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The Budget Record of the Democrat Congress

In light of this week's Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report projecting a \$7.4 trillion deficit over the FY 2010-2020 period, and next week's release of the FY 2011 President's budget, below are some highlights of the country's fiscal deterioration since January 2007.

A Comparison of Deficits Under Democrat versus Republican Control of the Congress

- **Three Times the Deficits in One-Quarter of the Time:** The Republican-controlled Congress, from FY 1996-2007, ran a cumulative deficit of \$1.2 trillion over twelve years. The Democrat-controlled Congress, over the FY 2008-2010 period, will run up \$3.2 trillion of deficits in three years (see tables 1 and 2 below).
- **FY 2009 Deficit Alone Higher than Cumulative Deficit From FY 1996-FY 2007:** The Democrat-controlled Congress ran up a higher deficit in FY 2009 (\$1.42 trillion) *than the cumulative total for the twelve years of Republican control from FY 1996-FY 2007 (\$1.25 trillion)*. The FY 2010 deficit (\$1.349 trillion, latest projection) is also on pace to exceed the cumulative deficit total under twelve years of Republican control.

Table 1: Budget Record of Republican Congress, FY 1996-FY 2007

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal Year	Deficit (-)/Surplus (+)	Deficit % of GDP
1996	-107	-1.4
1997	-22	-0.3
1998	69	0.8
1999	126	1.4
2000	236	2.4
2001	128	1.3
2002	-158	-1.5
2003	-378	-3.5
2004	-413	-3.6
2005	-318	-2.6
2006	-248	-1.9
2007	-161	-1.2
Average Deficit	-104	-0.8
Total Deficits	-1,246	----

- **\$1.07 Trillion Deficits v. \$104 Billion Deficits:** In the 12 years of Republican control of the Congress, the deficit averaged **\$104 billion** a year. In the first three years of Democrat control (including the most recent CBO projection for FY 2010), it will average **\$1.07 trillion**.
- **Annual Deficits Turn into Monthly Deficits: In FY 2009 and FY 2010, a Democrat-controlled Congress will run (on average) monthly deficits that exceed the annual deficits under the Republican-controlled Congresses.**

Table 2: Budget Record of Democrat Congress, FY 2008-FY 2010*(In billions of dollars)*

Fiscal Year	Deficit (-)/Surplus (+)	Deficit % of GDP
2008	-459	-3.2
2009	-1,414	-9.9
2010 (Latest CBO Projection)	-1,349	-9.2
Average Deficit	-1,074	-7.4
Total Deficits	-3,222	----

- **No Proposal for Return to Fiscal Responsibility:** With the Democrat-controlled Congress's budget and economic policies since January 2007, **CBO now projects that the lowest deficit through the ten-year budget window (\$475 billion in 2014) will still exceed the highest deficit under Republican control.** In fact, under any projection of the impact of current budget policies, there is no point in the future that the budget reaches balance or even just reaches the *highest* level of the FY 1996-FY 2007 period.

Since the Democrats Took Over Congress...

- **The National Debt:** has increased from \$8.67 trillion to \$12.3 trillion—an increase of \$3.63 trillion or 41.8%.
- **The Debt Limit:** has increased five times, and the Congress is in the process of considering a sixth debt limit increase. If the measure being debated in the Senate is enacted, since the Democrats took over Congress, the debt limit will have increased from \$8.965 trillion to \$14.29 trillion—an increase of \$5.33 trillion or 59.4%.
- **The Deficit:** has increased from \$161 billion in the last budget before Democrats took control of the Congress (FY 2007) to \$1.42 trillion in the most recent fiscal year (FY 2009)—an increase of \$1.26 trillion or 776%.
- **\$8.2 Trillion Deterioration to Nation's Budget Outlook:** In January 2007, the month Democrats took control of Congress, CBO projected that the federal government would run a budget surplus of \$800 billion over ten years (covering the period from 2008-2017). After three years of a Democrat-controlled Congress's economic and budget policies, the federal government is projected to run a deficit of \$7.4 trillion over the same period. **This is an \$8.2 trillion deterioration of the budget outlook in the three years since Democrats took control of Congress.**

Another Path...

- The RSC offered amendments during the FY 2010 appropriations process, as well as to the first continuing resolution, that would have returned FY 2010 non-defense discretionary spending to FY 2008 levels. This would have reduced the deficit by **\$84 billion**.
- The RSC offered legislation, H.R. 3140—the REBOUND Act, that would: 1) repeal the vast majority of “stimulus” spending 2) eliminate the TARP program. At the time of introduction, enacting this legislation would have saved taxpayers approximately **\$600 billion**.
- The RSC's FY 2010 [budget plan](#) would have reduced the deficit in every year before reaching balance in FY 2019. The RSC plan results in **\$6 trillion** less debt than the President's plan.
- Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) has introduced legislation, [A Roadmap for America's Future](#), that would turn America's \$104 trillion worth of unfunded liabilities into surpluses, while putting Medicare and Social Security on permanently sound footing. See [here](#) for a comprehensive CBO analysis of this legislation.

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