

10 Things You Should Know About the Tax Debate

A Chart Book on the U.S. Tax System

Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

April 2018

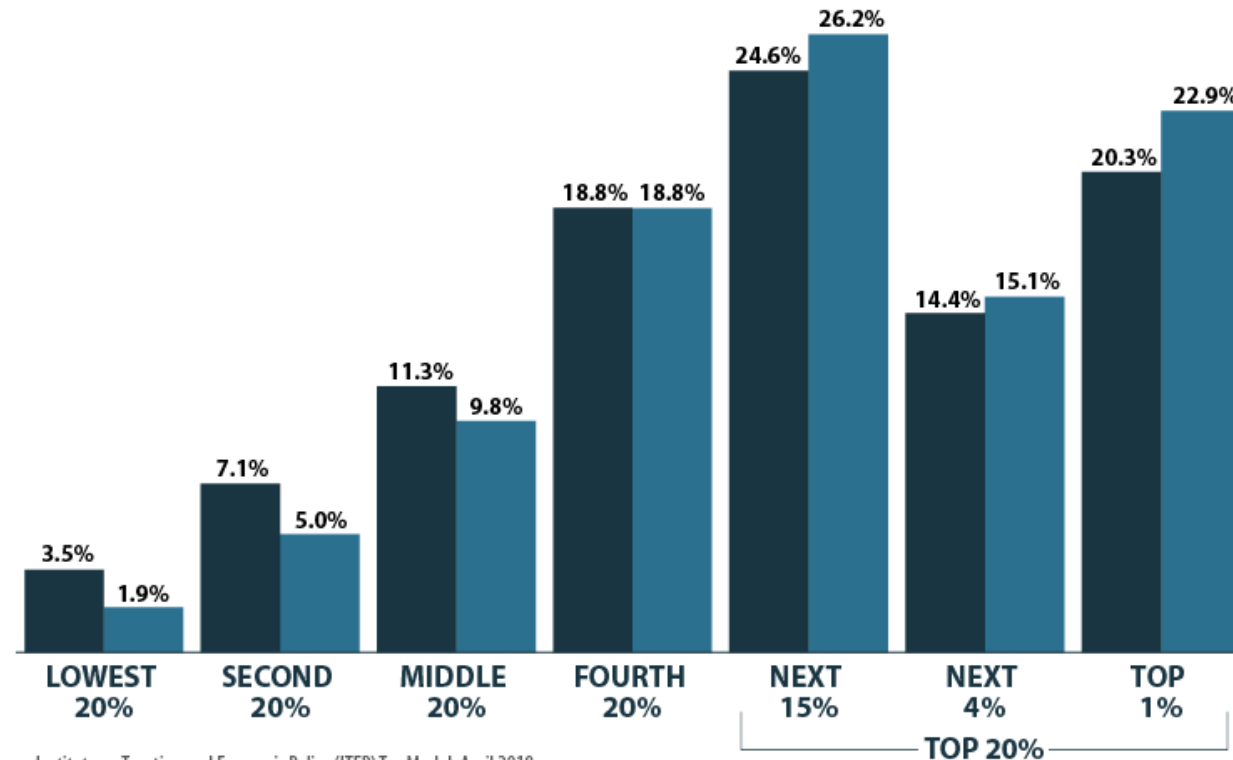
About the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP)

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization that works on federal, state, and local tax policy issues. ITEP's mission is to ensure that elected officials, the media, and the general public have access to accurate, timely, and straightforward information that allows them to understand the effects of current and proposed tax policies.

ITEP's work focuses particularly on issues of tax fairness and sustainability.

SHARES OF TOTAL TAXES PAID VS. SHARES OF TOTAL INCOME IS ROUGHLY EQUAL BY INCOME GROUP IN 2018

■ % of Total American Income ■ % of Total American Taxes Paid

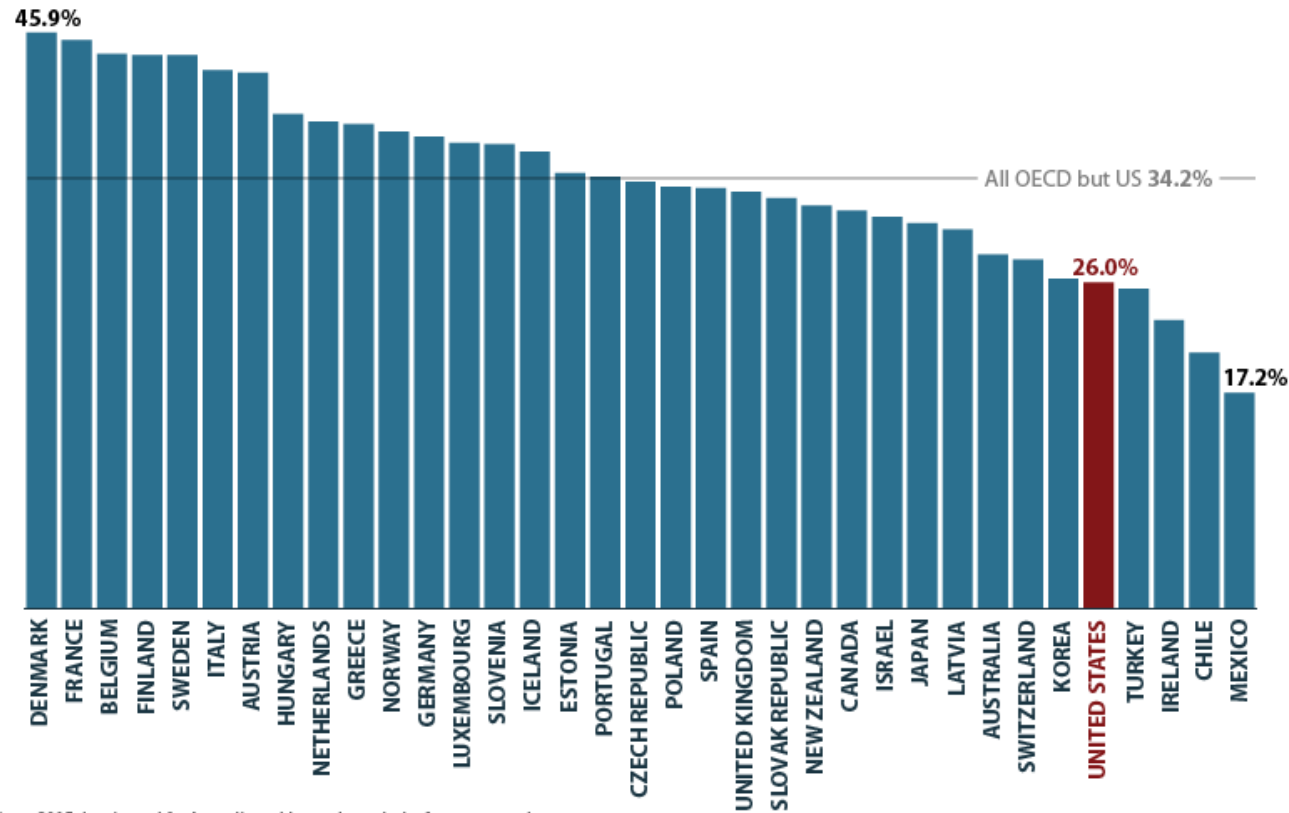


Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) Tax Model, April 2018

Everyone pays taxes, including those who earn the least.

- Our collective federal, state, and local tax system includes income taxes, payroll taxes (Social Security, Medicare), property taxes, sales and other excise taxes.
- The total share of taxes (federal, state, and local) that Americans across the economic spectrum [will pay in 2018 is roughly proportional to their total share of income.](#)

TOTAL TAXES AS SHARE OF NATION'S GDP IN 2016

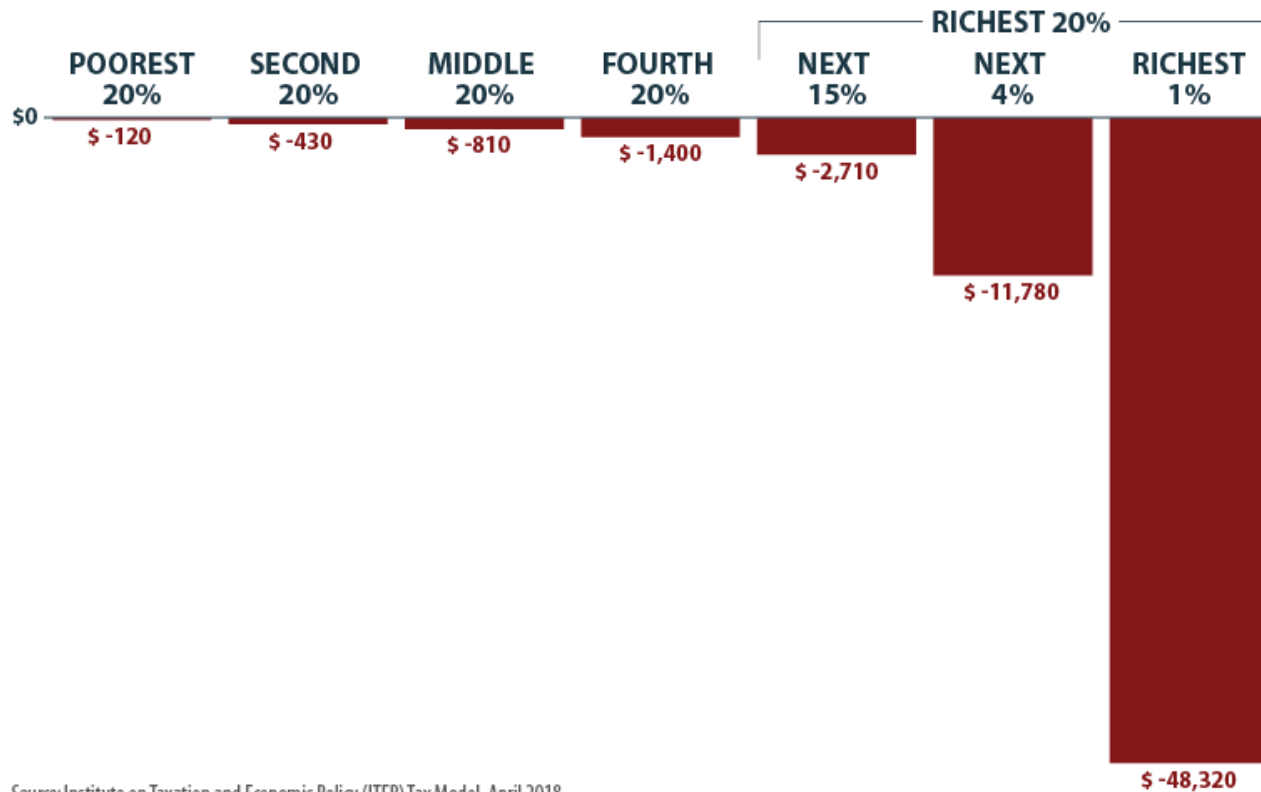


Notes: 2015 data is used for Australia and Japan due to lack of more recent data.
Source: OECD data, <http://stats.oecd.org/>; 2018.

Taxes in the United States are much lower than in most other developed nations.

- Taxes accounted for 26 percent of the nation's GDP in 2016, well below the OECD average and lower than all but four other OECD member nations. The countries collecting more in taxes as a share of their economy than the United States includes many of our most prominent trade partners and competitors, such as France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada.
- The United States could increase its tax revenue by 30 percent across the board and still be below the OECD average.

AVERAGE TAX CHANGES IN 2018: IMPACTS OF THE TRUMP-GOP TAX LAW IN THE UNITED STATES

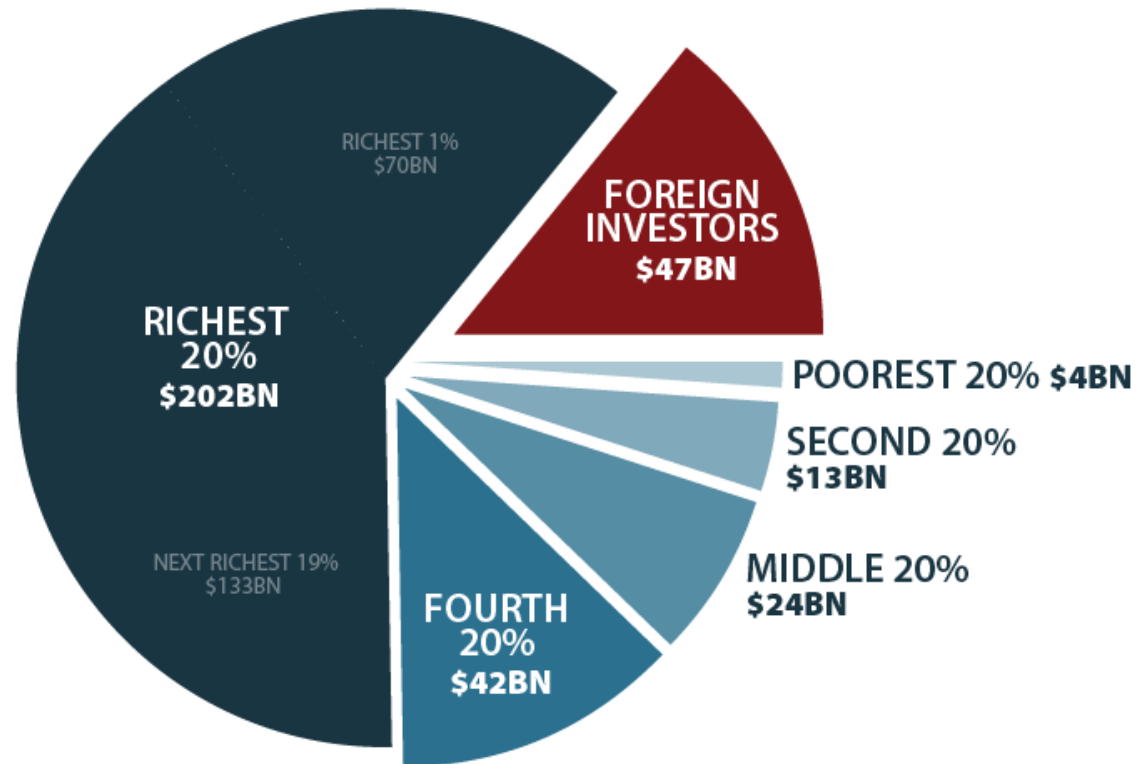


Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) Tax Model, April 2018

The majority of the Trump-GOP tax cuts go to the wealthy.

- Roughly [half of the Trump-GOP tax cuts will go to the top 5 percent of taxpayers](#). In 2018, the top 1 percent will receive an average annual tax break of more than \$48,000 compared to about \$800 for the middle 20 percent.

TAX CUTS & JOBS ACT IN 2018: WHO BENEFITS AND HOW MUCH (in Billions)



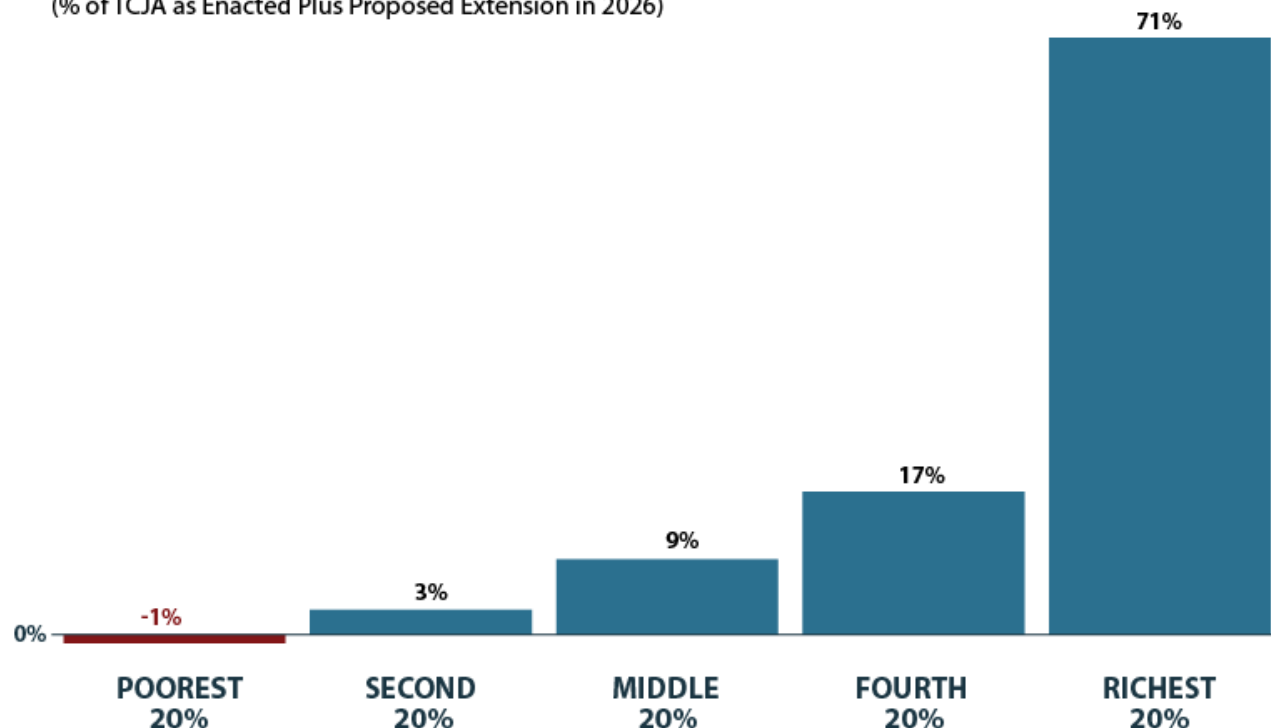
Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, April 2018

Foreign investors collectively will benefit more from the Trump-GOP tax law than the bottom 60 percent of tax payers.

- [In the case of tax cuts, America first apparently does not apply.](#) In 2018, foreign investors collectively will net \$47 billion in total tax breaks from the Trump-GOP tax law while taxpayers in the bottom 60 percent will collectively receive \$41 billion.

AVERAGE TAX CHANGES IN 2026: TAX HIKES FOR POOR, BIG CUTS FOR THE RICH UNDER TAX LAW EXTENSION

(% of TCJA as Enacted Plus Proposed Extension in 2026)



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) Tax Model, April 2018

If Republicans in Congress pass extend the Trump-GOP tax cuts, the top 1 percent would get an annual tax break of more than \$29,000.

- [Making permanent all of the Trump-GOP tax law](#) would make the already regressive law even more so, with 71 percent going to the richest fifth of taxpayers, providing the richest one percent with an average annual tax break of \$29,910 dollars.

15 CORPORATIONS PAID A LOWER AVERAGE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RATE THAN ORDINARY AMERICANS

IN 2017 AND/OR OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

	2017 TOTALS			2013-17 TOTALS			INDUSTRY
	US PROFIT (in Millions)	FED TAX (in Millions)	RATE	US PROFIT (in Millions)	FED TAX (in Millions)	RATE	
AFLAC	\$1,245	-\$91	-7.3%	\$5,587	\$754	13.5%	Financial
Amazon.com	\$5,419	-\$137	-2.5%	\$12,776	\$674	5.3%	Retail & wholesale trade
Dish Network	\$1,613	-\$71	-4.4%	\$7,381	\$707	9.6%	Telecommunications
Duke Energy	\$4,203	-\$247	-5.9%	\$18,648	-\$370	-2.0%	Utilities, gas and electric
E-Trade	\$1,075	—	—	\$2,623	-\$5	-0.2%	Financial
Eli Lilly	\$326	-\$101	-30.9%	\$7,823	\$869	11.1%	Pharmaceuticals & medical products
International Paper	\$320	-\$73	-22.8%	\$3,073	-\$498	-16.2%	Miscellaneous manufacturing
Kinder Morgan	\$1,979	-\$137	-6.9%	\$8,285	-\$369	-4.5%	Oil, gas & pipelines
Liberty Media	\$797	-\$38	-4.8%	\$11,976	\$22	0.2%	Miscellaneous services
Metlife	\$679	-\$246	-36.2%	\$11,812	\$407	3.4%	Financial
Molson Coors	\$1,484	-\$177	-11.9%	\$7,124	\$140	2.0%	Food & beverages & tobacco
Owens Corning	\$337	-\$2	-0.6%	\$1,131	-\$11	-1.0%	Miscellaneous manufacturing
Penske Automotive Group	\$371	-\$4	-0.9%	\$1,499	\$72	4.8%	Motor vehicles and parts
PG&E Corp.	\$2,123	-\$10	-0.5%	\$7,463	-\$506	-6.8%	Utilities, gas and electric
Prudential Financial	\$2,530	-\$47	-1.9%	\$12,759	\$264	2.1%	Financial
TOTAL	\$24,500	\$-1,380	-5.6%	\$119,959	\$2,150	1.8%	

Source: ITEP Analysis of Corporate 10-K Annual Reports

Corporate tax rates were already low before the Trump-GOP tax law cut them further.

- Many major profitable corporations from diverse sectors, including Amazon, Dish Network, Molson Coors, Metlife, and Prudential Financial, [paid nothing in federal income taxes in 2017](#).
- [U.S. corporate tax collections in 2016 were below the OECD average as a share of GDP](#) and could become the lowest of any developed country moving forward, thanks to the Trump-GOP tax cuts.
- Many companies, such as AT&T, Boeing, Bank of America, and AFLAC, that have announced one-time worker bonuses in light of the Trump-GOP tax law [have been paying tax rates of 21 percent or below for years](#). The fact that they were already paying low rates undermines the suggestion that the tax law drove these one-time bonuses.

ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE STATES 2006-2016

■ 9 States with No Broad-Based Personal Income Tax

■ 9 States with Highest Personal Income Tax Rate (Average 10%)

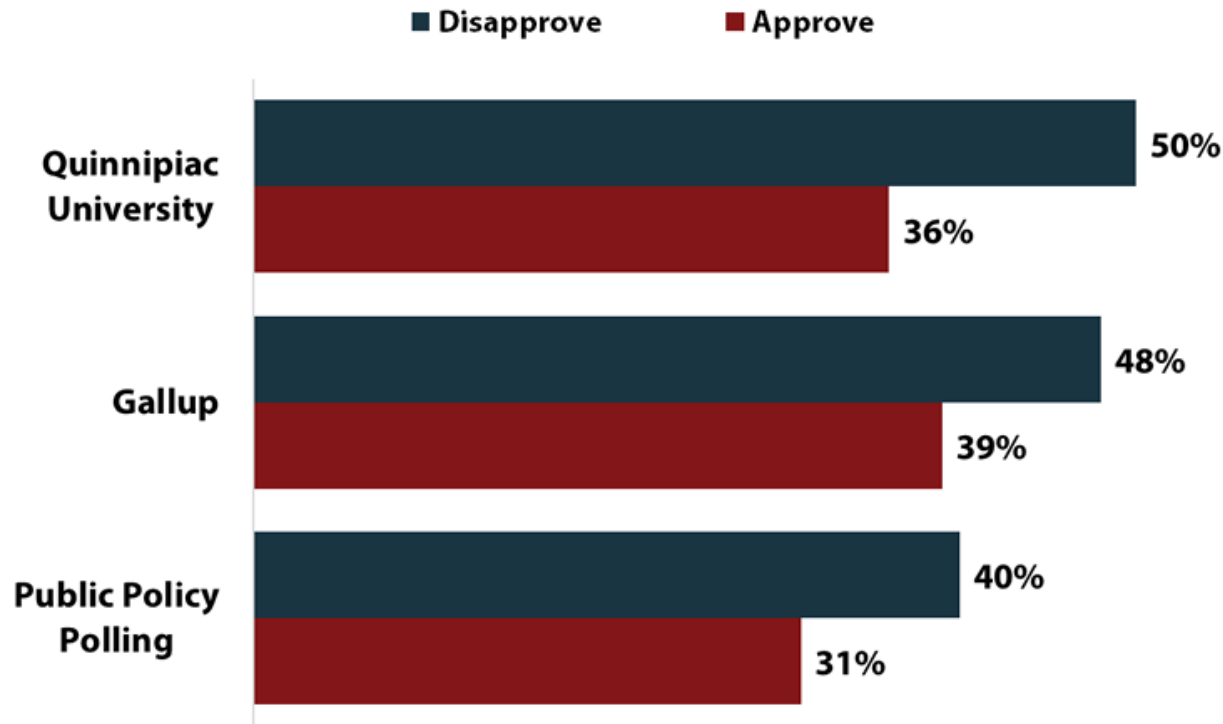


Source: ITEP calculations based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. State averages are unweighted.

Tax cuts for the rich and corporations do not trickle down or spur economic growth.

- Using data from the past 65 years, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has found that there is [no correlation](#) between top tax rates and economic growth. This conclusion holds true at the state level, where [research from ITEP](#) and [academic economists](#) has shown lowering or eliminating state income taxes has little if any impact on state economies.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPPOSES THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT



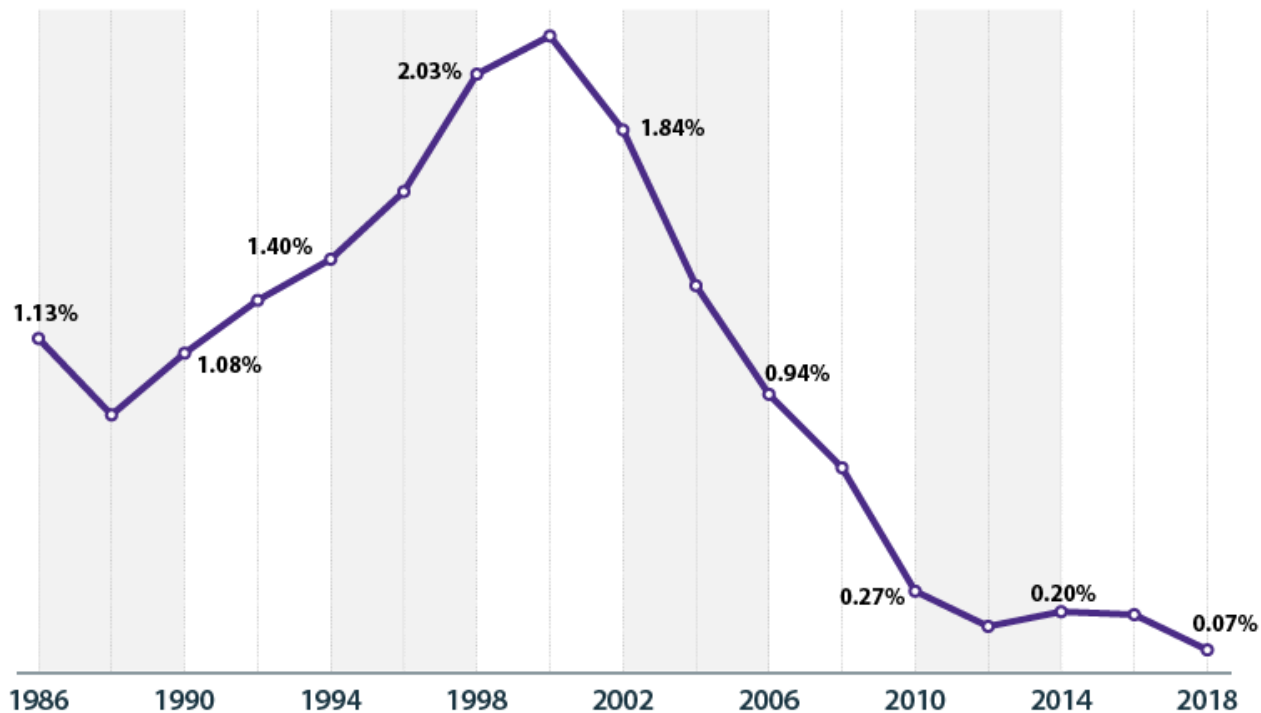
Source: Quinnipiac University Poll, "Trump Gets Most Votes As Worst President Since WWII, Quinnipiac University National Poll Finds; Reagan, Obama a Top Trump 4-1 As Best President" March 7, 2018.; Gallup Poll, "Support for Tax Overhaul Rising, but Law Remains Unpopular" March 7, 2018. Public Policy Polling, "Voters Like High School Gun Protesters; Don't Like NRA," March 27, 2018.

The American public opposes the Trump-GOP tax law and believes the wealthy and corporations should pay more.

- Three recent polls about the Trump-GOP tax law all reveal that more Americans oppose the law than support it. A recent Quinnipiac University Poll found that [50 percent of voters](#) disapprove of the Trump-GOP tax law versus 36 percent who approve. Similarly, a recent Gallup survey found that [48 percent of Americans](#) disapprove of the Trump-GOP tax law, while 39 percent approve of it. In addition, a recent Public Policy Polling national poll found that [only 31 percent](#) of voters support the Trump-GOP tax law, while 40 percent oppose it.

ESTATES SUBJECT TO TAX

(Percent, Selected Years)

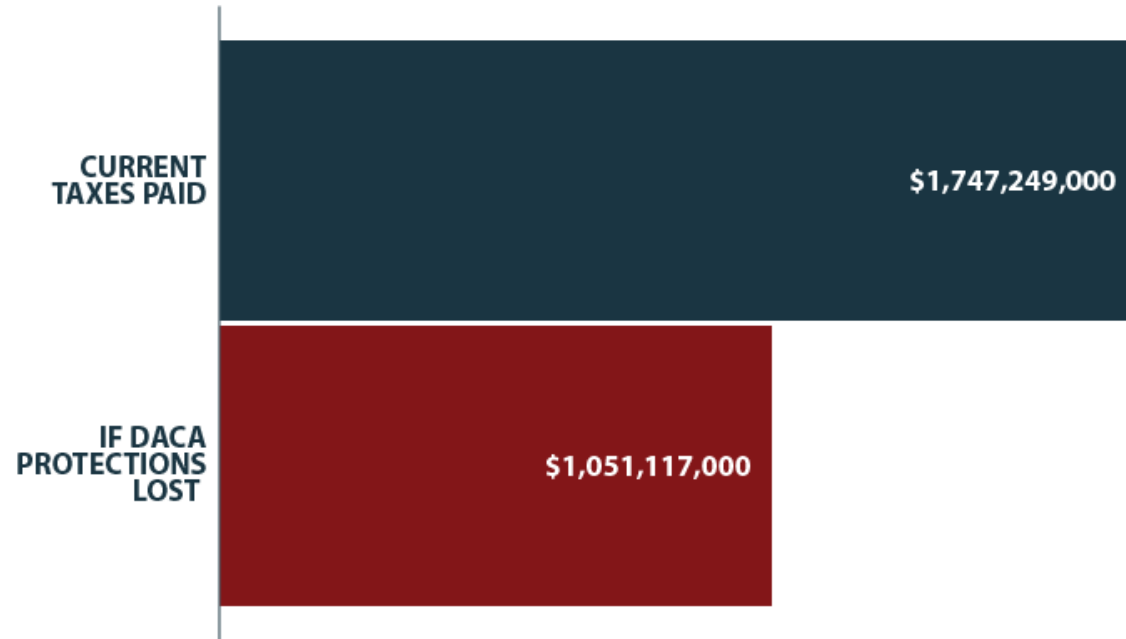


Source: ITEP analysis of Joint Committee on Taxation, IRS, and Center for Disease Control data.

Only a fraction of 1 percent of all estates (0.07) pay the estate tax

- Due to the doubling of the estate tax exemption in the Trump-GOP tax law, the vast majority of wealthy estates will not pay any estate tax. In fact, only 0.07 percent, that is only 7 out of every 10,000 estates, will owe anything in the federal estate tax going forward.
- The amount of an estate that is exempt from taxation increased to \$11.2 million from \$5.6 million. For married couples, the exemption is now \$22.4 million.

STATE AND LOCAL TAX CONTRIBUTIONS OF DACA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS CURRENT AND POTENTIAL



Source: ITEP

Undocumented immigrants pay a higher average state and local tax rate than the richest 1 percent.

- Undocumented immigrants who are receiving or are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), also known as Dreamers, pay [\\$1.7 billion in state and local taxes](#) each year. If their DACA protections are lost, state and local governments could lose \$696 million in needed revenue.
- Undocumented immigrants contribute an estimated \$11.74 billion in state and local taxes each year. This means that undocumented immigrants contribute 8 percent of their incomes in state and local taxes on average, which is higher than the average 5.4 percent paid by the richest 1 percent of taxpayers.