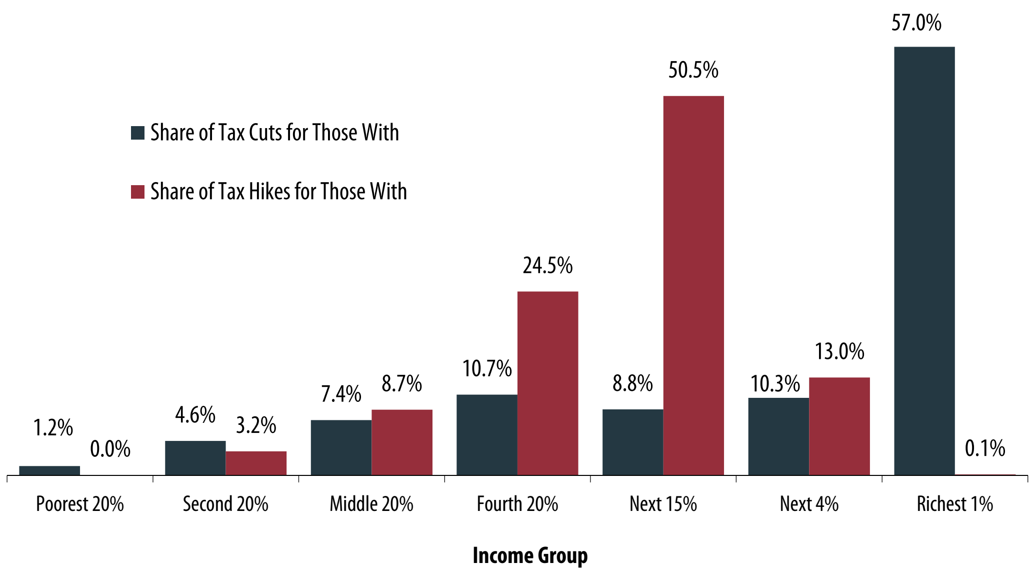
October 2017

30% of Marylanders Would Pay More Under GOP-Trump Tax Framework, But the State's Richest 1% Would Pay Less

The "tax reform framework" released by the Trump administration and congressional Republican leaders on September 27 would not benefit everyone in Maryland equally. More than 30 percent of Maryland households would have higher tax bills, but nearly everyone among the richest one percent of the state's residents would receive a tax cut.

Distribution of Tax Cuts and Tax Hikes Under the GOP-Trump Framework in 2018 in Maryland



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), October 2017

The framework would particularly benefit those with incomes greater than $1 million. These households will make up just 0.8 percent of Maryland's population but would receive 109.3 percent of the tax cuts if the plan was in effect next year. This group would receive an average tax cut of $93,100 in 2018 alone, which would increase their income by an average of 4.7 percent. The reason Maryland millionaires receive over 100 percent of the cut is that the aggregate tax cut going to this group is larger than the net tax cut of $1.9 billion delivered to all Maryland taxpayers. As explained below, many taxpayers in Maryland would pay more under the plan.

The middle fifth of households in Maryland, people who are literally the state's "middle-class" would not fare as well. Despite being 20 percent of the population, this group would receive just 5.8 percent of the tax cuts that go to Maryland under the framework. In 2018 this group is projected to earn between $48,700 and $73,700. The framework would cut their taxes by an average of $190, which would increase their income by an average of 0.3 percent.

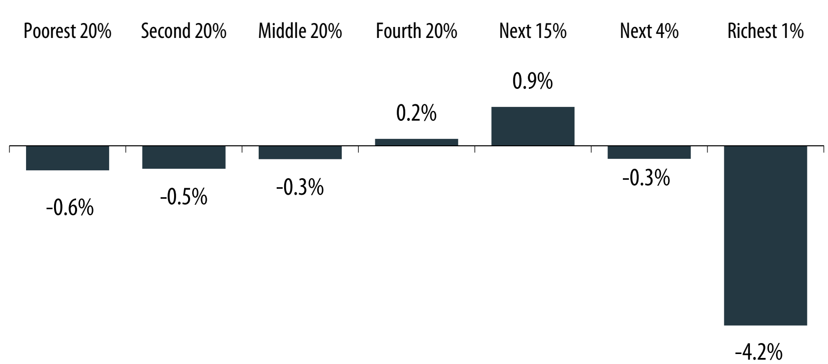
Average Tax Change Under GOP-Trump Tax Framework in 2018 in Maryland

Figures rounded to the nearest ten dollars. Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), October 2017

If the framework was in effect in 2018, 30.5 percent of of Maryland households would face a tax hike. Whether a family would pay higher or lower taxes would depend on their circumstances. There are two provisions that reduce the amount of income that is subject to taxes for most families, and the framework increases one of them (the standard deduction) while repealing the other (the personal exemption). Families who itemize their deductions (rather than claming the standard deduction) may pay higher taxes beause the framework repeals most itemized deductions, including the deduction for state and local taxes.

In Maryland, the average taxpayer with incomes between $73,700 and $254,900 (the fourth 20 percent and next 15 percent) would face a tax increase under the framework. 40.9 percent of taxpayers in the fourth 20 percent income group would see an average tax hike of $2,200 and 64.8 percent of taxpayers in the next 15 percent groups would face an average hike of $3,650. Additionally, the majority of taxpayers in the next 4 percent income group would pay more.

Average Tax Change Under the GOP-Trump Framework as a Share of Income in 2018 in Maryland



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), October 2017

In the context of the overall framework, however, its ultimate impact falls more heavily on families in the middle- and upper-middle portions of the income distribution. This is because while the taxpayers at the very top of the income distribution would initially be impacted by repeal, the tax cuts they receive in return for giving up their deduction are more than enough to offset that impact. The framework is far less generous in offering offsetting tax cuts to middle-income families. It is also important to note that the impacts of repealing the state and local tax deduction are far more sweeping than is often recognized. For the vast majority of taxpayers currently claiming itemized deductions, the loss of the ability to write-off income, sales, and property taxes means that these taxpayers will stop itemizing altogether, and will no longer receive any tax benefits associated with their charitable donations or mortgage interest payments.

The framework would be particularly generous to the wealthy in large part because it would reduce the corporate income tax rate. The bulk of the benefits would go to the owners of corporate stocks and other business assets, a group of overwhelmingly (although not entirely) high-income taxpayers. The framework would also provide a special tax rate of 25 percent for other types of businesses. While it describes this as a tax cut for "small businesses," most of the benefits would go to the richest one percent of Americans. The wealthiest taxpayers would also benefit greatly from the framework's reduction in the top personal income tax rate from 39.6 percent to 35 percent and elimination of the estate tax.

These figures have been calculated by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP). Because the framework leaves many unanswered questions, this analysis required several assumptions that are explained in [ITEP's longer report](). ITEP generally interprets vague proposals in the framework to match more detailed ones that were included in Donald Trump's presidential campaign or in tax overhaul proposals from Republican leaders in Congress.

The table below provides more detail about the effects of the administration's tax proposals on households at different income levels.

Impacts of the Trump-GOP Tax Framework in 2018 in Maryland

			All Taxpayers				Taxpayers with a Tax Cut		Taxpayers with a Tax Hike	
Income Group	Income Range	Avg. Income	Tot. Change ($1000s)	Avg. Tax Change	Change as a % of Pre-Tax Income	Share of Tax Change	Share w/ Tax Cut	Avg. Cut in $	Share w/ Tax Hike	Avg. Hike in $
Poorest 20%	Less than $27,000	$14,600	$ −49,500	$ −80	−0.6%	2.6%	84.4%	$ −100	1.2%	$+120
Second 20%	$27,000 to $48,700	36,900	−117,100	−200	−0.5%	6.1%	76.3%	$ −410	18.8%	$+620
Middle 20%	$48,700 to $73,700	59,400	−111,300	−190	−0.3%	5.8%	66.6%	$ −750	32.6%	$+960
Fourth 20%	$73,700 to $126,500	96,900	+86,600	+150	0.2%	−4.5%	58.5%	$ −1,280	40.9%	$+2,200
Next 15%	$126,500 to $254,900	176,200	+718,800	+1,580	0.9%	−37.6%	35.2%	$ −2,220	64.8%	$+3,650
Next 4%	$254,900 to $657,800	382,200	−139,000	−1,180	−0.3%	7.3%	45.3%	$ −7,780	54.7%	$+4,290
Richest 1%	$657,800 and higher	1,777,000	−2,297,900	−74,470	−4.2%	120.3%	98.7%	$ −75,500	1.2%	$+6,790
ALL		**$101,300**	**$ −1,909,800**	**$ −640**	**−0.6%**	**100.0%**	**65.3%**	**$ −2,080**	**30.5%**	**$+2,350**
Bottom 60%	Less than $73,700	$37,000	$ −277,900	$ −160	−0.4%	14.6%	75.7%	$ −400	17.5%	$+820

The tax proposals included in these figures are the following, which are described in more detail in [ITEP's longer report]().

Repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax.
Repeal personal exemptions and increase the standard deduction.
Replace current income tax brackets with three brackets, 12 percent, 25 percent, and 35 percent.
Increase non-refundable child tax credit and new non-refundable credit for other dependents.
Eliminate all itemized deductions except those for charitable giving and home mortgage interest.
Repeal the estate tax.
Special tax rate (25 percent) for businesses that do not pay the corporate income tax.
Repeal special tax breaks for businesses and reduce the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.
Allow businesses to write off full costs of investment in the first year.