

And the disappointment with House Republicans begins

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When voters handed control of the House to Republicans on November 2nd, they expected the GOP to change the culture in Washington and pushing for spending cuts. Well, they are still pushing for cuts, but **not as much as they had promised**:

Many people knowledgeable about the federal budget said House Republicans could not keep their campaign promise to cut \$100 billion from domestic spending in a single year. Now it appears that Republicans agree.

As they prepare to take power on Wednesday, Republican leaders are scaling back that number by as much as half, aides say, because the current fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, will be nearly half over before spending cuts could become law.

While House Republicans were never expected to succeed in enacting cuts of that scale, given opposition in the Senate from the Democratic majority and some Republicans, and from President Obama, a House vote would put potentially vulnerable Republican lawmakers on record supporting deep reductions of up to 30 percent in education, research, law enforcement, transportation and more.

Now aides say that the \$100 billion figure was hypothetical, and that the objective is to get annual spending for programs other than those for the military, veterans and domestic security back to the levels of 2008, before Democrats approved stimulus spending to end the recession.

Yet "A Pledge to America," the manifesto House Republicans published last September, included the promise, "We will roll back government spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels, saving us at least \$100 billion in the first year alone."

This is nothing, absolutely nothing in terms of the overall budget. Why am I not surprised the GOP is stalling here? We've heard this song before. A new video from [Reason TV](#) points to a [Cato Institute study](#) that notes that budgets of the 101 largest programs the GOP pledged to eliminate in 1994 grew by 27 percent.

The [National Taxpayers Union](#) and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, organizations from opposite sides of the aisle, have [outlined \\$600 billion in spending cuts](#) that could be achieved if there were actually leadership on this issue instead of a desire to maintain the status quo.



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