



# SUPPORTING TAX REFORM

A How-to Guide for Activists



TEA PARTY  
PATRIOTS  
CITIZENS FUND

[www.teapartypatriotscitizensfund.com](http://www.teapartypatriotscitizensfund.com)



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Tax reform is the next policy battle in Washington, D.C. and we have a narrow window to pressure Congress to do the right thing and provide tax relief through a simplified tax code.

The U.S. tax code today is more than six times longer than it was in 1955. The tax code is a barrier to innovation and job creation, and it is time to simplify the tax code to unleash our economic potential.

Americans overwhelmingly support changes to the tax code that would make the United States more competitive and help the economy grow. Americans also want to see a tax code that is simpler, flatter, and fairer. All of these goals can be accomplished through meaningful tax reform, which is our focus for the next several months.

This simple “how-to” guide is designed for activists and groups alike. We have included sample social media, a sample letter to the editor (as well as guidance for how to write a letter to the editor), and a sample letter to Congress, among other resources.

We look forward to seeing how you employ the various components of this toolkit!

In liberty,

The Tea Party Patriots Citizens Fund Support Team



Write 1 Facebook post to share with your friends about the need to enact meaningful tax reform. (Total time: 10 minutes)



Tweet about tax reform. (Total time: 10 minutes)



Write a letter to the editor. (Total time: 1 hour)



Write an email or letter to Congress about tax reform. (Total time: 30 minutes)



Sign our petition and be sure to “check the box” so we can send your message to Congress. (Total time: 5 minutes). Our petition can be found here: <https://taxreform.act.teapartypatriotscitizensfund.com>



Share our petition on social media. (Total time: 5 minutes) Our petition can be found here: <https://taxreform.act.teapartypatriotscitizensfund.com>



- The U.S. tax code is complicated and unwieldy, and is a drain on our economy.
- Americans waste time and money preparing their taxes each year because our tax code is so complicated.
- Tax reform in our country is long overdue.
- Americans want a tax code that is simpler, flatter, and fairer.
- Our current tax system slows economic growth, and reduces opportunity and wages for all Americans.
- Americans are ready for tax reform that moves our nation forward.
- The tax code of the United States is more than 75,000 pages long, and the Internal Revenue Service has more than 2,000 forms and instructions. Americans spend over 6 billion hours preparing their tax returns every year, and more than \$400 billion to ensure they've complied with the law.
- The complexity of the tax code is increasing. Because the code is so complex, there are hidden compliance costs that one recent study estimated to be as high as \$987 billion annually – that's almost 40 percent of the amount of revenue collected annually by the federal government.
- Money spent complying with the tax code is money not spent on more productive uses. Estimates of foregone economic growth range from a low of \$148 billion per year to a high of \$609 billion per year.
- Everyone deserves a tax break: job creators, job holders, job seekers
- The tax reform proposals put forward by the GOP will make the United States more competitive.
- The proposed plan would increase the child tax credit.
- The plan would also raise the standard deduction.
- The plan calls for broad simplification of the tax code, reducing the number of brackets to just three (instead of the current code's seven brackets). The rates would be: 12%, 25%, and 35%.
- The proposed plan would also repeal the estate tax, also known as the "death tax."



SAMPLE TWEETS FOR TWITTER

.@POTUS @realDonaldTrump We need sensible **#taxreform! #MAGA #tcot**

.[INSERT HANDLE FOR YOUR REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR] Businesses and job creators need tax reform to help **#MAGA. @tppatriots #tcot**

**#TaxReform** discussion is a fight for the future of our country. Time for a tax code that grows the economy! **#tcot #DraintheSwamp**

Americans want **#taxreform** to help grow the economy. **#tppatriots #maga**

Real **#taxreform** – simpler, fairer, and flatter tax code - will **#MAGA**

Americans want a tax code they can understand! @POTUS @realDonaldTrump  
**#tppatriots #maga**

@realDonaldTrump Make American great again and the tax code simple again!  
@POTUS **#tppatriots #maga**

.@POTUS @realDonaldTrump the American people want a simpler, fairer, and flatter tax code.  
**#taxreform #MAGA**



### WHAT IS A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

A letter to the editor is a letter written to the Editor of a newspaper. The letter is an opportunity for you to express your opinion about a recent article published in the paper or an issue in the news.

Writing letters to the editor is an important engagement tool for activists. They allow activists to do the following



- 1) Reach a broader audience than you normally would have;



- 2) Hold your local journalists accountable;



- 3) Present alternative views on political issues.

Letters to the editor are usually found in the first section of the newspaper or on the editorial page.

### WANT ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Major corporations, Members of Congress, and even the White House all pay attention to op-eds and local letters to the editor. The White House is even keeping track of letters to the editor on its tax reform webpage.

### GUIDELINES FOR GETTING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR PUBLISHED

Most newspapers publish guidelines with their specific requirements for getting a letter published, but here are some general rules that will help you get your letter to the editor published.

- Include your name and address and a telephone number where you can be reached.
- Be respectful and courteous, even when disagreeing with the Editorial Board about a specific issue.
- Be specific. If you are opposed to Obamacare, mention the specific reasons why. Provide examples.
- Cite your sources. If you include any quoted material, be sure to correctly cite your source or attribute the quote.
- Use proper grammar. Spellcheck your letter and be sure to use proper grammar. Refer to *The Elements of Style* for a great overview of effective writing.
- Be concise. Letters to the editor are much more likely to be published if they are 300 words or less. Make your point as clearly and concisely as possible.





Dear Editor,

Tax reform is the next big policy fight on the horizon in Washington, DC, and it is long overdue! The U.S. tax code – with more than 75,000 pages – is an incomprehensible mess. The Internal Revenue Service offers more than 2,000 forms and instructions. That is excessive, to put it mildly.

In order to comply with the sheer volume of tax rules, Americans spend over 6 billion hours preparing their tax returns every year, and more than \$400 billion to ensure they've complied with the law. Imagine how great our economy would be if those 6 billion hours were poured into creative enterprise!

The hard-earned money that Americans must spend complying with the tax code is, of course, money that we are not spending elsewhere in the economy.

The tax code should be simpler, flatter, and fairer. And our tax system should raise the money necessary to fund our government, while minimizing compliance costs. It's a simple message that Americans support. Let's hope Congress is listening.

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Your City



DATE

The Honorable <<Senator's/Representative's First and Last Name>>  
ADDRESS

Dear Senator/Congressman<<LAST NAME>>,

I am writing as your constituent to urge you to support tax reform. Meaningful tax reform would do all of the following: 1) raise the revenue necessary to fund proper activities of government at the lowest level possible; 2) include lower and fewer tax rates applied to a broader base; 3) minimize compliance and administrative costs, including time spent complying with the code.

The U.S. tax code is an unwieldy and incomprehensible mess that leaves most Americans in the position of being required to hire attorneys and accountants just to make sense of their own tax bills.

The tax code is a barrier to innovation and to job growth and hampers economic growth. Americans would prefer to spend less time wrestling with the tax code and more time engaged in productive pursuits.

I will follow up with your staff next week to learn more about your plans to simplify the tax code

Sincerely,

[INSERT FULL NAME]

[INSERT YOUR FULL ADDRESS]

[INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS]



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## ABOUT TEA PARTY PATRIOTS CITIZENS FUND

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Tea Party Patriots Citizens Fund stands for every American, and is home to millions who have come together to pursue the American Dream and to keep that Dream alive for their children and grandchildren.

What unites the tea party movement is the same set of core principles that brought America together at its founding, that kindled the American Dream in the hearts of those who struggled to build our nation, and made the United States of America the greatest, most successful country in world history.

At its root the American Dream is about freedom. Freedom to work hard and the freedom to keep the fruits of your labor to use as you see fit without harming others and without hindering their freedom. Very simply, three guiding principles give rise to the freedom necessary to pursue and live the American Dream: Personal Freedom, Economic Freedom and a Debt-Free Future.

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