



April 13, 2012

## Another Budget Deadline Comes and Goes Under Democrats

Democrats have gone a record three years in a row with no budget. They last passed a budget in [2009](#) so that they could pass the President's health care law through reconciliation.

### April 15<sup>th</sup> is the Legal Deadline for Passing a Final Budget Resolution

- Sadly, Congress has failed to pass a final budget resolution by the legal deadline three times since Democrats won the majority in 2007 (for fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013).
- In addition to not bringing up their own proposal for a vote, Democrats in the Senate have wanted to avoid discussing the budget so much that last year they rejected four opportunities to move to budget resolutions (budgets from [President Obama](#), [Representative Ryan](#), [Senator Toomey](#), and [Senator Paul](#)).

### Normalizing the Abdication of Responsibility

- [2010](#): According to Majority Leader Harry Reid's staff the budget resolution "is on a list of things that are possible for this work period." No budget was ever considered.
- [2011](#): Majority Leader Reid stated, "There's no need to have a Democratic budget in my opinion ... It would be foolish for us to do a budget at this stage."
- [2012](#): Majority Leader Reid stated, "We do not need to bring a budget to the floor this year."

### Forfeiting the Trust of the American People

- Senate Democrats have thumbed their noses at one of the basic acts of governing – passing a budget to tell the American people how much their government will tax, spend, and borrow.
- By not even debating a budget, Democrats are trying to paper over their record of four straight trillion-dollar deficits.
- This failure is bad for the American people, bad for the Senate as an institution, and bad for the goal of effective government.
  - Alexander Hamilton [noted](#) that citizens' confidence in their government is related to whether the government is administered well or administered poorly.

- Because Senate Democrats’ refusal to pass a budget is poor administration, it hurts public confidence in the government.
- If the Senate could take on important fiscal issues by debating and voting on a budget, why not do it? Because Democrats are afraid to vote on Republican ideas.
- Even Democratic Senator Durbin has [said](#), “If you don’t want to cast tough votes, don’t be a Member of Congress. I think we ought to welcome the possibility of having some tough votes on amendments.”

## Budget Deadlines Missed This Year

The Senate Budget Committee has announced [plans](#) to markup a budget resolution as early as April 17<sup>th</sup>. However, this will still miss the deadline, and Majority Leader Reid will not bring it to the Senate floor. The following are the legal deadlines under the Budget Act of 1974.

