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Mattea Kramer, National Priorities Project
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National Priorities Project



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Mattea Kramer, National Priorities Project : A People's Guide to the Federal Budget before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A People's Guide to the Federal Budget:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An amazing feat - making this stuff a pleasure to read about. By Daniel Mullen Ok so I'm sure everyone is ready to stop hearing about anything political or economical at this point but this is an outstanding primer from an organization that also runs an outstanding website. While they do lean left, it's much subtler than many think tanks and they do a commendable job presenting factual information, detailed charts, and "toolkits" that make it a figurative joy to learn about. With the "fiscal cliff" ordeal coming very soon, I find this is a

great place to get up to speed. I bought their book on recently and have been tapping into my inner wonk with it. The illustrations and fonts have a very charming, 70s, schoolyard vibe that make it a joy to dive into. Yes, I am a dork. Get this and bookmark their website - information is the best weapon! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Guide for Understanding the Budget By Amy Reece Great short book to help anyone understand the U.S. federal budget. I read it as background info for a project I was doing with my high school seniors. The accompanying website is great and has all the current updates as this is a topic that changes frequently! The book gives more in-depth explanations and background info. Highly recommended for anyone who would like to understand how the budget is decided. Well-written in plain English for those of us who don't work in Washington. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read on an important topic By Ryan B. Harvey This book provides an excellent introduction to the federal budget and how it is developed. This is a topic that affects all Americans, and it is one of our responsibilities as American citizens to direct our government to address the issues of greatest importance in our lives. This book explains the rules, shows how to read the documents and what to look for, gives a good introduction to the jargon of federal budgeting, and provides numerous tools for taking action. Definitely a worthwhile read. (This review is my own opinion, not my employer's.)

A comprehensive resource on what every American should know about how our government raises and spends our tax dollars From history of the budget process to detail about the ongoing conflict in Washington, from charts explaining where every federal dollar goes to simple explanations of budget terminology, this book covers it all. A People's Guide to the Federal Budget is for every American who wants to understand and participate in a process that affects all of us. It serves as a foundation for the novice reader, a reference tool for a more advanced audience, and is perfect for high school and college classroom use. Released to coincide with the fiscal year 2013 budget process and the 2012 presidential election, this guide includes up-to-the-minute numbers and explanation of President Obama's 2013 budget request. Ideally, the federal budget is a reflection of our values and our vision for the role of our government. The \$3.7 trillion the government is planning to spend this year is mostly our money. We contribute about 60 percent of the government's total revenues each year (not including borrowing) through individual income taxes and payroll deductions for such things as Social Security and Medicare. This means we are all stakeholders in the government's decisions about how this money will be spent. Understanding the federal budget is essential. Our elected representatives in Washington make choices that impact not just us, but our children, and our children's children. We need to be in this debate, and be in it for the long haul, if we are to build the kind of government, and the kind of nation, that truly reflects our values.

From School Library Journal At the risk of inundating readers with sheer numbers, pie charts, and assorted graphics, A People's Guide takes a singularly dry topic and admirably makes it accessible to the masses. A solid review of "Where Does the Money Come From?" and "Where Does the Money Go?" lays the groundwork for an analysis of the Federal Debt and Obama's 2013 Budget Request. The specific aim for this text is to help readers understand Obama's 2013 proposed budget, a call to action if you will, with an aim to nonpartisan presentation. The text is carefully laid out in a highly digestible and sequential format. It includes simple, layperson's concepts such as our Social Security wage tax holiday, down to 4.2 percent until the end of 2012, upon which the elucidation of more complex tax topics can be built. A more complex graphic is a bar graph with a 70-year review of "Revenues, Outlays, Deficits and Surpluses" - and current deficits versus outlays aren't looking good! In the "Take Action" chapter, a proactive chart provides a month-by-month layout of "Opportunities to Take Action" leading up to October 1, the new fiscal year. Readers would be well served by having a solid grasp of basic government fiscal machinations prior to reading this guide. With clearly presented concepts, consistently referring back to prior explanatory text, there is a wealth of data packed into every page. Grades 10 and up. -Meredith Toumayan, Topsfield Town Library, MA "This year the president, the entire House of Representatives, and one-third of the Senate are up for re-election.... The officials we elect in November will have the opportunity to reshape our country for years to come. If we're to have any hope of navigating the federal budget process and understanding the complex decisions our elected officials will make in future years, we need this book. A People's Guide to the Federal Budget is our way in." -from the foreword by Barbara Ehrenreich, best-selling author of Nickel and Dimed "Many Americans express dissatisfaction or worse over what's happening in Washington today... they can't understand much of what's going on, especially when it comes to where our tax dollars go. This book is a bridge for Americans from dissatisfaction and confusion to knowledge and action.... Congresswoman Barbara Jordan said: 'If you're going to play the game properly you'd better know every rule.' That's what makes A People's Guide essential. We've got to understand what's going on in Washington so that we can work together and change the rules, so that our elections are not auctions.... All Americans who hope to make their voices heard in Washington must understand that we must take on the issue of money in politics, and play to win." -from the afterword by Josh Silver, CEO of United Republic "Nothing will change in Washington unless the American people demand it. A People's Guide to the Federal Budget empowers Americans by explaining the inside-Washington game and offering tools to hold lawmakers accountable." -Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration

and best-selling author of *Aftershock* and *The Work of Nations* "Given the fateful budget choices we now face as a country, *A People's Guide to the Federal Budget* crucially helps all citizens understand the process by which those choices will be made and how we can all engage to ensure the best possible outcome." -Anthony W. Marx, President, New York Public Library "Young adults are underrepresented at the polls. That would begin to change if high school curricula provided a strong grounding in the federal budget-- so that young people have the tools to base their judgments on evidence. *A People's Guide to the Federal Budget* is an invaluable resource." - Dr. Anand Marri, Teachers College, Columbia University "Kramer (senior research analyst, National Priorities Project) here provides an understandable explanation of federal spending and revenues. The text explains why readers should care about the federal budget and how it affects them... This book is worthwhile reading for all U.S. citizens." -Library Journal "This guide seeks to inform general readers and high school and college students about the federal budget to make them more active citizens. It explains the budget's terminology and language, its history, its decision makers, where the money comes from and how it is allocated, the federal debt, and how to take action." -Book News "This primer on the complicated federal budget process is offered in readily understandable language for all readers... The book clearly addresses such issues as discretionary spending... and the federal debt. In the foreword, Ehrenreich reflects on the challenges people face in trying to make ends meet.... This is a valuable resource." -Booklist From the Back Cover From history of the budget process to detail about the ongoing conflict in Washington, from charts explaining where every federal dollar goes to simple explanations of budget terminology, this book covers it all. *A People's Guide to the Federal Budget* is for every American who wants to understand and participate in a process that affects all of us. It serves as a foundation for the novice reader, a reference tool for a more advanced audience, and is perfect for high school and college classroom use. Released to coincide with the fiscal year 2013 budget process and the 2012 presidential election, this guide includes up-to-the-minute numbers and explanation of President Obama's 2013 budget request.