

December 1, 2013

## **OPINION: Gov. Kasich: Our nation's budget must be balanced**

For Ohio families, balancing the checkbook is an essential value. It's something we all need to do in order to make sure we don't spend more than we take in. And state government in Ohio is no different, thanks to our state constitution's requirement that we balance our budget every year. Unfortunately, the federal government operates in a very different way than Ohio families or even Ohio's state government, as Washington's \$17 trillion federal debt and \$663 billion deficit demonstrate.

The massive fiscal sinkhole that's engulfing our nation gets deeper every day, making it harder and harder for our children to realize the kind of better tomorrow we want for them. If we are to have any hope of turning this situation around, we need to dramatically change how the American government does business.

We need a federal balanced budget amendment. And we need it now.

In Ohio, we recently did our part to move toward this goal, making ours the 20th state to pass a resolution calling for a balanced budget amendment. By doing so, we are urging Washington's decision-makers to come together and draft a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution and then submit it to the states for ratification.

But we are also putting in place a powerful second option should federal leaders fail to act on their own. If 14 more states join us with similar resolutions, we can take this movement directly to a constitutional convention.

Washington does not need to look any farther than Ohio to see first-hand the powerful impact that a balanced budget can have. We've already shown the way for others to follow.

**Op-ed continued here: [http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20131202/EDIT/312020013/OPINION-Gov-Kasich-Our-nation-s-budget-must-balanced?nclick\\_check=1](http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20131202/EDIT/312020013/OPINION-Gov-Kasich-Our-nation-s-budget-must-balanced?nclick_check=1)**

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