

12 Reasons Why Republicans Should Be Told: “You’re Fired!”



ISSUE:	REPUBLICANS CLAIMED:	FAILURE:
1. JOBS/ECONOMY	Their tax plan would create 4.3 million new jobs	⇒ The economy has lost 1.7 million private sector jobs since 2001
	The unemployment rate would drop	⇒ Unemployment rate is up by 1.2 percentage points since President Bush took office
	Their policies would lead to strong economic growth and investment	⇒ GDP has increased at an average annual rate of 2.5% since President Bush took office, far below 3.3% average growth rate achieved from 1953 – 2001. Only the second Administration (after Ford) in 50 years with negative real business investment, and only the second Administration (after Nixon) with a decline in the stock market (-18% since January 2001)
2. WAGES / INCOME	Their policies would improve earnings for America’s workers	⇒ The typical worker's earnings are barely keeping up with inflation (0.2%/yr after inflation during the Bush years vs. 1.7%/yr after inflation in Clinton’s second term)
		⇒ Over 90% of new jobs created since August 2003 are service sector jobs that pay less than the national average hourly wage
		⇒ Median household income down \$1,535; greatest average annual decline in household income since 1960
3. HEALTH CARE	They would increase access and affordability of health care	⇒ Employer-sponsored health insurance premiums increased an average of 11.2% in 2004, the fourth year of double-digit increases
		⇒ 5.2 million more Americans without health insurance since 2000
		⇒ 5 million fewer jobs providing health insurance in 2004 than 2001
		⇒ The Administration will raise Medicare premiums this year, an increase of over 17% that will affect 38.9 million Americans

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4. EDUCATION	They would fully fund the No Child Left Behind	⇒ FY05 House GOP education spending bill under-funded the No Child Left Behind Act by \$9.5 billion, \$25 billion overall (if House FY05 bill is enacted)
5. DEFICITS	They would cut the deficit in half	⇒ Large surpluses (10-year projection in 2001 was \$5.6 trillion) turned into large deficits (10-year projection in 2004 is -\$3.5 trillion). Record-setting deficits for 2003 and 2004
6. DEBT	Their plans would pay down an “unprecedented amount of debt”	⇒ President Bush and the GOP Congress have enacted 2 debt limit increases in the last 3 years, and are poised to enact a third (increasing the limit \$690 billion to \$8.1 trillion)
7. IRAQ	Iraq had weapons of mass destruction threatening the U.S.	⇒ No weapons of mass destruction have been found and weapons inspector David Kay believes they never will be found
	There was a direct connection between 9/11 and Iraq	⇒ Even Colin Powell said he has "seen nothing that makes a direct connection between Saddam Hussein and that awful regime and what happened on 9/11."
	Iraq could fund its own reconstruction at little cost to American taxpayers	⇒ The cost of the war to America is approaching \$160 billion and is projected to reach \$200 billion by 2005
	On May 1, 2003: Mission Accomplished	⇒ Since May 1 st , 875 American troops have died. Recent news reports detail escalating violence.
8. HOMELAND SECURITY	Homeland Security would be a legislative and budgetary priority	⇒ Homeland Security funding programs have been underfunded; states and cities still have not received needed money; and Congress will not pass the FY05 Homeland Security Appropriations bill before the end of the year (Oct. 1 st)
9. BUDGET	They would produce an effective federal budget every year	⇒ Republicans failed to produce a FY05 Budget – the first time in modern budget history when one party controlled the Congress and the White House
10. TRANSPORTATION	They would pass a jobs-creating transportation bill	⇒ Transportation reauthorization bill has been stalled for nearly a year because of Republican infighting
11. ENERGY	They would pass a comprehensive energy reform bill	⇒ Energy conference bill mired by Republican infighting at a time of record gas prices
12. APPROPRIATIONS	They would make the appropriations process run on time and pass appropriations and budget bills by Oct. 1	⇒ For the third year in a row, Congress will not complete appropriations work on time. Congress has sent only 1 out of 13 appropriations bills to the President for his signature