The National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) is a coalition of groups across the U.S. that has worked for 39 years to support people who refuse to pay taxes for war and violence.

http://nwtrcc.org/
WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES
U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2021 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS
(by 2021 FEDERAL FUNDS)
$3,485 BILLION

MILITARY: 47% AND $1,644 BILLION

$696 BILLION
• Veterans' Benefits
  $336 billion
• Interest on national debt
  $460 billion (80% set to be created by military spending)

20% PAST MILITARY

$183 BILLION
• Treasury incl. 30% interest on debt ($133 billion)
• Government personnel
• Justice Dept.
• State Dept. (partial)
• Homeland Sec. (partial)
• Int. Sec. Assn. (partial)
• Judicial
• Legislative

27% CURRENT MILITARY

$948 BILLION
• Total Outlays DOD $728 billion
  • Military Personnel $714 billion
  • Operation & Mgmt. $235 billion
  • Procurement $147 billion
  • Research & Dev. $105 billion
  • Construction $11 billion
  • Family Housing $6.6 billion
• Rev Fund & Adj. $244 billion
• Non-DOD Military Spending*:
  • Res. Pyr. HealthCare $9.5 billion
  • Dell Maint. Weapons $1.5 billion
  • NASA (Space) $13 billion
  • Interest Security Amt. $11 billion
  • Homeland Sec. (military) $41 billion
  • State Dept. (partial) $8 billion
  • FBI (military) $1.2 billion
  • Treas. Sec. Servicest $11 billion
*Based on current and the military nature of activities, such as armed border control, DOD space flights, etc.

5% GENERAL GOVERNMENT

$138 BILLION
• Agriculture
• Interior
• Transportation
• Homeland Sec. (partial)
• HUD (partial)
• Commerce
• Energy (non-military)
• NASA (Space)
• Environmental Protection
• Nat. Science Found.
• Army Corps Engineers
• FEMA and other

4% PHYSICAL RESOURCES

$1,520 BILLION
• Health & Human Services
• Sec. Sec. Administration
• Education
• Food/Nutrition programs
• HUD
• Labor Dept.
• Earned Inc./Child Credits
• Health Insurance Credits
• Low Income Housing

44% HUMAN RESOURCES

NON-MILITARY: 53% AND $1,841 BILLION
Why We Resist

There are many reasons to resist war taxes this year. What’s yours?

- Military budget
- Border militarization & deportations
- Federal prisons
- Militarization of the police
- Impact of war on the environment
- Torture and war crimes
- COVID-19 Response
Highlights of War Tax Resistance History

1637: Algonquin Tribe refuses to pay taxes for Dutch Fort

1659: Quakers begin a long tradition of refusing to pay taxes for war.

1773: Colonists did not want to pay a tax on tea sitting in ships in the Boston Harbor so they destroyed the tea.

1847: Thoreau refuses to pay poll tax for Mexican War

1930: Gandhi leads 240-mile march to the sea to make salt illegally and refuse British taxation on salt. Tax resistance was a major component of the Quit India campaign, 1942.

1964-75: Hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. refuse to pay taxes because of the Vietnam War.
Which tax resistance method is right for you?

- Different resisters have different...
  - **goals** (e.g. protest, nonviolent resistance, conscientious objection)
  - **risk tolerances** (e.g. willingness to break the law)
  - **values** they want their resistance to represent
  - **life situations** (e.g. dependents, retirement, self-employment, income sources)
How To Resist Taxes

There are many ways to resist. Here are two common methods:

- Refuse to pay some or all of the income taxes you owe, and either file or not file a tax return (civil disobedience)

- Earn less than a taxable income (a legal method)

The founders of the modern war tax resistance movement: Wally Nelson, Juanita Nelson, Ernest Bromley, Marion Bromley, and Maurice McCrackin.
Employees

If federal taxes are withheld from your paycheck, you can:

- File a new W-4 form with your employer, increasing the number of *deductions* on the form in order to reduce or eliminate income tax withholding (see NWTRCC pamphlet #1 for complete instructions and potential legal consequences: [www.nwtrcc.org](http://www.nwtrcc.org), under Resources > Pamphlets).
If you are self-employed or work as a contractor/consultant, you may have filled out a W-9 at the start of your work with each client. Your client may then file a 1099 form to report your income to the IRS.

You are responsible for paying (or not paying) all your own taxes, including social insurance taxes. Taxes aren’t withheld from your income automatically.
Filing:
- Send accurate forms to the IRS; maybe with a letter of protest
- May make IRS collection easier
- 10-year statute of limitations for collection
- Can make it easier to apply for scholarships, health insurance subsidies, etc.

Not Filing:
- Do not send forms to the IRS (best to fill out forms anyway for your records)
- May make IRS collection harder
- No statute of limitations for collection
- Penalties more severe
Myths about Tax Resistance

I will go to jail...

- Very few war tax resisters have gone to jail in modern times. Out of hundreds of thousands of war tax resisters in the U.S. over the past 80 years, only two have gone to jail for simply not paying taxes (a few others have done time for contempt of court, failure to file, or for not filing in a legally-approved manner).

In 1942 Ernest Bromley was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment for refusing to buy a war tax stamp for his car.

In 2005 Tony Serra was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for willful failure to pay federal income tax.
Myths about Tax Resistance

The IRS will take my house, car, or property...

- IRS property seizures are very rare these days (in general, not just for war tax resisters). The last IRS attempt to seize property from a war tax resister that we know about ended in 1999. The government could change its policy, but right now this is not a major concern.
Myths about Tax Resistance

War tax resisters don’t pay for things our society needs...

- War tax resisters often redirect their money or their time to help meet pressing needs. In this way, their time and money serves society 100%, instead of having so much of it serving the Pentagon and Trump’s values.

- Many war tax resisters coordinate their redirection to support black, brown, and indigenous peoples’ resistance projects.

Antor Odu Ndep, executive director of the Common Ground Health Clinic in New Orleans, accepts redirected taxes from American war tax resisters.
What are the Actual Risks?

Most war tax resisters simply get a stream of letters from the IRS, other possible risks:

- Salary or Social Security garnishment
- Bank account seizure
- State refund seizure
- Interest & penalties
- Difficulty getting student loans
- Public lien that can affect credit
- Loss of passport for debts over $54,000
Let NWTRCC help

Check out these resources at www.nwtrcc.org:

- **Media**: newsletter, blog, podcasts, interviews, etc.
- Tax Day activities, gatherings, workshops, etc.
- Contact a war tax resistance counselor or NWTRCC affiliate near you

Call or e-mail: (262) 399-8217 • (800) 269-7464 • nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org

![Divest from War, Invest in People]

Redirect your taxes from war to peace!

WWW.NWTRCC.ORG