

The American Renewal: A 50-Year Strategy for a More Prosperous, Resilient, and Cohesive Nation

Executive Summary: A Hinge of History

The United States in 2025 stands at a hinge of history, a critical juncture defined by a convergence of long-term challenges that, if left unaddressed, will consign the nation to a future of diminished prosperity, security, and social cohesion. The nation is confronting not a series of independent problems, but an interconnected polycrisis. An unsustainable fiscal trajectory, where federal debt is projected to surge past all historical records to 156% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2055, threatens to crowd out essential investments and stifle economic growth.¹ This fiscal peril is compounded by profound demographic shifts: a rapidly aging population and slowing workforce growth are placing immense strain on the social safety net, with key trust funds like Social Security facing insolvency within a decade.¹

Simultaneously, the accelerating impacts of climate change are no longer a distant threat but a present reality, demanding trillions in investment to decarbonize the economy and build resilience into the nation's already-strained infrastructure, which currently earns a grade of 'C' from the American Society of Civil Engineers.⁴ This occurs just as America's long-held leadership in science and technology—the very engine of its economic and military might—is being seriously challenged in a new era of global competition.⁷ Underlying all of this is a crisis of social cohesion, as deepening affective and political polarization erodes the social trust and capacity for collective action required to address any of these complex challenges.⁸

This document, "The American Renewal," presents a comprehensive, 50-year national strategy designed to confront this polycrisis and reverse these dangerous trends. It is not a prediction, but a prescriptive and responsible roadmap for national action. The strategy is built upon three integrated and sequential pillars:

1. **The Great Restoration (2025–2045):** A 20-year phase focused on arresting negative trends and rebuilding the core foundations of national strength through a fiscal grand bargain, a transformative infrastructure and technology initiative, and a renewal of the American community.
2. **The Global Transition (2045–2065):** A 20-year phase that leverages this restored foundation to lead the world in tackling global challenges, particularly by securing a sustainable, net-zero economy and forging a new grand strategy for a multipolar world.
3. **The Centenary Horizon (2065–2075):** A 10-year phase to consolidate the gains of the preceding four decades, address next-generation challenges, and secure the renewal for the century to come.

This plan calls for difficult choices and sustained, multi-generational effort. Yet, the path forward is not without precedent. History, both domestic and international, demonstrates that ambitious, long-term strategic planning is not only possible but is the essential tool through which great nations secure their future.¹⁰ The American Renewal offers a coherent framework for action. Its adoption and execution will

determine whether the United States enters its tricentennial as a nation in decline or as a revitalized republic—more prosperous, resilient, and cohesive than ever before.

Introduction: The Unvarnished State of the Nation, 2025

To chart a course for the future, a nation must first take an honest account of its present. In 2025, the United States faces a set of profound and deeply intertwined challenges that threaten the foundations of its long-term prosperity and stability. These are not cyclical problems that will self-correct, but structural crises that demand a unified and sustained national response. The failure to recognize their interconnectedness—to see that the fiscal, demographic, climate, and social challenges are facets of a single, complex crisis—is the primary obstacle to effective action.

The Economic and Fiscal Outlook

The immediate economic picture is one of moderating growth and persistent fiscal imbalance. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that after a period of cooling, real GDP growth will average a modest 1.8% per year from 2027 to 2035.¹² This rate of growth is insufficient to overcome the structural drivers of the nation's unsustainable fiscal trajectory.

In fiscal year 2025, the federal budget deficit stands at \$1.9 trillion, or 6.2% of GDP—a level historically seen only during major wars or recessions.¹² Federal debt held by the public has reached 100% of GDP, a symbolic and dangerous threshold.¹ The long-term outlook is far more alarming. Under current law, the CBO projects that this debt will surge to 118% of GDP by 2035 and a staggering 156% of GDP by 2055, far surpassing the previous record of 106% set in the aftermath of World War II.² By 2055, annual deficits are projected to reach 7.3% of GDP.¹

This explosion in debt is driven by a fundamental and growing mismatch between federal spending and revenues. Spending is projected to rise from 23.3% of GDP in 2025 to 26.6% by 2055, while revenues are projected to grow much more slowly, from 17.1% to 19.3% of GDP over the same period.¹ The primary drivers of this spending growth are mandatory programs—Social Security and Medicare—and soaring net interest costs on the debt itself. In a stark illustration of this trend, net interest payments are projected to exceed defense spending in 2025 and will grow to 5.4% of GDP by 2055, consuming 28% of all federal revenues.¹ This path is unsustainable; it threatens to slow economic growth by crowding out private investment and limits the nation's capacity to respond to future crises.¹⁵

The Demographic Reality

Underpinning the fiscal challenge is a dramatic demographic transformation. The U.S. population is projected to grow from 350 million in 2025 to approximately 402.9 million by 2075, but this overall growth masks profound structural changes.³

First, the nation is aging rapidly. The number of Americans aged 65 and older is projected to nearly double by 2060, while the cohort of prime-age workers grows much more slowly.¹⁸ This is captured by the sharp decline in the ratio of people aged 25-64 to those 65 or older, which will fall from 2.8-to-1 in 2025 to just 2.2-to-1 by 2055.³ This demographic shift places unbearable strain on the social safety net. The Social Security Old-Age and Survivors Insurance trust fund is projected to be depleted by 2033, at which point current law mandates an immediate, across-the-board benefit cut of 24% for all retirees.¹

Second, the very sources of population growth have shifted. Persistently low fertility rates, which are projected to remain below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman, mean that the era of growth from natural increase (births minus deaths) is ending.³ By 2033, annual deaths are projected to exceed annual births. From that point forward, all of the nation's population growth will be driven by net international migration.³

Third, the country is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. By the middle of the century, the U.S. will be a "majority minority" nation.¹⁹ The non-Hispanic White population is projected to shrink in absolute numbers, while the Hispanic and Asian populations are projected to grow significantly, driven by a combination of immigration and higher birth rates among younger demographic cohorts.¹⁸ This transformation presents both a great opportunity and a challenge to social cohesion.

The Environmental and Infrastructural Deficit

The United States faces a dual crisis of deteriorating infrastructure and accelerating climate change. The American Society of Civil Engineers' 2025 Report Card assigned the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of 'C', with sectors like transit, energy, and roads receiving grades of D, D+, and D+ respectively.⁵ The estimated investment required to bring all 18 categories up to a state of good repair is a staggering \$9.1 trillion.²¹

This infrastructural deficit is made more urgent by the escalating impacts of climate change. The year 2025 has already provided a preview of this future, with devastating wildfires in Southern California fueled by dry conditions and extreme winds, and a record-breaking Arctic airmass bringing unusual cold and snow deep into the Southeast.²² The EPA and the National Climate Assessment confirm these are not isolated events but part of a long-term trend of rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and more frequent and intense extreme weather.⁴ Without deep and rapid cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions, the risks from wildfires, river floods, crop failures, tropical cyclones, drought, and heatwaves are projected to multiply, with devastating consequences for human health, the economy, and national security.⁶

The convergence of these fiscal, demographic, and climate pressures creates a perilous feedback loop, a "sovereign risk trap." An aging population drives up entitlement spending, worsening the debt.

Simultaneously, climate change forces massive, unplanned federal expenditures on disaster relief and resilience projects. The resulting increase in federal borrowing drives up interest rates, which in turn makes it more expensive to finance the very climate adaptation projects the nation needs.¹⁵ At the same time, climate-related disasters depress economic activity and tax revenues, further deepening the deficit. This dynamic demonstrates that a fiscal plan that ignores climate risk is unrealistic, and a climate plan that ignores fiscal reality is unfundable. They must be addressed as one integrated problem.

The Geostrategic and Technological Context

For decades, the United States has relied on its scientific and technological prowess as the bedrock of its economic prosperity and military security. That leadership is now at risk. The National Science Board has issued a stark warning that the U.S. is running a "20th century S&T enterprise in a 21st century world" and risks losing its leadership in critical fields like AI, quantum computing, and biotechnology to global competitors.⁷ This erosion of the nation's innovation base is occurring within a shifting global economic landscape. Projections indicate that China is on track to overtake the U.S. as the world's largest economy by approximately 2035, with India rising to become the second largest by 2075.²⁴ This signals the end of the post-Cold War "unipolar moment" and the dawn of a new era of multipolar strategic competition.

The Social Fabric

The most insidious challenge, and the one that inhibits solutions to all others, is the crisis of social cohesion. The United States is experiencing a level of political and affective polarization not seen in generations. In 2025, a record 80% of U.S. adults believe the country is greatly divided on its most important values.⁸ This is not merely a disagreement over policy; it is a rise in "affective polarization," where partisan identity becomes a social identity, and political opponents are viewed with animosity and distrust.⁸

This erosion of social trust has profound consequences. It cripples the legislative process, making the kind of grand bargains necessary to solve the fiscal crisis nearly impossible.²⁶ It undermines faith in democratic institutions and fosters policy uncertainty that chills private investment and slows economic growth.²⁷ Ultimately, this political dysfunction becomes a component of sovereign risk. International investors and credit rating agencies will eventually view a nation incapable of governing itself as a less reliable borrower, increasing the risk of a fiscal crisis in which confidence in U.S. debt collapses.¹⁶ Therefore, rebuilding social trust and civic cohesion is not a sentimental goal; it is a core economic and national security imperative.

The following table establishes a baseline for the state of the nation in 2025 and sets the ambitious goals for the American Renewal plan in 2075. It provides a clear, quantitative framework for measuring success over the next 50 years.

Table 1: U.S. National Dashboard: 2025 Baseline vs. 2075 Goals

Key Performance Indicator	2025 Baseline	2075 Status Quo Projection (Current Law)	2075 American Renewal Goal
Federal Debt (% of GDP)	100% ¹	>156% (by 2055) ¹	<80%
Real GDP Growth (Avg. Annual)	1.9% ¹³	~1.4% (by 2055) ¹⁶	>2.5%
Infrastructure Grade (ASCE)	C ⁵	D- (Implied deterioration)	A-
Net GHG Emissions (vs. 2005 levels)	~17% reduction ²⁸	Insufficient to meet climate goals	Net-Zero (100% reduction)
STEM PhDs Awarded (Annual)	Global leadership eroding ⁷	Lagging key competitors	Undisputed global leader
Social Trust Index (% trusting others)	Low and declining ²⁹	Further erosion	Substantial, measurable increase
Life Expectancy (at birth)	78.9 years (projected) ³	82.3 years (by 2055) ³	>85 years

Part I: A Vision for the Tricentennial Republic, 2075

A plan without a vision is merely a list of tasks. To mobilize the sustained, multi-generational effort required for national renewal, the American people and their leaders must share a compelling and positive vision of the future they are working to build. As the United States approaches its 300th anniversary in 2076, this plan aims to create a Tricentennial Republic defined by solvency, dynamism, resilience, cohesion, and principled leadership.

A Solvent and Dynamic Economy

In 2075, the United States will have mastered its fiscal destiny. The national debt, once on an explosive trajectory, will be on a stable and downward path relative to the size of the economy, freeing up public and private capital for productive investment. The tax code will be simple, fair, and designed for global competitiveness, encouraging work, savings, and investment. The regulatory environment will be efficient and predictable, fostering innovation without imposing undue burdens. America will be the undisputed global leader in the foundational technologies that define the 21st century—artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum computing, and clean energy. This technological preeminence will power a dynamic, high-growth economy, with the fruits of prosperity broadly shared across all regions and demographic groups, reversing decades of rising inequality.

A Resilient and Sustainable Society

By 2075, America will have fully embraced its responsibility as a steward of the planet. The nation will have achieved a net-zero economy, powered by abundant, clean, and reliable energy. Its infrastructure—from the national smart grid to its transportation networks and water systems—will be modern, intelligent, and fully resilient to the climate impacts of the 21st century. American cities will be models of livability, with vibrant, walkable communities, ample green space, and seamless connectivity. The nation's natural treasures—its forests, rivers, and coastlines—will be preserved and restored, ensuring a rich natural heritage for all future generations.

A Cohesive and Capable People

The Tricentennial Republic will be a nation that has healed its social fractures and rediscovered its common purpose. Social trust, once dangerously eroded, will have been rebuilt through shared experiences and a renewed commitment to civic life. Public discourse will be robust and constructive, grounded in a shared respect for facts and democratic norms. A world-class education system, centered on lifelong learning, will equip every American with the skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world. A modern, rational, and humane immigration system will welcome the world's best and brightest, recognizing that human capital is the nation's most precious resource. Americans of all backgrounds will share a renewed sense of national identity and a deep-seated confidence in the promise and performance of their democratic institutions.

A Principled Global Leader

In the multipolar world of 2075, the United States will lead not through dominance, but through inspiration and partnership. It will be the indispensable anchor of a strong and resilient alliance of

democracies, united by shared values and common interests. Its economic and technological strength will be the primary instruments of its statecraft, used to promote a rules-based international order, deter aggression, and solve global challenges. The nation will act with confidence and purpose on the world stage, secure in its foundations and clear in its commitment to a future of peace, freedom, and prosperity for all.

This vision is ambitious, but it is not a fantasy. It is a realistic appraisal of what America can become if it summons the will to act decisively, beginning now. It provides the North Star that will guide the difficult but necessary reforms detailed in the remainder of this plan.

Part II: The Great Restoration (2025–2045): Forging a New Foundation

The first 20 years of this plan are dedicated to the most urgent task: arresting the nation's decline and forging a new foundation for future growth and stability. This phase, "The Great Restoration," focuses on three critical areas: restoring fiscal solvency, rebuilding the nation's physical and digital infrastructure, and renewing the American community. Success in this phase is a prerequisite for all that follows.

Chapter 1: Restoring Fiscal Solvency and Economic Dynamism

The immediate and most pressing threat to the nation's future is its unsustainable fiscal path. Without bold action, the compounding effects of debt will cripple the economy and render the government incapable of meeting its basic obligations, let alone investing in the future. The central task of this first phase is to enact a "Fiscal Grand Bargain" that stabilizes the debt and creates a durable framework for long-term economic growth. This is a non-negotiable first step.

The Fiscal Grand Bargain

This comprehensive reform package must be enacted as a single, unified piece of legislation to ensure shared sacrifice and overcome the political gridlock that has prevented piecemeal solutions. It will be designed to stabilize the debt-to-GDP ratio by 2045 and put it on a downward trajectory thereafter. The bargain consists of three co-equal components: entitlement reform, tax and revenue reform, and pro-growth regulatory modernization.

Entitlement Reform: The primary drivers of long-term spending growth are Social Security and Medicare, which are on a path to insolvency due to demographic shifts and rising healthcare costs.¹ Securing these programs for the next 75 years requires a combination of progressive adjustments that protect current retirees and phase in changes gradually for younger generations.

- **Securing Social Security:** To avert the 24% benefit cut looming in 2033 ¹, reforms will include:
 1. **Gradually raising the full retirement age:** The age for full benefits will be indexed to increases in average life expectancy. Projections show life expectancy at birth rising from 78.9 years in 2025 to 82.3 years by 2055 ³, and retirement ages must adapt to this reality.
 2. **Making the benefit formula more progressive:** The formula will be adjusted to provide more robust protection for lower-income workers while slowing the growth of benefits for high-income earners.
 3. **Adopting a more accurate measure of inflation:** The annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) will be shifted to the Chained Consumer Price Index (C-CPI-U), which most economists agree is a more accurate measure of changes in the cost of living, thereby slowing the growth of benefits over time.
- **Modernizing Medicare:** To control the largest source of long-term fiscal pressure, Medicare will be reformed to bend the healthcare cost curve through a combination of market-based incentives and regulatory power. Reforms will include:
 1. **Transitioning to a premium support model:** Traditional fee-for-service Medicare will compete alongside private Medicare Advantage plans, with the government providing a defined contribution (premium support) that beneficiaries can use to purchase the plan of their choice. This injects competition and cost-consciousness into the system.
 2. **Accelerating the shift to value-based care:** Payment models will be reoriented to reward health outcomes rather than the volume of services provided.
 3. **Expanding drug price negotiation:** The federal government will use its full purchasing power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs.
 4. **Aligning the eligibility age:** The eligibility age for Medicare will be gradually raised in concert with the Social Security retirement age.

Tax and Revenue Reform: The United States cannot solve its fiscal problem through spending cuts alone. The structural gap between projected spending (26.6% of GDP in 2055) and revenues (19.3% of GDP) requires a comprehensive overhaul of the tax code.¹ The goal is a system that is simpler, fairer, more efficient, and capable of generating sufficient revenue to fund the government's obligations.

- **A New Tax Framework:** This plan assumes the scheduled expiration of the individual income tax provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) at the end of 2025.¹² In their place, a new framework will be enacted that broadens the tax base and lowers marginal rates.
- **Closing the Structural Deficit:** To ensure long-term sustainability, new sources of revenue will be introduced. The two most viable options, to be phased in over a decade, are:
 1. **A Broad-Based Consumption Tax:** A value-added tax (VAT) similar to those in nearly every other developed nation. A VAT is an efficient and stable source of revenue. To mitigate its regressive

nature, a portion of the proceeds would be used to fund a rebate for lower- and middle-income households.

- 2. **A Carbon Tax:** A tax on carbon dioxide emissions, which would serve the dual purpose of generating revenue and creating a powerful market-based incentive for decarbonization (as detailed in Part III).
- **Dedication of Funds:** All net new revenue from these sources will be legally dedicated to a "National Solvency Trust Fund," to be used exclusively for reducing the national debt and ensuring the long-term health of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

The following table visualizes the stark choice facing the nation and the intended impact of the Fiscal Grand Bargain. It contrasts the CBO's current law projection of an uncontrolled rise in debt with the American Renewal path, which shows a difficult but manageable stabilization and subsequent decline.

Table 2: The Fiscal Renewal: CBO Baseline vs. Proposed Path (2025-2075)

Fiscal Year	CBO Baseline Debt (% of GDP) ¹	American Renewal Path Debt (% of GDP)	Key Actions on Renewal Path
2025	100%	100%	Fiscal Grand Bargain enacted.
2035	118%	115% (Peaking)	Entitlement reforms fully phased in; Revenue reforms generating surplus.
2045	135% (Est. extrapolation)	105%	Debt-to-GDP ratio stabilized and beginning sustained decline.
2055	156%	90%	Economic growth dividend from decades of fiscal stability accelerating debt reduction.
2065	>180% (Est. extrapolation)	75%	Approaching long-term target.
2075	Catastrophic/Unknowable	<70%	Long-term fiscal sustainability achieved.

This fiscal consolidation is not merely an accounting exercise; it is the essential precondition for a stable and effective foreign policy. A nation drowning in debt loses its capacity for long-term strategic action on the world stage.¹⁶ The CBO's projection that interest costs will soon consume more of the federal budget than national defense highlights this stark reality.¹⁴ Furthermore, as an increasing share of U.S. debt is

held by foreign investors, the nation's economic sovereignty is diminished, making it more vulnerable to the decisions of other countries.¹⁵ Therefore, the Fiscal Grand Bargain is the first and most critical step in preparing the United States for an era of long-term strategic competition. Domestic solvency is the bedrock of international strength.

Chapter 2: Restoring America's Physical and Digital Foundations

A 21st-century economy cannot be built on 20th-century infrastructure. Concurrent with the restoration of fiscal health, the nation must embark on a 20-year national mission to build the world's most advanced, resilient, and productive infrastructure. This effort, the **National Infrastructure and Technology Initiative (NITI)**, will be federally coordinated, but state-led and substantially financed through private capital. Its goal is to make America the premier global destination for investment, innovation, and talent.

Modernizing Physical and Digital Systems

NITI will be a comprehensive effort to upgrade the core systems that underpin the American economy, addressing the systemic deficiencies identified in the ASCE's 2025 Report Card.⁵ Key priorities include:

- **Energy Grid Modernization:** The current energy grid, which received a D+ grade, is antiquated and vulnerable.⁵ NITI will fund the construction of a national smart grid, incorporating advanced sensors, AI-driven load management, and high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission lines. This new grid will be capable of seamlessly integrating vast, decentralized renewable energy sources and meeting the exponential growth in electricity demand from the electrification of transport and the proliferation of AI data centers.³¹
- **Integrated Transportation Network:** The initiative will move beyond patching potholes (Roads grade: D+) to building a truly integrated national network.⁵ This includes upgrading ports (the highest-graded sector at B) to maintain global competitiveness, modernizing failing transit systems (grade: D), and building out a national network of high-speed rail corridors and universal EV charging infrastructure.
- **Water Security and Resilience:** NITI will fund the replacement of aging water mains and treatment facilities and invest in large-scale projects to enhance resilience against climate-driven water stress. This includes water recycling and desalination projects in arid regions and green infrastructure to manage stormwater and flooding in wetter regions.³²
- **Universal Broadband:** Building on its debut C+ grade, broadband will be treated as an essential public utility.⁵ NITI will ensure that every American household and business has access to

affordable, high-speed fiber optic internet, closing the digital divide and enabling full participation in the digital economy.

Achieving Technological Preeminence

NITI will explicitly link these infrastructure investments to the nation's strategic technological goals, creating a "force multiplier" effect as called for by the National Science Board.⁷ The aim is to reverse the erosion of U.S. technological leadership and secure its position at the cutting edge of discovery and innovation.⁷

- **The National Strategic Investment Bank (NSIB):** Modeled on successful historical precedents like the Reconstruction Finance Corporation ¹⁰, the NSIB will be chartered to provide patient, long-term capital for large-scale projects that align with the national strategy. It will not replace private capital but will leverage federal funds to de-risk pioneering projects, thereby "crowding in" massive private investment. This approach recognizes the immense economic returns of public R&D investment, which have been estimated at 150-300%.³³
- **Targeted "Moonshots":** The NSIB and federal R&D agencies like the NSF and DARPA will coordinate to focus national efforts on a few key technological moonshots with profound economic and security implications.³³ These include:
 - **AI Supremacy:** Investing in the computing infrastructure, data sets, and talent pipeline to lead the world in artificial intelligence research and application.³⁴
 - **The Bio-Revolution:** Funding research in synthetic biology, genetic medicine, and AI-driven drug discovery, while simultaneously developing robust defenses against biological threats.³⁵
 - **Next-Generation Semiconductors:** Onshoring the complete semiconductor supply chain, from research and design to advanced manufacturing and packaging, to end the nation's vulnerability in this critical technology.³¹
 - **Quantum Information Science:** Building the foundational components of a quantum internet and developing fault-tolerant quantum computers.⁷

This massive, visible, nation-building project can serve as a powerful antidote to political polarization. Large-scale national endeavors, from the transcontinental railroad to the Apollo program, have historically been a source of shared purpose and national pride.¹⁰ A project like NITI, which creates millions of high-quality, skilled-trade and high-tech jobs in every state, can help bridge the urban-rural and partisan divides. It offers tangible benefits—better roads, faster internet, cleaner water, good jobs—that appeal to a broad cross-section of the American public. In this way, the very process of rebuilding America's physical foundations can help restore its social foundations, creating a shared stake in a common future and countering the narrative of a hopelessly divided nation.

Chapter 3: Restoring the American Community

A nation's greatest asset is its people. The third pillar of the Great Restoration focuses on aligning America's human capital development with the demographic and economic realities of the 21st century and on taking direct action to rebuild the bonds of social trust.

A Modern Immigration System for a Modern Economy

Given that net international migration will soon be the sole driver of U.S. population growth, reforming the immigration system is an economic and demographic necessity.³ The current system is ill-suited to the nation's needs. The American Renewal plan will overhaul the legal immigration system, shifting its primary focus from family reunification to a points-based system that prioritizes the skills, education, and entrepreneurial potential the U.S. economy requires to remain competitive. This will be paired with a significant investment in border security, technology, and streamlined asylum processing to ensure the system is orderly and lawful. Critically, this new system will also include a robust program of civic education and integration for new immigrants, ensuring they are equipped to become fully participating members of American society. This pragmatic approach reframes the immigration debate from a divisive cultural issue to a strategic question of how to best build the nation's future human capital.

A Revolution in Education and Workforce Development

The rapid pace of technological change, particularly in AI and automation, means that the concept of a "job for life" is obsolete.³¹ The education and training systems must adapt to a new reality of continuous learning and career transition. To facilitate this, this plan proposes the creation of a national system of

Lifelong Learning Accounts (LLAs). Every American, upon turning 18, will be vested with an LLA, seeded with a federal contribution. These accounts can be supplemented by individuals, employers, and states throughout a person's life. The funds can be used for a wide and flexible array of accredited education and training programs—from four-year degrees to vocational certifications to specialized skills "bootcamps." This system empowers individuals to continually invest in their own skills, ensuring the American workforce remains the most adaptable and productive in the world.

The National Civic Renewal Initiative

The most direct assault on the crisis of social cohesion will be the **National Civic Renewal Initiative.** This initiative will establish a voluntary, one-year national service program for young adults between the

ages of 18 and 25. Participants can choose between civilian and military service tracks. Civilian options will be diverse, including an "Infrastructure Corps" to work on NITI projects, a "Tutoring Corps" to address educational disparities, an "Elder Care Corps" to support the aging population, and a "Conservation Corps" to restore public lands.

In exchange for their year of service, participants will receive a living stipend, healthcare, and a significant educational benefit, such as a full tuition waiver at any public university or an equivalent cash voucher for other educational pursuits. The core purpose of this program is to rebuild the social fabric by intentionally mixing young Americans from different geographic, racial, socioeconomic, and political backgrounds in a shared, formative experience dedicated to the common good. Drawing on the legacy of programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps ¹⁰, it aims to foster mutual understanding, break down stereotypes, and forge a shared civic identity.

These two initiatives—a modern, skills-based immigration system and a national service program—are two sides of the same coin. Together, they provide a powerful, practical answer to the defining question of the 21st century: "What does it mean to be an American in a diverse and dynamic republic?" They actively construct a cohesive society by focusing on shared contributions and shared experiences, rather than passively lamenting its decline.

Part III: The Global Transition (2045–2065): Leading in a New Era

With its fiscal house in order, its infrastructure modernized, and its social fabric beginning to mend, the United States will enter the second phase of the American Renewal from a position of renewed strength. This 20-year period, "The Global Transition," focuses on leveraging that strength to tackle the most capital-intensive global challenges and to redefine America's role in a transformed world.

Chapter 4: Securing a Sustainable Future

The existential threat of climate change requires a two-pronged approach: rapid decarbonization of the economy and systematic adaptation to the climate impacts that are already locked in. Having built the foundational grid and technology in Part II, this phase focuses on mass deployment and national hardening.

The Decarbonization Sprint

The centerpiece of this effort will be the implementation of a steadily rising, revenue-neutral **carbon tax**. This policy is the most efficient, market-based mechanism to drive emissions reductions across the

entire economy. A tax on carbon dioxide emissions will be phased in starting in 2045, with the price per ton increasing on a predictable schedule. To ensure the policy is progressive and politically durable, 100% of the revenue generated will be returned to American households on a per-capita basis through a "carbon dividend." This dividend will offset the increased energy costs for most lower- and middle-income families, creating a broad constituency for the policy.

This powerful price signal will be complemented by targeted public investment through the National Strategic Investment Bank (NSIB). The NSIB will provide financing for large-scale, capital-intensive clean energy projects that are critical for the final push to a net-zero economy, including next-generation nuclear reactors, long-duration energy storage systems, green hydrogen production facilities, and direct air capture and sequestration hubs. The goal is to achieve a net-zero U.S. economy by 2065.

The National Resilience Project

Simultaneously, the nation must adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change. The **National Resilience Project** will be a systematic, data-driven effort to harden the country against these impacts. This involves moving beyond reactive disaster relief to proactive risk reduction.

Federal agencies will be directed to update all national building codes, federal land-use regulations, and infrastructure design standards to explicitly incorporate the climate projections for 2075 and beyond.⁵ This will mean, for example, that new federal infrastructure projects in coastal areas must be built to withstand projected sea-level rise, and development in high-risk wildfire zones will be restricted. The project will also fund and coordinate a program of managed retreat and voluntary buyouts for the most vulnerable communities, recognizing that in some areas, relocation is the only viable long-term strategy.

This focus on climate adaptation is not merely an environmental policy; it is a core national security imperative. The Department of Defense has long recognized climate change as a "threat multiplier." Climate impacts will increasingly stress domestic and overseas military installations, disrupt critical defense supply chains, and create instability in strategically vital regions, leading to new conflicts and humanitarian crises.²³ Investing in national resilience is therefore a fundamental component of defending the homeland and maintaining global stability in the 21st century.

Chapter 5: Redefining America's Role in a Multipolar World

The world of 2050 will be vastly different from that of 2025. It will be a multipolar world, with economic and military power more widely distributed, particularly across Asia.²⁴ The era of uncontested American dominance will be over. In this new context, the United States requires a new grand strategy—one that moves beyond the paradigms of the Cold War and the post-Cold War era.⁴⁰

A Coalition-Based Strategy for a Multipolar World

The new U.S. grand strategy will be centered on building, leading, and sustaining a durable **coalition of democracies**. This alliance will be based not only on shared values but also on the hard-headed calculation of shared interests in maintaining a rules-based international order, open and fair markets, freedom of navigation, and technological interoperability. This approach recognizes the new global reality: while the U.S. may no longer be able to dictate terms unilaterally, a cohesive coalition of the world's advanced democracies will collectively possess more economic, technological, and military weight than any single authoritarian rival. The primary diplomatic effort of this era will be to strengthen these alliances and build new partnerships with emerging democracies.

Economic and Technological Statecraft as the Primary Tool

With its domestic economic and technological base restored by the initiatives in Part II, the United States will make **economic and technological statecraft** the primary vector of its grand strategy. The central arena of competition with authoritarian rivals will shift from a primary focus on military confrontation to one of long-term economic and technological competition. This strategy involves:

- **Setting Global Standards:** Working with allies to establish the global rules and standards for emerging technologies like AI, biotechnology, and the digital economy, ensuring they reflect democratic values of openness, privacy, and human rights.
- **Strategic Trade and Investment:** Negotiating new, high-standard trade and investment agreements within the democratic coalition to create a deeply integrated economic bloc that is resilient to coercion from authoritarian states.
- **Coordinated Industrial Policy:** Collaborating with allies on industrial and R&D policy to ensure the democratic world collectively maintains a decisive lead in the foundational technologies of the future, preventing any single rival from achieving a technological breakout that could destabilize the global balance of power.

This strategy is a direct evolution from the Cold War concept of containment.⁴¹ It recognizes that in the 21st century, the sources of national power are increasingly found in a nation's economic vitality, its innovative capacity, and the strength of its alliances. By competing and winning in these domains, the United States can secure its interests and promote a more peaceful and prosperous world without resorting to military conflict.

Part IV: The Centenary Horizon (2065–2075): Securing the Renewal

The final decade of the American Renewal plan is dedicated to consolidating the historic gains of the previous 40 years and institutionalizing a culture of long-term strategic thinking to prepare the nation for the challenges of the late 21st century and beyond.

Consolidating the Gains

By 2065, the United States will be reaping a significant "fiscal dividend" from decades of sustained economic growth, fiscal discipline, and technological leadership. The primary task of this decade will be to wisely invest this dividend to secure the renewal for future generations. Priorities will include:

- **Aggressive Debt Reduction:** Using sustained budget surpluses to accelerate the paydown of the national debt, driving the debt-to-GDP ratio well below the 70% target.
- **Transitioning to a Circular Economy:** Implementing policies to close resource loops, minimize waste, and create a fully sustainable, circular economy.
- **Ensuring Intergenerational Equity:** Making any necessary final adjustments to the Social Security and Medicare systems to ensure their solvency and fairness for the century to come.

Addressing Next-Generation Challenges

A successful nation is one that anticipates future challenges. The National Strategy Unit (proposed below) will dedicate this period to developing frameworks for the complex issues that will define the late 21st century. These include:

- **The Governance of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI):** Establishing national and international frameworks for the safe and ethical development and deployment of AGI.
- **The Ethics of Advanced Biotechnology:** Navigating the profound societal implications of technologies like human gene editing and neuro-enhancement.³⁵
- **The Cislunar and Space Economy:** Developing the legal, economic, and security architecture for the sustainable development of resources and human activity beyond Earth.

The following timeline provides a high-level overview of the phased implementation of the American Renewal's key initiatives across the 50-year horizon.

Initiative / Decade	2025–2035	2035–2045	2045–2065	2065–2075

Fiscal Grand Bargain	Legislation passed; Reforms begin phase-in.	Debt-to-GDP peaks and begins steady decline.	Sustained primary surpluses achieved.	Aggressive debt paydown with fiscal dividend.
NITI & NSIB	NSIB chartered; National smart grid & high-speed rail construction begins.	Core infrastructure projects completed; Tech "moonshots" achieve breakthroughs.	U.S. leads world in AI, biotech, clean energy exports.	Infrastructure fully modernized for next-gen tech.
Human Capital & Cohesion	Immigration reform passed; National Service pilot launched.	National Service program at full scale; Lifelong Learning Accounts universal.	Social trust metrics show sustained improvement.	Education system fully adapted to AI-driven economy.
Climate & Sustainability	R&D in next-gen clean energy; National Resilience Project begins.	Mass deployment of renewables and grid storage.	Carbon tax implemented; Net-zero emissions achieved by 2065.	Transition to fully circular economy.
Global Strategy	Re-engage and strengthen core democratic alliances.	Establish new tech and trade partnerships.	Lead democratic coalition in economic and technological statecraft.	Shape global norms for AGI and space economy.

Conclusion: A Framework for Enduring Governance

The most formidable obstacle to this or any long-term plan is the inherent short-termism of the American political system. The four-year presidential term and two-year congressional cycle create powerful incentives for leaders to prioritize immediate concerns over long-range strategic imperatives. Therefore, the successful implementation of the American Renewal requires not just a new set of policies, but a new set of institutions and processes designed to foster and protect long-term thinking.

In developing this framework, the plan draws lessons from successful models of long-term planning, both international and domestic. The city-state of Singapore provides a powerful international example. For decades, Singapore has utilized a three-tiered planning framework: a Long-Term Plan that sets a strategic vision for 50 years or more, a Master Plan that details land use for 10-15 years, and short-term implementation plans.¹¹ This process is institutionalized within a powerful and respected agency, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), and is characterized by regular 10-year reviews and a commitment to flexibility, or "optionality," to adapt to changing circumstances.⁴²

While the U.S. has never had a formal, comprehensive national planning system, its history is filled with examples of successful long-term strategic initiatives, from the Land Ordinance of 1785, which laid out the grid for the nation's westward expansion, to the New Deal's Tennessee Valley Authority and the creation of the Interstate Highway System.¹⁰ These precedents demonstrate that when faced with great challenges, the nation is capable of undertaking bold, multi-generational projects. The current policy-planning network, however, is often tactical and partisan, lacking the institutional capacity for integrated, long-horizon strategy.⁴⁵

To remedy this, this plan proposes two key institutional reforms:

1. **Establish a National Strategy Unit (NSU):** A permanent, non-partisan office should be created within the Executive Office of the President. Staffed by career experts in economics, technology, demography, and national security, the NSU would be the custodian of the 50-year national plan. Its mandate would be to monitor progress against the plan's metrics, conduct long-range analysis, identify emerging threats and opportunities, and provide strategic advice to the President and Congress. This unit would provide the institutional memory and analytical horsepower that is currently missing from the U.S. government.
2. **Enact a National Planning Act:** Congress should pass a "National Planning Act," analogous in purpose to the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, which reformed national security planning.⁴⁰ This act would codify the 50-year strategic framework and require each new presidential administration, at the beginning of its term, to submit to Congress a **Quadrennial National Plan (QNP)**. The QNP would be required to articulate the administration's four-year policy agenda and explicitly show how its proposals align with, deviate from, or intend to update the long-term national strategy. This would not bind any administration to the policies of its predecessors, but it would force a public accounting and a strategic conversation, embedding a long-term perspective into the short-term political cycle.

The American Renewal is not a deterministic forecast of the future. It is a choice. It presents a comprehensive, responsible, and compelling roadmap to navigate the profound challenges of the 21st century. The challenges are severe, but they are not insurmountable. The path is difficult, but it leads to a future of renewed strength and shared prosperity. Its ultimate success rests on the willingness of the nation's leaders to look beyond the horizon of the next election and embrace their solemn responsibility to secure the blessings of liberty for generations to come.

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How can the American Renewal be achieved?

That is the fundamental question, and perhaps the most significant challenge facing the nation. The "American Renewal" plan is designed to be pragmatic, but its implementation depends entirely on overcoming the political gridlock and short-term focus that currently characterizes Washington. Gaining congressional support requires a deliberate, multi-faceted strategy driven by citizens, one that transforms the plan from a document into a durable national consensus.

Here is a rubric for how citizens can get Congress on board:

1. Forge a Broad, Cross-Partisan Coalition by Reframing the Debate

The greatest obstacle is the deep sense of political division. In 2025, a record 80% of Americans believe the country is greatly divided on its most important values. However, this masks a crucial opportunity: research suggests the general population is less polarized than its political leaders, and a significant majority—75% of Americans—believe it is important to compromise to get things done.

The key is to build a coalition that transcends partisan identity. This can be achieved by:

- **Focusing on Shared Crises, Not Ideology:** The plan must be presented not as a "liberal" or "conservative" agenda, but as a necessary and patriotic response to concrete threats that affect everyone: an unsustainable national debt that risks a fiscal crisis, crumbling infrastructure that earns a 'C' grade, and the erosion of the nation's technological leadership. These are not partisan issues, but national vulnerabilities.
- **Highlighting Local, Tangible Benefits:** Abstract national goals must be translated into concrete local outcomes. For citizens in every congressional district, the focus should be on the tangible benefits: the high-quality jobs created by the National Infrastructure and Technology Initiative (NITI), the security provided by shoring up Social Security before it faces insolvency in 2033, and the empowerment offered by Lifelong Learning Accounts. This approach mirrors strategies that build support from the ground up by focusing on practical, measurable results.
- **Appealing to a "Governing Majority":** The goal is to create a coalition of the middle, appealing to the millions of Americans who are exhausted by "affective polarization"—the animosity and distrust toward political opponents. By emphasizing shared interests and the need for compromise, this coalition can isolate the political extremes and create a powerful mandate for pragmatic action.

2. Launch a Sustained Public Education Campaign

Political will follows public will. A long-term plan requires a long-term public commitment that makes it politically costly for Congress to ignore.

- **Arm the Public with Facts:** The success of organizations like the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in influencing legislation shows that clear, data-driven arguments are powerful. Over 60% of the recommendations from their 2021 Report Card were incorporated into law because they effectively communicated the state of the nation's infrastructure. A citizen-led campaign must similarly arm the public with the unvarnished facts about the nation's fiscal trajectory, demographic challenges, and competitive standing.
- **Create a Sense of Urgency and Opportunity:** The campaign must articulate both the high cost of inaction and the immense opportunity of renewal. It should popularize the key metrics from the plan's "National Dashboard," making the goals of reducing debt, raising the infrastructure grade, and achieving net-zero emissions common benchmarks for national progress.
- **Utilize All Forms of Media:** While social media can amplify polarization, it can also be used to disseminate factual information and organize a movement. The campaign must engage across all platforms to counter the misinformation that fuels division and build a shared understanding of the challenges.

3. Demand Structural Reform to Institutionalize Long-Term Thinking

A plan that relies solely on the shifting political winds is destined to fail. Therefore, a core demand of the citizen movement must be to change the rules of the game.

- **Advocate for a "National Planning Act":** Citizens should lobby their representatives to pass legislation that institutionalizes long-term strategic thinking, as proposed in the plan's conclusion. This would compel future administrations and Congresses to engage with the 50-year strategy, making it a permanent fixture of the policy landscape.
- **Use Historical Precedent:** The Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 is a powerful example of a successful, bipartisan reform that fundamentally restructured national security planning to make it more strategic and effective. Citizens can argue that a similar reform is now needed for the nation's domestic and economic security.

4. Mobilize from the Ground Up

Pressure on Congress is most effective when it comes from constituents. The movement for the American Renewal must be built not from Washington down, but from every state and community up.

- **Secure Local Endorsements:** The campaign should seek resolutions of support from city councils, state legislatures, local chambers of commerce, universities, unions, and civic groups. When a member of Congress hears about the plan not from a D.C. lobbyist but from their local mayor, business leaders, and constituents, the message carries far more weight.
- **Engage in "Cooperative Federalism":** Many elements of the plan, particularly in infrastructure and education, require state and local implementation. By building partnerships at these levels

first, a citizen-led movement can create facts on the ground that make federal cooperation and funding a logical next step.

Getting Congress on board is not a short-term project; it is a multi-year campaign of persuasion, organization, and mobilization. It requires shifting the political conversation from one of partisan grievance to one of shared national purpose. While the U.S. political system is often focused on the short term, its history also includes bold, long-term, nation-building projects like the transcontinental railroad and the Interstate Highway System. These were achieved because a critical mass of citizens and leaders recognized that the cost of inaction was far greater than the challenge of building a better future. The same is true today.

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