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Americans, but to allow the rates to rise for individuals earning more than \$200,000 annually and joint filers earning more than \$250,000.

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Because Republicans have vowed to oppose legislation that would let any of the tax cuts expire, Democratic sources in the Senate say their strategy is to force the GOP into the awkward position of opposing a tax cut for the middle class.

On Sunday, House Minority Leader [John Boehner](#), an Ohio Republican, indicated he might be willing to budge, stating that he'd be in favor of extending only the middle tax cuts if it were the "only option." But Republicans overall remain strongly opposed to Obama's plan. Galston says the Republicans might ultimately have the upper hand, since an impasse would let all the current tax cuts expire as scheduled at year's end, raising rates across the board. "It's relatively unlikely that Democrats would like to be fingered as the people who allowed tax cuts for the middle class to expire," he says. "If the net result for the legislative process is that taxes go up for everybody, that goes into the familiar Republican narrative."

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