Choices to Stabilize the U.S. Debt

Iraq and Afghanistan

Reduce Troops to 60,000 by 2015 -$350B

Reduce Troops to 30,000 by 2013 -$740B

Maintain Current Funding Levels -$0

2001/2003 Tax Cuts

Renew All the Tax Cuts $3,280B

Renew the Tax Cuts on Income Below $250k/200k $2,590B

Reduce Lower Rate Cuts by Half and Let Upper-Income Cuts Expire $2,060B

Allow All the Tax Cuts, Except for AMT Patches, to Expire $480B

Discretionary Spending Growth

Grow Regular Discretionary Spending with GDP $1,290B

Adopt the Discretionary Spending Growth Rates in the President's Budget $680B

Grow Regular Discretionary Spending with Inflation $0

Defense, Diplomacy & Security

Enact Administration's Proposed Weapon System Cuts -$30B

Foreign Aid

Cut Foreign Economic Aid in Half -$110B

Increase Foreign Economic Aid by 50% $110B

Veterans' Benefits

Reduce Veteran's Income Security Benefits -$50B

Expand Veteran's Income Security Benefits $30B

Cancel Missile Defense System -$50B

Reduce Spending on Ship Building -$50B

Increase Homeland Security Spending $50B

Troop Levels

Increase Number of troops by 46,000 $70B

Reverse "Grow the Army" Initiative -$90B

Domestic Social & Economic Spending

Cancel TARP and Rescind Unused ARRA Funds -$350B

Enact New Jobs Bill $210B

Food Stamps

Gradually Reduce Benefits to 2008 Levels -$100B

Index Current (Post-Stimulus) Benefits to GDP $140B

Freeze Average Unemployment Benefits at 2009 Levels -$50B

Cut Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program -$50B

Cut Federal Funding of K-12 Education by 25% -$60

Eliminate the New Markets Tax Credit -$40B

Cut School Breakfast Programs -$30

Double Funding on Adoption and Foster Care $70B

Increase Funding for the Education of Disadvantaged and Disabled Children $290

Social Security

Raise the Normal Retirement Age to 68 -$110B

Slow Initial Benefit Growth

Gradually Reduce Scheduled Benefits (by 30% in 2080) -$100B

Progressively Reduce Benefits, Protecting Low Earners -$80B

Progressively Reduce Benefits, Protecting Low and Medium Earners -$60B

Use An Alternate Measure of Inflation for COLAs -$100B

Reduce Spousal Benefits from 50% to 33% -$20B

Increase Years Used to Calculate Benefits -$40B

Include all New State and Local Workers -$80B

Institute a Minimum Benefit $130B

Health Care

Modify Health Care Reform Law

Expand Coverage to an Additional 5 Million People $130B

Reduce Insurance Subsidies by 20% -$160B

Repeal Entire Legislation $160B

Repeal Legislation, but Keep Medicare/Medicaid Cuts -$260B

Increase Cost-Sharing for Medicare -$100B

Raise Medicare Premiums to 35% of Costs -$140B

Reduce Spending on Graduate Medical Education -$20B

Enact Medical Malpractice Reform -$50B

Increase the Medicare Retirement Age to 67 -$80B

Replace Traditional Medicare with Insurance Vouchers -$120B

Modify Federal Medicaid Funding to States

Reduce Funding Removing Floor on Matches -$130B

Increase Average Matches from 57% to 60% $140B

Other Spending

Eliminate Certain Outdated Programs -$40B

Reduce Federal Highway Funding -$70B

Reduce or Eliminate Certain Transportation Programs -$20B

Cut Federal Workforce by Five Percent -$130B

Cancel NASA Missions to the Moon and Mars -$40B

Reduce Farm Subsidies -$80B

Expand Spending on Federal Research & Development $100

Cut Earmarks in Half -$80B

Increase Mass Transit Funding $60B

Revenues

Increase User Fees Across the Board -$40B

Sell Certain Government Assets -$70B

Impose Financial Crisis Responsibility Fee -$80B

Reform International Tax System -$120B

Enact Carbon Tax or Cap-and-Trade -$330B

Increase Gas Tax by 10 Cents per Gallon -$80B

Enact Five percent VAT With Partial Rebate -$630B

Gradually Increase Dependent Exemption by $3,500 $190B

Impose Surtax on Income above $1 million -$190B

Gradually Increase Payroll Tax by One Percentage Point -$130B

Raise Social Security Payroll Tax Cap

Raise Cap to Cover 90% of Earnings -$420B

Institute Two Percent Surtax on Earnings Above Cap -$190B

Reduce Corporate Tax Rate from 35% to 30% $390B

Index Tax Code to Alternate Measure of Inflation -$80B

Improve Tax Collection (Reduce Tax Gap) -$20B

Tax Expenditures

Convert Mortgage Interest Deduction to a 20% Credit -$190B

Limit Itemized Deductions for High-Earners -$250B

Curtail State and Local Tax Deduction -$470B

Eliminate Life Insurance Tax Benefits -$220B

Eliminate Subsidies for Biofuels -$110B

Make Research & Development Tax Credit Permanent $80B

Extend $400/person Making Work Pay Credit -$400B

Tax Credits for Children and Families

Cut the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) -$70B

Expand the EITC and Child Tax Credit $90B

Extend "American Opportunity" College Tax Credit $60B

Tax Treatment of Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

Begin Excise Tax on High-Cost Plans in 2013 Instead of 2018 -$110B

Repeal Excise Tax on High-Cost Plans $10B

Replace Employer Health Care Exclusion with a Flat Credit (In Place of Excise Tax)

-$340B