



A Tax-And-Spend Budget

As Senate Democrats Consider A Budget For The First Time In Four Years, Will The American People See Their True Colors?

Senate Democrats Have Not Passed A Budget Since 2009. “House Republicans are planning to raise country’s borrowing limit for three months, with a promise to raise it again if Senate Democrats pass a budget. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) promised Sunday that it would happen. If it does, it would be the first time since 2009 that Senate Democrats have passed a budget.” (Rachel Weiner, “Why Senate Democrats Haven’t Passed A Budget,” [The Washington Post](#), 1/22/13)

- **“By Not Introducing A Budget, Democrats Can Keep Their Names Off Doomed Plans That Detail High Spending And High Deficits.”** (Rachel Weiner, “Why Senate Democrats Haven’t Passed A Budget,” [The Washington Post](#), 1/22/13)
- **“For Nearly Four Years, Senate Leaders Have Ducked Their Legal Duty To Craft A Comprehensive Budget Framework.”** (Lori Montgomery, “Senate Democrats’ Budget Plan Will Reopen Battle Over Taxes,” [The Washington Post](#), 1/20/13)

On Sunday, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) Indicated That Senate Democrats Will Pursue A Budget In Order To Obtain Additional Tax Increases, Saying That “Doing A Budget Is The Best Way For Us To Get Revenues.” “Now, however, Democrats see the budget process as ‘a great opportunity’ to pursue additional tax increases — and to create a fast-track process to push them through the Senate, Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said Sunday on NBC’s ‘Meet the Press.’ ‘There’s going to have to be some spending cuts, and those will be negotiated,’ Schumer, the No. 3 Democrat in the Senate, said in an interview after the show. ‘But doing a budget is the best way for us to get revenues.’” (Lori Montgomery, “Senate Democrats’ Budget Plan Will Reopen Battle Over Taxes,” [The Washington Post](#), 1/20/13)

A TAX-AND-SPEND BUDGET WOULD PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON RED-STATE DEMOCRATS

Voting For A Senate Democrat Budget Could Be Perilous For Democrats Representing Red States. “Republicans wasted no time in casting those efforts as just the Democrats’ latest tax-raising enterprise, and could find an effective cudgel against a half-dozen Senate Democrats — including the chairman of the tax-writing Finance Committee, Sen. Max Baucus (Mont.) — seeking reelection in states that Mitt Romney carried in 2012.” (Erik Wasson and Bernie Becker, “Budget Tax Increases Would Put Red-State Dems In Tough Spot,” [The Hill’s On The Money](#), 1/22/13)

The Willingness Of Senate Democrats To Pass A Budget Also “Seems To Indicate That Party Leaders Believe Higher Taxes On The Wealthy Has Become A Winning Issue That Will Help Them Retain Their Majority.” “The willingness of Senate Democrats to pass a budget seems to indicate that party leaders believe higher taxes on the wealthy has become a winning issue that will help them retain their majority.” (Erik Wasson and Bernie Becker, “Budget Tax Increases Would Put Red-State Dems In Tough Spot,” [The Hill's On The Money](#), 1/22/13)

- **Sens. Max Baucus (D-MT), Mark Begich (D-AK), Kay Hagan (D-NC), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), And Mark Pryor (D-AR) All Could Face Political Backlash In Their States In 2014 Should They Decide To Vote For A Budget That Includes Tax Increases.** “In addition to Baucus, Sens. Mark Begich (D-Alaska), Kay Hagan (D-N.C.), Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) are seeking reelection in 2014 in states that went red in last year’s presidential election. A seventh Senate Democrat, Jay Rockefeller (W.Va.), is retiring instead of running for another term in a state that voted overwhelmingly for Romney.” (Erik Wasson and Bernie Becker, “Budget Tax Increases Would Put Red-State Dems In Tough Spot,” [The Hill's On The Money](#), 1/22/13)
- **Sen. Begich (D-AK) Said “The President Must Propose — Or We Should — A Combination Of Spending Cuts. We Cannot Do This Budget Just On The Revenue Issue That We Did At The End Of Last Year.”** “‘I’m going to underline something very strong here: The president must propose — or we should — a combination of spending cuts,’ Begich said. ‘We cannot do this budget just on the revenue issue that we did at the end of last year.’” (John Bresnahan and Manu Raju, “Red-State Democrats May Break With White House,” [Politico](#), 1/18/13)

“No Matter How The Debt Ceiling Battle Turns Out, Obama Is Almost Certain To Face New Pressure From 2014 Senate Democrats Over Cutting Deeper Into The Budget.” (John Bresnahan and Manu Raju, “Red-State Democrats May Break With White House,” [Politico](#), 1/18/13)

- **Twenty Democrat-Held Senate Seats Are Up For Grabs In 2014, Many In States That Obama Lost In November By Double-Digit Margins.** “For Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and his top lieutenants, the challenges of balancing the 2014 Senate map and President Barack Obama’s second-term agenda could cause as many headaches as anything Republicans throw at them. Overall, 20 Democratic-held Senate seats are up for grabs next year, versus 13 for Republicans. Democratic incumbents face reelection in solidly red states like Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Montana and South Dakota, all of which Obama lost by double-digit margins in November.” (John Bresnahan and Manu Raju, “Red-State Democrats May Break With White House,” [Politico](#), 1/18/13)