

Yesterday, House Republicans unveiled our [Pledge to America](#) . It's a great place to start changing the way Washington works.

For over a year, in town hall meetings, through letters, telephone calls and even at the grocery store, I, along with Republicans across the nation, have been listening to the priorities of ordinary Americans of all political persuasions. Americans have not changed their goals in the last few years. They still want change: more jobs, economic revitalization, fiscal sanity and an ethical, transparent government in Washington.

Instead, the majority in Washington has delivered a deepening recession costing Americans 2.6 million jobs, along with a morass of bailouts, stimulus spending, new regulations, and federal mandates. There have been flagrant ethics abuses leading to current investigations and “dark-of-night” measures passed on the House floor before Members of Congress and their staff could even read them.

Missourians know a few simple ideas that continue to escape Washington insiders. Missourians know we don't get responsive and efficient government by creating more bureaucracy. We don't get jobs by raising taxes. We don't get prosperity by borrowing from foreign countries. We don't get freedom by enacting new mandates on all Americans.

Americans are changing their habits: spending less, borrowing less and saving for the future. It's time Washington did the same. I've been committed to promoting limited, accountable government and honoring the principles of federalism throughout my time of public service.

This *Pledge to America* is the beginning of a way forward that respects the U.S. Constitution and embraces economic freedom, lower taxes, fiscal responsibility, protecting human life, cherishing our American values and providing for strong national security. This is the kind of positive change that the people of Missouri want.

Ours is a *Pledge* to reform Washington, starting by ending the spending spree, changing the way Congress works and leaving government leaner and more efficient than we found it.