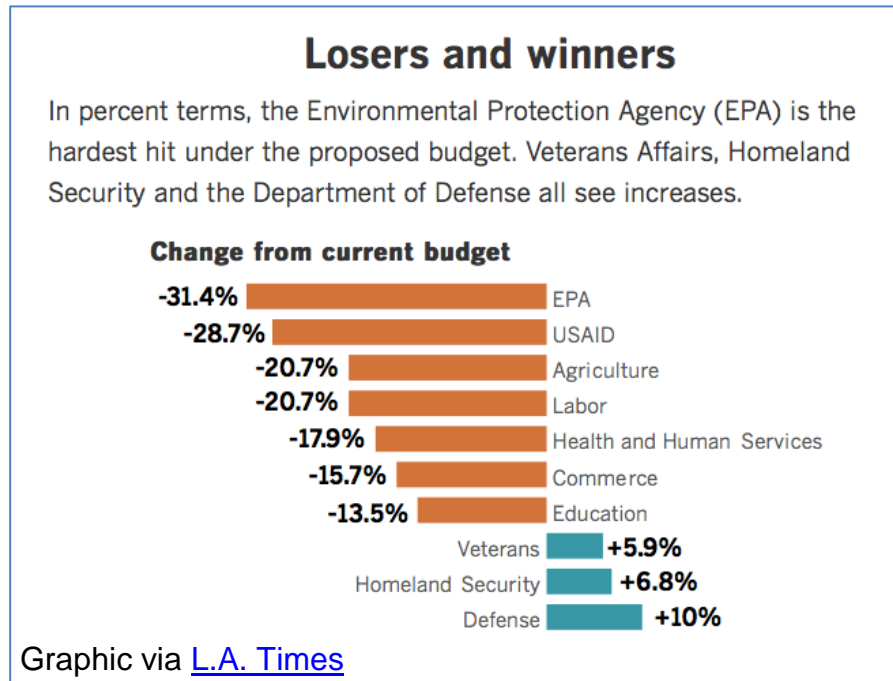


Topic:

- Understanding implications of the preliminary budget proposal from the Trump administration



Overview:

- This week, the Trump administration released its initial budget proposal.
- The budget proposal increases defense spending by \$54 billion (around 10%), decreases the State Department budget by \$10.9 billion (around 30%), and includes other major cuts to the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Health and Human Services (graphic above, via L.A. Times).

Required Reading:

- [What Trump Cut in his Budget](#), Washington Post
- [How Trump's Budget Proposal Would Reshape the Government](#), L.A. Times
- [Federal Balancing Act: An Interactive Budget Simulation](#), Bipartisan Policy Center

Questions for discussion:

- What are the policy priorities that are reflected in this budget?
- Based on your knowledge of the 2016 presidential campaign, in what ways are these proposed expenditures a reflection of, or contradictory to, positions stated prior to the election?
- What populations will be most affected by these budget shifts, both positively and negatively?
- One of the initially critiqued elements of the budget proposal has been the \$54 billion increase in defense spending. How would you allocate that amount within the budget ([WashPo](#))?