

**OVERSIGHT PLAN
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108th CONGRESS**

Resolved: That the committee on the Budget, pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, and Committee Rule 23, adopt as the Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 108th Congress the following:

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION/OVERSIGHT

Under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, each committee is required to adopt and submit to the Committees on Government Reform and House Administration an oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of each Congress. The Budget Committee's oversight responsibilities are determined by both the breadth of the Federal budget and the relatively narrow focus of its legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is the development of a concurrent budget resolution that sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate and across 20 budget functions. These budget functions encompass all Federal programs or activities other than those that are defined as off-budget, such as Social Security and the Postal Service, and those that are considered nonbudgetary, such as the Federal Reserve.

Although the subject matter of the budget is inherently broad, the committee's formal oversight responsibility focuses on law governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(d)(2) and (3) of House Rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight are the Budget and Accounting Act of 1920, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the Emergency Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws and hence which fall under the committee's jurisdiction are the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] and the Congressional Budget Office [CBO].

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Budget Committee has the special oversight responsibility under clause 3 of House rule X to study the effect of budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures.

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR 108th CONGRESS

Budget Priorities

In the process of developing the annual concurrent budget resolution, the committee will hold hearings and receive testimony from Members of Congress, Cabinet-level and other Federal officials, State and local officials, and expert witnesses to review the President's budget submissions and other alternatives to programs and activities.

The committee shall continuously assess the performance of Federal agencies in both administration and service delivery by reviewing performance data in the President's budget submissions and the relevant reports and audits of the General Accounting Office and the Offices of the Inspectors General.

The committee will study the budgetary effect of existing law and proposed legislation, as well as government regulation, on government spending.

The Committee will draw on the authorizing committee's Views and Estimates on the President's Budget, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act, to coordinate its oversight activities with other committees.

Budget Enforcement

The committee will provide ongoing oversight of the Office of Management and Budget's implementation of budget submission, control, execution, and enforcement procedures under the Budget and Accounting Act of 1920, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and other applicable laws. Additionally, the Committee will examine the accuracy, timeliness, and responsiveness of OMB.

The Committee will consider proposals and study alternatives to improve ways in which the Congress and the President develop and enforce budgetary decisions. This will include an examination of the tools and methods utilized by the various States.

In addition, the committee will closely monitor adjustments to the discretionary spending limits, reclassifications of budget accounts, re-estimates of the subsidies of credit programs, consistency in cost estimates for direct spending and tax bills, compliance with the Emergency Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act in the development of baseline budget projections, and changes in spend-out rates for discretionary programs, and implementation of performance plans.

The committee will work with the Appropriations and the authorizing committees to ensure that spending and tax legislation does not breach the appropriate levels in the budget resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The committee will submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, pursuant to Section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the recommendation of a replacement to fill the position of Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

Budget Process Reform

The committee will consider proposals to improve the ways in which the Congress and the President develop and enforce budgetary decisions.

Direct Spending and Tax Incentives

The Committee will request and evaluate continuing studies of tax incentives and direct spending by the Federal Government, and whether they are the most appropriate and efficient means to achieve specified public policy goals.

OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE

First Session (2003)

Winter 2003—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook—Director of CBO

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Director of OMB

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget and tax proposals—Secretary of the Treasury

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Secretary of Defense

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Secretary of State

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Secretary of Health and Human Services

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Secretary of Education

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Secretary of Transportation

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Secretary of Homeland Security

Winter 2003—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2004 budget—Members of Congress

Winter 2003—Receive Views and Estimates from other committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Summer 2003—Hearing on issues related to the reform the budget controls of the Federal Government, e.g., Caps/Paygo, etc.

Summer 2003—Hearing to review innovative initiatives developed by States to enforce budget discipline.

Summer 2003—Hearing on issues related to the reform the budget process and enforce budget discipline of the Federal Government.

Summer 2003—Hearing series on issues related to tax reform.

Summer 2003—Hearing on oversight of OMB compliance with the Budget and Accounting Act of 1920, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and other applicable laws.

Summer 2003—Hearing on Mid-Session Review and Update of the Budget & Economic Outlook—Directors of OMB & CBO.

Summer 2003—Hearing to review issues related to long-term obligations of the Federal Government, e.g., Environmental cleanup, Tricare, Federal insurance programs.

Summer 2003—Field hearing on topical subject to be determined.

Time to be determined 2003—Hearing on issues related to long-term obligations of the Federal Government, e.g., Social Security and Medicare.

Second Session (2004)

Winter 2004—Joint House/Senate hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook—Director of CBO

Winter 2004—Hearing on the economic outlook and the impact on the Federal Budget—Chairman, Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve System

Winter 2004—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2005 budget—Director of OMB

Winter 2004—Hearing(s) on the President's fiscal year 2005 budget—Selected Cabinet Secretaries

Winter 2004—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2005 budget—Members of Congress

Winter 2004—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate in developing the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Summer 2004—Hearing to examine the role and performance of CBO, including the process CBO follows to provide economic forecasts, cost estimates, and budgetary projections; to review initiatives implemented by the new director; and the results of the Budget Committee's Customer Satisfaction Survey.—CBO Director, expert witnesses

Summer 2004—Hearing to review issues related to long-term obligations of the Federal Government.

Summer 2004—Hearing on issues related to low-income citizens.

Summer 2004—Hearing series on issues related to tax reform.

Summer 2004—Field hearing on topical subject to be determined.

Summer 2004—Hearing on Social Security & Medicare Trustees Report.

The Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means were consulted with regard to the development of this Oversight Plan.