

The Debt Ceiling Debate:

Where the Key Players Stand



President Barack Obama

1. Raise the debt ceiling.
2. Raise taxes on the "wealthy."
3. Don't cut spending.
4. Don't pass a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA).
5. In return for raising the debt ceiling, adopt a debt failsafe ensuring automatic spending cuts and tax hikes if, by 2014, debt is not projected to fall as a share of the economy; exempt entitlements and low-income programs.



Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid

1. Raise the debt ceiling.
2. Raise taxes on the "wealthy."
3. Don't cut spending.
4. Don't pass a BBA.
5. In return for raising debt ceiling, adopt a deficit cap, enforced by automatic spending cuts and tax hikes.



House Speaker John Boehner

1. Don't raise the debt ceiling, absent the following.
2. Don't raise taxes.
3. Cut spending by a larger amount than the debt ceiling increase.
4. Vote on a BBA.
5. Adopt budget reforms, but without any "phony" triggers or targets.



Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell

1. Don't raise debt ceiling, absent the following.
2. Don't raise taxes.
3. Adopt discretionary spending caps for next 2 years, entitlement caps for next 5 years.
4. Vote on a BBA.
5. Adopt long-term deficit-reduction measures, including Medicare and Medicaid reforms.



Republican Study Committee

1. Don't raise the debt ceiling, absent the following.
2. Don't raise taxes.
3. Reduce all spending, to cut the deficit in half next year.
4. Pass a BBA with strong protections against spending & tax hikes.
5. Adopt enforceable total-spending caps to reduce federal spending to 18% of our economy.



FreedomWorks

1. Don't raise the debt ceiling, absent the following.
2. Don't raise taxes.
3. Fully repeal Obamacare this year and cut spending by at least \$300 billion next year.
4. Pass a real BBA that requires a 2/3 vote to raise taxes and a 3/5 vote to increase the debt.
5. Adopt budget controls "with teeth" that shrink government to 18% of our economy in 10 years.



The American People

1. 69% of Americans oppose adding more debt on our children.
2. Americans prefer spending cuts over tax hikes, 2 to 1.**
3. Cut Spending.
 - 78% say no spending should be "off-limits."
 - 64% support eliminating whole departments.
 - 88% believe entitlement reform is "necessary and urgent."
4. 61% support a BBA.***
5. 78% believe there's "no excuse" not to balance the budget within 10 years.

All information above compiled by FreedomWorks from public news sources. BBA = Balanced Budget Amendment. * Unless otherwise indicated, all poll figures are from April 2011 [FreedomWorks poll](#) of 1,001 swing-state voters, by Luntz Global. ** November 2010 [AP-CNBC Poll](#) of 1,000 Americans.*** April 2011 [NBC-WSJ poll](#) of 1,000 Americans.