

# The Washington Post

11/16/2011

## Ron Paul bashes Fed and supercommittee

By *Nia-Malika Henderson*

[Rep. Ron Paul](#) (R-Texas), who is experiencing a surge of [Iowa support](#), ripped the Federal Reserve Wednesday morning, blaming the bank for the collapse of the financial system, and calling for a return to the gold standard.

"After all these years of studying and reading and trying to figure out the system...there is no doubt that the Federal Reserve is immoral and unconstitutional," he said, in a 45-minute presentation at the CATO Institute monetary policy conference. "We don't need it."

Paul has been on the frontlines of calling for more oversight of the Federal and his desire to audit the bank have gained traction from both Democrats and Republicans.

Yet the GOP presidential candidate ripped into both parties, saying that Democrats spend recklessly on entitlements and Republicans spend without care on defense.

He called the Fed a big-spending enabler.

"It facilitates big government, it facilitates the desires of politicians," Paul said.

The Texas also slammed the debt-busting congressional [supercommittee](#), which is tasked with reducing the deficit by \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years. Its deadline is Nov. 23 or the cuts will kick in beginning in January 2013.

"The biggest thing we face financially is this huge debt, it's not a lack of revenue," Paul said. "And if we ever get serious, we would have to cut spending."

Yet Paul said that lawmakers are likely to try for more time rather than face mandatory cuts to defense and domestic programs. He said that if they were serious about reducing government spending, they would cut \$1 trillion next year.

"They are not going to cut spending," he said. "They are going to continue to print money...Even if those cuts went into effect, I consider them puny."

In his Wednesday speech, Paul said that the Occupy Wall Street protesters have a legitimate complaint against the government bailout of the big banks in fall 2008. He said that the average person has suffered from the rescue of Wall Street, while the rich have gained.

"The young people I talk to on campus, they think it's a big issue," said, adding that young people he meets on college campuses often chant "End the Fed" the title of his 2009 manifesto.. "The revolution is arriving."

In Iowa, he has maintained a base of support since the 2008 presidential race where he placed fifth in the caucuses there.

In the most recent poll of support there, Paul in a four-way tie with Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, and Herman Cain.

"We are at a precipice and we are going to be pushed over if we don't do something," he said. "For me, if you want peace and prosperity ...you have to deal with the Federal Reserve."