



FAITHFUL
BUDGET
CAMPAIGN

Main Talking Points

The Faithful Budget is a set of comprehensive and compassionate budget priorities that protects the common good, values each individual, and helps lift the burden on the poor.

The Faithful Budget starts, not at the bottom line, but instead with our country's needs and priorities.

The Faithful Budget was drafted by Jews, Christians, Muslims and other communities of faith, each guided by sacred texts, to advocate for a more just society and a healthier world.

The Faithful Budget is a budget for all people, recognizing our mutual responsibility to one another's wellbeing.



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Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Faithful Budget?

The Faithful Budget is a set of comprehensive and compassionate budget priorities that protects the common good, values each individual, and helps lift the burden on the poor.

What subjects does the Faithful Budget address?

The Faithful Budget presents ideas for:

- 1) *Restoring Economic Opportunity* through investments in high-quality, affordable education, sustainable jobs with living wages, and policies that help families build assets.
- 2) *Ensuring Adequate Resources for the country's fiscal needs* through an equitable tax system founded on fairness.
- 3) *Fostering True Security* by balancing military investments with investments in health, education and community well-being.
- 4) *Reducing Poverty and Hardship* by adequately funding critical human needs, social services, and humanitarian and poverty-focused international assistance programs.
- 5) *Taking Responsibility for Future Generations* by protecting the most vulnerable among us while pursuing long-term deficit reduction.
- 6) *Caring for the Environment* by protecting air, water and land, ensuring all of God's creation is made available to this generation and those to come.
- 7) *Improving Access to Health Care* by investing in wellness and making needed improvements in the health care system.
- 8) *Recognizing the Robust Role of Government in Combating Poverty* by supporting policies that create a truly adequate short-term safety-net, prevent poverty, reduce extreme inequality, restore economic opportunity for all, and rebuild a robust middle class.

Who wrote the Faithful Budget?

The Faithful Budget was drafted by Jews, Christians, Muslims and other communities of faith, each guided by sacred texts, to advocate for a more just society and a healthier world.

Who supports the Faithful Budget?

The Faithful Budget was spearheaded by a coalition of leading Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other faith-based organizations affiliated with many of the major religious denominational movements in the United States.

(A full list of the organizations endorsing the Preamble-Principles of the Preamble for a Faithful Budget can be found beginning on page 8 of the Faithful Budget)

Why is the Faithful Budget needed?

The Faithful Budget embraces the reality that we live together in a community, not agreeing on everything, but sharing in the common purpose of bettering our nation.

The Faithful Budget seeks to transcend Washington's current political climate that lacks civil discourse and an ability to find common ground.

The Faithful Budget was drafted to model a just budget proposal for our nation's leaders that focused not on political ideologies or election advantage, but on our mutual responsibility for one another's wellbeing and the need to partner with each other in order to seek a more perfect union.

What are the goals of the Faithful Budget?

The Faithful Budget calls on Congress and the Administration to craft a federal budget for Fiscal Year 2013 that protects the common good, values each individual, and helps lift the burden on the poor.

Is the Faithful Budget partisan?

The Faithful Budget is a budget for all people, recognizing our mutual responsibility to one another's wellbeing.

The Faithful Budget lifts up the values that make us who we are as a nation, not as a political party or candidate.

How is the Faithful Budget different from other proposed budgets?

The Faithful Budget identifies principles and priorities that should be adopted by both the Administration and Congress as they make decisions on the FY2013 budget and appropriations legislation.

The Faithful Budget starts, not at the bottom line, but instead with our country's needs and priorities.

How is the Faithful Budget different from other faith-based budget advocacy efforts?

The Faithful Budget is truly an interfaith effort, embracing the reality that we live together in a community, not agreeing on everything, but sharing in the common purpose of bettering our nation.

Drafted by Jews, Christians, Muslims and other communities of faith, each guided by sacred texts, the Faithful Budget puts aside ideological and theological differences and focuses on our mutual responsibility for one another's wellbeing and the need to partner with each other in order to seek a more perfect union.

What is the Faithful Budget Campaign?

The Faithful Budget Campaign is an effort, led by a coalition of diverse religious denominations and institutions, to lift up faithful voices on behalf of the nation's most vulnerable to impact the national budget dialogue by demonstrating that America is a better nation when we follow our faiths' imperative to promote the general welfare of all.

The Faithful Budget Campaign was launched in May 2011 during the height of the congressional debt ceiling debate in order to ensure Congress and the Administration did not reduce the deficit by placing an undue burden on the poor while shielding the wealthiest from additional sacrifice.

Why was the Faithful Budget Campaign launched?

The religious community has worked beside the U.S. government for decades to protect those struggling to overcome poverty. Without a sustained federal commitment to these programs, the religious community is profoundly aware that try as we might, houses of worship will be unable to solely support the country's most vulnerable in their time of need.

The Faithful Budget Campaign was launched by the religious community in order to lift up faithful voices on behalf of the nation's most vulnerable in order to encourage the Administration and Congress to maintain a robust commitment to domestic and international poverty assistance programs.

What other events has the Faithful Budget Campaign organized?

In July 2011, during the height of the congressional debt ceiling debate, the Faithful Budget Campaign organized high-level meetings with policymakers, a Washington fly-in of the nation's top religious leaders, daily prayer vigils near the U.S. Capitol Building attended by hundreds of faith advocates.

Also during the debt ceiling debate, the Faithful Budget Campaign organized a prayerful gathering in the Capitol Rotunda that culminated with the arrest of eleven faith leaders.

In November 2011, during the failed Congressional Super Committee negotiations, the Faithful Budget Campaign held a widely covered prayer vigil outside of the White House and around the country that brought together faithful Americans of all denominations and faiths to pray for a budget solution that would not reduce the deficit by placing an undue burden on the poor while shielding the wealthiest from additional sacrifice.



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Potential Interview Pitfalls and Pivots

If asked: Does your organization/denomination endorse the Faithful Budget in its entirety? Or, Does your organization/denomination endorse a specific proposal laid out in the Faithful Budget?

In a climate lacking in civil discourse and lacking an ability to find common ground, the Faithful Budget reminds us that we are “one nation under God,” not a mere collection of isolated individuals. We endorsed the Preamble –Principles of a Faithful Budget because we are giving voice to the needs of individuals and families struggling to lift themselves out of need during these tough economic times.

If asked: Does that mean your organization does not endorse the specifics in the body of the Faithful Budget?

We support many of the detailed budget requests. The specific request areas were drafted by working groups in which we and others participated, and express the proposals that emerged from that process. But only the Preamble-Principles are endorsed by everyone.

If asked: Why was a specific issue included in the Faithful Budget? Or, Why was a specific issue not included in the Faithful Budget?

As a diverse coalition of faith communities, we understand that we will not agree on every issue. The principles of the Faithful Budget, such as advancing fiscal responsibility while increasing support for the poor and vulnerable, are inherent in our own work advocating to Congress to build a more perfect union. This is true for (name of organization) and our campaign to (list a priority of important to your organization)...

If asked: Where does the Faithful Budget find funding for the programs it supports?

The Faithful Budget starts, not at the bottom line, but instead by recognizing our mutual responsibility to one another's wellbeing. It is a set of comprehensive and compassionate budget priorities that protect the common good by pursuing an equitable tax system founded on fairness and by prioritizing true human security that balances military investments with investments in health, education and community well-being.

If asked: How were the organizations selected for endorsement? Or, Was a specific organization/denomination (not among the endorsees) asked to contribute to or endorse the Faithful Budget?

The Faithful Budget was spearheaded by a coalition of leading Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other faith-based community organizations affiliated with many of the major religious denominational movements in the United States. We welcome all faith leaders to join us in our ongoing conversations on how we, as a faith community, can be more responsible and faithful stewards for the nation's most vulnerable.

If asked: Who is funding the Faithful Budget?

Our work has been made possible through resources made available by the participating organizations and drafted by religious community leaders and professional staff in Washington, D.C. through their participation in voluntary working groups and committees.



Sample Tweets

#FaithfulBudget embraces the reality that we live together in a community, sharing in the common purpose of bettering our nation. (129)

#Faithful Budget seeks to transcend Washington's current political climate that lacks civil discourse and an ability to find common ground. (140)

#Faithful Budget focuses not on politics or elections, but on our mutual responsibility to one another (102)

#FaithfulBudget asks @reppaulryan @housebudgetdems @BarackObama to protect common good, value each individual & lift the burden on the poor (139)

#faithfulbudget is a #budget for all people, recognizing our mutual responsibility to one another's well being. (110)

#FaithfulBudget lifts up the values that make us who we are as a nation, not as a political party or candidate. (110)

#FaithfulBudget starts, not at the bottom line, but instead with our country's needs and priorities. (100)