

Liberals versus Conservatives

Part 2

Taxes and Government spending

Conservatives: Considering what conservatives believe about the role of government, it shouldn't be that surprising that they generally want to keep taxes and government spending low. Conservatives generally agree that people should keep as much of the money they earn as possible, because they say, people know best how to spend money for themselves. High tax rates, especially income taxes and taxes on profits from investments, discourage people from taking risks or working harder (it alters incentives), which in turn stifles economic activity and growth according to conservatives. And, since conservatives want a *less* active government, they call for lower government spending (which makes sense because conservatives also want low taxes...low taxes must mean less spending since that's where government gets its money from). There are some things that conservatives are willing to spend money on however. Public goods like law enforcement and national defense are two examples. Spending *priorities* are a main difference between conservatives and liberals. Many conservatives believe that the private sector, made up of individuals, is better suited to solving problems than a government program.

Do a YouTube search on: Paul Ryan Budget and watch a couple for a minute

Liberals: Considering what liberals believe about the role of government it shouldn't be that surprising that they are generally supportive of government programs (especially ones designed to help the "losers") which are paid for with tax dollars. Most liberals believe to some degree that the more money a person makes the more that person should pay in taxes, after all liberals say, those with more money can afford to pay more in taxes. Often times liberals support using taxes as a method of redistributing wealth from those that have it to those that do not. . Again, spending *priorities* are a main difference between the two sides. Liberals tend to believe that government programs are usually a better way to solve problems than the private sector. So liberals' beliefs concerning taxes and the amount of money the government spends are directly related to their views on the proper role of government. A more active government requires more revenue. And liberals argue that those who can afford to pay more in taxes should do so. Liberals believe the government can spend money on people's behalf better than they can themselves sometimes.

Do a YouTube search on: President Obama Budget and watch a couple for a minute

Rule of thumb: Conservatives = low gov't spending and low taxes.
Liberals = more gov't spending and higher taxes for the wealthy