

FEDERAL BUDGET:
Surplus or Deficit?



SOCIAL SECURITY:
Protected or Privatized?

JUST THE FACTS . . .



**MEDICARE
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:**
Now or Never?



**CORPORATE
ACCOUNTABILITY:**
Oxymoron?



Dear Friend:

Our democracy has taken some heavy hits in the past year — skyrocketing energy prices, wholesale corporate layoffs, the tragedy on 9/11, the stock market's free fall taking our pensions with it. Yet, we stand ... men and women ready to volunteer to save a life or extinguish a fire ... still the most productive workers in the world. We get up because we know our values are right, our dream is still worth achieving.

So, when you believe in the rule of law, in fair play and accountability, it hits you like ice water to learn that the "energy crisis" was nothing more than Enron and its industry buddies gaming the system for tens of billions of dollars that those fabulous corporate earnings statements of too many companies were merely audacious corporate fabrications cooked by unscrupulous corporate executives and accountants. Middle class workers were laid off, their 401(k) pensions decimated, while their bosses cashed in on millions in stock options ahead of their company's nosedive on Wall Street.

At a time when corporate America has let us down, the last thing we need is for the "We the People" part of America — our government — to fuel this crisis in confidence. But, what began in 2001 as a \$313 billion *surplus* in the federal budget is today a \$165 billion *deficit*.

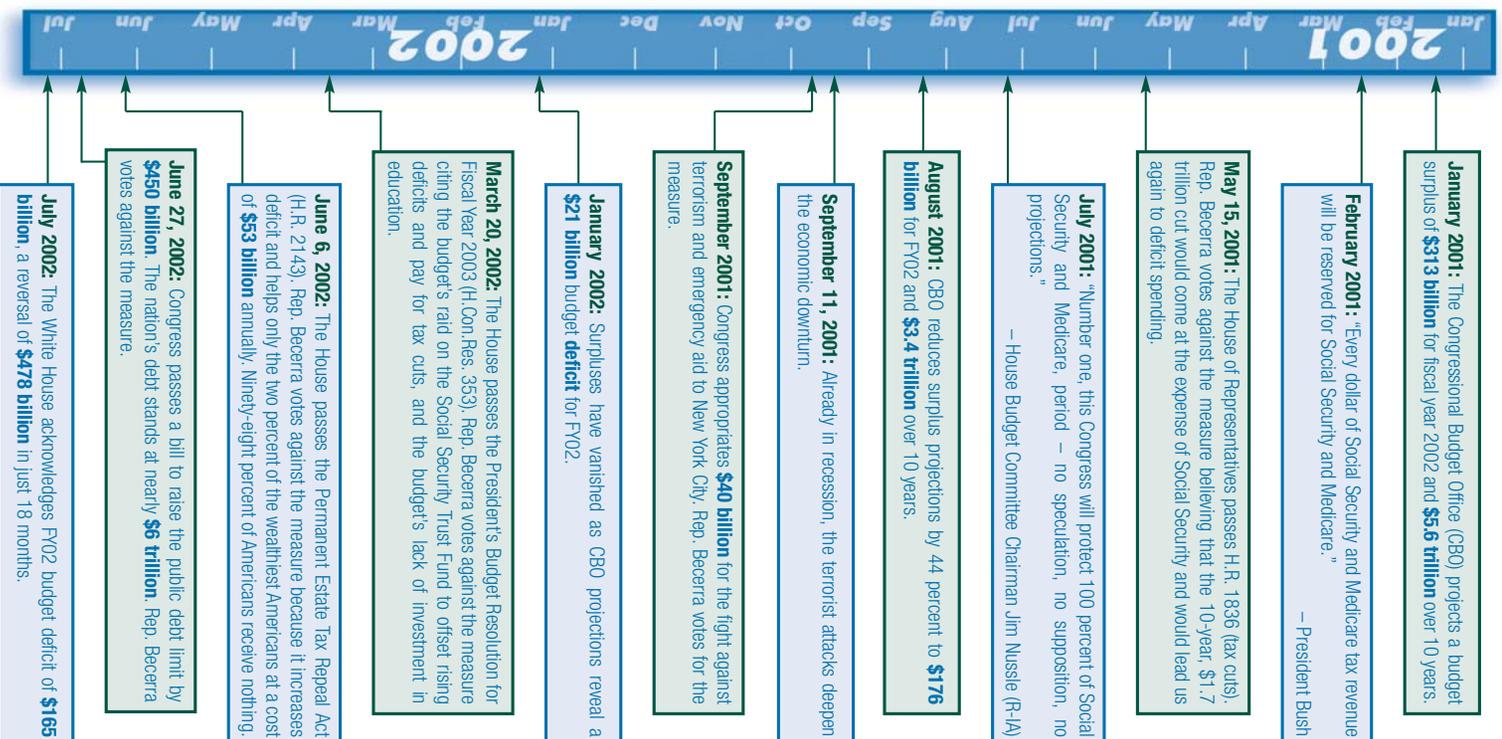
In February 2001, the President declared that we could protect Social Security and Medicare, pay down the national debt, fund priorities (like education, defense, healthcare) and still enact a massive tax cut costing over \$1.7 trillion over its first 10 years. Today, the President's budget actually spends the entire 2001 Social Security surplus of \$171 billion and *borrow*s more money (thus *raising* the national debt) to help pay for the tax cut.

Have we laid a sensible roadmap for the future? I say no. I hope you'll attend my town hall meetings; I'll explain my votes, respond to your questions, and listen to your opinions. There's so much to discuss.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA

THE FEDERAL BUDGET: PROJECTIONS TO REALITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD – NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE 30TH DISTRICT



Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Lawrence Smith, 16, an 11th grader at Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services in Highland Park, was named the first-place winner in this year's 30th Congressional District Art Competition. He won an all-expense-paid trip to join Congressman Becerra in Washington, D.C., for the annual awards program. **Way to go, Lawrence!**

Art Competition winner Lawrence Smith and his painting, "With This Torch," with Rep. Becerra in the U.S. Capitol.

First-time Home Buyers Gain First-hand Knowledge

On July 20, 2002, Congressman Becerra moderated the **30th Congressional District Homeownership Fair**. Residents gathered at Franklin High School to learn the "ins-and-outs" of purchasing a first home. The event successfully brought together representatives from banks, realtors, non-profit organizations, and federal and city housing agencies to answer common, but complicated, questions and to get the ball rolling for those who were ready to move. Congressman Becerra has championed legislation to make it easier for his constituents and all Americans to buy their first home and take a step closer toward achieving the American dream.

Bromack Receives \$1.5 Million from the SBA

The tragedy of September 11 proved especially painful for the **Bromack Company**, a thriving Lincoln Heights manufacturer of cabinetry for the aviation industry. In the aftermath of 9/11, Bromack was forced to temporarily lay off 50 percent of its workforce. In November 2001, Congressman Becerra brought **U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Hector Barreto** to Bromack and several local small businesses to assess the financial impact of September 11. Working with Congressman Becerra, Bromack owner **Brown McPhearson** successfully secured an emergency SBA loan to assist in the company's financial comeback. **That's the spirit, Bromack!**



Los Angeles City Councilman Ed Reyes, Congressman Becerra and SBA Administrator Barreto meet with Brown McPhearson, owner of the Bromack Company in Lincoln Heights, to discuss possible SBA assistance.

Si desea esta información en español, por favor llame al (213) 483-1425.

30TH DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

A Public Forum on Social Security:

**Bringing the Debate From
D.C. to Downtown L.A.**

**Tuesday, August 13, 2002
10 a.m. — Noon**

Rep. Becerra, a member of the Subcommittee on Social Security and the event sponsor, will be joined by special guest **Rep. Robert T. Matsui** (CA-5), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and other members of Congress to hear testimony from advocates, experts and beneficiaries. Interested in the latest updates on the Social Security **surplus, privatization** and **COLAs**? Come participate and learn more.

**Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Board Room
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

I annually host town hall meetings to provide my constituents with both a congressional update and an opportunity to voice their views and ask questions.

This year's topics include: The Federal Budget, Homeland Security, Social Security, Medicare, Prescription Drugs, and many more.

Echo Park

Saturday, August 10

Town Hall: 11 a.m. — Noon

Constituent Services Session:
Noon — 12:30 p.m.

**Elysian Heights
Elementary School
1562 Baxter St.
Los Angeles, CA 90026**

Eagle Rock

Monday, August 12

Town Hall: 6:30 — 7:30 p.m.

Constituent Services Session:
7:30 — 8 p.m.

**Eagle Rock
Elementary School
2057 Fair Park Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90041**

Mount Washington

Wednesday, August 14

Town Hall: 6:30 — 7:30 p.m.

Constituent Services Session:
7:30 — 8 p.m.

**Southwest Museum
234 Museum Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90065**

If you have further questions, or require special accommodations to these town halls or the Social Security Forum, please call my office at (213) 483-1425.