

THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC REFORM AGENDA: LOWER GAS PRICES, CUT THE PORK, STOP THE TAX HIKE

AMERICANS ARE PAYING RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES. NOW PORK-BARRELING DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS WANT YOU TO PAY RECORD HIGH TAXES, TOO. IT WILL TAKE A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY TO STOP IT AND FIX A BROKEN WASHINGTON.

- Families and small businesses are being pummeled by soaring gas prices, which are squeezing family budgets and endangering American jobs. Instead of taking action to increase production of American energy and help families struggling with the rising cost of living, the Democratic Congress is imposing the largest tax increase in American history to bankroll billions in new pork-barrel spending and bigger government.
- This has to change. American families and small businesses need comprehensive energy reform – not a tax increase that will kill jobs and further squeeze family budgets.
- If put in charge of Congress, Republicans will take action immediately to create jobs and protect families. We'll put our nation on a path to permanent energy independence and security. We'll also stop the Democrats' tax increase, cut the pork, and put America's economy back on track.

A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL:

- I. Lower gas prices
- II. Cut the pork
- III. Stop the tax hike
- IV. Fix Washington to ensure long-term economic growth

For further detail, read on. . .

I. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL LOWER GAS PRICES

We'll lower gas prices by increasing supply, expanding environmentally sound production of American energy, promoting new technologies to deliver new, cleaner energy and provide incentives to increase our energy efficiency – implementing energy reforms long delayed at America's expense by short-sighted Democratic politicians, including increasing environmentally-responsible production of oil and natural gas in areas such as the Alaskan coastal plain and deep ocean energy zones. (Click [here](#) for complete text of the House Republican energy reform plan)

II. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL CUT THE PORK

- We will restore fiscal responsibility in Washington by reining in spending and balancing the federal budget by 2012 without raising taxes.
- We will enact an immediate moratorium on congressional earmarks and establish a bipartisan panel to fundamentally reform how Washington spends taxpayer dollars.
- We will reduce the size of government by making it more efficient and transparent while eliminating duplicative or wasteful programs.
- We will limit the growth of federal spending to a level families can afford by adopting a spending limit that would prohibit federal spending from growing faster than the economy except in time of war or national emergency.
- Instead of giving tax breaks to rich trial lawyers, we will enact reforms to stop lawsuit abuse and prevent American jobs from being destroyed by abuse of the legal system.

III. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL STOP THE TAX HIKE

- We will stop the largest tax increase in American history on workers, parents, married couples, small businesses, and those saving for retirement. We will offer new tax breaks for Americans – including eliminating the unfair Alternative Minimum Tax and making the Internet permanently tax-free.
- We will end a tax code that is too long, too complex and too unfair by providing individuals an alternative, two-tier flat tax system that can be filed on one page. Taxpayers can choose the new, simplified system or stay with the current tax code— whichever option suits them.
- We will make the tax code more family-friendly by reforming the child tax credit and lowering taxes on retirement benefits.

IV. A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WILL FIX A BROKEN WASHINGTON TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH

- To encourage a welfare safety net that fosters marriage and work, we will **extend many of the current welfare work requirements to other programs** – namely food stamps and housing – so that those who are not old, young, or disabled are either working in the private sector or serving in their community.
- We will **strengthen education** by supporting increased state and local control and flexibility, increasing parental options through school choice, and encouraging states to provide extra support for good teachers through teacher performance pay initiatives.
- We will **tear down barriers that prevent U.S. products from being sold abroad**. We will reject policies that retreat from world trade and segregate America from the rest of the world, in favor of policies that level the playing field for American employees and employers and give our workers the ability to go toe-to-toe with workers overseas.
- We will level the playing field for American workers and start importing jobs here by **cutting taxes on those who create American jobs**.
- We will **save Social Security and Medicare** by reforming these programs to put them on a fiscally responsible path, address their unfunded liabilities, and ensure they can continue to meet the needs of future generations of seniors.
- We will **strengthen homeownership** in America through a series of reforms that encourage home purchases and help needy homeowners who are truly victims.
- We will **reform and improve our current health care system**. The House GOP health care reform plan, to be unveiled in detail in the coming weeks, will include reforms that will help small businesses deal with skyrocketing health care costs and help patients by broadening the array of health insurance choices available to them by allowing them to purchase health plans available in other states.