

The Mortgage We Can't Afford: How Washington's Debt Addiction Will Bankrupt the American Dream

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The Scale of the Crisis: Numbers Beyond Imagination

Most Americans can grasp the price of a home—whether \$250,000, \$500,000, or even \$1 million. Though substantial, these numbers still live within the realm of human experience. Scaling \$1 million up a thousandfold—to \$1 billion—stretches the imagination into the territory of Fortune 500 executives and Silicon Valley moguls. And climbing the ladder another thousandfold to \$1 trillion—an amount equal to *twice* the annual budget of Germany—lifts us into the realm of large nation states.

Now consider this: the United States faces a national debt exceeding \$35 trillion. That's 35,000 billion dollars—or 35 million million dollars. That's the equivalent of 70 years' worth of Germany's annual budget, measured in today's dollars. Faced with figures of this magnitude, even the most diligent, fiscally responsible citizens find it nearly impossible to visualize the true size of the U.S. national debt burden.

To make these stakes more relatable, imagine the problem not in trillions but at the level of a household mortgage—a language every American homeowner understands. Homeowners, after all, know what it means to sign for a 15- or 30-year loan, to live within their means, and to pay their debts with discipline. In stark contrast, our elected leaders have embraced a culture of limitless borrowing, constructing a financial house of cards destined to collapse.

Paying for a House You'll Never Own

Picture a second mortgage landing on the doorstep of every *homeowning household* in America—not from a bank, but from their own government. If the U.S. were to pay down its \$35 trillion national debt over a 15- or 30-year term, and the burden fell *solely* on the nation's 86 million homeowning households—those with direct experience managing long-term debt—the results would be staggering. Each homeowning household would be on the hook for either \$560,000 (over 15 years) or \$742,000 (over 30 years) in total payments, including interest. Even when adjusted for future inflation, the cost would still exceed \$350,000 in today's dollars—a figure that may appear smaller only because dollars lose value over time (ironically, the declining value of the dollar is itself fueled in part by the same cycle of debt accumulation).

Translated into the familiar terms of a mortgage, the monthly burden on a 15-year “loan” would be approximately \$4,424, while a 30-year “loan” would demand about \$3,983 per month. These staggering amounts would require most American homeowners—two-thirds of whom are still

paying off their *original* mortgage—to make life-altering sacrifices just to stay afloat and fend off bankruptcy.

Perhaps most concerning of all is that, unlike a traditional mortgage, this monthly obligation wouldn't build equity, secure property, or offer *anything* in return. It would exist only to pay for decades of fiscal irresponsibility—essentially, a second mortgage with no home to show for it.

Of course, all of these calculations rest on the unlikely premise that Congress and the President would immediately cease passing deficit-based budgets—a scenario that borders on fantasy, given that, as of 2025, our elected officials have added an average of \$2.46 trillion to the national debt each year for the past five years.

The Path Forward: A Constitutional Solution

If this burden seems unbearable, it's because it is. And worse, there is no cavalry riding to the rescue—not from Washington, not from Wall Street, and not from wishful thinking. Meaningful reform cannot be entrusted to the very political establishment that created this crisis. The only realistic solution is structural: to force fiscal discipline back into our national DNA through constitutional reform.

That is why grassroots efforts like the **Convention of States Project** matter. Using Article V of the Constitution, the people—through their state legislatures—can bypass Congress to propose amendments that require a balanced budget, impose spending restraints, and restore the constitutional architecture—through additional measures like term-limits for both congress and the judiciary—that once safeguarded our republic. If we do not act soon, the debt burden now measured in trillions will crush *this* generation—and leave only wreckage for those who follow.

Under Article V, if two-thirds of state legislatures (34 states) pass matching resolutions calling for a convention, they can compel Congress to convene it—*whether Washington likes it or not*. This is not an act of rebellion; it is a constitutional safeguard designed precisely for moments like this, when the federal government refuses to correct itself. Success will not come from lobbying senators entombed in marble halls, or appealing to distant House members already besieged by 750,000 constituents apiece, but from rallying neighbors, communities, and state representatives still close enough to hear the will of the people.

The road back to fiscal sanity does not run through Washington, D.C. It runs through the statehouses of America—if we are wise and courageous enough to take it.