

a Nevada news program that has gone to great lengths to realize the benefits of U.S. citizenship for many new Americans.

Noticias 15 has shown the impact news media can have by supporting programs like “Ya Es Hora . . . Ciudadani” or “Now is the Time . . . Citizenship”, which motivates and assists lawful permanent residents to navigate the often daunting legal hurdles of our immigration system through a comprehensive civic engagement strategy.

Noticias 15, working with its sister programs in the Entravision Communications Corporation, provides a strong example of the support that can help to more fully engage immigrant communities and traditionally under-represented minority groups in civic participation. As one of the top-rated local early evening newscasts in the Las Vegas market, the news program has disseminated critical information on applying for U.S. citizenship, featuring segments on citizenship eligibility, requirements, and the application process. In addition, it has partnered with local and national agencies to boost voter registration among viewers.

This is particularly relevant in Nevada, where we have experienced rapid population growth in the Hispanic community—now nearly one in every four Nevadans is of Hispanic descent. We must encourage the active participation in civic life of every eligible Nevadan, and I am pleased that Noticias 15 is a partner in this effort.

Like many of my fellow Nevadans, I am aware of the challenges we have faced in increasing civic participation among Hispanics. Our proverbial wheels are spinning as we fight to make the American dream attainable for all families who work hard and play by the rules, level the playing field so that Latinos can become viable candidates for elective office, and remove the unfair barriers that hinder the Latino community from coming out to vote. Noticias 15's actions help to provide the traction that will keep our wheels from continually spinning up dust.

Today, I recognize Noticias 15 for its valuable support of “Ya Es Hora . . .

Ciudadani.” The momentum that has been created by this program and others will lead to better opportunities for the Hispanic community and for the larger community in which we all live. I look forward to seeing more contributions from this important organization in the Silver State.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORTS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the first budget scorekeeping reports for the 2009 budget resolution. The reports, which cover fiscal years 2008 and 2009, were prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended.

The reports show the effects of congressional action through July 7, 2008 and include the effects of Public Law 110-252, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, which the President signed into law on June 30, 2008. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con Res. 70, the 2009 budget resolution.

For 2008, the estimates show that current level spending is below the budget resolution by \$5.4 billion for budget authority and \$2.6 billion for outlays while current level revenues are above the budget resolution by \$4 billion. For 2009, the estimates show that current level spending is below the budget resolution by \$983 billion for budget authority and \$615.8 billion for outlays while current level revenues are above the budget resolution level by \$67.8 billion.

I ask unanimous consent that the letters and accompanying tables from CBO be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2008.

Hon. KENT CONRAD,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2008 budget and is current through July 7, 2008. This report is submitted

under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 of Table 2 of the report).

Since my last letter, dated January 24, 2008, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed several acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues. These amounts were included in the budget aggregates of S. Con. Res. 70. Please see footnote 1 of the accompanying report for a list of those acts. In addition, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252). This is CBO's first current level report since the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE,
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF JULY 7, 2008

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget resolution ¹	Current level ²	Current level over/under (-) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,454.2	2,448.9	-5.4
Outlays	2,435.9	2,433.2	-2.6
Revenues	1,875.4	8,879.4	4.0
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays ³	463.7	463.7	0.0
Social Security Revenues	666.7	666.7	0.0

¹ S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, assumed \$108.1 billion in budget authority and \$28.9 billion in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. P.L. 110-252, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110-252 (see footnote 2 of table 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have also been reduced for purposes of comparison.

² Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation, excluding amounts designated as emergency requirements (see footnote 2 of table 2), that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF JULY 7, 2008

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted:¹			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,879,400
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,441,010	1,394,887	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,604,649	1,635,118	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-596,805	-596,805	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	2,448,854	2,433,200	1,879,400
Enacted this session:			
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-252) ²	0	7	0
Total Current Level ^{2,3}	2,448,854	2,433,207	1,879,400
Total Budget Resolution ⁴	2,562,305	2,464,754	1,875,400
Adjustment to the budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁵	-108,056	-28,901	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,454,249	2,435,853	1,875,400
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	4,000
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	5,395	2,646	n.a.

¹ Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110-181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-232), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-234), SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-245).

² Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2008, which are not included in the current level total, are as follows:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252)	115,808	35,350	n.a.
³ For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.			
⁴ Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:			
	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,563,262	2,465,711	1,875,392
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (SPR Act) (section 323(d))	– 950	– 950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (Heroes Act) (section 323(d))	0	0	8
For adjustment to debt service for the SPR and Heroes acts (section 323(d))	– 7	– 7	0
Revised Budget Resolution	2,562,305	2,464,754	1,875,400

⁵ S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$108,056 million in budget authority and \$28,901 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. P.L. 110–252 designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–252 (see footnote 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have been reduced for purposes of comparison.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.
Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2008.
Hon. KENT CONRAD,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2009 budget and is current through July 7, 2008. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311

of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency re-

quirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 of Table 2 of the report).

This is CBO's first current level report for fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag).

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009, AS OF JULY 7, 2008

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget resolution ¹	Current level ²	Current level over/under (-) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,455.9	1,472.9	– 983.0
Outlays	2,490.9	1,875.1	– 615.8
Revenues	2,029.6	2,097.4	67.8
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays ³	493.6	493.6	0.0
Social Security Revenues	695.9	695.9	0.0

¹ S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, assumed \$70.0 billion in budget authority and \$74.8 billion in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Additionally, S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$5.8 billion in budget authority and \$1.2 billion in outlays for the Corps of Engineers. P.L. 110–252, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–252 (see footnote 2 of table 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have also been reduced for purposes of comparison.

² Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation, excluding amounts designated as emergency requirements (see footnote 2 of table 2), that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval.

In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009, AS OF JULY 7, 2008

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ¹			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,097,399
Permanent and other spending legislation	1,440,235	1,392,509	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	471,616	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	– 587,749	– 587,749	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	852,486	1,276,376	2,097,399
Enacted this session:			
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252) ²	0	23	27
Entitlements and mandates:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	620,449	598,715	0
Total Current Level ^{2,3}	1,472,935	1,875,114	2,097,426
Total Budget Resolution ⁴	2,531,668	2,566,868	2,029,644
Adjustment to the budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁵	– 70,000	– 74,809	n.a.
Adjustment to the budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁵	– 5,761	– 1,152	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,455,907	2,490,907	2,029,644
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	67,782
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	982,972	615,793	n.a.

¹ Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110–181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–232), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–233), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–234), SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–245).

² Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2009, which are not included in the current level total, are as follows:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252)	85,155	87,211	n.a.
³ For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.			
⁴ Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:			
	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,530,703	2,565,903	2,029,612
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (SPR Act) (section 323(d))	950	950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (Heroes Act) (section 323(d))	28	28	32
For adjustment to debt service for the SPR and Heroes acts (section 323(d))	– 13	– 13	0

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Revised Budget Resolution	2,531,668	2,566,868	2,029,644
⁵ S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$70,000 million in budget authority and \$74,809 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Additionally, S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$5,761 million in budget authority and \$1,152 million in outlays for the Corps of Engineers. P.L. 110-252, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110-252 (see footnote 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have also been reduced for purposes of comparison. SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office. Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.			

REMEMBERING SENATOR JESSE HELMS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our friend and former colleague, Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina. When Senator Helms passed away on the Fourth of July, our country lost a patriot and a strong conservative voice.

Senator Helms' life was about public service. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy, where he first developed his commitment to a strong U.S. military and America's security at home and abroad. He served in a number of public roles in Washington, DC, and in his home State of North Carolina, and in 1972 was elected to the U.S. Senate—a position he held for five consecutive terms.

Senator Helms was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when I came to the Senate in 1996, where I have served for 12 years. As chairman, he consistently maintained a powerful and determined voice in his efforts to strengthen America. I will always be grateful for his many personal courtesies and his constant encouragement and assistance over the 6 years that we worked together.

Senator Helms was outspoken, strong-minded, and unwavering in his beliefs. He was a leader who will be missed. Lilibet and I extend our thoughts and prayers to Jesse's widow and our friend Dot and his wonderful family.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES UPDATE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to update the Senate on the deteriorating situation in California.

Simply put, the situation is untenable.

In the past 2 weeks, 1,781 wildfires have burned roughly 688,000 acres—an area roughly the size of Rhode Island. Today, 323 fires continue to burn including the Camp Fire, in Butte County. As a result of that fire, 14,000 residents have had to evacuate their homes and nearly 50 homes have been destroyed in the past 48 hours.

It is likely to get worse—with a heat wave and more lightning strikes forecast—just as State and Federal resources are being depleted.

Governor Schwarzenegger has told the Federal Government that California cannot continue to fight these fires—that with current resources the State cannot protect lives and property.

California needs the following: Personnel: The Governor needs 302 more hand crews to put on the front lines and 773 support personnel. The State

has tapped out its resources; it is time for the Federal Government to step up to the plate.

And the Forest Service is also short on staff. Key supervisors and firefighters are missing from our national parks, hampering firefighting and brush clearing efforts. Last month the agency reported 380 vacancies in California—roughly 8.5 percent out of a total force of 4,432. These positions must be filled. Agriculture Under Secretary Mark Rey promised me these vacancies would be filled by July 8. But as of today only 289 positions have been filled. We need to do more.

A Full Emergency Declaration: Governor Schwarzenegger has declared emergencies in 11 counties: Butte, Trinity, Shasta, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Monterey, Mendocino, Santa Cruz, Plumas, Kern, and Mariposa. But President Bush has issued only a limited emergency declaration. California is asking the President for a full disaster declaration, which will open the State to broader assistance under the Stafford Act. I fully endorse this request.

Funding: California's fire emergency is burning up Federal firefighting dollars at an alarming rate. The Forest Service has already expended \$704 million—more than half the \$1.2 billion in available funds—and fire season has just begun. Therefore, I am asking for \$910 million in emergency appropriations for the Forest Service and Interior Department.

This emergency funding, to be used throughout the United States as needed this year, includes: \$610 million for wildfire suppression; \$125 million for fuels reduction on State and private lands; \$100 million for rehabilitation; \$50 million for fuels reduction on Federal lands; and \$25 million for firefighter recruitment and retention in high risk areas.

Air assets: The Governor has told President Bush that we need an additional 41 helicopters in California. I am committed to working with the President to make these aircraft available from other States, the military, or foreign nations. Whatever it takes, we need these resources.

We also need to permanently station military firefighting aircraft in California. It is increasingly clear to me that the key to these wildfires in remote geographic areas is immediate aerial assault on the fires. You cannot get firefighters into these areas fast enough. Earlier this year I asked the President and Defense Secretary Robert Gates to permanently station two C-130 tankers at Point Mugu. This is vital; several C-130s are working these fires today, but they had to travel

great distances to get to California. This is unacceptable.

I am writing to the President again to renew this critical request.

Let me share with you a letter written by Henry Renteria, Director of Governor Schwarzenegger's Office of Emergency Services, to R. David Paulison, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It says in part:

We are in an unprecedented draw-down in the state's emergency resources. Many fire departments are barely able to maintain sufficient resources for initial attack on new structure fires, while still participating in the statewide mutual aid effort to address these wildfires.

Even with the assistance of more than 24,000 firefighters from 40 States, "California has outstanding orders for fire resources that it is unable to fill," the letter states.

Yesterday there were requests for 230 engines that went unfilled, and at one point last week there were requests for 400 crews of 15-20 firefighters that were not met.

The Governor's letter continues:

California is in the untenable position of having orders for firefighting resources remaining unfilled for multiple days. The Governor has taken the extraordinary action this week to direct the training of 400 California National Guard soldiers in basic firefighting. These soldiers will be assigned to the firefight as quickly as they can be trained and equipped.

Mr. Renteria—again, the Governor's authorized representative—concludes by warning that "the cumulative impact of these disasters has exhausted state and local resources to the point in which California cannot avert threat to live and improved property adequately."

This is without question a clear and present threat to the largest State in the Nation.

California is on the precipice of a major catastrophe. California has spent more than \$300 million fighting these fires—that is more than it spent on last year's firestorms. And this is only the second week of July.

Let me remind you of what the fall brings to southern California. It brings strong Santa Ana winds, which fuel massive and deadly firestorms: In 2003 in California, huge wildfires burned roughly 1 million acres; killed 21; and destroyed more than 5,000 homes. And last year in California, wildfires blackened 1,087,110 acres; killed 10; and destroyed 3,079 structures.

We are in a new and dangerous time.

The great bulk of the fires that have burned since last month—more than 1,000—were sparked by more than 8,000 dry lightning strikes.