

HOW WOULD *YOU* SPEND \$653,000,000,000?

\$653 billion of our tax dollars will go to the military in Fiscal Year 2013.*

That's over \$1.75 billion a day or \$1,750,000,000.

Everyday of the year we'd have \$1.75 billion to spend on things people need.

First off, I'd reduce taxes for low-income people and put the tax threshold higher.
Then I'd start spending.

I'd pay for
 many more Veterans benefits and services, and
 retraining programs for military recruiters, soldiers, the top brass, and Pentagon
 bureaucrats.

I'd sponsor the conversion of bases into civilian facilities, and clean up the toxic
 contamination caused by military operations, training, and wars.

I'd put several day's money into researching what to do with nuclear waste.

I'd bankroll the building of beautiful, affordable homes for people who need them,
 more Head Start places,
 and more creative, meaningful projects for teens.

I'd get single-payer health care started—an investment that will save us billions.

I'd invest in acupuncture, chiropractic care, homeopathic and massage treatments in
 community clinics.

I'd pay for more K-12 teachers—including music and art teachers—and give them a
 raise.

I'd hire yoga teachers, counselors, and gardeners in schools.

I'd fund many more scholarships for college students,
 effective drug treatment programs for women and men, AIDS research, and
 research into environmental links to cancer.

I'd commission renewable energy projects at household, neighborhood, city, and state
 levels, and research into new technologies for renewable energy.

I'd invest in reliable, frequent, clean, free public transit,
 public parks, playgrounds, and gardens, and
 fast inter-city trains.

I'd pay to set up water recycling projects where water is cleaned by plants.

I'd sponsor research into safer methods of contraception.

I'd pay to fill potholes, clean up trash, mend public services,
 to bring good food to poor neighborhoods,
 for community centers and cafes, and libraries for everything we need to borrow
 from books to DVDs to prom gowns, tuxedos, walkers and wheelchairs.

There's plenty of money for childcare, care for elders, people with disabilities, and everyone who needs care, including raises for people who provide care.
There's money for poets and poetry, for translators so we can really communicate, for musicians, performers, actors, dancers, painters, for festivals and events.
I'd sustain studio spaces and theater spaces, and community classes in arts, languages, literacy, and permaculture.
I'd pay for projects that link organic gardens with food services in prisons, hospitals and schools. I'd buy land for urban farming.
I'd commission research and workshops on how to live richly for less.

There would be plenty left in my wallet to help community organizations in poorer countries.
I'd award grants for US teens to travel abroad, learn languages, and engage in projects of shared concern with their peers.
I'd offer fares for young people from other countries—especially those thought of as enemies—to spend time here, so we can get to know them, and through them make closer ties to their families and communities.

Next year I'd do it all again.

What's on your list?

* See data from www.nationalpriorities.org
and https://www.warresisters.org/sites/default/files/FY2013piechart-english-color_0.pdf