

CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR THE SPECIAL ISSUE OF PUBLIC BUDGETING & FINANCE:

ADVANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEBATE: THE DEBT, DEFICITS, BUDGETING RULES & PRACTICES

Since 1981 scholars and practitioners of applied government finance have turned to *Public Budgeting & Finance* to find understandable, reliable, thoughtful, and critical analysis of the issues and practices important to the field. In this spirit, *Public Budgeting & Finance* invites **scholars and practitioners to contribute to a special issue focused on federal government debt, deficits and budgeting rules and practices.**

Our goal is to have a highly impactful special issue distributable to the public around the timing of the start of a new Administration and the expected expiration of the current debt ceiling deal (January 2025) and the individual tax cuts in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (end of 2025). We are seeking two types of contributions in the special issue: (1) full manuscripts containing original research; (2) proposals providing commentary on policy and/or practice.

For questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the editorial team which includes David Wessel (DWessel@brookings.edu); Louise Sheiner (LSheiner@brookings.edu); Craig Johnson (crljohns@indiana.edu) and Justin Ross (justross@indiana.edu).

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

We are especially interested in original research manuscripts that explore and provide an analytical treatment of one or more of the following topics:

1. The impact of the federal debt and deficits on the U.S. economy (inflation, economic growth, productivity growth, interest rates, etc.) and the extent to which those impacts depend on the types of expenditures being debt-financed.
2. The potential impacts of rising debt on US Treasury securities credit quality and borrowing costs, including the direct costs on the federal government and taxpayers, as well as potential spillovers on other stakeholders throughout the nation and world economies. Also, a specific analysis of the costs of credit rating downgrades.
3. The underlying cause of the recent and projected rise in the debt – how much is attributable to aging, changes in tax legislation, health spending growth, increased defense spending, COVID-19 related spending, etc.

4. An analysis of potential reforms to taxes and the entitlement programs.
5. An exploration of how certain factors might change the debate around debt in the United States—including the expiration of the Trump tax cuts, the projected depletion of the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds, the debt ceiling, and an analysis of what factors have made deficit reduction an important political priority in the past.
6. How past budgeting rules (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, PAYGO, the debt ceiling, etc.) have or have not affected deficits and debt, and, to the extent they did, the types of spending or revenues that were affected.
7. Whether fiscal practices and institutional constraints at the sub-national (state and local) governmental level provide lessons for federal policymakers, especially fiscal rules such as balance budget requirements, capital and operating budgets, and tax, expenditure, and debt limitations.
8. How budgeting rules and practices with respect to debt and deficits in the United States of America compares to those of other countries.

We invite scholars and practitioners to submit abstracts (up to 1,000 words) outlining their research projects to pbaf@indiana.edu no later than November 13th, 2023. Completed manuscripts are due no later than April 8th, 2024. Manuscripts will be reviewed on an expedited basis and may be in-print or published online as early as October 2024.

A monetary prize totaling \$3,000 will be awarded to the author(s) of the best original research paper, as judged by the *Public Budgeting & Finance* editorial board.

COMMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

We also invite commentary proposals that will undergo editorial review (not peer review). These submissions can be commentaries on current policies or the state of research. We also welcome teams proposing “point and counterpoint” essays that respond to one another. Proposals should include a working title and an abstract or thesis statement not to exceed 300 words. Editors will invite authors of selected proposals to submit full essays not to exceed 5,000 words. Send proposals to pbaf@indiana.edu no later than December 31, 2023.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Public Budgeting & Finance is a scholarly forum for the communication of research and experiences on all facets of government finance. The journal provides understandable, reliable,

and thoughtful analysis of prominent issues to researchers, practitioners, and teachers of applied government finance. Crossing disciplines and approaches, the journal spans the spectrum of budget process, policy and financial management across governments and countries.

The journal is the flagship journal of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM), American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), and the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis (AABPA) and is published by Wiley Periodicals LLC.

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Impact Score (2022): 1.17

Impact factor (2022): 0.9

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