

Rand Paul Questions for November 2017

Synopsis

Rand Paul has indicated he wants to give everyone a tax cut, across the board.¹⁻² He does not embrace revenue neutral tax cuts, because those just cut someone's taxes and raise taxes on someone else.³ He favors cutting spending to balance the budget, and has proposed large decreases in federal outlays to balance the budget and reduce deficits.³⁻⁵ Rand Paul wants the Federal Government to do as little as humanly possible, and does not concern himself with the consequences of leaving many of the present functions currently carried out by the Federal government to States or eliminated entirely.⁶ Rand Paul believes the economy and people would do better if just left to their own devices. He believes that taxes just take away resources from people and businesses who could do far better if allowed to use "their money" as they saw fit.⁷ Paul's lack of appreciation for how government contributes to society, what its primary role in society is and how taxes actually work to enhance and not detract from our society seem beyond him. This raises the following questions for Paul.

Questions

1. You have indicated you want across the board tax cuts for everyone and that tax cuts should be balanced with spending cuts, particularly in social areas that benefit working Americans.¹⁻⁴ ***Would the Senator explain why wealthy companies and individuals who reap the largest rewards from our society should have less responsibility to help pay for social programs and investments that benefit them and everyone else?***
2. Senator Paul has stated "we can cut taxes, and promote jobs and growth without picking winners and losers".⁵ ***If tax cuts lead to less opportunity to attend College, less access to affordable healthcare, less social services, less affordable housing and less social support, while the wealthiest Americans walk away with nearly 50% of those tax cuts, isn't that exactly what you have done – made some Americans big winners and other Americans big losers?***
3. The Senator has indicated he believes people could spend their tax dollars better than the Federal government as justification for cutting taxes. Most wealthy people and businesses do not spend their savings or profits to solve social problems, invest in social infrastructure or correct social injustice. ***Does the Senator believe these are unimportant or just unnecessary functions of the Federal Government?***
4. Payroll taxes have increased nearly 350% in the last 60 years.⁸ Today, payroll taxes account for about 1/3rd of Federal revenue and the largest portion of taxes paid by working Americans earning the least money.⁹ ***Why don't your discussions of tax cuts ever include payroll taxes that directly affect the poorest working Americans most?***
5. Taxes are used to invest in basic research that has provided opportunities used by business in such diverse areas as aeronautics, internet, solid-state electronics, biotechnology, genomics, nanotechnology and space exploration to name a few. Taxes also helped to build hydroelectric dams, fund rural electrification efforts, interstate highways, airports, seaports, and land grant universities. Many of the largest businesses in America today benefit directly from government investments, and other businesses would never exist were it not for tax funded infrastructure and government supported basic and applied research. ***Would the Senator explain how less government spending and less taxes do anything comparable with regard to enhancing GDP growth and business expansion? Would he please provide evidence for his beliefs tax cuts will produce more long term economic growth than government investments have?***

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