



# CONGRESSMAN JIM SENSENBRENNER KEEPING IN TOUCH

ISSUE NUMBER 50 -- APRIL 2000

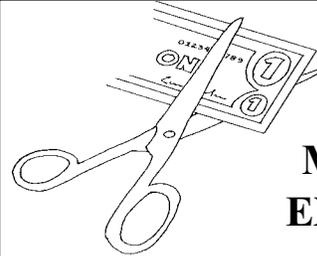
## ***THE BUDGET: BALANCING OUR BOOKS AND SAVING FOR THE FUTURE***

In the last two years, Congress has taken some important steps toward paying down the debt, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and reducing taxes to allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money. Again in the fiscal year (FY) 2001 budget, Congress passed a common-sense debt reduction and tax relief package for the American people. It decreases taxes, pays back more debt, and protects more of the surplus than the Clinton Administration's proposal. Our budget will allow the non-Social Security surplus to soar to \$1.9 trillion over the next 10 years.

The Administration would fund 84 completely new government programs and significantly increase 160 others. The congressional budget adds no new Washington spending. In FY 2001 alone, the Administration would increase Americans' taxes by \$10 billion. Our budget decreases them by \$10 billion. Finally, in FY 2001, the Clinton Administration would significantly increase discretionary spending.

America has better things to do with its money, such as saving for the future and paying down the debt. Congress' FY 2001 budget will:

- ✓ Protect 100% of the Social Security surplus.
- ✓ Strengthen Medicare with prescription drugs: \$40 billion in the next five years.
- ✓ Pay down \$1 trillion in debt in the next five years, and retire the debt entirely by 2013.
- ✓ Promote tax fairness for families, farmers, and seniors through marriage tax elimination, estate tax relief, Social Security earnings limit elimination, expanded education savings accounts (ESAs), increased health care deductibility, and stronger pension plans.
- ✓ Restore America's defense.
- ✓ Strengthen support for education by protecting the flexibility of Title IV block grants.
- ✓ Strengthen support for science through increased funding for research into aging, AIDS, heart/lung disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, and child health.



## ***FUEL ACT WOULD CUT MOTOR FUEL EXCISE TAXES***

In the past 12 months, **crude oil prices have more than doubled**, resulting in the largest gas price increase in U.S. history. Americans are realizing these skyrocketing costs at the pumps and will likely soon see rising transportation costs translated into higher prices for other goods and services. To prevent rising oil prices from bringing our strong economy to a grinding halt, Congress must take action to lower fuel costs now.

That's why I introduced H.R. 4111, the Freedom From Unfair Energy Levy Act (FUEL) Act, to provide meaningful, immediate relief to all those who are now struggling with the rising cost of gas prices. The FUEL Act places a six-month moratorium on federal motor fuel excise taxes and permanently eliminates the 4.3 cent per gallon tax increase approved in 1993.

If passed, the FUEL Act will **reduce the cost of automobile gasoline by 18.3 cents per gallon** for the next six months, when Americans need it most. It will also **provide assistance to America's truck drivers by lowering the cost of a gallon of highway diesel by 24.3 cents**.

Americans hand over too much of their hard-earned money to Uncle Sam. The FUEL Act's six-month moratorium on transportation excise taxes and permanent elimination of the 4.3 cent increase will immediately help Americans weather the current oil price storm that is directly impacting their daily lives. ■

## **TOWN HALL MEETINGS & OFFICE HOURS**

SEE SCHEDULE...PAGES 3 & 4

**2000 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE INSIDE**

# 2000 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The 106th Congress is involved with many issues vital to you, your family, and the nation. Please take a few minutes to complete this year's questionnaire. **All questions have a YES or NO answer unless otherwise indicated. Please mark your answer by placing an "X" in the space provided.** In some cases, a YES or NO answer may seem oversimplified, but I am often left with that same choice when voting on complex legislation on the House floor. Please let me know what matters to you. Fill out the response card on the next page, place a stamp on it, and return it to my Washington office. Thank you for your time.

## Social Security

- 1) Congress recently passed legislation that eliminates the reduction in Social Security benefits for seniors between the ages of 65-70 who continue to work. Which other tax currently on the books do you believe hurts seniors and their families most? **(check only ONE)**
- a) the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits
  - b) the estate tax
  - c) the gift tax
- 2) Currently there is more money being paid into the Social Security trust fund than is being paid out. Do you support locking away 100 percent of the Social Security surplus strictly for the future of Social Security?

## Budget

- 3) Projections have indicated that the government will take in through taxes (other than Social Security) a nearly \$1.9 trillion surplus over the next 10 years. How should the federal government use this surplus? **(check only ONE)**
- a) for reduction of the national debt
  - b) for tax cuts
  - c) for *both* tax cuts and reduction of the national debt
  - d) to increase spending on *current* government programs
  - e) for spending on *new* government programs

## Tax

- 4) The House of Representatives recently voted to eliminate from the tax code the provision that taxes married couples at a higher rate than singles. Which tax would you prefer to get rid of next? **(check only ONE)**
- a) the death (estate) tax
  - b) the capital gains tax
  - c) the gas tax
  - d) none of the above – use the funds to reduce the debt
  - e) none of the above – use the funds for increased spending

## Energy and Environment

- 5) Many regions in Wisconsin have experienced a public nuisance and possible health risks associated with overpopulation of the Canada goose. What is the best way to alleviate this problem? **(check only ONE)**
- a) Enact more Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulations.
  - b) Aggressively use lethal means.
  - c) Aggressively use non-lethal means.
  - d) Use both lethal and non-lethal means.
- 6) Should Congress force the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to repeal the mandate for reformulated gas in southeast Wisconsin?

## Judiciary

- 7) In light of large payments to lawyers following the recent tobacco lawsuits, should Congress place limits on attorneys' fees in federal court lawsuits?

## Trade

- 8) Do you support granting favorable trade treatment, known as Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), to China?

## Immigration

- 9) Should another amnesty program be granted to illegal aliens in the United States?

## Defense

- 10) Should U.S. troops be placed under United Nations control?

## Education

- 11) Which one of the following proposals do you believe is most important to improve public school education and decrease bureaucratic red tape? **(check only ONE)**
- a) Initiating a new federal program to increase funding for school construction.
  - b) Initiating a new federal program to hire 100,000 new teachers and reduce class size.
  - c) Shrinking the federal bureaucracy and giving more control to state and local governments.
  - d) Strengthening classroom discipline.
  - e) Requiring teachers to pass competency tests to improve teacher quality.

## Gun Control

- 12) A report states that, of more than 13,000 people denied guns over a two month period thanks to the new instant check system, not a single person was arrested despite the fact that a majority were convicted felons. In an effort to reduce crime, should the government: **(check only ONE)**
- a) Pass more gun control laws?
  - b) Aggressively prosecute individuals who violate the gun laws currently on the books?

## Healthcare

- 13) On HMO reform, which of the following statements most closely reflects your views? **(check only ONE)**
- a) Congress should pass a bill that gives HMO patients the right to sue their health plan for an unlimited amount if they do not receive necessary medical care.
  - b) Congress should pass a bill that gives HMO patients the right to a prompt and thorough independent review any time they are denied necessary medical care by their health plan.
- 14) On the issue of prescription drug benefits for Medicare recipients, which of the following statements most closely reflects your views? **(check only ONE)**
- a) A prescription drug benefit should be provided to all Medicare recipients, regardless of income, even though it would increase premiums.
  - b) A prescription drug benefit should be provided only to truly needy Medicare recipients.
  - c) Congress should pass no prescription drug program because it could increase Medicare premiums and force seniors out of lower-cost private plans.

## Transportation

- 15) Do you support Governor Thompson's plan for high speed rail in Wisconsin which would result in 110 mile per hour trains running through Pewaukee, Hartland, Nashotah, Oconomowoc, Watertown, and Waterloo?

## Wisconsin

- 16) In which COUNTY do you live?
- a) Dodge
  - b) Fond du Lac
  - c) Jefferson
  - d) Ozaukee
  - e) Sheboygan
  - f) Washington
  - g) Waukesha

# QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE CARD

## Respondent # 1

1. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_  
2. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
3. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_ e\_\_  
4. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_ e\_\_  
5. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_  
6. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
7. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
8. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
9. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
10. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
11. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_ e\_\_  
12. a\_\_ b\_\_
13. a\_\_ b\_\_  
14. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_  
15. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
16. COUNTY:  
a\_\_ Dodge  
b\_\_ Fond du Lac  
c\_\_ Jefferson  
d\_\_ Ozaukee  
e\_\_ Sheboygan  
f\_\_ Washington  
g\_\_ Waukesha

## Respondent # 2

1. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_  
2. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
3. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_ e\_\_  
4. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_ e\_\_  
5. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_  
6. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
7. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
8. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
9. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
10. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
11. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_ d\_\_ e\_\_  
12. a\_\_ b\_\_
13. a\_\_ b\_\_  
14. a\_\_ b\_\_ c\_\_  
15. Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
16. COUNTY:  
a\_\_ Dodge  
b\_\_ Fond du Lac  
c\_\_ Jefferson  
d\_\_ Ozaukee  
e\_\_ Sheboygan  
f\_\_ Washington  
g\_\_ Waukesha

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

## ENDING GUN CRIMES... *New Laws Not the Answer*

All too frequently reports of tragic gun crimes are in the news today. The Clinton Administration and supporters of gun control believe that passing more gun laws will stop these tragedies. However, dealing with these issues strictly through enactment of new laws avoids critically important questions about our culture, our morals, and our society. While the Administration continues to call for new gun laws, one of the biggest problems America faces today in its war on gun violence is the Administration's unwillingness to enforce existing federal gun crime laws.

The Administration's record speaks for itself. In 1992, the Department of Justice prosecuted 7,048 federal firearms violations. By 1998, six years into the Clinton Administration, the number of cases referred by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF) to the Department of Justice for prosecution had fallen by 44 percent, and the number of cases actually prosecuted was cut nearly in half, to 3807. Over those same six years, the Justice Department's budget increased by 54 percent.

In real terms, the statistics are even more frightening. In 1998, more than 6000 students brought guns to school. Of those, the Justice Department prosecuted only eight. Further, a Senate Judiciary Committee report states that since the National Instant Check System (NICS) became operational in November 1998, there have been approximately 100,000 denials of firearms purchases due to disqualification—the purchaser was either a convicted felon or had been previously convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence. Of those, only 200 have even been referred by BATF to the Department of Justice for prosecution, even though the attempt by a disqualified person to buy a firearm is a felony offense.

The U.S. cannot afford to stop prosecuting crimes involving firearms. If we are to reverse the devastating trend toward gun violence in this country, we must aggressively enforce existing gun laws, not enact new ones. ■

## OFFICE HOURS

### Monday, April 24

8:30 a.m. Ixonia Town Hall  
9:15 a.m. Lebanon Town Hall  
10:00 a.m. Neosho Village Hall  
10:45 a.m. Iron Ridge Village Hall  
11:30 a.m. Hustisford Village Hall  
1:00 p.m. Clyman Village Hall  
1:45 p.m. Lowell Village Hall  
2:30 p.m. Reeseville Village Hall  
3:15 p.m. Waterloo City Hall

### Tuesday, April 25

8:30 a.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall  
9:15 a.m. Helenville Fire Hall  
10:15 a.m. Sullivan Village Hall  
11:00 a.m. Wales Village Hall  
12:30 p.m. Genesee Town Hall  
1:15 p.m. North Prairie Village Hall

2:00 p.m. Eagle Village Hall  
2:45 p.m. Palmyra Village Hall  
3:45 p.m. Dousman Village Hall

### Wednesday, April 26

8:30 a.m. Howards Grove Village Hall  
9:15 a.m. Kohler Village Hall  
10:00 a.m. Oostburg State Bank  
10:45 a.m. Adell Senior Center  
11:30 a.m. Random Lake Village Hall  
1:00 p.m. Cedar Grove Library  
1:45 p.m. Belgium Village Hall  
2:30 p.m. Fredonia Village Hall  
3:15 p.m. Saukville Village Hall

### Thursday, April 27

8:00 a.m. Burnett Town Hall  
8:45 a.m. Waupun Village Hall

9:30 a.m. Brownsville Village Hall  
10:15 a.m. Kekoskee Village Hall  
11:00 a.m. Lomira Village Hall  
12:30 p.m. Theresa Village Hall  
1:15 p.m. Kewaskum Village Hall  
2:15 p.m. Addison Town Hall  
3:00 p.m. Ashipun Town Hall  
4:15 p.m. Rubicon Town Hall

### Friday, April 28

8:00 a.m. Nashotah Village Hall  
8:45 a.m. Merton Village Hall  
9:30 a.m. Pewaukee Village Hall  
10:15 a.m. Butler Village Hall  
11:00 a.m. Sussex Village Hall  
12:30 p.m. Lannon Village Hall  
1:30 p.m. Slinger Village Hall  
2:15 p.m. Jackson Village Hall  
3:15 p.m. Newburg Village Hall

**PLEASE PRINT BELOW**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
place  
33 cent  
stamp here

If you do not wish to be added to my  
regular mailing list, check this box

**REP. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**  
**2332 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4909**

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**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

**Monday, April 24**

7:00 p.m. Brookfield Safety Bldg.

**Tuesday, April 25**

7:00 p.m. Thiensville Village Hall

**Wednesday, April 26**

7:00 p.m. Juneau Community Center

**Saturday, April 29**

9:00 a.m. West Bend City Hall

1:00 p.m. Beaver Dam City Hall

**Sunday, April 30**

12:00 noon Cedarburg City Hall

**Saturday, May 6**

9:00 a.m. Watertown Municipal Bldg.

1:00 p.m. Hartland Village Hall

**Sunday, May 7**

12:00 noon Richfield Town Hall

**Saturday, May 20**

9:00 a.m. Sheboygan Mead Library

1:00 p.m. Port Washington Police Dept.

**Sunday, May 21**

12:00 noon Jefferson City Hall

**Sunday, June 4**

7:00 p.m. Hartford City Hall

**Sunday, June 11**

7:00 p.m. Elm Grove Village Hall

*Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours provide me the chance to hear your views on the issues before Congress or to help you with problems you may be experiencing in dealing with a federal agency. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting nearest your home. Please contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend.*

*To write about issues  
or request publications,  
contact me at:*

*To get help with  
federal agencies,  
contact me at:*

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**120 Bishops Way, #154  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 784-1111**

**Outside Metro Calling Area: 1-800-242-1119**

**E-Mail: [sensen09@mail.house.gov](mailto:sensen09@mail.house.gov)**

**<http://www.house.gov/sensenbrenner/>**

*Congressman*

**JIM**

**SENSENBRENNER**

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4909

Official Business

M.C.  
Bulk Rate

**2332 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5101**

**120 Bishops Way, #154  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 784-1111**

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**E-Mail: [sensen09@mail.house.gov](mailto:sensen09@mail.house.gov)**

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