \$4,900 refund 35/10 Business Tax Solution No Social Security Taxes 7.5% Employee Tax on Gross Income 2.5% Education Tax on Gross Income 2.5% Infrastructure Tax The only deductions allowed: 1. up to 10% from GI for documented research and development for products only-not allowed for business that do not produce a tangible product; 2. up to 5% from GI for documented employee health benefits GI minus Employee, Education & Infrastructure Taxes times .65 = Taxable Income Taxable Income times .10 = taxes owed paid quarterly Political contributions are not deductible May direct up to 1% of taxes owed to be contributed to local Social Programs for the needy. [Taxpayer Name]

Simple. 10 percent tax across the board for everyone and every business. Simple. You probably would have more money in the government's piggy bank.

I believe if there is one change and one change only I believe the child tax credit should be terminated. We can't pay people for their choices. I have a co-worker that literally makes four thousand dollars from his tax return every year because he has 5 kids and a mother that is on food stamps. The father makes just as much as I do, I'm twenty years younger and I can barely get a return on the taxes I pay. My main concern is I know he doesn't pay more than four thousand in taxes over the course of the year so why is he able to get a refund for way over how much he contributed, and on top of that the all the government services his family uses with food stamps and the local police dept. (his son has been picked up a few times). The tax code should be simple and fair with reforms on the poor and rich alike with the rich paying their fair share like back in the 50's.

People don't mind paying tax as long as two conditions are met: Everyone is paying his or her fair share, and the tax money isn't being spent foolishly. I have a PhD and can't understand the tax code. This is the most common legal document every citizen sees. I suggest a graduated flat tax without any deductions. You report your income and pay the tax on it based on your bracket. That's it. The tax return could be put on a 4x6 index card. You could reduce the IRS staff and retrain them to hunt down those who aren't paying their tax or create a watchdog group to eradicate waste in government spending like the law that requires the federal mint to create one dollar coins for every president in the US. These coins are not being circulated and aren't even done being minted yet; however, we're paying millions of dollars to store them in secured vaults. No offense, but whose brainchild was this?

Eliminate corporate income taxes. This would mean that all of the money that corporations waste on tax avoidance strategies would be redirected to shareholders. No one will cry for the lawyers and accountants who are no longer needed. Treasury could replace the lost revenues by increasing the taxes on dividends and capital gains. Not only would this reduce the costs for corporate, it would also reduce the staffing needs at the IRS.

One fair tax to all individuals based on the total population. Perhaps the 15%.

Would like to see a flat tax on gross income up to age 65; after 65, a reduced flat tax on gross income. For corporations - a flat tax on gross income including that made overseas. Forget the tax credits and deductions, except for handicapped and disabled. Maybe add a head tax for families over 4.

Allow only 2-child exemption. Increase that number only for adopted children.

Simplify the tax code; Right now it is hugely regressive. The highest incomes pay a very low rate because most of their income is capital gains and is taxed at the ridiculously low rate of 15%, Phase out deductions at a reasonable level to make the system less regressive.

Tax everyone in this country. It sounds like 45% don't pay any federal income taxes at all. Until everyone has some "skin in the game", we are going to constantly hear "tax the rich" as a way to get out of the federal fiscal mess we are in now.

1. Eliminate Tax breaks and grants to oil companies making billions in profits. 2. Enact National 0.5% sales tax. 3. Tax annuity payments worth over \$100,000. 4. Amend the Constitution to make Federally Funded Elections the basis of holding office. The current system is merely organized bribery that has resulted in skewing budget priorities and has made all spending reforms impossible to pass. Once private money is illegal, Congress and the President will be able to make decisions about the Country and not about funding their next reelection--which leads to pandering to corporations and special interest groups. Cheers, [Taxpayer Initials]

Currently, gambling income has to go on page 1 of the 1040. Gambling losses are allowed as an itemized deduction. This allows for inflated AGI, which affects many other provisions of tax laws. Michigan income starts with federal AGI and you cannot write off gambling income. Gambling income from casino table games is not reported, except for progressive jackpots. So generally, only machine jackpots are reported. Totally unfair. I recently applied for Medicare and was informed that I now have to pay more than twice the monthly premium because my AGI was inflated because of gambling income. I kept none of that income. It was invested in the machine before I hit the jackpot, or in subsequent visits.

The tax timetable should be staggered. The tax code should be greatly simplified - they are currently way too complex to allow for effective long term planning.

Eliminate all deductions and have a simple tiered tax deduction starting at around 2 percent @ \$10,000 to unlimited income, with a top rate of 30 percent. This would be fair to all taxpayers The more you make the more you pay.

Drop all exemptions for corporate and individual and tax at a flat rate.

Change back to Clinton era tax rates initially, and then revise code to simplify. Close loopholes in tax code for wealthy and businesses. Remove ceiling on earnings applicable to SS tax (i.e. all income subject to social security tax, not just first \$1XXK). This would apply to the individual only, not businesses. Leave benefit cap in place. Someone who is making \$400K should be paying same rate as someone who is making \$40K and the person making \$400K is much more likely to be able to afford to contribute to a separate retirement plan. SS is a socialistic system - not a dollar for dollar you get in what you paid in. Remove early retirement option from SS. If you want to retire early, fine, but you fund it. Eliminate oil company subsidies. Divert 50% of this money to Detroit to subsidize R&D in vehicles that use alternative sources of energy (and making those vehicles mass-production eligible, large enough for families and affordable). Tax imports to U.S. at the same rate each country taxes U.S. imports to their country. This would also apply to U.S. companies who moved jobs overseas. We need to use the tax code to make this a bad business decision. Where the presence of adequate provider systems exist (may not be available in rural areas), change Medicare/Medicaid to reimburse hospital/provider system by member, rather than fee for service, which just means more services used. Participants would have to choose a provider system that would provide them with all of their care. Use Medicare buying power to negotiate discounts with pharmaceutical companies. Reduce defense spending by 5% of current every other year for the next ten years, for a total reduction of roughly 25%. Increase dependent care FSA from 1980's era limit of \$5,000 to \$25,000. Helps working families by putting more money in their pockets to spend and drive job creation. Leave mortgage credit in place, but limit to 3x average home price in area; if you can afford a million dollar mortgage, you don't need a tax break on all the interest. Putting more money in the hands of the working people will create jobs because they will have money to spend. Supply and demand drives job creation; not tax breaks to businesses (or the wealthy). Temporarily (six months) suspend federal tax withholding on first \$100K of income.

People should not get back more than they paid in. I know a few people that get back thousands of more dollars than they paid in taxes! They are also receiving Medicaid and other government benefits. Why are the people that are draining the system also getting large refunds?

Tax all the religious non-profits.

Stop nailing me for over 30% of my earnings. New Jersey is expensive to live. Structure it geographically. Revise every decade according to U.S. Census Data and geographically administer effective growth loss rate.

Institute a flat tax as follows: 18% for standard wage earners, i.e. "Middle Class America" 12.5% for businesses that have at least 70% of their business conducted in the U.S. 20% for businesses that have less than 70% of their business conducted in the U.S.

I think a flat tax and or value added tax is the best and simplest way to go. Those that have more to spend on consumables in our culture are in the best position to pay their fair share of taxes. Gasoline taxes, alcohol taxes, cigarette taxes, marijuana taxes each are good examples of the more you use, the more you pay.

1-Reduce or eliminate tax on SS benefits. 2-Eliminate tax on Unemployment benefits.

I don't think you should be able to receive a refund larger than what you pay in throughout the year. If you pay in \$1000 over the year, the most you should be able to get with credits and deductions is \$1000. I think it's ridiculous that lower income individuals are making money off the government by paying in very little but due to having multiple kids and not making much so they get EIC, etc. they receive 5,6,\$7000 refunds.

Pay FICA on all income, not just the first \$105,000.

Phase out tax deductions over the next 10 years. Not all in one fell swoop but a slow reduction so that people and businesses don't take a one-time major hit and can then plan ahead.

I think a flat tax system starting at some low level maybe \$20,000 and tax all earned income above that, the same for social security tax every dollar. I think 3 deductions should be considered. 1)child care a set amount young family need the help 2)medical this is some think you plan for and 3)mortgage interest deduction set at level of med price home a cap on size of deduction. Tax only earned income so to encourage people to save. Thanks for asking [initials]

How about picking a percentage just 1 number that everyone pays! No loop holes if ands or buts about it. No tax breaks for anyone. No exceptions. It's strictly business, if they want a tax break maybe it could be settled on the number of living wage jobs the company or corporation created lasting a year or longer to qualify for the discount. This way the doers get rewarded and the thieves can just remain as they are.

Flat Tax. Simple. 2 Tiers Married 18% Single 22%

It's time to wipe out most of the deductions and credits in the current code, but equally as important is that we need to prevent this from happening again. I suggest a restriction that new tax deductions or credits can exist only for a maximum 5-year or 10-year period at which time they must be modified one way or another. If no action is taken, the deduction or credit would automatically expire. The home mortgage tax deduction is unnecessary and should be eliminated. The charitable donation deduction should be retained and should include the value of money, goods and services donated to qualified recipients. Unemployment income should not be taxable. Taxes on dividends and capital gains for incomes over \$500,000 should be at least 50%. However, the tax on capital gains from business owned and controlled by the taxpayer should match the personal income tax rate. If the ultra-wealthy want to make money from money, they should have to invest in real operating businesses, not just speculate on the stock market. Private equity investment advisers should pay the regular personal income tax rate on capital gains from their investments.

Consumption tax... some sort of national sales tax or VAT in tandem with lower/simple income tax. That way every drug dealer, cash only earner or criminal who goes out and buys a simple thing at the store or a yacht is paying for their share because their income was never part of the tax base before.

15% flat tax for EVERYONE, from the poorest American to the largest companies. FLAT TAX, no more 2,000 page tax books....FLAT TAX

1. Enforce the current statutory rates. 2. Eliminate the AMT for gross incomes <\$100K 3. Return to Clinton era tax rates. 4. Close loopholes over 2 yrs. for Gas/Oil exploration, Corporate aircraft etc. 5. Tax credits for insulation and green energy projects at work and home (e.g. white roofs and solar panels).

Item #1: On credits which are based on the age of a child, such credits should be prorated the year in which the child's birth date causes the credit to be disallowed. For example, our child turned 17 on December 26, 2009. The Child Tax Credit was not allowed because she was age 17 for 1 week of 2009 although she was age 16 for 51 weeks of that year. Item #2: Overpayments on previous years' returns should be allowed to be used as a credit to a later year return even if it falls after the 3-year limitation for refunds. Example: We were not notified of delinquent tax returns until after 3 years of their due date. When returns were refilled, which showed overpayments to be applied to a later return (3 consecutive years), those overpayments were not allowed to be used to offset the underpayment on the later year return. Since IRS charges interest on amounts due them, it would only be fair that any and all overpayments for prior years should be applied to a year with a balance due no matter how many years had lapsed before the underpayment return was filed. Taxpayers do not get to charge IRS/Government interest on money it holds from them.

My husband and I agree we would like to see the child tax credit, additional child tax credit, and the EITC done away with. Even though we are no longer eligible for EITC, we are still eligible for the child tax credit. So doing away with them would affect our tax situation, however, we feel that doing away with these credits would help with our country's financial problem. For the child tax credit, a person only has to bring in income of \$3,000 or more. Taxpayers within the \$3,000 - \$15,000 can claim child tax credit, EITC, and some additional child tax credit getting ridiculous amounts of refunds, while taxpayers making \$40,000 or more trying to raise a family and support themselves and maybe trying to put children through college on their own without any state help because they make too much to qualify for it get no refunds or much less. Either raise the minimum income to qualify for these credits or do away with them all together. My husband and I prefer the latter. My husband constantly states we should all just have the same tax. I feel we should have the same tax for brackets with no credits or limited credits. If you make a certain amount, you pay a specific amount. This is the simplest thing to do.

Limit mortgage interest deduction to primary residence. Require hedge fund managers to receive salary as W-2 income not investment income. Remove cap on social security tax on earned income.

Keep it simple. The tax code should not be so complicated that it supports an entire industry of tax prep professionals. Get rid of personal exemptions (self, spouse) and dependent exemptions (why get an exemption for using MORE services?), get rid of deduction of interest paid on a home (includes me), maybe make the first \$10K of income excluded from taxes (to reduce the number of returns that need to be filed), including earned income, dividends, interest, capital gains. Tax hedge fund managers' income as "income" and not capital gains. Make the statistics of returns available every year (I'd like to see scatter plots showing Total Income (X) vs. Total Tax Paid (Y) and it should form a nice straight line.... investigate any outlying points that don't fall on a straight line and close up any loopholes in the laws that allowed it to happen. Make this raw data available to the public (without names, obviously) so that anyone can examine it for trends. Eliminate tax breaks for "losses" in stock value (this affects me, but loss occurs every day for so many things that we never get a tax break on, why would stocks be any different?). Flat tax on earned income, flat tax on dividends, flat tax on capital gains (after a combined exclusion of the first \$10K), maybe three different rates for those three items. Just keep it simple.

VAT and/or flat-tax. Period. Keep it Simple Sam (uncle!). If we must have deductions, charitable donations should still remain, home mortgages remain or accelerate schedule. Removing this deduction could lower homes 10-20% of FMT, and we are already facing decline in that market. Business tax for both employer and employee abolished. This gives both groups more money to infuse into the economy vs. paradox of thrift to save it.

Why can't everyone (individuals & businesses) pay a flat rate? If everyone paid a straight 10% income tax, it would be fair.

Change the mortgage deduction so that only the first \$5,000 in interest paid is deductible. Make the deductible available to all homebuyers regardless of whether the return is itemized but deduct the mortgage credit from the non-itemizer "standard deduction." This deduction would reward small and mid-sized home buyers who place 20% or more down who would not accumulate enough interest payments to deduct otherwise while not rewarding jumbo purchases.

Scrap the income tax in its entire form. Add a 6% national sales tax and make it illegal for the taxes to be passed along to customers in any manner whatsoever. This will never happen but it is the fairest way to spread the taxes around to all levels of the society.

It seems that a big issue is 'accountability' and 'balanced' taxes for everyone on the income spectrum. Taking a hybrid approach from a couple recent presidential candidates, has it been discussed what a "FLAT TAX" combined with a "CONSUMPTION TAX" would look like? I have not done the research to know the values that would be needed, but... what if we had a flat income tax of 15%-20% across the board for everyone plus a 'consumption tax' on all purchases (like another sales tax) to account for the difference? Those buying expensive items will pay more (the wealthier typically). It might even drive middle class to save more which will only relieve pressure on Social Security downstream.

HSA Accounts - Most confusing form ever created. Persons that contribute directly to their HSA rather than via paycheck or pension deduction and make a contribution after the end of the tax year but before the April 15 tax deadline have no 5498-SA proof of the contribution on file with

the IRS. The contribution could not be made during the tax year because Pub 969 was not available to determine the maximum allowable contribution. Now I and the IRS must waste time creating and responding to an AUR. Fix this problem please.

I think the one item to have the largest impact on tax reform would be to abolish EITC. Having been a tax preparer for 12 years, it amazes me how many people not only pay no taxes but receive a refund (at times quite large) for not working! All it is welfare by another name. When I look at how much my husband and I pay in taxes (about \$25,000+), it is really disheartening and quite irritating. We are paying for those people to get refunds. EITC is a monster the government has created. It has so many flaws which allows for fraud. Now we as tax preparers are being threatened by the IRS and expected to enforce and control this monster. We are paying people not to work. Our government's deficit would not be nearly as large if it were done away with!

Currently child support is not tax deductible. The reason is that the money is spent on the children, and that is a social good, or something like that. However, there is no accountability on child support, and I think that all child support dollars that can't be shown to be used on children should be treated as regular income or alimony. It would be called fraud if I took dollars from a medical health account and used it for a vacation for myself. For child support, this is the norm. I do not accept as a response that it would be too much paperwork. Charities, businesses, people who have foster children and receive money for that, and everyone who has a tax-free medical health account already are able to keep track of their purchases for tax reasons. We have the technology; it is the right thing to do. Now we just need to implement it. Kind regards.

Marginal increases individual tax rates. At the very least simplify tax code and close most of the loopholes and set caps on tax breaks. If it makes it easier to solve my taxes, and it improves the quality of our society, I've little problem with paying more taxes as long as everyone is doing their part. -Slightly reduce business/corporate tax rates. Closed loopholes and clearly defined laws that would prevent wage earners from claiming personal income as business income or personal expenses as business related tax write offs. -Businesses should get also get greater reduced tax rates based on proof of how many taxpaying citizens and legal immigrants they are employing in the United States vs. profit they are making. With the optimal credits for those companies employing the greatest number of individuals middle class wage and benefit levels. -Impose fair trade taxes and tariffs on importers or businesses that move their facilities to countries with cheaper labor costs and whose facilities do not meet the same standards and regulations they would have for the same industry in the U.S.

The current system of tax brackets is unfair and broken. What happens for people as they start to increase income is that small factors can bump them between tax brackets meaning that a small increase in earned income can lead to a significantly larger increase in tax liability. Would you take a raise knowing you would get a smaller paycheck? I wouldn't. We need to rethink our tax bracket system. I propose a series of flat income taxes which are cumulative, and which allow increasing amounts of AGI as a deduction. Instead of people in a specific tax bracket paying a certain percentage, tax liability would be a continuous function of income (for example 10% of income above \$30k + 10% of income above 40k + 10% of income above 50k etc) so that raises always increase the amount of money in one's pocket and that there is less incentive to look for any possible way to get over that tax bracket barrier. The advantage of a continuous function with graduated marginal rates is that it allows for the same social policy considerations we have today, but provides greater incentives for earning more money. It also makes the tax system feel less arbitrary and is likely to increase the confidence in the American people on this.

I think that we should eliminate the deductions for local taxes - property, income, and sales. This is a subsidy to high tax states.

Change the corporate tax rate tables to gross profit versus the number of employees they have. For example, if a company A grosses \$1,000,000 and has 1,000 employees, its tax rate would be 1.00 so [the company] would pay $\$1,000,000 * 1.00 / 1000 = \$1,000$ tax. If that company were to hire 1 more employee, its tax rate would decrease to say .99 so it would pay less taxes, i.e. $1,000,000 * .99 / 1001 = \990.11 . The tables and multipliers would have to be created to make the system work for those companies making \$1,000,000 and those making \$100,000 with less employees. It would have to work so that both companies would pay the same percentage in taxes.

Refundable credits should be done away with. This could start with the additional child tax credit. This was originated to give working families a tax break called the child tax credit; then it just turned into another form of welfare with the additional child tax credit. Additionally the earned income for the earned income tax credit should be raised so that you have to EARN around \$5,000 to even qualify for the credit. This credit is also another form of welfare.

1. Increase age for full benefits for both Social Security and Medicare from current levels to age 72. 2. End federal unemployment compensation. This should be a state responsibility. 3. End federal education spending. This should be a state and local responsibility. 4. End federal employee contract negotiations on health and retirement benefits. 5. End automatic inflation adjustments to Social Security benefits. 6. Begin flat income tax on all income at 20% for all Americans. 7. End Medicaid. This should be a state responsibility. 8. End home/real estate exemptions for income taxes. 9. End Standard Deduction on income taxes. 10. End all farm subsidies. 11. End charitable contributions on income taxes. 12. End business deductions for retirement plans and health plans. 13. Begin \$2.00 per gallon tax on all gasoline and other fuels. 14. End all subsidies on alternative fuels. 15. End all housing assistance programs, such as Section 8.

Flat tax with few or no exemptions or, even better, national sales tax to replace the current income tax system--NOT added to the current system. The business tax system needs to reward those companies who do not outsource jobs overseas, so they can still compete. Note that I didn't suggest punishing those who do outsource, but rewarding those who don't.

Seniors with no other income should be exempt from paying taxes on what they have saved through 401k and 403b plans when they withdraw that money.

Throw out all credits and loopholes. Give only a personal exemption and standard deduction. Tax at 10%, 15% and 20%. That goes for everyone. NO more claiming for that second house. Business loopholes should be gotten rid of too and tax them all at 1 rate.

Step 1. Make lobbying congress ILLEGAL. Step 2. Make the accepting of anything free from anybody by a member of congress ILLEGAL. This will bring a return of honesty and common sense to American politics. Step 3. Remove the current tax code and replace it with a flat percentage to which there are NO deductions. Step 4. National sales tax. 2% should have that debt paid off in a reasonable period of time.

All should a simple file short form- no deductions. Lower overall rates but still keep it progressive.

Just go to a flat tax. We don't see any loopholes in a flat tax system

Just simplify things a lot. I spend so much time each year gathering material, consulting with an accountant, and filing (extensions, usually) that it's just too cumbersome. Tax accountants can focus on corporate work, which won't go away. Also, I would get rid of all tax credits. If we did that, the tax rate would plummet. I'm sure the builders association(s) and charitable groups would be up in arms, but Americans aren't less likely to buy or build a home if they don't get a credit on their mortgage interest payments. Nor are we likely to give less to charitable groups. In the end, we would end up paying less in taxes, which would free up more money for these sorts of things. It can be done; we just need people with backbone in Washington. I'm not holding my breath.

Every person pays the same %, no deductions, no special breaks for the wealthy. Currently the rich keep getting richer and the middle class no longer can survive.

There should no longer be a difference between Married and Single, just file as a "Citizen". Not only does the Married status create numerous extra rows of figures on tables, but also it forces unnecessary and unfair figures for those in either category. Joint returns could still be done, simply by multiplying any of the line items that currently take marriage into consideration by 2 instead of 1. This would have the benefit of encouraging marriage by way of eliminating the so-called "marriage penalty," while reducing and simplifying the tax code in a fair and reasonable manner. It is outdated anyway, as with both spouses working in many households, why penalize anyone for doing what society wants in the first place -- better and more stable homes.

We need a consumption type tax. Eliminate the IRS as we know it.

1. Eliminate itemized deductions for second home mortgages 2. Cap itemized deductions for first home mortgages, perhaps set to specific housing markets (imagine the same cap for SF and Ft Lauderdale?) 3. Eliminate, or sharply cap, itemized deductions for state and local taxes (I hate to say this; I'm from Mass.) 4. Make every US citizen pay taxes, even if it's a buck. EVERYONE should have skin in the game 5. On the other hand: sharply RAISE deductions for having kids 6. Throw out most of the rest, which I think is in the tax code because of the rich, the powerful, and the special interests. It makes the rest of us taxpayers feel like we've been scammed.

Flat tax for everyone, no loopholes, everyone pays the same % Do away with IRS completely. Tax CONGRESS the same as we are taxed and do away with all their extra benefits that only they have. Let's all be EQUAL!

I apologize if this has already been proposed. I am a firm advocate of KISS (Keep It Simple Simon). My proposal is this: W-2 wage earners earning two times above the poverty level pay a flat 10% income tax. No deductions; no credits. This is collected by the employer and reported to the IRS. The taxpayer simply gets a copy for their records no filing necessary. W-2 wage earners earning less than two times the poverty level pay no income taxes period. Savings tax exempt. Investments (e.g. stocks, bonds, etc.) gains taxed at a flat 5%; losses are the risk taken for growth. ANY non-W2 earnings (e.g. businesses, self-employed, Sub-S corp, Partnerships, etc.) I will leave up to the CPAs, IRS and Congress to hash out.

Eliminate the tax break to the large percentage of the population who pay almost no taxes. Set a minimum 5% of AGI for ALL Americans.

Go with a flat tax, about 10-12% for everyone no matter how much they make. If they make less than the poverty level, work with them. Take out the loop holes that rich people hire accountants to find. No way out, just pay their share like the rest of us.

It does not get any more simple than a flat tax or fair tax. If a flat tax was applied to anything and EVERYTHING sold in this country, it would apply to all citizens, illegal immigrants, and visitors alike and in a fair way. If a flat tax (10% for example) were applied to income as well, it's as fair as it gets and simple. There's no arguing that and the IRS agents won't lose their jobs because someone has to enforce income being accurately reported.

1.) The best reform that I can think of would be to go to a flat tax system. Everybody pays the same percentage on their gross income. Collect it directly from employers. 2.) Get rid of estate taxes. I know of a number of very successful family businesses that have been sold off rather than left to the next generation who would never have been able to pay the estate tax. We should be doing everything within our power, including tax reform to support the survival of multigenerational family businesses. 3.) The economic downturn has caused many citizens of this country to have tax problems they would not ordinarily have had. The IRS personnel that we are required to deal with treat the citizens of this country like we are all criminals. I'm a 2 tour combat veteran from the Viet Nam war, paid my taxes on time, every time, for 40 years. I had a slight problem and I was treated like a common criminal. I deserve better, the citizens of this country deserve better. The best part about a flat tax system is that it will put all of those [expletive] you hire as IRS agents in the unemployment line.

I think the system should be based on a consumption tax applied to everything you buy. The only 2 credits/rules that should stay in place would be poverty level exemption and a credit for home ownership (mortgage interest). Even that should be capped at something like 2X the average home value in the area to exclude the rich and extravagant.

How about a flat 17% tax rate for every one and I DO mean everyone - poor, middle class, millionaires/billionaires including corporations. That would be fair for everyone across the board.

Simple everyone and every corp business must pay a tax. Flat straight out tax no deductions, safe havens. The rich need to be held accountable. The gov't needs to fund healthcare, education, safety. No privatization in social programs.

First of all, get rid of the AMT. My wife and I both make a decent living but most of our deductions get phased out because we make "too much" On top of that, we get to pay a couple thousand more each year in AMT, because some formula says that based on our income, we should pay even MORE than the tax tables dictate. My wife and I BOTH claim single zero. We are married with two dependents. Shouldn't this mean that we are BOTH withholding TOO MUCH? If that were only the case. At the end of the year, we typically find ourselves with about a 21% effective tax burden (federal). We are paying nearly \$60,000.00 per year. We are healthy, former/current members of the armed forces, law abiding citizens. I believe the fair way to charge a tax, would be a simple graduated scale. This would be charged to everyone working. Everyone would file their own taxes (no married filing jointly, etc...) There would be NO deductions or exclusions. The scale would start at a minimum income level (\$10,000) for example and graduate from there. After \$1,000,000 for example, the rate would be 20% (or 25%, or whatever). Without the deductions, there would not be the claim that the rich don't pay. The other side of course is that the government would be able to eliminate about 90% of the IRS employees, reducing the gov't expenditures.

Flat Tax for individuals and corporations. EVERYONE pays an equal percentage of their income. No loop holes, write-offs, or tricks. That is truly fair verses the progressive system in place.

A Graduated flat tax. Period. No deductions, no confusion. No dodging, no loopholes.

Yes on graduated tax decrease the magnitude of the deltas cut out ALL exceptions except higher education (the lawyers have made a shambles of exceptions). Delete all tax subsidies for all commerce.

2%, period.

Short term - tax internet sales Long term - flat rate for everything except necessities such as health food. Impose tax credits based on re-cycle-able and renewable goods - penalize production of stuff that doesn't break down in landfills. Impose term limits in Senate and House

Go with a flat tax that would replace all other income taxes. Along with most of the IRS. Kill six birds with one stone.

A national sales tax is a fair way to increase federal revenue; however the income tax rate would have to be lowered. All consumers should pay the sales tax. The wealthy, since they have more wealth, spend more (higher priced merchandize) and the poor would contribute when they purchase goods. European VAT

Get rid of the whole tax code. The same tax rate for everyone. No deductions to screw the government with, no tax returns to deal with every year. You work, you pay your taxes, life is good.

Eliminate all corporate deductions except those directly related to labor & benefits, raw materials that become a finished product, sub-assemblies produced in the USA and limit all labor expense to 10 times the minimum wage as established by the Dept of Labor. At the present rate of \$7.25/hr, the maximum deduction for labor would be $\$72.50 * 2080$ hours of \$150,800 annual deduction. Labor benefits would be limited to 10% of the direct labor deduction (\$15,080/year).

I have a number of ideas regarding tax reform. But I will start by suggesting that the US not be so prideful as to think that we have nothing to learn from other nations. There are lots of examples of poorly run tax systems and productive and efficient tax systems, and we should learn from both (avoiding the mistakes, and emulating the success, of others). Beyond that, my primary goal would be to simplify the tax system, and restore the balance of payments that have in the past been a hallmark of our progressive tax system. Both of these goals will meet heavy resistance, from the financial industry (who makes lots of money deciphering and taking advantage of complex tax code) and from the wealthiest people in the country (who are now six times wealthier than just a few decades ago, while average income for the bottom 90% of US taxpayers has stagnated or even declined in the same period). But for the health of the country, these empires need to be restrained. One system that I have passing familiarity with and which I find very effective is that of Singapore's. They have a relatively simple tax code, and incorporate their national Goods and Services Tax. All sales are taxed, with a family's tax return being used to determine tax rebates. This allows the government to capture tax revenue on sales across the board, _without_ the regressive aspect of making the poorest citizens have to pay tax on essentials like food and shelter. Note that a GST-based system would help address the current problem of lack of tax revenue for online retail sales (some kind of tax-sharing with states could be done, if that would help states feel better about the federal government imposing what has traditionally been a tax paid only to states). Even without a national GST, eliminating the different classifications of income as well as removing various deductions, so that more of the income of the wealthiest taxpayers is actually being taxed, would actually allow tax rates to be reduced, even at the highest levels. Of course, spending reform must be made as well. But that's outside the IRS's purview, and half the problem is in fact that our revenue base has been severely constrained by self-serving tax cuts applied only to the wealthiest of US taxpayers.

The easiest and fairest way to simplify Federal income taxes for the individual would be to maintain graduated rates but eliminate all other provisions. No deductions, no credits and no differentiation between married and single. You earn it, you pay taxes on it. Use taxes to fund the government, and let the social engineering be taken care of elsewhere.

Flat rate @ 15% - no deductions except mortgage.

National Sales to reduce and eventually eliminate deficit. Also use it to replace or greatly simplify tax code.

Tax loopholes need to close for those making over \$300,000 and more a year. Limit the amount given to charity as a deduction. Millionaires pay a higher tax and those working middle class get lower tax rates. Retired persons do not have to pay taxes on income once they are retired. High rates on those CEO bonuses and fat pay checks. Oil companies and others loose tax subsidies flat out.

Look for the simplest solution. Scrap the tax code. That puts 20%- 30% back on everyone's pocket, including businesses. Then go with a 5% consumption tax for everyone on everything, including services. No tax breaks for manufacturing, non-profits, religions, if you buy anything you pay. This includes stocks, bonds, and such, they get taxed when bought.

Drop the child tax credit. People should not be penalized for having a small family. It doesn't make sense.

I am in favor of a straight sales tax. Eliminate all other taxes and replace them with the state and federal sales tax. That way if you spend it you pay tax.

Institute a flat tax which everyone pays regardless of income level. Eliminate all tax breaks.

Eliminate the schedule "A". Bump up the standard deduction. This will avoid much of the puffing and verification work for preparers and the IRS. Reduce the EIC and pay this money ratably over time, not in a lump. This money is for monthly expenses not binge buying. Require all who receive EIC to use the new debit card. Repeal the refundable adoption credit! You can't dangle this much money under someone's nose and expect proper parenthood. Lastly, allow TPs to have some interest and dividends excluded from taxation, say \$500; and do not require institutions to report 1098s under \$100.

1. Increase taxes for those individuals who have earned more than one million dollars in personal income. 2. End corporate subsidies. 3. End price supports for farm corporations. 4. End subsidies for tobacco farmers and tobacco companies. 5. Nationalize all oil refineries and 6. Tax oil company profits.

Implement a flat tax for everyone and every entity such as corporations, LLC, etc.

People as well as the government need a simple tax code. Why not eliminate the current tax code and start from scratch. Instead of all these credits, deductions, and different taxes such as capital gains tax or property taxes, create a hypothetical flat tax rate of say 10%. Everyone gets

taxed 10% by the federal government. Then the burden is equal and everyone has to pay whether they make \$10,000 or \$1,000,000 a year. This percentage can be adjusted according to how much revenue the Federal government needs to balance the budget. This would create a much simpler system and cut cost.

Charge a flat 15% and do away with the IRS thus no need to file any forms.

No crazy deductions (ex. make the first \$XX, XXX. per person or business and no more/no less tax-free). Flat tax rate for everyone (I think 15% should do it for people, 18% for business), with no caps! No more of these off-shoring of profits/earnings by business and wealthy individuals. Ideally the 1040 or .18 (18% rate for business) 5. How much refund do you get, or how much do you owe? should be 5 lines-- 1. How much did you (or your family) earn from ALL sources? 2. How much did you (or your family) pay in income taxes? 3. Subtract your deductions from line 1 and total here. 4. What is Line #3 x .15 (15% rate)

Flat tax, made at the time of transaction... salary check with taxes removed. Sales payment with taxes paid... cannot be escaped. That simple.

Use a flat tax. I'm a CPA and don't even do my own taxes due to the AMT.

I think there should be a flat tax rate, say 10%. Everyone pays 10%, no deductions and everyone can file a simple tax form. I feel this could balance the budget and help pay down the debt.

Set a reasonable limit below which NO tax is due; say \$30,000 for one individual. Add an income amount to that for each person you can prove you support minus any income THEY have, say an additional \$20,000. This includes spouse, children (grown or not), parents, etc. If you are feeding and clothing them, housing them, you should get the credit. Certain incomes would be non-taxable, as today, like disability, social security, VA, etc. and not count against this. For EVERYONE anything above this would be taxed at a straight 20% whether you make \$20 or \$20 million over this. Once the money is taxed, it should be free and clear...not re-taxed when you give some to your kids or friends or local PTA or whatever. There should be only ONE credit, and that would be if you had medical costs for non-elective care (plastic surgery would not count, etc) over 10% of your TAXABLE income (the part over \$30,000 + whomever you support) If you do have that medical cost during the year in question, you should be able to take that amount off your taxes for that year. So if you or a family member had cancer or something it may not wreck you.

Change to the New Zealand system, where withholding based on the W-4 is automatic, and there is no requirement to file. This could be extended to 1099s from financial institutions. Marginal rates are based on the dollars on the W-2 box 1, or 1099 box 1. 1099-Bs would need to net out the basis. Withholding would be based on a combination of number of exemptions with the standard deduction included. Credits would be history, as would social engineering via statutory additions and subtractions. The benefit is that marginal rates would be reduced.

A flatter progressive tax by levels. For example, no tax on the 1st 20k. 10% on the amount between 20k and 60k. 15% on the amount between 60k and 100k and so on. Adjust the actual percentages on what it would take to cover the budget, by marital status, dependents, etc. Get rid of all the deductions other than dependents. Get rid of the earnings cap on Social Security. If you earn 150k, then pay in on all of it just like the people have to that make 30k.

While I was working, I invested in Series EE savings bonds. Now that I am retired, I cash some bonds from time to time to help pay for major expenses. I am taxed three ways when I cash bonds: (1) the interest is taxed, (2) the interest increases the taxable amount of my social security benefit, (3) both of these items combine to reduce my deduction for medical expenses. As a result, instead of paying 15% tax on the interest, I pay 28% tax on the interest. This seems highly unfair, especially when my gross income is about \$60,000. Taxing social security income should be done away with.

My job is as a tax software developer and I have to say the tax code is a racket. We need a much simpler tax system. We should implement a three-tiered system for individual tax - I calculated it out and rate of 22% on income over 250k, 15% rate on income over 30k up to 250k and no income tax on 30k or less would generate revenues similar to today. Also, eliminate all refundable credits as well as the itemized deductions (which I benefit from - but get rid of them!). Credits should not be part of the tax system. Also, tax all income the same - capital gain, rental income, farming, wages. It is irrelevant where it comes from (the source), tax it the same. Implement a 4% VAT or a national sales tax. This way the low income people pay something as they should. Plus, it takes advantage of our consumer driven society and could help supplement paying down the national debt. Lastly, cut the rates on corporations to somewhere around 25%. That is more in line where other countries' combined corporate tax and VATs add up to. The tax return should be as simple as a postcard. The entire system is a racket. Change it!

No free rides anymore. A flat tax of 15% for all Americans and 10% for corporations, and 5% for non-profits.

Eliminate all current federal and state taxes. Impose two tax structures. First, Implement sales taxes at all levels of government. No deductions. Everyone, regardless of income, pays. Use this tax to run government, the nation, states and municipalities. This includes roads, bridges, the military, etc. Second, impose a gross revenue tax. Revenue being personal income or business gross revenue. All revenue whether from sales, stock transactions, licensing fees, bonus, hedge fund mysteries, anything that anyone or business collect are subject to the tax. Make this tax a sliding scale. Anything say, less than a million, no taxes are paid. The sky-high revenue earners slide the percentage higher as revenue increases. Include overseas revenue. Use this revenue for social security, unemployment, the disabled, for those down on their luck. Sales and revenue taxes are easier to track and collect. Profit and loss statements are easily falsified. A lot of income is hidden in the shadow economy.

Do a federal sales tax, and drop most of the other codes. If you spend you get taxed. Go to a restaurant and spend \$100 automatically A% is added on. The credit card is swiped and if it is 10% the fed just got \$10; this save all on all the forms that need to be printed. The IRS only has to keep track of businesses. And, everybody pays, works, government officials, businesses, illegal aliens, drug dealers, foreign officials, those under the radar. EDT cards (food stamps) are not taxes, but get A% less. This causes the tax system become automatic, if you want to subsidies

an business, just lower tax on that good. Imports are automatically taxed to level that it is comparable to the domestic businesses are taxed, so they don't have an unfair advantage. If states join in and have sales tax then AB% is added to bill. 10% fed, 8% state, 2% county or city, and a hundred dollar dinner then equal 120 and through the credit card companies, automatically \$10 in sent to feds, \$8 dollars to state, and \$2 to city and/or county. This saves millions on printing IRS form, reduces IRS agents to focus on businesses, which states can also be used to manage, because they want their money also. Tax percentage can be increased to gain capital, or reduced to motive economy; all with a congressional approval and a flick of a tax (programming) value imputed into the main system. This also brings the Tax system into the computer age. Overall instead of trying to deal with 300,000,000 people, the IRS only basically only has to deal with how many businesses there are, which they are already dealing with. Cash sales of businesses are deal with quarterly sales estimates and profits. The computer program would only have to deal with credit card companies and their customers charges. The program could be implemented over a three year span of increasing government sales tax, i.e. if congress sets tax at 10%, the first year is 2% then 6% then 10%, so businesses don't try to evade tax by buying as much stock before the tax increase starts on each new year. This way people don't have to worry about huge tax liabilities come April 15th, they pay as they spend. Also wholesale business transactions would have a lower tax rate, but would still have it, to keep people from charging personal items to corporate accounts, also this would limit the amount of transfers (middle men), for the tax rate compounds on each transaction and would streamline the economy. Also business tax rates could increase on amount of sales, if a business in under 100,00 then lower, if over \$250,000, then average, over \$1,000,000 then higher, if over \$1,000,000,000 then highest. These numbers are algebraic, and can be set by congress. This will help small businesses compete, but will also cause corporations to watch private expenditures to corporate accounts, so the corporation can save on taxes. This is an idea in the rough, and needs work, but it is a base idea to start from.

Insure that everybody pays some tax even if it is one penny.

I believe that the tax should be a graduated tax with deductions only for children. Businesses should pay graduated taxes on all profits after expenses incurred in making the product or providing a service. No loopholes! Just a straight form that says this much was earned and the taxes are this much.

Eliminate ALL deductions except 401K, IRA, and interest on municipal bond debt (to encourage savings for retirement and reduce cost of capital for local government). Tax all other income, labor, dividends, interest, rent, etc. the same at two rates depending on income. Tax rate on first \$100,000 for single/\$200,000 for married to be 15% starting on the first dollar earned. Tax rate on income above \$100,000 for single/\$200,000 for married to be 30% with no cap. Eliminate payroll taxes, add 5% federal sales tax to encourage employment and discourage consumption.

Tax every working person over the age of 17, rich and poor alike the same percentage, whatever that needs to be. Just leave out the loopholes for the rich. Everyone pays - end of story!

Income -10%=net for everyone.

Introduction To remove nearly \$10 billion dollars of dead weight from the government expenses (IRS, www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/05db31ps.xls) and, to the tune of an additional \$4-6 billion, reduce the dead weight of tax preparation expense to the economy, I believe that the flat tax concept (with provisions to NOT tax a base-level income) should be given new consideration based on the principles as proposed in the following document. No Added-Value Benefit with IRS The IRS and tax preparers do not add any VALUE to the dollars funneled through them, unlike nearly all the rest of us who provide the innovation, entrepreneurship and work-energy of the economic network. We add VALUE to the dollars we are given. The economic deadweight of the IRS can be likened to government hiring thousands of workers to dig holes in the ground, and then, on the next day, asking those same workers to fill those holes back up. The wages given to these workers would flow out into the economy (i.e. similar to a bailout stimulus), but no VALUE would be added to these dollars. Obviously, it would seem ludicrous to fund such a pointless operation (of digging and then re-filling holes in the ground), but the same thing, in principle, can be said with the IRS and all other tax preparation expenses laden onto our economy. The IRS and the like simply act as processors and administrators of our current tax code. What possible VALUE do these positions add to the dollars that pass through their hands? None! Effective Tax Revenue Principles Taxes, in some form or another, are obviously required. The regulating body of a sound government must be funded in one way or another. The question then becomes, "What is the most effective and efficient means to generate this tax revenue that MOST stimulates (or said conversely through a different set of lens) LEAST burdens the overall net economy?" In our modern day of economic scholarship, one would think that the answer to this question would have long been laid out by noted economic experts, debated, refined and finally agreed upon by the entire establishment. Yet, with the cost and ineffectiveness involved, what we have certainly could NOT be construed as the case. Certainly, we can do better. For the economy to be healthy, dead weight must be eliminated. Whatever sort of motivations that generated our current tax code (be they intended for just reasons, or not), the entire structure of the tax code should be analyzed and developed from sound and scrupulous economic generating principles. Unjustly patronizing special interest groups and small sectors of the economy will only drag down our economy. Instead, effective tax revenue policy should be based on sound principles. I proposed the following set of three principles be strictly adhered to: 1) Efficiency: Any addition to the tax code adds complication. Complication adds processing cost (again, NON-value-adding cost). Any addition to the tax code that is considered as just or an economically stimulating policy should also be weighed against the added administrative cost that it adds. The focus of the tax code should be to remain as streamlined as possible. An addition to the tax code should ONLY be considered if it obviously and effectively meets the next principles. 2) Promoting Economic Incentives (or conversely, Demoting Negative Economic factors): In other words, reduce tax burdens where economic enhancements are most effective (measured in %GDP); and add tax burdens where economic deterrents burden our economy (again, measured in %GDP). For example, provide tax credits for home owners with mortgages (an obvious enhancement to promote responsible ownership) and levee tax burdens on unhealthy activities (squandering energy resources, cigarettes, etc). 3) Generate Sufficient Tax Revenue: This, of course, is an obvious necessity, but it is listed last to emphasis the importance of the previous two principles. Outlining Effective Tax Revenue Policy Adhering to the above principles, I propose the following tax code policies. 1) Flat Tax w/ Base Income Deduction: Tax should be based on a percentage of the amount of wages and income that is greater than a non-tax base income amount. This non-tax base income amount is meant to reduce the processing inefficiencies of, on one hand, taxing low-income persons, and then, with the other hand, handing the same money back via social programs. The non-tax base income amount could be a set amount regardless of location or dependent status (for maximum simplicity and the least to ignite political arm wrestling), or the non-tax base income amount could be a variable amount dependent on geographical location and family dependent status. Though this latter approach adds complication, this level of complication would not be beyond the capabilities of the average US citizen. A geographic sensitive look-up table with simple dependent-based adjustment calculations would provide the necessary factors to generate the non-tax base income amount. To elaborate, the non-tax base income should be seen as both a just-tax based approach to taxation and a system based on minimizing the waste of unnecessary government handling (i.e. tax and then hand back via social programs). Under a just-tax policy, people should not be taxed on any income at or below a minimum subsistence amount required to supply the base necessities of life (food, simple shelter, clothes, etc.). This amount would be expected to be at least equal, if not somewhat greater, than the poverty income level published by the government. Criticism of the income based flat-tax

approach could rightly be voiced by those saying it over-burdens taxation on labor with no taxation on capital. This criticism would be correct if not for the non-tax base income offset which greatly lightens the tax burden on those most impoverished. 2) No Tax on Capital Profit: Under the umbrella of effective governmental regulation, the initial genesis of long-term growth within a strong economy is driven by innovation and entrepreneurship. Hard working labor is also required, but without the former, the latter cannot even get started. Therefore, a good tax policy should NOT tax those that gain from these endeavors. Equally at risk, is the chance for failure? Looking back at the principles above, capital profit should NOT be taxed in order to promote the incentives provided by the economic benefits of capital investment. Wages and income, however, are purely a service-oriented transfer of funds. There is nothing directly linking the amount of one's personal income to the amount of growth achieved. On the other hand, distribution of stock options, dividends, etc. that may be awarded to employees based on good company/personal performance is linked to growth. Tax based on the amount of income (based 100% on income, 0% on capital gains) may lead to shifts from income to stock options for higher-level controlling employees (in order to lessen tax burdens). This is fine. Certainly this will only make the incentive for growth only the more keen by this form of reward. NOTE: Dropping capital profit based taxes does remove, entirely, taxes for thousands of small business owners (shop owners, farmers, realtors, doctors who own their own clinic, artists and entertainers who work completely on their own, etc). These people would not have any income taxes whatsoever as their entire revenue is based on company profit. Only those people whose income comes from wages and income (#1 above) would be taxed. If a small business owner, however, paid himself or herself a salary (based on a consistent time-based frequency), only on that amount would the tax be figured. But, if that owner waited for a quarterly or annual accounting balance sheet and gave himself a set percentage of the net profit, there would be no tax on that amount. 3) Mortgage Interest Deduction: In principle, ownership of property is the ultimate personal incentive for one to maintain one's capital. Maintenance of capital, versus the acceleration of depreciation, must be good for the economy. As a previous first time home buyer, I can speak for myself and many of my colleagues that the mortgage interest deduction definitely propelled us, in a strong way, to "take the plunge". We may have easily continued renting otherwise. Following the 2nd principle above, this deduction does add more complexity to the tax calculation, but I feel that the economic incentives far outweigh the costs involved. 4) Eliminate All Other Deductions: All the other tax deductions (child deductions ... if using a static non-tax base income value, medical, charity, etc.) would be eliminated. These deductions stimulate nothing related to growth. Social services that are needed in these areas would be properly funded directly eliminating the dead-weight and inefficiencies (i.e. \$10-15 billion in cost) of the present tax system. Example Tax Form The following would be the entire extent of a typical tax form ...

Medium Level Income

1. Wages & Salary Total (W2 Total): \$60,000
2. Subtract Base Income Amount: \$33,000
3. Mortgage Interest: \$ 4,000
4. Subtract lines #2 and #3 from #1: \$23,000 (If this figure is less than \$0. Write \$0 on line #5.)
5. Multiply line #4 by { 20% } ... footnote #1: $x .20$ \$ 4,600
6. Subtract Tax already paid (through automatic payroll deductions): \$ 4,700
7. Pay (or receive) this amount: (\$100) #1) This percentage is determined by government & economic experts. This figure is the same for everyone. #2) The net percentage for this individual would be $4600 / 60000 = 7.7\%$

High Level Income

1. Wages & Salary Total (W2 Total): \$125,000
2. Subtract Base Income Amount: \$33,000
3. Mortgage Interest: \$ 7,000
4. Subtract lines #2 and #3 from #1: \$85,000 (If this figure is less than \$0. Write \$0 on line #5.)
5. Multiply line #4 by { 20% } ... footnote #1: $x .20$ \$17,000
6. Subtract Tax already paid (through automatic payroll deductions): \$ 17,000
7. Pay (or receive) this amount: \$ 0 #1) This percentage is determined by government & economic experts. This figure is the same for everyone. #2) The net percentage for this individual would be $17000 / 125000 = 13.6\%$

Low Level Income

1. Wages & Salary Total (W2 Total): \$38,000
2. Subtract Base Income Amount: \$33,000
3. Mortgage Interest: \$ 2,000
4. Subtract lines #2 and #3 from #1: \$ 3,000 (If this figure is less than \$0. Write \$0 on line #5.)
5. Multiply line #4 by { 20% } ... footnote #1: $x .20$ \$ 600
6. Subtract Tax already paid (through automatic payroll deductions): \$ 1,000
7. Pay (or receive) this amount: (\$ 400) #1) This percentage is determined by government & economic experts. This figure is the same for everyone. #2) The net percentage for this individual would be $600 / 38000 = 1.6\%$

Very High Level Income

1. Wages & Salary Total (W2 Total): \$450,000
2. Subtract Base Income Amount: \$33,000
3. Mortgage Interest: \$10,000
4. Subtract lines #2 and #3 from #1: \$407,000 (If this figure is less than \$0. Write \$0 on line #5.)
5. Multiply line #4 by { 20% } ... footnote #1: $x .20$ \$ 81,400
6. Subtract Tax already paid (through automatic payroll deductions): \$ 80,000
7. Pay

(or receive) this amount: \$ 1,400 #1) This percentage is determined by government & economic experts. This figure is the same for everyone.
#2) The net percentage for this individual would be $81400 / 450000 = 18.1\%$

Create a national tax of 1 to 2 percent on everything. Do away with all other taxes and you would find that you have more than enough money to go around.

Eliminate personal and corp income tax... switch to national sales tax on goods, services and financial transactions. You will get more money if at the right rate IRS will still be needed to ensure compliance. It's a win-win.

Go to a flat tax. No deductions for anything. OR Use a VAT and do away with any income tax. That may be even fairer. Tax overseas income, including those corporations whose HQ are in Bermuda and other countries.

Eliminate all deductions and go to a straight percentage of what we make.

Eliminate the Earned Income Credit. From what I see in my role as a tax preparer the majority of those getting it should not be. It wastes millions of dollars and serves no purpose.

Go to a flat tax with no credits or exemptions.

Please limit the deductions that individuals can take relative to their income. 45% of taxpayers pay nothing in federal taxes, this is clearly unfair. Everyone needs to pay something into the system, no matter how small.

I would love to see a simpler tax code, preferably a graduated flat tax at 5%, 10% and 15% based on income level. Get rid of all discounts, credits and reductions. You earn X, you pay Y% in taxes. However, I don't think this will ever work without a balanced budget amendment. Unless the government can truly estimate and plan for costs, they will never be able to determine what an appropriate tax rate should be. Sincerely,
[Taxpayer Name and State]

Eliminating the cap on Social Security, taxable earnings, getting rid of all deductions and having a progressive income tax by income levels.

Drop the income tax altogether and institute a VAT value added tax. No more tax forms for individuals, no more tax filings just a straight national sales tax on everything except unprepared food.

Flat tax on gross revenue, escalated based upon gross income levels. All "persons" pay tax.

Eliminate all income taxes. Establish a national sales tax, whose rate adjusts quarterly based on surplus or shortfalls in the proceeding quarter. Exempt taxes for all essential items and basic services. Do the same at the state and local levels. Have the public directly vote on specific spending bills related to education, transit, research and other non security related programs. This would be taxation with representation.

10% off the top for everyone. No credits, mortgage deductions, no charity credits, nothing. This must include everyone!! No exceptions. Working or not, welfare, unemployment, pensions, everything.

No deductions. Period. If the government wants to provide incentives (EG Solar panels) it should give \$\$ in a separate program. Graduated tax topping out at 40% increasing at 1% intervals based on income. Income defined as money owned by you. Sell stock? The net gain is income. Own property? Income beyond maintenance and mortgage is taxable income. Same applies to corporate taxes. NET Revenue is taxed. Same scale, no exemptions. If you are a foreign company doing business in the U.S. you pay taxes on net revenue generated in the U.S. Done.

1. Remove deductions for interest on a second mortgage. 2. Remove multiple tax rates. Tax all income at the same rate. Have the scale smaller between the top and bottom brackets ideally 5% between them. 3. Do away with itemized deductions entirely? Why do we have deductions for everything like mortgage interest? This is really having the country subsidize home ownership. 4. Remove debt basis for qualified non-recourse debt. 5. Correlate the tax rate to revenue and the budgeted expenses. If we want to spend the money tax us for it. 6. Have corporate tax rate = individual rates. 7. Eliminate pass-through recording of income pay the tax at the partnership or S Corp rate. 8. If businesses can deduct health insurance why can't individuals get the same treatment as self-employed health insurance?

I would suggest a flat tax of, say, 20%. Then middle income tax goes down, low wage tax remains the same (virtually none) and high income actually pays tax instead of being invested offshore or sheltered.

For years I've thought that the social security tax cap should either be raised significantly or removed completely. Why should the very rich pay a much smaller percentage of their income than the rest of us? The argument that the rich use this money to create new jobs has very obviously been disproved these last few years. So let's let everyone pay their fair share.

Do away with income tax and have a national sales tax instead. People who make more, spend more. It would also get taxes on the illegal money (gambling, drugs, and prostitution).

Do away with current system and go with a fair tax based on spending and consumption. Taxes would be collected by purchase and then sent to the treasury.

Please Simplify the Tax System... 1) Have only one filing status to get rid of complexity and the marriage penalty 2) Have only one type of income, to get rid of capital gains complexities 3) Get rid of Tax Deductions to get rid of schedule A complexity 4) Keep Tax Credits to allow for some manipulation of the system in favor of the poor 5) Now re-adjust the Tax Rates given 1-4 6) Pass a law that says congressmen can only tinker with Tax Rates and Credits.

Please explain how someone can get back \$6,000-\$8,000 when that person paid in zilch.... I understand it is become of earned income credit... No wonder our taxes are so high, I would love to know just how much \$\$\$ our government has given away in earned income credit the past 5 years.... I think you should get what you pay in not a dime more

1) Eliminate filing status. Personal exemptions are sufficient. 2) Keep threshold income levels for certain credits and deductions the same. 3) Tax dividends the same as interest. 4) Make Social Security either 100% taxable or 100% tax free. 5) Eliminate mortgage interest deduction. Housing cost is a personal expense and thus non-deductible. 6) Eliminate AMT. Self-explanatory. 7) Eliminate Education credits. Education is a personal expense and thus non-deductible. 8) Medical expense should either not be deductible or no longer an itemized deduction. It is not fair or expedient for one with adequate medical expense to surpass the income threshold to then have to exceed a Standard Deduction threshold besides. 9) Eliminate the Earned Income Credit. The IRS does not owe anyone a refund below a liability of zero. 10) Reduce staffing of the IRS. They can't answer questions, transfer calls to nowhere, only refer you to the website, and are therefore useless and a waste of taxpayer money. Fire them all. 11) Eliminate tax preparer regulation. That is part of their problem. They can't enforce it. The exams, which don't need to be completed until the end of 2013, are available. The continuing education seminars which need to be completed by the end of 2013 are not. From the looks of it, they need competency exams more than the preparers do.

As a recent graduate of college program and a health professional it is a shame that the government doesn't do more to help give tax breaks to students. I have worked very hard to supply to country with a job which is in high demand and although I make a good income I can't own a home or have other benefits because I pay over a \$1,000s a month in loans. The government also considers me to make too much money to get tax breaks, but over half my income in paying back colleges. I am fortunate enough to have a good paying job, but there are many that don't. Still somehow I am slighted because I have had the fortune. I don't think it far that someone can claim bankruptcy and get their debt removed because they overspend on houses and cars yet someone trying to pay for college to get a good job can't get help on loan repayment. Particularly a higher tax break. I pay over a \$5,000 interest for college loans which is over the twice the limit to get a tax break. Yet my ability to deduct that from my spending ends at an arbitrary number. With the breakdown in the economy being related to student loan debt, why is the government trying to hurt the ones who try to do what is right.

It's time that we stopped legislating into the tax code all these credits that refund a lot of money to people who are not taxpayers, i.e., adoption credit, first time homebuyer, earned income credit, etc.

Go with the fair tax, not only is it fair, it is simple to understand and doesn't benefit special interest groups.

Individual Income Tax Returns should be based on all items of income similar to the method currently employed by the IRS to assess underpayments and to prepare substitute (i.e, ASFR) returns. This proposed method would be very similar to the current assessment of local property taxes by state and local communities throughout the country: assessments are made based on current market values and bills are mailed to taxpayers. In the event these assessments appear to be unreasonable, the taxpayer is afforded the opportunity to file protest. Likewise, this same method can easily be employed by the government and would be based on "hard" amounts reported by third-party payers as opposed to subjective "market" value appraisals. Taxpayers would still be afforded the opportunity to appeal assessed income tax amounts and only then would presumably request or desire the representation of a paid tax professional. The system is already in place to do this: current IRS auditors can be retrained to actually "prepare" tax returns rather than be trained to perform "fishing expeditions" which normally revolve around the deduction side of the tax return.

KISS should be the IRS mantra. Keep it simple! Government publication of complicated rules creates jobs, but not jobs well done. What a mishmash of applications and varied interpretations. How can the average citizen stand a chance? The wealthy get tax lawyers, and the rich get richer while the 90% pay way too much of our income. The statistics on how many get a refund belies the reality of what is paid by the many!

I remember a time when F.I.C.A. was the only Social Security tax, after Federal Income tax, state Income tax, and local income tax. All of a sudden, there was a Medicare tax in addition to all the others. I don't remember a vote for it, but since it's here, why not eliminate the cap on the amount of income that can be taxed for F.I.C.A.? Furthermore, get rid of the Federal Reserve Bank, and you will get rid of most of the national debt.

Fair tax everyone pays exactly the same percent of tax across the board set by the IRS say example 20% and there are to be no tax refunds no adjustments of loss of earnings if you earn money you pay tax on that money 20% cut and dry no need for all these tax refunds and so on people know exactly what they earn and what they have to pay end of story just as we pay tax on goods we now we can't argue the tax just pay and go on. We should have the same on earned money as well no breaks just earn and pay. That will eliminate all problems on both sides and all we would need IRS for is to audit business and people to check if they are paying the amount they are supposed to.

Can someone please explain to me why the US (in the shape it is in) won't just flat rate tax everyone 3% of their income for the next 4 years and pull this country out of the mess it is in? Working-class taxpayers that carry the load of the countries revenue is overtaxed, while the wealthy

continue to get every tax advantage and still receive the benefits the 'worker-bees' pay for! If the 3% for 4yrs works like I believe it will, the second year could be 2.75% down to 2.5%; thereby simplifying the tax return and helping the IRS with their struggles with maxed workload and reduced budget.

Every year our tax rates should be in place by mid-December so all software can be updated. If we make a change in the federal taxes please make changes on the beginning of a new quarter, so everyone has time to make the changes & be prepared. We have made some silly mistakes not knowing what changes are to be made & when.

I think the fairest thing is to do away with existing tax process and have a consumer tax. If you buy something you pay tax. Some things like food and prescription drugs could be exempt. This would not only cut time used for filing it would eliminate numerous Government and oversight make-work jobs of monitoring and review.

Lower the rate, broaden the base. Reduce the number credits, deductions, exemptions, and exclusions across the board and lower the rate. A lower rate reduced the economic incentive to cheat or find loopholes. Less credits, deductions, exemptions, and exclusions will increase the tax base.

1) Change capital gains/losses tax code to allow individuals who lose money on the sale of a personal residence to take a capital loss on their tax form, just as they would for any other investment. 2) Change capital gains tax code to tax only true capital gains, that is, gains over the rate of inflation and adjust capital losses accordingly, but then tax the true capital gains at the personal income tax rate. As the laws now stand, capital gains are taxed at a flat 15% rate but capital losses reduce the taxpayer's income to lower their personal income tax in their regular tax bracket. Adjustments for inflation should also be made on retirement accounts when the retiree begins withdrawing funds from them. 3) On casualty and theft losses that occur in the same year, require only one deduction for the year even if multiple casualties/thefts occur. If you live in an area like I did where I had one car stolen in January and another almost stolen in December of the same year, and had a number of other incidents, by the time I paid my deductibles and took off the IRS deductible for each occurrence, I ended up with about \$10,000 out of pocket, none of which resulted in a tax deduction. On the other hand, had I had one BIG casualty or theft loss totaling the amount of the several individual losses, I would have had a tax deduction with only one insurance and one IRS deductible. That certainly isn't equitable nor does it accurately reflect the taxpayer's true financial situation. 4) People who claim senior relatives on their income tax return do not get the higher standard deduction that a senior does on his or her own or with a spouse, yet the taxpayer must cover the higher costs associated with senior living anyway. Just because the senior is a dependent without income doesn't mean that it costs anything less to support that senior citizen for a child or a grandchild than for a spouse. Taxpayers supporting senior relatives deserve the same tax breaks for the seniors that they would get themselves. 5) Interest income should only be taxed to the extent that it exceeds interest payments. To do otherwise is double taxing, which I know the government has no qualms about, but we taxpayers do! 6) Interface more with the Department of Education with regard to financial aid. So-called "independent" students claiming they have no income and 0 exemptions are reporting no parental support on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but that their parents claim them on their tax forms. It used to be for health insurance, but it is no longer required for a child to be a dependent on the parent's tax form to keep the parents' health insurance until age 25. So either the students are not reporting income on their FAFSA and are getting too much financial aid money or the parents are taking exemptions they're not entitled to claim. Also, "independent"

students get more money for living off campus, not with parents, but many come in saying they need rent money for living with parents or relatives because they are being charged rent by the parents or relatives, but they don't have an answer when asked if the parent or relative is claiming the rent as income--and sometimes the student also reports that the parents claim the student as an exemption. Now, if that's not double-dipping, I don't know what is!

Allow tax credits only to those with a permanent tax number (i.e., Social Security Number) not to those with ITINs. Along similar lines, if no tax is paid in, limit (to a reasonable dollar number) tax credits - i.e., why EIC of \$5,000 to taxpayers only earning \$10,000? Why are we subsidizing non-paying taxpayers?

Parents who pay child support should receive some type of write-off. The custodial parent receives all the benefits of taking care of a child. Financially, if both contribute to the support of the child, there should be some type of write-off for the non-custodial parent. Not every non-custodial parent is a deadbeat and should not be treated as such. The tax system gives them no credit at all and that should be changed.

My proposed "20/20 Federal Income Tax Plan" is simple and fair. In it, everybody pays the same 20% tax rate on all income from all sources. Only one Standard Exemption/Deduction of \$20,000 is available for filers.

Example. Single person with \$18,000 gross income will have no tax due, as income is below the \$20,000 Standard Exemption/Deduction threshold.

Example. Couple filing jointly with \$100,000 gross combined income will have \$40,000 Standard Exemption/Deduction leaving a taxable balance of \$60,000 taxed at 20%, tax due is \$12,000.

By eliminating loopholes, preferences, tax dodges, tax revenues will flow, perhaps in sufficient volume to fund a modest single-payer health plan.

Business taxes could be similarly improved and simplified, with 20% tax applied to gross profits (income less cost of sales) with only one exemption/deduction of half the cost of workers wages, benefits, and R&D. Management wages and benefits would be excluded. Such a plan would induce businesses to expand the work force, and to bring work back from abroad. It would make the US competitive in global markets. And the economy would be in constant boom, citizens with increased spending money, and manufacturers needing constant flow of new workers.

The "20/20 Plan" could also replace Social Security, and unemployment, by establishing the \$20,000 Standard Exemption/Deduction as the minimum living standard, and rebating to workers and retirees half of the shortfall between their gross income and the \$20,000 SE/D.

There you have it, simple and fair, everybody treated the same by the tax code. With the 1040 form reduced to a postcard size.

1. Tax capital gains at same tax RATES as for other income (wages, salaries, distributions from IRAs, 401Ks, etc.) 2. Rescind oil and gas subsidies; 3. Raise rates charged to Western ranchers to let their animals graze on federal lands. (Current BLM fee = only \$1.35 for forage needed by one animal for one month. Raise the fees to match those on state lands, thus boosting revenue almost 10-fold and bring in extra \$160 million revenue over next decade.

I would like to find out if there is a better way to handle bonuses and the taxes for bonuses. Right now, the taxes are terribly high when we receive a bonus and then we overpay and get a refund at the end of the year. I think there should be a temporary, unusual increase in income, that doesn't result in a temporary, unusual increase in taxes, but only a moderate increase to put the amount paid in taxes more in line with what will provide enough withholding, but not make the employee feel like he or she has lost all the benefit of a bonus, or an unusual amount of overtime.

Stop income tax and filing requirements for those making under \$50,000. Give the working class the right to work without penalty or fear of filing.

For people working part time with no insurance and total income under a ceiling, take an adjustment for basic medical care - including wellness programs - which must be qualified somehow. Or simply a predefined amount for wellness care - basic dental - checkups and tests.

Currently, extended partnership income tax returns (Form 1065) and trust income tax returns (Form 1041) are both due on 9/15. We prepare many trust returns that invest in various investment partnerships. We have been experiencing that many of the partnership Schedule K-1s are not received until Sept 14th, which gives taxpayers (and us preparers) very little time to prepare the trust returns. I would like to suggest that the trust extended due date be changed to 10/15, not 9/15. Alternatively, have the partnership's extended due date to be 8/15 and continue having trusts extended due date to be 9/15. If you would like to discuss further, please call me at [Taxpayer Phone Number, Taxpayer Name]

As a tax preparer and as a taxpaying citizen, the EITC should be eliminated or at least massively reformed. The EITC in itself can mean thousands of dollars in the form of a refund every year for the same citizens, and with the additional eligibility for the Child Tax Credit, refunds can be enormous. That seems unfair to many hard working, taxpaying citizens that sacrifice on a daily basis to pay their taxes. Especially seniors and middle class taxpayers. All those that enjoy the benefits of our country should pay a fair share, not escape taxation all together and then receive monies that they did not earn nor pay in.

Create a simple way for divorced or separated taxpayers to receive separate checks or split direct deposit solutions. Allow or make adjustments to the system for amended/prior year returns to be direct deposited. Possibly include or create a form based on the IRS form 8379 section 2 to create split checks based on each party's AGI and credits specific to each tax payer.

A few suggestions for the perspective of a tax preparer: 1. Implement a higher top tax bracket for incomes over 1 million (2 million MFJ). 2. Eliminate AMT. 3. Eliminate the child tax credit and allow taxpayers with children to instead elect to direct the same portion of their tax liability to their local school district. 4. Eliminate the preferred capital gains rates. 5. Redefine the term marriage for tax purposes to include any 2 adults living together in domestic partnership. 6. Eliminate the refundable portion of the earned income tax credit. 7. Eliminate the 7.5% floor on deductibility of medical expenses. 8. Eliminate the credit for employer social security taxes paid on tips. 9. Add a line on the tax form for reporting cash tips and make it subject to social security and Medicare tax. 10. Eliminate the foreign tax credit. 11. Require all dollars paid in to SS and Medicare to be held in an escrow account for the benefit of the payee only (not to be used for any other government purpose). 12. Eliminate the huge and unfair tax benefits enjoyed by members of the clergy (i.e. untaxed retirement income, housing allowances, etc.) 13. Either disallow the charitable deduction to churches and religious organizations or start taxing their increasing wealth. 14. Add a line on where those who want to pay more voluntarily can add an amount to their tax return. 15. Keep the estate tax at its current increased exemption. [Taxpayer info]

I am an American citizen, a long-time resident of [foreign country], and all of my income is earned in [foreign country]. This leads to the following situation. I report my gross income to the IRS. I pay some of that gross income into the [foreign] equivalent of an IRA [name removed], and some is used to make catch-up payments into my [foreign] pension fund. Because there is no provision for deducting these payments from my gross income, I will pay tax on the money that I pay into those funds. When I retire and receive payments from my [foreign equivalent of an IRA] and pension funds, I will report those payments as gross income and be taxed on them again, even though I have already paid tax on the non-interest portion of that income in the years that I made the payments. This seems illogical, as the same money is being taxed twice by the IRS, to say nothing of the tax levied by the [foreign state] and Federal Departments of Finance. Allowing deductions for the payments made into the funds in the years that they are made and taxing the pension payments from the funds when they are paid out would seem like a fair solution that is very close, if not identical, to how IRAs and pension fund payments are treated in the U.S.

Early IRA Withdrawal Penalty of 10% should not apply if all the proceeds are used to reduce the principle on your mortgage.

Estimated tax payments should be within the next 15 days after each quarter, instead of 4/15, 6/15, 9/15, 1/15/yr+1.

Tax payers should be informed that converting to a Roth IRA is a taxable event!

Single fathers who pay child support should be permitted a share of the exemptions and deductions for their legal direct child-related expenses. The tax rate should not be higher for singles than it is for married filing joint. The tax is calculated on "taxable income," which has accounted for deductions, expenses, and exemptions. At that point, the single taxpayer, the widow/widower, is discriminated against. When income from making money exceeds a million dollars, some of it should be taxed the same as if it was made by wages. The exemption from FICA taxes on capital gains should end at a few million dollars. The ceiling on income taxed for Social Security (SS) should be raised to 1 million dollars. The income on which the SS income tax is imposed on retirees should be raised to 500,000 dollars. Those who are taking mandated withdrawals from IRAs should be exempt in the years there is no SS COLA.

For nonprofit corporations who have entered into an agreement with the IRS, the interest and penalties should be tolled from the date of the agreement. The abatement of penalties and interest should be granted to nonprofit corporations who have a demonstrated record of providing jobs to local residents as well as facilitating community development and stabilization.

I don't understand how any government agency can have a different standard for itself than it applies to the public. My concern is that the government can come after you for seven years (or more) if you owe back taxes, but if you are owed a refund you only get three to claim it. For whatever reason if a person would be due a refund every year and did not file, after three years that money owed to them is gone... essentially stolen by the government. Unfair? I think criminal. This needs to be fixed.

I am a financial planner just as background. Allow me to apologize as my suggestions, hopes and prayers are about home ownership with help using tax, or lack thereof. If you have a pension plan or really almost any retirement plans corporate, (401ks) thought school or gov (403b) or yourself (IRAs) you could take certain monies out for first-time homebuyers and avoid the 10% penalty. The taxes since you never paid on those monies are bit diff. story. But my point is this: Allow those who can prove to employers or IRS or whoever they think should do this, that they are losing their home. Allow them to get into those retirement accounts and use those monies to save their homes. Many do it as they have no choice and get smacked with 10% penalty plus taxes. Allow them to have more money though. First, you must get current with your provider. (refi, modify, sell, use the money you just got and pay mtg.). so many ways after to skin this cat. take those peoples taxes due (if they are going to demand that they have to pay their taxes on the money they withdraw) and spread out the burden over x amt. of years. Or don't tax them at all. or a repay schedule with zero loan points that goes back into their retirement accounts over time. both ways they should be able to get their money BTW for housing loss reasons and have the 10% penalty waiver period. So many ways to do this with 20 options how. yet has anyone heard this talked about as a home saving option? Bottom line you can use it to buy house first time which is a great thing, you should even more so be able to save your home. Someone please throw daggers in this - haven't heard a one.

Tax on the well to do changes: 1. No maximum on Social Security Salary. 2. Company bonus or any other type of compensation from the company you work for will be taxed per the present tax code up to the Social Security Income. Bonuses, etc. above that amount will be taxed at 50%. 3. All taxable income from other sources will be taxed per the present tax code up to \$250,000. Above that amount will be taxed at 50%. The present SS rule is 12.4% of the employee's salary up to \$97,500, with 6.2% from the employee's paycheck and a matching 6.2% from the company. The Medicare rule is 2.9% with 1.45% from the employee's salary and 1.45% matching from the company. This salary has no limit. Under the present tax code the lower income taxpayers cost to the employer is 15.3% which goes to FICA up to a salary of \$97,500. Those that make over that amount they get the additional 15.3% in their paycheck. They are therefore able to put that amount towards their retirement savings. The FDIC money at the present time is going into the general fund and used to cover the present recipients of Social Security and Medicare. It is not put in a savings account to cover their retirement expenses. [Name]

Earned income credit could be enormously reduced simply by requiring child support to be documented as income.

Why is it that if I get disability and work part-time, they still take all my taxes, and I also pay child support. My children get \$300 from my disability check every month, so why are they taking all my income tax from the last two years?

Do away with tax credits, especially the EIC. People should not get money they did not pay in. \$0 taxes is one thing, but to subsidize someone's income with a credit is wrong.

My remarks on tax reform are directed at those of us who pay self-employment taxes. My main concern is the difficulty in making the estimated quarterly payments in the economic down turn - it is just not easy to get that much money all together every couple of months and stay on top of things, particularly if you have some unexpected medical expenses. My biggest wish is that there were a simpler way to withhold taxes for myself from every bank deposit I make so I never see the money in the first place and could rest assured whatever happens in the course of the year at least the tax bill will work out. It would be nice if there were some sort of a monthly, even weekly basis I could contribute on rather than every 3 months or going to the added tax preparation expense of filing as an S-corp, etc. While I personally don't feel the self-employment taxes are entirely fair considering that I am one person (not a corporation with a department for payroll, etc.) and considering the Social Security system probably won't be there to support me when I do retire anyway – nonetheless, I am perfectly willing to pay my taxes as prescribed, it's just difficult and complicated process when you are used to just having taxes withheld for you. Going to the added complexity, not to mention tax preparation expense of filing an S-corp, seems such a needlessly difficult a way to manage the tax responsibility - I mean, I am just one person, I am happy staying a one-man operation, and all I want to do is make a living and pay my taxes - not spend three times the amount of time on configuring a business tax structure, business plan, business bank accounts and plans for expansion/employees I don't intent to hire. I have been told by multiple tax preparers that filing an S-corp at my relatively low income level is not advisable particularly considering so many people get into trouble and "red flag" themselves for audits by not managing the responsibility properly. I find the whole system disheartening, scary, and clearly it is not intended for independent contractors and people who don't have the time, interest, or mental energy to consider ways to "cheat the system" - I just want to pay the taxes and have some kind of vehicle to do that that isn't as intimidating as filing an S-corp; worrying what I am doing wrong in that; and doing three times the paperwork to establish that way of doing it. My other issue with the system is contingencies for those of us affected by economic hardships - in the last 2 years business has slowed and I have managed to just barely keep my head above water until some unplanned medical expenses came up and made it impossible to keep up with my estimated quarterly expenses. Ironically this happened the one year I finally started paying the prohibitively high rates for health insurance coverage for myself, so here I am thinking I am doing the right thing trying to cover myself when it turns out I should have just been paying my taxes and skipping the battles with the health insurance company and the expense of the premiums because now I have a big tax bill due, and I won't see any deductions for the health insurance premiums until I file taxes for the current year. Meanwhile, I can't get an installment agreement because I already revised the one I had for the year earlier. so now I am looking at a lien against my house, medical bills the insurance didn't cover, I've stopped contributing anything to my own private retirement plan because I can't afford it and there seems no way to address things more fairly. I know I am not the only one hurting and I know the government needs money to operate but all I was trying to do was support myself not join the ranks of the financially destitute and homeless. It just seems like there should be a better more fair way to get through what has been a hard couple of years for all of us. I produce annual reports for public companies so I see just how exactly well they are STILL doing, I mean THEIR profits are still up! And it's just an especially bitter pill to swallow considering what so many people are facing right now.

I have been paying my fair share of federal taxes for the past 50 years. I feel the pain of working four months out of the year to pay my taxes. If

the IRS's interest is collecting taxes, why does our government not believe all working citizens share in the pain of working the same four months a year for taxes? My suggestion is everyone, man, women, rich, poor, and child pay a minimum of 10% tax on all money received as a working wage. For a person making \$20,000 per year, his salary is approx. \$385.00 per week. His minimum tax at 10% minimum is \$38.48 per week, which equals a pack of cigarettes a day habit. Conversely, a person making \$200,000 per year would pay approx. \$1,150 per week in federal tax at a 33% tax rate, which equals a mortgage payment per week for most home owners. Why doesn't the federal government see the disparity in taxation? And why shouldn't we all experience some of the pain? Fortunately, we live in a capitalist society which allows us to pursue various forms of employment at various monetary rates. The government tells us to pursue higher education to provide better living conditions for our families. Unfortunately, we are monetarily punished for our efforts through a federal tax structure by paying a higher tax rate. I am suggesting the tax structure remain the same; however, all of us pay a minimum of 10% tax. If we all pay a minimum of 10% for our taxes, including some of the rich who pay as little as 5, it would be the key to prosperity for all of us. Thank you.

1) Eliminate the tax code as it exists. 2) Implement a deduction-free level tax for all residents and citizens at a level which might approximate current levels of government expenditure. 3) All government subsidies i.e., ethanol program, oil depletion allowance, depreciation of assets, should be eliminated, or should be line items voted on in public sessions of congress and should be restricted to national needs i.e., transportation facilitation, energy distribution, and research/development, basic science and highly restricted such activities. 4) Implementation of a value-added tax to supplement other tax receipts adjustable as needed 5) All pension incomes (including presidential, congressional, and all union pensions) should be taxable as are social security incomes and monies from retirement accounts at the same rates.

Do away with the step up of basis on investments when a person passes away. The capital gains have accrued during the person lifetime and should be fully taxed when the assets are sold just as they would be if they were sold before the person who accrued the assets passes away.

There has been a lot of discussion about how higher income taxes on the wealthy will prevent job creation. This thought is also used to keep corporate taxes low. My thinking is that there should be no taxes on any corporation or small business when the income is being used "usefully" such as hiring people, buying supplies or capital goods, or paying dividends. However, personal income over \$250,000 and corporate income that sits in the corporation as cash should be taxed higher than it is now. This would be an incentive for small businesses and corporations to use their income "usefully."

I am concerned about individuals who earn income off the books not paying income tax on that income. Implementing a value-added tax or a national sales tax(exempting grocery purchased food) that increases in percentage each year while decreasing the income tax percentage each year on those making less than \$250K would be a way to tax everyone regardless of how the income was earned.

I am for a national sales tax on all items other than food, clothes, and fuel. It puts the purchase decision-making authority back with the people where it belongs.

I firmly believe the IRS should never be the vehicle to deliver social programs. Therefore, we need to get rid of EIC as a refund program. We can keep it as a credit against taxes like the child tax credit. I am also against the additional child tax credit as a payment which should be phased out over, perhaps five years. Tax rates need to be increased to help offset the national debt, and I would encourage an across-the-board 5% increase to include capital gains. An increase in the standard deduction with a repeal of the itemized deduction to simplify, while moving charitable deductions at a straight 75% of value as a line item deduction. This keeps into place the much needed contributions as individual choices to support valuable private programs. Finally, the alternative minimum tax needs to be taken back to what it was originally intended to be, taking into account cost of living. Simplification has to be a prime goal.

Tax reform for taxable social security benefits has not been increased or indexed for inflation. Some other deductions, for example, the standard deductions were doubled for the amount for a single taxpayer. For single, social security becomes taxable if over \$25,000, but is only \$32,000 for married couples. Possibly taxable social security only if income is over \$75,000.

I would really like to see us adopt a (Flat Tax) policy in this country. I think it would ensure that everyone pays their fair share of taxes. I also think it would allow us to pay down our budget deficit in a shorter period of time. Sincerely, [Taxpayer Name]

Allow taxpayers an option of withdrawing part or all of their retirement funds (IRA, TSP, 401K, etc.) tax free if invested as a down payment, refinance or pay off a mortgage. The amount of the retirement fund will be taxed when the home is sold or deeded to someone else. This allows some tax payers the opportunity to pay down on their mortgage, reduce monthly payments and stimulate the economy with funds that will help with unemployment.

Taxpayers should be allowed a one-time deduction for capital loss from sale of their primary residence if it has to be sold for less than what they paid. This will give people the ability to sell homes and move to find jobs without losing all of their savings, pay out of pocket to sell the home, or leave families behind while the primary breadwinner finds work elsewhere. This will level the playing field against foreclosed properties being offered at discounted values by banks and prevent the addition of more foreclosed properties as people give them back to the bank rather than sell on their own with a non-deductible loss. This could be a one-time allowance and be extended only for a short period of time while this economic crisis is persisting. Something has to get the country moving, literally. This gives help to the taxpayers directly and indirectly to the banks who don't want to keep foreclosing on properties.

1. Limit cost of executives' vehicles to the most expensive Cadillac, so they will not spend hundreds of thousands on a car & buy American. 2. Do more credit card business charge audits. They think everything they spend is a business expense. 3. Why is the value of joint property reappraised at the death of one's spouse? They've both been together since the initial purchase price. 4. Check out swap meets. They never charge sales tax, transact in cash, are now mainly illegal aliens so I'm sure they are not taxpayers, and their excess cash gets wired out of the country.

This is getting ridiculous. E*TRADE keeps making mistakes on my 1099 form which is preventing me from filing my taxes. I now have to wait until March 29th to get the 3rd version of my 1099. That leaves me only 2 weeks to get my taxes prepared. This is unacceptable. Why doesn't the IRS penalize these companies that make a mockery of the IRS deadlines?

Taxpayers who are sending money to their family overseas (excluding Canada & Mexico) should be allowed to claim it as a deduction.

In past years a required minimum distribution from an IRA (RMD) if given directly to a qualified charitable organization was not taxable. Has this provision been extended for distributions in 2012? If not why and is it in any bill now proposed. Usually this provision was contained in legislation passed in December of the previous calendar year. For example the provision for distributions in 2011 was passed in December 2010.

I am a 75 yr. old woman still working part time, paying \$625/month rent. Why did IRS remove the Making Work Pay Credit form? It is very difficult to work with disabilities & us seniors look forward to a little help. The government took away Renters credit & now this. Is there another form to give us a credit for working. I file as an individual.

Please lobby to eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax that is looming on for the coming tax year!

Student loan forgiveness is an area that needs reform. I have qualified for loan forgiveness due to my disability which has greatly reduced my income to just SSDI. In that event, I am still penalized as the IRS considers that income, penalizing me in a sense for my disability. I am forgiven for the student loan as something has happened to me, my disability, that makes me unable to pay on this loan and penalized by the tax liability when I am at a significantly lower tax bracket. We need TAX FAIRNESS not tax complexity.

I really try to contribute to make things easier, mostly for foreigners who are us tax payers. As the systems (political and administrative) in each country differs, it is a true problem, to align them to the US one. It's impossible to do it without professional help, but not every US taxpayer living abroad can afford such a help - and there are only very few and very specialized tax preparers and tax lawyers who perfectly knows about the US Tax System at the same time as about the one in the foreign country. In reality, it's almost impossible to conceive. Also - and this seems very important to me - we all know that we have to pay taxes. But nobody knows exactly about the rules as they are incredibly complicated. Even Tax lawyers do struggle, and after me, this cannot be the solution. For being responsible for our own situation and for our obligations, we need - each of us - being able to understand ourselves about. If there would be a defined percentage (kind of progressive Flat tax) on our income we owe to IRS, it would be easier to put the money aside during the year, and so, we will have no debts, and manage our own accounting better and more quiet. But with all the deductions, credits, special numbers, personal situations etc., it becomes un-controllable, first for the taxpayer himself, and then of course for the IRS as well. I prefer feeling the IRS as my "friend" and "trusted partner", instead of my enemy. If the IRS and individual taxpayer would understand each other, things would be clear for both sides, and we wouldn't have any problem. But things are much too complicated, even for Tax professionals. And even more, if we have to align two different systems, when income entirely or partly comes from a foreign country. I truly think the US should not demand taxes on worldwide income/assets, as no other country does this because it creates so much misunderstandings, difficulties and problems between the different countries. But also for the US taxpayers themselves. It's a non-resolvable

matter. But how can we be responsible if it's non-resolvable? Because... being responsible is what we want, and need. Thanks so much for this great platform and the opportunity to tell you our concerns. I'm very grateful.

Force companies to take out the correct amount when I claim 0. I don't think I should owe anything if I claim 0. Instead I owe \$6,000 this year. I'm not rich. I have a wife that claims 1 and a second job that I also claim 0. We have a daughter and the second just was just to payback some debt. Now because of that I will have to take out a loan to payback the IRS. I feel like I've done nothing wrong but I'm being punished for working hard. OR Just get rid of all of the tax breaks and just give me a lower flat rate. At least then it wouldn't be so complicated and I know what I would need to pay form each paycheck to avoid another \$6,000 nightmare come true.

Extensions of time to file should be 6 months for all taxpayers filing Form 7004. It used to be this way. This was changed where a limited number of taxpayers get only a 5 month extension. It is burdensome and sometimes confusing to keep up with different time deadlines for certain returns. This is not an extension of time to pay tax. Just an extension to file the return. Thank you

Dear Ms. Olson Thanks for being there. I am [age removed] semi-retired, dual citizen ([foreign country]/USA). I became an American by choice in 1967. I lived and worked in the USA from 1958 to 1974 the first time. Came back to [foreign country] and in 1987 went back to the USA where I lived and worked until 2001 when I came back to my home town in [foreign country]. I have always tried to comply with my obligations towards the USA, a country that I admire and love. But since 2009 Ms. Olson my life has become a nightmare. I have two daughters and one son, all adults, living in Los Angeles. I am still able to visit them at least once a year. I thought that everything was fine until I learned - by chance - about the so called FBARs in 2009. I immediately complied with it sending them on that year and in 2010. I am preparing them for 2011. But to this date I am not sure that I am doing the right thing and what is worse; I live in a state of fear. In 2010 and 2011 I spent more than 5000 dollars consulting with US CPAs and Lawyers. They gave me different opinions. I think I did the right things but I am not sure. One lawyer told me that I was a criminal and asked 15000 dollars up front to "save me". I am unable to prepare my IRS return because I am not an accountant and it is quite complicated. Since [foreign country] has no Tax or Social Security Treaty with the USA I found myself in difficult situations. For instance having to pay Social Security Self Employment Tax in both Countries. I have no return from the Social Security System in [foreign country] and very little from the SSA. Then I come across things that seem unfair to me. Although I don't have to pay taxes on the small pension I have for working in [foreign country]... I have to pay US taxes on it. The same for savings I have with money earned in [foreign country] that don't pay taxes here. I will have to pay in the USA. Now I want to advise my [foreign] friends who have dual citizenship or green cards. I don't understand why the USA is threatening such heavy penalties such as 27.5% of their savings in [foreign country] if they volunteer their information. If the IRS really wants all these people to volunteer information about bank accounts they may have in their country of origin why do they have to threaten them with such heavy penalties? Why did they not advise them about the FBARs in a more efficient way? Mrs. Olson my suggestion is that the USA do like all others countries in the world (except Eritrea) and have a tax that applies according to where the citizen resides. This is what [foreign country] has. [Foreign country] doesn't go after [foreigners] living and working in the USA and tax them on their earned income. But even if the USA wants to keep its citizen based income tax why not facilitate this for Americans living and working abroad? Ms. Olson I have never invested one cent of money earned in the USA in [foreign country]. I have US dollars earned in the USA invested in the USA. My investments in [foreign country] are from money that I earned from my work here. The way things are I have been distressed since 2009. I know I can't go through this every year. I am now spending more than 1000 dollars a year to get help from a CPA in the USA but worse yet my life has become a

nightmare. I hate to say this but for the first time in my life I am regretting becoming an US citizen and I don't know what to do to change this. Thank you very much.

Do away with Tax on Social Security. I am paying on Fed & State like a lot of others. There is 14 states you are taxed on SS I live in one of them.

How about a flat tax or a consumption tax to replace our current mind boggling tax code. Either of these ideas if implemented would eliminate the need for the IRS and tax lawyers.

I have an issue regarding filing tax form 1040. I receive unemployment benefits, while I am out of work. I currently work on a temporary basis, and do not receive much income. I qualify for the Earned Income Credit, but I'm not given the full credit for a single person, due to my unemployment compensation being added on as Adjusted Gross Income. How can this be? When the IRS states that "Unemployment is not considered as part of Earned Income, only wages earned," but yet they consider it as part of Adjusted Gross Income. This does not make any sense. Unemployment should not be factored in as Adjusted Gross Income when a person has Earned Income wages.

I left a full-time job in 2010 due to illness. Because my illness limited my energy to work, I found a part-time job and used an IRA to pay off my house in Jan of 2011. In August of 2011, I was laid-off my job. I couldn't have foreseen that, but I'm glad I used the IRA to pay off my house since it's taken me 6 months to find another job and now it will take 2-8 months to get enough hours to cover expenses. If I hadn't paid off my house, I would have suffered stress and would not have been able to make the house payments. I think the IRA laws against early withdrawal are severe for someone like me. I used the IRA to pay off my house so my illness or the uncertain economic times couldn't affect my home ownership. Yet I was severely penalized for being a responsible home owner. I read the IRA laws that say you can use the IRA to avoid certain foreclosure, but why is someone like me penalized when I'm planning ahead and not waiting for foreclosure to begin? I used every cent to pay for the house and now to pay the taxes and penalties, but I think I should have been commended, not penalized, for paying off my house in these rough economic times when most people are defaulting on their loans.

Please do not tax one's unemployment! I had to pay the Feds [amount removed] last year while unemployed, taking care of my permanently disabled husband, looking for work, and taking care of our [age removed] daughter. It was so unfair! Thank you for especially working on behalf of middle income taxpayers!

I became a [foreign] citizen in 1980 and usually visited the USA many times a year and spent lots of money. Now with all of these regulations assuming I am a tax evader -- I owe no tax -- I will not ever visit again. Considering there are about a million people like me in [foreign country] this will NOT help the US economy.

I have been a [foreign] citizen for the last 45 years, having given up my American citizenship UNDER OATH in 1967. I have only recently discovered that, unbeknownst to me, my American citizenship was restored to me sometime in the 1980s, and with that came the obligation to file tax returns and FBARs with the American government. I have never made a dime in the US. I am tax compliant in my own country [country name removed]. I have never claimed any benefits of American citizenship, no passport, no SSN, etc. etc. Suggestions: If you want to find tax evaders, look for tax evaders. Don't threaten law abiding citizens in other countries who have foreign bank accounts for perfectly legitimate reasons. Stop citizenship based taxation. Have some mechanism for the average person to understand IRS regulations. I have posed both e-mail and telephone questions to the IRS with absolutely no help given other than the suggestion to consult a tax attorney. I should not have to hire an immigration lawyer, a tax attorney, and a chartered accountant to file tax returns, FBARs and now form 8938 with the end result of no tax owing, and still fear that the IRS will assess massive penalties for failure to file forms that I should not have to file in the first place.

Reform is well overdue for US citizens living abroad. Not only are we subject to taxation without representation, but absurd penalties and a tax system that may have worked in 1900 with few persons living abroad. Double taxation agreements are nearly worthless with most things like retirement accounts, home ownership, etc. falling through the cracks which are more like craters. Furthermore, the penalties do not fit the crime, why are FBAR penalties so outrageous, and if it is meant to be a deterrent, it obviously has not worked, being in place for so long. Furthermore, there is discriminatory treatment of overseas taxpayers compared to US residents. How many US residents have to report all their bank account details to the IRS? If they were told to do so there would be a revolt, so why are overseas taxpayers targeted with onerous burden, privacy and theft heightened, and penalties beyond comprehension? Because we have no voice and no representation in the US congress, which is unconstitutional, and very soon we will have no bank accounts thanks again to Congress and FATCA.

Taxes should be collected on a flat tax. It is like playing football with Lucy and Charlie Brown. You keep moving the football just when we are about to kick it. One year this is deductible, next yr. it is not. It is really confusing to simple people and if you get behind then there are penalties interest and fees even a loan shark would be proud of. Soon you have a giant snowball rolling down hill and you are out of control. And you have a giant arm of the government that is like a gorilla. I am not a deadbeat. I was and am a small business owner who had to close one business because of the economy and I am trying to sell the other one just to pay my taxes. I want to know WHY my government lets Donald Trump take a pass but I can't seem to catch a break? Where is the bailout for us?

To Nina E. Olson National Taxpayer Advocate There should be no 25% FBAR penalty for 2011-OVDI participants (if all the following conditions satisfied.) 1) Source of the funding was from a legal source (i.e. w2 taxed money, borrowed money from USA banks,) 2) No money was ever cashed out nor moved these accounts anywhere. 3) Never had any debit cards OR credit cards issued from or against these accounts. 4) Never created any layers of entities or trusts or sham [companies] to hide the money. 5) All these accounts must be in a native country/ country of legal residence & not in any tax-heaven country. 6) All these accounts should have USA address OR the country of residence to prove that no other address was ever used. 7) Never was issued any kind of FBAR warning in the past 25 years. 8) Never had any incidence of any non-compliance with IRS or any other Federal OR state agencies. 9) Never had any Fraudulent Conviction in the past 25 years. 10) Never had any Criminal conviction in the past 25 years. 11) Had a consistent good Credit report history. 12) Undertaking signed by the taxpayer that going forward, if he/she is not FBAR compliant, 2011-OVDI penalty will be reassessed & reinstated.

Allow there to be a way to see why returns are in the error dept. so I can get the necessary information to help correct the issue

I support the Fair tax act or the national sales tax like the majority of Americans. This suggestion box is a good idea, but why not educate the people on the current options for tax reform and poll them to see what the majority rule is.

I really believe there should be more help for single people or at least people who are divorced and not by choice. There are no earned income credits, etc. that we can take advantage of. As a single per I have a home and I claim the normal interest on my home and property taxes. However, one day when my home is paid for I not only will be paying a higher tax than everyone else but will most likely have to pay more at the end of the year even though I claim Single and 0. Can we have a category for Divorced and give us some kind of break for being single. Just a thought. Thanks

Dear TAS, A special thanks to Nina Olson for her fairness in looking out for American/Dual Citizens abroad. Please continue to make any efforts you may deem appropriate to help bring the many of us all over the world into compliance in a manner that is equitable for those of us who were simply unaware of our obligations. The thought of these horrific penalties when very little or no taxes are owed are ruining our lives and our health and are preventing many of us from coming forward.....It just doesn't have to be this way and hurts us all from being treated so shabbily from the country that we have loved from our birth.....Many thanks and bless you all at TAS!

I think the NTA proposal for zero-based budgeting is excellent and wonder why it hasn't been repeated in this year's annual report? I've also noticed many calls for radical simplification of the tax code; perhaps this site needs a poll on commonly heard proposals? DC

I am speaking on behalf of the middle class...My husband and I make a combined gross income higher than 165,000 but lower than 200,000 with approximately 33% of that being a bonus structure that is taxed @ 25% for federal income tax and of course another 8 to 12% for Medicare and Social Security. Bringing our net income down significantly. But because of our gross income our college children can get very little help...and because of the economy and cost of living we have to help them with living expenses, books, etc. Even with the school loans and the money we had put aside for college it is very difficult. And we now are not able to get any tax break with college kids because our gross income is too high but yet we pay 33% of our income into the IRS. Bonuses are often actually part of income especially in the sales and marketing field when the base salaries are paid at a lower amount because the bonuses are to supplement that base salary and you have no real deductions from this business. You do not get back at the end of the year because of the tax bracket you fall in. I see middle class married filing jointly people that are making \$165,000 to \$250,000 as the ones with greatest tax burden. This group of middle class taxpayers needs to be looked at closely. The bonus tax for people in the sales and marketing profession need to be reviewed and the tax breaks for parents with kids in college for this income level need to be reviewed. Of course I believe that the capital gains taxation and loopholes need to be reviewed as these individuals are the ones that can afford not to have the loopholes and still live comfortably. I have always been in favor of some sort of flat federal taxation on goods...As we have many, many people that buy goods in the United States and do not have social security numbers and do not pay into the tax system but live here for most of their lives...just imagine what kind of revenue that would generate for our country. In closing, Again I firmly believe that the middle class making from 165,000 to 250,000 are at greatest risk for tax burden.

My husband's job terminated in June 2011. Because we had no extra savings, we have to withdraw money from his 401K (Which was rolled over to an IRA). The tax penalty was over [amount removed]. (Which we do not have so will have to withdraw more \$\$ to pay the 10% penalty tax) Because of our countries higher unemployment, will there be any tax breaks for unemployed persons who have no choice but to take money from their retirement accounts just to survive. We have been looking for work since June 2011. Because of our health, we have to pay for "COBRA" medical insurance at 1368.00 per month, plus house payment, utilities... We are seeing our 23 year, \$425,000 retirement account quickly disappearing...

I've lived in [foreign country] for 48 years (since I was [age removed]) and only recently learned that I am required to file a tax return. The FBAR was a total shock and surprise! My greatest beef, by far, is that US taxation should be based on residency, not citizenship. It is simply unfair (and even predatory) that in going after the tax evading sharks, you use the same gear and end up catching all the minnows. Also, the US has no business reaching into other sovereign countries and flexing its muscle with FATCA. My assets are my business. I hate that you need to "buy" your way out of US citizenship and it seems contrary to a UN resolution on freedom of movement/citizenship. I love the country and travel to the US fairly often. I spend money there on hotels, ball games, theater, etc. but this will stop until I can relinquish my US citizenship and get proper identification to cross the border. My [foreign] passport shows my US place of birth, which makes me a target. In a nutshell, I find US heavy-handedness repulsive. Double taxation, the cost involved in completing returns and the threat of extreme penalties are forcing me to relinquish citizenship. It comes down to this: a) move to the US, b) get a US passport and jump through all the hoops each year or c) forget about the US and enjoy life in [foreign country]. This choice is just way too clear!

The U.S. government needs to stop citizen based taxation. Citizen based taxation is a fundamental denial of the right of movement because it compels U.S. citizens to live as if they have never left the United States. Citizen based taxation makes us second class participants in the economies of the countries in which we reside. This is because the U.S. expects its citizens to only utilize IRS rules or else the foreign government under which we live must go to the U.S. and ask for us to be given permission to utilize the provisions of the resident government's tax code. An example of this is the Registered Disability Savings Plan and the Tax Free Savings Accounts that are in place in Canada. I would also cite even the Registered Retirement Savings Plans that had to be written into the U.S./Canada tax treaty. There is also the fact that a charitable deduction that is perfectly valid in Canada may not be used when filling out the U.S. tax return. Basically all of this makes the other countries subservient to the U.S. and treats them as lesser sovereigns. What an insult. Citizen based taxation also inequitably makes it the burden of the U.S. citizen to attempt to reconcile the differences between the two country's tax code. Given the complexity of such an effort this means that the U.S. citizen usually either gives up trying or else has to seek the advice of a very expensive cross border tax attorney or accountant. What the U.S. needs to realize is that U.S. citizens who live outside of its borders are not a drain on the nation's tax revenue base. We actually contribute to enhancing the national revenue because we do not use any of the financial resources of the country. This is in total contrast to U.S. citizens who live in the country, pay no income tax but yet must access government services. Today 50% of all American households pay no tax and many of them actually get money back. Given this set of facts it makes no sense morally that an expat American should be forced to pay taxes to a government which renders him nothing in compensatory services. This situation is no different than the one that the American colonists found themselves in when they rebelled against the English monarchy. Part of the pact between the citizen and his/her government is that in return for the remittance of taxes the government will spend those taxes on providing services to the tax payer. There is no such connection between a government to its citizens when they no longer live within the government's jurisdictional limits. I would

also like to point out that citizen based taxation is theft from the economy of another nation. I say this because all government taxes are paid for out of the productivity of their economy. When the U.S. steps in and extracts tax revenue from a non-resident citizen the U.S. is in truth not taxing the U.S. citizen but is in fact taxing the productivity of the nation in which that citizen lives. Taxing income that is earned in another currency other than your own is out right theft and an intrusion on national sovereignty. The U.S. also needs to stop using fancy words and contradictions in logic in order to tax people who were residents in America but who never became U.S. citizens. The term "U.S. person for tax purposes", is a cheat. A person is either a citizen or he/she isn't. For the U.S. to create a special category of non-citizen in which the person is treated as a citizen if morally reprehensible. If people don't become citizens of your country then their choice should be respected. There is no way in which the length of a person's stay means that he/she by default gains citizenship obligations. Taxation based taxation treats the nation's citizens like chattel. upon residency is the only fair way to treat free people. Citizenship Just as sources of revenue and no more. FBAR and FATCA are all intrusions upon personal privacy. These reporting requirements are actually thinly veiled violations of the Constitutional right to privacy. They also represent an illegal search warrant because no probable cause has been proven as to why this information is needed. Instead both of these pieces of legislation require that the citizen PROVE to the IRS that he/she has not committed a crime. This is an outright violation of the principle "innocent until proven guilty". And the individual's right of protection against self-incrimination.

I have lived and worked for 40 years exclusively in [foreign country]. Next year I will be retiring and receiving the capital from a pension fund which I have contributed to for 40 years. It is a modest sum to live out my life on and [foreign country] taxes it modestly realizing that is the last money I will be earning in my life. Though I have never worked in the United States, a tax accountant has informed me that when I cash in my pension, these funds will be considered as income and will be taxed at 30% as I am a dual [foreign]-US citizen and not take into consideration the fact that I will have no further income the rest of my life. In return for paying out 1/3 of all the money I'll have to live out the rest of my life on, I will not have the right to Medicare, to Social Security or anything else - and yet, in [foreign country], I will have to pay for extremely costly health insurance for the rest of my life. Could you please advise me if this policy is being challenged? Thank you. [Email address removed]

First off, I would like to thank the Tax Advocate and namely Nina Olson for the vigilance and support that they provide to the general population when confronted with a seemingly irresolvable tax issue. This might be slightly off topic, but I think it is extremely relevant, especially when discussing individuals who do not reside in the United States. As a Permanent resident of [foreign country], (having only been born in the United States), I have paid my fair share of tax to [foreign tax administration] and all my bank accounts are 5 minutes from where I live. When I found out about the obligation to file, I, and many others, immediately hired Accountants (expensive) in an effort to comply. The complexities of the US tax system, miss-information, and the lack of direction from both our Governments has led to panic, and overall uncertainty of how the FBAR penalty structure will all work out, namely for tax compliant, law-abiding [foreign]citizens like myself. Although the OVDI program was not available at my time of filing (November 2011), I was told this was reserved for tax cheats and gave these individuals in question an opportunity to 'come clean' with Uncle Sam and pay the tax, fines and penalties that they had never paid in the first place. Again, there is no direction for law-abiding, tax compliant (in my Country of residence) citizens. No avenue other than Quiet Filing, which the IRS said will result in 'harsh' treatment. On the matter of QC. I, and many other filed in November and were relieved to see the December IRS Fact Sheet that acknowledged they had an 'obligation' to advise [foreigners], and that one could normally get back into compliance by filing 6 years of income tax returns and FBARs and that no penalties would be imposed for 'reasonable cause'.. This is exactly what I did, (with a reasonable cause letter attached). Only to find out in the Jan IRS Fact Sheet that they will frown upon individuals that Quiet File....so what is one to do? Where is the direction? Where is the leadership? To me this is just another 'bait and switch' tactic. Mr. Doug Schulman states that he wants to bring everyone back into the 'system' but under what terms? Why should I be faced with hundreds of thousands of dollars in FBAR penalties when I don't owe a cent of tax to the

United States Government! The media is treating us like US citizens who have long enjoyed our tax free money in our tax haven and it is now time for us to come clean? I refuse to be looked at as a 'tax' criminal. I will match the tax I paid in [foreign country] dollar for dollar, and I will bet it is more than I would have ever paid in the States. I, and many others, am waiting in silence north of the border for the other shoe to drop. I sometimes wonder if this whole thing is about tax at all. I think that both parties, the US citizens who have never filed and the IRS should put some water in each other's wine and give some solid direction on how to become compliant. Dealing with one Government is hard enough, now I have the additional cost of two. Having understood my obligations, I am willing to go forward and follow the letter of the 'tax' law, at my expense (Accountants). I just request that the IRS would tell me, (us) what to do without holding a financial threat over my head. Or better yet, go to a residential tax system like most other Countries in the world. I think this to be fair on both sides of the border. Thank you for your time.

I was born in the United States to [foreign] parents but I have lived in [foreign country] for over forty years since [age removed]. I have been told that I am a US citizen and must file and pay taxes to the US. I am a [foreign] citizen, I live, work and pay taxes in [foreign country]. I would hope that the IRS looks at correcting this unjust law. I am a [foreigner], the United States is a foreign country to me. How can you justify telling me I must pay taxes, or send personal financial information to you? Would you do the same to some other country?

Career changes should be considered with taxes. Particularly the loss incurred on a home, and the taxpayer having to utilize a portion of saved retirement funds. If an individual loses a job, and has to move to continue employment vs. taking unemployment, there should be special considerations. The loss incurred on the sale of a home, as well as the need to utilize a portion of retirement as a means to move the family. Today you cannot use the personal loss on the sale of a home, and if you have to pull a portion of retirement funds, you not only pay higher tax, you have a penalty associated with it. I think situations such as a loss of job, should be considered on these two points, especially the penalty. Individuals who purchase homes and move for work are the ones who are contributing to the economy vs. sitting in an apartment waiting for something to drop in their lap, or for unemployment to run out.

For the first time in many years I filed an itemized tax return without the aid of a tax professional. I believed that I had all necessary documents in hand at the time I prepared the return and - in fact - filed earlier than normal; however, the Bank of America sent out a corrected Form 1098 which I received one day after filing my return. The Bank of America made a nearly \$500 reporting error on the Mortgage Interest paid, Box 1. Although the error is in my favor, I have to ask how such a large institution - especially in this day and age - could generate a significant error on a Form 1098 document. There was no explanation for the error nor was there a letter attached stating that there was a change to the form. I have to say that I am even more disenchanted with BOA than ever. Taxpayers and mortgage borrowers beware!

The AMT calculation is confusing and very difficult. Taxpayers must suffer through the cumbersome calculation to find out they are not liable for AMT. I have no objection to the AMT or to paying it. It is simply the amount of work, often wasted, that is required to learn that one is, or is not, subject to the tax. I seek a streamlined method for all taxpayers by which those who will not be subject to the AMT will have less work to do to determine that fact.

For providing the name, address, and tax ID, of the person or business someone pays rent to, the IRS could offer a 1% Refundable or Non-

Refundable Renter's Tax Credit. I'm fairly certain there are millions of dollars of unreported rental income just waiting to be taxed.

Section 5 of Form 1099 is contradictory and needs to be corrected. It says to report all physical sickness damages and not to report physical sickness damages. It also states that a person can report non-physical (emotional) damages, but doesn't state what criteria to use to calculate emotional damages ;(i.e. loss of wages due to court crime by judges). Who should I forward this info to in the IRS who can answer my questions about Form 1099? Thank you, [Name removed] 5. Generally, all punitive damages, any damages for nonphysical injuries or sickness Report physical damages if they relate to physical injury or physical sickness. Generally, report all compensatory damages for nonphysical injuries or sickness, However, do not report damages (other than punitive damages): a. Received on account of personal physical injuries or physical sickness;

I think everyone should pay a flat tax and that is it, no filing at the end of the year, etc. If everyone pays 8% based on their income I think that would be fair and should eliminate a lot of stressed out people. Also, I don't think it is fair for a middle class family to have 2 working parents and are basically paying for someone with 2 children and 1 parent to get a huge refund...this system is so damaged.

I think that you should be able to deduct all medical claims as well as all childcare money spent and at the this time of high gas prices all of your gasoline expenses.

Eliminate the new form 8938 which is in addition to, not in place of TD F 90.22.1. More redundant paper for an already overburdened agency. Eliminate the new 8949. It is not provided along with Schedule D. It is in addition. Requires a second request which leaves the taxpayer subject to late filing and overburdens an already overburdened agency to provide and process additional forms. Put the self-employment classification tables back in the 1040 instructions. They aren't in the instructions. They aren't in Pub. 17. They have been moved. Schedule C says the codes are in the instructions. It doesn't say which ones! There should only be the 1040 instructions anyway. With all of the complaints, needless papers and regulations continue to be passed. Additional funding is not the answer. Simplification and elimination of staff that serve no purpose to the taxpayer except to refer them elsewhere should be eliminated. This would save millions of dollars.

A good source of revenue would be to institute a Value Added Tax, which most of the developed world has. End citizenship taxation and the nightmare of FATCA and FBARs go away. Change to a territorial based tax system like every other developed country has. Only require US citizens to file taxes when they live abroad if they actually produce an income within US borders. Otherwise you will see MANY renunciations happening over the next year or so before FATCA is implemented! Taxes are meant to pay for infrastructure like roads and highways, health and public services, etc. and US citizens abroad do not use those services. The majority do not even make any income from the States. The greater threat to the US economy lies with wealthy individuals living within US borders but who have secret, offshore accounts. Please visit isaacbrocksociety.com to read the stories of many people whose lives are negatively impacted by FATCA the world over. FATCA will end up costing the IRS, and in turn US taxpayers, more than it will ever bring in, because they will be forced to process hundreds of thousands, if not millions of \$0 tax owing returns.

Stop requiring non-resident citizens to file. I haven't lived in the USA since 2005 yet why do I have to continue filing? The US is pretty much the only country to do this.

As an American citizen who is planning to move abroad to afford retirement, I am appalled at the lengths to which the IRS is over-reaching to fine and penalize law-abiding, middle-class people who happen to live outside the borders of the US. FACTA, FBAR, I can't remember all the acronyms. . . Why not go after the millionaires and leave us poor chumps alone?

Tax the corporations that use government services everyday but get away with paying nothing in income tax. Stop chasing American citizens who live abroad and pay taxes in the country where they reside and from whom they receive their services. Stop double taxation of overseas Americans. Foreign tax credits aren't good enough. They are just a lie. When we pay taxes overseas we pay the full amount and not the amount that the U.S. government is willing to give us a credit for. American and Eritrea are the only two countries that tax their non-resident citizens. And the U.S. has had the nerve to introduce a U.N. resolution that condemns Eritrea for taxing its expat citizens. What hypocrisy. Stop characterizing us as tax cheats, because we are not tax cheats. We pay our taxes in our country of residence and we earn our money where we live. If we have any American income it would be through our local investment accounts. This means that we had to convert our currency into U.S. dollars. I am not a criminal and I don't want to live my life as a parolee of the IRS - either charge me with a crime or else leave me and my children alone.

For American duals who live in Canada, it would be appreciated if government registered plans such as RRSP, TFSA, RESP, RDSP would no longer be considered foreign trusts and not be taxed by the US. For those who have no employer based pensions, it is defeating to make use of the tax-deferred (RRSP) and tax-free (TFSA) as savings toward retirement only to be taxed by the US; especially as the funds are earned in Canada. This creates a situation of not being equal to other Canadian citizens. It seems incredibly unfair to tax education savings plans and even more sore, registered disability savings plans. And while FBARS are not taxes, please keep the pressure up on Commissioner Schulman to refund penalties for those who never belonged in the OVDI/OCDF programs in the first place. It is difficult to understand how Congress could have been so short-sighted when making the law however, is there no way for it to be applied in a reasonable and humane way? We are so grateful to Nina Olson for her recognition of our situation in the TAD and appreciate her actions on our behalf.

The US will desperately need the cooperation of other countries if it is to combat international tax evasion. So why make enemies of them by forcing them to accept the confrontational and sovereignty-trampling FATCA? This is a US tax law that every other country on the face of the planet has complained about. It seems really odd to tick off the exact folk whose help the US needs.

I used to hold a green card, and surrendered it in 2008. Section 877 (pre-HEART in 2008) forces me to fill in a full length form 1040nr and 8854 every year for ten years after relinquishing permanent resident status, even if NO tax is due. Since no US tax is ever due because I don't live in the US and have no US investments, this is simply an annual waste of time, money and resources for both me and the IRS. 1040nr cannot be filed electronically. Why not align this with more normal treatment for non-resident aliens; that is, 1040nr required only if there is US taxable income to report?

When you speak to the U.S. Congress you can let them know that it is not just RICH U.S. expats who are renouncing their citizenship. It is also middle class and lower expats who are renouncing. The reason for this is that the economic advantages of maintaining U.S. citizenship are just not there for any U.S. expat no matter what their socio economic status is. The ongoing cost of being tax compliant with the IRS is in excess of any benefit that can be derived. The burden of having to order your financial arrangements in accordance with IRS rules is a major constraint on our lives, when you realize that even the most innocent of bank accounts or financial investments can attract thousands of dollars in penalties and wipe out all of your finances. If a person is young and therefore has years of earning power to look forward to it won't take long for that person to rack up thousands of dollars in accountant and lawyer fees. In such a situation renouncing is actually a form of financial planning. If a person is older it still would pay to renounce because then you won't leave it for your heirs to have to deal with the IRS. I myself have renounced. I did it not because I am rich but because compliance is way too costly. At least this way the financial hemorrhaging will stop and I can be free to live my life according to Canadian tax law. Before I go I would like to point you to a U.N. Resolution against Eritrea, which was sponsored by the U.S. In this Resolution the U.S. criticizes Eritrea for taxing its citizens who live outside of the country. In connection with this tax of its Diaspora the U.S. states that Eritrea has used intimidation of its expat citizens as a means of enforcing this tax. I believe that if you read the charges that the U.S. brings against Eritrea and its diaspora tax that you will find many similarities between the ways in which the two countries go about enforcing the taxation of their expats. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10471.doc.htm> Articles 10 and 11 are the relevant points of reference.

I fear tax time more than walking alone through a dark alley at night wearing thousands of dollars in jewelry. As a matter of fact, I would prefer to do so rather than face April 15th every year. What could be more fair, equal, and beneficial for the payer and payee? A "Flat Tax" rate for every American citizen. A tax code that could fit on one sheet of paper. It would essentially be incorruptible and fraud-free. Along with an ability to obtain revenue from 100 percent of employed individuals. Anyone with enough brain cells to rub together can envision the beauty and benefits of such simplicity.

As a practicing CPA, I consider the U.S. tax code ludicrous. I have studied the FairTax proposal and consider it a viable solution: 1) Eliminates personal and corporate income tax. 2) The tax code and tax returns would be virtually eliminated. 3) Government would have the same amount of available funds. 4) Consumers could legally choose whether to pay taxes. 5) Unlawful and "under the table" activities would be taxed. 6) Foreign travelers in U.S. would contribute to the tax base. 7) Medicare and Social Security could be rescued. 8) Workers keep their entire paychecks. 9) Retirees keep their entire pensions. 10) Allows American products to compete fairly. 11) Brings transparency and accountability to tax policy. 12) Closes all loopholes and brings fairness to taxation. Respectfully, CPA, CITP, CISA

When IRS sends a letter of adjustment for a correspondence exam, it is essential that the exact items disallowed be disclosed so that the taxpayer/CPA can understand the proposed adjustment. Otherwise, it is necessary for the taxpayer/CPA to call and request that information, which adds to the time involved to resolve the issues. This is especially true for correspondence exams on medical and other miscellaneous itemized deductions. I recently represented a client on these issues and the adjustment explanation said I hadn't verified \$8,000 out of \$28,000 in

medical expenses. No other explanation was given. I had to call twice. The first time they couldn't find the power of attorney, although the letter was addressed to me under the power. Very frustrating experience. Not an efficient use of anyone's time.

Remove requirement to file tax returns for citizens permanently residing abroad.

Earned income needs to be reformed. Why doesn't the IRS ask the tax profession? I also have issues with the tax preparer requirements. If they are trying to stop fraud this is not the way. We had a tax person in our area that was convicted of a crime and she was doing taxes. Just because you are a CPA or Lawyer why can you do taxes?

At present only 9% of the 6 million US citizens who live outside of the US make enough to actually owe tax. However the IRS demands complex filing requirements of all. If Americans abroad were treated like non-resident aliens they would no longer be required to submit the extensive paperwork, moreover the IRS would no longer need to expend resources investigating and enforcing these taxes which almost certainly is in excess of the amount collected. In exchange any dividends on stock held in the US by these individuals will be charged a 30% withholding tax as is currently the case for non-resident aliens. Capital gains from the sale of stock could be treated in the same way. Overall this would shift the cost of administration to dividend paying corporations; eliminate virtually all the paperwork for 91% of US citizens abroad and potentially increase revenue; all while ensuring that billionaires abroad aren't able to get away without paying their fair share.

10% flat income tax for everybody and 10% wealth tax for people with assets over 10 Million.

Over the past several years our culture has changed considerably to where divorces have increased and people are choosing not to get married but maintain lots of friends. Recently, there was an article about Quebec, Canada in regards to the possibility it might become illegal to get married. (Check this one out on line and you and your staff will be shocked, or maybe not). Also, for the most part, a spouse will prepare the joint return. Should the tax preparing spouse pass away, the survivor may not have a clue on how to fill out the joint tax return form. Of course, they can always go to a tax preparer. Therefore, I'm not sure if this is a suggestion or a prediction, but I believe everyone should complete their own tax form instead of filing jointly. They would start when federal income tax is withheld from their first pay check; regardless of age. Of course the tax tables would have to be changed when declaring dependents and other tax deductible deductions, but this could be worked out with the experts at IRS. At this point I'm not sure about any tax administrative savings that could result; however, I do believe there would be fewer errors and more consistency in reporting taxable income. There might even be less IRS lawsuits having to be filed resulting from "he reported, she reported" since each individual will be signing their own return. Who knows, it could also help immigrants, legal or illegal, get their refunds and maybe eliminate all the deductions they take for family members living in other countries.

I have a couple of very simple suggestions for tax reform:

1. Tax everyone at the same rate -- no exceptions for income level, social category, or position held -- yes, tax the super-rich and the sycophant "elected" or appointed officials at the same rate as the guy who works as a system administrator in a technology company -- say 15% flat rate.
2. Treat all income, whether it's wages/salary or sale of stocks/bonds/real estate or interest on investments, etc. as income and tax it as soon as it is realized -- when a check is cut, or proceeds are allocated, or ... Eliminate the loopholes and opportunities for people to off-shore their accounts and investments. If they want to keep their accounts and/or investments in a foreign country, then give them a one-way ticket to that country.
3. Enforce the collection of corporate taxes -- energy and finance sector corporations, especially, get away with figurative murder with regards to taxes. Why should individual, working-class tax-payers have to bear the tax burden of the whole nation, when corporations bring in a whole lot more income and are not required to pay their fair share. Part of the cost of doing business in this country should include the responsibility to pay one's fair share of taxes. Eliminate the ability of the House and/or the Senate to interfere on the behalf of corporations in return for campaign contributions or other forms of kick-backs.
4. Another potential wind-fall is to impose (much) higher taxes on businesses that are primarily or wholly owned by foreign entities (individuals, corporations, governments, etc.). If they want to do business in a America, then pay America for the privilege of doing so. America is for Americans, not for foreigners who want to subvert our economy.

Those are my suggestions, for whatever their worth.

Please make it simpler in general, and more clear cut. There are so many regulations, it is impossible for well-meaning citizens to comply. For overseas taxpayers, it's really a problem. There is no representation for them in congress, and rules are passed without considering the burden for the taxpayer (FATCA). We are embarrassing ourselves globally with this. We make it too hard for banks service Americans, and for what?

Very high costs which we will have to pay (if we get service at all).

A HUGE problem is programs like Turbo Tax (example) preparing taxes for people who have difficulty understanding completing long forms and multiple, complex tax situations like stocks, bonds, etc, and Turbo Tax then fails to download a financial doc for you and then several yrs. later you receive a bill from IRS for \$5k (YIKES!!) and then of course Turbo Tax is no longer of any assistance to you. What can you do??? You are stuck!!!! This is a huge problem!!!

Flat tax rate. Every citizen and alien pays a flat percentage tax rate of 13% on income tax. No loopholes for individuals, businesses, or corporations. Everyone pays, everyone benefits.

I am for a flat tax so everyone pays same rate. I am tired of spending days and days preparing my taxes to give to an accountant that then charges me to complete them and submit them
I want to know why the IRS can come after me for ten years but I cannot go after them for ten years for misfiling? Change the law.

My income should be what it is after my medical deductions.

I don't mind paying my whole family's way, but not everyone else's. My children get teased at school because they don't get free lunch. What's wrong with that picture? The government is what's wrong with it. I support a simple tax system. 9-9-9 for instance or 10-10-10 would be fine. It's too bad that criminals lead our elected officials around by the pocketbook. The IRS is hounding me to do a 2nd audit of my 2009 taxes because their employee quit and didn't finish their report. Can they do that? This will be 2 vacation days used on the IRS in less than a year. It sure is a drag to have a job these days. May 13-19, 2012

Hello Nina, Thank you first of all for taxpayer representation. I am writing about FBAR and the terrible consequences it is causing all over the world for people who have small accounts and find out by filing the requested paperwork OVDI they are facing losing everything. The saddest blog I read was from the daughter of an 80 year old man in England who shot himself in the head. PLEASE, PLEASE STOP DESTROYING THE LIVES OF SO MANY ELDERLY, INNOCENT PEOPLE.

Graduating as a physician has been a lifelong dream- I didn't receive help from my family and grew up with very little, at the age of 30 I now have >\$250K in debt. While my colleges who have started working in their early twenties and have worked less than half the total time when you add up the hours, have had the benefit of starting a retirement plan already, and have had (much) less to pay back I start my career at 30 years old with 250K in debt at an interest rate of >5% (more than I pay on my mortgage. Because my husband recently started working as a physician with our combined income I don't qualify for the interest rate reduction. Even more upsetting is the fact that he also just started making an income at the age of 37. People in this country shouldn't be punished for hard work. Especially because education in most other developed nations is free. Two suggestions: 1.) interest on student loans should be tax deductible regardless of income. (why not?- home loans are...) 2.) individuals who do not produce an income until later in life should be able to double their contribution to their retirement accounts until they are caught up (Possible formula; age started career-21= number of years you can double your contribution) Thanks for listening PS I also like the flat tax for everyone rule...

First, higher income individuals should not be able to get so many deductions. Secondly, if a person gets any government assistance, such as, payment for a out of wedlock child, they should have to claim it on their taxes. I don't understand why people who make almost as much as I do, gets a refund. They get free insurance, or cheap anyway. Free education from the 21st Century Scholarship programs. I'm going to paying until I die.

Please have the IRS stop taxing Social Security benefits based on tax-free municipal bond fund dividends.

I would really like to see some changes affecting the hardworking citizens, retirees and senior citizens who worked hard to support ourselves, hoping to be able to support ourselves with our daily life, foregoing some pleasure just to be able to save for retirement, and when retirement comes, Uncle Sam takes a really big bite of your hard work of putting aside(money) for later years when we finally decides to retire. Rich people didn't worry about retirement, didn't have to forego pleasure, but yet they get the full protection. Where is the fairness on that? Why not have this rich people pay more, or at least the hardworking citizens and retirees gets a free tax with their income and retirement investment.

An allowance needs to be provided in the medical deductions category for those people who have to maintain a gluten free diet to treat a medical condition as prescribed by a doctor. There are a couple of memos that allow for deductions for Celiac, but this is only one condition that requires a gluten free diet. There are others. The code should be written such that any special diet prescribed by a physician which is very costly above the normal type of food is deductible on taxes. Currently the code only allows for weight loss diets prescribed by a physician. There are other medical reasons for a special costly diet.

Why not tax every person on everything they purchase down to eggs and bread that would even up the odds and probably bring more money into the IRS. If your not paying taxes and getting paid under the table you still will be purchasing items and food, also the middle class and upper class will pay for all they buy tax on every purchase even bottle water that should get some money into the coffers
I think there should be tax breaks for single parents/grandparents who work two jobs to help their children/grandchildren. Just like married couples get tax breaks, people that work two jobs should not be penalized for their hard work. I unfortunately am in this situation right now.

If we continue to allow itemized deductions (charity, mortgage, student loan interest, EIC, etc.), then they should be capped either at a certain amount or a percentage of the overall taxes due/paid.

No organization should be tax-exempt; this includes 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), churches, PACs and the like - all utilize the infrastructure that taxes pay for and should be responsible for contributing.

Although it will be personally painful, I think its time to eliminate the mortgage interest deduction. I understand the argument that it encourages home ownership, but I think we've seen that that benefit can be taken too far. How can it be a good thing to encourage taxpayers to take out larger loans?

Dear Ms. Olson, Your 2011 Report to Congress on the systemic problems with international tax reporting and the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program rang true for many "benign actors" who entered the program with all good intentions. We appreciate your position and advocacy. However, the level of fear is still high in the immigrant and expatriate US person community. Benign actors would benefit from a clearly defined and predictable opt out policy. The following link provides testimonies intended for Congress and the IRS on the damage the current administration of the program continues to cause. If you are not already aware of the blog and its comments, please read them. The Taxpayer Advocate Service is mentioned several times. You will also read some very personal and heartbreaking statements which I hope will motivate

you to continue in your quest to remedy this unnecessary and resource wasting situation for both the benign actor taxpayer and the IRS.
<http://federaltaxcrimes.blogspot.com/2012/04/open-forum-comments-to-congress-and-irs.html?showComment=1335336513060#comment-c7849511974698714869> Thank you for your attention

I am a former business owner; we were in a portion of the housing construction industry. When the collapse came, we struggled along trying to keep our 13 year old family business afloat, we failed, as did many in this industry. During this time, our payments for withholding became sporadic. When the business failed, not only did we lose our business, we had to file personal bankruptcy. We are now faced with trying to pay off a considerable debt to the IRS. I'm sure there are many in our situation. We are in our mid 50's, we will never be able to retire, we lost it all. During the economic downturn the Feds did a lot to bolster industries to prevent failure, the executives still made millions, and now many of those industries are successful again. Our industry received no such help, what would they have done? I get it. But, those of us now in this predicament are being punished for something beyond our control. The IRS doesn't care, there job is to collect, I understand that as well. My question is, where is my relief??? There should be something available to those in our situation. Thank you

Not simple- simple and fair. You want me to give up my mortgage tax break, show me that the football star with a \$20M dollar a year contract or a movie star that gets \$6M for one movie is actually paying at least the same rate I am and I might be interested. You want to convince me it's my deductions that are the problem, publish de-identified tax returns from those people, then show me what they will be like if using a 'simple' system.

No more itemizing tax form, the only deductible would be \$3000 a person household and social security work sheet that is already in place. 5 to 20 % rate for all. Small rate increase in medicare and social security in payroll taxes. Shrink gov't to what we bring in or less (2.6 trillion \$). Lower corporate tax rate to 20% or lower.

An easy helping hand to the 23 million unemployed and under-employed Americans - Waive the 10% IRS penalty on the use of retirement funds. Everyone agrees that Congress needs to do something to help our US unemployment and under-employment. Here is an easy helping hand they can do without further cost to the government. Simply waive the IRS 10% early withdrawal penalty on the use of retirement account funds for those who are unemployed or underemployed due to the recession. Why penalize those struggling to survive? During the good times Americans worked hard and saved for retirement. Then in 2008 the world economy fell off a cliff and they are still struggling with unemployment or under-employment. The monthly bills do not go away. Many no longer have unemployment benefits. Many more never had unemployment benefits. Approximately 23 million Americans fit this profile. Please help to waive the IRS 10% penalty on early withdrawal of retirement funds. Here is a possible model for the Waiver: <http://humanitas4u.wordpress.com/2011/12/13/humanitas4u/> Thank you for your help [Name removed]

Get rid of all those "special" breaks on home mortgage deduction, marriage penalty, employer health insurance deductions (a lot of employers don't even offer adequate health insurance anymore anyway) capital gains special treatment, etc. Be glad to simplify, simplify, simplify. Also, clarify the rules for self-employment and deducting health care premiums for the family. It is too confusing. Make it simple and get rid of all the extra tax service "professionals". Why does an individual have to use a "service" just to file a tax return? It's all just too complicated and we are sick to death of it.

The reporting requirements for foreign bank accounts were not well-known when we first began working and living outside of the US. We were already a few years behind when we first heard of them. By then, we were vulnerable to huge penalties. There is no way to come clean with the reporting requirements without exposing ourselves to these large fines. We want to do the right thing, but an innocent error has left us on the wrong side of the law, and we can't make it right. We have reported all interest from the account, and paid taxes on it, and have openly wired money home from our account. But we are still treated as if we were laundering money for terrorism. Please help us!

Get rid of use of Form 4555 for annual reporting on Keough retirement plans for S-Corporation owners who have no other employees. No such reporting is required for a SEP IRA, only for Keoughs. This makes no sense. The penalties for missing a 4555 filing are very steep. The owner(s) of an S-Corp would then be paying a penalty for not having sent in paper work for their own retirement plan, even though it affected nobody else. An exception should be made when the only employees are the owners themselves. It is just needless paperwork and has nothing to do with the purpose for the 4555.

There would not be anything I would give up to have an honest with integrity, simple code of Tax Codes. The present codes and the Agents that follow them are the source of all tax deficits. Clean out the house, you would be amazed what the real "foundation" is made to hold up.

Two words, with clarifications: FLAT TAX A 10% to 12% tax on ALL income above \$30,000 per year, with NO (read: 0) Exceptions, exclusions, deductions, credits, or off-sets of any kind, for any reason. This will increase our country's income by aprox. 128% by including all earned and passive income, and will be a simple, easily calculated way for CITIZENS to figure out what to pay without needing accountants and attorneys. This option is also fair and, more importantly, constitutional. The current, ridiculously complex, tax code violates the equal protection clauses of the Constitution in at least 20 different places.

I pay back child support. In addition I am penalized (pay extra) 7.5% on my weekly payment. I am penalized another 7.5 % on my balance. My suggestion is have child support, and interest deductible on my year-end filing. This HAS TO CHANGE. People are "under water" with these outrageous penalties and compound interest money grabs by the government.

I must take issue with the early withdrawal penalty for retirement accounts. Here in this economic age, after my retirement account has already been raided by wall street and reduced to a fraction of its original value, I must pay the government extra to access it. I understand the intention, as the monies were placed in retirement savings pre-tax. But they are taken out and taxed, at the top of my income bracket, so the IRS gets much more than they would have if the monies were taxed as income originally. And it was the government that encouraged me to place my monies there in the first place with the tax structure. So my monies were placed in a market that the government did not protect. After losing a large value there, I remove the funds and am taxed as income at the top of the graduated income bracket. (All this would not have been necessary if the overall economic landscape had been at all protected by the government. As it is I was forced to relocate to acquire work after a layoff, to a more expensive city for same pay (luckily).) On top of that the government gets a 10% cut. This is my money in the first place. The current IRS and IRA structure is that I am encouraged to be the bag-holder for the financial industry, propping up the market values they have manipulated and continue to manipulate. When my economic standing fails at no fault of my own I am penalized over and again to try and survive.

The biggest issue I've faced is the self-employment tax. While I understand FICA and all that, the additional tax levied on me simply because I'm a freelancer seems unfair, especially given the nature of our economy and the movement towards a fluid workforce. I had to incorporate my business for no reason other than to get a better tax treatment.

We would save so much money, wasted government salaries and overburden tax collection on the hard working American people if we do away the entire system and flatten the tax, so all Americans pays and not the select few which is our middle class who is going poor because of this tax system. No more deductions for corporate and individual taxes. No more game playing, no subsidies, no earned income credit, no housing credit, nothing. We all pay flat tax 10 percent and that's it. The IRS can collect 10 percent of the salary and the rest stays with us. We shouldn't have to pay alot of poeple to do that. We would save billions of dollars and it's fair. No winners and losers everyone pays to live here. That's the American dream without worrying about liens, and negative credit reports, losing your house, all these tactics is opposite to what our framers fought the good fight against taxation. And won not to burden with an over zealous form of tyranny against the taxpayer. Americans have to change this system to protect our families in the future.

I suggest a relatively simple system that would apply to earned and unearned income: For earned income up to 25K not taxed; from 25K-50K tax at 10%; 50K to 250K tax at 20% and 250K+ tax at 30%. For unearned income, 0-50K tax at 10%; 50K-250K tax at 20% and 250K+ tax at 30%. Index all income brackets to inflation at \$500 increments. End AMT and SS tax income cap (would consider lower SS% if no cap). Only deductions to keep would be mortgage interest on first home capped at 10K; investment loss capped at 10K; exemptions at 2K per person capped at 10K. No credits kept. Index these deduction limits to inflation at \$500 increments. To me this appears to help the low wage earner and small investor while making sure that high earners of unearned income pay reasonable rates on those returns. Wealthy investors with large losses are more likely to be able to absorb the losses. For myself, I think that this would be really close to tax burden(revenue)-neutral and a lot less cumbersome.

do a flat tax and eliminate all deductions and credits and anything too complex for average person to understand.

Don't tax student loan forgiveness due to disability.

Eliminate Corporate Taxes. All taxes paid by Corporations and expenses associated with complying with IRS laws are added to the purchase price of everything they sell. It is the PURCHASER who bears the financial burden for running our government and paying down the National Debt. Elimination of Corporate Taxes will reduce this "COST OF DOING BUSINESS" that is added to the purchase price. So, AT THE END OF THE DAY, Corporations DO NOT PAY TAXES.. their consumers do. Benefits: 1) Lower Prices for Consumers = More discretionary money for them to spend on goods and services. 2) Corporate Tax Deductions aimed at improving the health and further growth investment of Corporations would be eliminated.. however, the costs saved by not needing to comply to IRS regulations would improve their bottom line for growth investment. Immense savings would be gotten by eliminating all tax accountants, tax lawyers, and associated facility expenses which could be used for GROWTH. The people displaced by this move have the skills and abilities to provide Corporations with cost saving budgets and processes. Another GROWTH activity... Lean and Mean. 3) Less government expense managing Corporate Taxes = more money for the

government to use in more productive endeavors. 4) A more simplified system that would free up an immense amount of time for Corporations and individuals to create new technology, provide better services, and SPEND MONEY, It is only when money is spent that all taxes are actually paid to the governments: Federal, State, and Local. 5) Happier, less stressed citizens at all levels = better health, lower Medicare Costs.

Nina- I am starting a shelf project to simplify and expand withholding. Can we do a joint project to come out in the same place and make each other stronger? I can do a draft, and I think we are in accord on the core. Current law is 20 factor test filled with "semantic vapors" that do not resolve anything. And on top of that is an amnesty (Rev Act of 1978, s530) if you can make even a weak case under the vague rules that you have independent contractors. UPS has employees and FedEx has ICs and so the tax puts a thumb on the scale of fair competition. Core of my idea for the project will be that all salaries, wages, "and other fixed or determinable annual or periodical payments" (sec 871(a)(1)(A)) for services are subject to withholding, with a few exceptions where we can trust the recipient to keep good books. "Control" over agents conduct in detail is a read herring. It might be relevant for respondent superior responsibility in torts, but withholding is an issue of easiest compliance and collection. Principals with duty to withhold from foreign persons do not necessarily control them. I would be willing to allow a few statutory ICs but not FedEx drivers, to get the thing passed. With my best wishes [Name and email removed]

Deduct federal taxes from social security disability payments. My husband was finally awarded social security disability and received a lump sum for back payments. No taxes were deducted so we owe quite a bit of federal taxes. This should not happen. Better question is why is disability considered taxable income at all?

Hi, now that IRS requires mfs filers to report income for both taxpayers as community property they should issue separate checks evenly for both taxpayers for returns receiving refunds

I think a flat tax of 3.5% with no deductions, credits, exceptions, etc. to be placed upon all individuals and corporations. This would generate a huge revenue, plus it would end the calls for taxing the rich, or too much heat on the (non-existent) middle class. Everyone pays the same, no need for annual updates. Every citizen and corporation would still file a report/return that would tie their increase to the 3.5% tax would also help weed out the cheats. Penalties for cheating should be harsh, discouraging people/business entities from stepping across the line

Flat tax. What we buy is what we pay tax on. That way the hookers, drug dealers, people in our country illegally help with the tax bill, and everyone receiving government assistance will have to pay back into the system just like the rest of us, and maybe understand sacrifice of their income in which they were given in the first place. The rich will pay more because they spend more. The poor will pay less because they buy less.

My wife and I have filed our tax returns for 55 years as a couple filing 'Jointly', now since she passed away in 2010 my filing status has changed to 'single' no dependents but still maintain household as before her death. Seems as if it would be fair to me to be considered in filing category of 'head of household' since I still have all responsibility in maintaining a living household for myself. Expenses for upkeep remain the same but I

am forced to pay a much higher tax rate on a reduced level of income because I do not have her social security contribution to our survival. Suggest that when an over age 65 person loses their spouse through death that their future income tax filing status be considered as 'head of household' rather than reverting to 'single' status.

As a taxpayer, one of the most helpless feelings I have at payday and tax time is where does the money go and who does it go to. As a taxpayer I have no control over the tax money that is being collected. My suggestion would be to allow a certain percent of the monies being paid by the tax payer to be directed by that taxpayer. Say 15% of the monies being collected the taxpayer gets to decide where their money goes. The government can make a list of accounts that the 15% can go to even down to saving the "spotted frog" for example. Or the taxpayer could put some in one account and some in others. Just let the tax payer direct some of his/her money to where they want. This would put the driving force of the money into an arena where the taxpayer can be heard and the politicians will have to listen. Our politicians are not listening this will turn up their hearing aides.

Hello. I read your report to congress for 2011. I agree with what was said about Americans living abroad. Forms 3520s and 3520 are extremely difficult to complete by an ordinary citizen. I do not owe any income tax in the US, but have to pay over \$1000 to have an accountant in Canada prepare my US income tax. It puts a heavy financial burden on my family. The cost of filing these forms is much more than the interest earned. This is ludicrous as I am trying to save for my children's education. I am fine with filing but it has to be easier for ordinary citizens.

Individual Income Tax Reform 1. Index personal exemptions to inflation. 2. Abolish ALL tax deductions and credits. 3. Abolish taxes on capital gains and dividends. 4. Have only one single tax rate. 5. Tie the tax rate to federal spending.

I propose a sales tax on interstate retail sales not taxable by the states; this would bring interstate sales closer in line to local sales, promoting local businesses, and at the same time increase revenue in a manner to which the public is already accustomed. The provisions of the proposal are as follows: 1. There is hereby imposed a 4% tax on income from retail sales not taxable by the states because they occur in interstate or foreign commerce. 2. The Secretary of the Treasury shall have authority to promulgate regulations regarding the means of collection of this tax, which may include compensation to sellers or purchasers for administering the tax. 3. The Secretary of the Treasury shall have authority to promulgate regulations to exempt or reduce this tax by category of goods sold where such sales are already subject to a federal excise or similar tax or to export duties. 4. The Secretary of the Treasury shall have authority to promulgate regulations to exempt or reduce taxes on sales in foreign commerce by category of goods sold or country of destination where in his opinion such sales would be in violation of any treaty or agreement with a foreign country or would have a serious adverse effect on the competitiveness of US-produced goods. 5. The Secretary of the Treasury shall have authority to promulgate regulations to exempt from this tax sales which are de minimus or made by tax-exempt organizations in furtherance of their tax-exempt purpose.

We need to reduce the complexity of our tax system. Replace the current system with a national retail sales tax. This would reduce the number of filers by 90%. It would replace the income, payroll, corporate, gift, estate, capital gains, self-employment, and alternative minimum taxes. We have 80 legislators signed on to the Fair Tax. Join them please.

It is my understanding that the IRS will not accept electronic returns until January 28. I say they should not until Feb 15 as all corporations that are required to produce w2's and 1099's the forms should be into the IRS for Comparison purposes prior to ANY electronic return being filed. I also feel that brokerage houses should have an earlier deadline for the 1099R's and the like so they don't have the taxpayers waiting on necessary documents while crooks file false returns.

Eliminate all existing deductions and credits, and then provide a 2-rate income tax system (15% and 28%). Do not tax income below the poverty threshold. For seniors, do not tax social security benefits. But on the other hand, do not provide social security benefits to those individuals that have amassed other wealth and don't need these benefits. Even though they paid into the system, they are not automatically entitled to social security benefits. This should be only a safety net - not a guarantee.

Allow 100% of medical costs out of pocket to be deducted as a page 1 deduction. Not an itemized deduction and not subject to AGI limitations. With the ever increasing burden of medical costs, this would be a much needed change to deductions. It might even encourage taxpayers to pay medical bills in full or timelier to healthcare providers. Find a way to close the gap on cash receipts & payments for self-employed taxpayers. This is a huge problem!

The phase out for taking rental losses has been \$125K to 150K for over 20years. How about raising the limits to promote real estate investment. Might be a boost to the housing market.

Every American should pay a flat tax on all income (including disability income, SSI, unemployment, interest income, dividends) with a "minimum" number of deductions allowed - like maybe allowing student loan deductions, for instance. I think Americans would feel like the government is more fair if we all pay the same flat rate and all share the same stakes in making sure the government uses our money more efficiently.

I believe the EIC rules are strict and unfair because they penalize taxpayers who take care of children who qualify as their dependents but not for the eitc. One example a taxpayer makes approx. 15k a yr. their household consists of their biological child, their boyfriend who doesn't work and his child by a different woman even though this child lives and is in every way part of the family unit all year the IRS examiners will not allow the boyfriend's child to be claimed for EIC. In America is one child more deserving than another? Do all taxpayers have to formally adopt or marry to get the same benefits as other taxpayers who are biologically related to their loved ones. This is a travesty. Another example of the spirit of a law being broken.

The AMT needs to be revised to account for inflation. Many US household are getting penalized because the US Government is basing out AMT in income amounts which have not been adjusted in over 50 years.

The K-1 form, originally designed for partners in MLP/LLS companies has also been designated for investors who buy stock in these type companies. This is a very sophisticated and complicated form that 99% of individual buyers of MLP/LLC stock cannot interpret correctly at tax time. To require the small investor to use and interpret a form that is designed for large corporations with all of their accounting talent is, in my opinion, a burden that should be eliminated as soon as possible. I would suggest that a new form be designed specifically for the buyers and holders of MLP/LLC stock with simplified instructions that apply only to them. There are tens of thousands of small investors that invest in these types of stocks each year. They should not have to bear the burden of interpreting the tax instructions that were designed to be interpreted by corporate CPA's. I hope you will give this your urgent attention. Thank you,

I believe the EIC should go to taxpayers who care for family members who can not care for themselves including the elderly. The country should be aware that poor families continue to have children in order to get this credit. It should not be given to families that choose to have children and then have healthy children who do not need any special care.

I have many clients getting hammered with late filing penalties. They come about in a number of ways - No extension on file (even when we've filed it on their behalf), short final year resulting in shortened filing due date, confusion between 9/15 and 10/15 due dates, confusion in e-filed vs. not e-filed returns. The average penalty seems to be about \$2500 but I've received them for over \$19,000. These are small businesses. \$2500-\$19000 is an excessive burden. Most if not all file their individual returns on time with the income from the pass-through entity reported correctly. It takes up a large amount of my time to respond to these notices which I do not like to bill the client for because there is no value added to the service I'm providing other than abating a useless penalty. I really hope there is some reform to repeal this penalty and alleviate this excessive burden on small business taxpayers

Probably the most urgent issue in tax reform relates to foreign income. US citizens living abroad shouldn't even have to file forms or pay tax to the US on their foreign income. The only other country in the world that requires this of its nonresident citizens is Eritrea, and even in this case it only requires a very simple one-page form and a flat tax of 2%. 91% of Americans abroad end up owing no tax to the US anyway, but they still have to file tens of forms every year. Moreover, the complex rules about passive foreign investment corporation, controlled foreign corporation, the intricate calculation of the foreign tax credit, the reports of foreign trusts, the reports of foreign gifts and inheritance, which are not even taxable, and the repetitive reports of financial accounts on multiple forms, at the risk of draconian penalties for simply not filing or filing late, do not seem to have any useful purpose. The estate and gift taxes can be completely avoided through the use of trusts, so in the end they only create paperwork burden and not tax revenue. They represent are a tiny 0.3% of the entire federal tax revenue. These taxes should be abolished and replaced with the system used during 2010, where the basis for capital gains on the inherited assets is not reset. The alternative minimum tax does not seem to achieve the purpose for which it was designed, and it creates more compliance burden unnecessarily. There are cases where form 6251 must be filed even if it does not add any tax. I would be willing to give up the deduction on my health savings account if I didn't have to file form 8889 every year, and if the overall tax system was also simplified. I like the account mostly because my health plan makes a deposit on it every month, allowing me to choose how I spend part of my premium on health care. The tax-free status is not as important for me, so I would trade it for simplifications in the areas described in the above paragraphs. I rent an apartment, so I can't use the deduction on mortgage interest or property tax. My health expenses, charitable contributions and state taxes are much less than the standard deduction so I

don't deduct them either. For me, it wouldn't matter if these deductions no longer existed, but I don't think that they add too much complexity as they are now.

STOP THE NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES BY BUSINESSES!! 1. Business Entities that owe Federal and/or State withholding taxes at the end of a tax year should not be permitted to withhold payroll taxes for its employees. All employees of that business entity should be given their full payroll check and be responsible to pay their own taxes. Benefit: The Business entity will not incur more new withholding tax debt. This would allow the business entity to work out an installment agreement for its existing debt. Individuals are more responsible to pay taxes. The government collects more money in taxes from individuals than it does from business entities. The government is more effective in collecting taxes from individuals than business entities. Therefore, tax compliance would benefit Service if individuals paid their taxes instead of employers.

This all really is annoying. I owe around \$2,000 and will probably face garnishment if not paid, while still making a minimal salary. This nonsense is just not fair to hardworking Americans. My daughter has not been able to find a job and I support her. She is (32) years old and I know she could not survive without me. I am not awarded anything for this. I pay for all her necessities and receive no break. Yet, I still have to pay the government. Why? She cannot collect any benefits because of my salary. Even food stamps would give us both an opportunity. I am taking care of an adult without taking anything from the state or government.. Why are there not allowances made for this gesture? Age should be no factor. It feels that the hard working Americans are being punished. Very hurtful and hard to understand why I have worked for over 40 years and this is the end result. When do we enjoy retirement age? In the ground????? Subject: Unpaid personal federal income taxes.

BUSINESSES AND CUSTOMER MEET THE TAX DEADLINES AND NOT CHEATING ON THEIR RETURNS SHOULD BE CASH AWARDED WITH A PROMOTION OR INCREASE IN OPENING MORE BUSINESSES. FIRST CHOICE.DONE

I believe that we should do away with the current tax structure and incorporate a flat 9% tax for all. No tax breaks, no tax forms, no more cheating, no more harassing phone calls and letters...etc. Everyone should get treated equally no matter what your income is.

Instead of having children claimed on taxes for the amount of time they have spent, how about changing it to the amount of money spent on the children. Right now tax law states 50% or more physical instead of 50% or more monetary contribution towards children, since taxes are revolved around finances, not child custody and time spent with children. Many parents can't claim kids because court orders make them pay most of the money, but they don't get to see their children that often, and that's a real tax disadvantage towards the one paying and great advantage to the one claiming the children. It's not a fair system and needs to be looked at further. Thank you!

My husband and I work like dogs. He works about 60 hrs a week and the same for me. Now that my son graduated from High School, he does not qualify for Pell Grants and all his expenses that we paid out of pocket are not tax deductible. That is very unfair, as it is he basically lived without seeing his parents and on top of that not getting any financial assistance. If both husband and wife work even though they have to file

jointly it should not be taxed the way it is. The second income (the wife's) should not be taxed at all or at a very low rate. That shows the sacrifice of the American family. I have friends that rather live together and not get married so the taxes do not eat all their income.

Allow residents of foreign countries to treat tax-free retirement and education savings accounts as tax free in the US: for example, stop taxing Canadian TFSA's and RESPs.

Tax reform ideas: With or without a major tax reform, one simple thing the IRS could do to relieve many taxpayers and help the economy during any difficult time is to drop all the late filing and late payment penalties during the April 15 to October 15 period. This would also be a correspondence relief for the IRS and taxpayers as only interest would need to be collected if the taxes are unpaid at 4/15, but paid by 10/15. Many of these penalties eventually get abated anyway by the IRS, if there is some reasonable explanation for late filing or penalty. But it does feel like much begging is required many times to get the IRS to understand a taxpayers' plight. There are many reasons that it is often not possible for the taxpayer to know exactly how much he owes at 4/15 and it is often a surprise when he does find out. Why should the IRS immediately compound the problem that these taxpayer's who are short on cash have? Another simplification that could work well with penalty relief is to also make extensions automatic without filing a form as it really only helps the late filers that owe tax anyway. The extension form could become merely a payment voucher if the taxpayer was paying their tax at 4/15. These would be quite dramatic relief to many taxpayers that have to push to find out their liability and try to make adequate tax payments on 4/15. It would essentially move the main deadline to 10/15. It would improve the image of the IRS as kinder and gentler in not slapping penalties on people that are already down on their luck. It would save the IRS money in operations cost. It may help the IRS politically from becoming a favorite target of politicians. It could help some more dramatic reform proposals that would drop income tax from coming to fruition, or otherwise try to eliminate the IRS. This would make the time period around April 15 much more relaxed and have a dramatic effect on the income tax preparation community, which has much of its business in a compressed 2-3 month period of time. Moving the IRA contribution deadline out to August 15 or so would also be a relief. [Name removed]

EITC: Drop the age limits, we now have many 16 to much older (70's, even 80's) that are currently working for a living (including serving in our military) making within the poverty level (or close to it) income. Why are they punished because they are not 25 yet or because they are over 65. They are still working. Also, allowing single parents within the age limits to claim it only promotes single parenthood (moral issue). Why are they allowed the extra income merely because they made the choice to have a child out of wedlock when they couldn't afford it? Recommend re-vamping the EITC (especially for our military persons) who are out there working 2 or 3 jobs to make ends meet and still are making under \$50k and can barely buy food or pay rent, etc. The laws just don't make sense for the lower income single person (my son being one of them). He worked 3 jobs in 2011 and made less than \$25K. Not being 25, he ending up with a "Bal Due" which he couldn't afford to pay. It just doesn't make sense!

I suggest that any "Amount Due" form letter from the IRS be mandated by law to include an explanation/calculation of the supposed due amount. I just received another of these today (not the first time)and it stated that I owed a certain dollar amount and would be under penalty if I didn't pay. Problem is, there is no explanation at all. No prior letter explained the amount. This system tends to put 100% of the ownership on the taxpayer (meaning, now I have to attempt to contact the IRS without having any inkling on how they figure I owe them money) otherwise, I am automatically penalized and have already received a threat. This is just not right.

The thing that would help small businesses and real estate investors the most in their battle with the complex interactions of passive losses, capital gains, at-risk limitations, recapture, and loan forgiveness would be to switch to a simple rule of "deduct it when you pay for it." The guy who buys a truck to start a landscaping business or a house to rent should be able to deduct his loan payments or if he pays cash, deduct the purchase price subject to a limitation of his business income. Any excess deduction would carry forward until there is sufficient income to absorb it. This rule could apply to all closely held businesses without the mind-numbing complexity currently in the code and without the tax disaster that happens when depreciation deductions reduce the basis of an asset that is eventually foreclosed or sold at a loss.

I'd also recommend allowing home-based businesses to deduct a fixed amount from their income for the use of their home for business similar to the mileage allowance or meal and lodging per diems. It could be based on commercial rents including utilities and would not include property taxes and interest, which would be allocated separately.

I am speaking against my personal interest as a tax preparer. Anyone who knows how much he or she made should be able to fill out his or her own Schedule C or E without a specialist.

I have large stock holdings that earn capital gains and dividends. I also own oil and gas investments. Both types of investments allow deductions I consider excessive. For example, I have never understood why the capital gains and dividend taxes were reduced about 10 years ago. This reduction was a gift to the wealthy, such as myself, who could get by without it.

I would be willing to give up the child tax credit and mortgage interest deduction. I have a child, but other people do not. Why should I get a tax break for a decision I made? I think having the child tax credit and EITC encourages people to have more kids (along with state welfare systems), as you are rewarded a tax break for adding to the population. Adults who want children should know the cost before they have one and determine if they can afford it.

I also think the mortgage interest deduction should be eliminated or greatly reduced (maybe to \$200,000 instead of \$1 million) and only allowed on your primary residence. If people can afford to buy a \$1 million dollar home, then they do not need a tax break for taking out a large mortgage. Some banks also encourage people to take out loans larger than they probably should by hyping up the "tax deduction" benefit. I feel we should leave alone all tax benefits related to saving for retirement. With deep concern over our social security system, I think it is important to encourage people to save in employer plans, IRAs, and Roth IRAs. Tax credits and deductions for saving are fiscally responsible as the people who save will be less likely to require federal or state programs later in life because they can support themselves. I think removing the charitable contribution deduction would hurt non-profits, and we do have caps on the amount a taxpayer can deduct based on his or her AGI, so I would leave that as it helps others. However, this is a very time-consuming deduction for the taxpayer and paid preparer (gathering receipts, verifying dates, adding up numerous amounts). I do not think people should be able to deduct gambling losses, as that is personal recreation and if you lose money, that is the risk you take gambling. This deduction does not benefit anyone but the taxpayer, unlike charitable contributions and retirement savings. I think the deduction for real estate taxes should be limited to your primary residence, because if you can afford to have a vacation home, then you do not need a tax break on the taxes.

I think we should get rid of residential energy credits, vehicle tax deductions, and vehicle credits as those are constantly changing and are confusing as to what qualifies. I am an Enrolled Agent and have had many clients tell me they qualify for the credit, but then when I look up the model number of the furnace or window, I find out it does not qualify. They end up being frustrated with the installer who told them it qualified, and I end up spending an hour or more researching something that they don't qualify for or that might save them a few dollars, which is offset by my hourly rate.

I really like the FSA options at work as it has save me money on medical expenses and daycare. The administration of these plans may be expensive and outweigh the benefit. Another option might be to lower the 7.5% of AGI limit on medical expenses; however, this might become a record-keeping nightmare as now the majority of people do qualify. The daycare and child care credits could go away as once again that is a credit focusing on a specific group of people who have young children. The state and local tax deduction would greatly affect some taxpayers with high income in high-tax states. Since many of those same individuals pay AMT, they lose the deduction, so we could eliminate the deduction and maybe eliminate AMT with some other changes.

I think the lower capital gain and dividend rates should stay in place as dividends are distributions from companies who have already paid tax on the income (double taxation) and having people invest and then sell at a profit encourages investing in America, and usually people use those gains to reinvest in the market or other property. If the tax takes away half of your profits, it will be less enticing to want to invest to try to make money. The other deductions that are time-consuming are the Form 2106 deductions, safe deposit box, and investment fees. Once again, if you have enough money to invest and pay portfolio managers, then you do not need a deduction. This also is removed in the AMT calculation, which angers taxpayers when they cannot get a benefit for a deduction they thought they were entitled to. Thank you for the opportunity to share!

I think moving from an "Income Tax" to a national sales tax would generate greater revenue as illegal venues as drug dealers and gamblers would actually pay taxes when they purchased goods (as of now the Federal Government gets zero from them). I also believe that it would be a "fairer" system, as if the rate were 10%, for example, then a person who could afford a \$20,000 car would pay 10%, and the person who could afford a \$50,000 car would pay 10%. The actual tax would be different, BUT they are both paying 10%. Thanks for the opportunity.

Get rid of all deductions, all special tax rates, all credits, and all special breaks for entity driven dodges like using the S corp/LLC to avoid payroll taxes. The process should be so simple no one needs a tax preparer. I am a tax preparer and benefit from the current system, but it is still BAD BAD BAD for the country. It is a massive burden on the economy! I dare you to take away my livelihood! PLEASE!

I think we must be careful not to "throw out the baby with the bath water" in tax law simplification. I agree with the Advocate that the "special interest groups" are really the average taxpayer. However, we as a society have chosen to do some "social engineering" through tax law, which has often had the effect of made our society stronger and more fair, I believe. Incentives do work. Ask anyone who has attended after-Christmas sales! Best example: Mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions encourage home ownership. Home ownership has a steadying effect on the American family. Because families put down roots, schools, houses of worship, and whole communities are stronger and more stable. Children grow up waking up in "their room," not a room in someone else's rental property. They attend the same school their siblings attended. Merchants have a steady base of customers so they feel confident enough to hire more workers. Those workers spend their earnings in the

community, making it stronger still. Neighbors of similar incomes get to know each other despite ethnic and religious differences. Prejudice recedes. Everyone is safer because neighbors look out for each other.

Without the tax break of the mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions, especially since families can no longer count on a home to be an investment which increases in value, families would be much more likely to just move somewhere else when their yearly lease is up. Child Care Credit, Child Tax Credit, Education Credits – Children are our future. Their safety after school in day care and their being educated to the highest level possible is the only hope the United States has to remain competitive in the world economy. Today's children will be earning the wages which will pay the social security taxes needed to pay social security benefits for the aging Baby Boomers. Working couples who are confident that their children are safe can be more productive workers. We all know that the most dreaded call a parent can receive is the one saying his/her child is sick or hurt. Do we really want a nation of latchkey kids? Do we really want to give up the positive effects of these tax breaks and the many others which we have chosen to include in our tax law? Do we want to give up the influence tax breaks have on the buying decisions individuals in our country make? I believe in balancing the budget, that each tax break should be paid for with an offsetting tax revenue raiser.

However, I also believe that tax breaks can create positive behavior and have great results. I also think that the American public's perception is that of "I can get my share of tax breaks if I decide to ..." I often tell my tax clients "you can have simple or you can have fair, but you can't have both."

The best tax reform would be to have a flat tax rate and exclude individuals making less than \$25,000 and families that make less than \$40,000. For everyone else, charge income tax at a reasonable percentage, such as 5-10% on all income (regular, tips, bonuses, etc.). No write-offs, no exceptions. It seems like a low percentage, but it would actually bring in more money if there were no tax write offs or credits. And most importantly, make sure it applies to every working adult including Senators and Congressmen. Thank you for asking for our thoughts.

Is there really a need for a filing status? Each individual person should file his or her own tax return, and his or her tax rates should not be compromised by being or not being married or having a dependant child(ren). Lower the tax rates and get rid of the personal exemptions and the child tax credits.

Why can't we eliminate federal withholding and pay a flat rate tax on what we spend? Then those who have the money to spend pay more than those who don't.

I think it is totally unfair the unemployment benefits are taxed. Talk about kicking somebody when they are down!

Repeal all COBRA and COBRA-related laws that affect the employer; replace it with a simple rule that the discharged employee be allowed to buy insurance directly from the insurance company as long as he or she pays the premium directly to the insurance company. Get the employer completely out of it. The intent of the law was originally good, but it is just a place for regulators and lawyers to run wild. Employers are required to send out several notices to comply with this law. Lawyers love to find loopholes to go after business. Employers should notify the insurance

company that they are stopping coverage for the employee and then the insurance company should work with that employee directly. They should also make sure that there is protection for insurance company, so they cannot be sued for reasons that some lawyer dreamed up. Better yet, just make the employee go directly to a pool, but allow him or her to get insurance. Our company has about 18 employees, and this is one of the reasons we do not want to get any bigger. We cover our employees and their families 100%, so we believe in health care, just not the regulations that it brings.

1. Social security should not be taxed since it was contributed with dollars which were already taxed. 2. Dependent exemptions should be abolished. Gone are the days when a large family to help in the fields has to be encouraged. The decision to have children is one individuals make and one for which they should be financially responsible. Same argument for abolishing the child tax credits. 3. Lower tax rates and gradually abolish all Schedule A deductions and adjustments to income such as educator expenses, tuition and fees deduction (the opportunity credit serves this function, moving expenses, and penalty on early withdrawal of savings, to mention a few.

Personal income tax pay by the month. I favor a graduated income tax with 1 percent up to the federal poverty level, 5 percent up to the 2x federal poverty level, 10 percent up to the 3x federal poverty level, 15 percent up to the 4x federal poverty level, 20 percent up to the 5x federal poverty level, 25 percent up to the 6x federal poverty level above that the rate is determined by whatever it takes to balance the budget plus reduce the national debt by 10 percent. No deductions. No exclusions. Businesses pay by the quarter, privately owned businesses pay 1 percent of gross. Corporations pay 2 percent of gross plus 50 percent of profit not paid to shareholders. All foreign shareholders are taxed at the 25 percent rate. Consumption tax on anything costing over \$1,000 of 25 percent. I favor a simple tax system. The law should be under 10,000 words. No need for a lawyer to explain it. We should also make all drugs legal so that we can tax them at the same rate as above.

I would be in favor (and I am a tax professional) of eliminating all the "tax breaks" and go to a "flat tax" or some variation of that which would not require taxpayers to keep such unreasonable records. Most of my clients do not keep log books, although I tell them every year that in order to take a deduction for mileage, they must have a record of their business mileage. They usually find it on the ceiling in my office. People just don't remember to write down where they are going every time they get in the car for business. The same is even truer for medical and charitable mileage. In fact, truth be known, most business people are not good record keepers, and it is unreasonable to expect someone who is a good carpenter to also be a good bookkeeper, and it is a waste of time that could be spent actually doing something for which he or she gets paid! I realize that business people must know whether they are making a profit or loss, but if they buy equipment, to them, it is an immediate expense and cuts into that profit or creates a loss. To the IRS (and really Congress), it is expensed over a period of years. This really distorts the income/loss that the business person has. I could add lots of other examples, but I am sure that this is a good start.

Tax consumption, not income, with social policy provided in the form of reduced or eliminated rates for items consumed. This increases compliance and collection since all transactions are visible. Modern electronic checkouts can handle the complexities.

Eliminate itemized deductions. Give everyone a standard deduction. Tax rates could then be lower. Eliminate credits except as necessary. Necessary credits are for education, non-polluting initiatives, donations to non-profits, and the like. Things that will benefit society in general as

opposed to individuals in particular. Collect a uniform percent of tax, at least 5 or 6 percent, on internet sales and disburse to the states on a per capita basis. Eliminate or sharply curtail the earned income credit. Eliminate the child tax credit. Eliminate the dependent care credit. Eliminate any credits or deductions that favor one marital status over another or that favor having children. This would eliminate the whole definition of a dependent, parents fighting over who claims a child, etc. The kiddie tax should be continued. Tax ALL income at the appropriate bracket level whether it is investment income, self-employed, wages, capital gains, etc. Eliminate double taxation of dividends as personal income and also corporate income. I can think of more, but this is a good start. Feel free to contact me for more detail if desired.

To make this site more meaningful, you might want to list the individual and business tax breaks you are talking about. In order to get a lower tax rate, I would be willing to give up all my itemized deductions and take a standard deduction. Also, I would be willing to give up all my education and 401K and IRA tax breaks if they were included in one overall credit of some lesser amount. For wage earners like myself, you should be able to withhold the right amount of tax so that no return is necessary.

Thank you for this forum. I find it unfair that businesses have to pay credit card possessing fees for sales tax collected. I feel it is unfair to brick and mortar businesses to have the sales tax collecting burden, when internet, whom have a much wider audience, have no tax responsibility. Thank you for trying to make our taxes easier to calculate. Why are we tortured each year to try to figure out what we owe and the least we owe. Highly paid lawyers help the rich, but what about us?

I find asking citizens to think about what they would give up misses a far more important point. A simpler tax code is not necessarily a fairer tax code. Complexity, I can live with. But after decades of taxing the middle class and wealth disparity higher than it's been since 1929, rethinking the paperwork seems like remodeling a burning house. Tax reform should involve raising taxes on unearned income to reasonable levels and easing wage taxation. We must also stop allowing very large companies, such as the banks that we ourselves rescued, to operate under offshore shell companies, thus avoiding taxes. As a citizen and owner of a one-person company, I understand taxes are a necessary mechanism for a functioning society. I don't mind paying my share, but I do find it infuriating to learn that many of our largest corporations, with quarterly profits in the tens of millions of dollars are paying a lower effective tax rate than I am on my five-figure annual income. I don't care if you make it easier. Make it equitable. Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

I would be willing to give up all tax breaks if there were a low flat tax implemented across the board on all new (previously untaxed) income. Couple that with a value-added tax on non-essential items, that is, do not tax food and other life necessities. Increase the value added tax with "luxury" items, such as high-end vehicles, leisure boats, high-end electronics.

I think we need a very simple flat tax that is collected at the source of all income. Eliminate deductions, credits, tax forms, everything. Make a flat percent for all salary income, perhaps a slightly higher percent for interest and dividends and then have it collected directly off of a person's payroll or from the earnings source. This would eliminate the need for record keeping, tax returns, and loopholes. For those employees paid in cash (such as tips and gratuities), they would need to submit a weekly amount to their employer for the employer to file with their payroll tax. A random check of the business receipts would allow officials the see if the tips being claimed closely match the income generated.

Now that I'm a "senior citizen" on a fixed income, I need to look for ways to save a dime every minute of every day. I always worked...45 years full-time and still work part-time. It's getting harder and harder for me to get by, and tax time is getting rougher and rougher for me. I've prepared a preliminary 2010 return which prompted this message. I'm now on Medicare with AARP United Healthcare Secure Horizons Advantage Plan (PPO). I am unable to afford supplemental medical insurance so in 2010 I had to pay out-of-pocket around \$5,000.00 for co-insurance, prescriptions, etc., and I cannot deduct any of it because of the 7.5% medical deduction limit. This would be a good place to add additional healthcare reform by allowing those most in need to deduct ALL of their out-of-pocket medical expenses. Please consider reforming this area of the current tax code.

To get a simpler system with lower rates, I would be willing to give up the home mortgage tax deduction. I can't think of any deduction I wouldn't be willing to give up, really, but getting rid of the home mortgage tax deduction is essential to real tax reform.

To reduce complexity, eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax. The goal of the AMT was to prevent wealthy individuals from escaping paying income taxes by using deductions, credits, exclusions, and lower capital gains rates and/or loss offsets to significantly reduce or eliminate their income taxes. This same goal is achievable by either eliminating or phasing out those deductions, exclusions, etc. for the highest income levels. Depending upon the policy goal (for example, revenue neutrality or increased revenue), the highest rates could be lowered or remain the same. I have been using Turbo Tax to prepare my tax return for over 10 years, and frankly I have no idea if it is computing the AMT correctly. I read the instructions closely. I do extra research to aid me in answering the questions Turbo Tax poses. But I honestly am not certain I do answer every question correctly, and I am a college graduate with an MA! I would certainly give up the angst of going thru this AMT gyration every year even for a few extra dollars in my tax bill.

Let's really simplify the tax code by implementing a flat 10 percent tax rate, regardless of income level and then do away with all deductions. The deductions only favor one group of taxpayers over another and are subject to all kinds of loopholes and scams.

My biggest complaint is that the tax codes change so often. First, make the codes good for a longer period of time, more stability. Then have a family know exactly how much it will have to pay each year for the amount it makes (that way if the family/person wants, they can have exactly the right amount taken out). No matter how hard we try each year, I have to pay more taxes because we can never get the amount we owe right. Second, if a person owes, he or she should be allowed to pay in payments without being in trouble. It is going to happen sometimes, and the IRS should allow families to pay a small amount extra per month instead of the sticker shock that happens each year. At a minimum though, the richer people need to pay more money. They should be taxed at a higher rate and not allowed as many deductions. It is time the rich started to pay their share instead of the middle class paying in more because we have fewer deductions. I don't want a fair tax; taxes should just be a little easier to understand and should not change as often. I am tired of being at the whim of each new administration. Thanks for listening!

Hi Nina, I would be willing to give up any of the tax breaks that are offered in exchange for a simpler tax code that minimizes the amount of tax paid while still fulfilling the government obligations. If my taxes were to go down in roughly the same amount as the value of my current tax breaks I would not have a problem. These ideas may be too simplistic for Washington, but I would challenge you to do a couple things that may be interesting. Could you set up some sort of survey that would show how well the average American truly understands the current tax system? I have a feeling that the results would show how little our nation truly understands our current system. The other interesting thing would be to somehow figure out how many dollars are spent by Americans on lawyers and accountants each year in our attempt to navigate the tax laws. The number would be astounding. If you are looking to win a PR war, which tax reform certainly will be, lawyers and accountants would be good targets as nobody likes dealing with them. No offense personally to those groups; they serve a very important role in our current system. OK, sorry for the rambling. Good luck in this venture.

Unfair...that I am only allowed to claim \$3,000 in daycare expenses. I live in the Northeast in one of the most expensive states in the Union. I spend \$3,000 on daycare for HALF of the year. Please institute a sliding scale for daycare expenses based on the part of the country in which the taxpayer lives. And if you are wondering, I'm in the military, and RI was not my first choice of residency, but I go where the AF sends me, even if it means that my family struggles to make ends meet. Thanks for listening.

My idea of reform is simplicity. To me the fairest tax is a flat tax on gross income. Relative to individual returns, a graduated scale should be employed. Low income, middle class, high net worth individuals. Likewise with business and corporations.

I don't see why we should have to fill out forms and do all the computations in the first place. Taxes are taken out of our paychecks already. Why aren't those deductions correct to begin with? At most, I should have to go on the IRS website and check some boxes and enter some numbers, ONLY if I need to report additional income or claim specific deductions that aren't part of the payroll process.

Eliminate all "phase out" provisions. For instance, phase out of the benefit of itemized deductions, Roth IRA deductions, taxation of Social Security, and (in many years) personal exemptions. All those "phase out" calculations make understanding the tax process nearly impossible.

Perhaps we could try adding an option to the Federal and/or state tax forms to "donate" \$1, \$5, \$10, etc to the budget deficits before raising taxes any higher. I know I would be more willing to donate \$10 or \$20 each year to pay down the deficit rather than to keep paying higher taxes. I can barely live on my \$30,000/year ... actually I can't, as I work two or three other part-time jobs when they come along. And since I work for the State of Illinois, I will not see a raise for who knows how many years. The other matter that concerns me is the fact I am a widow (was six years in September) and for two or three years, I could file as widow status. After that, I am now required to file as "head of household." Why? I'm still a widow and still suffer the loss of my husband and his salary. Now as "head of household," I am paying higher taxes than at the "widow" status. This seems to be a double punch to the ol' gut ... losing my spouse and then having to pay higher taxes with less income. Why can't a person continue as "widow" or "widower" status until he or she remarries? Thank you for listening, and any serious consideration to this would be greatly appreciated.

Either get rid of deductions completely and have a flat income tax rate or have taxpayers allocate their tax dollars to predetermined buckets. That way taxpayers have a say in what they pay for. Of course, we would have to have a certain percentage pre-allocated for defense and entitlements, or keep social security and Medicare as a separate income tax.

Two big suggestions that simply make sense. 1) The government needs to do a much, much better part in showing taxpayers where their tax money goes. People hate paying taxes and evidently try to pay as little as possible because they know the government is wasting it. Waste is such a tremendous problem, and I would be GLAD to pay taxes if I knew my money was going to actual programs like highways, education, consumer protection, etc. But most Americans, correctly, assume their tax money goes to fill no-bid contracts, unusually high government salaries, a \$50 million bridge in Wyoming that connects two trees together, and so on. 2) Eliminating the income tax entirely and replacing it with a national sales tax is a much smarter method of taxation. If someone makes \$500/wk and every penny goes to their mortgage, they wouldn't have to pay taxes – and they shouldn't because they are not using disposable income. They are not living the high life. On the other hand if I go and buy a new car, I can obviously afford to pay the tax on it. This system allows people to purchase necessities (under a certain threshold...for example, a \$5,000/mo mortgage should have some type of tax) tax-free while also ensuring that if they have extra money, the country gets its share. How many ridiculous loopholes does this system eliminate? Most of them.

This is a little involved so here goes. Generally simplify and flatten.

1. Impose over a 2-4 year period a gasoline surtax of up to \$2. Coincidentally remove from income tax, starting from the bottom threshold, corresponding income taxes. This effectively reduces incomes taxes and establishes a gas consumption tax. The goal is to encourage less consumption and reduce our \$1.2 billion dollar per day purchase of foreign oil.
 2. Introduce more "use taxes" – toll roads, national park fees, for example. Concept here is you pay for it only if you use it.
 3. Extend income tax closer to the poverty level, but reduce the rate at all levels. ALSO - remove the upper limit on the payroll tax and offset with reduced payroll rates at all levels (or apply to the SS problem).
 4. Remove all commercial and industrial subsidies, agriculture, mining, oil, manufacturing, shipping, etc., and remove all private tax breaks except charity and mortgage deductions. Strong consideration for phasing out food stamps and other individual subsidies. Couple this with corresponding reduction in overall rates.
 5. Reduce corporate tax rates and offset by closing foreign tax credits etc.
 6. Establish training and re-education programs for the tax attorneys and tax preparers. Alternatively, export them.
 7. Exempt tax on interest rates – offset with income tax rate increases. This shifts bias to savings. Also, consider first \$20,000 dividends and capital gains; this encourages savings and thrift
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Remove the AMT immediately. It is outdated and unfairly targets middle class households. Make top earners pay a more proportionate amount of income taxes. Bring back deductions for small businesses. Eliminate state and federal sales taxes and create a flat VAT tax. I do not know a whole lot about the tax codes. What I do know is that it has become antiquated and lopsided. It needs to be corrected before a middle class is taxed out of existence.

There should not be one person in the U.S. who doesn't pay Federal tax. NOT ONE! I don't care if they make \$50 a week, they can afford to pay, even if it's only five cents. Those who don't pay taxes because they are in "poverty" have unlimited resources available to them through their local community, state, or the Federal Government, but they don't have to contribute something, anything? If this means a 15 percent flat tax for everyone, then so be it. I'm tired of paying, and paying, and paying, only to be told I have to pay more! I would absolutely give up all my tax breaks if everyone paid their fair share, no matter how rich or poor.

1. As Warren Buffett has said in the past, the majority of us that earn a living primarily through wages pay a far greater tax rate than do investment bankers, hedge funds, and the like that realize all income as long-term capital gain. While I can understand that a retiree, disabled individual, or similar might not be working and get their income from investments, it is *WRONG* for such working investment professionals to be legally evading their societal support obligation via taxes. This, like most tax issues, is complex and will probably not be fair in the end (as is life), but to make it a bit more equitable, the first \$100,000 or so of taxable investment income should be taxed as regular income if one does not have wage income AND is not retired, disabled, etc. Essentially, the rich fat cats are not special and need to pay the same rates I do.
 2. Death taxes: These are effectively long-term capital gains and should be taxed as such under paragraph #1 above. This might be one of the exceptions to rule #1 above as this is not income from a job as a hedge fund or investment banking is.
 3. AMT: Needs to be indexed somehow. \$200,000 is not a lot in New York City if spending it on housing, etc., but is a lot in a rural area. While this would be a mess to enforce fairly, I'll just point out that from a fairness stance someone in New York City should be able to make the same home deductions just like someone in a cornfield in the Midwest. Or such deductions should be eliminated all together.
 4. Trickle down economics *ONLY* works when folks spend the extra money saved from taxes. Thus it is wrong to just lower taxes, but rather the right thing is giving tax credits to ensure the money was spent one way or another (either taxes or other goods/services) to get the money circulating, which is the core of the matter.
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Double taxation: 1. Taxing social security retirement benefits. I paid tax on earned income when I was working which included the amount paid to social security. Now I pay tax on 85 percent of retirement benefits received. 2. Taxing dividend income. Corporations pay tax on earnings, then distribute dividends from after tax amounts. I pay tax when dividends received. As a middle-class DINK, the only deductions we have are the mortgage interest (and that includes a home credit line) and charity. Fortunately, we can afford to pay. I don't begrudge the poor their meager deductions, but I sure get aggravated when business and the wealthy hide their incomes so I think the best solution would be to exchange the income tax with a type of national sales tax. There would be no tax on food items, diapers, medical supplies, or clothing bought from a retail store, but a luxury tax on fine jewelry or designer clothing (not sure how that would work).

There should be a graduated increase rate for expensive cars and boats and RVs. There should also be a higher rate of sales tax for guns, bullets, cigarettes, and alcohol since these things increase the medical costs of everyone. Of course, this is quite simplistic and would require much consideration before implementation, but it would take away any opportunity to cheat from both individual and businesses because if you buy something, you pay tax and yet it is still a progressive tax as those who make more naturally spend more and will therefore spend more in taxes. It also adds "luxury and sin" taxes for those who choose to spend their money that way, making it a little more fair in that those who choose to do something that involves the rest of us will also have to pay for it. This I feel is the only way to keep it fair. It also would save a ton of money because most states already have a sales tax recovery program in place, and we would be able to do away with the IRS.

As you stated, we all want tax breaks so by taking away all of them...it is fair. I am concerned that a flat tax would be very regressive in nature because those at the lower end absolutely cannot afford to live off their tiny checks while those like me could easily afford to drop back to a flat 10 percent. I do think there should be some provision to tax corporations that send jobs overseas to save money – that hurts all of us. Not sure how that would fit in to this structure at all, but I'd still like to see it happen.

I say we do away with income taxes altogether and replace it with a consumption tax like a value-added tax (VAT) or a national sales tax. Exemptions could be made to certain essentials like food, but otherwise the consumption tax would apply across the board. Estate taxes would continue, but with exemptions high enough to keep small businesses and farms from being broken up. A consumption tax is the fairest tax because the more money and assets you have, the more a person or family is likely to spend, so it is naturally progressive.

I think the whole idea of taxing people's income is wrong and unfair. Instead I think the tax system should lean more toward use taxes like gas taxes or licensing fees where applicable and for just running the government, we should switch to sales taxes. This would encourage saving and tax those people who spend the most. Plus the taxes could be collected by the states through their current sales tax systems, and it could be phased in over a number of years so that people wouldn't be hit with a big shift in prices all in one year. Really low income folks would just need to have their food stamp money increased or given some sort of tax-free ID for food and necessities. Or they could file tax forms to get some of the money back. But most people would no longer have to fill out any tax paperwork, and the IRS itself could be greatly reduced. That would be a much fairer and simpler tax system to me. Thank you.

We need to go to a system where the locality has the most say in where and how the tax money is spent. So I think we should have a two-tiered system. 20 percent across the board tax rate. 12 percent goes to local government, 5 percent goes to state government, 3 percent goes to Federal government. Then there should be a sales tax of 5 percent across the board – 2 percent to local government, 2 percent goes to state government, 1 percent goes to federal government.

A married should count as two full individuals especially when calculating Social Security taxable income limits. Currently, single taxpayers can exempt the first \$25,000 of income. Married couples can only exempt the first \$32,000. The exemption limit for married couples should be \$50,000, not \$32,000. It harkens back to the Dredd Scott Decision when blacks were 3/5 of a person. This is but one example of the random and arbitrary exemption limits seen throughout various tax forms as seen on the Education Credit income limits to the interest deduction for student loans.

Any changes to tax law and/or rules should not take effect until the next tax year. No retroactive changes. How can anyone do any tax planning if the rules change during the year? Thank you.

Simplify, simplify, simplify. I'm not necessarily saying flat rate for everybody but eliminate most deductions (both private and corporate) and just lower the tax rate(s). If I pay 15 percent initially but through deductions I only pay 10 percent, why not reduce my rate to say 11 percent? (I support deductions for dependents and charitable giving). The tax code is entirely too complicated, which has spawned a huge community of accountants, tax attorneys, and the IRS.

While I believe that everyone should pay the same percentage for taxes, that may not be viable. However, a flat tax, based on brackets, is preferable. With that in mind, I would like to see the following:

1. No deductions, and by this, I do mean absolutely none, including getting rid or reducing your income by your investment loss.
2. If you make less than the federal poverty level, you do not pay Federal Tax. Social Security taxes would still be paid.
3. Social Security tax is paid on non-investment income with three "brackets". For example, 6 percent on \$0 to to \$100k, 4 percent from \$100K to \$250K and 2 percent above \$250K. Since there aren't any deductions, including for investment loss, don't add additional taxes to the investment income.
4. Have three tax brackets (not counting the "0 percent" bracket for those that make less than the poverty level) based on total income. Since there aren't any deductions, each bracket is a "flat" tax for that bracket.
5. All non-salary/wage income is considered as investment income, taxed at a single rate, perhaps 15 percent. Since you are not allowed to reduce your taxable income even by an investment loss, a lower tax rate is used for investment income.

Obviously there would need to be rules to ensure that income that should be considered salary is not treated as investment income, but other than that, the above is the tax code for individuals (with slight modified brackets for married couples).

I believe the best way to fix the tax code is to go to a sales tax system. Anyone on welfare would have a special card that would allow the business not to charge the sales tax. You would need to exclude food and utilities from this tax. In doing this you would collect money from all persons buying in the U.S. That would include the illegal immigrants, drug dealers, etc. But you would have to enact at the same time a law banning the current tax system, if just fixing the tax system we have still allows anyone not paying taxes not to contribute. I went through a two-year tax audit, and my attorney to represent me cost more than what I owed with penalties and interest. 99.9 percent of Americans pay their taxes. Most like I are overwhelmed by trying to do the correct thing that things are missed.

I would have a two-bracket tax system with no deductions of any kind. Income subject to social security tax would be taxed at one rate and all other income would be taxed at a rate that is 6.2 percent higher. Taxation would begin at an income level twice the national poverty rate for the size of the taxpayer's family. One concession to deductions I might make: Because many people have borrowed to buy a home, counting on the availability of the mortgage interest deduction, I would phase out that deduction over a period of five to 10 years, and allow the two rate brackets to drop as the interest deduction is phased out. I think the most unfair aspect of our tax system is the multiplicity of deductions.

A tax refund should be limited to the actual amount of taxes paid. Tax refunds shouldn't be for more than you actually paid in the first place. Now some people get back extra on their return because they are low-wage earners or have a lot of dependents. They make money off their tax return but aren't taxed on that extra money.

Eliminate mortgage interest as a tax deduction. For sure on second or more homes. If you can afford more than one house, you don't need the deduction!

Establish a required income tax percentage (flat tax) and a required threshold for charitable giving based upon income levels. If income earner doesn't meet the required threshold for charitable giving, the difference will be collected as additional income tax at a scaled rate. The reduced income tax revenue will cover only the essential government functions and programs. All entitlement and social programs must operate off of the charitable giving.

What doesn't seem fair to me about the current tax code is that someone that makes \$50,000 per year with a couple of kids can in effect pay zero income taxes after deductions. Also, according to all the media reports, approximately 48% of the working Americans pay zero income tax and in a lot of cases get refunds even if they had zero tax liability. I would prefer a tax burden where everybody paid. Since that will not occur with the current system and with all of the lobbyists getting their deductions into the system, it only seems fair that we would drop the current system entirely, have a VAT, and no deductions.

For personal tax returns, I would start by eliminating all tax breaks and then deciding which ones should be added (perhaps adding tax breaks for electric cars or solar panels on houses). For business tax returns, allow one year depreciation of all assets less than \$25K. Keep deductions for things like employer-provided healthcare and other employer-provided benefits. There needs to be more tax brackets. Why is the marginal tax rate the same for \$1 million as it is for \$10 million? I would also favor a return of a zero tax bracket for perhaps incomes of 200 percent of the poverty level. I would also have tax brackets for businesses and for capital gains as well. A flat rate pushes benefits to the higher income levels.

End this current crazy, complicated mess of a personal income tax system. Replace it with a graduated flat tax rate. The poorest would pay the least and the richest would pay the most. No loopholes, no nothing. We could save billions in payroll taxes alone by not needing thousands of IRS employees to go through personal income tax returns with a fine toothed comb.

I would be willing to give up all credits and reimbursements for a clear, straightforward tax system with lower rates. I'm a self-employed person whose compliance is near 100 percent because I am quite aware of the many things I get from the government, and because I see representative democracy working for me. I do my own tax forms, but would be unable to do this with confidence if I had not taken the 60-hour H&R Block tax preparer's course. I currently benefit slightly from the low capital gains rate, get an IRA credit, one year I qualified for the EIC, and my wife gets the student loan deduction. You point out that employees pay over \$2,200 a year to subsidize noncompliance by the self-employed; you also note that the employees receive \$650 billion/year in employer paid medical subsidies, which are unavailable to the self-employed. I suspect they are getting the better deal.

Taxes reflect a basic conflict between two concepts: 1) A democratic nation is a collective enterprise, and we should all help each other. 2) I shouldn't have to pay for some total stranger's benefit. I think that people in general are leaning towards #2 right now. While all tax expenditures have their logic, they often have larger consequences. The mortgage interest deduction doesn't just encourage home ownership; it also encourages purchase of bigger homes. The capital gains rate doesn't just encourage investment, it also encourages speculation. Student loan guarantees don't just encourage access to higher education; they also encourage proliferation of for-profit trade schools and pressure to raise tuition at public schools. And so on.

I make a greater effort to put money in my IRA each year because I can deduct that amount from my AGI. That's a public benefit. But I pay 14 percent of my gross profit in FICA taxes. If those were lower, I would have more money to save. I agree that compliance would be higher if people understood better where the money is going. One aspect of tax reform should be to leave money at the local level. States and the federal government have increasingly taken tax revenues, then doled it back with conditions to localities. This is hugely inefficient and undemocratic.

Start phasing out the home mortgage deduction. 2012 - only 90 percent allowed. 2013 - only 80 percent allowed. 2014 - only 70 percent allowed and so on until it is gone.

Get rid of income tax entirely. Enact higher sales taxes. This allows taxation on monies that are not reported as income and provides for a more even taxation of the population. The rich are taxed more because they buy more while the poor pay less because they buy less.

Off the top of my head, I'd give up most, if not all tax credits, or deductions for a simple, fair, and moderate flat tax that everyone in the country paid equally, same for my business. Having said that, I realize that some tax deductions and credits stimulate purchases (housing, retirement, business investment, etc.) and investment, so those may have to be factored in to any flat tax rate. I also understand that deductions can be used as tools by the government to stimulate the economy or certain sectors like green technology, so that would probably have to stay, but somewhere there is a flat tax rate that would work.

Parents with children with disabilities, including adult children who still live with their parents, should be able to take substantial tax deductions for the care they provide by keeping their children out of state institutions funded by Medicaid and saving the state and federal government enormous amount of money. The savings and care these parents provide are far and away above what social services and SSI provide.

I honestly believe that all taxpayers would be better off using a significantly simplified tax code, based on the following principles:

1. Taxes are levied against each working individual, not families or households. Thus, each working person in a household would be taxed on their own incomes and not the combined household income.
2. Taxes are levied against each income above the poverty line, with no deductions/exemptions/upper limits. The taxes, based a flat percentage applicable to all income levels, should be based on assessments by both the CBO and an independent, non-government consultant.
3. Taxes should be keyed against the inflation rate, including if the rate is negative (deflation). Thus, if a year with a 10 percent tax rate has inflation of 3 percent, then the next year would have a 10.03% tax rate (tax rates rounded to the nearest hundredth of a percent).
4. The tax rate can be changed by Congress, but should require an impact analysis by both the CBO and an independent, non-government consultant.
5. Social Security and Medicare taxes should have the upper limit removed, with a mandatory rate re-assessment every five years to ensure viability of the programs. The re-assessment should be based on assessments by both the CBO and an independent, non-government consultant.
6. There should be a federal sales tax (percentage) on all non-food, non-prescription consumer goods sold within the U.S, similar to state and local sales taxes. A European-style VAT should be explicitly prohibited.
7. There should be a federal fuel tax (percentage) on all gasoline, diesel, ethanol, hydrogen, electricity, etc., used to fuel transportation vehicles. All tax dollars generated through this vehicle cannot be used for any non-transportation projects.
8. Estate taxes should be considered a form of income and taxed at the income rate.
9. Business should be taxed at a separate percentage rate, based on positive net income, with no deductions/exemptions/upper limit.
10. Taxpayers who do not have payroll deductions would be required to file income statements, for all income sources, and pay their taxes by April 15, as normal.
11. Taxpayers who do have payroll deductions would be required to file income statements, including all income sources, by April 15. If any income sources were untaxed, then the individual would need to send the remaining taxes owed by April 15 as well.
12. Tax refunds would be eliminated. Instead, any surplus in tax revenue must be applied to the national debt, without increasing spending.
13. If the national debt is paid off, then surplus tax revenue must be placed in a "rainy day fund", similar to what many states are required to do.

The benefits of a system based on the above principles are as follows:

1. The tax code is greatly simplified, which will likely increase compliance with tax payments.
2. The overall tax rate would be reduced for all workers, increasing the amount of disposable income that can be injected into the economy.
3. Consumption would be taxed, adding a new revenue stream.
4. A fuel tax (on all fuel sources) would add dedicated funding to the nation's crumbling transportation infrastructure.
5. The federal debt would be reduced, as surpluses would be mandated to be applied to the debt. After the debt is paid off, the "rainy day fund" would provide for disasters, dips in revenue, etc., without incurring additional debt.
6. Medicare and Social Security would become viable again, with mandatory rate re-assessments ensuring longevity.

Overall, I believe this would better spread the tax burden around those paying into the system, eliminating loopholes that businesses and individuals use to virtually eliminate the taxes that they pay. This should reduce the average tax load anyone may expect to pay, allowing them to spend more money in the U.S. economy. Additionally, it would take a few minutes to compile an individual income statement (detailing what and how much each income stream was), a significant reduction of the hours (or days) that the average person (or CPA) is required to put in for the current tax system.

Policy should be to not use tax codes for social and personal interest policy. It should collect reasonable taxes. My quick suggestions are two that will cost many people including myself: 1] Eliminate open-ended personal deductions. For example, health insurance premiums may be deducted to an arbitrary and not adjusted amount (for example, \$12,000 per year) to encourage but not fully compensate all and any health plans. 2] Home mortgage deduction – interest deduction should be capped at not more than \$10,000 per year. This encourages home ownership without endlessly rewarding home-related borrowing. This would approximately allow deduction of a 5 percent \$200,000 mortgage for its first year, and less as interest rates increase, declining over time.

First, tax reform cannot be like in 1985 when the tax simplification turned into a massive tax increase for middle America. My husband and I had our taxes double that time on a 3 percent income increase. We need to stop punishing dual income families. My sister makes about the same amount of money as my husband and I do combined. But since she works and her husband does not, we pay more total taxes. Having an irresponsibly large family should not be rewarded in the tax code. Get rid of the deduction for the number of members of your family. People who choose to have small families or have medical issues that prevent them from having children should not be punished in the tax code. I do not think it is good to have a total flat tax. Home ownership could be hurt without the mortgage interest deduction, and charities could be hurt without that deduction.

However, there should be some limits to the deductions. Real estate agents are constantly pushing people into larger homes than they can afford under the principle that you get a bigger house, you pay less taxes. I'm old enough that my house is paid for, so this does not affect me anymore either way, but I think there should be some deduction for this. Charities – perhaps make it deductible up to the level of tithing (10 percent of gross income to any charity) and then not deductible after that. In that way, everyone gets the same ceiling. Medical expenses – with all the people against health care reform, no one is questioning that people can take a large deduction for health expenses. The government has been subsidizing health care for years with this deduction. I'd rather have Obamacare and get rid of this turkey. These are random thoughts, but they are my starting point. My family makes more money than most, and I do not mind paying my fair share. However, it does make me mad

when people who are at the same or larger income than my family pay much less because of the single v. dual income or family size. Those are the two most unfair parts of the code.

I would give up all deductions for a simple rate system for taxes that does not entail anything more than a computer and an online form to complete and e file.

Obviously, tax reform is a very complex subject and any serious discussion of it would go on for at least tens or hundreds of pages. But I would like to outline two ideas here. If I had a magic wand that could eliminate just one economic law in America, it would be the mortgage interest deduction; I sincerely think it is the most destructive and unjust economic law on the books today. It is highly regressive, benefiting mainly the wealthy while excluding those with more limited incomes. It artificially raises housing prices, making homes less affordable for new buyers while cruelly wrenching money from renters, whose very livelihoods depend on affordable prices. It promotes debt, rewarding people who lie on their mortgage applications to buy homes they can't afford, while punishing responsible homeowners who live within their means and pay off their debts quickly; and has helped turn our society into a tyranny of borrowers, where debtors (especially mortgage debtors) are pandered to without end while savers are begrudged every measly penny of interest they earn. But worst of all, worse than all the other considerations put together, it violates the fundamental American principle of justice for all.

Simply put, the mortgage deduction discriminates against renters, and discrimination is morally unacceptable. Now I know some may say that preferences based on housing are different from preferences based on say race or gender. But the reality is that for large segments of the population, such as the vast majority of adults under 30, the "choice" between homeownership and renting isn't a serious choice at all; renting is the only option that makes personal or financial sense, even with all the tax breaks for owning.

The mortgage deduction should absolutely be repealed entirely. Secondly, current personal income tax policy is very unfair towards young adults with no children and has become even more unfair with the recent tax compromise. The deal has eliminated the Making Work Pay tax credit, the only federal tax break for many of us. As you know, the loss of MWP was supposedly offset by a 2 percent cut in the Social Security tax, but for people who make less than 50 times the amount of the tax credit (in most cases, \$20K/year for singles and \$40K/year for couples), this is still a tax increase. To correct this regressivity, the tax deal also increased tax breaks for low-income families; unfortunately, these expanded breaks exclude most childless adults. The new numbers are astounding.

Since full figures for 2010 and 2011 are not yet available, let's consider the 2009 tax year. Had MWP not been in effect, a typical 23-year old single with no children may never receive any federal tax breaks and would start owing federal income tax at \$9350/year, more than 13% below the federal poverty line. This is especially hard to justify, considering how comparatively little the government does for us and how many of its programs (such as supporting housing prices) actually harm us. Now I know some may think forcing childless adults to carry a heavier burden, while sparing families, is more humane. But the reality is the exact opposite. When our lives take an unfortunate turn, we have much further to fall.

Service organizations, both public and private, almost universally place us at the lowest priority; many programs (such as Medicaid) exclude us entirely. Hunger, cold, and other forms of suffering that would be considered unacceptably cruel for families are often shrugged off when young singles are the victims. Look around you, and ask yourself this: If you will not be a voice for humanity and justice towards singles without kids,

who will? I support replacing the child care tax credit with an expanded earned income tax credit that applies to childless adults as much as it does to families. Thank you for reading my suggestions

It's time for a flat tax or a national sales tax. Our tax code should be simple, easy for the average human to understand, and there should be no exemptions or favorites for special interest groups. Do not tax unprepared food, medicine, or clothing at a certain level.

I am in favor of scrapping the entire tax system as it exists for personal income tax. I would like to see a flat tax or possibly a graduated flat tax based on income alone. No exemptions for being married, no different tax rates because you are married or not. Just a simple tax like our sales tax is in New York or the Medicare tax.

I would like to see the definition of small business redefined. We're a small business \$68K a year and a business along with a business that makes under \$5 million. Most of the tax breaks for small business do not apply to us. There should be a reclassification so that when we get a tax break we get one that would apply to those in our scenario. Not sure if you're the right agency to comment on this, but it's just so ridiculous how many forms we need to fill out that could be simplified for those of us who only make under \$100K.

My wife and I both work for companies and receive W-2s. We have contributions to various charities and some minor interest and dividend income. It is just not right that we have to pay a tax preparer to calculate our return. There should be no deductions other than perhaps a standard deduction for dependents, elderly, etc. The withholding from taxes should be it and no return to file unless interest or dividend income exceeds a predetermined amount. The alternative would be to do away with personal income tax altogether and impose a consumption/VAT tax that would be revenue neutral or increase revenue to the government slightly to help decrease the current deficit. Increase social security maximum to \$250,000 with no change in benefits

As a retired IRS employee, I would love to see tax reform in my lifetime. GIVE UP - I would be willing to give up all exemptions, deductions, and credits if I only paid 10 percent tax on my gross income. However, this would not be fair to taxpayers like myself who don't have offshore accounts and hide money in other various ways, which is what you will experience (just like the present) with people and companies who make very, very large amounts of money. BURDENSOME - Frankly, my tax return is very easy to prepare as I don't make much money. UNFAIR - I don't think it is fair to punish those who are billionaires, those who are great capitalists. If somehow we could arrive to a system that was fair to EVERYONE, I like to think companies and billionaires would be willing to pay "their fair share." Honesty is no longer the great virtue it once was. What would happen to tax preparers, accountants, and CPAs????

Understanding and education is the key. My brother is a CPA and has to go to classes every year to understand the changes to the tax code. I also feel that is the reason for the complaints of people. If some of this education were available online, with a registration process of course, I feel a lot of people would take a look. I spend \$250 a year for tax prep. I would be willing to save that money versus the time I could spend to educate myself.

Make the documentation to support the requirements for completing the form simpler. For example, instead of saying you can deduct a cell phone for business in accordance with publication 503, but when you go to publication 503, it doesn't say anything, and you are supposed to guess, which may lead to the deduction being allowed or not depending on the compliance agent. Allow for electronic documentation to be considered. Many small businesses now rely on bill payment systems, which means that you don't get to write on the bill that it was paid by check number xys, because the online bill payment system at the bank that sends the check to pay the bill doesn't provide a check number, just a debit amount on your bank statement; allow that combination to be shown as proof of payment.

There has to be a better way for the required documentation to accommodate this new way of payments. If the documentation is required to be in a certain format for the agents to accept it, then give an example so that it is the same across the board. Too many times the code and the instructions are not clear; they are confusing and misleading. Clear examples, simple language would be a great start. Small businesses contribute a lot to the economy and have the least amount of time or money to spend trying to figure out the code, make it easier for us. Thank you for allowing us to provide input.

The AMT must be abolished. Both my wife and I work and bring home under \$200,000 a year. Yet it appears that because we have five kids we are penalized as not paying our fair share of taxes. Between the two of us we take five deductions on our W4 (even though we are entitled to seven) and end up owing around \$6,000 a year. Also, if a single person can earn \$200,000 (as an example) before a threshold is passed, then the threshold for a couple should be \$400,000, not \$250,000. You're penalizing us for being married.

Please for the love of all humankind in the United States, go to a flat tax. My husband and I are business owners and spend a lot of money to have perfect corporate (and married) tax returns. We claim every penny of income and take the deductions our accountant says we can take. I would forego any deduction for the ease and simplicity of a flat tax. No more deductions! None, not even the mortgage tax deduction. No deductions for kids or illness or anything. ZERO deductions. Everyone and I do mean everyone (including corporations) pays a flat 10 percent tax. Returns should be completed in less than 15 minutes. Except for creating a public insurance option plan, this would be the #1 improvement to every American's life. We all have to pay our fair share. This would do it.

Dear Ms Olson, My suggestion is about due dates. I believe that all due dates for filing and paying taxes should be changed from the 15th to the third Wednesday of the month. Likewise, that the last day of the month be changed to the third Wednesday of the next month. This would greatly simplify the work scheduling for taxpayers and the government and, I believe, improve compliance. There are no holidays on the third Wednesday of any month and studies have shown that Tuesday is the most productive day of the work week. I know that this sounds simplistic, and I usually get some rolling eyes and smirks when I discuss this with others as if this is just unthinkable!!! No one has been able to give me a good reason why this would not work. I do not think that the government could not adjust to the loss of cash flow by at most six days on occasion. My social security check comes on the fourth Wednesday (because of my birthday) instead of the 1st of the month, and I am sure that the government gained some cash flow and work efficiency by making this change. Your careful consideration and reply will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to see the option of paying for student loans pre-tax and removing the student loan interest deduction. If this were the case, then removing the credit for tuition and expenses would also be reasonable.

Still allow parents the ability to claim their child after age 16. That is when it gets expensive for them in high school and college. With the cost of tuition, room and board, books (too high), and other associated costs continuing to rise, it is hard being in middle class to afford everything. Also costs with student loans make it an unacceptable option due to the ridiculous amounts needed to pay for college. I would like to see our country provide means for students to get a free education in exchange for government service, etc., which would help lower our deficit possibly by utilizing students for certain jobs which would reduce costs.

I should be able to control where a small portion of my tax dollars go, \$100 or so. If I think we need greener energy, I pick that. If I think the FDA needs it, I pick that. If I like war in Afghanistan, I pick that. Or if I like bankers (fat chance), I pick to send my \$100 to Wall Street. Let different programs vie for my tax dollars and give me some (although very small) control over it.