

## A Brief History Of Senate Democrats' Phantom FY2012 Budget

**April 29, 2009** – The last time Senate Democrats, who control the chamber, pass a budget.

**April 13, 2011** – [Chairman Conrad suggests](#) that Senate Democrat leadership had given the green light for a mark-up to take place (“the signal has been given to me: we're good to go”), and said that he expected to begin work on a budget resolution “within weeks.”

**April 26** – [Committee Republicans ask](#) Conrad to conduct that mark-up in a transparent fashion, including posting the resolution online in advance.

**May 3** – [Conrad unveils](#) his budget proposal to Democrat colleagues, informs Republicans they should expect a markup the following week.

**May 5** – [Republicans send](#) a second letter stressing the need for an open process.

**May 6** – [Conrad postpones](#) budget markup, citing “continuing discussions.”

**May 9** – [President Obama announces](#) a White House meeting with Senators to discuss deficit reduction. For scheduling reasons, these meetings effectively prevent any markup from taking place that week.

**May 10** – [The Hill reports](#) that the Democrats' budget proposal will contain a 1:1 ratio of savings to tax increases.

**May 11** – [CQ reports](#) that the tenuous agreement succumbed to pressure from Sen. Bernie Sanders to change the balance towards even more tax increases relative to spending cuts. (Sanders addressed this in [an interview on ABC News](#).)

**May 17** – [Conrad says](#) he has no immediate plans to mark up a budget.

**May 19** – [Work on a budget is further delayed](#) in deference to the talks led by Vice President Biden. That same day, [Majority Leader Reid says](#) it would be “foolish” for Senate Democrats to produce a budget.

**May 23** – [Sen. Schumer argues](#) that Democrat alternatives to the House Republican budget are “not the point.” The entire [GOP Conference asks](#) Reid to stop blocking action on a Senate budget resolution. [Sessions announces](#) he will force a vote on recess if Democrats attempt to adjourn without completing budget work.

**May 26** – [GOP Senators join Sessions](#), ask Reid not to break for Memorial Day Recess unless Senate Democrats bring forward a budget so the Senate can fulfill its duty. [Sessions responds](#) to Reid's decision to hold ‘pro forma’ sessions to spare Democrat Senators from voting to adjourn.

**May 28** – [New York Times editorial board](#) says Republicans have a point: “the Senate's record is dismaying.”

**May 31** – [Dana Milbank calls](#) the Democrat Senate's failure to pass a budget (in what was then 762 days) “a new standard for dereliction of duty.”

**June 7** – [Senate Democrats become anxious](#) about their party's lack of a budget plan. Sens. Feinstein, Manchin, Pryor, Lieberman, and Reed express their concerns.

**June 13** – [Former DNC Chairman Tim Kaine calls](#) lack of Senate Democrat budget a “major problem.” [Majority Leader Reid says](#) budget issues “have no bearing on what I think is important for the country today.”

**June 16** – [It is reported](#) that Democrats are once again crafting a budget plan in closed-door meetings with at least \$2 trillion in tax hikes.

**June 29** – [Sessions renews his call](#) for the Senate to remain in town to deal with its budget and debt ceiling work. [Democrats again claim](#) they have reached an internal agreement on a budget resolution, although Conrad “provided few details.”

**June 30** – [Reid cancels](#) recess, citing unspecified “work to do.” [Sessions reiterates](#) his request to Conrad that public and the Budget Committee have 72 hours to review any proposal before the Committee meets to mark it up.

**July 6** – [Conrad schedules a briefing](#) for Democrat Caucus on latest version of his budget plan, acknowledges that “some colleagues could object at the last minute when they see his latest details on paper.”

**July 7** – [Sessions and a coalition of GOP Senators](#) warn Reid that they will reserve the right to object to any Senate business not related to budget work. The Majority Leader had agreed to cancel recess, but subsequently scheduled a vote on a Libya resolution.

**July 11** – [A Budget Committee analysis](#) of the unseen Democrat budget, based on those details that have leaked, reveals that the plan cuts dramatically less and taxes far more than advertised.

**July 13** – As the Democrat Senate majority begins moving spending bills without having a budget resolution in place to set overall spending levels, [Sessions announces](#) he will raise a point of order against the first such bill. [Nearly every Republican Senator joins in opposition](#) to appropriating without a budget.