

BalancedPolitics.org: List of 100 Taxes and Fees You Pay

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By: [Joe Messerli](#) "U.S. Internal Revenue Service: an agency modeled after the revenue raising concepts of the 19th century economist, Jesse James". --Robert Brault

"If you make any money, the government shoves you in the creek once a year with it in your pockets, and all that don't get wet you can keep". --Will Rogers

"The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it." --Ronald Reagan

One of the reasons the USA came into existence was that so many people were tired of paying taxes to a nation thousands of miles away. They shed blood to fight for their independence in large part to prevent an oppressive government from taking so much of their hard-earned dollars. The limited tax model the country once had has evolved into one where taxes and fees infiltrate virtually every part of our life. How? Almost all taxes are sold by the government as 1) A tax on the rich who can afford to pay more, 2) A one-time tax or fee to pay for a certain expense, or 3) A tax to pay for some "crisis". No matter how the taxes are sold by politicians, they're almost never taken away once they're implemented, and even if the target group is "the rich", inflation and other factors (such as businesses charging higher prices to cover tax increases) eventually causes the taxes to hit unintended targets.

So just how bad has the situation become? Here is a list of 100 taxes and fees you currently pay (either directly or through a pass-on of costs from business to consumer). Keep this list in mind every time you hear a politician propose new taxes or fees to pay for their latest binge of spending to repay campaign contributors and ensure their own reelection bids.

Personal/Consumer Taxes & Fees

1. Federal income tax
2. State income tax
3. Local income tax
4. Employee social security tax (your employer pays the other half)
5. Employee Medicare tax (your employer pays the other half)
6. Property taxes
7. Road toll charges
8. State sales tax
9. Driver's license renewal fee
10. TV Cable/Satellite fees & taxes
11. Federal telephone surtax, excise tax, and universal surcharge
12. State telephone excise tax and surcharge
13. Telephone minimum usage and recurring/nonrecurring charges tax
14. Gas/electric bill fees & taxes
15. Water/sewer fees & taxes
16. Cigarette tax
17. Alcohol tax
18. Federal gasoline tax
19. State gasoline tax
20. Local gasoline tax
21. Federal inheritance tax
22. State inheritance tax
23. Gift tax
24. Bridge toll charges
25. Marriage license
26. Hunting license
27. Fishing license
28. Bike license fee
29. Dog permit/license
30. State park permit
31. Watercraft registration & licensing fees
32. Sports stadium tax
33. Bike/nature trail permit
34. Court case filing fee
35. Retirement account early withdrawal penalty
36. Individual health insurance mandate tax
37. Hotel stay tax
38. Plastic surgery surcharge
39. Soda/fatty-food tax
40. Air transportation tax
41. Electronic transmission of tax return fees
42. Passport application/renewal fee
43. Luxury & gas-guzzler car taxes
44. New car surcharge
45. License plate and car ownership transfer taxes
46. Yacht and luxury boat taxes
47. Jewelry taxes & surcharges
48. State/local school tax
49. Recreational vehicle tax
50. Special assessments for road repairs or construction
51. Gun ownership permit
52. Kiddie tax (IRS form 8615)
53. Fuel gross receipts tax

54. Waste Management tax
55. Oil and gas assessment tax
56. Use taxes (on out-of-state purchase)
57. IRA rollover tax/withdrawal penalties
58. Tax on non-qualified health saving account distributions
59. Individual and small business surtax (page 336 of Obamacare)
60. Estimated income tax underpayment penalty
61. Alternative Minimum Tax on income

Business Taxes & Fees

62. Federal corporate income tax
63. State corporate income tax
64. Tax registration fee for new businesses
65. Employer social security tax
66. Employer Medicare tax
67. Federal unemployment tax
68. State unemployment tax
69. Business registration renewal tax
70. Worker's compensation tax
71. Tax on imported/exported goods
72. Oil storage/inspection fees
73. Employer health insurance mandate tax
74. Excise Tax on Charitable Hospitals (page 2001/Sec. 9007 of Obamacare)
75. Tax on Innovator Drug Companies (Page 2010/Sec. 9008 of Obamacare)
76. Tax on Medical Device Manufacturers (Page 2020/Sec. 9009 of Obamacare)
77. Tax on Health Insurers (Page 2026/Sec. 9010 of Obamacare)
78. Excise Tax on Comprehensive Health Insurance Plans, i.e. "Cadillac" plans
79. Tax on indoor tanning services
80. Utility users tax
81. Internet transaction fee (passed in California; being considered in other states and at federal level)
82. Professional license fee (accountants, lawyers, barbers, dentists, plumbers, etc.)
83. Franchise business tax
84. Tourism and concession license fee
85. Wiring inspection fees
86. Household employment tax
87. Biodiesel fuel tax
88. FDIC tax (insurance premium on bank deposits)
89. Electronic waste recycling fee
90. Hazardous material disposal fee
91. Food & beverage license fee
92. Estimated income tax underpayment penalty
93. Building/construction permit
94. Zoning permit
95. Fire inspection fee
96. Well permit tax
97. Sales and Use tax seller's permit
98. Commercial driver's license fee
99. Bank ATM transaction tax
100. Occupation taxes and fees (annual charges required for a host of professions)

Bar Stool Economics

Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to \$10. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this:

The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing.
The fifth would pay \$1.
The sixth would pay \$3.
The seventh would pay \$7.
The eighth would pay \$12.
The ninth would pay \$18.
The tenth man (the richest) would pay \$59.

So, that's what they decided to do. The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed to be a regular arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve. He said, "Since you are all good customers, I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20. Drinks for the ten men will now be just \$80."

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes, so the first four men still drink for free. But what about the other six men -- the paying customers?

How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his "fair share"? The fair share for six is \$3.33. But if they subtracted that from every body's share, then the fifth man would be up being paid to drink his beer. So the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to divide the \$20 among the six men, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay!

And so:

The fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% savings).
The sixth now paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33% savings).
The seventh now pay \$5 instead of \$7 (28% savings).
The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% savings).
The ninth now paid \$14 instead of \$18 (22% savings).
The tenth now paid \$49 instead of \$59 (16% savings).

Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free.

But once outside the restaurant, the men began to count up their savings.

"I only got a dollar out of the \$20," declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man.

"Yeah, that's right," exclaimed the fifth man. "I only saved a dollar, too. It's unfair!"

"That's true!!"shouted the seventh man. "Why should he get \$10 back when I got only \$5?"

"Wait a minute," yelled the first four men in unison. "We didn't get anything at all."

The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next night the tenth man didn't show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn't have enough to pay for even half of the bill!

And that, boys and girls, journalists and college professors, is how our tax system works. The highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, and they just may not show up any more. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the taxes are lower.

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