



## **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **CONGRESSWOMAN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

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#### **Member, Blue Dog Coalition**

The Blue Dog Coalition is a group of moderate to conservative members who share Congresswoman Giffords' concern and commitment to fiscal responsibility. With our current national **debt over \$9.45 trillion**, the Blue Dogs are dedicated to reigning in the federal government's record deficits.

#### **Reinstated Pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) Budgeting Rules (H. Res. 6)**

On January 4, 2007, the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress reinstated PAYGO requires that any tax cut or increase in mandatory spending be offset by reductions in other mandatory spending or increases in revenues, rather than being financed through deficit-spending. In effect, the rule requires that the federal government live within its means, just as American families do. Ongoing enforcement of PAYGO budget rules to balance our federal budget by 2012.

#### **Earmark Reform (H. Res. 1072)**

Congresswoman Giffords has advocated for strong earmark reform in the House and has implemented a very transparent process for her office. While earmarks continue to be utilized, she wants Southern Arizona to get its fair share. Congresswoman Giffords knows her constituents work hard and pay their taxes – they should see some of those dollars back in their communities, making a difference. For fiscal years 2008 and 2009, Congresswoman Giffords joined a small group of members who published all of their project requests – hers are on her website. She also believes that this level of disclosure should be mandatory for all members of the House and cosponsored House Resolution 1072 to implement that requirement.

#### **Voted Against the \$3 Trillion FY 2009 Budget Resolution**

While Congresswoman Giffords agreed with the FY09 budget's priorities, she disagreed with its bottom line. Overall, it was simply too much money. The budget itself recognizes a \$340 billion deficit for FY 2009. Congresswoman Giffords feels strongly that Congress have to change the "credit card" mentality that has existed for the past several years.

#### **Hosted David Walker, Former Comptroller General and Director of the GAO**

Congresswoman Giffords invited David Walker, Former Comptroller General of the U.S. and Director of the General Accounting Office (GAO) to visit Southern Arizona in January 2008 to discuss the current economic downturn and the status of the federal budget as part of the "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour." During his presentation to over 250 people, Mr. Walker relayed his first-hand perspective on America's fiscal crisis and provided solution options to fixing our near \$9 trillion federal debt. Mr. Walker also recounted how Congress spent \$248 billion that did not exist in the U.S. Treasury in 2006 and instead borrowed from countries like China, Japan and the United Kingdom.