



CONGRESSMAN JIM SENSENBRENNER KEEPING IN TOUCH

ISSUE NUMBER 52 -- APRIL 2004

America's Transitional Economy

Economists generally describe our economy today as being in a "time of transition." Given all that we've been through these past few years, that's a fair assessment. Consider:

- **Market Declines** -- Starting in 2000, under the last administration, the stock market began a steady decline as the high-tech bubble burst. By early 2001, the nation was in an economic recession.
- **9/11** -- America was attacked on September 11, 2001, and the effects of those attacks can still be felt today as many businesses shut down.
- **War on Terror** -- As a result of the 9/11 attacks, America declared a War on Terror. This eventually led to our troops' presence in Iraq, and to Iraq's recent approval of a democratic Constitution.
- **Corporate Scandals** -- Making matters worse, scandals in corporate boardrooms over the past few years, notably involving Enron and WorldCom, violated the trust of workers and investors.
- **China** -- On top of everything, unfair and illegal trade practices by China, which has been kicking us while we're already down, have contributed to our nation's job loss.

All these events contributed to the rise in unemployment, and the loss of jobs, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

But times in America are changing. On my way to Office Hours and Town Hall meetings, I have noticed that 'Help Wanted' signs are beginning to reappear around the district. Unemployment numbers are going down, and in Wisconsin, the Department of Revenue

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The 60 Plus Association recognizes Congressman Sensenbrenner for his work in Congress on behalf of senior citizens, by presenting him with a "Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award" (February 2004)

Call for your copy of the Rx Pamphlet:

Last year, President Bush signed the Prescription Drug Bill into law. To better understand some of the significant provisions of the bill, and for answers to commonly asked questions, I have prepared a pamphlet entitled "*What Does The Prescription Drug Plan Mean To You?*" For a copy of this pamphlet, feel free to call or write my **Brookfield office** (contact information on page 4). Please do not request this information when you mail your questionnaire because the questionnaire will come to the Washington, DC office, where it will take longer to be delivered as a result of new mail handling procedures. You will receive the pamphlet much sooner if you contact the Brookfield office.



REMINDER

**2004 ANNUAL
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TOWN HALL MEETINGS...Page 2**

2004 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE



The 108th 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 **on the next page**. 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.

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, April 13

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
2:00 p.m. Nashotah - Lake Country Fire Station
2:45 p.m. Merton Town Hall
3:30 p.m. Merton Village Hall
4:15 p.m. Pewaukee Village Hall

Thursday, April 15

9:00 a.m. Newburg Village Hall
9:45 a.m. Fredonia Village Hall
10:30 a.m. Belgium Village Hall
11:15 a.m. Saukville Village Hall
1:30 p.m. River Hills Village Hall
2:15 p.m. Fox Point Village Hall
3:00 p.m. Bayside Village Hall

Friday, April 16

9:00 a.m. Butler Village Hall
9:45 a.m. Lannon Village Hall
10:30 a.m. Sussex Village Hall
11:30 a.m. Jackson Village Hall
1:00 p.m. Addison Town Hall
2:00 p.m. Kewaskum Village Hall

TOWN HALL MEETINGS:

Monday, April 12

7:00 p.m. Shorewood Public Library

Wednesday, April 14

7:00 p.m. Brookfield Safety Building

Saturday, April 17

9:00 a.m. Delafield City Hall
1:00 p.m. Glendale North Shore Library

Sunday, April 25

1:00 p.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall

Saturday, May 15

9:00 a.m. Hartford City Hall
1:00 p.m. Germantown Village Hall

Sunday, May 23

1:00 p.m. Elm Grove Village Hall

Wednesday, May 26

7:00 p.m. Waukesha Public Library

Sunday, June 6

7:00 p.m. Oconomowoc City Hall

Tuesday, April 13

7:00 p.m. West Allis Public Library

Thursday, April 15

7:00 p.m. Menomonee Falls Village Hall

Saturday, April 24

9:00 a.m. Wauwatosa Public Library
1:00 p.m. Cedarburg Police Dept.

Saturday, May 1

9:00 a.m. Port Washington Police Dept.
1:00 p.m. Brown Deer Public Library

Sunday, May 16

1:00 p.m. Hartland Village Hall

Tuesday, May 25

7:00 p.m. West Bend City Hall

Thursday, May 27

7:00 p.m. Whitefish Bay Public Library

Sunday, June 13

7:00 p.m. New Berlin City 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.

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America's Transitional Economy

projected in March that manufacturing employment in the state should grow this year.

Much of this is as a result of President Bush's Jobs and Growth Act, which Congress passed, and he signed into law last year. This bill provides incentives for small businesses to grow and create new jobs by reducing the taxes and regulations that have prevented them from expanding. Moreover, prior to that, Congress passed legislation to help families keep more of their hard-earned money through child tax credits, which help them provide for their children. Congress also eliminated the marriage penalty, which punishes married couples by making them pay higher taxes after their marriage than what they paid before they got married. Another unfair and unpopular tax eliminated by Congress, the death tax, is a tax assessed to a person's estate after he or she passes away. These provisions, which are due to expire in less than ten years, need to be made permanent so Americans and small businesses can better plan for their future. Repealing them, or allowing them to expire, would counteract their positive economic effects.

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QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE CARD

RESPONDENT#1

RESPONDENT#2

| <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | 12. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | 13. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | 14. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | 15. (a)____ (b)____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ | | |
| 6. _____ | _____ | 16. COUNTY: | |
| 7. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____ (d)____ | | Jefferson _____ | |
| 8. _____ | _____ | Milwaukee _____ | |
| 9. _____ | _____ | Ozaukee _____ | |
| 10. (a)____ (b)____ | | Washington _____ | |
| 11. _____ | _____ | Waukesha _____ | |

| <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | 12. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | 13. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | 14. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | 15. (a)____ (b)____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ | | |
| 6. _____ | _____ | 16. COUNTY: | |
| 7. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____ (d)____ | | Jefferson _____ | |
| 8. _____ | _____ | Milwaukee _____ | |
| 9. _____ | _____ | Ozaukee _____ | |
| 10. (a)____ (b)____ | | Washington _____ | |
| 11. _____ | _____ | Waukesha _____ | |

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

(1) Do you think the capture of Saddam Hussein, along with the War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, have improved the long-term security of the United States?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(2) Should Congress make permanent President Bush's tax cuts, which include across-the-board income tax rate reductions, an expansion of the child tax credit, and marriage penalty relief?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(3) Should Congress permanently ban internet access taxes?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(4) Should Congress pass an amendment to the Constitution that requires a balanced federal budget?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(5) Should marriage in America be legally defined as the union of one man and one woman?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(6) Should Congress increase penalties for radio and television stations that broadcast obscene or inappropriate content over the airwaves?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(7) What should be done to stem the loss of manufacturing jobs in America?

- (a)** Repeal China's favorable trade status.
- (b)** Reduce the myriad of taxes imposed on American businesses.
- (c)** Both (a) and (b)
- (d)** Nothing, America needs to focus on other sectors of the economy.

(8) Do you believe the U.S. should rescind favorable trade status to the People's Republic of China?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(9) Should faith-based groups be allowed to compete with public groups for federal funds to implement social service programs?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(10) Do you support allowing people to invest a small portion of their Social Security payroll taxes in low-risk government approved private sector funds, thus creating the potential to earn more than the current 2% return they are currently receiving?

(a) Yes, this will increase the solvency of Social Security.

(b) No, private investment of any Social Security funds is too risky.

(11) Should the federal law that bars seniors from buying prescription drugs from Canada be lifted?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(12) Taxpayers who itemize their deductions may deduct unreimbursed medical expenses to the extent they exceed 7.5% of adjusted gross income (AGI). Would you support legislation that permits 100% tax deductibility of the costs of medical insurance and all other medical expenses?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(13) A perennial issue raised in Congress is oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). A sliver of the area has been judged as the most promising onshore oil and gas province left in North America; however, this land is also considered an environmentally sensitive area. Would you support a proposal to drill for oil in ANWR?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(14) MTBE is an alternative fuel that can contaminate ground water and is a proven carcinogen. Some believe MTBE manufacturers should be shielded from lawsuits because Congress requires the use of an oxygenate in reformulated gasoline. Others argue that MTBE liability provisions simply shift costs for clean up to water consumers. Should MTBE manufacturers be shielded from liability?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(15) Do you support efforts to ban recreational use of snowmobiles in National Parks such as Yellowstone?

(a) Yes, snowmobiles do not belong in National Parks because they cause too much air and noise pollution.

(b) No, snowmobiles are a great way to enjoy the otherwise inaccessible beauty of National Parks during the winter.

(16) Which Wisconsin county do you live in?

(a) Jefferson **(b)** Milwaukee **(c)** Ozaukee **(d)** Washington **(e)** Waukesha

PLEASE PRINT BELOW

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please
place
first class
postage
here

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

REP. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
2449 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4905

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

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America's Transitional Economy

Congress and the President now need to build on the momentum of our growing economy by continuing to find ways to limit federal spending and reduce the budget deficit. For his part, President Bush has taken the first step, and offered a budget for next year that does just that. It proposes a modest increase of less than one percent for non-defense, non-homeland security programs, reflecting his desire to keep spending at moderate levels, while addressing the escalating budget deficit.

The President's budget is a blueprint that Congress will consider as it deliberates on the various funding bills over the next few months. Being a proponent of the balanced budget amendment, I can appreciate the value of a fiscally responsible budget that stays within our means, yet addresses our nation's domestic priorities like education and healthcare. As Congress gets to work on these bills, I hope it follows the President's blueprint and spends taxpayers' money wisely. Though not perfect, I believe the President's proposed budget is good for our country, for it will help us continue our economic transition. ■

Contact Information: To write about issues or request publications, contact me at: 2449 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515-4905; TEL: (202) 225-5101.

To get help with federal agencies, contact me at: 120 Bishops Way, #154, Brookfield, WI 53005-6294; TEL: (262) 784-1111.

Outside Metro Calling Area: (800) 242-1119.

E-Mail: sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov; Website: www.house.gov/sensenbrenner.

Congressman

**JIM
SENSENBRENNER**



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4905

Official Business



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