

REPUBLICAN RECORD OF FAILURE

While Republicans are trying to re-cast themselves as agents of change, nothing could be further from the truth. They have built a record of failure over the last eight years, and America cannot afford more of the same.

REPUBLICAN REPORT CARD

SEPTEMBER, 2008

SUBJECT	GRADE
ECONOMY	F
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	F
ENERGY	F
HEALTH CARE	F
DEFICITS AND DEBT	F
CORRUPTION, ABUSE OF POWER	F
KATRINA	F

ECONOMY

"Sure, there's some challenges facing us, but the underpinnings of our economy are strong, and we're a resilient economy." [George W. Bush, 11/13/07]

"This economy is pretty good. There are some there's definitely some storm clouds and concerns, but the underpinning is good." [George W. Bush 12/17/07]

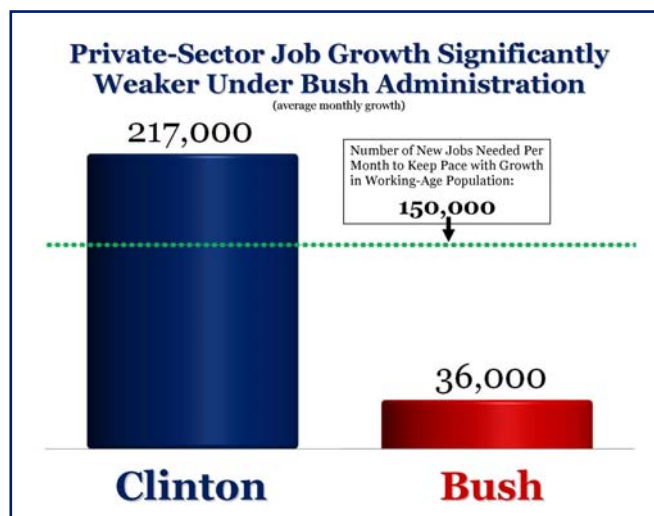
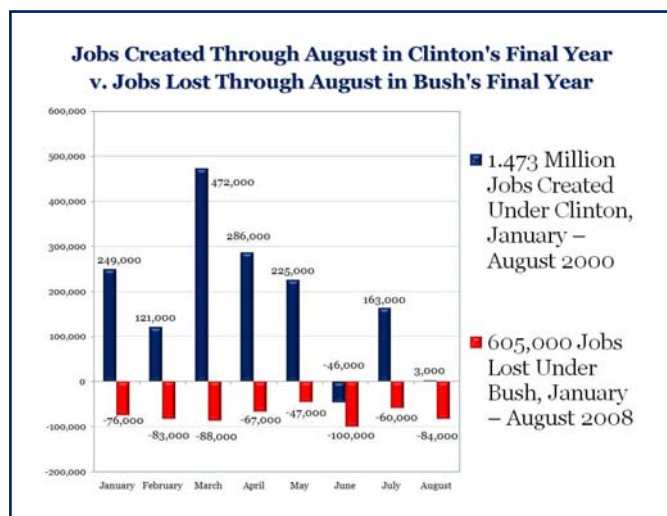
"In the long run, our economy is going to be fine." [George W. Bush, 3/17/2008]

"While the economy is slow, we're still seeing growth... And frankly, I've got to tell you, I'm shocked. Given the high oil prices, gas prices, food prices and the high cost of health care, I'm surprised that the economy is growing. It really goes to show you how resilient our economy is." [John Boehner, 7/21/08]

"Today's announcement by President Bush confirms that the pro-growth economic policies put in place by Republicans are working as planned to spur economic growth and reduce the deficit." [John Boehner, October 11, 2006]

THE FACTS

- Since President Bush took office, **3.4 million more people are unemployed**, and the unemployment rate has increased from **4.2% to 6.1%**. [Joint Economic Committee]
- Median household income has **decreased more than \$300** since Bush took office. [Joint Economic Committee]
- Real wages for median workers have grown 0.3% since 2000, compared to 7.7% growth in the 1990s. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]
- The Dow has increased a mere total of 7% in the seven and a half years combined since President Bush took office, far less than the historical average of 11% growth per year and the 28.25% per year during the Clinton Administration. [Joint Economic Committee]
- **5.7 million more Americans are living in poverty**, making President Bush one of only four Presidents to preside over an average annual rise in the poverty rate. [Joint Economic Committee]
- College costs have exploded during the Bush Administration. Adjusting for inflation, tuition for four-year public colleges has **increased 46.5%** between the 2000-2001 and 2007-2008 school years. [College Board]
- Foreclosure rates have hit a record high with President Bush in office. **2.5 million homes** are projected to enter foreclosure this year, up from 1.5 million in 2007. During the first six months of this year, 343,159 families have already lost their homes, an **increase of 136%** from the first six months of 2007. [RealtyTrac Inc.]



FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"It is unknowable how long that conflict [the war in Iraq] will last. It could last six days, six weeks. I doubt six months." [Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, 2/7/03]

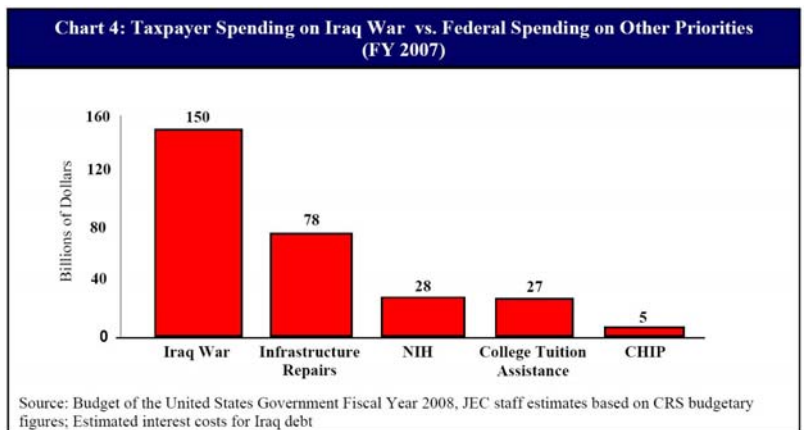
"There's a lot of money to pay for this that doesn't have to be U.S. taxpayer money, and it starts with the assets of the Iraqi people... We're dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon." [Former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, 3/27/03]

"My belief is we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators." [Vice President Dick Cheney, 3/16/03]

"It's hard to conceive that it would take more forces to provide stability in post-Saddam Iraq than it would take to conduct the war itself and to secure the surrender of Saddam's security forces and his army. Hard to imagine." [Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, testifying before the House Budget Committee prior to the Iraq war, 2/27/03]

"I don't know where bin Laden is. I have no idea and really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority." [President George W. Bush, 3/13/02]

"If we're an arrogant nation, they'll resent us; if we're a humble nation, but strong, they'll welcome us." [George W. Bush, 10/12/00]



Source: JEC Democrats

THE FACTS

- The war in Iraq has now lasted longer than U.S. involvement in World War II.
- 4,155 Americans have been killed in Iraq, and more than 30,000 troops have been wounded. [iCasualties.org, 9/7/08]
- **No weapons of mass destruction** were found.
- More than **\$600 billion** has been spent or allocated in Iraq, and some projections estimate that the war in Iraq could cost the U.S. up to **\$3 trillion** overall. [Joseph Stiglitz]
- The Iraqi government has now forced the Bush Administration to accept a timetable for the withdrawal of troops that Democrats have been pressing for.
- America's **military is stretched thin**, which **weakens our ability to respond to threats**. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen has stressed the need for more U.S. troops in Afghanistan, but due to the war in Iraq, forces are not available. "I don't have troops I can reach for, brigades I can reach to send into Afghanistan until I have a reduced requirement in Iraq," Mullen said. [Washington Post, 7/2/08]
- The Bush Administration has **neglected Afghanistan**. Gen. Barry McCaffrey said that Afghanistan "is in misery," a result of poor coordination, inept management, and a dearth of resources and troops. [General Barry McCaffrey, 7/30/08]
- The Bush Administration has **failed to acknowledge Afghanistan as a major threat**, diverting resources away from that region to Iraq. The New York Times reports that "the White House shifted its sights, beginning in 2002, from counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan to preparations for the war in Iraq." [NY Times, 6/30/08]

ENERGY

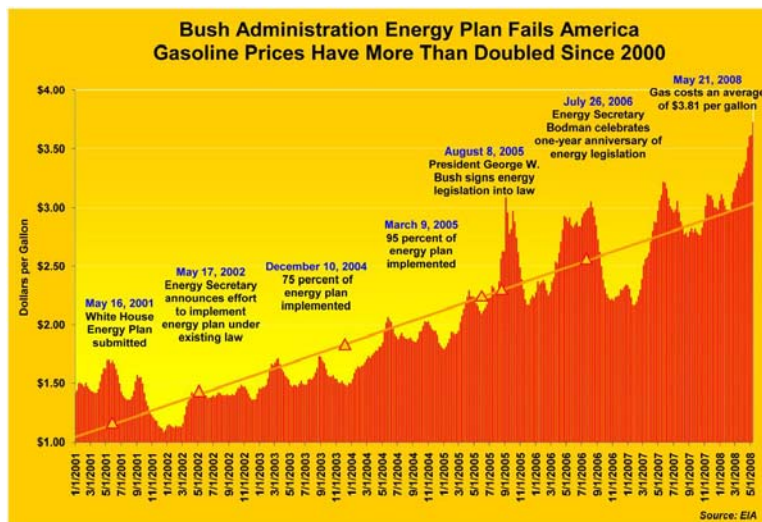
“Americans need this [GOP energy] legislation to lower their energy costs, to drive economic growth and job creation and to promote greater energy independence.” [Former Speaker Dennis Hastert, 7/28/05]

“This [GOP energy] plan relies on simple economics: If we create a larger market for a greater amount of gasoline, we'll help drive prices down. This proposal moves the country one step closer to lowering the sky-high price of gas for consumers.” [Minority Whip Roy Blunt, 7/28/05]

“I'm confident that one day Americans will look back on this [GOP energy] bill as a vital step toward a more secure and more prosperous nation that is less dependent on foreign sources of energy.” [President George W. Bush, 8/8/05]

THE FACTS

- Under the Bush Administration, gas prices have spiked. The price of gas is now \$3.65, up from \$1.46 when President Bush took office – a **150% increase**. [Energy Information Administration]
- The price of gas was \$2.29 when Republicans adopted their energy plan. Today the price of gas is \$3.65 – a **59% increase**.
- Republican energy policy has resulted in **record profits for oil companies** – the five largest companies have posted profits of \$556 billion from 2001-2007, including \$123 billion in 2007 alone.
- Republicans have **voted against nearly every energy initiative** brought to the House Floor, including:
 - Speculation bill
 - Energy Independence and Security Act
 - Suspension of deliveries to SPR
 - DRILL Act
 - Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act
 - Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act
 - Energy Markets Emergency Act
 - Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act
 - Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act
 - Crack Down on Price Gouging Act
 - “NOPEC” – Hold OPEC Accountable for Oil Price Fixing



Source: Speaker's Office

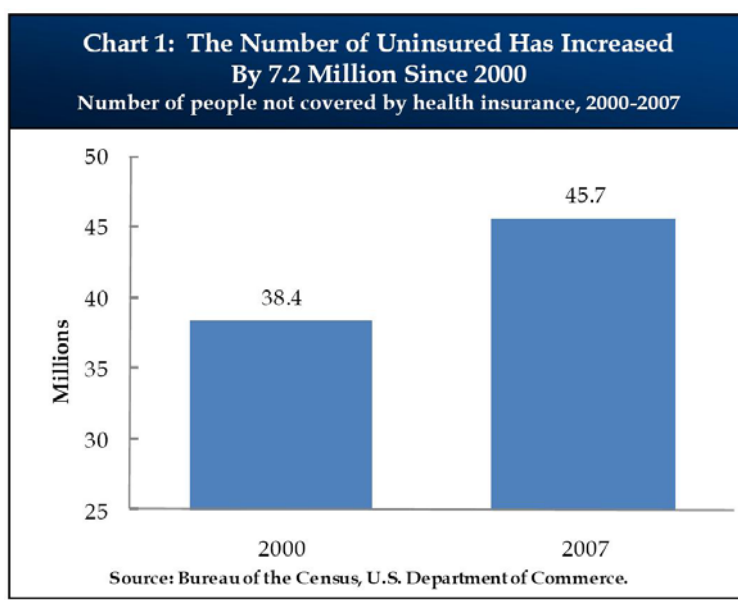
HEALTH CARE

“America’s children must also have a healthy start in life... In a new term, we will lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for government health insurance programs. We will not allow a lack of attention, or information, to stand between these children and the health care they need.” [President George W. Bush, 9/2/04]

“Keeping America competitive requires affordable health care. Our government has a responsibility to provide health care for the poor and the elderly, and we are meeting that responsibility. For all Americans -- for all Americans, we must confront the rising cost of care, strengthen the doctor-patient relationship, and help people afford the insurance coverage they need.” [President George W. Bush, 1/31/06]

THE FACTS

- Since 2000, the number of Americans without health insurance has **increased by 7.2 million**. [Joint Economic Committee, 8/26/08]
- Nearly **one in nine children** does not have health insurance. [Joint Economic Committee, 8/26/08]
- The President vetoed the expansion of SCHIP that he called for in 2004, and House Republicans voted to sustain his veto, leaving millions of children without health insurance.
- Health insurance **premiums have increased 78%** since Bush took office (2001-2007). [Kaiser Family Foundation, March 2008]
- The number of Americans covered by private and employer-provided insurance has **decreased seven years in a row**. [Joint Economic Committee, 8/26/08]
- President Bush is the first president in 36 years to cut medical research funding at the National Institute of Health.



JEC Democrats

DEFICITS AND DEBT

“[O]ur budget will run a deficit that will be small and short-term.” [George W. Bush, 1/7/03]

“We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens. Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative.” [George W. Bush, 3/27/2001]

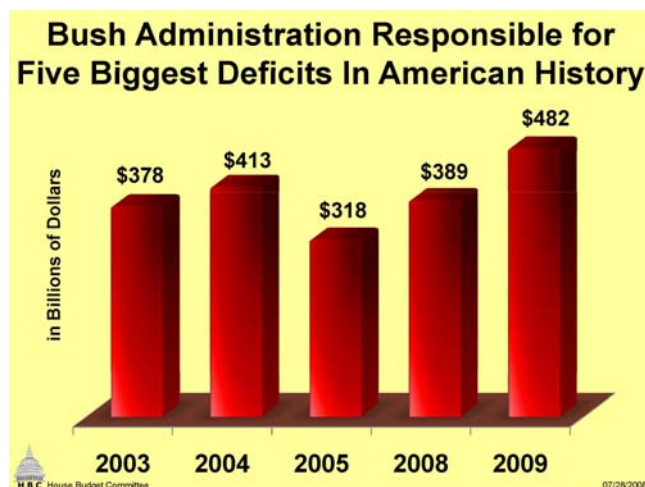
“We are holding down spending and reforming government, and the good news is the deficit is coming down.” [OMB Director Jim Nussle, 6/22/06]

“I don’t like deficits, I don’t want deficits, and I won’t pretend deficits don’t matter.” [OMB Director Jim Nussle, 3/12/03]

“Today’s announcement by President Bush confirms that the pro-growth economic policies put in place by Republicans are working as planned to spur economic growth and reduce the deficit. Republicans are meeting our commitments to American taxpayers by exercising fiscal restraint and promoting economic policies that create more jobs, all efforts which have produced a strong economy that is working to drive down and eventually eliminate our deficit.” [John Boehner, October 11, 2006]

THE FACTS

- President Bush and Congressional Republicans have turned a projected 10-year **budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion** into a projected 10-year **deficit of \$3.4 trillion**.
- When Bush took office there was a **projected \$710 billion surplus for FY09** [Congressional Budget Office]. Bush’s budget would create a **\$407 billion deficit for FY09 – a swing of \$1.117 trillion**.
- Under the Bush Administration, Republicans have created the **five largest budget deficits** in American history. [-\$378 billion, -\$413 billion, -\$318 billion, -\$407 billion*, -\$438 billion* -- *projected]
- The first 42 American presidents borrowed a total of **\$1.01 trillion** combined from foreign governments and financial institutions. In only seven and a half years, President Bush has borrowed more than **\$1.6 trillion**.
- When Bush took office, the **national debt was \$5.7 trillion**. Under Bush’s budget it has nearly doubled, and will reach **\$10.3 trillion at the end of FY09**.



CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF POWER

“Elected officials must adhere to the highest ethical standards. And we'll continue to speak out about the importance of doing so. And it's up to those officials to make the right decisions.” *[Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan, 1/4/06]*

“[Attorney General Alberto Gonzales] has got my confidence. He has done nothing wrong. There's been enormous amount of attention on him, that there has been no wrongdoing on his part.” *[President George W. Bush, 5/21/07]*

“Changing the way Washington does business starts with changing the way Congress does business. Republicans recognize that.” *[Minority Leader John Boehner, 9/14/06]*

“To regain the trust of the American people, we must go further than prosecuting the bad actors. We need to reform the rules.” *[Former Speaker Dennis Hastert, 12/11/06]*

“Today begins the rebirth of House Republicans' common sense agenda... ready to regain the trust of the American people.” *[Minority Whip Roy Blunt, 11/17/06]*

“One of the things that we have to do is be able to make sure that our members are above question, and I think members can probably function very well in this town without having to go out to lunch with a lobbyist or to dinner with a lobbyist. They can pay for it for themselves.” *[Former Speaker Dennis Hastert, 1/17/06]*



THE FACTS

- 8 U.S. Attorneys fired for political reasons
- Improper politically-motivated hiring at the Justice Department
- Jack Abramoff sentenced for five years and 10 months in prison for fraud, tax evasion, and conspiracy to bribe public officials. Congressman Bob Ney and Republican White House and Congressional aides are subsequently indicted and convicted as part of the scandal.
- Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay indicted on charges of conspiracy to violate campaign finance laws.
- FBI abuse of National Security letters
- Abuses at Abu Ghraib prison
- Iraq reconstruction contracts rife with waste, fraud, and abuse
- Leaking the identity of a covert CIA agent for political retribution

KATRINA

“And tonight I also offer this pledge of the American people: Throughout the area hit by the hurricane, we will do what it takes; we will stay as long as it takes to help citizens rebuild their communities and their lives. And all who question the future of the Crescent City need to know: There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans, and this great city will rise again.”
[President George W. Bush, 9/15/05]

“Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job.” *[President George W. Bush, 9/2/05]*

“Bureaucracy is not going to stand in the way of getting the job done for the people.” *[President George W. Bush, 9/6/05]*

“I don't think anybody anticipated the breach of the levees. They did anticipate a serious storm.”
[President George W. Bush, 9/1/05]

THE FACTS

- More than 1,800 people were killed by Hurricane Katrina.
- After the Louisiana National Guard requests 700 buses from FEMA to evacuate residents before the storm hit, FEMA only sends 100 buses. *[Boston Globe, 9/11/05]*
- Michael Brown does not ask DHS to send employees to the Gulf Coast until several hours after the hurricane hits, and gives them two days to arrive. *[Think Progress]*
- National Guard troops do not arrive until two days after they were requested. *[Boston Globe, 9/11/05]*
- Before Katrina hit, “the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requested \$27 million for this fiscal year to pay for hurricane-protection projects around Lake Pontchartrain. The Bush administration countered with \$3.9 million, and [the Republican] Congress eventually provided \$5.7 million... Because of the shortfalls, which were caused in part by the rising costs of the war in Iraq, the corps delayed seven contracts that included enlarging the levees, according to corps documents.” *[Chicago Tribune, 9/1/05]*

