



# A VOTE TO PAY FOR MORE WAR? THE COST TO MINNESOTA

March 2007

Congress will soon vote on at least \$100 billion more in war spending. About \$78 billion of that amount will be for the Iraq War, bringing total spending through the current fiscal year to nearly half a trillion dollars.<sup>1</sup>

## The taxpayer costs of the Iraq War to Minnesota

Already appropriated	\$9.1 billion
Up for vote	\$1.9 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11.0 billion</b>

In the lead up to the war, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget stated that it would cost between \$50-\$60 billion. The White House discounted its own economic advisor when he suggested that the war could cost between \$100-\$200 billion.

Even the half a trillion dollar price tag does not begin to cover future costs. The administration seeks \$142 billion in more war funding for the next fiscal year. Since the war is deficit-financed, interest payments alone could rise to at least one hundred billion dollars. Spending on veterans' health care and disability payments for the many severely wounded soldiers could also mount to hundreds of billions of dollars.<sup>2</sup>

### After four years, the Iraq War continues unabated:

- ◆ Total insurgent attacks and the number of multiple fatality bombings are twice what they were a year ago. In February alone there were 54 multiple-fatality bombings that led to 1,684 wounded and 704 deaths.<sup>3</sup>

### The human costs<sup>6</sup>

- ▷ 3,195 U.S. soldiers dead
  - 47 from Minnesota
- ▷ 23,000 U.S. soldiers wounded
  - 379 from Minnesota
- ▷ hundreds of thousands of Iraqis dead
- ▷ 1.7 million Iraqis displaced in Iraq
- ▷ 2 million Iraqi refugees in other countries

- ◆ Apart from the tens of thousands of reported U.S. casualties, nearly one in five returning veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ More than 60 percent of Iraqis approved of attacking US-led forces and almost 80 percent of Iraqis believe that the U.S. military presence is provoking more conflict than it is preventing.<sup>5</sup>

**Notes:** <sup>1</sup>NPP's estimate of the cost of the Iraq War includes only incremental *budgetary* costs, not interest costs or future costs. The number is based on the analysis of legislation appropriating funding for the Iraq War and Congressional Research Service reports and includes \$78 billion of the proposed \$100 billion in additional war spending. State breakdowns are based on the share of taxes paid by each state into the federal funds budget according to IRS data. <sup>2</sup>See L. Bilmes and J. Stiglitz, 'The economic costs of the Iraq War.' Cost depends on number of years the war lasts, interest rates and other factors. <sup>3</sup>Brookings Institution, *Iraq Index*, March 5, 2007. <sup>4</sup>A National Center for PTSD study indicated that 18% of veterans returning from Iraq had PTSD. <sup>5</sup>Program on International Policy Attitudes, 'The Iraqi public on the U.S. presence and the future of Iraq,' September 27, 2006. <sup>6</sup>Figures from Iraq Coalition Casualties as of March 12, 2007, Dept. of Defense Directorate of Information Operations and Reports as of Feb. 17, 2007, *The Lancet*, and UNHCR.

## The Cost of the Iraq War to Your Congressional District

The following table lists the cost of the Iraq War, including a portion of the \$100 billion current proposal, for each congressional district in the state of Minnesota. Alongside the cost is what the people of Minnesota could have if the money was spent locally instead.

<b><i>Congressional District and Representative</i></b>	<b><i>Cost of the Iraq War</i></b>	<b><i>Number of children that could have been provided with health care for the length of the Iraq War</i></b>	<b><i>OR Number of affordable housing units that could have been built</i></b>	<b><i>OR Number of elementary schools that could have been built</i></b>
<b><i>01 Walz</i></b>	\$1.16 billion	65,400	1,271	24
<b><i>02 Kline</i></b>	\$1.74 billion	98,018	1,905	35
<b><i>03 Ramstad</i></b>	\$1.81 billion	101,945	1,982	37
<b><i>04 McCollum</i></b>	\$1.33 billion	74,772	1,454	27
<b><i>05 Ellison</i></b>	\$1.18 billion	66,395	1,291	24
<b><i>06 Bachman</i></b>	\$1.61 billion	90,809	1,765	33
<b><i>07 Peterson</i></b>	\$1.04 billion	58,247	1,132	21
<b><i>08 Oberstar</i></b>	\$1.08 billion	60,537	1,177	22

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**Notes:** The amount for each congressional district is based on the state total, and the population and income level of the congressional district. For more information and more examples of 'trade-offs,' go to <http://nationalpriorities.org/database>.

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