

YOUR BUDGET RESULTS

YOUR 10-YEAR BUDGET IMPACT

DEBT

You reduced the debt from 37.7% of GDP in 2008 (\$8.4 Trillion) to 6.0% of GDP in 2018 (\$1.3 Trillion).

BUDGET BUST

You delayed the budget bust, pushing it from 2033 to 2070+.

SIZE OF GOVERNMENT

You shrank the size of government from 20.0% of GDP in 2008 (\$4.4 Trillion) to 18.7% of GDP in 2018 (\$4.1 Trillion).

YOUR BADGES



HEALTH + WELLNESS

ACHIEVED

You'll make progress towards this badge by choosing cards that help more Americans get health insurance, increase FDA oversight and discourage unhealthy behaviors. The United States spends more per capita on health care than any other country. Yet from infant mortality to longevity to obesity, we're unhealthier than countries that spend far less than us.



GREEN

ACHIEVED

Once just another color, green is now synonymous with protecting the planet and its denizens from a litany of environmental threats, from global warming to species endangerment. Earn this badge by choosing options to, for instance, increase mass transit, cut CO2 emissions, discourage driving and protect threatened flora and fauna.



ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

ACHIEVED

You can get this badge by piecing together a plan to help wean the U.S. from foreign sources of oil. Right now we get more than half of our oil from other countries. That's up from a third in the 1970s, and projected to rise to almost three quarters by 2025. Look for cards that might reduce our need to pay foreign and often undemocratic regimes for the lifeblood of our economy.

YOUR POLICIES

Defense & Diplomacy

Cut military spending by 10 percent

-\$541 B

You would be eliminating or making cuts to several offensive-minded military programs, like fighter jets and space-based weapons, scaling back the country's missile defense program and reducing the nuclear arsenal by a factor of six.

Defense & Diplomacy

Bring troops home soon

-\$391 B

You're bringing 175,000 active duty Army, Reserve and National Guard troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan by 2010, but will leave about 30,000 soldiers behind to stabilize the region. This option assumes Congress approves additional war funding, and cuts back from levels of spending that experts say will be needed to continue the war at the current level.

Defense & Diplomacy

Spend more to fight AIDS overseas

+\$85 B

You're increasing the funds for global health to fight diseases such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis from an average of more than \$3 billion a year to \$10 billion a year over five years.

Schools & Kids

More funding for arts in schools

+\$0.53 B

You would support arts with more funding for training teachers to ensure that art, dance, music, and theater are as much a part of education as reading, math and science.

Science & Nature

Reform and reduce farm subsidies

-\$10 B

You would replace crop subsidies and price supports with a subsidized insurance program that would protect farmers against a decline in farm revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations.

YOUR POLICIES

Science & Nature

Increase EPA budget by 50 percent

+\$38 B

You're increasing the Environmental Protection Agency's budget from \$7.5 billion to \$11.3 billion and keeping it at that level over the next decade. The highest funding level in the past few years was \$8.4 billion in 2004.

Housing & Living

Help people refinance subprime loans

+\$2 B

You'll give state housing authorities an extra \$10 billion of tax-exempt bond authority that could be used to refinance subprime loans or provide mortgages for first-time homebuyers. The bonds would have to be issued by the end of 2010 so that the relief might come in time to help lift the dismal housing market.

Misc.

Double FDA funding

+\$18 B

Currently, the average American pays about 2 cents per day to fund the FDA, which oversees about one-quarter of the economy's products. Doubling that amount would provide additional food inspections, better tracking of the safety of drugs and closer monitoring of medical devices, among other things.

Misc.

Tighten product oversight

+\$1 B

Staff and funding at the Consumer Safety Product Commission are far below levels of a decade ago, when there were fewer imports. You'll increase its budget by more than a third, to \$110 million, and hike the maximum fine for violating safety standards from \$1.8 million per violation in 2007 to \$100 million.

Infra-structure

Increase mass transit funding

+\$33 B

Mass transit ridership is topping 50-year highs and is expected to double in the next 20 years. The federal fund to pay for the increasing number of projects is just about tapped out. You would help cities pay for new bus and train projects by spending \$1.6 billion more each year for mass transit.

YOUR POLICIES

Infra-structure

Increase aviation security fees

-\$15 B

Every time you buy an airline ticket, you pay \$2.50 per flight to pay for anti-terror and aviation security operations. That security-related portion would increase from \$2.50 for each leg of a trip to \$5.

Infra-structure

Increase funding for Amtrak

+\$2 B

Amtrak continues to lose money--about \$500 million a year--despite almost \$30 billion in federal subsidies since its creation in 1971. You'll be upping funding to Amtrak to the tune of \$500 million a year.

Health Care

Computerize health information

+\$70 B

Republicans and Democrats agree electronic records would improve efficiency, but high costs and the absence of a standard system have slowed adoption. You'd pay to create uniform standards and give doctors incentives to change to electronic records.

Health Care

Require health insurance for all

+\$1,100 B

You'd be making health insurance more like car insurance: Every American will need to carry it, or face penalties if they don't. They will be able to choose from a menu of government-approved plans. You'd also add some money both to help low-income people buy insurance and speed insurance market reforms needed to make this happen.

Taxes

Repeal Bush Tax cuts, tax the rich

+\$2,954 B

In addition to repealing the Bush tax cuts, you'd create a new top bracket for income over \$1 million for couples or \$500,000 for single tax filers. The new top rate would be 44.6 percent after 2010, up from 35 percent during the Bush era.

YOUR POLICIES

Taxes

Add 50 cents to the gas tax

+\$701 B

You're adding 50 cents per gallon to federal gas taxes, currently at 18.4 cents per gallon for gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon for diesel. Add in existing state and local fees, and the average per-gallon tax on would jump to about \$1.

Taxes

Increase SS taxes for wealthy

+\$536 B

Right now, taxpayers only pay social security taxes on the first \$102,000 of their income--which in 2005 was about 85 percent of Americans' total income. When Social Security was created in 1937, it taxed about 92 percent of all earnings. This option would raise the cap close to its historical high, taxing about 90 percent of national earnings, or up to \$186,000 of a person's 2007 income.

Taxes

Reform and hike corporate taxes

+\$28 B

Corporations pay taxes on a graduated scale, just as individuals do. For companies, the first \$50,000 of corporate taxable income is taxed at 15 percent; \$50,000 to \$75,000 is taxed at 25 percent, and so on to a top rate of 35 percent. You'd move instead to a 35 percent flat tax that corporations will pay on all of their income.

Taxes

Raise taxes on multinationals

+\$40 B

U.S. companies can wait to pay taxes on income earned by foreign subsidiaries until they send the money back to the mother ship. Until then, they can invest or use the money to make more money. You'd require American companies to pay U.S. taxes on all income when it is earned, regardless of where it was made.

Taxes

Tax private equity, hedge fund mgrs

+\$26 B

Managers of private equity and hedge funds only have to pay capital gains taxes (not personal income taxes) on their profits, which accounts for the lion's share of their income. Their top rates are 15 percent--a lot less than personal income tax rates of up to 35 percent. You'd be calling their profits income and make them pay the higher rates.

YOUR POLICIES

Taxes

No breaks for extractive industries

+\$26 B

Producers of oil, natural gas and minerals currently enjoy tax incentives that few other industries enjoy, like the one that allows them to immediately deduct exploration and development costs (for drilling wells, looking for oil, etc.). You'll treat them like every other industry and require them to deduct costs slowly over time.

Taxes

Tax toxic industries

+\$20 B

Federal "Superfund" legislation requires known polluters to clean up toxic waste sites. But when the guilty party can't be found, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) foots the bill. To help the EPA pay, you'd be reinstating taxes that expired in 1995 on industries that deal in petroleum, chemicals and other potentially polluting products.

Taxes

End breaks for big oil

+\$14 B

You'd be ending a tax deduction Congress passed in 2004 that added the oil and gas companies to the list of industries that could benefit from a break for manufacturers in America. You're stripping the tax break for the five biggest companies that refine oil and sell gas in the U.S.: Exxon, Chevron, BP, Shell and ConocoPhillips.

Taxes

Let everyone deduct property taxes

+\$1 B

Taxpayers can currently get a deduction for all of their property taxes if they itemize their taxes. This option would temporarily allow property owners who don't itemize to take a deduction of \$500 for single filers and \$1,000 for couples who file jointly.

Housing & Living

Increase food stamp benefits

+\$11 B

Low-income families can apply to receive help with buying groceries. The government gives those who qualify a card, like a debit card, that the government fills up every month, providing recipients on average \$1 per meal per day. This option would give the typical low-income working family of three about \$4 extra per month in 2009, and \$8 by 2012.

YOUR POLICIES

Housing & Living

More money for child care

+\$5 B

The federal government gives money to states to pay for child care expenses for people getting welfare assistance. You would increase the amount of the grant and adjust it for inflation, helping more than one million families pay for child care.

Housing & Living

More rental assistance for poor

+\$4 B

You would increase funding to help an estimated two million American families afford a home by providing \$336 million a year in new funding.

Taxes

Cap and limit greenhouse gases

+\$1,990 B

This option, known as a "cap and trade" plan, would feature a government auction of credits that companies would need in order to emit carbon dioxide. Companies that don't use all of the credits they buy could sell them to companies that need more. This proposal would lower emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Social Security

Cut Social Security for the wealthy

-\$75 B

Social security benefits rise as a workers' wages do, and wages grow faster than inflation. You're slowing the growth of wealthier workers' benefits to the pace of inflation, but leaving benefits unchanged for 30 percent of people--those whose average earnings had been about \$25,000 or less. The middle class would get a mix of the old and new formulas.