

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

**LAST JANUARY THE POLITICAL PUNDITS AND MEDIA
EXPERTS WERE WRITING THE OBITUARY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.**

As we enter the August District Work Period, and after seven months of intense legislative activity, the American people are turning to us for solutions and to protect them from the radical agenda of our Democrat Congress. The roadmap to our success has been standing by the American people and defending our fundamental beliefs in smaller government, fiscal discipline, and tax relief for working families, small businesses and family farms.

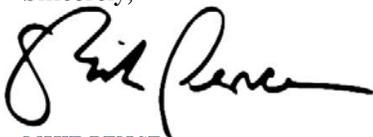
Our success is due in no small part to the work of the dedicated Republican staff across Capitol Hill and at home in our districts, from the personal offices to the committees. While the district work period affords us all an opportunity to spend some quality time with our families, we must remember that now is not the time to take our foot off the accelerator. The legislative battles we have engaged in over these last several months will be waiting when we return this fall.

As House Democrats attempt to “sell” their agenda that encourages a government takeover of large segments of the American economy, we must continue to carry our message boldly to the American people. I encourage all of you to call into your local radio stations on August 17th, a day that marks six months of failed “stimulus” policies. Please send details and reports back to the Conference staff.

Also, please check GOP.gov/august during the recess, as it will be updated to reflect new information that may become available throughout the month of August. This website will also host important supplemental information, created by various Republican committee offices, which provide more detail on the issues this kit includes.

Whether you have sponsored a Republican solution, carried our message on the airwaves, given a one minute speech or engaged in a special order – thank you. Thank you for your work on behalf of the American people. I hope you and your family enjoy this August District Work Period.

Sincerely,



MIKE PENCE

JULY 31, 2009

THE ECONOMY

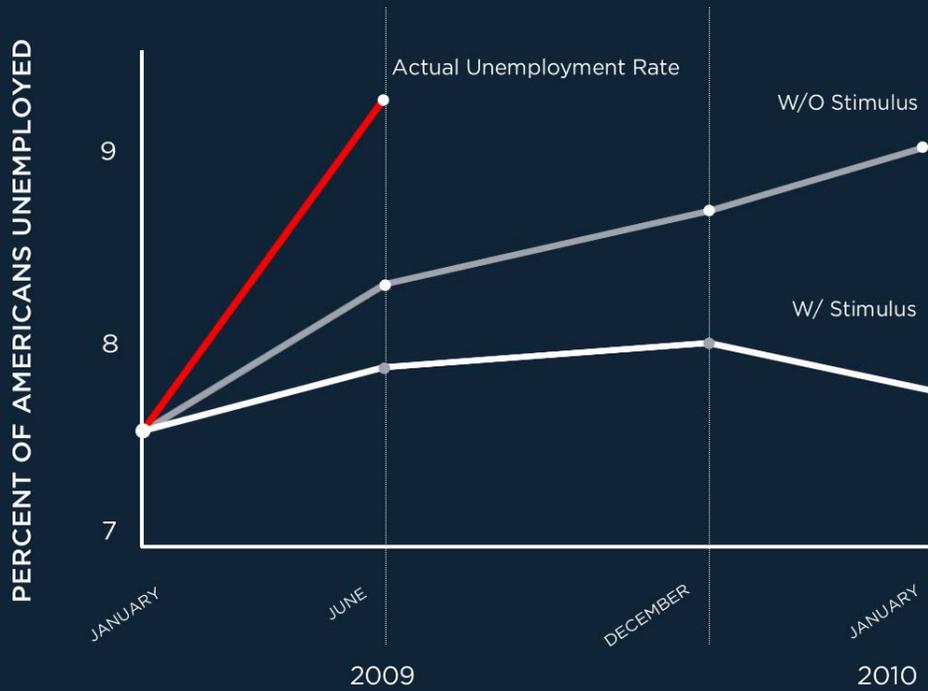
- The American people are hurting and losing jobs at an alarming rate.
- Since the recession began in December of 2007, roughly 6.5 million jobs have been lost. That means millions of families are struggling to pay the bills and make ends meet.
- The President and Democrats in Congress promised that their trillion-dollar "stimulus" bill would create jobs "immediately" and keep unemployment below 8 %.
- But since the President signed his so-called "stimulus" into law, the national unemployment rate has reached 9.5 % - a 26-year high – and over two million more jobs have been lost.
- Despite rising unemployment, the President claims the stimulus has "done its job," and is working "exactly as we had anticipated."
- After six months of stimulus spending, here are the economic facts:
 - National unemployment has risen from 7.6% in January, to 9.5% in June
 - Number of unemployed has risen from 12.5 million in February, to 14.7 million in June
 - Number of jobs losses since February equals 2.3 million
- It's clear the Democrats' \$1.1 trillion stimulus scheme isn't working.
- Every American is asking: "Where are the jobs?"
- The American people know we can't borrow, spend and bail our way back to a growing economy.
- House Republicans offered a real plan to create jobs and get our economy moving again – it would have created twice the number of jobs promised by Democrats at half the cost.
- The House Republican economic recovery plan ensures fiscal discipline for Washington, and tax relief for working families, small businesses, and family farms.
- It is clear that Democrats are on the side of more government, more taxes and more debt.
- House Republicans are on the side of the American people – fighting for working families and small businesses to put America back to work.
- The American people deserve real solutions for a real recovery, and House Republicans will continue to fight for these solutions on behalf of the American people.
- For more information on the Republican economic recovery plan, please visit [here](#).

STATUS OF EVENTS

The national unemployment rate reached 9.5% in June, and is forecast to reach 10% by the end of the year. New national unemployment figures are scheduled to be released by the Department of Labor on Friday, August 7, and state unemployment figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, August 21.

OBAMA'S STIMULUS SWINDLE

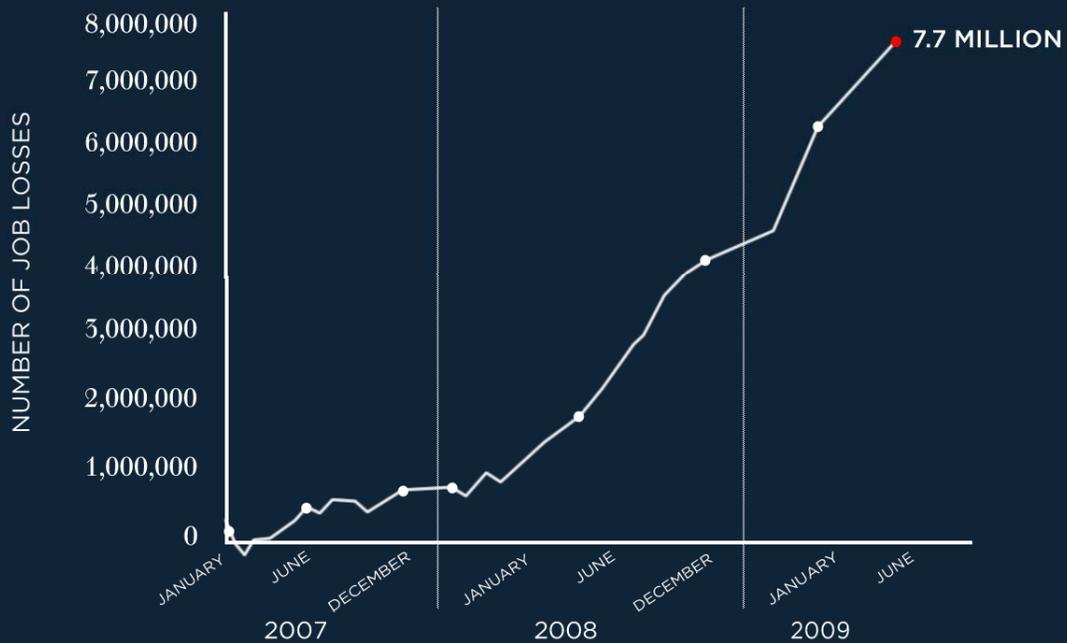
REALITY TRUMPS WHITE HOUSE PROJECTIONS



Source: The Job Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan
Department of Labor

7.7 MILLION JOB LOSSES

SINCE THE START OF THE DEMOCRAT MAJORITY



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

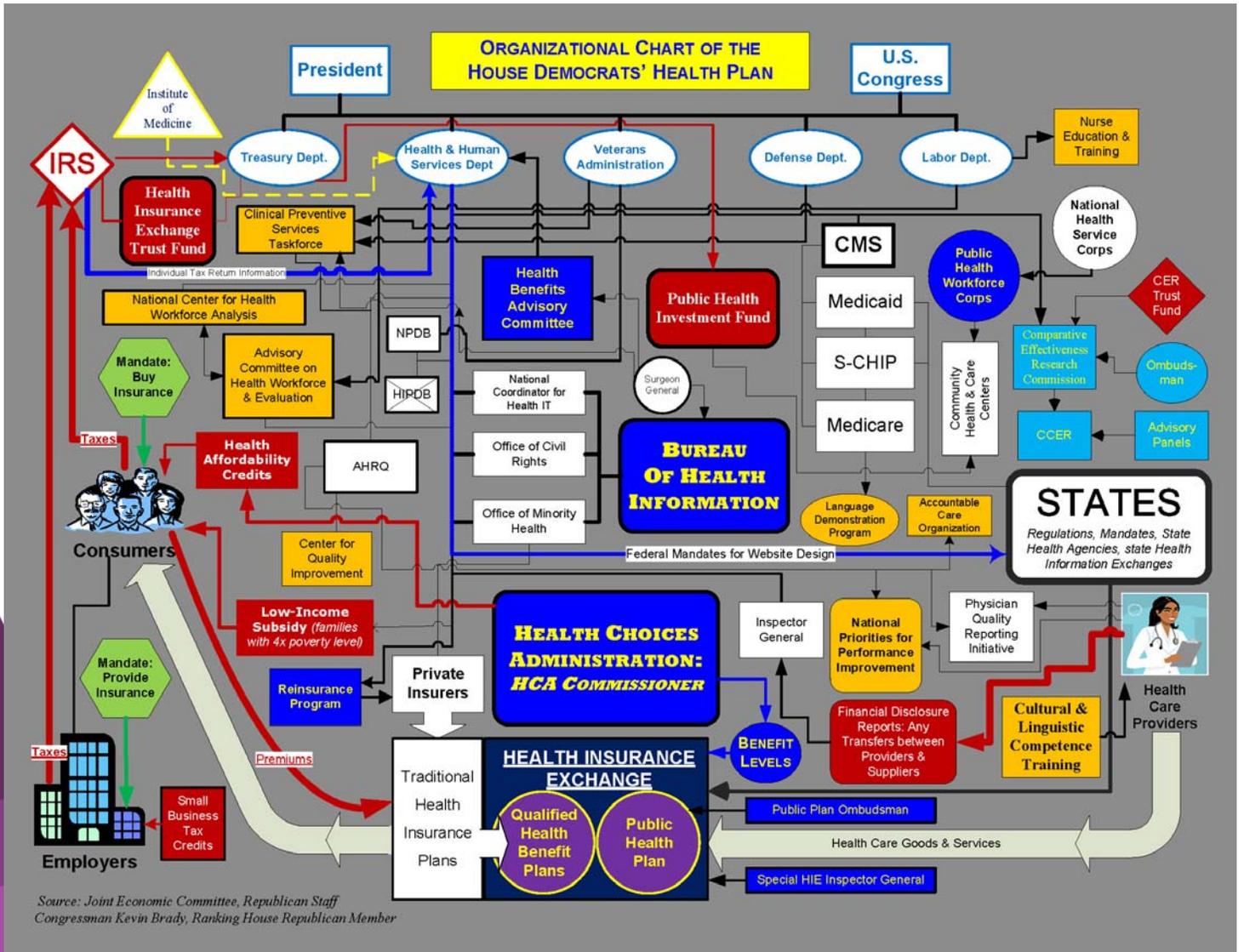
HEALTHCARE

- House Republicans are for health care reform that will work and that will lower costs for the American people.
- Republicans have a plan for real reform that expands access to affordable health care and gives families the freedom to choose the health care that best fits their needs.
- During a recession that has seen the loss of 6.5 million jobs, Democrats propose a government takeover of health care that will lead to increased costs, fewer jobs, higher taxes and less health coverage.
- The Democrats' health care plan includes more than \$800 billion in new tax hikes, including tax hikes on small businesses - the engine of job creation in this country.
- An estimated 61% of small businesses that already provide health care for their employees will be hit by a payroll "surtax" that will kill jobs and reduce workers' wages.
- According to economic modeling by the President's own chief economic advisor, the business tax hikes alone will destroy up to 5.5 million jobs.
- Democrats want to impose harmful cuts to Medicare Advantage that will result in millions of seniors losing their health coverage.
- An analysis by the non-partisan Lewin Group found that up to 114 million Americans would lose their current health insurance.
- Despite claims that their reform will reduce health care costs, the CBO recently noted that the Democrat plan will "probably generate substantial increases in federal budget deficits."
- In an attempt to hide the truth about their health care plan from the American people, the Democrat leadership is now attempting to silence House Republicans and censor communications with our constituents.
- The American people want real solutions to get our economy back on track, not another excuse to increase government spending and raise taxes on small businesses, family farms, and working families.
- As Democrats travel the country trying to "sell" the American people on their plan for a government takeover of the health care industry, House Republicans will continue to oppose any effort that puts Washington bureaucrats between patients and their doctors.

STATUS OF EVENTS

At the time of printing, the House Energy and Commerce Committee was completing their markup of H.R. 3200. House Democrat leaders announced their intention to complete the committee markup, and bring the bill before the full House in September.

For more information on the Republican health care plan, please visit [here](#).



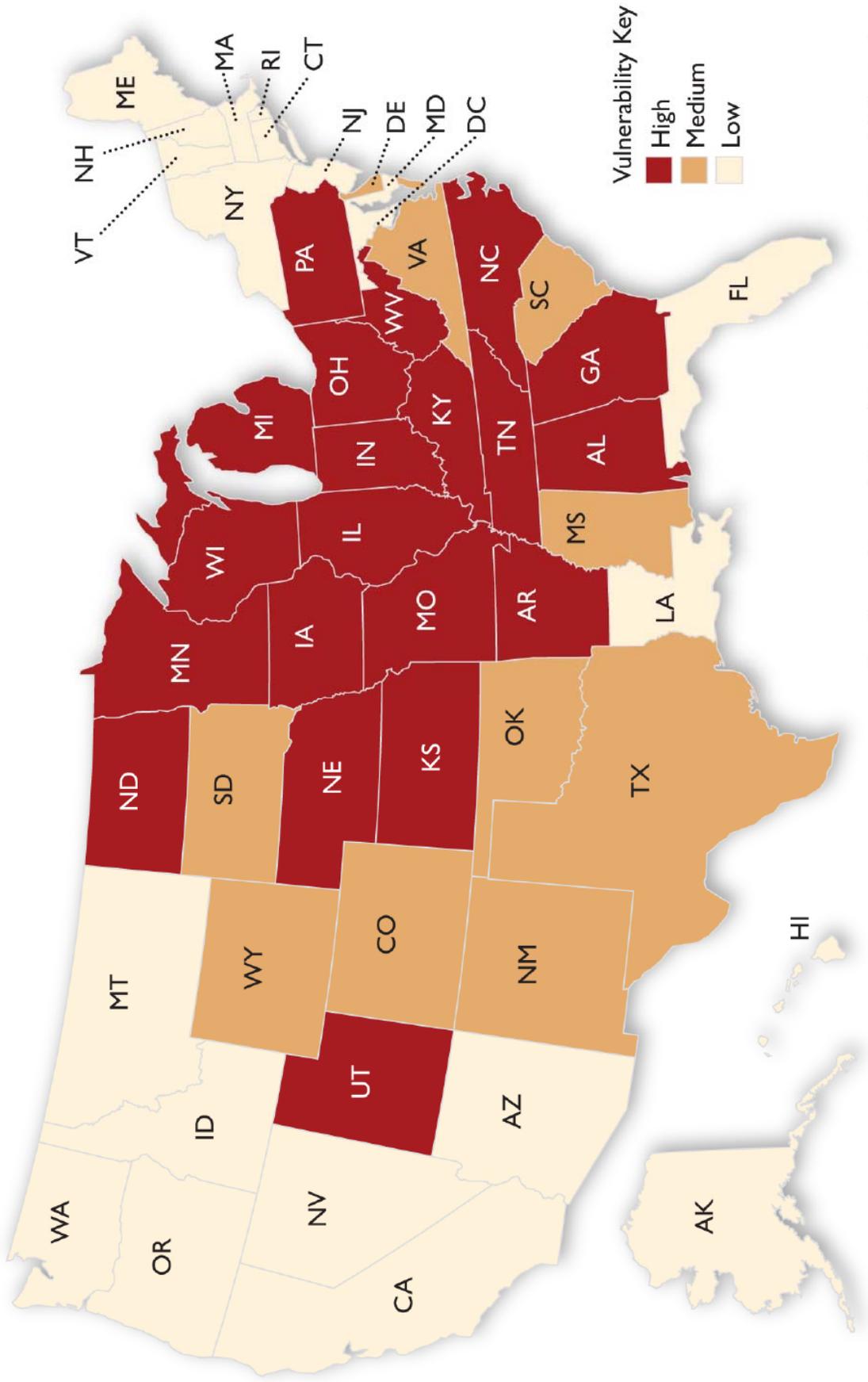
ENERGY

- During these difficult economic times, struggling families should not be forced to endure even greater economic hardship because of higher gas and energy prices.
- In the midst of the worst economic recession in a generation, House Democrats passed a national energy tax that will lead to higher energy prices and massive new job losses.
- President Obama even admitted that under his energy plan utility rates would “necessarily skyrocket” and those rising energy prices will be passed on to consumers.
- According to one independent estimate 2.3 to 2.7 million jobs will be lost each year for the next twenty years, as a result of the Democrat national energy tax.
- The Democrat national energy tax does little to clean up the environment, since manufacturers will ship their plants and their pollution to countries that lack environmental safeguards.
- At a time of economic turmoil this country cannot afford an energy plan that will ship jobs overseas, raise energy prices, and make our environmental challenges worse.
- House Republicans proposed the American Energy Act, an “all of the above” plan that provides energy independence, creates more good-paying jobs, and promotes a cleaner environment.
- The American Energy Act calls for more domestic exploration of our natural resources.
- The House Republican plan renews our nation’s commitment to clean and emissions-free nuclear energy, establishing the goal of 100 new nuclear reactors over the next 20 years – the best method available to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions.
- The House Republican plan makes critical investments in renewable and alternative energy sources and encourages conservation by expanding tax incentives that are proven to promote greater efficiency.
- The American people deserve energy independence. The House Republican plan is the comprehensive energy solution this country needs.
- For more information on the Republican energy plan, please visit [here](#).

STATUS OF EVENTS

House Democrats passed their national energy tax on Friday, June 26, by a vote of 219 to 212. The bill is waiting to be considered in the Senate.

Cap and Tax Vulnerability By State



Based on Heritage Foundation Manufacturing Vulnerability Index

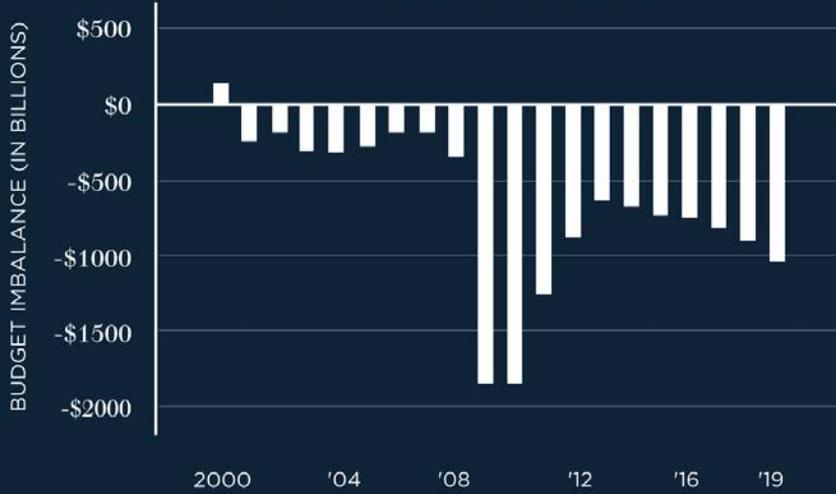
DEMOCRATS' RUNAWAY SPENDING

- Democrats continue an unprecedented spending spree with the taxpayers' credit card, instead of making the tough decisions families have been forced to make during these difficult times.
- Democrats passed the President's nearly \$4 trillion budget plan that spends too much, taxes too much and borrows too much.
- Since Democrats took control of Congress in 2007, spending by Congressional appropriators has increased by 41% and federal non-defense spending has increased by 85%.
- Here are the costly facts about the Democrats' spending in 2009:
 - Reckless spending and a record deficit - \$2 trillion
 - Authorizing the second installment of TARP - \$350 billion
 - Jamming through Congress a so-called stimulus plan - \$787 billion
 - Passing a \$409 billion omnibus spending bill
 - Supporting the President's budget, which increased federal spending to 28% of GDP- \$4 trillion
- Not content with this level of historic spending, and in spite of billions of dollars in so-called stimulus, Democrats are on track to increase next year's non-defense spending by 12%.
- Democrats spent \$700 million of taxpayer money to expand a federal wild horse and burro program, and even attached a foreign aid bailout to an emergency funding bill that funds our troops in harms' way.
- The Democrat plan for fiscal discipline means they increase spending and then increase taxes to pay the bill.
- Apparently Democrats can't spend your money fast enough, denying countless opportunities for Republicans to cut wasteful spending and bring fiscal discipline back to Washington.
- House Republicans have offered real plans for fiscal responsibility, including a fiscally responsible budget that does not raise taxes, as well as a proposal that caps government spending and that retains our commitments to seniors, veterans and national security.
- It is time to practice fiscal discipline and advocate for common sense proposals that control runaway spending and cut government waste.

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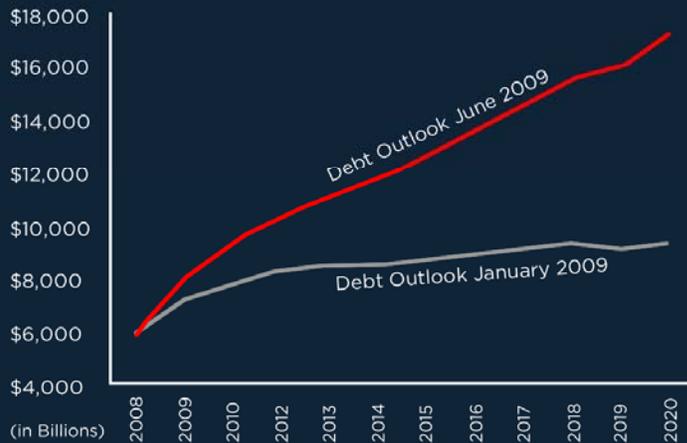
DEMOCRATS' HISTORIC BUDGET IMBALANCE



Source: CBO

PUBLIC DEBT OUTLOOK

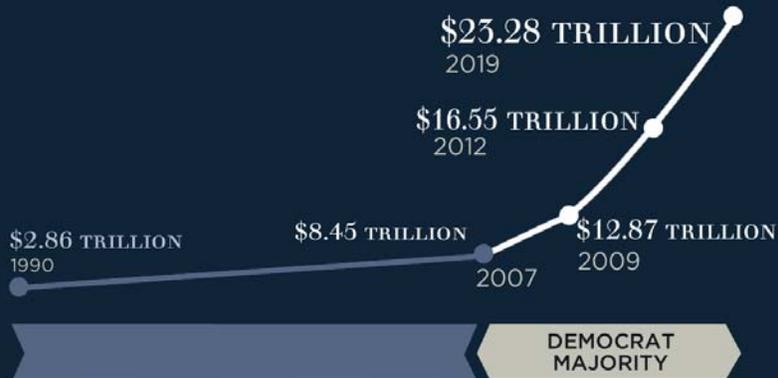
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPENDING SPREE



Source: Congressional Budget Office

A NEW ERA OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

NATIONAL DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES



Source: Office of Management and Budget

KEEPING AMERICA SAFE

- Since 2002, the Guantanamo Bay detention facility has held some of the world's most dangerous terrorists who either participated in planning the attacks of September 11th, or were captured while planning attacks.
- To fulfill a campaign promise, President Obama ordered that the detention facility be closed. Now the President has missed the deadline he promised the American people for a plan to relocate the detainees and has kicked the deadline down the road.
- Families across the country fear that these dangerous terrorists will be relocated to their local communities, or eventually released to return to the battlefield.
- The Administration has already transferred one detainee to New York and may transfer more during the month of August.
- According to the Washington Post, more than five-hundred "safe" terrorist detainees were released from Guantanamo Bay, and 1 out of 7 of these terrorists later went back to participation in terrorist activities.
- The more than 200 terrorists left at Guantanamo Bay represent the worst of the worst. How will closing Guantanamo make us safer?
- The American people deserve to have their voices heard in this important debate, not shut out by a President who promised openness and transparency.
- House Republicans have a plan, the "Keep Terrorists Out of America Act," that guarantees dangerous terrorists held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility are kept off American soil.
- For more information about the House Republican plan to keep terrorists off American soil, please visit [here](#).

STATUS OF EVENTS

The Obama Administration missed a July 22 deadline to establish a detailed plan for safely closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. The new deadline for the establishment of this plan is December 22, 2009. It is reported that the Administration will transfer certain detainees to unspecified locations around the world, which may endanger American troops and citizens overseas. The Administration has also expressed its intention to bring Gitmo detainees to the U.S. for prosecution, raising serious concerns about what "constitutional" rights terrorists have on U.S. soil.

NEVER AGAIN.

MORE ONLINE: GOP.GOV/DETAINEES



Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri

Leader of the bombing of the *USS Cole* in 2000 and al-Qaeda's operations chief in the Arabian Peninsula until his capture in 2002.



Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

Driving force behind the attacks on 9/11 as well as several subsequent plots against the U.S. and Western targets worldwide.



Abu Faraj al-Libi

Served as the courier for al-Qaeda managers to Osama bin Laden from August 2003 until his capture in 2005.



Majid Khan

Tasked by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to conduct research on poisoning U.S. water reservoirs. Was considered for an operation to assassinate Pakistani President Musharraf.



Abu Zubaydah

Oversaw the "Khaldeen group" training camp and guesthouses between 1995 and 2000. These camps were used to train three of the 9/11 hijackers.



Mustafa al-Hawsawi

One of two key financial facilitators entrusted by 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to manage the funding for the hijackings.



Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani

Born around 1974 in Zanzibar, Tanzania, Ghailani was one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists and has been indicted for his role in the East Africa Embassy bombings in 1998.



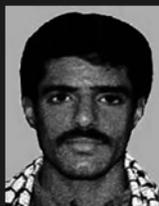
Ramzi Binalshibh

Lead operative of post-9/11 plot to hijack aircraft and crash them into Heathrow International Airport in the United Kingdom.



Hambali

Helped plan the first Bali bombings in 2002 that killed more than 200 persons and facilitated al-Qaeda financing for the Jakarta Marriott Hotel bombing the following year.



Walid Bin Attash

Planner of the *USS Cole* bombing in October 2000. Also alternated between serving as a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden and participating in combat against the Northern Alliance.

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

- The American people are tired of bailing out every failing big business in America.
- Republicans support modernizing our regulatory structure to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and most importantly, to protect American taxpayers.
- The federal government cannot ask taxpayers, who have played by the rules and paid their bills, to continue to bail out the irresponsible decisions of Wall Street and Washington.
- As we have witnessed over the past year, the idea that certain businesses are “too big to fail” can no longer be accepted.
- At a time when we should be unwinding the federal government’s intrusion in our free markets, House Democrats and the President want to ensure that bureaucrats have free reign over every financial institution and product in America.
- Expanding the powers of the Federal Reserve – at a time of unprecedented spending and borrowing by the Democrat Congress – will undermine the Fed’s primary responsibility to fight inflation and protect purchasing power.
- Establishing a so-called “Consumer Financial Protection Agency” will restrict the ability of consumers to choose the investments that work best for them, and lead to fewer financial products, less economic growth, less available credit, and more jobs lost.
- The American people have lost trillions of dollars in college and retirement savings, as well as investments, yet the Democrats offer a regulatory plan that will do more harm than good.
- House Republicans have a better plan, a plan that puts taxpayers first, ends bailout mania, puts personal responsibility and transparency back into our markets, and ends the federal government’s ability to pick winners and losers.
- Republicans support a regulatory reform plan that relies on smarter – not more – regulation and federal bureaucracies.
- It is time to take taxpayers off the hook for the decisions of Wall Street. We must put freedom back into our free markets.

STATUS OF EVENTS

On June 17, President Obama released a “White Paper” which outlines his proposal for financial regulatory reform. House Republicans responded by introducing their plan, H.R. 3310, the “Consumer Protection and Regulatory Enhancement Act.” At the time of printing, the House of Representatives was expected to pass H.R. 3269, a bill to limit executive compensation.

DOWNLOADS



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT [GOP.GOV/AUGUST](http://www.gop.gov/august)

CHARTS USED IN THIS PUBLICATION:

<http://www.gop.gov/accountability>

THE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT:

<http://www.gop.gov/energy>

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM:

<http://www.gop.gov/download?folder=recesskits&file=2009-august-regulatory-reform-talking-points.pdf>

EXPOSED: TRUE IMPACT OF DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE PLAN ON FEDERAL DEFICIT:

<http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=138831>

OBAMA'S CHIEF ECONOMIST: DEMOCRAT HEALTH CARE TAX TO COST 4.7 MILLION AMERICANS THEIR JOBS:

<http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=131811>

HEALTHCARE FACT SHEET:

<http://republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=7244>

NEW FEDERAL BUREAUCRACIES CREATED IN DEMOCRAT HEALTH REFORM:

<http://www.gop.gov/download?folder=recesskits&file=2009-august-healthcare-bureaucracies.pdf>

DEMOCRAT HEALTH REFORM BY THE NUMBERS:

<http://www.gop.gov/download?folder=recesskits&file=2009-august-healthcare-reform-numbers.pdf>

