



Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER

News from Congress



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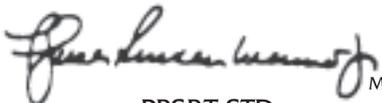
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A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

There is an important transformation happening in Washington: Congress is no longer talking about whether or not we should cut spending, but how much to cut.

In February, the President asked Congress for an unconditional increase in the debt ceiling, or how much the Administration can legally borrow to pay our nation's obligations. House Republicans, along with 81 Democrats, said no to this request. In the months that followed, Speaker Boehner and House Leadership successfully negotiated a plan which cuts federal spending more than we raised the debt ceiling. While this is not a perfect bill, we cannot allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. This plan signifies a rejection of the policies from the past two years:

- **Cuts spending by \$2.4 trillion over the next 10 years—**
\$917 billion now, and at least \$1.2 trillion enacted in 2012*
- **Caps future spending**
- **Guarantees vote on a balanced budget amendment**

These short-term spending cuts are an important step to halt Washington's spending spree. **But these efforts will not be enough to end the cycle of debt. Congress needs long-term fiscal discipline that is legally enforced through a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.**

Sixteen years ago, a balanced budget amendment passed the House with bipartisan support, only to lose by one vote in the Senate. Since then, our national debt has nearly tripled in size, growing by \$9.7 trillion. For more than two years, the Senate has not passed a budget, kicking the burden to the next generation. **The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that if we continued on the path as set out by the President's 2012 Budget proposal, in just 10 years, 95 percent of all revenue will be spent on entitlement programs and paying the interest on our federal debt—leaving just 5 percent for national defense and other government functions.**

* Source: CBO letter to Congressional Leadership 8/1/2011

SPURRING OUR ECONOMY

This debt burden is a threat not only to our future, but to our present economic growth. Unemployment has hovered around or above 9 percent for 28 months, leaving far too many Americans without a job. This is not the sign of an economic recovery, but the result of a failed economic policy.

More government spending is not the answer. As the federal government expands, our private sector is contracting in response. Too many employers, investors, and businesses are sitting on the sidelines, uncertain about the threat of new rules, regulations, and taxes.

This country needs a new direction. **I believe in order to encourage job growth from the private sector; we absolutely must get our fiscal house in order.**

This fall, I look forward to again supporting a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Wisconsin families and businesses must live within their means, and it is time that Washington learns to do the same.



Please join me at Upcoming Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours

This fall, I'll be holding many Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours throughout the Fifth District. The 112th Congress is sure to present many important topics that might have an impact on you, so I welcome and encourage you to attend one or more of these meetings. I also invite you to come if you are experiencing problems with a federal agency and need assistance. If you need any special accommodations, please contact my Brookfield Office at (262) 784-1111.

Friday, September 16th

- 10:00 a.m. Bayside Village Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Fox Point Police Department
- 11:45 a.m. Saukville Village Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Belgium Village Hall
- 2:15 p.m. Fredonia Town & Village Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Newburg Village Hall

Saturday, September 17th

- 9:00 a.m. Oconomowoc City Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Slinger Village Hall

Sunday, September 25th

- 7:00 p.m. Mequon Public Safety Building

Monday, September 26th

- 8:30 a.m. Helenville Fire Hall
- 9:15 a.m. Sullivan Village Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Palmyra Village Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Dousman Village Hall
- 11:45 a.m. Genesee Town Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Wales Village Hall
- 2:15 p.m. Nashotah Village Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Merton Town Hall
- 3:45 p.m. Merton Village Hall

Tuesday, September 27th

- 9:00 a.m. Kewaskum Village Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Addison Town Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Jackson Village Hall
- 12:45 p.m. Sussex Village Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Lannon Village Hall
- 2:30 p.m. Butler Village Hall

Saturday, October 1st

- 1:00 p.m. Grafton Village Hall

Sunday, October 2nd

- 1:00 p.m. Delafield City Hall

Saturday, October 8th

- 9:00 a.m. Elm Grove Village Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Waukesha Public Library



Congressman Sensenbrenner regularly holds public Town Halls and Office Hours with constituents from across the district. He also visits with local community groups to hear from them and give updates on what is happening in Congress. Earlier this year, he spoke with the Waukesha Rotary Club.

Sunday, October 9th

- 1:00 p.m. Brown Deer Village Hall

Monday, October 10th

- 7:00 p.m. Richfield Village Hall

Saturday, October 29th

- 9:00 a.m. West Allis Public Library
- 1:00 p.m. Hartford City Hall

Sunday, October 30th

- 1:00 p.m. Cedarburg Police Department

Saturday, November 5th

- 9:00 a.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Pewaukee City Hall

Sunday, November 6th

- 1:00 p.m. Germantown Village Hall

Saturday, November 19th

- 9:00 a.m. West Bend City Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Hartland Village Hall

Sunday, November 20th

- 7:00 p.m. Brookfield Public Safety Building

Monday, November 21st

- 7:00 p.m. Delafield Town Hall



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