

# CONGRESSMAN ALLEN WEST TOWN HALL MEETING



AUGUST 2011

# DISTRICT OFFICES

## **Palm Beach County**

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## **Broward County**

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# AUGUST RECESS

112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## HOUSE CALENDAR

ERIC CANTOR MAJORITY LEADER

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH								
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa		
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						27	28	29	30	31				
30	31																					
APRIL							MAY							JUNE								
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JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER								
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31																						
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER								
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30	31																					

# COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- **Committee on Armed Services**
  - Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
  - Subcommittee on Military Personnel
- **Committee on Small Business**
  - Subcommittee on Investigation, Oversight, and Regulations
  - Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce

# BUDGET CONTROL ACT



## Why I Voted Yes

- Impossible to pass the perfect plan at this time
- Better to pass a 70-75% plan and execute to 100%
- Averted job-crushing national default
- First step towards bringing sanity to nation's finances
- Cuts spending by larger amount than it raises debt limit
- No tax increases
- **First time in U.S. history ceiling raised with spending cuts**

# BUDGET CONTROL ACT

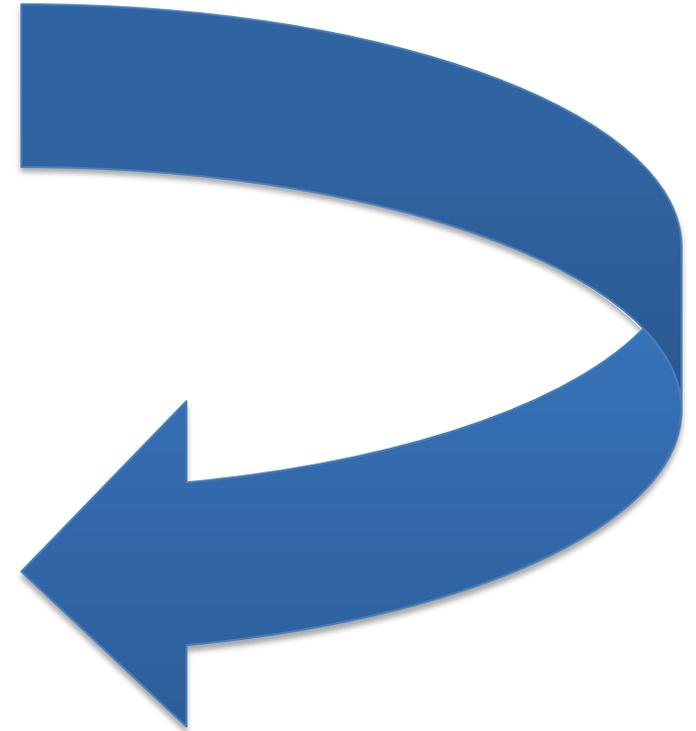
**We have successfully  
changed the conversation**



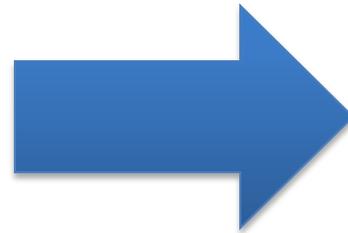
# THE POWER OF INCREMENTALISM



**5 Miles**



# THE POWER OF INCREMENTALISM



**3 Years**



# WE HAVE A SPENDING PROBLEM

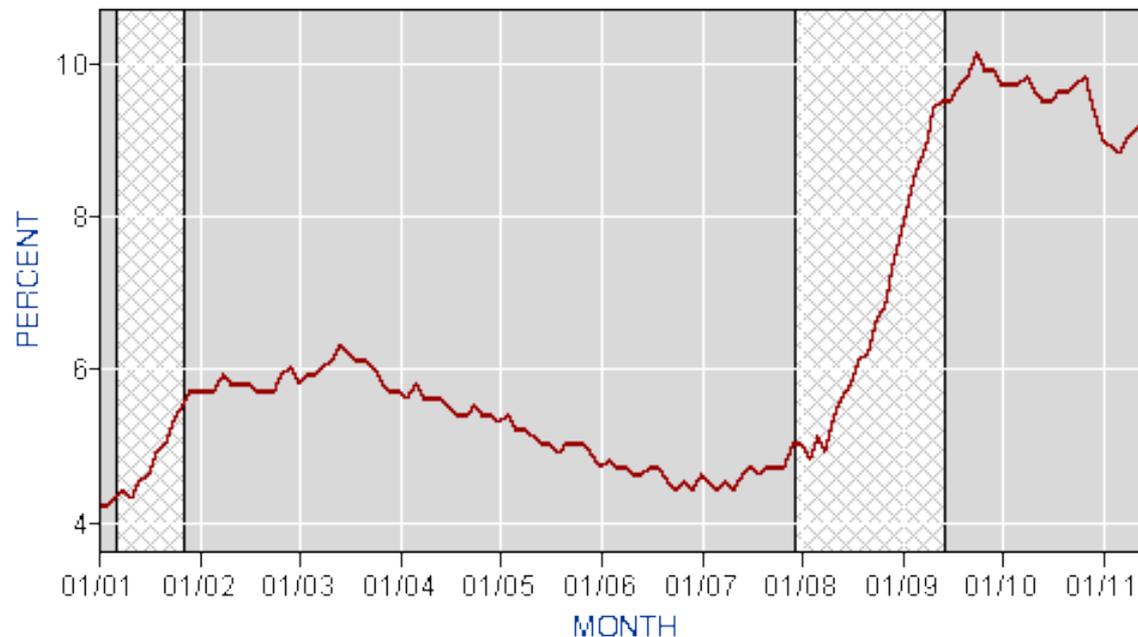
- Medicare will be bankrupt in 13 years. If you're 52 or younger, there will be no Medicare
- Debt has overtaken our entire GDP
- 47% of wage earners pay NO income tax at all
- We cannot tax rich people enough. Taking 100% of all those making \$10 million or more will yield only \$240 billion (2 months' worth)



# HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT

**We don't need more taxes. We need more taxpayers.**

Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)



Note: Cross-hatched area represents recession.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

# 9 POINT ACTION PLAN

1. Amend Budget Control Act to increase cuts from \$2.4 trillion to over \$4 trillion
2. Senate could adopt House (Ryan) Budget
3. Senate could adopt Cut, Cap & Balance
4. Enact reforms to address massive waste identified by GAO
5. Senate could adopt all House passed energy bills to put Americans back to work producing American energy

# 9 POINT ACTION PLAN

6. Senate could pass all House passed legislation to reform regulatory system.
7. Adopt tax reforms included in the Ryan budget to simplify the tax code, remove loopholes, lower tax rates
8. Adopt House designed reforms to Medicare/Medicaid
9. Sell excess federal property

# MANY IDEAS – LITTLE PROGRESS

- Sponsored or co-sponsored 15 bills in the last 2 months alone
- 12 bills have been passed by the House
- Only two have been considered by the Senate



# MAJOR LEGISLATION PASSED

## FY 2012 Appropriations Acts

- H.R. 2219 Department of Defense (passed 336-87)
- H.R. 2112 Ag, Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies (passed 217-203)
- H.R. 2354 Energy & Water (passed 219-196)
- H.R. 2551 Legislative Branch (passed 252-159)
- H.R. 2055 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, (passed 411-5) **ONLY appropriations act passed by U.S. Senate**

# MAJOR LEGISLATION

## Economic Growth

- H.R. 1309 Flood Insurance Reform Act (passed 406-22)
- H.R. 2018 Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act (passed 239-184) (reduces EPA's burdensome regulations)
- H.R. 1938 North American Made Energy Security Act (passed 279-147)
- H.R. 1315 Consumer Financial Safety & Soundness Improvement Act (passed 241-173) (reforms Dodd-Frank)

## Budget

- H.R. 2560 Cut, Cap and Balance Act (passed 234-190)
- S. 267 Budget Control Act (passed 218-210)
- S. 365 Amended Budget Control Act (passed 269-161)

# COSPONSOR OF LEGISLATION

## **Jobs/Economy**

- 1370 Small Business Health Insurance Tax Repeal Act
- HR 3599 - PACE Protection Act
- HR 2581 - Social Security Guarantee with Debt Limit
- HR 2433 - Veterans Opportunity to Work Act
- HR 743 - Hire a Hero Act
- HR 687 - Military Spouses Employment Act
- HR 1744 American Job Protection Act

# COSPONSOR OF LEGISLATION

## **Hurricane-related**

- HR 2099 - Natural Disaster Mitigation Act
- HR 2100 - Catastrophe Savings Accounts Act
- HR 2101 - Policyholder Disaster Protection Act
- HR 2067 - Hurricane and Tornado Mitigation Investment Act

# COSPONSOR OF LEGISLATION

## **National/International Security**

- H Res 268 Reaffirming the United States' commitment to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations
- HR 2457 - Palestinian Accountability Act

# SPONSOR OF LEGISLATION

## Small Business Encouragement Act, HR 1663

- Provides work opportunity tax credit for small businesses hiring unemployed individuals.
- Small business employers with gross receipts < \$20 million, or < 100 full time employees receive tax credit for hiring unemployed individuals as full-time employees during 2012 and 2013.
- Doubles credit for employers who hire individuals from counties with high unemployment rates (> 10%)

### Cosponsors:

Rep. Walsh, Joe (R-IL)

Rep. Richardson, Laura (D-CA)

Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana (R-FL)

Rep. Blackburn, Marsha (R-TN)

Rep. Paul, Ron (R-TX)

Rep. Bilirakis, Gus (R-FL)

Rep. Ross, Dennis (R-FL)

Rep. Young, Bill (R-FL)

Rep. Stivers, Steve (R-OH)

Rep. Clay, Lacy (D-MO)

Rep. Rigell, Scott (R-VA)

Rep. Christensen (D-VI)

# ACTION VS. INACTION



President Obama submitted a Fiscal Year 2012 Budget on Feb 14  
It failed in the U.S. Senate 0-97.



The House of Representatives passed the Ryan Budget.

The U.S. Senate would not even consider the Ryan Budget, and has not proposed a budget in over 800 days.

The House has passed **6 of 12** appropriations bills as part of the Ryan Budget.

The U.S Senate has approved just **one**.

# MANY IDEAS – LITTLE PROGRESS

Am I optimistic?



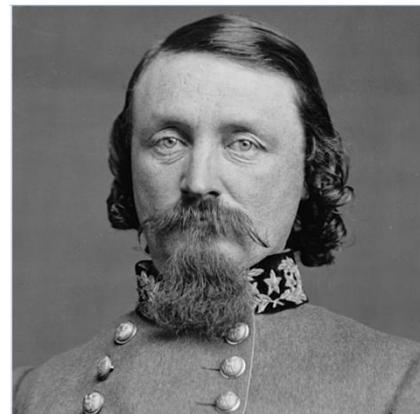
# THE BATTLEFIELD PERSPECTIVE

- Battle #1 – Continuing Resolution
- Battle #2 – Raising the debt ceiling
- Battle #3 – Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations
- Battle #4 – The Super Committee
- The most important battle: November 6, 2012



Colonel J.L. Chamberlain

**OR**



General G. Pickett

# AFGHANISTAN

- Keys to success in Afghanistan are not complicated to assess, but challenging to implement
- Establish a secure environment and deny the enemy sanctuaries across the border in Pakistan
- Pakistan is the source of explosive material and ammonium nitrate fueling increased Improvised Explosive Device (IED) activity
- Kabul's central government, led by Hamid Karzai is replete with corruption and fraud
- Mandatory education for the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF)
- The President's message about troop reductions is met with skepticism and concern, and may harm our efforts

# COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL

- Travelling with Freshman congressional delegation Aug. 20-27
- Meeting with Israeli Defense Forces, Members of the Knesset, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres
- **Israel must be allowed to defend itself from external and internal aggression**
- **Israeli people must be allowed to build within their borders**
- **An undivided Jerusalem must be recognized as the nation's only capital**
- **US and Israel must ensure Palestinian leaders do not circumvent the negotiation process with a unilateral declaration of Statehood**
- **Palestinian leaders must dismantle terrorist infrastructure within Hamas**

# THE TURNING POINT

- Constitutional principles
- Limited government
- Unleash the free market
- Restore greatness



# SERVING CD-22

- Small Business Committee field hearing (October)
- Washington “Fly-in” Hosted by Greater Ft. Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
- District visit by House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller

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