

2016 Annual Meeting - Basic Income Guarantee Proposal – Additional Resources

Basic Income Guarantee defined: The Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) is a government ensured guarantee that no one's income will fall below the level necessary to meet their most basic needs for any reason. As Bertrand Russell put it in 1918, "A certain small income, sufficient for necessities, should be secured for all, whether they work or not, and that a larger income should be given to those who are willing to engage in some work which the community recognizes as useful. On this basis we may build further." Thus, with BIG no one is destitute but everyone has the positive incentive to work. BIG is an efficient, effective, and equitable solution to poverty that promotes individual freedom and leaves the beneficial aspects of a market economy in place. The term BIG is more specific than terms like income maintenance or income support, which refer to any kind of program designed to aid those with lower incomes. The Basic Income Guarantee differs from existing income maintenance programs in the United States and Canada in that it is both universal and has no work requirement. It is therefore, very simple and easy to administer. It helps the working poor, single parents, and the homeless, without placing anyone under the supervision of a caseworker.

The Basic Income Guarantee is a generic name for many similar programs aimed at providing universal income support. The name Basic Income Guarantee was chosen because it is similar to both “basic income” (the best-known version of BIG in Europe today) and “guaranteed income” (as the idea was known in the United States when it was seriously considered in the 1960s and 70s).

Funding options:

Various BIG proposals have included the following types of funding.

Income taxes

Sales taxes

Capital gains taxes

Inheritance taxes

Wealth taxes

Luxury taxes

Elimination of current income support programs and tax deductions

Land and natural resource taxes

Pollution Taxes

Fees from government created monopolies (such as the broadcast spectrum and utilities)

Collective resource ownership

Money creation

Tariffs, the lottery, or sin taxes.

There are many different funding options for BIG and no solid agreement among BIG supporters about which is best. One thing is certain and that is that the amount needed to bring the least advantaged in society up to or near to the poverty level is quite small relative to GDP and thus it is financially feasible.

From: <http://www.usbig.net/whatisbig.php>

What other countries are advocating for a basic income guarantee for its citizens?

Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Finland is unique in that 65% of the newly elected Parliament is in favor of a basic income guarantee in order to help raise the economic vitality of the country and end recession. Ontario, Canada has passed legislation that will allow some residents to be paid a basic income starting this year. Details are not clear yet who will receive the funds, nor a set dollar amount. The outcomes will be carefully studied. All the other countries are still at the citizen initiative level.

Who will do the work that needs to be done?

Studies show that having a basic income is actually an incentive to work rather than a deterrent. States with the highest welfare allocations results in fewer people being on welfare programs and for a shorter amount of time. It makes sense that when poor people have more money they spend it, which in turn creates demand and more employment opportunities.

Also a basic income encourages cooperation and reduces competition and crime. We are by nature altruistic and we care about each other.

Additional sources of information:

Borg, Marcus [Convictions-How I Learned What Matters Most](#) Copyright 2014 HarperCollins Inc.

About Basic Income

http://www.basicincomeaction.org/about_basic_income

The Conservative Case for a Guaranteed Basic Income

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/08/why-arent-reformicons-pushing-a-guaranteed-basic-income/375600/>

Ontario Is The Latest Place To Test A Basic-Income Guarantee

<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3057309/ontario-is-the-latest-place-to-test-a-basic-income-guarantee>

How Universal Basic Income Will Save Us From the Robot Uprising

<http://io9.gizmodo.com/how-universal-basic-income-will-save-us-from-the-robot-1653303459>

Basic Income Canada Network

<http://www.basicincomecanada.org/>

On Point: Time for a Guaranteed Basic Income?

<http://onpoint.wbur.org/2016/01/14/universal-basic-income-government-welfare>

Universal basic income

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2015/09/28/universal-basic-income-a-primer/>

Guaranteed Basic Income: What happens when we give every American a free paycheck, for life? The answer may surprise you!

<http://www.catholic.org/news/politics/story.php?id=66349>

Basic Justice

<http://americamagazine.org/issue/basic-justice>

“Calling”: A Christian Argument for a Basic Income+

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/ses/download/docs/meiris.pdf>