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JANUARY 29, 2013 AT 7:00 PM

Fiscal analysts: Wrong time for Washington to focus on spending cuts, tax increases

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ THE DETROIT NEWS 3 COMMENTS



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David Levy, chairman of the Jerome Levy Forecaster Center, and Stan Collender, managing director and partner at Qorvis Communications, talk with Nolan Finley, Editorial Page Editor at The Detroit News, at the Detroit Economic Club at the Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit Tuesday. (Robin Buckson / The Detroit News)

Detroit — Two national fiscal [analysts](#) said Tuesday that a broken Washington is likely to get little accomplished regarding the federal deficit — more than \$1 trillion — and the average citizen shouldn't worry about it.

David Levy and Stan Collender, speaking to the Detroit Economic Club Tuesday in a program titled "The Federal Budget in a Time of Madness," said it's the wrong time to focus on spending cuts and [tax increases](#).

"We're going to have this debt so we might as well calm down," Levy said. "We're not going down the tubes."

Moderated by Detroit News Editorial Page Editor Nolan Finley, the program touched on a variety of topics, ranging from the debt ceiling to health care and social security.

Levy, chairman of New York-based Jerome Levy Forecasting Center, LLC, has more than 30 years professional experience forecasting economic climates. Collender, national director of financial communications at Washington, D.C.-based Qorvis Communications, is considered one of the foremost experts on the federal budget, federal spending and revenues, [the national debt](#) and the congressional budget process.

Jonathan Wolman, editor and publisher of The Detroit News, was presiding officer of the program.

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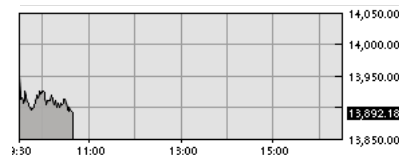
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John Thomas · Top Commenter · Schoolcraft College

Another bury your head in the sand and hope for the best idea. Let the next generation fix the problem.

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Diane Burton · Top Commenter

wow! we're stuck with the debt so don't worry about it? we are truly lost, aren't we? so many of us without work, huge debt...calm down? really? how much do all of these people make? do we pay any of them for this nonsense?

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Diane Burton · Top Commenter

its 16 trillion, not trillion.

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Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn

"A Legacy of Love"

Friday, Feb 8, 6:00 pm
Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal..., Detroit

Coffeehouse Benefit Concert

Saturday, Feb 9, 7:00 pm
Prince of Glory Evangelical Lutheran..., Madison Heights

Motor City Punk Showcase 2013

Saturday, Feb 9, 8:00 pm