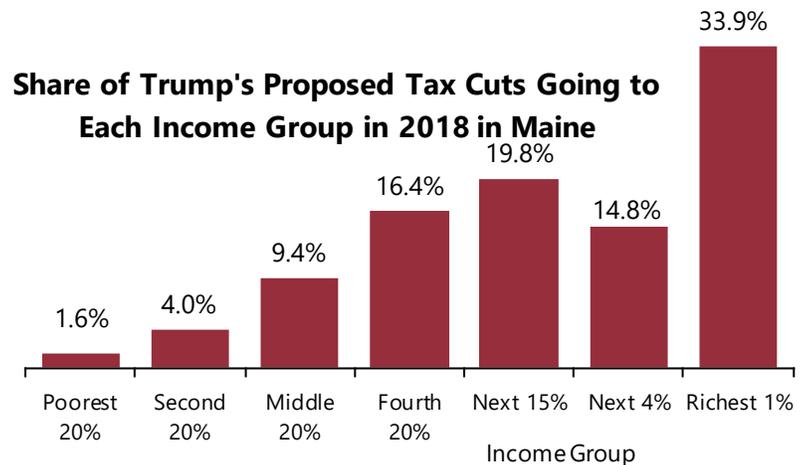


July 20, 2017

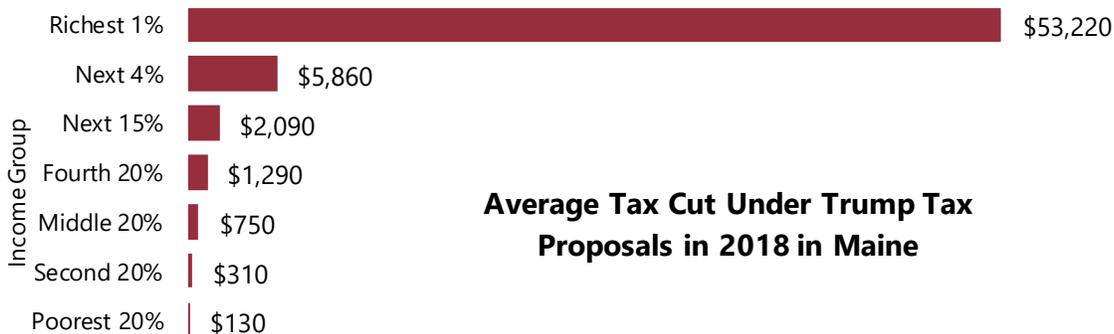
Trump Tax Proposals Would Provide Richest One Percent in Maine with 33.9 Percent of the State's Tax Cuts

Earlier this year, the Trump administration released some broadly outlined proposals to overhaul the federal tax code. Households in Maine would not benefit equally from these proposals. The richest one percent of the state's taxpayers are projected to make an average income of \$1,212,000 in 2018. They would receive 33.9 percent of the tax cuts that go to Maine's residents and would enjoy an average cut of \$53,220 in 2018 alone.

Officials in the Trump administration have said that their tax plan will help the middle-class, but that is not true of the proposals they have put forward so far. For example, in Maine, the middle fifth of taxpayers in terms of income are projected to make an average income of \$48,500 in 2018. This group would receive just 9.4 percent of the tax cuts next year in Maine compared to the 33.9 percent of the tax cuts received by the richest one percent of the state's residents.



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), July 2017



Figures rounded to the nearest ten dollars. Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), July 2017

Bottom 60 Percent of Taxpayers in Maine Would Receive Just 15 Percent of the Tax Cuts in the State

The bottom three-fifths of taxpayers (the lowest-income 60 percent of taxpayers) in Maine will all make less than \$60,000 in 2018. They would gain very little, just 15 percent of the tax cuts that go to residents in the state. The average tax cut for this group next year would be \$400, which is tiny compared to the average \$53,220 going to the richest one percent.

Some middle-income taxpayers would even pay higher taxes under Trump’s proposal. (See [ITEP’s longer report](#) for more details.)

Price Tag of Plan Would Mean Cuts in Public Investment that Working People Rely On

Trump’s tax proposals would reduce total federal revenue by at least \$4.8 trillion over ten years. In the short-run this might just mean higher government deficits, but eventually Congress and the President would almost surely have to cut major programs like Medicare, Medicaid, food assistance and others to offset the costs. Low- and middle-income families would probably lose far more as a result than they gain from the small tax cuts President Trump would provide them.

Tax Cuts Can Be Measured in Several Ways, But This Plan Favors the Rich Under Any Measure

Politicians who propose tax cuts sometimes argue that no one should be surprised if they mostly benefit the rich. They argue that the rich make most of the income, so of course they receive most of the tax cuts.

But their argument is misleading. The richest one percent receive a larger tax cut than everyone else under Trump’s proposals even when it is measured as a percentage of their income. In Maine, the richest one percent would receive a tax cut equal to 4.4 percent of their income. The bottom three-fifths of taxpayers in the state would receive a tax cut equal to just 1.3 percent of their income.

The Trump Tax Proposals Included in These Figures

These are described in more detail in [ITEP’s longer report](#) on the Trump tax proposals.

Repeal of the 3.8 percent tax on investment income for the rich.

Repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax.

Repeal of personal exemptions and doubling of the standard deduction.

Replacement of current income tax brackets with three brackets, 10 percent, 25 percent, and 35 percent.

Elimination of all itemized deductions except those for charitable giving and home mortgage interest.

Special tax rate (15 percent) for businesses that do not pay the corporate income tax.

New deduction and tax credit for child care.

Repeal of special tax breaks for businesses and reduction in the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent.

Repeal of the estate tax.

Impacts of the Trump Tax Proposals in 2018 in Maine

State Taxpayers			Tax Changes		Average Changes	
Income Group	Income Range	Average Income	Total Amount (in thousands)	Share of Tax Cuts	In dollars	As a % of Pre-Tax Income
Poorest 20%	Less than \$22,500	\$13,000	\$ -16,800	1.6%	\$ -130	-1.0%
Second 20%	\$22,500 to \$38,900	30,500	-42,000	4.0%	-310	-1.0%
Middle 20%	\$38,900 to \$60,000	48,500	-99,500	9.4%	-750	-1.5%
Fourth 20%	\$60,000 to \$99,700	76,500	-172,900	16.4%	-1,290	-1.7%
Next 15%	\$99,700 to \$185,900	128,900	-208,900	19.8%	-2,090	-1.6%
Next 4%	\$185,900 to \$473,000	269,600	-156,300	14.8%	-5,860	-2.2%
Richest 1%	\$473,000 and higher	1,212,000	-357,300	33.9%	-53,220	-4.4%
ALL		\$75,400	\$ -1,053,800	100.0%	\$ -1,570	-2.1%
Bottom 60%	Less than \$60,000	\$30,800	\$ -158,300	15.0%	\$ -400	-1.3%