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**Campaign Urging Presidential Candidates to  
Debate the Debt Launched  
April 30, 2012**

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MAYA MACGUINEAS

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) this afternoon kicked off its campaign to urge the 2012 presidential candidates to devote one of three debates scheduled for this fall entirely to the issue of the unsustainable national debt. The group also launched [www.DebateTheDebt.org](http://www.DebateTheDebt.org), where concerned citizens can learn more and lend their support.

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“With the country borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, and a \$7 trillion ‘fiscal cliff’ looming at the end of the year, how can we not dedicate a debate to the question of how the candidates would tackle the debt?,” said CRFB president Maya MacGuineas. MacGuineas authored a [column](#) that ran Friday on CNN.com expanding on the concept.

At the debate, each candidate would present and defend his plan to achieve the amount of savings needed to stabilize the national debt as a percentage of GDP. A moderator would lead the candidates through a discussion of their spending and revenue proposals. The plans could be scored by outside experts ahead of time so the discussion wouldn’t get bogged down with accusations of inaccurate math.

“Deficits and the debt are the overwhelming national issues. Candidates must debate the deficit/debt crisis,” said CRFB co-chair and former Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-MN). Frenzel also recently authored an [opinion piece](#) on the subject.

The nation’s debt is on an unsustainable path and the American electorate understands the seriousness of the situation. Debt and deficits consistently rank as top concerns for voters, illustrating the need for a debate. To learn more about the Debate the Debt effort and how to help, go to [www.DebateTheDebt.org](http://www.DebateTheDebt.org).

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“Those who want to sit in the Oval Office need to address our spiraling debt head on. Presidential candidates must debate the debt,” said CRFB co-chair and former Rep. Charlie Stenholm (D-TX).

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