



MILLIONAIRES SURTAX CALCULATOR

Website calculator is at: <http://surtax.org/calculator/>

This Millionaires Surtax Calculator allows you to imagine the kinds of vital public investments the Surtax could fund. It offers \$635 billion in revenue, because that's how much the surtax is estimated to raise over 10 years. It's up to you to choose from a menu of possible expenditures.

While a significant sum, \$635 billion is not nearly enough to meet all our nation's growing needs. That's why the calculator lets you select additional ways to improve the lives of working families that cost more than the amount raised by the Millionaires Surtax. Those extra public expenditures could find their own funding if some of the many other progressive tax reforms now under debate are enacted.

Spend a little time reading the descriptions of the investment choices you make. Print out your choices to take them to community meetings and rallies and announce your plan to friends and family online using the social share buttons below.

\$ Amounts Are for 10 Years

HEALTHCARE & NUTRITION

Strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA): [\\$300 Billion](#)¹

- This is a very rough cost estimate for making ACA coverage more affordable for 13 million consumers.
- It would up the dollar value of ACA health insurance tax credits so low-income families can better afford coverage.
- It would also expand eligibility for those ACA tax credits to prevent any family from spending too high a share of their income on insurance premiums.

Aggressively tackle the opioid epidemic: [\\$100 Billion](#)²

- States and communities would get the resources needed to greatly expand the fight against the opioid crisis. Priority would be given to prevention and treatment of substance abuse in hardest-hit communities.
- [47,000 people died](#) from drug overdoses related to opioids in 2017 and more than 2 million have an opioid disorder.³

Ensure families have enough to eat under SNAP: [\\$190 Billion](#)⁴

- Current benefit levels in SNAP (food stamps) are too low for clients to get enough to eat, especially healthier options.
- Raising by one-third the current benefit of \$1.40 per person per meal would let families get enough nutritious food to fend off hunger and be healthier.

EDUCATION

Make college affordable: [\\$720 Billion](#)⁵

Plans vary, but would typically cover:

- Tuition and fees and many living expenses for at least two years at community colleges or four years at public colleges and universities.
- Expanded student loans and reduced loan rates if families cannot afford their contribution.

Fully fund Title I aid for low-income students: [\\$270 Billion](#)⁶

- Under-resourced schools could offer low-income students a better education, including improved staffing of librarians, counselors, nurses and other key support positions.

Fully fund Special Education: [\\$197 Billion](#)⁷

- Congress promised to cover 40% of additional per-pupil costs for students with disabilities, but is covering just 15%.
- This increase would fully fund the program, leaving school districts with more local resources to invest in all students.

Fully fund Head Start: [\\$140 Billion](#)⁸

- Less than half of all eligible kids are currently in Head Start or Early Head Start, the early education and support programs for low-income youth.
- Full funding would allow Head Start programs to reach every child who needs them.

CHILD CARE

Provide affordable quality child care to families in need: [\\$1.2 Trillion](#)⁹

- Just 16% of children eligible for federal child care assistance get it. This would ensure that all eligible children in families with incomes under 85% of the State Median Income would get care.
- A typical family with two kids spends more than \$18,000 a year on childcare—for single parents, that's over a third of their income.¹⁰ Serving all eligible families would allow parents to stay on the job knowing their young children are in safe, nurturing care.

HOUSING

Expand and improve affordable housing: [\\$495 Billion](#)¹¹

- America needs 7 million additional affordable homes to better house our 11 million lowest income households.¹²
- Invest \$445 billion to create 2.2 million homes and over 1 million good jobs.
- Invest \$50 billion to clear the repair backlog for existing public housing.

Protect families from the elements: \$150 Billion¹³

- The LIHEAP program helps families pay their heating and (where necessary) cooling bills, as well as weatherize their homes.
- Only 1 in 5 eligible households currently receives this often life-saving assistance. Full funding would bring all our vulnerable neighbors in from the cold.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Rebuild crumbling infrastructure: \$600 Billion

- Experts give our infrastructure a nearly [failing grade of D+](#).¹⁴
- \$600 billion is a down payment on the [\\$2 trillion needed](#) on top of what is already being spent to get our infrastructure up to acceptable levels and maintain global competitiveness.¹⁵
- Besides threatening safety and health, unaddressed infrastructure failings will cost every household \$3,400 a year through 2025.

ENVIRONMENT

Down payment on transitioning to a green energy economy: \$600 Billion

- \$600 billion is a down payment on the trillions needed for a comprehensive effort to wean the nation off fossil fuels endangering the planet.
- Investments include expanding renewable-energy production, building a smart electrical grid, and making buildings more energy efficient.
- Transitioning to a green energy economy would include creating good-paying jobs and narrowing economic inequality.

¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), “House Bill Would Make Significant Progress on Health Care Affordability and Coverage” (Mar. 26, 2019), p. 4. <https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/3-26-19health.pdf>

² Offices of Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, “The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act: Using Lessons From The HIV/AIDS Epidemic To Tackle The Opioid Crisis” (April 2018), p. 2. <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/FINAL%204.18.18%20CARE%20Act%20Report%20and%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf>

³ National Institute on Drug Abuse, “Opioid Overdose Crisis” (January 2019). <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis#five>

⁴ According to the Food Research and Action Center, SNAP benefits based on the Thrifty Food Plan average only \$1.40 per person per meal. Increasing those benefits to the more adequate Low-Cost Food Plan would cost about 32% more. Applying that increase to SNAP’s annual benefit costs of roughly \$61 billion would cost about \$19 billion a year, or \$190 billion over 10 years. See Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation and Costs (April 5, 2019). <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/pd/SNAPsummary.pdf>

⁵ Center for American Progress (CAP), “Beyond Tuition” (June 20, 2018). <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-postsecondary/reports/2018/06/20/451899/beyond-tuition/>

⁶ The Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, “Confronting the Education Debt” (Sept. 2018), p. 4.

http://educationdebt.reclaimourschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Confronting-the-Education-Debt_FullReport.pdf.

The federal government has underfunded Title I by an average of \$27 billion a year over the past 13 years, or roughly \$270 over a decade.

⁷ Ed Note, “Is the Federal Government Shortchanging Special Education Students?” (Sept. 4, 2018).

<https://ednote.ecs.org/is-the-federal-government-short-changing-special-education-students/>

⁸ Committee for Education Funding, “5¢ Makes Sense: Increase the Education Investment to 5 Cents of Every Federal Dollar” (Aug. 1, 2017), p. 3. <https://cef.org/wp-content/uploads/08.01.17-5-Cents-Makes-Sense.pdf>

⁹ Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), unpublished analysis of Department of Human Health and Services Office of Child Care Administrative Data and American Community Survey Data. Just 16% of children eligible for child care assistance (under federal eligibility parameters) get any help because the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) has been underfunded. See Department of Health & Human Services Factsheet: Estimates of Child Care Eligibility & Receipt for Fiscal Year 2013 (Nov. 2017).

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/258491/ChildCareSubsidyEligibility.pdf>. Though state eligibility standards vary, it would require \$122 billion in additional funding per year to serve all eligible children in families with incomes under 85% of the State Median Income at current per child costs (adjusted for inflation).

¹⁰ Child Care Aware of America, “The US and the High Price of Child Care: An Examination of a Broken System” (2019), pp. 43-44.

https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3957809/2019%20Price%20of%20Care%20State%20Sheets/Final-TheUSandtheHighPriceofChildCare-AnExaminationofaBrokenSystem.pdf?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fusa.childcareaware.org%2Fadvocacy-public-policy%2Fresources%2Fpriceofcare%2F

¹¹ Investing \$445 billion to create 2.2 million homes and over 1 million jobs: Moody’s Analytics, “Addressing the Affordable Housing Crisis” (Sept. 2018), Table 1. https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Moody's_Report_on_American_Housing_and_Economic_Mobility_Act1.pdf

Investing \$50 billion in public housing: Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, “Ongoing Investment with Wide Reaching Returns” (Oct. 2018), p. 5.

https://clpha.org/sites/default/files/documents/EconomicImpactPublicHousing_final2_digital_0.pdf

¹² The National Low Income Housing Coalition, “The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes” (March 2019), p. 1.

https://reports.nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report_2019.pdf

¹³ LIHEAP serves about six million very low-income households, or 20% of the eligible population. National Low Income Housing Coalition, “Advocates’ Guide 2018: A Primer on Federal Affordable Housing & Community Development Programs,” p. 5-27 to 5-28. https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/AG-2018/2018_Advocates-Guide.pdf LIHEAP’s 2019 funding is \$3.7 billion. For roughly an extra \$15 billion a year nearly all eligible families could receive assistance. See Administration for Children & Families, Office of Community Services, “Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).”

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocs/comm_ocs_liheap_factsheet_nov2018.pdf

¹⁴ American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), “2017 Infrastructure Report Card.”

<https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

¹⁵ ASCE, “2017 Infrastructure Report Card: Economic Impact.” <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/the-impact/economic-impact/>