

# The Brand New Congress Plan to Rebuild America

Great jobs for everyone ready to work hard. Capital for communities and small business to repair and rebuild. Conversion to the free energy economy. (Send feedback to [info@brandnewcongress.org](mailto:info@brandnewcongress.org))

**The rebuilding plan in a nutshell:** This is a plan for a mobilization on the scale of World War II -- one in which every American is called upon to rebuild and repair our communities and our nation. This plan unleashes resources to neighborhoods, local and state governments, small and large businesses and innovators to:

1. Rebuild and repair local communities -- starting with those that have been left the farthest behind.
2. Fix our nation's crumbling infrastructure -- starting in the most economically depressed regions of our country.
3. Give small businesses the competitive edge in rebuilding America.
4. Build the inevitable free and clean energy economy *now*.
5. Totally eliminate health care costs for American business.
6. Build new high-wage, high tech industries that America is missing.
7. Pay for it all the same way we've paid for all the multi-trillion dollar wars and bank bailouts.

Imagine every unemployed person in your community or city suddenly having work, struggling small businesses suddenly on a level playing field with big business, and big business suddenly having access to the same capital, infrastructure and other advantages currently available overseas. Imagine America in action again, here at home, making our living in the best way we know how.

**How do we need to rebuild America?** The BNC's plan to rebuild America is what makes it radically different from anything that the Democratic Party or Republican Party has ever presented to the American people. America's economic engine is failing. Despite the fact that worker productivity is skyrocketing and people are working longer and harder than ever, [real wages have stagnated for decades](#). 100% of the gains of the so-called recovery since 2008 have gone to the top 10% of income earners, with the income of the bottom half actually declining.

Like any family who relies on their car to get to work and earn a living, when our engine fails, we need to do whatever it takes to get it working again. We are a nation of 320 million people with all of the resources to make and do everything we could possibly need. There are no excuses

for economic decline here — and no explanation other than our Democratic and Republican establishments' total lack of faith in the American people. Let's throw them out and get building!

Rebuild and repair local communities -- starting with those that have been left the farthest behind.

*What BNC will do:*

- Provide direct funding to local and state governments to rebuild and repair.
- Provide very low interest rate loans to local businesses to make sure that they are the ones who do the work of rebuilding.
- Audit and remove unnecessary federal regulations that make it expensive, difficult or impossible for communities to solve their own problems.

If you live in a rural area, a small city or a low-income area of a big city, you know how necessary this is. While a handful of zip codes in America are booming or being quickly restored through gentrification, [communities across America are in decline](#) in a number of ways: schools are failing, public services are becoming more expensive and less reliable, unused and decaying buildings and homes are multiplying. To counteract the effects of capital being concentrated into a handful of the biggest cities and a small number of zipcodes in smaller cities, we need to provide capital to all communities to rebuild, so that all of America will benefit from this plan. This will come in the form of funding for local governments for the projects they deem necessary -- such as demolition, restoration, clean up, etc... -- and also in the form of very low interest loans to local small businesses so that they can get the work done.

Fix our nation's crumbling infrastructure.

*What BNC will do:*

- Update and fix our country's entire infrastructure.

America's roads, railroads, bridges, tunnels, dams, canals and other infrastructure are desperately in need of fixing. We support the [Society of Civil Engineer's estimate](#) for a complete fix for our crumbling infrastructure of \$3.6 trillion. Currently no one has a comprehensive plan to fix everything. We will be reaching out to experts to get that plan done!

Give small businesses the competitive edge in rebuilding America.

*What BNC will do:*

- Make sure that the rebuilding plan gives preference to small business: for example the home weatherization program would empower local contractors to do the work rather than giving all that work to large businesses.
- Make sure that tax burden is progressive when it comes to businesses too. Right now big business has the legal and lobbying power to get out of so many taxes. Big business should pay a higher percentage of taxes in profits than small business does.

- BNC will form a commission for every branch of business to remove unnecessary and onerous regulations. Right now big business has the power to comply with overly complicated and unnecessary regulations, giving them a competitive edge.
- In making easy credit and tax breaks available to business, the BNC plan will show preference for small business over large business.
- Whenever the government does something that directly benefits a big business, it must balance that with benefits to the small businesses that compete with it.

For more than a century, our government has tilted the playing field in favor of big business against small business. Small, new businesses have been fighting hard, but big business is finally winning out: in recent years, for the first time in American history, the number of new and small businesses has fallen. The Brand New Congress will work to support small and new businesses, just as strongly as our government has helped big business for decades.

Totally eliminate health care costs for American businesses so that they can compete without one hand tied behind their backs.

*What the BNC will do:*

- Provide free health care coverage to America's workforce.

All attempts at fixing health care have failed. And American businesses are paying the price -- bearing a huge cost that their competitors in no trading partner face. All the while, we have a health insurance program that works great for basic healthcare: Medicare. Brand New Congress will expand Medicare to provide basic coverage for everyone in America. Companies will no longer need to provide healthcare to their employees. If an employer wants to provide fancy healthcare as a perk, they can still do that because the private insurance industry will continue to thrive by providing supplemental programs for people who want to pay more for services not covered under Medicare. Everyone will be able to keep their doctor because Medicare is a national health plan already accepted by 93% of doctors (the same percentage as accept private insurance) and there are no "out of network" doctors. It's reasonable to expect that once 100% percent of Americans are covered by Medicare, close to 100% of doctors will accept it. Basic medicare coverage for all Americans will be paid for the same way wars and Wall Street bailouts are: by a tax, and under the BNC that tax will be progressive. For your pocketbook, this means that instead of paying thousands of dollars per year for complicated and restrictive private insurance, you'll pay hundreds in taxes for Medicare -- and if you still want to pay more for health care like in the old days, you still can by paying for extra plans from private insurance companies. In 2014, the average working family paid over \$6,000 on healthcare — but with Medicare-for-All, the average family would only need to pay \$466. (More on this below in the healthcare section.)

Build the inevitable free and clean energy economy ***now.***

*What the BNC will do:*

- Build a 100% renewable energy economy all at once in 10 years, while providing compensation and a place in the economy for the workers, owners and organizations of the old carbon economy.

The renewable energy economy is coming. In the coming decades, the marginal cost of energy will approach zero -- for the simple reason that it comes from the sun, which is free. If we convert deliberately now, we will prevent economic disruption and reduce the impact of climate change. Nearly 10 million Americans are directly or indirectly employed by the oil and gas industries. We need a plan for making sure that all of the people and resources from the old energy economy are employed in building the new renewable energy economy, or are supported in their transition to another part of the economy. There are so many ways that the capacities of the old energy economy can help to build the new. Instead of calling for incentives and regulations designed to coax big business to gradually grow a new energy economy, our plan calls for simply building it: the solar and wind infrastructure, power grids, battery production capacity, electric car production capacity, auto charging networks and so on. We will build the new energy economy through a few different mechanisms: providing capital to and working with large and small businesses to build it, by creating and capitalizing new public-private partnerships to build it, and funding mass adoption of renewable energy by home and property owners, all levels of government and business.

## Build the new high-wage, high tech industries that America is missing.

*What the BNC will do:*

- Work with American industry to build the high-wage, high-value industries that we're missing out on.

Most large countries that have kept wages climbing and kept the quality of jobs improving have one thing in common: They have aggressively built high tech and high wage industries even as they lost lower-tech industries to low wage countries. Much of the value in your smart phone is not made in China but in countries like Germany and Japan, in factories staffed by workers who earn high wages, can afford great health care, take long vacations and work regular work weeks. Why can they do it, but not us? It's because we let ourselves get behind. It's time to build industries we're missing -- which by the time we're doing this will include industries that are only getting started right now. *What would this actually look like?* One concrete example might be launching a public-private partnership (which are common in countries with strong wage growth) that provides capital to Apple, Google and many other companies to begin producing smartphones in the United States. The one move alone wouldn't provide jobs to millions of people, but imagine repeating it across many industries. On top of job creation, this would also help shrink our trade deficit. American workers can make big gains from trade, but only if we produce goods and services that are valuable to the rest of the world.

## How we'll pay for it: The People's QE!

*What the BNC will do:*

- Use the same mechanisms the Wall Street controlled Congress, FED and Treasury have used to fund wars and massive corporate bailouts.
- Instead of borrowing more money from rich people and foreign governments, mobilize American labor, resources and capital to solve our own problems.

Our corrupt government has been handing out trillions of dollars to big business and Wall Street for decades. How did it get away with that when the political and economic establishment keeps telling us the country is broke? One answer is that it made up all kinds of crazy names for it like “Quantitative Easing” which is just a fancy way of saying, “We’re going to give hundreds of billions **more** dollars to all the big banks we just bailed out!” The truth is that the U.S. government will always have the power to channel capital, labor and resources wherever it wants. Since our government is adrifts in a sea of corruption, our resources have mainly been flowing into schemes that “inflate asset prices” -- i.e. make the rich richer -- and away from activities that would help rebuild our economy and lift all Americans into the middle class. We will pay for the rebuilding of America the same way the country always has in times of great crisis: we will use the power vested in the government by the Constitution to mobilize capital, resources and the American people using all the well-established financial instruments that have hitherto been used nearly exclusively for bailing out failed banks and making the rich richer.