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# POLITICO

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## Should the GOP break their anti-tax pledge?

By: David Boaz – November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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The problem is spending. Federal spending rose by a trillion dollars in the first seven years of the Bush administration, and by another trillion since then. So spending every year is now *twice* what it was when Bill Clinton left office. Republicans and Democrats alike should be able to find wasteful, extravagant, and unnecessary programs to cut back or eliminate.

We don't need a tax increase. We need to rein in out-of-control spending. If we just ensure that spending grows more slowly than the economy, we can eventually balance the budget. But we should also consider whether the Department of Energy actually produces any energy, whether the Department of Education improves education for the \$98 billion a year it spends, and whether the Pentagon might be cut back after its massive increases of the past 15 years.