



NATIONAL TAXPAYERS UNION

# Rates Congress

116th Congress, First Session  
2019



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## About NTU Rates Congress

Every year National Taxpayers Union (NTU) rates U.S. Representatives and Senators on their actual votes—every vote that affects taxes, spending, and debt. Unlike most organizations that publish ratings, we refuse to play the “rating game” of focusing on only a handful of congressional votes on selected issues. The NTU voting study is the fairest and most accurate guide available on congressional spending. It is a completely unbiased accounting of votes.

NTU has no partisan axe to grind. All members of Congress are treated the same regardless of political affiliation. Our only constituency is the overburdened American taxpayer. Grades are given impartially, based on the Taxpayer Score.

### Taxpayer Score

The Taxpayer Score measures the strength of support for reducing spending and opposing higher taxes. In general, a higher score is better because it means a member of Congress voted to spend less money.

The Taxpayer Score can range between zero and 100. We do not expect anyone to score a 100, nor has any legislator ever scored a perfect 100 in the multi-year history of the comprehensive NTU scoring system. A high score does not mean that the member of Congress was opposed to all spending or all programs. High-scoring members have indicated that they would vote for many programs if the amount of spending were lower or if the budget were balanced. A member who wants to increase spending on some programs can achieve a high score if he or she votes for offsetting cuts in other programs. A zero score would indicate that the member of Congress approved every spending proposal and opposed every pro-taxpayer reform.

NTU believes a score qualifying for a grade of “A” indicates the member is one of the strongest supporters of responsible tax and spending policies. We are pleased to give these members of Congress our “Taxpayers’ Friend Award.”

A score qualifying for a grade of “B” represents a “good” voting record on controlling spending and taxes. A “B” grade indicates that the member voted for taxpayers most of the time, but slightly less than those who attained the grade of “A.”

A score qualifying for a grade of “C” represents a minimally acceptable voting record on controlling taxes and spending. To qualify for a grade of “C” a member must have a Taxpayer Score of at least 50 percent. While such score may be “satisfactory,” there is clearly room for improvement.

We also issue pluses and minuses for the grades of “B” and “C” in order to better recognize the differences in the voting records of members with these grades.

Taxpayer Scores		
Senate		House
30%	Average	40%
23%	Median	15%
98%	High	95%
2%	Low	5%
Party Scores		
Senate Democrats Avg.		8%
House Democrats Avg.		10%
Senate Republicans Avg.		49%
House Republicans Avg.		75%

A score qualifying for a grade of “D” indicates the member has a “poor” voting record on controlling taxes and spending.

A score significantly below average qualifies for a grade of “F.” This failing grade places the member into the “Big Spender” category.

## Computation

NTU’s federal budget experts assigned a weight to each vote. A low weight was assigned to votes that had relatively little effect on the size of the federal budget, while a high weight was assigned to votes with the most significant effect on federal spending.

Weights were based solely on the relative effect of each vote on the total amount of federal spending. Consideration was given to the political effect of a vote on the future federal spending, even though relatively little spending might be immediately at issue.

Scores were computed by dividing the weighted total of votes cast against higher spending (or taxes or for lower spending or taxes), by the weighted total number of spending and tax issues on which the member of Congress voted. Average scores for each state were also computed using the weighted total of votes cast by each state delegation.

In computing these scores, we included only those votes on which the member actually voted for or against a bill, resolution, or amendment. Paired votes, announced positions, and absences were excluded. Because some members were absent frequently, cast certain votes to permit the usage of procedural tools, (or otherwise failed to vote yes or no), their scores, based on relatively few votes, may not accurately reflect spending attitudes. The members falling into this category are noted.

We analyzed every roll call vote taken in the Second Session of the 116th Congress and selected all votes that could significantly affect the amounts of federal taxes, spending, debt, or regulatory impact. A total of 43 Senate and 153 House votes were selected. We included votes cast on appropriations bills, authorization bills, budget target resolutions, tax bills, amendments, and certain procedural votes that could affect the burden on taxpayers. Votes that simply shifted equal amounts of spending from one area to another were excluded. Also excluded were votes where there was a significant difference of opinion on how to vote to reduce or control government and unanimous votes.

# United States Senate

SENATE KEY		
SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
80% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
75 - 79	B+	Good
70 - 74	B	
65 - 69	B-	
60 - 64	C+	Satisfactory
50 - 59	C	
40 - 49	C-	
20 - 39	D	Poor
Less than 20	F	Big Spender
* Score based on less than 90% but more than 75% of total weighted votes cast.		
** Score based on less than 75% but more than 50% of total weighted votes cast.		
N/A Voted on 50% or less of total weighted votes cast; score and grade not issued.		
Based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy; see front pages for methodology.		

Illinois		
Duckworth	3%	F
Durbin	4%	F
State Average	4%	

Indiana		
Braun	95%	A
Young, T.	38%	D
State Average	67%	

Iowa		
Ernst	59%	C
Grassley	45%	C-
State Average	52%	

Kansas		
Moran	40%	C-
Roberts	23%	D
State Average	32%	

Kentucky		
McConnell	N/A	N/A
Paul	95%	A
State Average	95%	

Louisiana		
Cassidy*	47%	C-
Kennedy, J.	74%	B
State Average	61%	

Maine		
Collins	17%	F
King, A.	8%	F
State Average	13%	

Maryland		
Cardin	3%	F
Van Hollen	10%	F
State Average	7%	

Massachusetts		
Markey	21%	D
Warren	N/A	N/A
State Average	21%	

Michigan		
Peters, G.	3%	F
Stabenow	3%	F
State Average	3%	

Alabama		
Jones	7%	F
Shelby	32%	D
State Average	20%	

Alaska		
Murkowski	21%	D
Sullivan	35%	D
State Average	28%	

Arizona		
McSally	25%	D
Sinema	8%	F
State Average	17%	

Arkansas		
Boozman	23%	D
Cotton	41%	C-
State Average	32%	

California		
Feinstein	4%	F
Harris K.	N/A	N/A
State Average	4%	

Colorado		
Bennet**	22%	D
Gardner	31%	D
State Average	27%	

Connecticut		
Blumenthal	3%	F
Murphy, C.	4%	F
State Average	4%	

Delaware		
Carper	25%	D
Coons	3%	F
State Average	14%	

Florida		
Rubio	57%	C
Scott, R.	44%	C-
State Average	51%	

Georgia		
Isakson	N/A	N/A
Perdue	42%	C-
State Average	42%	

Hawaii		
Hirono	4%	F
Schatz	4%	F
State Average	4%	

Idaho		
Crapo	58%	C
Risch	76%	B+
State Average	67%	

# United States Senate

<b>Minnesota</b>			<b>North Carolina</b>			<b>Texas</b>		
Klobuchar**	21%	D	Burr*	23%	D	Cornyn	61%	C+
Smith, T.	3%	F	Tillis	48%	C-	Cruz	86%	A
State Average	12%		State Average	36%		State Average	74%	
<b>Mississippi</b>			<b>North Dakota</b>			<b>Utah</b>		
Hyde-Smith	27%	D	Cramer	24%	D	Lee, M.	98%	A
Wicker	26%	D	Hoeven	24%	D	Romney	71%	B
State Average	27%		State Average	24%		State Average	85%	
<b>Missouri</b>			<b>Ohio</b>			<b>Vermont</b>		
Blunt	23%	D	Brown, S.	4%	F	Leahy	4%	F
Hawley	49%	C-	Portman	21%	D	Sanders	N/A	N/A
State Average	36%		State Average	13%		State Average	4%	
<b>Montana</b>			<b>Oklahoma</b>			<b>Virginia</b>		
Daines	73%	B	Inhofe	46%	C-	Kaine	4%	F
Tester	13%	F	Lankford	74%	B	Warner	3%	F
State Average	43%		State Average	60%		State Average	4%	
<b>Nebraska</b>			<b>Oregon</b>			<b>Washington</b>		
Fischer	66%	B-	Merkley	18%	F	Cantwell	3%	F
Sasse	78%	B+	Wyden	17%	F	Murray	3%	F
State Average	72%		State Average	18%		State Average	3%	
<b>Nevada</b>			<b>Pennsylvania</b>			<b>West Virginia</b>		
Cortez Masto	3%	F	Casey	3%	F	Capito	24%	D
Rosen	2%	F	Toomey*	81%	A	Manchin	17%	F
State Average	3%		State Average	42%		State Average	21%	
<b>New Hampshire</b>			<b>Rhode Island</b>			<b>Wisconsin</b>		
Hassan	3%	F	Reed, J.*	4%	F	Baldwin	4%	F
Shaheen	4%	F	Whitehouse	5%	F	Johnson, R.	65%	B-
State Average	4%		State Average	5%		State Average	35%	
<b>New Jersey</b>			<b>South Carolina</b>			<b>Wyoming</b>		
Booker	N/A	N/A	Graham	23%	D	Barrasso	66%	B-
Menendez	4%	F	Scott, T.	76%	B+	Enzi	72%	B
State Average	4%		State Average	50%		State Average	69%	
<b>New Mexico</b>			<b>South Dakota</b>					
Heinrich	4%	F	Rounds	28%	D			
Udall	4%	F	Thune	25%	D			
State Average	4%		State Average	27%				
<b>New York</b>			<b>Tennessee</b>					
Gillibrand**	28%	D	Alexander*	25%	D			
Schumer	8%	F	Blackburn	79%	B+			
State Average	18%		State Average	52%				



# United States House of Representatives

HOUSE KEY		
SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
86% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
81 - 85	B+	Good
76 - 80	B	
71 - 75	B-	
60 - 70	C+	Satisfactory
50 - 59	C	
40 - 49	C-	
22 - 39	D	Poor
Less than 22	F	Big Spender
* Score based on less than 90%, but more than 75%, of weighted total votes cast.		
** Score based on less than 75%, but more than 50%, of weighted total votes.		
N/A Voted on 50% or less of weighted total votes cast; score and grade not issued.		
Based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy; see front pages for methodology.		

Lowenthal	14%	F
Matsui	8%	F
McCarthy	67%	C+
McClintock	94%	A
McNerney	8%	F
Napolitano	14%	F
Nunes	74%	B-
Panetta	9%	F
Pelosi	N/A	N/A
Peters, S.	12%	F
Porter	6%	F
Rouda	6%	F
Roybal-Allard	12%	F
Ruiz	6%	F

Alabama		
Aderholt	66%	C+
Brooks, M.	89%	A
Byrne	86%	A
Palmer	89%	A
Roby	59%	C
Rogers, M.	74%	B-
Sewell	6%	F
State Average	67%	

California		
Aguilar	12%	F
Barragan	12%	F
Bass	14%	F
Bera	6%	F
Brownley	6%	F
Calvert	62%	C+
Carbajal	6%	F
Cardenas	12%	F

Sanchez	12%	F
Schiff	8%	F
Sherman	7%	F
Speier	12%	F
Swalwell**	9%	F
Takano	12%	F
Thompson, M.	8%	F
Torres	12%	F
Vargas	13%	F
Waters	11%	F
State Average	19%	

Alaska		
Young	56%	C
State Average	56%	

Chu	12%	F
Cisneros	7%	F
Cook	61%	C+

Colorado		
Buck	95%	A
Crow	6%	F
DeGette	14%	F
Lamborn	85%	B+
Neguse	14%	F
Perlmutter	6%	F
Tipton	75%	B-
State Average	42%	

Arizona		
Biggs	94%	A
Gallego	11%	F
Gosar	93%	A
Grijalva	15%	F
Kirkpatrick	7%	F
Lesko	85%	B+
O'Halleran	6%	F
Schweikert	88%	A
Stanton	9%	F
State Average	45%	

Correa	12%	F
Costa	8%	F
Cox	7%	F
Davis, S.	6%	F
DeSaulnier	13%	F
Eshoo	11%	F
Garamendi	7%	F
Gomez	15%	F
Harder	11%	F
Hill, K.*	9%	F
Huffman	16%	F

Connecticut		
Courtney	6%	F
DeLauro	7%	F
Hayes	6%	F
Himes	7%	F
Larson, J.	6%	F
State Average	6%	

Arkansas		
Crawford	80%	B
Hill, F.	68%	C+
Westerman	82%	B+
Womack	63%	C+
State Average	73%	

Hunter*	85%	B+
Khanna	14%	F
LaMalfa	75%	B-
Lee, B.	16%	F
Levin	6%	F
Lieu	13%	F
Lofgren	13%	F

Delaware		
Blunt, R.	8%	F
State Average	8%	

# United States House of Representatives

Florida		
Bilirakis	69%	C+
Buchanan	65%	C+
Castor	8%	F
Crist	6%	F
Demings	6%	F
Deutch	8%	F
Diaz-Balart	54%	C
Dunn	67%	C+
Frankel	7%	F
Gaetz	87%	A
Hastings*	10%	F
Lawson	6%	F
Mast	69%	C+
Mucarsel-Powell	7%	F
Murphy	13%	F
Posey	76%	B
Rooney**	78%	B
Rutherford	61%	C+
Shalala	6%	F
Soto	7%	F
Spano	80%	B
Steube	90%	A
Waltz	75%	B-
Wasserman	8%	F
Webster	76%	B
Wilson, F.	7%	F
Yoho	84%	B+
State Average	42%	

Georgia		
Allen	82%	B+
Bishop, S.	7%	F
Carter, E.L.	81%	B+
Collins, D.	77%	B
Ferguson	76%	B
Graves, T.	77%	B
Hice	90%	A
Johnson, H.	7%	F
Lewis, J.*	9%	F
Loudermilk	84%	B+
McBath	7%	F
Scott, A.	80%	B
Scott, D.	6%	F

Woodall	72%	B-
State Average	54%	

Hawaii		
Case	6%	F
Gabbard**	8%	F
State Average	7%	

Idaho		
Fulcher	86%	A
Simpson	56%	C
State Average	71%	

Illinois		
Bost	55%	C
Bustos	6%	F
Casten	7%	F
Davis, D.	10%	F
Davis, R.	50%	C
Foster	6%	F
Garcia	15%	F
Kelly, R.	6%	F
Kinzinger	50%	C
Krishnamoorthi	6%	F
LaHood	86%	A
Lipinski	12%	F
Quigley	8%	F
Rush	8%	F
Schakowsky	14%	F
Schneider	7%	F
Shimkus*	80%	B
Underwood	6%	F
State Average	24%	

Indiana		
Baird	71%	B-
Banks	86%	A
Brooks, S.	64%	C+
Bucshon	77%	B
Carson	7%	F
Hollingsworth	73%	B-
Pence, G.	64%	C+
Visclosky	6%	F
Walorski	71%	B-
State Average	58%	

Iowa		
Axne	8%	F
Finkenauer	8%	F
King, S.	85%	B+
Loeb sack	6%	F
State Average	27%	

Kansas		
Dauids	7%	F
Estes	85%	B+
Marshall	76%	B
Watkins	82%	B+
State Average	63%	

Kentucky		
Barr A.	78%	B
Comer	85%	B+
Guthrie	73%	B-
Massie	95%	A
Rogers, H.	62%	C+
Yarmuth	8%	F
State Average	67%	

Louisiana		
Abraham**	80%	B
Graves, G.	77%	B
Higgins, C.	89%	A
Johnson, M.	88%	A
Richmond	11%	F
Scalise	75%	B-
State Average	70%	

Maine		
Golden	10%	F
Pingree	8%	F
State Average	9%	

Maryland		
Brown, A.	7%	F
Cummings**	9%	F
Harris, A.	86%	A
Hoyer	6%	F
Raskin	14%	F
Ruppersberger	6%	F
Sarbanes	8%	F
Trone	7%	F
State Average	18%	

# United States House of Representatives

Massachusetts			Missouri			New Mexico		
Clark, K.	8%	F	Clay	9%	F	Haaland	10%	F
Keating	6%	F	Cleaver	7%	F	Lujan, B.R.	11%	F
Kennedy	14%	F	Graves, S.	78%	B	Torres	7%	F
Lynch	6%	F	Hartzler	64%	C+	<i>State Average</i>	9%	
McGovern	14%	F	Long	80%	B	New York		
Moulton*	7%	F	Luetkemeyer	61%	C+	Brindisi	13%	F
Neal	8%	F	Smith, J.	87%	A	Clarke, Y.	16%	F
Pressley	27%	D	Wagner	72%	B-	Collins, C.**	56%	C
Trahan	12%	F	<i>State Average</i>	57%		Delgado	7%	F
<i>State Average</i>	11%		Montana			Engel	14%	F
Michigan			Gianforte	76%	B	Espallat	17%	F
Amash	95%	A	<i>State Average</i>	76%		Higgins, B.	7%	F
Bergman	66%	C+	Nebraska			Jeffries	7%	F
Dingell	8%	F	Bacon	64%	C+	Katko	37%	D
Huizenga	82%	B+	Fortenberry	52%	C	King, P.	47%	C-
Kildee	10%	F	Smith	78%	B	Lowey	7%	F
Lawrence	7%	F	<i>State Average</i>	65%		Maloney, C.	12%	F
Levin	14%	F	Nevada			Maloney, S.P.	6%	F
Mitchell	74%	B-	Amodei	71%	B-	Meeks*	9%	F
Moolenaar	74%	B-	Horsford	7%	F	Meng	15%	F
Slotkin	7%	F	Lee	9%	F	Morelle	7%	F
Stevens	6%	F	Titus	12%	F	Nadler	11%	F
Tlaib	23%	D	<i>State Average</i>	25%		Ocasio-Cortez	29%	D
Upton	50%	C	New Hampshire			Reed, T.	57%	C
Walberg	72%	B-	Kuster	10%	F	Rice, K.	11%	F
<i>State Average</i>	42%		Pappas	10%	F	Rose	7%	F
Minnesota			<i>State Average</i>	10%		Serrano*	10%	F
Craig	6%	F	New Jersey			Stefanik	45%	C-
Emmer	84%	B+	Gottheimer	7%	F	Suozzi	10%	F
Hagedorn	72%	B-	Kim	6%	F	Tonko	13%	F
McCollum	8%	F	Malinowski	6%	F	Velazquez	15%	F
Omar	30%	D	Norcross	11%	F	Zeldin	72%	B-
Peterson	19%	F	Pallone	15%	F	<i>State Average</i>	21%	
Phillips	6%	F	Pascrell	11%	F	North Carolina		
Stauber	55%	C	Payne	8%	F	Adams	8%	F
<i>State Average</i>	35%		Sherrill	6%	F	Bishop	N/A	N/A
Mississippi			Sires	6%	F	Budd	90%	A
Guest	78%	B	Smith, C.	32%	D	Butterfield	9%	F
Kelly, T.	84%	B+	Van Drew	5%	F	Foxx	84%	B+
Palazzo	71%	B-	Watson	13%	F	Holding	87%	A
Thompson	8%	F	<i>State Average</i>	11%		Hudson	82%	B+
<i>State Average</i>	60%					McHenry	70%	C+



Meadows	89%	A	<b>Pennsylvania</b>			<b>South Carolina</b>		
Murphy	N/A	N/A	Boyle	11%	F	Clyburn*	6%	F
Price	8%	F	Cartwright	7%	F	Cunningham	12%	F
Rouzer	83%	B+	Dean	8%	F	Duncan	89%	A
Walker*	87%	A	Doyle	13%	F	Norman	91%	A
State Average	63%		Evans	8%	F	Rice, T.	88%	A
<b>North Dakota</b>			Fitzpatrick	22%	D	Timmons	88%	A
Armstrong	75%	B-	Houlahan	6%	F	Wilson, J.	69%	C+
State Average	75%		Joyce	87%	A	State Average	63%	
<b>Ohio</b>			Keller**	83%	B+	<b>South Dakota</b>		
Balderson	77%	B	Kelly, M.	85%	B+	Johnson	83%	B+
Beatty	8%	F	Lamb	6%	F	State Average	83%	
Chabot	84%	B+	Marino	N/A	N/A	<b>Tennessee</b>		
Davidson	89%	A	Meuser	74%	B-	Burchett	85%	B+
Fudge	6%	F	Perry	89%	A	Cohen	13%	F
Gibbs	74%	B-	Reschenthaler	62%	C+	Cooper	11%	F
Gonzalez	66%	C+	Scanlon	8%	F	DesJarlais	85%	B+
Johnson, B.	72%	B-	Smucker	84%	B+	Fleischmann	64%	C+
Jordan	91%	A	Thompson, G.	59%	C	Green	86%	A
Joyce	54%	C	Wild	6%	F	Kustoff	72%	B-
Kaptur	7%	F	State Average	40%		Roe	77%	B
Latta	86%	A	<b>Rhode Island</b>			Rose	82%	B+
Ryan*	8%	F	Cicilline	8%	F	State Average	64%	
Stivers	58%	C	Langevin	6%	F			
Turner	57%	C	State Average	7%				
Wenstrup	83%	B+						
State Average	58%							
<b>Oklahoma</b>								
Cole	58%	C						
Hern	87%	A						
Horn	10%	F						
Lucas*	66%	C+						
Mullin	86%	A						
State Average	61%							
<b>Oregon</b>								
Blumenauer	22%	D						
Bonamici	12%	F						
DeFazio	15%	F						
Schrader	15%	F						
Walden	55%	C						
State Average	24%							

  

HOUSE KEY		
SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
86% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
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71 - 75	B-	
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Less than 22	F	Big Spender
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# United States House of Representatives

Texas		
Allred	9%	F
Arrington	88%	A
Babin	77%	B
Brady	76%	B
Burgess	84%	B+
Carter, J.	67%	C+
Castro	15%	F
Cloud	89%	A
Conaway	72%	B-
Crenshaw	70%	C+
Cuellar	15%	F
Doggett	19%	F
Escobar	13%	F
Fletcher	9%	F
Flores	79%	B
Garcia	14%	F
Gohmert	92%	A
Gonzalez	16%	F
Gooden	86%	A
Granger	63%	C+
Green, A.	11%	F
Hurd	45%	C-
Jackson Lee	10%	F
Johnson, E.B.	7%	F
Marchant	83%	B+
McCaul	61%	C+
Olson	80%	B
Ratcliffe	88%	A
Roy	90%	A
Taylor	89%	A
Thornberry	69%	C+
Veasey	7%	F
Vela	17%	F
Weber	83%	B+
Williams	82%	B+
Wright*	91%	A
State Average	55%	

Utah		
Bishop, R.	71%	B-
Curtis	88%	A
McAdams	29%	D
Stewart	78%	B
State Average	67%	

Vermont		
Welch	14%	F
State Average	14%	

Virginia		
Beyer	8%	F
Cline	91%	A
Connolly	7%	F
Griffith	84%	B+
Luria	5%	F
McEachin*	8%	F
Riggleman	81%	B+
Scott, R.	7%	F
Spanberger	12%	F
Wexton	6%	F
Wittman	81%	B+
State Average	35%	

Washington		
DelBene	7%	F
Heck	9%	F
Herrera Beutler*	51%	C
Jayapal	15%	F
Kilmer	6%	F
Larsen, R.	8%	F
McMorris Rodgers	79%	B
Newhouse	60%	C+
Schrier	6%	F
Smith, A.	11%	F
State Average	25%	

West Virginia		
McKinley	58%	C
Miller	70%	C+
Mooney	85%	B+
State Average	71%	

Wisconsin		
Duffy**	77%	B
Gallagher	75%	B-
Grothman	90%	A
Kind	14%	F
Moore	12%	F
Pocan	18%	F
Sensenbrenner	88%	A
Steil	82%	B+
State Average	57%	

Wyoming		
Cheney	65%	C+
State Average	65%	

HOUSE KEY		
SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
86% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
81 - 85	B+	Good
76 - 80	B	
71 - 75	B-	
60 - 70	C+	Satisfactory
50 - 59	C	
40 - 49	C-	
22 - 39	D	Poor
Less than 22	F	Big Spender
* Score based on less than 90%, but more than 75%, of weighted total votes cast.		
** Score based on less than 75%, but more than 50%, of weighted total votes.		
N/A Voted on 50% or less of weighted total votes cast; score and grade not issued.		
Based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy; see front pages for methodology.		





Since 1969, National Taxpayers Union (NTU), has been the “Voice of America’s Taxpayers.” The nation’s oldest taxpayer advocacy organization, NTU fights for lower taxes, smaller budgets, and economic freedom at all levels of government. As taxpayers’ lobbyists, we work to ensure that all Americans are able to pursue their dreams without the heavy hand of government holding them back.

NTU is a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) nonprofit, advocating on behalf of taxpayers, not political parties.

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