

50 WACKY WAYS THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS YOUR MONEY

A TURNING POINT USA PUBLICATION



**“Nobody spends someone else’s
money as wisely as he spends
his own.” – Milton Friedman**



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Paul Romanowski, Mike Miller, Charlie Kirk,
Bill Montgomery, and Faith Braverman
Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Layout and Design by: Paul Romanowski

50 WACKY WAYS THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS YOUR MONEY

“Nobody spends someone else’s money as wisely as he spends his own.”

– Milton Friedman

Are you sitting down? Do you have a cool drink nearby? Then you’re ready to hear the shocking news that the government...is inefficient. Exaggerations aside, the gridlock in Washington D.C. can largely be attributed to politicians arguing over how to spend tax payer dollars properly. Many politicians think that the current tax system is in need of reform, and that government spending has gotten out of control. We are \$18 trillion in debt, but every time cuts are proposed, some in Congress insist there’s no place to cut.

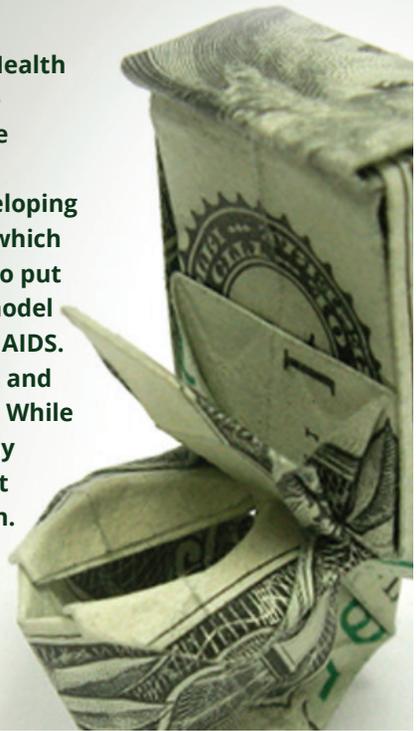
Other politicians often sing the praises of paying your taxes. Look at the public school system American children get to enjoy. Look at the roads you’re allowed to drive on, and the police and fire departments that are funded by your wages. Promoters of taxes and government spending point to these examples relentlessly as justification for extorting the American people.

The truth is, these examples are quickly becoming inconsequential. In response to the increasing degradation of our public schools, parents are pulling their children out in record numbers, choosing to homeschool instead. As for the roads argument, it only takes a trip in your car to see that our infrastructure is collapsing. And sadly, it’s evident that police departments in America have become cesspools of abuse and corruption.

If the government can’t be trusted to manage funds efficiently to run these supposedly vital programs, why should they be trusted with any money at all? But they are trusted. The federal government took in \$2.8 trillion dollars from Americans in 2014 alone. Where does all of this money go? You won’t believe some of the wacky ways the government spends the hard earned money of you, your family and your friends. Some of them will make you laugh, some will make you cry, but all of them should leave you asking a serious question: Is there anything the government does efficiently?

1 ORIGAMI WHAT?

Since 2006, the National Institute of Health has doled out \$2.4 million in grants to companies attempting to reinvent the condom. One such company is called ORIGAMI, and they are currently developing a condom with accordion-like pleats which will make condoms somehow easier to put on. ORIGAMI states that this newer model will cut down the spread of STD's and AIDS. The company is seeking FDA approval and hopes to sell its product by next year. While promoting safe sex is important, many forms of contraception developed just fine without government intervention. The free market is always preferable to government grants, because the free market does not use money unwillingly taken from someone else to develop a product that is obsolete.



2 HOW DOES I EMAIL?

Sending an email is a necessary part of interacting with people these days, but is it something people need to take classes to learn how to do? The U.S. Department of Education certainly thinks so. Twenty employees were awarded a contract at about \$240 per hour to teach an "Email Writing Course". According to the solicitation, participants should come away knowing things like, "when to write an email," and the "[p]roper tone and etiquette," of an email. Keep in mind; these are not students, but federal workers at the Dep. of Education's Headquarters in Washington, D.C.



3 FIT FOR A KING

Staying fit is important surely, but should government employees be breaking the bank to get the latest in exercise equipment? The National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) of the Department of Energy asked for five Woodway treadmills in February. Woodway treadmills don't come cheap. The NNSA is currently seeking four of the 4Front models, which retails for over \$10,000, with upgrades. The NNSA states that they want to "utilize the treadmills to qualify Federal Agents on the running requirements established by the NNSA ..." If the NNSA wants to meet health requirements, shouldn't they exercise (pun intended) fiscal responsibility in doing so? This case is a great example of how government agencies don't look to cut costs when it isn't their money being spent.



4 RETAIL THERAPY

This past February, the Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security noticed there was a major lack of oversight in a travel program for the Coast Guard. A staggering \$1.2 million was spent in travel costs for Coast Guard members stationed in Alaska, who claimed these trips were for health care reasons. They argued that their smaller clinics in Alaska weren't properly equipped to meet their medical needs, and that they needed to travel to hospitals with better equipment. While it's important to get our service members quality healthcare, many of those that traveled had no doctor's referral, and instead of getting treatment in nearby Anchorage or even Seattle, Coast Guard members traveled from Alaska to Vail, Colorado; Orlando, FL; Scottsdale, AZ; and Savannah, GA. A whistleblower claims that many of these trips - even to Anchorage- were more for shopping than medical care.

5 TWEETING TO TERRORISTS

The U.S. Department of State is trying to fight ISIS recruitment with sassy social media accounts. Altogether they spent \$3 million to create “Think Again Turn Away” to expose the truth about ISIS, but their campaigns have largely been ineffective. Their YouTube channel is filled with videos encouraging people to not join “ISIS land” because they might have to blow up mosques or crucify fellow Muslims. Their arguments are very clearly slanted, and do little to address the underlying issue of radical Islam.



6 THIS THE END

NASA seemingly forgot that space exploration is still a thing, and has instead decided to allocate its budget on a study to predict how the world will end. Funny how when studies are funded by the government, the results tend to be politically skewed. Researchers from the University of Maryland and Minnesota said it wouldn't be a zombie apocalypse or a nuclear war that ends it all, but rather an “unequal distribution of wealth” which has “led to civilizational collapse” in the past. Speculating about such an unpredictable event seems like a waste of government resources, especially since government is the greatest contributing factor to income inequality.



7 BURNING MONEY

The Department of Defense spent \$1 billion to destroy \$16 billion in unneeded purchases of military-grade ammunition. The level of waste that occurs within the military is pretty astonishing. Wouldn't it have been more prudent for the government to sell the surplus ammo back to the American people? You know, the ones that actually paid for it?



8 THE HERO WE CAN'T AFFORD

The U.S. Army spent \$80 million for the development of a real-life Ironman suit. This is what happens when you let people who read Marvel comics work for the government.



9 BABIES VS. DOGS

A study costing \$371,000 was conducted to see if mothers loved their dogs as much as their own kids. The researchers showed the test subjects pictures of both, and their brainresponses were studied. The results were unsurprising in that researchers found the test subjects had emotional bonds with both their animals and their baby. Worth it?



10 PARTY CRASHERS

The Coast Guard's primary responsibilities include saving people at sea, but that doesn't mean they can't moonlight as bouncers. The government shelled out \$100,000 for the Coast Guard to patrol some of the country's most exclusive real estate to stop uninvited guests from crashing private parties.



11 "ZOMBIE IN LOVE"

An Oregon children's theater was given \$10,000 to produce "Zombie in Love," a musical about a teenage zombie "dying to find true love." The arts are an enjoyable craft for people, but funding for it should never come from tax payers. Schools can fundraise money if they want their plays to have production quality.



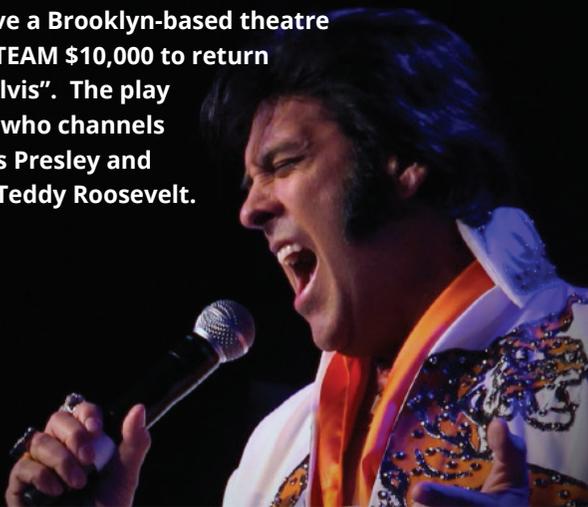
12 STONER SYMPHONY

The National Endowment for the Arts gave a grant of \$15,000 to the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, which it used to produce “Classically Cannabis: The High Note Series”. The provocative concert was put on to attract the younger crowd to classical music. Someone was definitely smoking something when they came up with this idea.



13 HUNK-A-HUNK-A BURNING WASTE

Another arts grant gave a Brooklyn-based theatre troupe known as The TEAM \$10,000 to return to the stage, “RoosevElvis”. The play is about a shy woman who channels the personality of Elvis Presley and her imaginary friend, Teddy Roosevelt.



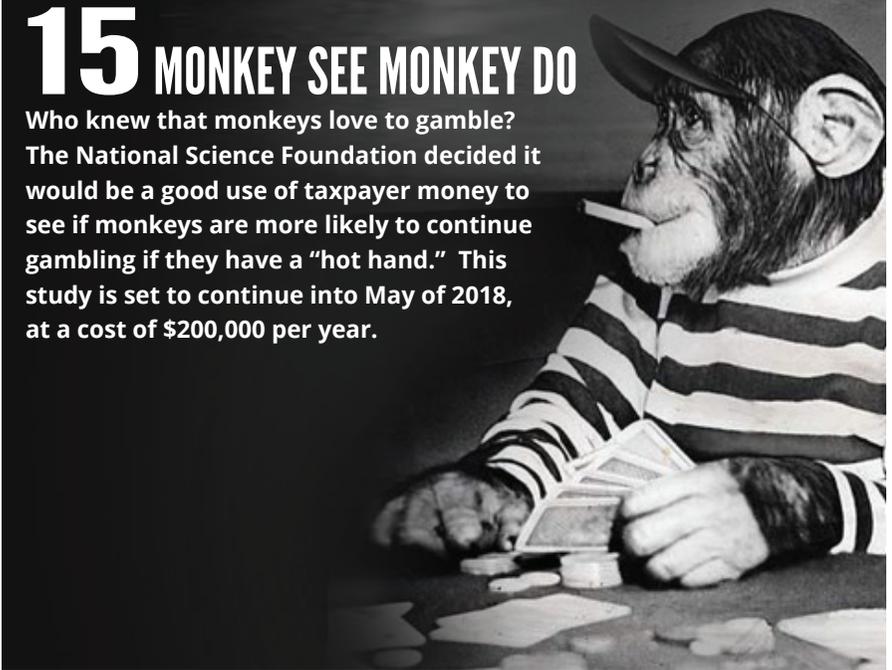
14 IT'S HARD OUT HERE TO BE A BLIMP

Another example of military waste! The army purchased a mega blimp totaling \$297 million, but never used it. Oh the humanity!



15 MONKEY SEE MONKEY DO

Who knew that monkeys love to gamble? The National Science Foundation decided it would be a good use of taxpayer money to see if monkeys are more likely to continue gambling if they have a "hot hand." This study is set to continue into May of 2018, at a cost of \$200,000 per year.



16 MOUNTAIN LIONS ON TREADMILLS

The University of California-Santa Cruz spent \$856,000 to train mountain lions to walk on treadmills. It took the mountain lions 8 months to figure it out, because, you know, they're mountain lions. What practical use this information serves, no one knows.

17 SYNCHRONIZED SEA MONKEYS

The National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, and U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation spent \$307, 524 to study the swirl created when sea monkeys move throughout the water. Researchers developed a "laser guided," "choreographed" team of synchronized swimming sea monkey to study the current.



18 STRESSED BUNNIES

It's a hard life being a bunny. The National Institute of Health decided to see if a Swedish massage is helpful in recovering from an illness, and had the test bunnies rubbed down by a machine mimicking the long, flowing strokes of a Swedish massage. The cost for the study? \$387,000!



19 CURVES

There are a lot of perks to being in Congress. Members don't have to pay anything to use the Congressional Gym, but disturbingly, the public doesn't even know how much money of theirs is being spent on this facility. If Congress uses their gym memberships as often as most Americans do, this is a guaranteed waste of money.

20 HANGRY SPOUSE

The National Science Foundation strikes again. Over the course of twenty-one consecutive evenings, 107 couples were given a chance to stick up to 51 pins into a voodoo doll representing their spouse. The pin-pushing happened in secret, away from the other partner. Participants then recorded the number of pins they poked into the dolls. Those tests revealed a spouse with low blood sugar was an angrier one, and stuck more pins in the doll. Did the government really need to conduct a \$331,000 study to see that people get angrier when they're hungry? They could have just watched a Snickers commercial.

21 CLIMATE GAMES

Due to the fact that a lot of Americans believe climate change is a myth, the National Science Foundation felt the need to help "spur climate change activism." They paid Columbia University to develop a video game entitled "Future Coast," where rising seas cause mass chaos and weather calamities of epic proportions. The story is set to a bunch of voicemails from the future describing the anarchy. For \$5.2 million dollars, you'd think they'd just invest in some windmills.

22 WHO'S LAUGHING NOW?

The National Endowment for the Humanities funded classes at UCLA and Butler University to teach college students about laughter. In seminars like “Why is it funny”, students will presumably learn “how laughter plays with our perceptions” and “whether comedy is a ‘guy thing’.” With a \$47,000 dollar price tag, I doubt taxpayers find this expenditure amusing.



23 FRUIT OF THE LOONS

The University of Tennessee used \$5 million of taxpayer money allowing student to dress up like fruits and veggies in an attempt to promote healthy eating habits. “Students created the term ‘frued’ to describe ‘the process of eating FRUits and VEgetables.’”



24 WHAT'S IN A MEME?

The National Science Foundation granted \$919,917 to a project called Truthy — named for the Stephen Colbert-coined “truthiness” — to “explore why some ideas cause viral explosions while others are quickly forgotten. Is there really a science to be discovered behind viral sensations? Even if there is, is it worth nearly a million dollars to learn?”



25 LOST IN SPACE

NASA hasn't kept track of the thousands of Smartphones, tablets, and AirCards they've provided their employees over the years. At the same time, "Over 2,000 devices – 14 percent of the total owned by the agency – went unused for at least 7 months from 2013-2014." On the agency's list of lost items, they've listed "laptops, video tapes, and moon rocks." Over a million dollars' worth of equipment has somehow managed to slip through NASA's fingers. This is why government accountability is so important.



26 WINE AND DINE

It's nice to see the Department of State has their priorities in order: Mere hours before the now famous government shutdown of 2013 occurred, an order was placed to Vermont-based company Simon Pearce for 12,000 custom stemware glasses. These decadent pieces go for up to \$85 a glass, and are used in American embassies all around the world. While this expenditure is hardly surprising given the reckless spending of other government agencies before the fiscal year ended, the fact that ambassadors are supposed to have the finances to pay for their own entertainment makes such a purchase by the State Department particularly questionable.



27 TRAPPED IN A CLOSET

The National Institute of Health has given \$1.5 million to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts to study why "three-quarters" of lesbians in the United States are overweight and why most gay males are not.



28 SALUTE THE TROOPS

The Pentagon reportedly signed contracts with 14 NFL teams — including the New York Jets, the Indianapolis Colts and the Baltimore Ravens — between 2011-2012 stipulating that teams would be paid sums ranging from \$60,000-\$1 million each (in federal taxpayer money) to pause before the start of games and salute the city's "hometown heroes". If these teams want to really honor our veterans and service members they should be making these patriotic overtures out of gratitude for free, and the millions of dollars that have already been billed to taxpayers should be donated to veterans' organizations.



29 PICKY-PEDIA

The NSF sent nearly a quarter of a million dollars to NYU and Yale researchers to study if any gender bias existed on the website Wikipedia. One example of sexism found in the study states that some women writers were listed as “American Female Novelists” instead of just “American Novelists”. The only thing this study proves is that you can find gender bias anywhere if you look hard enough. If the National Science Foundation is so concerned with sexism, why don’t they take the \$202,000 they spent on researching Wikipedia and invest it in school programs encouraging young girls to get involved in science?



30 BEAUTY QUEENS

The U.S. government spent \$505,000 “to promote specialty hair and beauty products for cats and dogs” in 2012.



31 FOREIGN AID

Our government willfully gives money to countries that burn our flag and call for the death of America. The Palestinian Authority receives \$400 million each year, and much of it winds up in the hands of Hamas, a known terrorist organization. Hamas divides the foreign aid they receive amongst their top leaders, giving none to the Palestinian people in need.



32 FENG SHUI

The Securities and Exchange Commission spent a staggering \$3.9 million on rearranging desks at their Washington D.C. headquarters. Even SEC employees thought it was outrageous, with one saying, "Taxpayers should be outraged, and we should be wholly mortified, to be wasting such an incredible amount of money and time on this."

33 OBAMA ABROAD

President Obama has taken more trips abroad than any of his predecessors. He has been out of the country on vacations for 119 days over the course of 31 trips, costing tax payers over \$44 million. The one good thing about his decision to spend time abroad is that he's not spending as much time in the oval office wreaking havoc on the Constitution.



34 EMPLOYEE PROTECTION AGENCY

The EPA spends more time protecting its employees than they do the environment. The EPA received \$8.2 billion in taxpayer money this year for its budget and employs more than 16,000 full-time employees. A slew of them have recently been found to be incompetent or negligent. The latest example comes from the employee who was caught spending his workday watching porn on his taxpayer-issued computer. Because it is so difficult to fire a federal employee, this individual continued to draw his \$120,000 paycheck, even after he was caught red-handed. Recent investigations have also uncovered EPA employees receiving unauthorized bonuses, committing fraud, and using agency credit cards for personal expenses. These abuses are in addition to ex-top official John Beale's defrauding taxpayers of almost \$1 million by skipping work pretending to be a CIA agent and former administrator Lisa Jackson, among others, conducting official business on secret email accounts. And these are only the examples we know about. Given what the Inspector General has called the lax management culture at the EPA, these abuses may only be the tip of the iceberg.



35 CHINESE PROSTITUTE STUDY

The federal government is spending \$2.6 million over the course of a five year study to make sure prostitutes in China drink less on the job. The National Institutes of Health claims this study will help lower HIV infections among China's female sex workers.

36 HOMELAND INSECURITY

The Department of Homeland Security is absolutely rife with waste. A \$7.1 billion Homeland Security Department program to make cities safer from terrorism has paid for 13 sno-cone machines in Michigan, a \$98,000 underwater robot in Columbus, Ohio, an armored vehicle for a tiny New Hampshire town that uses it to patrol the annual pumpkin festival, and humorous videos that offered little valuable information for fighting real threats.



37 WASTE IN IRAQ

More than \$13 billion meant for reconstruction projects in Iraq was wasted or stolen through elaborate fraud schemes. Another \$7.8 billion can't be accounted for.



38 TAKEN FOR A RIDE

A futuristic-looking bus stop in Arlington, Virginia cost \$1 million to build. The so-called “super stop” boasts a heated concrete floor and a digital display board that shows when the next bus will arrive, but it doesn’t do much to keep commuters warm or dry (except for their feet). The stop leaves the people waiting for transportation exposed to the elements. Outrage over this clear waste of taxpayer money halted the government’s plans to build 23 more of these inefficient bus stops.

39 NASCAR

The Federal Communications Commission decided that sponsoring a NASCAR entry as part of its digital TV outreach was somehow a good use of taxpayer dollars. The NASCAR sponsorship will cost the FCC \$350,000.

40 FLYING HIGH

Why fly in coach with the taxpayer serfs? Federal bureaucrats seem to think they’re above all that nonsense and fly business class 96% of the time, even though it costs five times more than coach. At least \$146 million, or 67%, of the money federal agencies spent on premium-class travel was not properly authorized or justified.



41 PAST PRESIDENTS

The former leaders of our great nation should be treated with respect, but should they be treated to taxpayer dollars?

The U.S. government is spending approximately 3.6 million dollars a year to support the lavish lifestyles of former presidents such as George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Considering most past presidents are wealthy in their own right, it doesn't make sense for them to be receiving additional funds for doing pretty much nothing.

42 I FEEL PRETTY

Over the past 15 years, a total of approximately \$5.25 million has been spent on hair care services for the U.S. Senate. If Congress spent half as much time reducing the deficit as they do on their looks, maybe we wouldn't be \$18 trillion in debt. Next time they look in the mirror to inspect their new hairdo, maybe they can also reflect on how their actions are growing the deficit.

43 IT PAYS TO BE DEAD

The USDA has been shelling out millions of taxpayer dollars to people that are no longer alive. Between 2008 and 2012, an estimated 3,434 policyholders received \$22 million in subsidies one or two years after their death.



44 NOT SO FAST

The government gave out a grant totaling \$335,000 to build 38 “speed humps” in two Portland, Maine neighborhoods. A drive down either of those streets will certainly make you go slower, but at \$9,000 per hump it seems like a pretty steep price to pay.



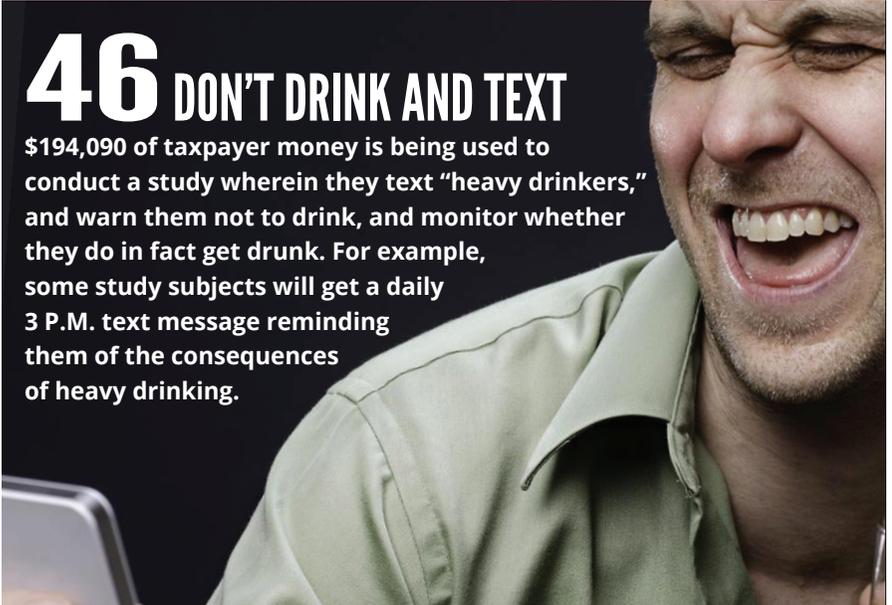
45 WATERMELON QUEEN

During 2012, \$25,000 of federal money was spent on a promotional tour for the Alabama Watermelon Queen. With a price tag that high, it would have been cheaper to send the Watermelon Queen to Community College.



46 DON'T DRINK AND TEXT

\$194,090 of taxpayer money is being used to conduct a study wherein they text “heavy drinkers,” and warn them not to drink, and monitor whether they do in fact get drunk. For example, some study subjects will get a daily 3 P.M. text message reminding them of the consequences of heavy drinking.



47 BIG BROTHER

The National Security Agency, being a secret agency, doesn't share details about how much money it spends. Basic details about the government organization (like budget and staff size) are classified. But estimates so far speculate that the NSA spends tens or hundreds of million dollars per month. A new report also concluded that the NSA's spying programs haven't cracked one single terrorist plot. So basically, tax payers are paying the NSA to spy on them and are no safer from terrorism.

48 LITTLE BROTHER

Most Americans hate dealing with the Transportation Safety Administration when they travel, but few know how truly wasteful and inefficient this agency is. The TSA has an annual budget of \$7.9 billion and employs 62,000 people. Keeping dangerous people off airplanes is unquestionably important, but is it wise to entrust this to a federal bureaucracy? The TSA hasn't caught a single terrorist since it was founded, and the equipment the TSA relies on to catch terrorists is largely just for show.

Multiple researchers have discovered ways to thwart the airport body scanners. It's also a problem that the government has a monopoly on aviation security and that TSA is not accountable to anyone for its level of efficiency or performance.

The TSA are beholden to no one, and many TSA employees have been caught stealing from passengers. One TSA agent caught stealing over \$800,000 in goods admitted that this type of stealing is "commonplace". Privatizing airport security would not only make it more efficient, it would make it less burdensome to the taxpayer.



49 WASTED WAR MACHINE

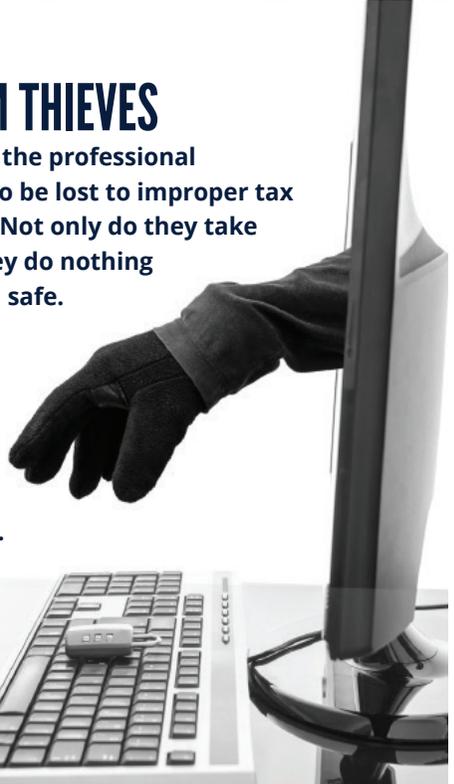
War is a racket. Over \$7 billion worth of military equipment was left behind by our government in Afghanistan. Since it was too expensive to ship the weapons back to the U.S. and most of it can't be given to other nations, 20% of the military equipment deployed to Afghanistan has been destroyed. But hey, at least the military industrial complex got rich off the deal.



50 STEALING FROM THIEVES

The Internal Revenue Service, AKA the professional extortionists, allowed \$4.2 billion to be lost to improper tax refunds issued to identity thieves. Not only do they take money from American citizens, they do nothing to keep their personal information safe.

If there's one thing you take away from this booklet, it should be the incompetency of the government. If enough of us stand up to this unconstitutional intrusion into our lives, real change can be made.





GET INVOLVED NOW!

To learn more about Turning Point USA, or to get involved with any of the projects mentioned in this guide, please visit our website at www.tpusa.com.

All questions should be directed to info@turningpointusa.net. Someone on our team will respond within 48 hours.

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Turning Point USA is a non-profit 501c3 organization that runs entirely on donations from citizens like you. When you support Turning Point USA 90% of your donation goes directly to student activism initiatives such as the production and printing of this booklet. Please consider supporting our efforts to defend fiscal responsibility, free markets, and capitalism.

This guide and all of the activism initiatives mentioned would not be possible without the grassroots support of generous patriots from all across the country.

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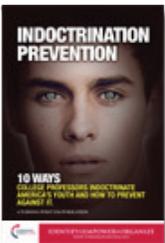
In order to educate, train, and equip students across the country, Turning Point USA produces custom publications that help students understand complex policy issues, learn how to stand up for their beliefs in academic settings, learn how to organize on campus, and more.

TPUSA's publications are designed to be accessible, affordable, and easy to read. All publications are provided free of charge to students who request them.

This semester TPUSA has published four custom publications including Indoctrination Prevention, How to Organize, How to Debate Your Teacher (and Win!), and How America Broke Its Wings.

Once in print, these booklets don't collect dust on the shelves. Our team of activists take the booklets to high schools and college campuses and get them directly in the hands of students. The graphics and visuals used in each publication ensure that even a quick flip-through will leave the reader with thought-provoking ideas and concepts.

Numerous other publications are in the editing process now, and will be in print by May of 2015.



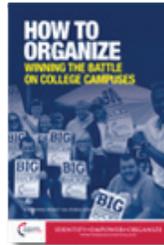
Indoctrination Prevention

In January of 2015, TPUSA published, "Indoctrination Prevention: 10 Ways College Professors Indoctrinate America's Youth and How to Prevent It." The booklet identifies the ten most common themes or lies that a

typical leftist professor might teach, and then explains how to refute their arguments.

Chapters include insight on white privilege, the gender pay gap, American exceptionalism, sustainability and greed versus success - just to name a few. Each chapter was written by a current college student or a recent college graduate. In other words, it's written by young people, for young people.

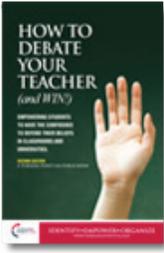
Indoctrination Prevention will make a great gift to graduating high school seniors as they prepare to go to the land of liberal academia and ivy tower thinking in the fall, and will prove helpful for any student who feels marginalized in the classroom.



How to Organize

If there's one thing Barack Obama is great at, it's community organizing. For too long the left has won the battle on college campuses. Turning Point USA activists have since emerged as the "community organizers of the right."

The publication, How to Organize was written to train, empower, and inform students about the strategies and tactics they can use to defeat the left on campus. Our guide walks students through the process of starting a new chapter, recruiting and maintaining a strong membership, planning and organizing events, earning media, and so much more. This publication is truly the first of its kind, and it has helped thousands of students across the country develop strong and organized groups on their college campuses.



How to Debate Your Teacher (and Win!)

It's no secret that teachers and professors tend to be extremely liberal. It's also not uncommon for instructors to use their authority to indoctrinate rather than educate.

TPUSA's original publication, "How to Debate Your Teacher (and Win!)" gives students the tips and tools they need to articulately and successfully stand up for their beliefs in an academic setting.

TPUSA believes that a diversity of viewpoints is necessary and valuable in the classroom. This book is designed to bring free thought back into lecture halls, and aid students in expressing their opinions and ideas.



How America Broke Its Wings

Why do we call Republicans the right-wing and the Democrats the left-wing? This booklet explores a groundbreaking new philosophy that one of the key roots of our problems in America exists because of our sloppy language. We label people as "left-wing" and "right-wing" but most people don't know where those terms originated from or even what they mean.

Our "team" mentality is crippling our country and democracy. We have become to bitterly divided over petty issues that are stirred up by people who want to see us fight! The author of this book is a close advisor of Turning Point USA and extremely thoughtful political philosopher, Brent Hamachek. This booklet truly examines and reveals obvious and crucial elements that are continuing to tear America apart today. The booklet ends with an optimistic conclusion wherein the reader is given an

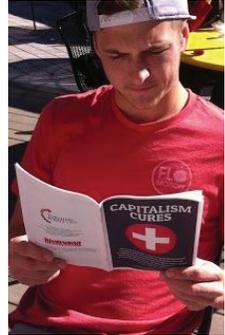
alternative where we can finally accurately describe our differences in America without becoming so unnecessarily divided. A must read!



Game of Loans

The student loan crisis has a dramatic impact on young people, but most students have no idea why they're in so much debt. "Game of Loans" examines the history of the student loan crisis by picking apart every major piece of legislation that has led to the rising cost of college tuition.

Check out our website for additional booklets and digital copies at <http://www.turningpointusa.net/publications/> or contact info@turningpointusa.net for single or multiple copy requests.



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