

**OVERSIGHT PLAN  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
109th 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 109th 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 non-budgetary, such as the Federal Reserve.

Although the subject matter of the budget is inherently broad, the committee's formal oversight responsibility focuses on laws 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 clauses 3(b) and 4(b) of House rule X to study the effect on budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures.

## **OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR 109th 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 development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

### **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 and Impoundment Control 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.

### **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 (2005)*

Winter 2005—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook – Director of CBO.

Winter 2005—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2006 budget – Director of OMB.

Winter 2005—Hearing on Social Security.

Winter 2005—Hearing on National/Homeland Security.

Winter 2005—Hearing on Domestic Entitlements.

Winter 2005—Hearing on the economic outlook and the impact on the Federal Budget – Chairman, Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve System.

Winter 2005—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2006 budget – Members of Congress.

Winter 2005—Receive Views and Estimates from other committees to coordinate the development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Summer 2005—Hearing on oversight of the Congressional Budget Office.

Summer 2005—Hearing on issues related to tax reform.

Summer 2005—Hearing to review innovative initiatives developed by States to enforce budget discipline.

Summer 2005—Hearing to review the administrations' performance scorecard of Federal agencies and programs – Deputy Director of OMB, expert witnesses.

Summer 2005—Hearing on issues related to budget controls.

Summer 2005—Hearing on Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation liabilities.

Summer 2005—Possible hearing on regulatory budgeting.

Summer 2005—Hearing on Mid-Session Review – Director of OMB.

Summer 2005—Hearing on the Update of the Budget & Economic Outlook – Director of CBO.

Summer 2005—Field hearing on topical subject to be determined.

*Second Session (2006)*

Winter 2006—Hearing (possible joint House/Senate) on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook – Director of CBO.

Winter 2006—Hearing on the economic outlook and the impact on the Federal Budget – Chairman, Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve System.

Winter 2006—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2007 budget – Director of OMB.

Winter 2006—Hearing(s) on the President's fiscal year 2007 budget.

Winter 2006—Hearing on the President's fiscal year 2007 budget – Members of Congress.

Winter 2006—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate the development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Summer 2006—Hearing on the Mid-Session Review – Director of OMB.

Summer 2006—Hearing on the Update of the Budget & Economic Outlook – Director of CBO.

Summer 2006—Hearing on oversight of OMB – Director of OMB.

Summer 2006—Field hearing on topical subject to be determined.

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