

It's Time to Put People Over the Pentagon

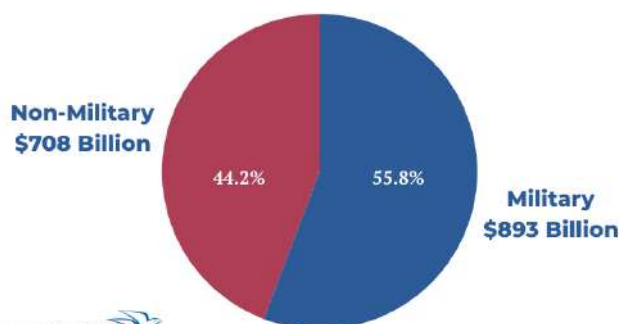
The Pentagon Budget

For the first time in US history, the Pentagon budget reached \$1 trillion last year! The US is spending more on its military than the next nine countries combined — and these numbers don't include billions in supplemental spending to Israel and for the Iran War. Now, President Trump wants to request **\$1.5 TRILLION** for the coming budget.

It is often said that budgets are moral documents. What we fund and do not fund demonstrates our country's priorities and thus its values. Such consistently massive military budgets have for years been eating up funding for critical programs here at home — and usually takes the most significant toll on communities of color and other marginalized groups. Now more than ever, we must prioritize spending on people's needs, not the endless appetite of the military industrial complex.



2025 Discretionary Spending \$1.6 Trillion



Skewed Spending Priorities

The discretionary budget, the portion of the total budget the President asks Congress to allocate each year, demonstrates how skewed our government's priorities are. Even as we face increasing grocery prices, unprecedented income inequality, and worsening severe weather events, we see half the budget regularly sent to the Pentagon.

This leaves other departments with a fraction of the resources.

The Pentagon Has Been Misusing and Wasting Funds for Years

The Department of War has a long, well-known history of wasteful spending — including the 2016 revelation that the Pentagon buried evidence of **\$125 billion** of administrative waste. This past December, it also **failed its eight consecutive audit** since they became required in 2018.

In its failed 2023 audit, the Pentagon was **unable to account for 63% of its \$3.8 trillion in assets** (including equipment, facilities, etc). That's nearly \$2.5 trillion in taxpayer dollars. No other federal agency could get away with this, yet we continue to throw billions more at the Pentagon each year.

Last year, Pete Hegseth's Pentagon restricted access for reporters, further erasing transparency in the department and all but insuring waste goes undiscovered and unpunished.

Our Taxpayer Dollars in Action: Funding Trump's Wars & Militarism

- **\$2.9 billion:** Venezuela military escalations
 - The operational price tag of the Navy fleet Trump deployed to the Caribbean peaked at over \$20 million a day! In four and a half short months, the administration spend nearly \$3 billion on dozens of US Navy ships, fighter jets, drones and logistics vessels in the Caribbean and Latin America. The Pentagon has, unsurprisingly, not shared an official cost estimate.
- **\$1 to 2 billion per day:** War on Iran
 - Trump's war on Iran is costing us between \$1 and \$2 billion each day. The first 2 days of bombing alone cost \$5.6 billion — this includes the horrific Tomahawk missile strike of Shajareh Tayyebah girls' school that killed 175 children and staff. And this is just the beginning.
 - Congress is considering a supplemental — aka additional — **\$50 billion** spending package to further fund the war.
- **\$25 billion:** "Golden Dome" space interceptor system down payment
 - Congress allocated \$25 billion to Trump's missile "defense" system without ever having seen a plan or proposal. The Congressional Budget Office has already said Trump's \$175 billion estimate will fall far short, and Conservative think tank American Enterprise Institute estimated that the project could actually cost **\$3.6 trillion over 20 years**.
 - Of course one major problem is that despite hundreds of billions in investment on decades of research into missile defense, we have yet to produce any reliable system capable of intercepting intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

Take Action

- **Contact your Senators and your Representative** and let them know your thoughts.
 - Ask Congress to cut the Pentagon budget and redirect those funds to human needs.
 - To find your member of Congress, go to www.usa.gov/elected-officials.
 - Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 to get connected with their offices.
- **Write and submit op eds and letters to the editor** about Pentagon spending, wars, and lack of community funding.