

AMERICA CAN'T AFFORD TO RETURN TO FAILED REPUBLICAN POLICIES

GOP Created Massive Deficits that Weighed Down Efforts to Tackle Great Recession, Create Jobs

During the 12 years that Republicans controlled Congress, they turned record surpluses into the worst deficits in American history. Their dismal record on fiscal responsibility – spending trillions on policies without paying for them – shows middle class Americans what they would do again if given the opportunity. In 2004, then Vice President Dick Cheney declared, “Deficits don’t matter,” but years later, we are all too familiar with the reasons why that logic does not stand. A look back at the history of Republican control shows why deficits do matter and why America can’t afford a return to the failed Republican politics of putting the special interests before the middle class’s best interests.

First, Republicans ignored PAYGO:

- The *Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act* (2001) was subject to PAYGO, but Republicans ignored the spirit of the law and wiped the scorecard clean – **has cost us over \$1 trillion to date (\$187 billion in FY10 alone)**.
- The *Defense Appropriations Act* (2002) had increases in entitlement spending that was subject to PAYGO, but Republicans instructed OMB to change the cost on the PAYGO scorecard to zero – **cost more than \$130 billion over two years**.
- The *Consolidated Appropriations Act* (2001) was subject to PAYGO, but Republicans instructed OMB to change the cost on the PAYGO scorecard to zero – **cost more than \$49 billion over five years**.

Then, Republicans allowed PAYGO to expire:

- The *Jobs Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act* (2003) – **has cost us more than \$300 billion to date (\$4 billion in FY10 alone)**.
- The *Medicare Modernization Act* (2003) – **has cost us over \$200 billion to date (\$47 billion in FY10 alone)**.
- The *Farm Security and Rural Investment Act* (2002) – **has cost us \$80 billion to date**.
- The *Spectrum Auction Reform Act* (2002) – **cost over \$2 billion over two years**.
- The *Trade Act* (2002) – **cost more than \$1.6 billion over two years**.

By drastically increasing spending with borrowed money, **Republicans are responsible for roughly 85% of the deficits we face:**

- **35% = Bush Economic Downturn**
- **37% = Bush Policies (Tax Cuts, Iraq War, Medicare Modernization Act)**
- **12% = Extension of Bush Policies**
- **14% = Recovery Act**
- **2% = Obama Policies**

