THE PEOPLE'S AUDIT

(VERSION 1.4)

OF THE US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Our government is littered with waste, fraud, and abuse intentionally designed to benefit the wealthiest among us, but now, the people are here to root it out.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- **END CORPORATE WELFARE FOR OIL & GAS:** Large oil and gas companies received $17 billion in taxpayer subsidies throughout 2024 alone, and those funds are only being used to line the pockets of greedy executives. These companies that rake in billions of dollars in profits utilize their endless coffers to exploit and poison our land and buy and sell our politicians like real estate. We need to decouple this so-called "free" market from its dependence on the American taxpayer and officially end the era of corporate welfare programs.
    - Ending oil and gas corporate welfare subsidies could **save an estimated $17 billion annually** for American taxpayers.
    - Interdepartmental scope may (or likely) extend beyond the Department of the Treasury.

- **REDUCING THE BURDEN OF CORPORATE TAX CHEATS:** Large corporations have evaded paying their fair share of taxes in elaborate schemes, like stashing their profits in offshore tax havens, costing American taxpayers $200 billion in lost revenue annually. Every dollar they spend in taxes is a bill picked up by hard-working American families. Through executive action that directs the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to increase tax code enforcement on the wealthiest companies and prioritize audits of large corporations, we generate billions of dollars annually in lost revenue.
    - By increasing tax code enforcement and prioritizing audits on large corporations and tax havens, our most conservative estimates project that we can **potentially generate and save the American people $50 billion annually in lost revenue.**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- **END WASTE, FRAUD, & ABUSE AT THE PENTAGON:** Defense contractors and weapon manufacturers have created an effective revolving door between the Pentagon's highest ranks and their wealthiest executives. They've created a system where they can profit from the endless US war machine and proceed to go on and secure high-level positions overseeing elements of the mightiest military on the planet. Between fraudulent inflation of the cost of parts and weapons, a pattern of routinely overpaying on contracts, and excessive reliance on civilian contractors, the Department of Defense may present one of the greatest opportunities for effective and justifiable budget cuts.

    - Through routine audits and installing stricter financial safeguards paired with congressional oversight, targeted cuts to the above-mentioned waste, fraud, and abuse could potentially **save the American taxpayer between $30 and $100 billion**.

- **REINSTATING PUBLIC SERVICE AND ENDING SELF-ENRICHMENT:** While rank-and-file soldiers scrape by on poverty wages and are asked to serve multiple tours without question, private contractors at the Pentagon are raking in overtime pay for desk jobs and logistics work, with some billing taxpayers over $300,000 a year for glorified administrative paperwork. It's an open secret in D.C. that civilian defense contractors inflate hours, double-dip on contracts, and exploit weak oversight to cash in at taxpayer expense. The President has the authority to immediately end this legalized grift by issuing an executive order to cap non-essential contractor overtime, ban excessive hourly billing rates, and enforce transparency on all subcontractor work.

    - Even modest reforms to billing practices and overtime abuse could **conservatively save $6 to $9 billion every year.** It's time we stop treating defense contracting like a get-rich-quick scheme and start paying soldiers before paper-pushers.

- **NO FIGHTER JET IS WORTH A TRILLION DOLLARS:** The F-35 fighter jet isn't a plane, it's a trillion-dollar disaster with wings. Sold as the future of American air dominance, the F-35 program has instead become one of the most expensive and dysfunctional weapons systems in history. With over $1.7 trillion projected in total lifetime costs, this weapons contract scam has failed almost

every metric: it's plagued by design flaws, maintenance nightmares, software bugs, and cost overruns. And yet, defense contractors keep cashing in while the Pentagon keeps ordering more. A true President of the People must immediately issue an executive freeze on new F-35 procurement, cancel pending contracts, and redirect those funds toward climate resilience, public infrastructure, and veteran services.

    - Even a partial wind-down **could save $10 to $15 billion annually**, and a full shutdown could free up hundreds of billions over the next two decades. It's time to stop funding a flying failure and start investing in things that actually keep people safe.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

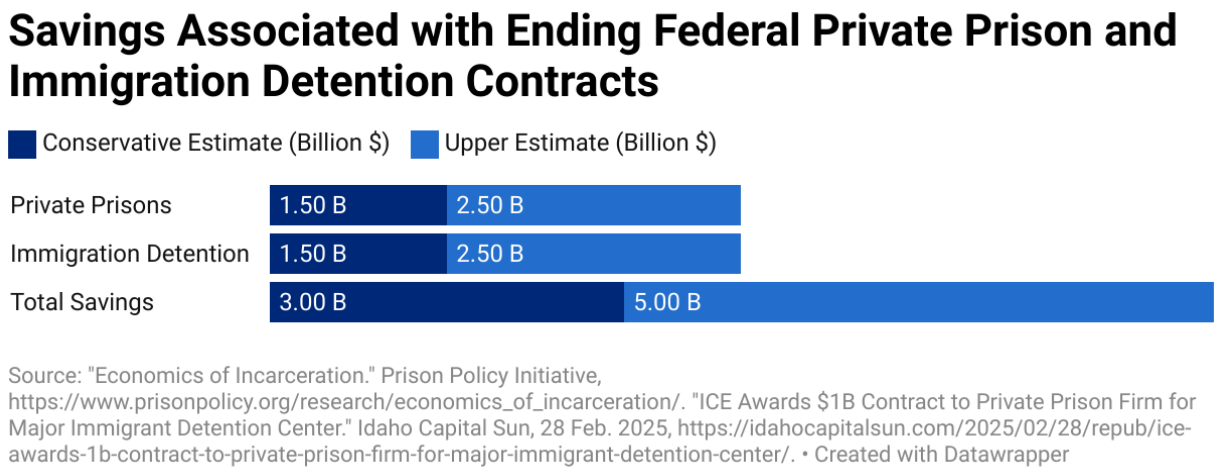
- **END CONTRACTS FOR CORPORATIONS PROFITING FROM A MIGRANT CRISIS:** Our nation's efforts to enforce our immigration laws have been largely cruel, unethical, and unnecessarily expensive. To make matters worse, the Federal government has financially incentivized a humanitarian crisis to allow private detention centers to extract profit from human suffering. Immigrants seeking the promise of America deserve the dignity and respect to do so, free of for-profit exploitation. We'd argue there is no instance where greedy corporations should profit from a humanitarian crisis, no matter the circumstances. Yet it was just two weeks ago[1] that the Trump-run Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency granted a $1 billion contract for a private, for-profit detention center to house undocumented immigrants in northern New Jersey. This kind of reckless government spending only displays our government's lack of priorities in solving a problem versus lining the pockets of CEOs at the expense of immigrants. By ending all private detention and prison contracts, we can deliver large savings in spending and pay down our national moral bankruptcy.

    - Immediately rescinding this contract and ending all private prison and detention contracts entirely **could potentially save the American**

[1]Ruth Brown, "ICE awards $1B contract to private prison firm for major immigrant detention center," *Idaho Capital Sun*, February 28, 2025, https://idahocapitalsun.com/2025/02/28/repub/ice-awards-1b-contract-to-private-prison-firm-for-major-immigrant-detention-center/.

taxpayer anywhere between ~$2 to $3 billion at our most conservative estimates.

- Interdepartmental scope may (or likely) extend beyond the Department of Homeland Security.



- **TEAR DOWN THE WALL OF PROFIT:** The Trump administration's so-called "Border Wall Project" is nothing more than a corporate giveaway wrapped in hate and sold by lies. It's time we stop pouring taxpayer dollars into a steel-and-concrete monument to xenophobia that enriches private contractors like Fisher Sand & Gravel while doing nothing to solve our broken immigration system. Under the first Trump administration, over $15 billion was diverted (much of it unlawfully) from the Pentagon and other federal agencies to fund construction of a border wall, funneling contracts to well-connected companies through no-bid or shady expedited processes. Despite this spending spree, large segments remain unfinished, structurally compromised, or built in places where they serve no functional purpose.

    - A progressive administration could cancel all outstanding and future wall construction contracts with the swipe of a pen, clawing back billions in unspent or unobligated funds, and halting ongoing maintenance and surveillance costs tied to the wall. Combined, this action would **free up an estimated $5 to $7 billion immediately**, with recurring annual savings from avoided upkeep, staffing, and private security surveillance contracts. That's literally billions we could

instead invest in processing asylum claims faster, improving port-of-entry infrastructure to prevent terrorism, violence, and drug smuggling, in order to build a humane immigration system that reflects our values and not the interests of border profiteers.

- **GOVERNMENT DOESN'T NEED YOUR FACE TO KEEP YOU SAFE:** For years, DHS has poured billions into an extensive biometric database, building facial recognition checkpoints in airports, harvesting fingerprints at the border, and even experimenting with DNA scans on asylum seekers. These wanna-be-authoritarian programs aren't just an assault on American civil liberties; they're a money pit, burning through taxpayer dollars while enriching a handful of surveillance tech contractors. It's time for our government to cancel vendor contracts, halt airport and border biometric expansion, and redirect funds toward civil rights enforcement and infrastructure upgrades.
    - With the DHS biometrics budget surpassing $7.6 billion over the past decade and projected to bloat by billions more through 2030, defunding future expansion of this government-run spy network **could save $5 to $8 billion** over the next five years.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **ENDING TAXPAYER-FUNDED CORPORATE SOCIALISM:** Our Federal government diverts an excessive amount of resources to protect the interests of large, billion-dollar corporations over public needs. Federal agencies have enforced patents and trade secrets for profitable firms with more than enough resources to fund their own litigation efforts to defend their own profits. Not only does this create an unequal system of justice, but it also puts Americans at risk by focusing on profit protection rather than public or community safety. Through executive action that directs the Department of Justice to deprioritize IP and trade secret enforcement for corporations with annual revenues exceeding a threshold of at least $1 billion, we can save the American taxpayer millions annually. By reallocating DOJ and FBI resources from corporate welfare tasks back to public safety, we can end this grotesque form of corporate socialism and divert resources to strengthening communities.
    - By deprioritizing IP and trade secret enforcement for large corporations that have the revenue to fund their own litigation efforts, our most

conservative **estimates predict that savings could reach $1 billion annually for American taxpayers.**

- **ENDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR MASS INCARCERATION:** The federal government squanders billions on mass incarceration, funding unnecessary prison expansions and ineffective punitive measures to mass imprison our communities. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with nearly half of federal prisoners serving time for nonviolent offenses.
    - Closing underused prisons could immediately cut $3 to $4 billion. Likewise, ending long sentences for nonviolent drug offenses would save up to $5 billion annually. Cutting outdated DOJ "crime prevention" grants that incentivize local mass incarceration saves $2-3 billion more. Eliminating this wasteful and harmful spending is **estimated to save between $10 and $12 billion annually.**

- **DEFUNDING THE FBI SPY-FOR-PROFIT PROGRAMS:** For years, the FBI has quietly funneled billions of taxpayer dollars to private surveillance companies. Outsourcing domestic spying operations to ineffective contractors like Palantir and Clearview AI, lacking lawful oversight and accountability. These firms rake in government cash to monitor climate activists, union organizers, and racial justice protesters, labeling everyday Americans as threats while ignoring actual violence from White nationalist networks. It's time we built a bottom-up Federal government that pulls the plug on this dystopian grift by canceling surveillance contracts, dissolving redundant intelligence-sharing programs, and reining in the overreach of federal fusion centers.
    - By ending this unholy alliance between Big Tech and Big Brother, the government **could slash $1 to $2 billion in annual waste** and reinvest it into real community safety, mental health responders, and public transparency. We don't need a privatized surveillance state; we need a democracy that listens, not spies.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- **END FOSSIL FUEL LEASES ON THE PEOPLE'S LANDS AND WATERS:** The federal government leases millions of acres of public land and offshore waters

to fossil fuel companies at below-market rates, essentially handing Big Oil & Gas a massive taxpayer-funded subsidy. By ending new leases and raising royalties on existing ones, we can prevent billions in future taxpayer-funded infrastructure costs (roads, pipelines, etc) and generate revenue by increasing lease rates and closing loopholes that allow companies to underpay royalties.

- The federal government spends $7.5 billion annually on fossil fuel infrastructure support, translating to direct savings. Closing royalty loopholes and increasing rates could recover an additional $7.5 billion annually. Ending this kind of corporate favoritism that ordinary people don't receive in the bureaucratic red tape, while protecting our public lands, would **save a combined total of up to $15 billion per year.**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **ENDING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LOANERS WHO PREY ON STUDENTS:** The Department of Education pays private companies billions of dollars to manage federal student loans, despite these firms trapping borrowers in endless repayment cycles and pushing unnecessary forbearances instead of real relief. Companies like MOHELA, Navient, and Nelnet engage in a prey and profit pattern off student debt, all while making the American taxpayer foot the bill for their endless greed.

    - The federal government spends $1.7 billion annually on servicing fees. Student loan mismanagement increases defaults, costing taxpayers up to $6 billion a year in uncollected funds. Creating a nonprofit, public loan servicing agency could eliminate predatory contractor fees and improve repayment efficiency. Combined, this would **(almost) immediately save the American taxpayer between $5 and $7 billion.**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **END TAXPAYER-FUNDED HANDOUTS TO BIG TELECOM CORPORATIONS:** The federal government hands out billions to giant telecom companies like Comcast and AT&T to expand broadband, but they take the money and fail to deliver reliable, affordable internet. Instead, these funds should support public, municipal broadband networks that offer cheaper, better service. The

president could redirect these funds toward public broadband projects instead of corporate monopolies.

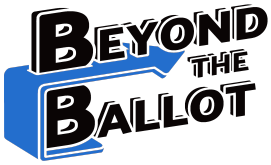
- The FCC and USDA spend $8 billion annually on broadband grants that benefit big telecom companies. The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program costs $2-4 billion annually, often without proper oversight. Cutting off handouts to these billion-dollar corporations like Comcast, AT&T, and Verizon, while shifting support and funding to public broadband projects, is estimated to **save American taxpayers $6 to $10 billion annually.**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **ENDING CORPORATE FRAUD & DECEPTION IN DOT CONTRACTS:** The DOT routinely contracts with private firms for infrastructure projects, but loose oversight has led to fraud, waste, and abuse. Many contractors routinely deliver over-budget or delayed projects, costing taxpayers billions. Firms with a history of legal or ethical violations continue to win federal contracts.

  - The President could act to immediately ban contractors with a history of fraud, cost overruns, or legal violations from bidding on federal contracts, require detailed audits for contracts over $100 million, and implement penalties for contractors who fail to meet deadlines or cost estimates. Combined, strengthening contract oversight **would save $5 billion annually** by reducing fraud and enforcing accountability.

- **GROUNDING THE BILLIONAIRE TRAVEL BUREAU:** While working-class Americans scrape together enough for gas and groceries, the ultra-wealthy are receiving financial assistance, subsidized by your tax dollars. Buried in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) spending and IRS loopholes are billions in hidden subsidies that prop up private jet owners, from tax-deductible fuel and depreciation write-offs to publicly funded air traffic control, hangars, and luxury terminal access. This is not aviation policy, it's just a scam. Under a bold and economically progressive administration, the Executive branch could work with appropriate branches of government to cut FAA discretionary funding for exclusive private jet terminals, repeal maintenance grants to corporate jet hubs, and order the IRS to crack down on executive jet tax write-offs.



- Experts estimate that ending this kind of socialism for the rich could **save taxpayers $1 to $2 billion a year**. That's funding that could be used to improve public transit, upgrade crumbling commercial airports, or lower flight costs for everyone else. It's time the American taxpayer lets the billionaire class pay for their own private jets, because the public doesn't owe them a dime.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **EMPOWERING PEOPLE, NOT POLLUTERS:** While working families struggle to pay rent and keep the lights on, the Department of Energy (DOE) hands out billions in grants, subsidies, and loan guarantees to some of the wealthiest and most polluting companies on the planet. Through programs like the Title XVII Loan Guarantee Program and the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Office, federal dollars are funneled into carbon capture fantasies and "clean coal" scams that serve more as greenwashing PR than actual climate solutions. These subsidies not only pollute our air and poison frontline communities, but they also work to actively undermine the transition to clean energy by crowding out funding for solar, wind, and energy efficiency.

    - It's time we end these taxpayer handouts to billion-dollar polluters, halting fossil fuel loan guarantees and clawing back research grants that line the pockets of Exxon and Chevron. This move would save taxpayers an **estimated $3 to $4 billion annually** and send a clear message: the era of public handouts for private polluters is over. We're investing in a renewable future, not clinging to the smog-choked past.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **PRIORITIZING SMALL AND FAMILY-RUN FARMS BY ENDING CROP CHECKS FOR BILLIONAIRES:** Behind every government check sent to "support farmers," there's a Cargill, Tyson, or Monsanto executive cashing it in. Federal farm subsidies, especially through crop insurance and "revenue protection" programs, have morphed into billion-dollar handouts for the wealthiest agribusinesses in the country. These megafarms rake in taxpayer cash to cover their losses while smaller family farms get crumbs, or nothing at all. We need a Federal government bold enough to put a stop to this corporate

welfare scam by capping eligibility based on farm size and corporate revenue, cutting off subsidies to firms with multimillion-dollar profits, and requiring full public disclosure of who's getting what.

    - The top 10% of subsidy recipients already collect over 70% of all payments, and reforming this rigged system **could save $6 to $10 billion every year.** It's time to stop paying billionaires to plant soy monocrops and start investing in regenerative agriculture, local food systems, and the working-class farmers who feed America, not the Wall Street shareholders who exploit it.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

- **END TAXPAYER SUPPORT FOR A BILLIONAIRE SPACE PLAYGROUND:** Billionaire-owned space companies receive federal subsidies and contracts, despite their ability to self-fund projects with their endless pockets. Public dollars are funneled into private ventures that prioritize space tourism and profit over scientific advancement.

    - By ending grants, contracts, and subsidies to private space companies (like SpaceX and Blue Origin) unless they're tied directly to NASA's scientific missions and shifting federal investment to space science, planetary exploration, and climate research, we can **save the American taxpayer an estimated $3 billion annually.**

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

- **ENDING EXECUTIVE BENDERS ON THE TAXPAYER DIME:** A progressive administration should immediately end the era of luxury living for federal executives on the taxpayers' dime. High-ranking officials routinely book expensive private flights rather than affordable commercial alternatives, indulge in costly office makeovers, and organize lavish, unnecessary conferences, racking up million-dollar tabs every year. For example, former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price used private charter and military flights costing taxpayers over $1 million, leading to his resignation. Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, federal agencies spent billions on office furniture despite many employees working remotely. The Department of Defense, for instance, utilized just 23% of its office space but spent a massive

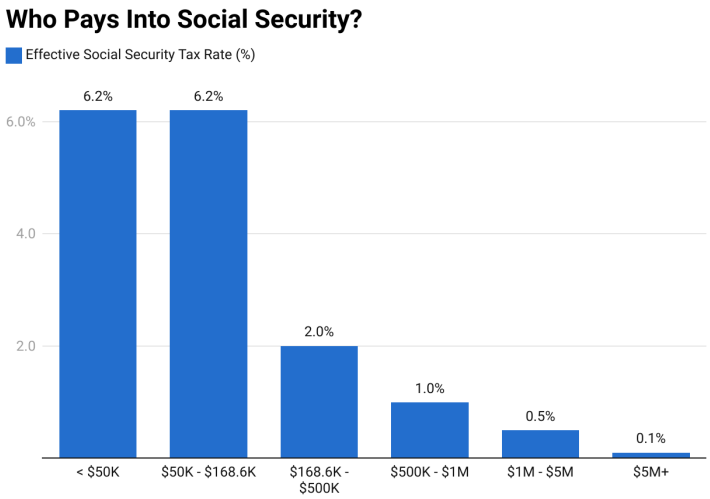
$1.2 billion on furniture, making it the biggest spender over five years. The State Department spent $302 million, and Homeland Security spent another $156 million on furniture. This kind of government abuse not only insults the hardworking taxpayers footing the bill, but simultaneously works to siphon critical funds away from education, healthcare, infrastructure, and other essential public programs.

- Eliminating these unnecessary and offensive executive perks would immediately save taxpayers an **estimated $1 to $2 billion annually**, funds that can and must be invested in genuine public priorities.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **PROGRAM SOLVENCY:** Wealthy individuals don't pay a dime into Social Security after they've earned $168,600. Completely removing the cap (or even carving out extensions of the social security tax for wealthier incomes) can ensure that everyone pays their fair share, eliminating the projected funding shortfalls and extending the program's solvency for generations to come.

  - While this wouldn't translate to direct savings, it would **generate billions of dollars in revenue for Social Security**, making the program more efficient by design.



Source: Urban Institute, "Raising Social Security Benefits and Revenue," Available at: https://www.urban.org/research/publication/raising-social-security-benefits-and-revenu Congressional Budget Office (CBO), "Social Security: The Impact of Removing the Payroll Tax Cap," 2021. Available at: https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57087 • Created with Datawrapper

THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)

- **END THE PHONY, PRIVATE SCAM OF "MEDICARE" ADVANTAGE:** American taxpayers paid $455 billion for the phony "Medicare Advantage" private insurance plan, which represents a 22% increase from 2023 per enrollee (costing you an extra $83 billion). This private, for-profit knock-off of the actual public program falsely uses the Medicare name to fraudulently deceive elderly Americans into buying subpar healthcare coverage from greedy executives. This coverage is far less extensive than traditional Medicare and only ends up costing the American taxpayers more money. If enacted, all Medicare Advantage enrollees would have the option to transfer to traditional Medicare services.
    - Ending the program could **save anywhere between $200 and $400 billion dollars annually** for American taxpayers.

LOWEST ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS:

~ $382 BILLION ANNUALLY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

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