



**KAREN HANDEL'S
FOUR POINT PLAN FOR
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & PROSPERITY**

Fellow Georgians,

When I was growing up, I never imagined the opportunities that awaited me. All of us are the beneficiaries of generations before us who left a legacy of freedom and opportunity. And, because of their sacrifices, we've had the chance to pursue our American Dream – however each of us defines that dream. I want to make sure that future generations have their shot at the American Dream – and I know you do, too. That is why I am running for the United States Senate.

We have some real challenges.

Reckless spending by undisciplined career politicians from both sides of the aisle has resulted in a \$17 trillion debt.ⁱ The Federal government is bigger and more intrusive than ever. We haven't reformed our tax code in nearly 30 years, and consequently, we are overtaxed – with a corporate tax rate that is now the highest of any industrialized country in the world.ⁱⁱ The regulatory climate has grown more and more punitive and overbearing, hindering the growth of small business, limiting innovation and expansion, and impeding the creation of quality jobs.

It's time to chart a new course for America – to set this nation on a path forward to fiscal soundness, renewed economic vibrancy, and robust opportunities to move up the economic ladder.

Some talk about what they want to do. I think actions and results say a lot more than words and sound bites. **I have a proven record of achieving conservative results under difficult circumstances.** As Fulton County Commission Chairman, I closed a \$100 million deficit without raising taxes – and without the advantage of a Republican majority. As Secretary of State, I reduced the agency's budget by nearly 20% and fought the Obama Justice Department and numerous liberal groups to fairly and successfully implement voter ID.

Georgians have a real choice in this election.

We can continue with more of the same. My opponents have been in Congress for a combined 42 years. We've seen their results. Now, they want a promotion.

Georgia needs a U.S. Senator who won't be afraid to act – who has the guts and resolve to face the tough issues head on. **I'll be focused on results – not on getting re-elected.** I've taken the 2-term pledge, so that I go to Washington with a great sense of purpose and intense focus to solve the problems and achieve real results. www.2termstotakeitback.com

Today, I offer my plan to put America on a new path forward – a path to fiscal soundness and economic prosperity. My four-step plan:

1. Repeal Obamacare and Enact Congressman Tom Price’s Empowering Patients First Act

- Repeal Obamacare
- Pass the Empowering Patients First Actⁱⁱⁱ

2. Get America’s Finances in Order

- One Cent Solution: Cut 1 cent from every dollar spent for 5 years
- Balanced Budget Amendment: Hold the Federal Government Accountable
- Zero-Based Budgeting
- Permanently Reduce Spending: Kill the Pork Permanently

3. Reduce the Tax Burden on Americans

- Implement the FairTax
- Repeal the 16th Amendment

4. Ease Burdensome Regulations

- The Reins Act
- Comprehensive audit of regulations
- 10-year sunset rule

Another important component to transforming our economy is to pass serious immigration reform. Illegal immigration costs US taxpayers billions of dollars each year. On this issue like so many Congress has simply refused to take serious action. Immigration reform must focus on securing our border and on reforming our nation’s broken visa laws.

The challenges are daunting, and none of this will be easy. But if we work together with serious intention to solve these problems, we can do it. America has confronted and overcome far greater difficulties in the past. It’s time to act. It’s time for results. I hope you’ll read my plan and join my team. Together, we will take the bold actions required today to ensure that the generations of tomorrow have an opportunity to pursue their American Dreams!



1 – REPEAL OBAMACARE & EMPOWER PATIENTS

Obamacare – or Obama’s healthcare tax, as I like to call it – is a catastrophe for American families, American businesses, and our nation’s economy and future financial wellbeing.

President Obama told the American people that “if you like your plan, you can keep it.” We all know now that was a lie – a lie with devastating consequences for families across Georgia.^{iv} Thousands received notices that their plans were being cancelled. Thousands more saw their premiums skyrocket. Others even saw their work hours cut or their jobs eliminated altogether.

For businesses, the impact is just as consequential. Obamacare is perhaps the single greatest regulatory burden that businesses are facing or have ever faced. Small business owners are delaying hiring, and some are even eliminating jobs out of the fear and uncertainty about the effects of this new law.^v At a time when we need more jobs, Obamacare is a jobs killer.

Alarming, this is just the beginning. Take a look at the “Seven Devastating Obamacare Facts” featured recently in Breitbart.com^{vi} :

1. **Obamacare is expected to cost taxpayers \$1.8 to \$2.6 trillion over the next 10 years.** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates Obamacare will cost American taxpayers [\\$1.798 trillion over the next decade](#). The Republican Senate Budget Committee says CBO's numbers rely on overly optimistic economic assumptions and puts the true cost at [\\$2.6 trillion](#).
2. **At least 3.5 million Americans have already received health insurance cancellation notices.** According to data compiled by the Associated Press, [3.5 million Americans](#) have received notices from their health insurance companies that their plans will be cancelled due to Obamacare -- something Obama explicitly promised would not occur. Worse, the Associated Press's calculations are expected to rise, as they are based on data for just half of the states.
3. **The now-infamous Obamacare website cost U.S. taxpayers over \$1 billion to build.** A Bloomberg analysis finds that the broken Obamacare website and its supporting IT infrastructure cost American taxpayers [over \\$1 billion](#).
4. **The New York Times says Obamacare "will leave out two-thirds of poor blacks and single mothers."** The *Times'* [analysis](#) concluded that Obamacare "will leave out two-thirds of the poor blacks and single mothers and more than half of the low-wage workers who do not have insurance, the very kinds of people that the program was intended to help."

5. **Tens of thousands of worker hours and jobs have already been cut due to Obamacare.** Local stories of employers slashing jobs and worker hours have become common since Obamacare went into effect. As of October 17, *Investor's Business Daily's* running Obamacare scorecard listed at least [351 employers](#) who have cut jobs or hours in response to Obamacare.
6. **Premiums will rise by 99% for young men and between 55% to 62% for young women.** As CBS News has [reported](#), an analysis by the Manhattan Institute finds that, despite the Affordable Care Act's name, health insurance premiums will rise dramatically under Obamacare for young men and women--the individuals Obamacare relies on to fund coverage and subsidies for older, sicker Americans.
7. **Obama promised no less than 23 times that "if you like your plan, you can keep your plan."** *NY Magazine* compiled [23 video clips](#) of Obama promising that Obamacare would not result in Americans losing their current healthcare insurance.

Obamacare has hit Georgia especially hard. The Emory Healthcare System cut one hundred jobs, partly due to Obamacare.^{vii} Grady Memorial Hospital, home of Georgia's largest trauma center, faced a \$45 million funding cut that was the direct result of Obamacare.^{viii} Perhaps saddest of all, is the story of two small business owners—entrepreneurs trying to fulfill their American Dream—that now must make a difficult decision.

The company has 18 full-time employees and close to 400 part-time employees. Obamacare's mandates will now force the small business owners to cover the healthcare cost of close to 200 of the part-time employees. These costs are too much to bear. Instead of risking bankruptcy, the employers are seriously considering paying the fine and sending their employees to find healthcare on the infamous Obamacare exchanges.^{ix}

Obamacare is disaster. We must repeal this onerous, harmful law and replace it with a commonsense plan that reforms our healthcare system in a positive way that actually helps Americans.

It just so happens that a solution is already out there, and it comes from my good friend, Congressman Tom Price. It's called the Empowering Patients First Act. In his plan, Congressman Price advocates for patient-centered healthcare, not government-centered health insurance mandates. Here are some highlights from his plan:^x

- Would save American taxpayers \$2.34 trillion in its first decade alone.
- Keeps medical decisions with patients, families, and doctors — not Washington.
- Allows the interstate purchase of insurance — a practice that is currently illegal. As in all markets, this competition drives down costs and empowers families with more choices.

- Reduces the need for defensive medicine, resulting in lower medical bills for American families while still honoring patients' rights.
- Removes governmental barriers to personalized healthcare.
- Allows individuals to keep their policies, even if they lose or change jobs, to cultivate a continuity of care and allow people to keep their doctors, regardless of who's paying.
- Through association health plans and individual membership associations, harnesses the purchasing power of millions by pooling with others across the country. When these pools are widened — a practice currently prohibited by law — prices fall and risks associated with covering individuals with pre-existing conditions vanish. No one should be priced out of the insurance market because of an unfavorable diagnosis.
- Ensures that all Americans will have the financial wherewithal to purchase the kind of coverage they need, not what the government forces them to buy.
- Protects religious liberty and safeguards conscientious objection.

2 – REDUCE SPENDING

Today our country is experiencing a fiscal crisis. Reckless spending and lack of discipline by career politicians have saddled us all with a \$17 Trillion debt. If we include various unfunded promises, the real debt is estimated to be \$86.8 trillion, or 550 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).^{xi} That is over \$250,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

While cutting spending is hard politically, it's not all that complex. In fact, various plans and recommendations have been offered over the years. The Government Accountability Office develops a laundry list of redundant and out-of-date programs each year.^{xii} These are recommendations by the Federal government to cut the Federal government, and still, Congress continues to spend. Senator Tom Coburn produces his annual "wastebok" highlighting hundreds of millions of dollars in waste.^{xiii} Numerous spending and debt reduction plans have been introduced with great fanfare and scores of co-sponsors. Yet, year after year, Congress fails to rein in spending and reduce the debt.

As your U.S. Senator, I will be a champion for reducing spending and fixing our debt, so that we get our nation's finances back on solid ground.

The One-Cent Solution

There are a number of good proposals to cut spending and reduce the nation's debt. There are also countless bad proposals that use budget gimmicks, raise taxes, trim around the edges, or push the "solution" so far out into the future that it is meaningless. However, I've come across an idea that is so simple and straightforward that *even the Washington politicians* should be able to understand it. It's called "The One-Cent Solution," or the "Penny Plan," as introduced by Congressman Connie Mack and Senator Mike Enzi in 2011 and reintroduced in 2013 by Senator Mike Enzi and my friend and fellow Georgian Congressman Austin Scott.

- The One Cent Solution is simple! If the government cuts just one penny out of every dollar of its total spending (excluding interest payments) each year for five years, and then caps overall federal spending at 18 percent of national income from then on, we can balance the budget in just three years AND reduce the debt by \$8.5 Trillion in 10 years.^{xiv}
- The One Cent Plan caps overall spending. Congress must evaluate all areas of the federal government to make certain that future spending fits under the caps.^{xv}
- The One Cent Plan allows for flexibility so that Congress can prioritize spending and spending cuts based on the current needs of our country. Congress is able to make program-by-program decisions to meet the spending caps. If Congress fails to make these decisions, the plan calls for automatic, across-the-board cuts. The One Cent Solution is a "belt and suspenders" approach to make certain that spending is reduced and the budget is balanced.^{xvi}

The One Cent Solution provides Americans with a viable solution to reduce the staggering debt and restore fiscal soundness with a balanced budget where our government lives within its means.

Responsible, Fiscally Sound Budget

It's time for our federal government to start living within its means – the same way that you do with your family's money or your company's finances.

Balanced Budget Amendment

I support a balanced budget and will be a strong advocate for a Constitutional Amendment from my first day in the United States Senate. The proposed Balanced Budget Amendment has been around for decades. The career politicians promise that they will cut spending "next time," but "next time" never comes. Let's stop talking and start cutting the out-of-control spending and move forward responsibly with balanced budgets.

Zero-Based Budgeting

To provide an effective budget framework that supports the One Cent Solution, I support zero-based budgeting for every Federal department and agency. With zero-based budgeting, a department starts with a blank sheet of paper and rebuilds its budget from zero. The budget is based on today's priorities – rather than last year's budget allocation – and provides an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of programs and initiatives. Zero-based budgeting requires those seeking funding to set priorities, evaluate ongoing programs, and validate spending. No longer would programs be funded for decades simply because they have always been funded. I know zero-based budgeting works when it comes to setting priorities, reducing waste and duplication, and cutting spending. I implemented zero-based budgeting in the Georgia Secretary of State's office, and I didn't need a law to direct me to do so.

Two-Year Budget Process

I also wholeheartedly support the efforts of another fellow Georgian, my friend Senator Johnny Isakson and his plan for a biennial budgeting process. Senator Isakson's plan passed as a part of the budget resolution, but it is imperative that it becomes codified into law. This common-sense reform would foster more fiscally sound decisions by placing Congress on a two-year budget cycle – one year devoted to appropriating federal dollars and the other year focused on oversight of federal programs.^{xvii} Congress has a long history of creating and funding programs. Unfortunately, Congress rarely spends time evaluating the impact, effectiveness or ongoing need for a particular program. Biennial budgeting will inject this important phase into the broader budgeting process.

End Duplicative Programs

One area where government waste is glaringly obvious is the vast number of duplicative programs. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) releases an annual report that identifies redundant and wasteful spending. These detailed reports highlight numerous examples of overlap, duplication, and unnecessary programs.

The 2012 GAO report found^{xviii}:

- 51 areas where programs may be able to achieve greater efficiencies or become more effective in providing government services
- 32 areas in which duplication, overlap or fragmentation among federal government programs exist, including:

- 13 agencies that fund 209 different science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education programs with 173 of these programs overlapping with at least one other program.
- At least 15 major financial literacy programs
- Numerous federal agencies spend money to conduct security assessments for federally owned buildings even though \$236 million a year is allocated to the [Federal Protective Service](#) for the same work.

GAO's annual report essentially gives Congress a roadmap for cutting spending. Yet, Congress has acted on virtually none of these recommendations. Since 2011, just 12 percent of the more than 300 GAO recommendations to eliminate, combine, or modify duplicative programs have been fully carried out.^{xix}

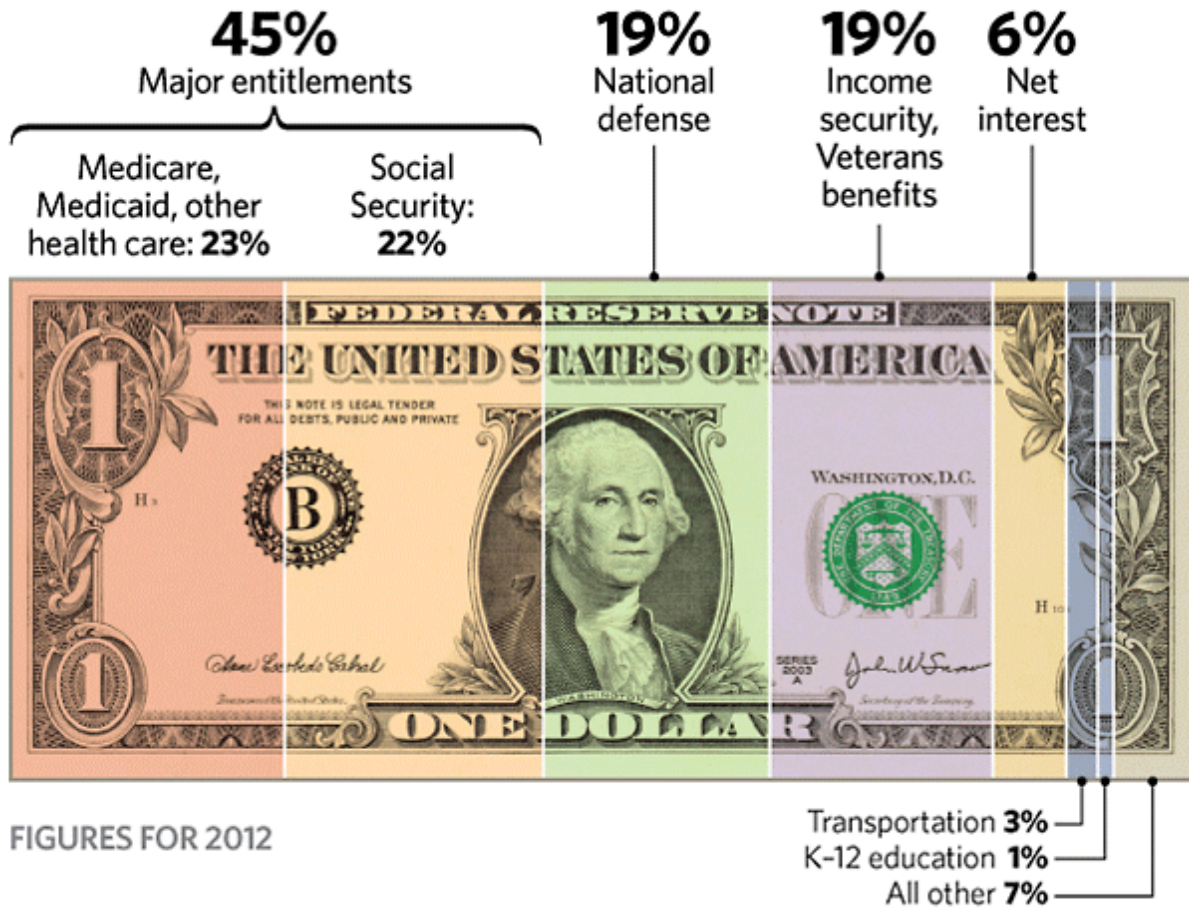
Ban Earmarks *Permanently*

One simple step, small in size, but critical to the psyche of government spending, is to *PERMANENTLY* ban all earmarks. While the current Congress has curbed this longstanding tradition, projects continue to be steered to congressional districts and states of certain members. It's just done more covertly than in the past. The "self-imposed" earmark ban in reality has done little to decrease this time-honored tradition. That's why we should ban earmarks permanently – by law. Projects should be funded based on their merits and not on political connections and favors. Every taxpayer dollar should be spent with great care after thorough examination and not determined in some back room by a handful of career Washington politicians.

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid Reform

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid require substantive reforms in order to ensure their solvency in the years to come. The nation's network of safety-net programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other food and housing assistance programs, also need significant reform. The longer we wait to overhaul these programs, which together account for approximately 45% percent of the federal budget, the more difficult it will be.

Where Did Your Tax Dollar Go?



Notes: Income security includes federal employee retirement and disability, unemployment compensation, food and housing assistance, and other federal income security programs. Figures have been rounded. National defense includes overseas contingency operations.

Social Security

Social Security is a social insurance program that pays monthly benefits to retired and disabled workers, their family members, and family members of deceased workers. Among the beneficiary population, around 80 percent are retired or disabled workers, and 20 percent are the family members of retired, disabled, or deceased workers.^{xxi}

Social Security is the largest program of the federal government – that is, until Obamacare, the costs of which, if fully implemented, will eclipse Social Security as the federal government’s largest program in the coming years. As more baby boomers enter Social Security, spending will continue to rise -- surging by 75 percent, from \$809 billion in 2013 to \$1.414 trillion in 2023.^{xxii} However, the dedicated taxes designed to pay for the promised benefits will not be enough to cover what is owed – to cover what has already been promised to millions of Americans.

Any reforms to Social Security must protect those currently receiving benefits and those nearing the age to receive benefits. We must keep the promises made to our seniors and to those about to enter retirement.

However, in order to ensure the long-term solvency of Social Security, reforms must be implemented. There are several reforms that merit serious conversation and would go a long way to positioning Social Security on a much steadier path, including:

- Revising the inflation calculation; e.g. chained Consumer Price Index (CPI)^{xxiii}; and
- Adjusting the retirement age for those born on or after January 1, 2000.

Medicare

Medicare is the federal program that pays for healthcare services of qualified beneficiaries. It was established in 1965 to provide health insurance to individuals 65 and older and was expanded over the years to include permanently disabled individuals under 65. Medicare, which consists of four parts (A through D), covers hospitalizations, physician services, prescription drugs, skilled nursing facility care, home health visits, and hospice care, among other services.^{xxiv}

In 2011, the first of 77 million Baby Boomers turned 65 and qualified for Medicare. Medicare is set to expand dramatically. In 2010, Medicare enrollment was 48 million. According to Medicare actuaries, enrollment will grow to 64 million in 2020 and to 81 million in 2030 – an increase of 33 million enrollees over 20 years. This is a dramatic increase compared to the previous 20 years when enrollment grew by 13 million.^{xxv}

Our seniors depend on this program. Still, reforms are needed to ensure that the vitally important services remain available to seniors. The consequences of doing nothing will be felt deeply. Program costs will continue to rise. Seniors will be exposed to substantial premium increases each year. Physician shortages will likely intensify. Any changes to Medicare must allow for a consumer driven, market approach. As with so many other issues facing our country, possible solutions have been offered, but Washington refuses to act or even engage in a serious dialogue on how to move forward in a positive way for our country's finances and the wellbeing of our seniors.

Senator Rand Paul has an innovative idea that deserves a serious discussion. Key elements of Senator Paul's Congressional HealthCare for Seniors Act (CHCSA) include:

- \$1 Trillion in savings in the first 10 years;
- Provides better healthcare benefits, choice, quality, and outcomes by enrolling all senior citizens into the same healthcare plan as Members of Congress and other federal employees.^{xxvi}
- Gives seniors access to a marketplace of various insurance plans that cannot deny coverage to anyone for any reason, makes it easier for seniors to shop for other options; fosters competition that will help drive down the cost of plans;
- Maintains Federal share of the cost (about three-quarters of the cost);
- Protects current and soon-to-be enrollees with a gradual increase in the Medicare retirement age from 65 to 70 over a generation, leading to a major cut in overall costs.

^{xxvii}

This is one of several ideas that have been proposed in the last few years that should to be part of the broad national dialogue on Medicare reform.

Medicaid

Medicaid is the joint state-federal healthcare program for the poor. Medicaid already represents the largest federal expenditure paid to the states, and the fiscal burden is growing, crowding out spending on other programs. In fiscal year 2012, Georgia received \$5.5 billion in federal Medicaid dollars and allocated an additional \$3.2 billion from the annual state budget.^{xxviii} Additionally, federal Medicaid spending is ballooning and expected to increase from \$265 billion in 2013 to \$572 billion in 2023, an average annual growth rate of about 8 percent.^{xxix}

Reforms are needed not just to save money and to reduce the significant waste and fraud, but rather – and importantly – to ensure that those who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare have access to appropriate healthcare.

Transitioning to a block-grant approach is one reform that is working in several states already. This approach provides the state flexibility to build a program that meets the state's specific

healthcare needs. Under a block-grant approach, states are allocated Medicaid dollars and given flexibility to create a state-focused program that is developed and executed by the state without the many strings that come with Federal dollars. Block grants increase government efficiency and program effectiveness by realigning decision-making, accountability and authority to the state and local levels and away from the one-size-fits-all federal government mandates.^{xxx}

Block grants offer states a predictable source of federal funding in return for broad state flexibility in Medicaid administration, benefits, and copays. Well-designed block grants can work and attract bipartisan support. The best example is the successful 1996 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for welfare reform, which helped move millions of women and children out of poverty and into the workforce.^{xxxi}

This idea is not new, nor should it be controversial. Rhode Island, Indiana, and New York have shown how block grants can deliver better care to those most in need.^{xxxii} We need to unleash the innovation available within our states to actually help those in need.

3 – REDUCING OUR TAX BURDEN

Tax Reform for Economic Prosperity

Arguably the most significant reform we can make as a country to rev our economic engine is to rewrite the current tax code. The last major tax overhaul was nearly three decades ago. Our current tax code is more than 70,000 pages in length – that’s more than 4 million words. We need a simpler, fairer and more efficient, and more equitable tax structure.

Our tax system is a complex maze of credits and deductions designed for special interests at every level of the economic spectrum. It takes a team of accountants to comprehend the current rules and regulations.

Americans spend up to an estimated \$378 billion annually in accounting costs related to filing taxes and more than 6 billion hours complying with the tax code. This represents an annual workforce of 3.4 million—a population that could be the third largest city in the United States, surpassing Chicago (2,707,120), Houston (2,145,146), and Philadelphia (1,536,471), and larger than the population of 21 states. A workforce equivalent to that employed by the four largest US companies—Walmart, IBM, McDonald’s and Target—combined.^{xxxiii}

The impact of taxes on the economy extends beyond the revenue taken – and spent – by the government. The compliance burden results in estimates of foregone economic growth from \$148 billion to \$609 billion annually.^{xxxiv}

I believe that the tax code must be completely rewritten. There are scores of proposals, and many of the reform ideas would almost certainly be better than the status quo of the current system. However, I support moving to a consumption-based tax code that lowers the tax burden on millions of Americans and minimizes the influence of special interests in Congress.

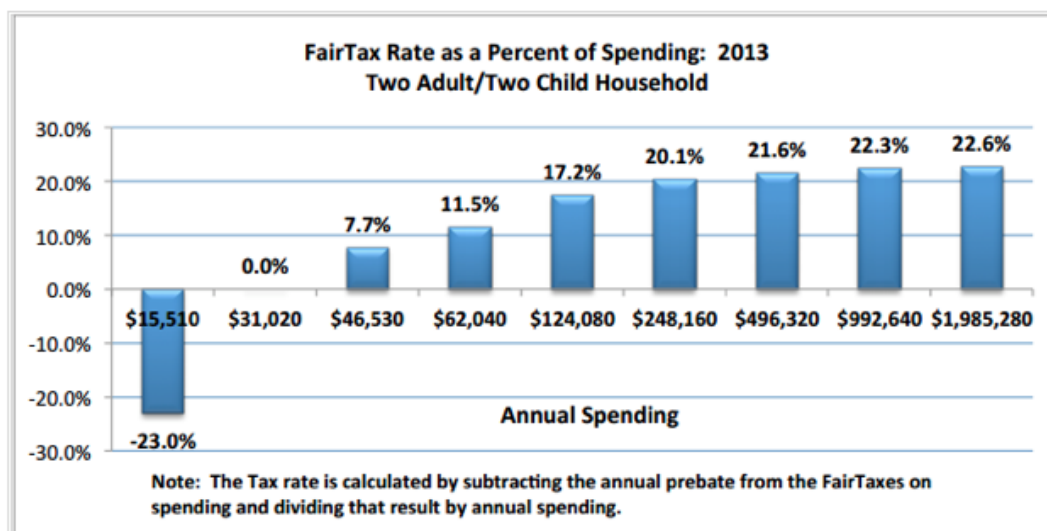
The FairTax

The FairTax^{xxxv} is a tax reform proposal that has been gaining momentum over the past decade. The FairTax calls for a national consumption tax on retail sales and eliminates all federal income taxes. Georgia Congressman John Linder first introduced the FairTax in Congress in 1999.

The FairTax treats every person equally and allows American businesses to thrive, while generating the same tax revenue as the current tax code. Under the FairTax, a national sales tax is levied on purchases of new goods and services. The FairTax also provides for a monthly payment, called a “prebate,” of the tax on purchases of necessities up to the poverty level. The FairTax rate, after necessities, is 23 percent, a rate that is equal to the lowest current income tax bracket (15 percent) combined with employee payroll taxes (7.65 percent), both of which would be eliminated. Within ten years, average Americans will be at least 10 percent, and likely even 15 percent, better off than they would be under the current system. That’s an increase of \$3,000 to \$4,500 per household per year.

FairTax highlights:

- Replaces all federal income taxes.
- Lets you keep your entire paycheck and pay taxes only on what you spend.
- Eliminates the need for the IRS, saving \$12 billion dollars and reducing the Federal workforce by about 100,000.
- Treats everyone fairly because everyone pays their fair share.
- Provides for tax-free purchases of necessities up to the poverty level.



Based on the principles outlined, I support the **FairTax and repealing the 16th Amendment**. The FairTax has its detractors because it eliminates all exemptions. Others believe the Flat Tax approach is better. What I know is that the status quo is unacceptable and rewriting our tax code is an important step in reinvigorating our nation's economy and providing more opportunities for economic prosperity.

4 – EASE BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

Burdensome regulations, government red tape, and never-ending rules, that's what businesses throughout Georgia and across America face every day. Washington politicians have long campaigned on slashing government red tape and scaling back costly, burdensome regulations. Yet, the regulatory climate has grown more onerous and more punitive.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, employing over 50 percent of the American workforce, and they are nearly suffocating under the weight of regulations. After taxes, small businesses cite regulations as their top business problem.^{xxxvi} Regulations and red tape rank as a larger problem than obtaining financing or weak sales for small businesses.

Regulations cost the American economy up to \$1.8 trillion annually,^{xxxvii} and those costs are set to continue to increase. Just last year, on top of Obama healthcare tax and mandates, Washington bureaucrats issued 3,659 regulations, even though Congress passed a record low

number of bills.^{xxxviii} Would you believe that there are 283,615 full-time government employees dedicated to drafting and enforcing regulations in 2012? At the same time, fewer than 50 employees at the Office of Management and Budget were in charge of reviewing the new regulations to ensure they were justified and accurate prior to implementation.^{xxxix}

In 2011, President Obama ordered a comprehensive review of all federal regulations under the authority of the executive branch.^{xl} But that same year, according to the Heritage Foundation, 32 major new regulations were issued – at a cost of \$10 billion annually and almost \$7 billion in initial implementation costs.^{xli} At this point in his presidency, Obama’s administration has enacted 300 economically significant regulations. That’s more than Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, or Ronald Reagan in comparable periods.^{xlii} President Obama’s “review” is clearly failing.

Congress also has the ability to review and even disapprove regulatory rules. The Congressional Review Act, passed in 1996, gave Congress the authority to review new federal regulations issued by government agencies. Yet, even with this authority, Congress has only disapproved one rule in its *history*.^{xliii}

We must take action or the regulatory environment will only continue to spiral out of control. I propose:

- **Passing the REINS Act.** Require Congressional approval of every major rule proposed by the Executive Branch that has a \$100 million impact or greater.^{xliv} With more oversight of regulations, Congress reasserts its authority over this important area instead of continuing to avoid responsibility for the detrimental impact of regulations by passing the buck to bureaucrats or blaming the White House. It is easy for unelected bureaucrats to make decisions with enormous financial consequences because they are rarely held accountable for their actions. Frankly, without the REINS Act, the elected officials aren’t held accountable either.
- **10-year Sunset Provisions.** Automatically “sunset” *all* major regulations unless expressly reauthorized by Congress, requiring our leaders in Washington to review what the government is actually doing, evaluate impact, and assess necessity. This idea gained traction in 1995, but unfortunately passage was not achieved. Today’s environment is much, much worse.^{xlv}
- **Comprehensive Audit of Entire Regulatory System.** While the sunset provisions will be helpful as we move forward, we must also conduct an agency-by-agency audit to determine the impact, cost and effectiveness of current regulations. In order to ensure that the regulatory climate is effective and is appropriately aligned with today’s businesses, our government’s agencies must be proactive, looking to eliminate outdated, unnecessary and problematic regulations. Since they haven’t done so on their own, Congress must require it.

- ⁱ National Debt Clock, <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>
- ⁱⁱ <http://taxfoundation.org/blog/another-study-confirms-us-has-one-highest-effective-corporate-tax-rates-world>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/2300>
- ^{iv} <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2013/dec/12/lie-year-if-you-like-your-health-care-plan-keep-it/>
- ^v Will Obamacare Hurt Jobs? It's Already Happening, Poll Finds <http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/05/7-Devastating-Obamacare-Facts>
- ^{vi} Seven Devastating Obamacare Facts, <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/11/05/7-Devastating-Obamacare-Facts>
- ^{vii} <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/emory-healthcare-cut-100-jobs-partly-because-obama/nZw5N/>
- ^{viii} <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/new-health-care-law-leaves-grady-45-million-short/nbCp8/>
- ^{ix} <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/10/14/georgia-small-business-weighs-paying-obamacare-fine/>
- ^x Empowering Patients First, <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/365507/empowering-patients-first-tom-price>
- ^{xi} <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2380987/Leading-economist-says-US-national-debt-actually-86-8TRILLION.html>
- ^{xii} <http://www.gao.gov/products/gao-13-279sp>
- ^{xiii} http://www.coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ContentRecord_id=e7359436-1572-414e-8acc-0222cad1c7d5
- ^{xiv} <http://www.onecentsolution.org/2013/04/10/one-cent-solutionpenny-plan-reintroduced-in-the-both-the-house-and-the-senate/>
- ^{xv} <http://www.onecentsolution.org/2013/04/10/one-cent-solutionpenny-plan-reintroduced-in-the-both-the-house-and-the-senate/>
- ^{xvi} <http://www.onecentsolution.org/2013/04/10/one-cent-solutionpenny-plan-reintroduced-in-the-both-the-house-and-the-senate/>
- ^{xvii} <http://www.isakson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/news-releases?ID=909d838d-35df-4f27-aad4-e260f8118d6e>
- ^{xviii} <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/588818.pdf>
- ^{xix} Ibid
- ^{xx} Ibid
- ^{xxi} Congressional Research Service
- ^{xxii} <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/08/federal-spending-by-the-numbers-2013>
- ^{xxiii} <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/05/social-security-benefits-and-the-impact-of-the-chained-cpi>
- ^{xxiv} Congressional Research Service, *Medicare Primer*, January 31, 2013
- ^{xxv} *Government's mountain of debt*, http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/washington/2011-06-06-us-debt-chart-medicare-social-security_n.htm
- ^{xxvi} http://www.paul.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=914
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