



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## Statement Regarding Strickland's Budget Comments

***"What do we do in two years? I'll cross that bridge when I come to it," said Strickland. (The Plain Dealer, 4/29/09)***

(Columbus) - Ohio Republican Party Chairman Kevin DeWine issued the following statement today regarding Gov. Ted Strickland's remark on the \$8 billion deficit created by his state budget:

"It's clear this administration has no long-term plan for turning around Ohio's economy. The governor's nearsighted comments about the massive shortfall created by his budget show a profound lack of foresight and vision. He continues to prove every day that Ohio needs a leader in the governor's office not a caretaker. What the governor doesn't realize is that the bridge he talks about crossing in two years is already out. He needs to stop begging everyone else to do his job and start providing a responsible budget solution that looks beyond the next election."

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## For the Record

### **Strickland's budget creates an \$8 billion deficit by 2013:**

"State Auditor Mary Taylor spent weeks crunching state budget numbers and came up with a hypothetical and scary number: \$7.97 billion in red ink by June 2013." [Dayton Daily News, 4/16/09]

### **Strickland's budget deficit is unprecedented in Ohio's history:**

"At no point in history, even when state leaders have raised taxes, has general-revenue-fund growth matched the roughly \$7 billion in one-time money contained in this budget. [Columbus Dispatch, 2/23/09]

### **Strickland's budget will require "a whopping tax increase":**

"For every \$10 in Gov. Ted Strickland's proposed state budget, almost \$1 would be one-time money. That's a recipe for a whopping tax increase in two years - after Strickland is safely re-elected or a Republican replaces him." [Editorial, Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/8/09]

**Strickland's budget would raise taxes by 24 to 31 percent, depending on the tax:**

"Making up that much money in the next two-year budget would require a 31 percent sales-tax increase or a 24 percent income-tax increase, according to a report conducted by the Legislative Service Commission at the request of House Republicans." [Columbus Dispatch, 4/23/09]

**Strickland's budget uses "word games" to create confusion:**

"Gov. Ted Strickland's proposed 2009-10 budget and its school-funding plan are like the 'new math' of the 1960s, which made concepts more important than right answers. In fact, because of Strickland administration word games, you really can't use a calculator to crunch these budget numbers. You need a dictionary." [Editorial, The Plain Dealer, 2/20/09]

**Strickland's budget was constructed with one-time federal stimulus dollars based on "fudged numbers":**

"To make his case for stimulus funds, Strickland fudged some numbers. He continually used February 2008 estimates to project the next state budget deficit at \$7.3 billion, conveniently excluding the two rounds of cuts he already made, which effectively reduced the projected deficit to \$3.3 billion." [Editorial by Joe Hallett, Columbus Dispatch, 2/22/08]

**Strickland refuses to provide clear information on his budget:**

"[A]s to Ohio's budget, Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland's administration seems to say, 'Facts are whatever we say they are - and we don't take questions.'" [Editorial, Cleveland Plain Dealer, 3/2/09]

**Strickland's budget creates "more questions than answers":**

"More questions than answers arise when Gov. Ted Strickland's \$54.7 billion, two-year budget comes under scrutiny, because atypical methods were used to calculate some of its numbers." [Editorial, Columbus Dispatch, 3/7/09]

**Strickland's budget staff refuses to provide long-term financial projections:**

"Strickland's top budget officials have refused to offer detailed projections for 2012-13. That has raised eyebrows because two years ago, the administration took great pride in coming up with a four-year forecast." [Cleveland Plain Dealer, 4/17/09]

**Ohio House Democrats added even more spending despite deficit projections:**

"The changes pushed by Democrats amount to \$91 million in additional spending from their first revision of Strickland's budget. In all, the changes would result in about \$622 million in new spending on top of the governor's plan." [Associated Press, 4/28/09]

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