

Federal Budget FY2013

Budgets are more than collections of numbers; they are a statement of our values. Every year, factions of Congress put forth their governing vision for the American people to judge. As the Chairman of the Budget Task Force of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), I'm proud to have played the leading role in shaping the progressive fiscal path.

This year, I was proud to author the ["Budget for All,"](#) which would lay the groundwork for a successful economy build from the middle out, where all Americans that play by the rules and take responsibility can still achieve the American Dream. Last year, I was the lead author of CPC's ["People's Budget,"](#) a plan crafted with the everyday American in mind. They both chart pathways to keep America exceptional in the 21st century, while addressing the most pressing problems facing the nation today. Our Budgets eliminate the deficit and stabilize the debt, put Americans back to work, and restore our economic competitiveness.

The CPC Budgets address these problems by listening to the American people. In poll after poll, they are telling lawmakers in Washington that they want to preserve Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, to make higher education more affordable, to expand job-training programs, to cut taxes for the middle class, to subsidize affordable housing, and to provide financial assistance for those struggling to prevent foreclosures.

The majority of America thinks cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, K-12 education, heating assistance to low-income families, student loans, unemployment insurance, and scientific and medical research are completely unacceptable. In contrast, the overwhelming majority of America supports additional taxes on millionaires and billionaires, eliminating unnecessary weapons systems, eliminating tax credits for the oil and gas industries, ending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and bringing our troops home. Poll after poll give voice to what Americans are asking of us.

Our Budgets, in response, listen to what the American people are telling us. It does all of the above in a fiscally responsible way that dramatically reduces our borrowing from banks and foreign governments and ensures our long-term economic competitiveness. It does all of the above recognizing that in order to compete, we need every American to be productive, and in order to be productive, we need to raise the skill level of every American and meet the basic needs of every working family. It does all of the above while remaining rooted in fairness, recognizing that America works only when everyone has an opportunity to make it in America.

As the new budget season begins, I'm looking forward to leading this effort once again, and providing Americans a clear choice between a budget that reflects their values and other alternatives that attack the foundation of this country's greatness.

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