

# **BUDGET IS A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE**

*Democrats' Budget Provides Roadmap, Priorities for Future*

*“With the magnitude of the challenges we face, I don’t just view this budget as numbers on a page or a laundry list of programs. It’s an economic blueprint for our future...a firm foundation of investments in energy, education, and health care that will lead to a real and lasting prosperity.”*

*– President Barack Obama, 3/21/09*

*“We will follow President Obama’s lead, and produce a budget that cuts the deficit in half over the next four years, but still invests in areas critical to our future—such as energy, education, and health care.”*

*– Chairman John Spratt, House Budget Committee, 3/20/09*

Last month, President Obama sent his budget outline to Congress, a document that serves as a starting point for this week’s budget resolution being marked up by the House Budget Committee. This continues the budget process between the White House and the Congress as we set our priorities for the upcoming year. The Democratic budget resolution will serve as a responsible guideline that will help direct our decisions as we pave the way toward a more prosperous future.

## **The Budget:**

- Sets the top-line amount of money that will be spent in this year’s Appropriations bills
- Sets out how much the government expects to spend on mandatory programs and how much money it expects to take in from federal revenues
- Sets policies and goals for reducing the deficit
- Reflects changes in spending priorities and other policy changes
- Decides whether or not “reconciliation” will be an option, to implement the spending and revenue changes assumed in the budget resolution

## **The Budget DOES NOT:**

- Set spending levels for specific programs
- Change current law. The budget does not become law; it sets targets for spending and taxes, but does not change spending laws or tax programs. The budget has to be followed by legislation from authorizing committees, who make the ultimate decision as to how money for their specific areas will be spent