

Penny Polls on Tax Day: Aligning our Budget with our Values



How would you spend our nation's discretionary funds for a year- a total of \$1.242 trillion? On April 15, 2013, people in six different neighborhoods of Seattle were asked to make that decision. Each person participating got 10 pennies, each penny represented \$123 billion, and there were 5 categories.

450 people participated in a penny poll and this is how they voted:

Military — 6.1%	Environment — 23.5%
Education — 31.7%	Humanitarian Aid — 13.5%
Health Care — 25.1%	

How people voted in Seattle:



How our income taxes are *actually* being spent in 2013:



What we heard and saw while polling...



“My favorite story of the day is the young boy, who after his mother explained the categories wanted all 10 pennies to go to humanitarian aid (described as helping people around the world).”

“Many people expressed concern about our wars—especially Iraq.”

“One parent explained to a child that the military jar was for hurting people, while the rest of the jars were for helping people.”

