

The Pentagon is currently planning to replace its current arsenal of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) with a **brand-new missile force**, known as the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD); it is estimated to **cost approximately \$100 billion in acquisition fees** and \$264 billion throughout its life-cycle until 2075.

However, critics of the GBSD program are noting a growing number of concerns over the program's increasing costs, tight schedule, and lack of 21st century national security relevance. Many argue that **the GBSD's price tag is too high amid a plethora of other budgetary pressures**. Many also say that alternative deterrence options are available at a much lower cost, such as **life-extending the current Minuteman III ICBM force**.

New polling conducted by FAS and ReThink Media suggests that delaying or cancelling GBSD would be broadly supported on a bipartisan basis.

- A majority of Americans (60%) support **alternative policy options** to the GBSD program of record (i.e. life-extending the current Minuteman III ICBMs, or eliminating the ICBM force altogether).
- A bipartisan majority of Americans (64%) support **delaying the GBSD program**, continuing to life-extend the Minuteman III ICBMs, and launching a review of the GBSD program.
- A majority of Americans living inside and outside ICBM host states (CO, MT, ND, NE, WY) support **phasing out the ICBMs**, provided that the government provides economic offsets to ICBM communities.
- Reallocating the ICBM budget towards more **everyday safety priorities**—such as combatting Covid-19—would be broadly supported by Americans on both sides of the political spectrum.

### What do you think the government should do about ICBMs?

