

July 20, 2012

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Advocates urge expiration of tax cuts

By [Paul J. Nyden](#)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Next week, the U.S. Senate is likely to vote on legislation to let tax cuts for people or families making more than \$250,000 a year expire. According to a recent report, such a move would impact West Virginia less than any other state.

"West Virginia has the least to lose economically by extending Bush tax cuts to millionaires," said Ted Boettner, executive director of the West Virginia Center on Budget & Policy.

"However, we have the most to gain by extending the tax cuts for the middle and upper middle classes that make up 99 percent of all West Virginia taxpayers," Boettner said.

The Tax Foundation, which calls itself a nonprofit and nonpartisan research group, issued a ["Fiscal Fact" Report](#) on Tuesday, stating the expiration of Bush tax cuts would impact different states unevenly.

The Washington-based Tax Foundation found that West Virginia had the lowest percentage in the entire country of tax returns reporting more than \$1 million in income in 2010.

Gary Zuckett, executive director of the West Virginia Citizen Action Group, said, "When these tax cuts were passed, they had a definite sunset. Lawmakers realized our country could not afford an indefinite decline in tax revenues.

"We are asking the top 1 percent of our residents in West Virginia to go back to paying tax rates during the Bush and Clinton years, when business was booming," Zuckett said. "Those who do well in America should do well for Americans and pay their fair share."

Boettner noted that federal tax rates on the rich are lower than they have been for 80 years, "while the federal deficit has soared to new heights."

"Extending tax cuts on incomes in excess of \$250,000 would add nearly \$1 trillion to deficits between 2013 and 2022," he said. "The biggest benefits would flow to millionaires who would receive more than 80 percent of the value of the upper-income tax cuts in West Virginia."

The tax cuts were first supported by then-President George W. Bush and approved by Congress. President Obama wanted the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans repealed, but agreed to extend them as part of a compromise with Congress in 2010. Obama recently said that he would not agree to another extension of the tax cuts for annual income above \$250,000.

"We are hoping both our senators support the proposal in the Senate to let tax cuts expire for those making more than \$250,000," Zuckett said.

Before the compromise in 2010 was reached, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., backed letting tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans expire. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said he favored extending the tax cuts for everyone, then said he was open to compromise.

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Posted By: Palerider1

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How dare the rich protect THEIR money from the most money grubbing liberal president to ever stink up the office.

Obama never saw another mans dollar he did not want to spend on votes from the non working.

Posted at: July 20, 2012 8:13:34 pm

Posted By: WaterBuffaloRider

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The loss of mining and manufacturing jobs in WV resulted in a loss of intellect as well and we have voted Republican in the last three presidential elections. Dick Cheney made a slur about incest in WV and we have embraced his politics ever since. That proves a lack of intellect.

Posted at: July 20, 2012 8:51:01 pm

Posted By: WaterBuffaloRider

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When Republicans reach their dream of ending government, the rich will pay no taxes and they will have full control of the puppets that tax the rest of us. We are headed to pre-colonial days when foreign governments and corrupt business men controlled various sections of America.

Posted at: July 20, 2012 8:55:41 pm

Posted By: WaterBuffaloRider

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The economy is consumer driven. The extremely wealthy have stock-piled the Bush tax cuts and caused the worst recession in the history of the United States. Obama took over in the wake of that mess and brilliantly guided the recovery in spite of Republican obstruction. The killing of bin Laden, al Rahman, two American al Qaida clerics and Gadhafi with Navy Seals, drones and foreign rebels have seething Republicans creating absurdities to energize dim-witted Tea Party Parrots of the Powerful.

Posted at: July 20, 2012 9:06:03 pm

Posted By: ralphie

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When democrats reach their dream of entire government control the working will pay all the taxes to the government and receive no benefits. We have problem in this country when some one gets back more taxes than they paid in and rewards those that don't work. We are headed to glory days of old England those in control taxed the working class. Take a long hard look at how your government is working for you now. We are but surfs for the monarchs in washington.

Posted at: July 21, 2012 1:05:04 am