

How Many?

A Numbers Guide for

Lame-Duck

Fence-Sitting

Anti-Fair-Share

Millionaires-Over-Middle-Class

Members of Congress

An Analysis of Demographics in New York Congressional Districts Where Representatives Have Not Supported Ending the Bush Tax Cuts for the Wealthy

Comparison by Congressional District:

Number of Constituents with Adjusted Gross Incomes over \$250,000

Vs.

Number of Constituents Receiving Social Security and Medicare

Key Points

While negotiations between the White House and Congressional Republicans and Democrats in Washington continue, it's important for New Yorkers to understand the dramatic difference between those targeted by Republicans for cuts – Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries – and those targeted by President Obama for tax increases – the richest top 2% of households.

Actually, in most areas of New York, ending the Bush tax cuts for income over \$250,000 per year would hit only the top 1% of taxpayers. But in all areas of the state, Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries are a significant portion of the population, ranging from at least one in ten residents of Brooklyn to a quarter of the population in greater Schenectady to about a third of the population in Hamilton County.

New York House members facing votes this month on “fiscal cliff” proposals must put fairness first. And it's simply not fair to cut benefits and services for tens of thousands of seniors and people with disabilities while protecting the wealth of a few hundred or a few thousand wealthy New Yorkers who could afford to pay more.

- **Representative Chris Gibson**, for example: 99% of his constituents are not wealthy. Only about **1% would pay higher taxes** if Clinton-era tax rates were restored. But about **20% of his constituents would face cuts** if plans to slash Social Security and Medicare benefits were implemented.
- For Rep. **Michael Grimm**, the figures are similar: only **1.3% of Staten Island taxpayers** and 1.1% of Brooklyn taxpayers have income over \$250,000 per year. But 17% of Staten Islanders receive Social Security benefits and about 15% rely on Medicare, which have been targeted for cuts by the GOP.
- In most areas of **Rep. Tom Reed's** district, **less than 1%** of taxpayers have income over \$250,000 per year. But in the same areas **about a quarter of his constituents rely on Social Security and 20% need Medicare benefits.**
- For lame duck **Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle**, the figures are similar: a few hundred or a few thousand households in most counties – **about 1%** of taxpayers – have income over \$250,000 per year. But tens of thousands of her constituents – from **17-24%** rely on Social Security and Medicare.
- **Rep. Richard Hanna** must know that 99% of his constituents are not wealthy – in fact, in Herkimer County only 81 people, **about 0.3%** have income over \$250,000, and in the rest of his district it's **1% or less.** But tens of thousands rely on Social Security and Medicare, including up to a quarter of Chenango County residents.
- Lame-duck **Rep. Nan Hayworth** represents some parts of Westchester County, where only 93% of residents are not wealthy. But in many areas of her former district, only **2 or 3%** of taxpayers would pay higher rates under the Obama plan. But about **15% of residents** in many areas face cuts to Social Security and Medicare that Hayworth's Tea Party colleagues have advocated.

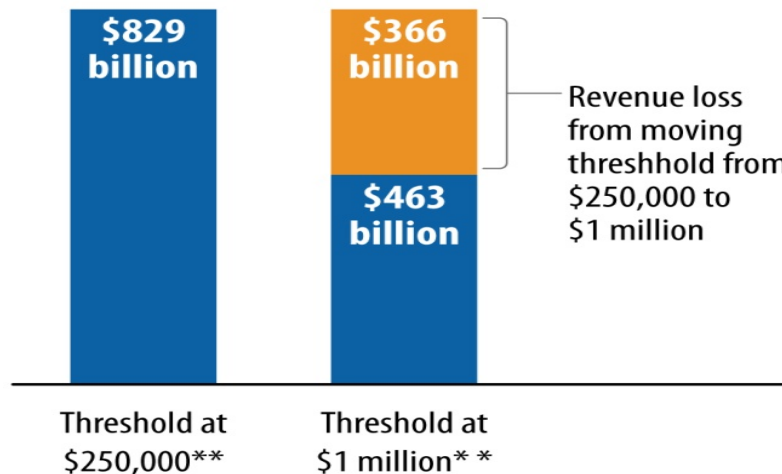
The Cliff

To avoid automatic across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts, President Obama has outlined a strategy that would ask the wealthiest families in the United States to pay a little more, raising the current tax rate from 35% to 39.6% for top earners by rescinding the Bush-era tax cuts for families with adjusted gross incomes above \$250,000.

The current negotiations have included an offer by House Republicans to raise the top tax threshold from \$250,000 to \$1 million. **New York House members will vote on this proposal this week.** If we increase this threshold all the way to \$1 million, the federal government would lose approximately \$366 billion in revenue over 10 years (see CBPP Chart below). This would require either more spending cuts (over and above the \$1.5 billion that have already been enacted) which would have a damaging impact on our already fragile economy.



Revenues saved compared to continuing all Bush tax cuts, 2013-2022, billions*



*Excludes additional savings from reduced interest on the debt.

**Savings exclude any reductions in estate tax cuts.

Source: Joint Committee on Taxation

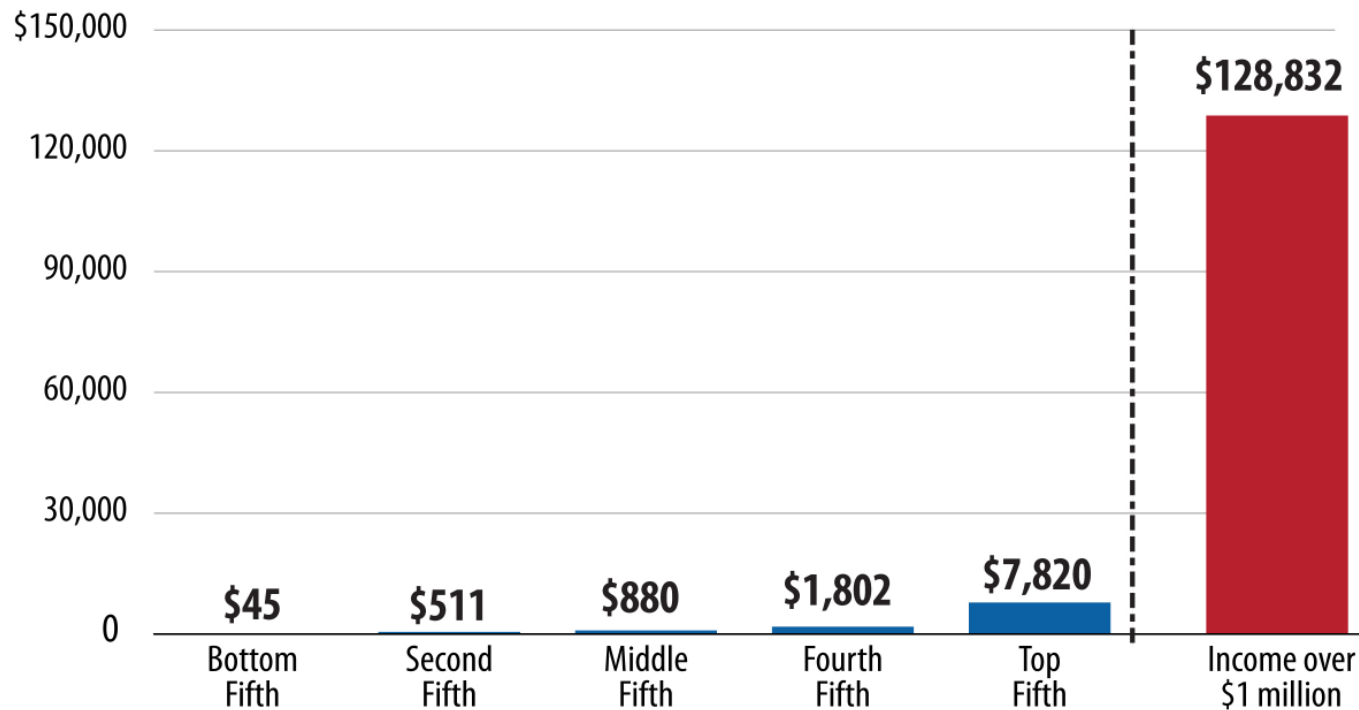
Who Benefits the Most from the Bush Tax Cuts?

The wealthiest wage earners have disproportionately benefited from the tax cuts enacted in 2001. The average millionaire gets a \$128,832 tax cut annually (as reflected in the chart below). Many wealthy Americans, like Warren Buffet, have argued that they should be paying higher tax rates to make our system fairer to the average citizen. Buffet points out that the wealthy pay far less of a percentage of their income in taxes than do most middle class Americans.

We should also note (as the chart on the next page shows) that the higher tax rates in the 1990's did not negatively impact our economic growth – quite the opposite in fact – economic growth was significantly higher during periods where the wealthy had slightly higher tax rates.

Proposed Extension of Bush Tax Cuts Favors Millionaires

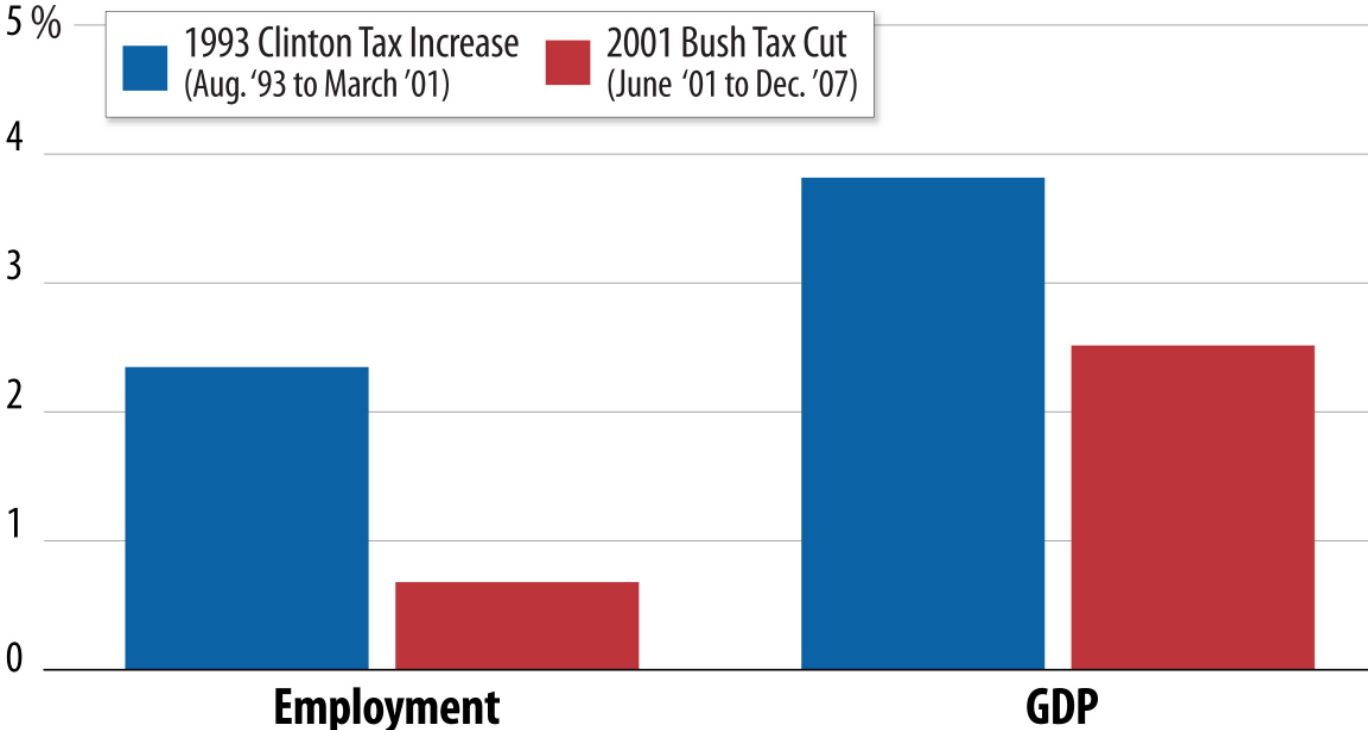
(Average Dollar Benefit From Extending All of the 2001 and 2003 Tax Cuts)



Source: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center (T10-0133, T10-0132)

Taxes No Barrier to Economic Growth in 90s

(Average annual growth in period following tax change)



Source: CBPP calculations from Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis

County	Median Household Income¹	Number of Returns with AGI over \$250K²	Percent of Total Returns with AGI over \$250K (2009)³	Number (Percentage) of Population receiving Social Security (2010)⁴	Percentage of Population receiving Medicare (2010)⁵
Albany	\$53,783	2169	1.6%	18.4%	15.2%
Allegany	\$41,384	53	0.3%	21.7%	17.7%
Bronx	\$32,674	1208	0.2%	12.7%	11.9%
Broome	\$43,920	811	0.9%	23.0%	20.1%
Cattaraugus	\$41,266	153	0.5%	23.0%	20.0%
Cayuga	\$48,453	183	0.6%	20.0%	17.1%
Chautauqua	\$39,981	242	0.4%	23.6%	20.3%
Chemung	\$46,130	371	1.0%	23.4%	19.6%
Chenango	\$41,418	83	0.4%	24.5%	20.4%
Clinton	\$44,193	266	0.8%	21.1%	17.3%
Columbia	\$50,620	342	1.2%	23.3%	20.1%
Cortland	\$41,903	97	0.5%	18.9%	15.6%
Delaware	\$40,252	94	0.5%	23.8%	19.9%
Dutchess	\$68,831	2,188	1.7%	18.4%	16.1%
Erie	\$46,773	4,921	1.2%	21.5%	18.7%
Essex	\$42,053	111	0.7%	23.1%	20.3%
Franklin	\$41,062	67	0.4%	21.2%	16.6%
Fulton	\$39,939	87	0.4%	23.9%	18.1%
Genesee	\$47,387	132	0.5%	21.2%	19.1%
Greene	\$45,070	136	0.6%	23.6%	19.5%
Hamilton	\$45,474	*11+	0.5%	31.4%	27.2%
Herkimer	\$42,876	81	0.3%	23.8%	18.5%

Jefferson	\$43,448	263	0.6%	17.8%	14.7%
Kings	\$42,047	11,172	1.1%	12.0%	12.2%
Lewis	\$41,093	31	0.3%	19.3%	16.7%
Livingston	\$50,094	128	0.5%	19.5%	16.3%
Madison	\$50,270	288	1.0%	18.3%	16.3%
Monroe	\$49,564	4473	1.3%	19.6%	16.7%
Montgomery	\$40,035	89	0.4%	25.0%	21.4%
Nassau	\$90,294	29,505	4.6%	18.3%	16.7%
New York	\$63,188	62,712	8.0%	14.9%	15.1%
Niagara	\$44,006	488	0.5%	23.3%	19.7%
Oneida	\$46,409	751	0.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Onondaga	\$50,298	2919	1.4%	19.6%	16.9%
Ontario	\$53,137	688	1.4%	21.4%	18.2%
Orange	\$65,512	2244	1.4%	15.8%	13.3%
Orleans	\$44,783	*30+	0.2%	21.2%	16.6%
Oswego	\$44,371	172	0.3%	20.9%	17.0%
Otsego	\$42,837	227	0.9%	22.3%	19.4%
Putnam	\$85,585	1319	2.9%	16.6%	13.8%
Queens	\$52,486	5977	0.6%	13.5%	13.1%
Rensselaer	\$51,720	527	0.7%	18.9%	16.3%
Richmond	\$69,163	2697	1.3%	17.3%	14.8%
Rockland	\$79,798	4386	3.4%	16.6%	15.0%
St Lawrence	\$40,008	155	0.4%	21.6%	18.3%
Saratoga	\$65,508	1560	1.5%	18.8%	15.5%
Schenectady	\$52,062	684	1.0%	20.2%	19.6%
Schoharie	\$47,350	53	0.4%	19.9%	18.1%
Schuyler	\$46,870	*25+	0.3%	24.9%	18.9%
Seneca	\$45,961	57	0.4%	21.5%	16.6%

Steuben	\$45,231	313	0.8%	22.8%	19.4%
Suffolk	\$81,235	17,569	2.5%	18.1%	15.7%
Sullivan	\$43,882	244	0.7%	21.7%	18.2%
Tioga	\$50,043	130	0.6%	22.2%	17.4%
Tompkins	\$50,156	627	1.6%	14.4%	12.4%
Ulster	\$51,194	797	1.0%	20.6%	17.4%
Warren	\$50,269	360	1.1%	25.2%	21.6%
Washington	\$46,629	74	0.3%	21.1%	18.3%
Wayne	\$50,213	166	0.4	22.8%	18.9%
Westchester	\$76,993	32,234	7.4%	16.8%	15.5%
Wyoming	\$46,846	56	0.3%	20.5%	16.5%

1, 2, 3. New York State Department of Taxation and Finance: New York Adjusted Gross Income and Tax Liability - Analysis of 2009 State Personal Income Tax Returns by Place of Residence,
http://www.tax.ny.gov/research/stats/stat_pit/county_of_residence/analysis_of_2009_state_personal_income_tax_returns_by_place_of_residence.htm

4, 5. Strengthen Social Security, *Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid Work for New York*, 2012,
<http://www.strengthensocialsecurity.org/sites/default/files/NewYork2012final.pdf>

* According to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, in Hamilton, Orleans, and Schuyler counties, Tax Law secrecy provisions prohibit disclosure. The number reported does not include those with incomes \$500,000 and above, and those with incomes between \$200,000 and \$249,000.

How Many?

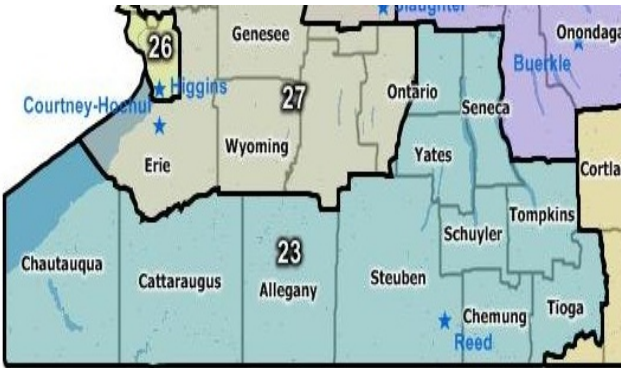
US Representative Michael Grimm – 13th Congressional District

How Many People In My District Make over \$250,000?

Really? That's All!



County	Median Household Income	Number of Returns with AGI over \$250K	Percent of Returns with AGI over \$250K (2009)	Percentage (number) of Population receiving Social Security (2010)	Percentage (number) of Population receiving Medicare (2010)
Richmond	\$69,163	2,697	1.3%	17.3% (81,015)	14.8% (69,372)
Kings	\$42,047	11,172	1.1%	12.0% (301,475)	12.2% (305,573)



How Many?
 US Representative Tom Reed – 23rd
 Congressional District
 How Many People In My District Make over
 \$250,000?
 Really? That's All!



County	Median Household Income	Number of Returns with AGI over \$250K	Percent of Total Returns with AGI over \$250K (2009)	Number (Percentage) of Population receiving Social Security (2010)	Percentage of Population receiving Medicare (2010)
CHAUTAUQUA	\$40,639	242	.4%	31,820 (23.6%)	20.3%
CATTARAUGUS	\$42,466	153	.5%	18,445 (23.0%)	20.00%
SENECA	\$45,961	57	.4%	7,575 (21.5%)	16.60%
TOMPKINS	\$50,156	627	1.6%	14,600 (14.4%)	12.40%
CHEMUNG	\$46,130	371	.9%	12,370 (23.4%)	20.40%
PART OF ONTARIO	\$53,137	688	1.4%	23,095 (21.4%)	18.20%
STEUBEN	\$45,231	313	.8%	22,555 (22.8%)	19.4%
SCHUYLER	\$46,870	n/a	n/a	4,570 (24.9%)	18.9%



How Many?

US Representative Richard Hanna – 24th Congressional District

How Many People In My District Make over \$250,000? Really? That's All!



County	Median Household Income	Number of Returns with AGI over \$250K	Percent of Total Returns with AGI over \$250K (2009)	Number (Percentage) of Population receiving Social Security (2010)	Percentage of Population receiving Medicare (2010)
BROOME	\$43,920	811	.9%	46,050 (23.0%)	20.10%
CAYUGA	\$48,453	183	.6%	16,030 (20.0%)	17.10%
CHENANGO	\$41,903	83	.4%	12,370 (25.5%)	20.40%
CORTLAND	\$41,903	97	.5%	9,340 (18.9%)	15.60%
HERKIMER	\$42,876	81	.3%	15,335 (23.8%)	18.50%
ONEIDA	\$46,409	751	.7%	53,205 (22.7%)	19.90%
ONTARIO	\$53,137	688	1.4%	23,095 (21.4%)	18.20%
OTSEGO	\$42,837	227	.9%	13,900 (22.3%)	19.40%
SENECA	\$45,961	57	.4%	7,575 (21.5%)	16.60%
TIOGA	\$50,043	130	.6%	11,370 (22.2%)	17.40%
TOMPKINS	\$50,156	627	1.6%	14,600 (14.4%)	12.40%

How Many?

US Representative Ann Marie Buerkle
25th Congressional District

How Many People In My District Make over
\$250,000?
Really? That's All!

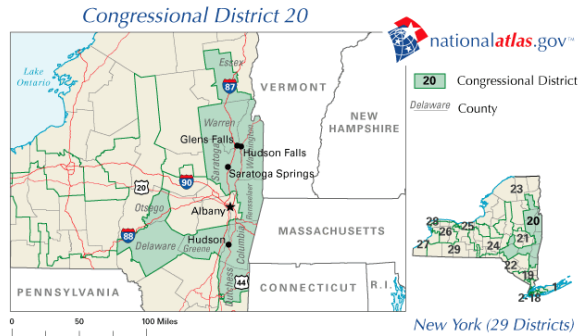


County	Median Household Income	Number of Returns with AGI over \$250K	Percent of Total Returns with AGI over \$250K (2009)+	Number (Percentage) of Population receiving Social Security (2010)	Percentage of Population receiving Medicare (2010)
ONONDAGA	\$50,298	2919	1.4%	91,750 (19.6%)	16.9%
CAYUGA	\$48,453	183	0.6%	16,030 (20.0%)	17.10%
WAYNE	\$50,213	166	0.4%	21,350 (22.8%)	18.9%
MONROE	\$49,564	4,473	1.3%	145,920 (19.6%)	16.7%
FULTON	\$39,939	87	0.4%	13,260 (23.9%)	18.1%
W. of OSWEGO	\$44,371	172	0.3%	25,525 (20.9%)	17.0%

How Many?

US Representative Chris Gibson – 20th Congressional District
 How Many People In My District Make over \$250,000?

Really? That's All!



County	Median Household Income	Number of Returns with AGI over \$250K	Percent of Total Returns with AGI over \$250K (2009)	Number (Percentage) of Population receiving Social Security (2010)	Percentage of Population receiving Medicare (2010)
Columbia	\$50,620	342	1.2%	14,685 (23.3%)	20.1%
Delaware	\$40,252	94	0.5%	11,420 (23.8%)	19.9%
Dutchess	\$68,831	2,188	1.7%	54,615 (18.4%)	16.1%
Essex	\$42,053	111	0.7%	9,105 (23.1%)	20.3%
Greene	\$45,070	136	0.6%	11,640 (23.6%)	19.5%
Rensselaer	\$51,720	527	0.7%	30,170 (18.9%)	16.3%
Saratoga	\$65,508	1,560	1.5%	41,385 (18.8%)	15.5%
Otsego	\$42,837	227	0.9%	13,900 (22.3%)	19.4%
Warren	\$50,269	360	1.1%	16,585 (25.2%)	21.6%
Washington	\$46,629	74	0.3%	13,330 (21.1%)	18.3%

How Many?

US Representative Nan Hayworth –
19th Congressional District

How Many People In My District Make over \$250,000?
Really? That's All!



County	Median Household Income	Number of Returns with AGI over \$250K	Percent of Total Returns with AGI over \$250K (2009)	Number (Percentage) of Population receiving Social Security (2010)	Percentage of Population receiving Medicare (2010)
Dutchess	\$68,831	2,188	1.7%	54,615 (18.4%)	16.1%
Orange	\$65,512	2,244	1.4%	58,920 (15.8%)	13.3%
Putnam	\$82,585	1,319	2.9%	16,515 (16.6%)	13.8%
Rockland	\$79,798	4,386	3.4%	51,725 (16.6%)	15%
Westchester	\$76,993	32,234	7.4%	159,370 (16.8%)	15.5%