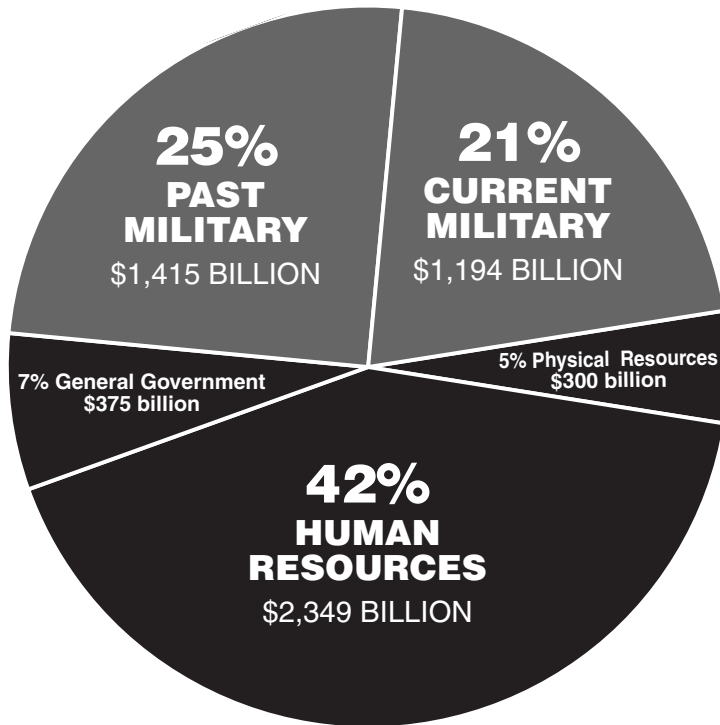


WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

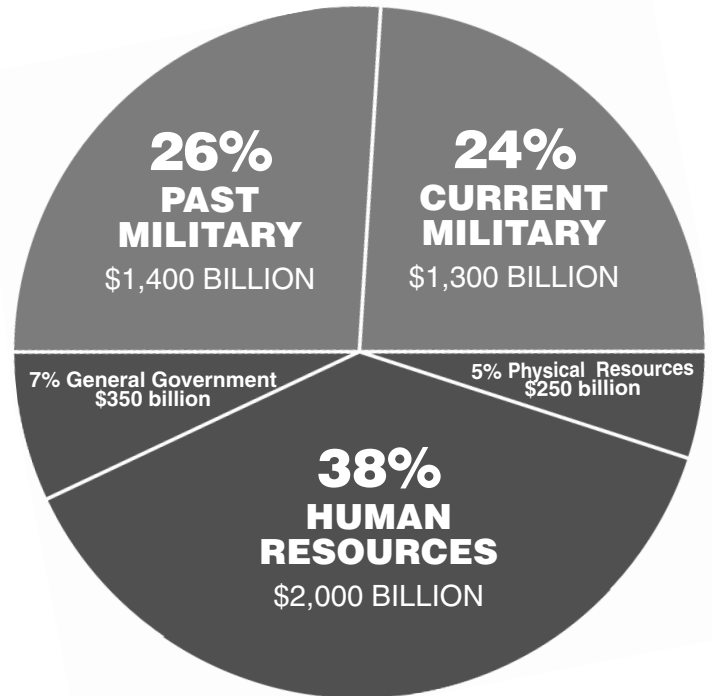
U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET **2026** FISCAL YEAR

Projected FY2026 Biden Budget based on OMB figures (March 2024)



\$5,633 BILLION FEDERAL FUNDS OUTLAYS
total military: 46% at \$2,609 billion
non-military: 54% at \$3,023 billion

Possible FY2026 Trump Budget based on G.O.P. stated goals (as of March 2025)



\$5,300 BILLION FEDERAL FUNDS OUTLAYS
total military: 50% at \$2,700 billion
non-military: 50% at \$2,600 billion

These figures are from the FY2026 column in last year's *Analytical Perspectives* book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2025*. They are Federal funds, so do not include Trust funds — such as Social Security — which are raised and spent separately from income taxes.

“Current military” includes Dept. of Defense (\$880 billion) and the military portion (\$314 billion) from other departments and agencies, including Homeland Security, Energy (nuclear weapons), State, NSA, CIA. “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits (\$391 billion) plus 80% of the interest on the debt (\$1,023 billion).* For further explanation, please go to warresisters.org.

Income taxes, you pay (or don't pay) by April 15, 2025, go to the Federal funds portion of the budget. Potential cuts to Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds are not reflected on this flyer.

Because Trump has yet to release a budget proposal, presented here is a rough estimate of what the FY2026 budget (Oct. 1 – Sep. 30, 2026) might look like. The overall budget, projected to be smaller than the Biden proposal, is based on stated goals to eliminate the Dept. of Education, in addition to major cuts in Medicaid, housing assistance, food aid, energy credits, EPA, USAID, Labor, NSF, NASA, Interior, FEMA, IRS, as well as other departments and agencies, offsetting increases in military expenditures. These cuts will not offset major tax cuts for the rich and corporations, so the debt is expected to increase.

SOURCES: Budget reports from mainstream news sources, plus in-depth analysis from nationalpriorities.org, taxpayer.net, responsiblestatecraft.org, budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu, cbpp.org, thehill.com, federalnewsnetwork.com, kff.org, among others

*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending, most of the national debt would have been eliminated.

WRONG WAY TO PEACE & PROSPERITY

Over the past year, the world has witnessed an alarming escalation of violence, with catastrophic consequences. The genocide in **Gaza** and the war in **Ukraine**, plus over **30 other armed conflicts** in the Global South (half of them in Africa), together with increasingly aggressive and openly supremacist rhetoric and policies, have all contributed to a climate of instability and fear.

Despite the evident role of military force in all this, governments are responding by doubling down on the same **recipe for disaster** — **significantly increasing their military budgets**. Instead of seeking paths toward peace, investing in diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and conflict resolution, countries are allocating unprecedented amounts of resources to the arms industry. This dangerous trend not only fuels global tensions but also diverts crucial funds from social and environmental sectors, which truly improve lives and provide security.

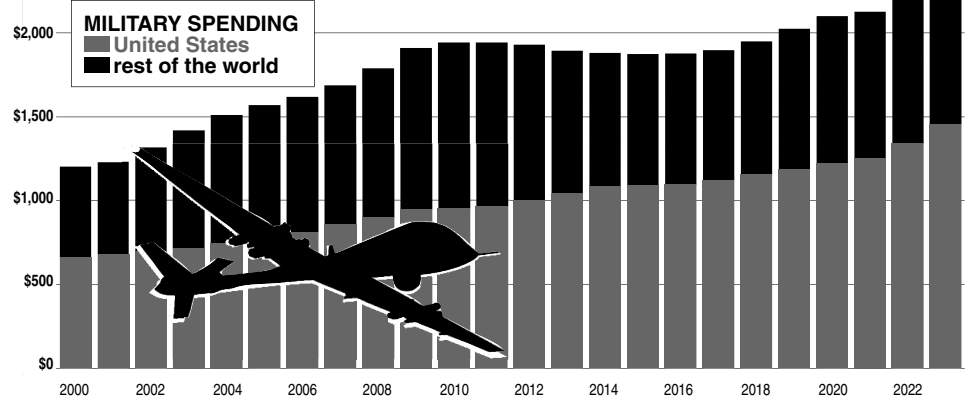
In the United States, despite talk of ending wars, the president and Congress pushed through \$6 billion more for military spending and cut about \$13 billion from other parts of the FY 2025 budget. Pentagon priorities include further militarization of the Southern border, new nuclear weapons, a revived “Star Wars” missile defense system (a costly failure under Reagan), and enhanced U.S. military presence around China.*

History has repeatedly shown that **militarization brings neither peace nor security**; it perpetuates cycles of destruction, suffering, and injustice. We must demand an end to this reckless arms race. The world does not need more weapons. It needs dialogue, cooperation, and a commitment to justice and human dignity.

text adapted from Global Days of Action on Military Spending, April 10-May 9, 2025, demilitarize.org
*this paragraph based on inthesetimes.com/article/trump-hegseth-pentagon-budget-cuts-myth

GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURES 2000–2023

billions of constant 2021 U.S. dollars



Source: Military Expenditure Database, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, sipri.org.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Leaflet** with this flyer year-round and on Tax Day, **April 15, 2025**.

- **Write elected officials, letters-to-the-editor, and posts online.** Send and share copies of this flyer. Explain your budget priorities for a better world.

- **Divest from war!** Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this form of protest. Whatever you choose to refuse—\$1, \$10, 45% or 100%—send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor near you. Contribute resisted tax money to groups that work for the common good.

- For more about **refusing to pay for war**, brochures, and other resources, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, (800) 269-7464 or see nwtrcc.org.



- **JUST PUBLISHED! War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military**— 6th Edition, 2025 — available now! Order online at warresisters.org/store for \$20 + postage.

LOCAL CONTACT

RESOURCES

- Additional copies of this leaflet are available for 18¢ each (20-199), 15¢ each (200 - 499), 13¢ each (500+) plus 20% postage. Order online at warresisters.org/store, or mail orders to the WRL address on this flyer.

- See WRL's inspiring history of activism at warresisters.org/100years.

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