

Build a Budget for 2018

<https://www.nationalpriorities.org/>

Use the *National Priorities* website graphics to answer the following questions:

Look at the graphic on **Total Spending** for 2015.

How much of spending was **mandatory**, required by law?

How many trillions of dollars was spent on transfer payments to **Medicare** and **Social Security**?

Use the **Discretionary Spending** graphic to determine the percentage and amounts of the total discretionary spending for the federal budget in 2015. These amounts were subject were passed by the Congress and signed by President Obama?

| | Percentage of Discretionary Spending 2015 | Total Amount | Your Budget Priorities Amounts for 2018 |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| National Defense | 54% | 598 b. | |
| Government | | | |
| Education | | | |
| Medicare and Health | | | |
| Veterans Benefits | | | |
| Housing and Community | | | |
| International Affairs | | | |
| Energy and Environment | | | |
| Science | | | |
| SSI, Unemployment and Labor | | | |
| Transportation | | | |
| Food and Agriculture | | | |

Your Budget Priorities:

The total amount of discretionary spending in 2015 was approximately **1,113 billion dollars**. This is over a trillion dollars (1,000 billion). Use this same amount of revenue for your proposed 2018 budget. Work with your team to make spending increases for budget areas that are your priorities. Then offset these increases with spending cuts for programs that you feel are less important. Put your new budget numbers in the right hand column. Explain your budget below:

Your Tax Plan:

Use the **Revenues** graphic to look at the sources of tax revenue for the federal government in 2015. Notice that over 90% of all federal revenue came from three types of taxes. Fill in the amounts below.

| Type of Tax | Percentage | Amount in 2015 | Your Tax Proposal |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Individual Income Taxes | 47% | 1.48 trillion | |
| Payroll Taxes | | | |
| Corporate Taxes | | | |

Discuss any changes you might want to make in the amount of revenues gained from each type of tax. Put your tax proposal numbers in the right hand column, making sure that you at least continue to provide about 2.9 trillion dollars in revenue for the total budget.