

THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONSTITUTION

- ◉ ARTICLE II - FORMAL POWERS
- ◉ Commander in Chief
- ◉ Power to Pardon federal offenses
- ◉ Negotiate Treaties
- ◉ Make appointments to federal office and the federal judiciary
- ◉ Make recess appointments
- ◉ “Take Care” Clause - Section 3



FORMAL CONSTRAINTS

- ◉ Impeachment - Congress can remove the President and all civil officers from office (Article II, Section 4). The House of Representatives votes articles of impeachment and the Senate acquits or convicts
- ◉ Veto Override - Article 1, Section 7 President can disapprove (veto) a bill but the Congress can override that disapproval with a two-thirds vote in each chamber
- ◉ Term Limits - Amendment 22 (1951) No Person shall be elected to the office more than twice

JUDGING PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

- Clear Policy Vision
- Communication Skills
- Negotiation Skills
- Maximum Use of Presidential Powers

CLEAR POLICY VISION

- ⦿ Articulating a view of the relationship between the federal government and the individual on legal, economic, and social dimensions

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- “Using the Bully Pulpit”
- Speeches
- Press conferences
- Public appearances
- Use of website, facebook, twitter
- Relationships with elite media

NEGOTIATION SKILLS

- Negotiation Skills
- Power to set legislative agenda
- Emerge with preferred policies
- Ability to mobilize interest groups
- Working within unified or divided government

MAXIMUM USE OF PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

- Use of executive orders
- Signing statements
- Bureaucratic appointments
- Judicial appointments
- Use of military power
- Policy implementation through regulatory process
- Release of federal funds

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

- ◉ How do we define a successful presidential-congressional partnership?
- ◉ Do all incumbent presidents leave legislative and partisan legacies?
- ◉ Do voters connect the president and Congress in an election year?

PRESIDENT AS PARTY LEADER

◎ Mandate

- The connection between specific policy promises made during a campaign and sizeable margin of victory for winning candidate.

◎ Realignment

- When significant numbers of voters switch their vote from one party to another
- When voting patterns persist for more than two consecutive elections.

◎ Coattails

- Does President's electoral success translate into party success in House, Senate and Gubernatorial elections?

GOVERNING WITH CONGRESS

- ▶ Electoral Mandate for each Party
 - Forging electoral links across levels of office
 - Importance of midterm elections
- ◉ Differences in ideological perspective
 - Issue positions e.g. taxes, energy policy, abortion, gun control
- ◉ Different voter base
 - Geographic
 - Economic
 - Religious
 - Racial/Ethnic
- ◉ Institutional Rules in House and Senate
- ◉ Majority Power in the House
- ◉ Minority Power in the Senate

WHAT THE 2012 ELECTIONS TELL US

◉ Romney Percent

- ◉ Men 52
- ◉ Women 44
- ◉ ages 18-29 37
- ◉ ages 65+ 56
- ◉ HS only 47
- ◉ College+ 42
- ◉ <30K 35
- ◉ >100K 54
- ◉ IND 50
- ◉ REP 93
- ◉ DEM 7

◉ Obama Percent

- ◉ Men 45
- ◉ Women 55
- ◉ Voters aged 18-29 60
- ◉ Voters aged 65+ 44
- ◉ HS only 51
- ◉ College+ 55
- ◉ <30K 63
- ◉ >100K 44
- ◉ IND 45
- ◉ REP 6
- ◉ DEM 92

Source: New York Times Exit Poll

DID PRESIDENT OBAMA CHANGE PARTY POLICY POSITIONS ON KEY ISSUES?

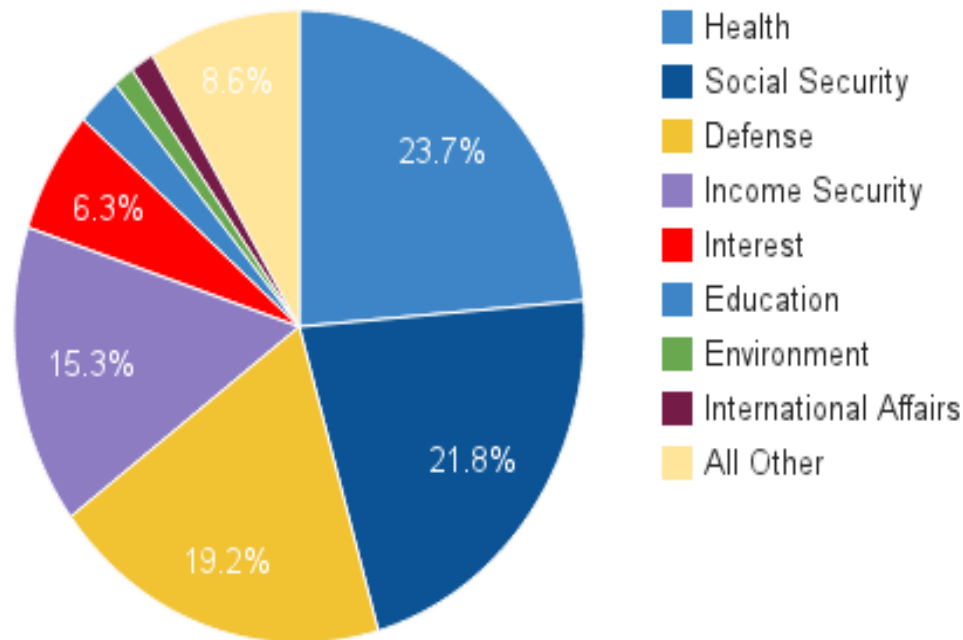
- ◉ Economy
 - Unemployment
 - Housing Market
 - Banking Regulation
- ◉ Iraq and Afghanistan Wars
- ◉ Deficit and National Debt
- ◉ Health Care
 - Expanding insurance coverage
 - Medicare and Medicaid
- ◉ Energy and Environmental Policy
 - Development of alternative fuels
 - Global Warming
 - Domestic Drilling
 - Keystone Pipeline

ELECTORAL LEGACY OF INCUMBENT PRESIDENTS

- ◉ Type of Voting Framework
 - Retrospective
 - Prospective
- ◉ Different Electoral Scenarios
- ◉ Incumbent seeking reelection
 - FDR, Truman (1948), Eisenhower, Johnson (1964), Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, GHW Bush, Clinton, GW Bush, Obama
- ◉ Vice-President of incumbent's Party seeking election
 - Nixon (1960), Mondale (1984 not sequential), GHW Bush (1988), Gore (2000)
- ◉ True "Open Seat"
 - 1952, 1968, 2008

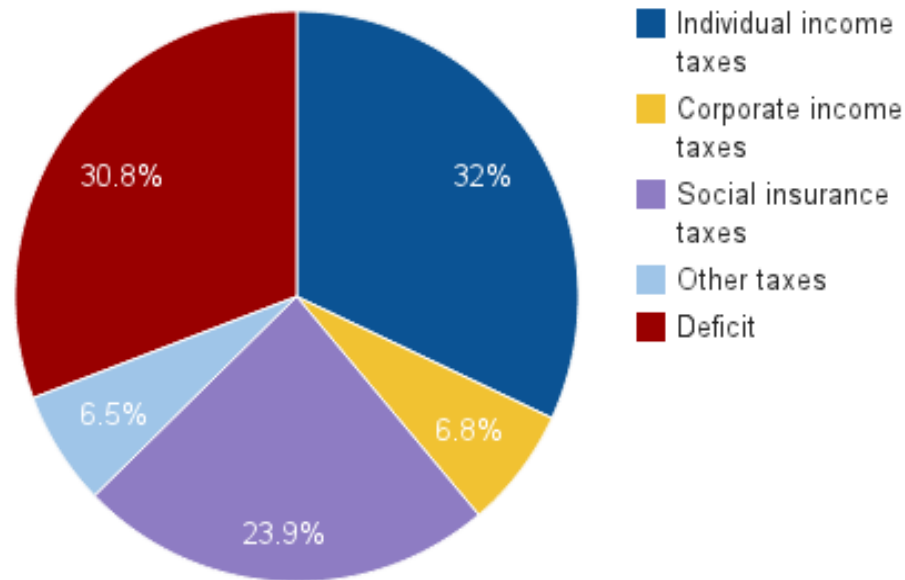
FEDERAL SPENDING FY 2012

Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2012 (in billions)



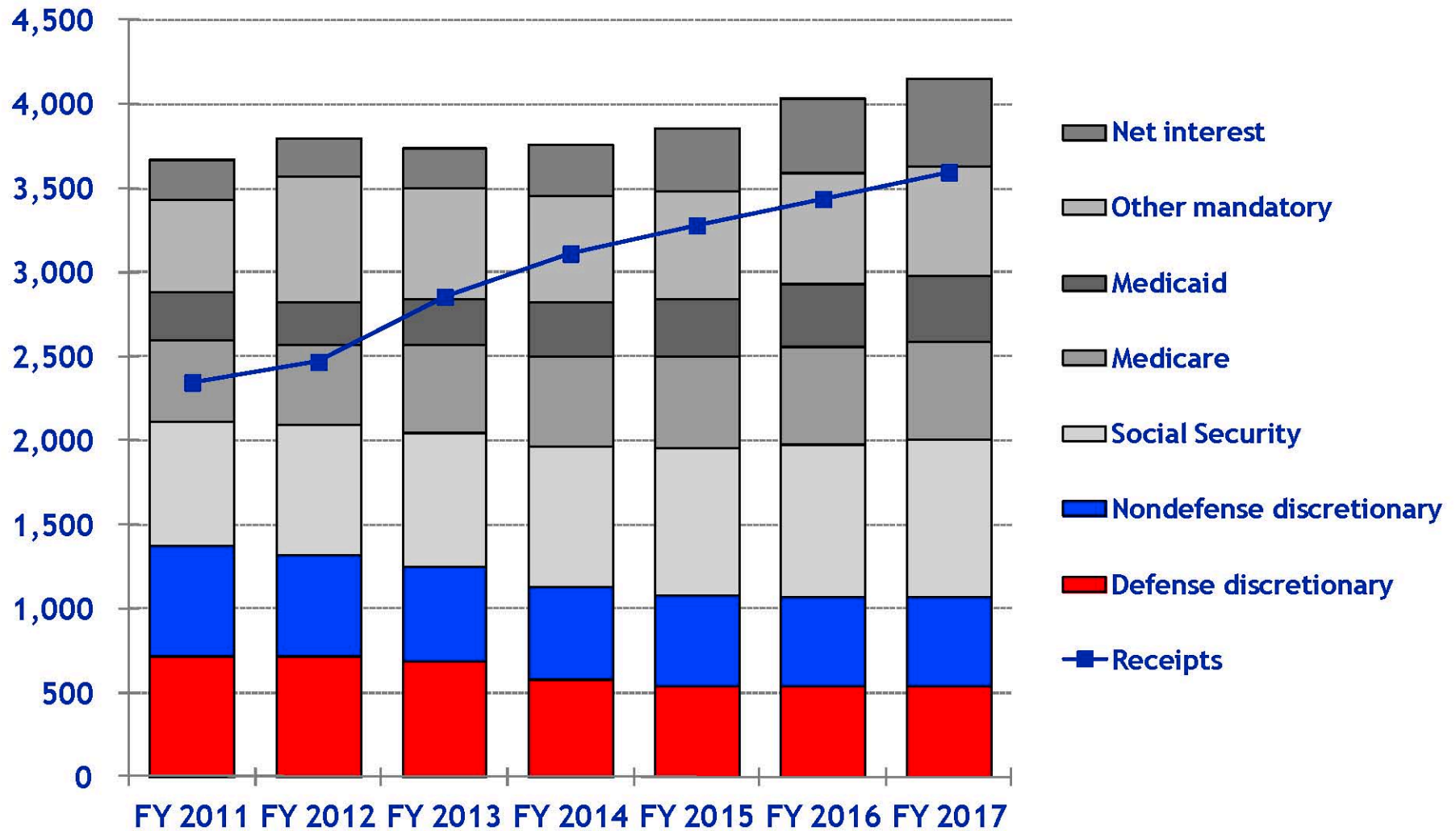
FEDERAL REVENUES FY 2012

Federal Revenues, Fiscal Year 2012 (in billions)



FY 2013 Budget Projections

outlays in billions of constant FY 2012 dollars



THE FISCAL SLOPE 2013

- ◉ Budget Control Act of 2011 - automatic sequester \$85 billion
- ◉ January 1, 2013 Congress enacts the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 which maintains "Bush" tax cut rates for all income below \$400,000 for single and \$450,000 for couples. Also raises capital gains rate. Puts sequester on hold.
- ◉ January 2013: U.S. hit its debt ceiling (\$16.394 trillion) and Congress suspended the debt ceiling.
- ◉ October 1, 2013: Congress fails to pass Continuing Resolution and federal government shuts down.
- ◉ October 17, 2013 U.S reaches debt ceiling (again)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Richard E. Neustadt. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. New York, NY: The Free Press.
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- Samuel Kernell. *Going Public*. 2007. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
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