

A sampling of reaction to President Obama's budget proposal for FY2011:

New York Times: ["Deficits May Alter U.S. Politics and Global Power"](#) -

In a federal budget filled with mind-boggling statistics, two numbers stand out as particularly stunning, for the way they may change American politics and American power.

The first is the projected deficit in the coming year, nearly 11 percent of the country's entire economic output. That is not unprecedented: During the Civil War, World War I and World War II, the United States ran soaring deficits, but usually with the expectation that they would come back down once peace was restored and war spending abated.

But the second number, buried deeper in the budget's projections, is the one that really commands attention: By President Obama's own optimistic projections, American deficits will not return to what are widely considered sustainable levels over the next 10 years. In fact, in 2019 and 2020 - years after Mr. Obama has left the political scene, even if he serves two terms - they start rising again sharply, to more than 5 percent of gross domestic product. His budget draws a picture of a nation that like many American homeowners simply cannot get above water.

For Mr. Obama and his successors, the effect of those projections is clear: Unless miraculous growth, or miraculous political compromises, creates some unforeseen change over the next decade, there is virtually no room for new domestic initiatives for Mr. Obama or his successors. Beyond that lies the possibility that the United States could begin to suffer the same disease that has afflicted Japan over the past decade. As debt grew more rapidly than income, that country's influence around the world eroded.

Associated Press: ["FACT CHECK: Obama budget a leap of faith on growth"](#) -

President Barack Obama's proposed budget relies on a commission without teeth to help his

administration wrestle the deficit out of the danger zone. It forecasts stronger economic growth than most economists expect and calls on Congress to cut programs that lawmakers cherish.

All budgets from the White House are leaps of faith of some sort. This one is no exception.

The economic forecasts used in setting spending priorities are in line with independent expectations for now. After that, though, the administration's projections appear ever more fanciful.

CNNMoney: ["Stimulus: Secret sequel in the budget"](#) -

They're not calling it Stimulus 2, but the Obama administration wants to extend the life of several Recovery Act provisions by building them into the federal budget.

All these were key provisions in the \$862 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a massive two-year stimulus program enacted last February. Many of its measures are set to run out this year.

But none of Obama's budget measures will take effect unless Congress incorporates them into legislation. And, at the moment, "stimulus" is not the most popular word on Capitol Hill.

By including the provisions in the federal spending plan, the administration is able to keep the Recovery Act alive without having to pass a separate measure, which will likely spark a lot of controversy. As long as they make it into the fiscal 2011 budget, they will be allowed to continue in the future despite a promised cap in federal spending.

Wall Street Journal: ["Budget Announcement Is Blueprint to Court Independents"](#) -

President Barack Obama used his budget announcement Monday to offer a political tip sheet for Democrats struggling to court centrist voters anxious about the economy and angry at White House policies.

His prescription: Blame the country's money woes on past Republican policies, such as tax cuts for the wealthy, while at the same time embracing bipartisanship.

Republicans shot back that Mr. Obama's \$3.8 trillion proposal, which calls for raising taxes on wealthy individuals and large businesses, seeks to "borrow, tax and spend our way back to a growing economy," said Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind).