

Media Coverage of July 17 Launch Event for The Campaign to Fix the Debt

FOUNDERS

ERSKINE BOWLES

AL SIMPSON

CHAIRMEN

JUDD GREGG

EDWARD RENDELL

STEERING COMMITTEE

PHIL BREDESEN

DAVID COTE

JIM MCCRERY

SAM NUNN

MICHAEL PETERSON

STEVEN RATTNER

ROBERT ZOELICK



Photo by Lingjing Bao

TV Coverage/Filming of Live Event Launch on July 17, 2012

- CNN
- CNBC
- NBC News
- ABC News
- Bloomberg TV
- C-SPAN
- PBS NewsHour

TV segments on the Campaign to Fix the Debt

["Judd Gregg on the Washington Journal," C-SPAN, August 10, 2012](#)

["Avoiding a Debt Disaster - Judd Gregg on the Daily Rundown," MSNBC, July 23, 2012](#)

["Maya MacGuineas on Federal Budget Deficit Reduction," C-SPAN, July 23, 2012](#)

["Cmte. for a Responsible Federal Budget Launches Debt Reduction Campaign," C-SPAN, July 17, 2012](#)

["CEO Dave Cote on the Debt Crisis," CNBC Closing Bell, July 17, 2012](#)

["Economy headed for 'fiscal cliff' on January 1," MSNBC Mitchell Reports, July 17, 2012](#)

["Coverage of the 'Fix the Debt' Launch," C-SPAN 2, July 17, 2012](#)

["Warren Buffett, Alan Simpson, & Erskine Bowles On Fixing the Debt Problem," CNBC Squawk Box, July 12, 2012](#)

["How Will 'Fix the Debt' Fix the Debt?" Bloomberg TV, July 18, 2012](#)

["States Plagued by Fiscal Problems, Pension Payments," PBS NewsHour, July 17, 2012](#)

["Former Governor Part of Bipartisan Anti-Debt Group," Fox Morning News, July 18, 2012 \(Knoxville, TN\)](#)

["Coverage of the 'Fix the Debt' Launch," SBS One \(Australia\), July 17, 2012](#)

Print and online media coverage of the Campaign to Fix the Debt

"US Deficit-Cutting Duo Step Up Mission," Financial Times, July 24, 2012

Judd Gregg, a former Republican senator from New Hampshire, is co-chair of the effort and a huge fan of Mr. Bowles and Mr. Simpson. "They play off each other so well," says Mr. Gregg. He says progress is "two steps forward and three steps backwards" but the US usually does what is right – and when a big deficit deal happens it will mirror the Simpson-Bowles plan. "They sent out the memo that's going to control the meeting," Mr. Gregg says.

But for the centrist, Washington establishment, they are one of the glaring exceptions to America's entrenched politics. "I think we've got two wings flapping out there in the American political system, and the fuselage is missing," said Sam Nunn, a former Democratic senator from Georgia. He said "Erskine and Alan" were the "rally point" for America's quiet middle.

"CEOs and Simpson-Bowles 3.0," Washington Post, July 22, 2012

Anyone watching the Washington budget debate over the past decade must have wondered why there didn't seem to be any grown-ups in the room — someone who could cut through what Honeywell's Dave Cote calls the "hysteria, histrionics and hyperbole" and force the bickering children to agree on a reasonable compromise.

Last week, the group, calling itself Fix the Debt, went public at a news conference urging the president and Congress to embrace a deficit-reduction plan along the lines suggested by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission, which included reforms of a tax code that produces too little and entitlement programs that spend too much.

"Think of it as Simpson-Bowles 3.0," said former Republican senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, who is co-chairman of the effort along with Ed Rendell, the former Democratic governor of Pennsylvania.

"Coalition Urges Tax Hikes, Entitlement Cuts to Tame National Debt," Washington Post, July 18, 2012

[T]he campaign — dubbed "Fix the Debt" — is founded on the notion that the moment is finally at hand when policymakers will be forced to compromise on an ambitious debt-reduction strategy.

"Everyone knows in their hearts and their minds what has to be done," said former Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell (D), who is chairing the group with former New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg (R). The goal of the campaign is to "create a safe environment where it's not only good policy, but good politics as well."

...Going over that cliff would “drive a worldwide recession. You can’t let that happen,” Cote said. “So what we’re trying to do is get all politicians on all sides mobilized to say, yes, there’s a solution here.”

“The math on this is simple. It’s the political will that’s been lacking.”

“Grassroots Group Tries to Bypass Congress’ Fiscal Cliff”, International Business Times, July 18, 2012

"We face two fiscal challenges -- growing the economy faster and reducing the looming debt. The threat of a serious and devastating debt crisis in the U.S. is real, and can be ignored no longer," Alice Rivlin, founding director of the Congressional Budget Office, said in a statement. "Failure to act would be devastating, but, if we get it right, we have a huge opportunity to restore America's economic vitality."

“Bowles, Simpson: Still Pushing Boulder Up the Hill,” CNN Money, July 18, 2012

A new campaign launched Tuesday aims to create public support for lawmakers who have been too afraid to back a bipartisan debt-reduction plan.

A key goal of the Fix the Debt campaign is to get 10 million signatures for an online petition that will call on Congress to pass a comprehensive long-term plan by July 4, 2013.

“Business Leaders, Former Lawmakers U.S. Deficit Reduction,” Bloomberg, July 17, 2012

Tax increases and cuts in entitlement spending are inevitable, members of the Campaign to Fix the Debt said at a Washington news conference today. The group said it would rally centrist voters who are more concerned with reducing the budget deficit than ideological battles over taxes, spending and the size of government.

Neither party, “even after the election, is going to be able to impose its view on the country or other party,” said former Senator Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat. “The middle of America is going to have to rally and they’re going to have to support people who are willing to work together.”

“The Fiscal Cliff: Congress’ Imminent Armageddon,” ABC News, July 17, 2012

“If we do nothing and barrel through this fiscal cliff at the end of the year, we are going to have about \$7 trillion hit this country right in the gut,” said Erskine Bowles, who along with former Sen. Alan Simpson devised a debt reduction plan last year to prevent this doomsday scenario.

“It looks like politics is going to override common sense and nothing is probably going to happen until after the election,” Bowles said. “If the members of Congress just start getting ready and just start doing their homework then, that’s too late.”

That is why Bowles, along with a group of debt reduction experts, former lawmakers, non-profit leaders and Fortune 500 companies CEOs, today launched the Fix the Debt campaign, which aims to galvanize public support for a comprehensive debt reduction plan.

"Simpson-Bowles Authors Revisit Plan," CQ Today, July 17, 2012

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, also is involved in updating Simpson-Bowles, according to others who are involved in the process. "She's sort of the clerk of the works," Gregg said. "She's working hard to make sure that everybody is engaged and involved and included."

"This is a really hard thing to do, and you can't expect the White House or members of Congress to go out there and make really, really tough choices if they don't hear that anybody cares," MacGuineas said. "But the truth is, voters, business leaders, thought leaders really do understand all the benefits that will come from putting in place a big debt deal and understand the tremendous risks of failing to do so."

"Dave Cote: It's Time to Speak out about Debt," Financial Times, July 12, 2012 (subscription required)

"There is no time to waste. As we approach the end of the year, we get closer to the edge of the "fiscal cliff". If there is no political deal, the US will face a triple witching hour of automatically triggered spending cuts, the expiry of tax cuts, and a failure to raise the debt ceiling."

"CEOs can no longer stand on the sidelines. We need to ensure debt resolution is a core part of the presidential election campaign."



Other articles and statements

["Caterpillar CEO Oberhelman to Campaign on U.S. Government Debt," Bloomberg, August 11, 2012](#)

["Ga. Senator takes 2nd crack at debt solution," The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 30, 2012](#)

["Lawmakers Make Another Pitch to Review Bowles-Simpson," The Fiscal Times, July 18, 2012](#)

["Chairman Conrad's Statement on the Launching of the Campaign to Fix the Debt," Senate Budget Committee, July 17, 2012](#)

["Lawmakers Make Another Pitch to Review Bowles-Simpson," The Fiscal Times, July 18, 2012](#)

["Bipartisan power, activate! Can Congress' Debt Avengers Be Superheroes?" Christian Science Monitor, July 17, 2012](#)

["Skimping on Budget Specifics", New York Times, July 15, 2012](#)

["Voters Must See Candidate Plans for Avoiding Fiscal Cliff," Bloomberg, July 15, 2012](#)

["Campaign to Fix the Debt Launch," The Hill, July 17, 2012](#)

["US Budget Group Set to Launch Another Bid to Spur Fiscal Action," Market News International, July 16, 2012](#)

["Erskine Bowles on Balancing the Budget: Get Spending Down and Taxes Up," CNS News, July 18, 2012](#)

["Debt Commission Leaders Unveil New Bipartisan Initiative," Talk Radio News Service, July 17, 2012](#)

["Business Group Urges Extending Bush Cuts," Wall Street Journal, July 17, 2012](#)

["Debt, Debt and More Debt: Is Democracy To Blame?" NPR , July 17, 2012](#)

["Fiscal cliff fight: Missing the big picture," CNN Money, July 17, 2012](#)

["Obama, Romney brawl as nation's fiscal morass deepens," Crain's Chicago Business, July 17, 2012](#)

["Phil Bredesen helping to lead new national 'Fix the Debt' effort," The Tennessean, July 17, 2012](#)

["Hey Fraidy Cat Legislators: Fix the Debt!" Finance Apps, July 17, 2012](#)

["Concord Co-Chair Sam Nunn Helps Launch 'Fix the Debt' Campaign," Concord Coalition, July 17, 2012](#)

["Launch of the Campaign to Fix the Debt," Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, July 17, 2012](#)

["Fix the Debt Event Recap," Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, July 18, 2012](#)

["Civic Leaders, CEOs, and Budget Experts Gather to Announce Launch of The Campaign to Fix the Debt," Peterson Foundation, July 17, 2012](#)

Hundreds of other cross-postings, including:

Kaiser Health News, Legal News, US News Tweets, Ridge Policy Group, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Day Trader, Santa Fe Times, Wopular, What's News, Top Headlines Today, DayLife, Business Roundtable, Vermont Public Radio, LA Business Journal, Greensboro News, One News Page, All Voices, Progressive Voices, New York Now, San Diego Daily Transcript, Forex News, New America, Kansas Wichita Eagle

Radio coverage

PBS NewsHour: Monterey, CA; Alpena, MI; Phoenix, AZ; North Platte, NE; Chicago, IL; Missoula, MT; Watertown, NY; Harrisonburg, VA; Bluefield, WV; Elmira, NY; Gainesville, FL; Bend, OR; New York, NY; Oklahoma City, OK

Wisconsin Public Radio, "At Issue" with Ben Merens

WGN-AM Radio, Chicago

Event Recap and C-SPAN

For a link to the recap of the event, plus the full C-SPAN video, click [here](#)

Notable Tweets:



Steve Singh @SteveSSingh

21h

Sad to see Congress begging Fed to take action. Where is the leadership & ability to work together? Enact Bowles/Simpson [#FixTheDebt](#)

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TheCanKicksBack @TheCanKicksBack

23h

Thanks for the shout out from [@MayaMacGuineas](#) at today's [@FixtheDebt](#) launch. We're ready to mobilize America's young people to [#FixTheDebt](#)

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Lisa Meyer @ljmeyer3

17 Jul

Congress [#FixtheDebt](#) and revisit [#ErskineBowles](#). Earn your paycheck with bipartisanship and avoid [#fiscalcliff](#)

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CRFB.org @BudgetHawks

17 Jul

Former World Bank President Bob Zoellick: We risk squandering a legacy of 200 years of strong credit. [#FixTheDebt](#)

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Senate Budget Cmte @SenateBudget

17 Jul

Chairman Conrad welcomes the launch of the Campaign to Fix the Debt: go.usa.gov/f4G #FixTheDebt

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Last Updated: August 13, 2012