

“Public Opinion on Pentagon Spending and the Military Industrial Complex: National Survey Results”

War Profiteering and Cutting the Pentagon Budget

- 77% of people in the US agree “*war profiteers*” and “*war profiteering*” are a problem (7% disagree).
- A majority (52%) support *reducing the Pentagon budget* if the reductions wouldn’t harm military personnel and their families [18% neither support nor oppose, 9% not sure, 21% oppose].
- A plurality (42%) support *reducing the Pentagon budget*, period. [23% neither support nor oppose, 11% not sure, 24% oppose.]
- A plurality (40%) believe the federal government is *spending too much* on the Pentagon budget. [23% not sure, 28% about right, 9% too little.]

The Military Industrial Complex

What’s the MIC? It’s what President Eisenhower warned us about: The combination of weapons makers, the Pentagon, and Congress in a powerful, corrupt system that continually encourages increased spending on endless wars to create immense profits while diverting trillions of dollars from taxpayers and countless unmet needs such as health, housing, and education.

- 64% of people in the US believe the MIC “*profits from the continuous involvement of the US military in wars, combat, and other deployments in foreign countries.*”
- 52% believe the MIC “*has too much influence on the country’s foreign policy decisions because of its lobbying and campaign contributions.*”
- Half of 18–44 year olds and a plurality of the entire country (40%) agree the MIC “*plays a significant role in causing global warming/climate change*” [9% don’t know, 23% disagree].
- A plurality (44%) agree “*it’s in our best interest as a nation to reduce the power*” of the MIC [29% neither agree nor disagree, 19% disagree, 8% don’t know].
- The tobacco industry was the only industry surveyed that was less favorably viewed than *weapons manufacturers* (others = pharmaceuticals, technology, oil and gas).

Spending Priorities

- People in the US are *much less likely* to prioritize investments in the Pentagon budget compared to other government investments: Percent who believe it’s *extremely or very important* for the federal government to invest in...
 - Health Care: 83%
 - Education and Childcare: 76%
 - Affordable Housing: 75%
 - Infrastructure: 74%
 - Addressing Global Warming/Climate Change: 59%
 - Pentagon Budget: 47%

ReThink Media/Cint Marketplace online survey, 11/27–12/1/2024. US representative sample of 1,789 adults. Margin of error $\pm 2.32\%$.
See www.tinyurl.com/PentagonPoll and www.dismantlethemic.org/polling

Network to Dismantle the Military Industrial Complex