**American Government**

**The Student Forum – February 2013**

**Legislative Update –** page 1

“Congress Avoids Plunge . . .”

1. How many families earning less than $250,000 will not see a dramatic increase in income taxes because of the fiscal cliff deal?
2. Because of the expiration of a temporary tax holiday, which type of taxes increases for everyone following this deal?
3. How long as it been since Republicans supported a broad tax increase?
4. How much would a married couple have to earn to have seen their income taxes rise following this deal?
5. Explain what both conservatives and liberals disliked about this deal.

Conservatives -

Liberals –

**Raising the National Debt Ceiling -** page 3

1. How much is the national debt limit?
2. When will the debt ceiling suspension be lifted?
3. Explain the provision in which the pay of members of Congress will be withheld.
4. Look on page 5; summarize Representative Ellison’s argument to raise the national debt ceiling.
5. Summarize Representative Moran’s argument to not raise the national debt ceiling.
6. What is your opinion on the debt ceiling? Please explain.