



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla Leads National Call to Confront America's Debt Crisis**

**STATEHOUSE** – Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla, chair of the National Debt Crisis Task Force of state financial officers, is one of 90 state elected officials from across the country who recently sent a [formal letter](#) to President Donald J. Trump and Members of Congress urging immediate action on the national debt.

“We are building a movement from states to support federal leaders in tackling the massive problem of deficit spending and \$38 trillion of debt,” said Comptroller Nieshalla. “Our letter was sent with a great sense of urgency from back home in the states.”

Building on early momentum, 37 financial officers sent an [initial letter](#) to President Trump and Congress a year ago that captured the attention of leaders eager to get involved. As a result, the first National Debt Crisis Forum was held at the Capitol this fall, bringing together key leaders including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) and Congressman Josh Brecheen (R-OK).

This latest letter provides an additional opportunity for elected officials from the states to sound the alarm in unison on the severity of the debt problem.

Indiana Governor Mike Braun and numerous states' legislators have joined the financial officers in signing this most recent letter on the national debt crisis, underscoring the growing strength of the movement and welcoming more officials to join. The leaders warn that without decisive action, the nation faces not just a painful day of reckoning, but a prolonged age of reckoning that would undermine America's fiscal stability and global leadership.

"It is extremely important for the federal government to chart a new course to address the national debt head on after over two decades of overspending," said Comptroller Nieshalla. "We've seen President Trump willing to take on big issues, and we urge Congress and the White House to come together to avert this crisis for the sake of our children and grandchildren. It is time to establish a concrete plan to balance the budget, reduce the debt and empower a future of economic prosperity, financial security and affordability."

The letter emphasizes:

- The national debt has surpassed \$38 trillion — equal to \$112,000 per person.
- Annual interest payment now exceeds the budgets of the U.S. Military and Medicare.
- Impending insolvency of Social Security trust funds by 2033, likely resulting in more than a 20% reduction that equates to a \$16,500 decrease of benefits on average per couple.
- The reality of saddling younger Americans with an unsustainable fiscal future, while leaving our oldest and most vulnerable citizens in need of assurances.

### **State Leaders' Call to Action**

The coalition of state leaders urges the President and Congress to take the following actions:

- Implement a concrete plan to put the federal government on a path to a balanced budget as soon as possible.
- Unleash economic prosperity by cutting red tape and tapping into the nation's vast natural resources with a timeline for reducing the debt that is empowered by a growing economy.
- Evaluate how to maximize taxpayer savings by rolling back the costly and burdensome requirements that accompany federal funds sent to states. In return, states are empowered to increase efficiency, innovation and positive outcomes in the use of those dollars.

Legislatures across the country also have the opportunity to further build this movement by passing a [resolution on the seriousness of the national debt](#), modeled after U.S. Senate Resolution 600 and Indiana Senate Resolution 51 that both passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The letter sets a target date of July 4, 2026 — America's 250th Anniversary — for approving a long-term debt reduction plan to restore our country's financial strength and independence

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*Elise M. Nieshalla is the [Indiana State Comptroller](#), fulfilling the duties of the Constitutional Office of State Auditor. Comptroller Nieshalla is committed to serving our state and local governments by upholding the highest standards of fiscal responsibility in the provision of accurate accounting and reporting of state funds, disbursement of tax revenues to local units of government, payment of Indiana's employees and vendors, administration of the state's deferred compensation plan and delivering financial information through the [Indiana Transparency Portal](#).*

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