



Santa Clara County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Democratic Party: Securing the Homeland

"We shouldn't be opening firehouses in Baghdad and closing them in Brooklyn. . . . Our first defenders should never come in last in the budget. Firefighters are first up the stairs . . . they deserve to be first in line when we decide our spending priorities.

[Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry](#)

"The American people can be certain that the mission of homeland security will be carried out with focus and resolve, with the resources the task requires."

— George W. Bush

Swearing in ceremony of Secretary of the
Department of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge,
January 24, 2003.

[White House Website](#)

That's what Bush says. It's NOT what Bush does.

- Republican Budget Underfunds Homeland Security for the Past 3 Years.
(Bush cuts First Responders funding by \$684 million.)
- 90 Percent of Cities Haven't Received \$1.5 Billion Share of Homeland Security Funding
- At least 21 Times from 9-11 to June 30, 2003, Bush and Congressional Republicans Restricted or Rejected Resources to Make Us Safer
- In 557 Public Statements on National Security between Inauguration Day and September 11, 2001;, Bush Administration Mentions Al Qaeda only ONCE—to say they will continue President Bill Clinton's policy to Block Trade with the Taliban.
- Democrats Increase Homeland Security Funding, Republicans Take it Away
- John Kerry's Priority: A Plan to Defend Our Homeland

"America needs a new strategy for homeland security that asks Americans to do more and takes steps as big as the threats we face."

[Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry](#)

[Republican Budget Underfunds Homeland Security for the Past 3 Years](#)

The Bush budget significantly underfunds Homeland Security. It underfunds key priorities such as police and fire-fighters, port security, border security, and aviation security. The House Republican budget is even worse – providing \$155 million less than the President's budget for next year and \$857 million less over the next five years for America's homeland security priorities. [“Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004]

Republican Budget Cuts in Homeland Security

\$648	million cut	First Responders (police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, etc.) Bush's budget slashes California's First Responder monies by almost <u>\$74 million</u> .
\$959	million cut	State and law enforcement Bush's budget slashes California's COPS program <u>\$655 million</u> .
\$ 79	million cut	Port Security Grants (helps secure nation's 361 seaports)
\$779	million cut	Postal Service biotechnology detection to safeguard against anthrax & ricin-like attacks
\$ 42	million cut	Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which helps secure nuclear material worldwide

[“Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004; “On the Issues: Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#)]

[Bush guts First Responder funding by \\$648 million \(15%\)](#). The Bush Administration's budget significantly cuts grants for our nation's First Responders: police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Police departments nationwide lack protective gear to safely secure a site after detonation of a weapon of mass destruction and fire departments have only enough radios for half the firefighters on a shift. [“Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004]

[Bush's budget cuts California's First Responder Formula grants by \\$74 million](#). [“On the Issues: Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#)]

[Bush budget slashes aid to state and local law enforcement by a total of \\$959 million \(32%\)](#). It eliminates local law enforcement block grant and the Byrne Grant program. Bush's budget slashes the COPS program by 87 percent. [“Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004]

[Bush's budget slashes California's COPS program \\$655 million](#). [“A State By State Report On The Bush 2005 Budget” [A Report by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle](#) February 12, 2004]

[Bush Cuts port security grants by \\$79 million \(63%\)](#). A weapon of mass destruction detonated in a cargo container or at a seaport could cause thousands of casualties and an economic loss of \$58 billion to \$1 trillion. Yet, Bush requests only \$46 million for port security – a \$79 million (63 percent) reduction from this year's enacted level of \$125 million – to help the nation's 361 seaports adopt important security enhancements, such as installing cameras, building fences, and posting guards. Under this budget, the Coast Guard estimates that our ports will still be short over \$500 million. [“Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004]

[Bush doesn't fund interoperable communications grants—an \\$85 million cut from last year](#). Although interoperable communications systems remain a critical need for the first responder community, the President's Budget requests no funding for this program -- a reduction of \$85 million from FY04. In addition, the Science and Technology Directorate received no funding for operations of Project SAFECOM, which coordinates all federal interoperable communications efforts. [“Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004]

[Bush doesn't fund biotechnology detection \(anthrax and ricin-like attacks\) for Postal Service.](#) The President's budget for the U.S. Postal Service does not include \$779 million for biodetection technology the Postal Service has requested to help safeguard the public against anthrax and ricin-like attacks. ["Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security" [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004]

In California, Bush cuts \$11.5 from the Centers on Disease Control's state and local capacity bioterrorism grants which fund needed improvements in public health and medical infrastructure, statewide. ["A State By State Report On The Bush 2005 Budget" [A Report by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle](#) February 12, 2004]

[Bush doesn't fund passenger rail and public transit security.](#) According to Congress' chief auditor, "insufficient funding is the most significant challenge in making [U.S.] transit systems as safe as possible." (US General Accounting Office)

The terrorist threat to public transportation is real. In Spain, nearly 200 innocent people were killed in March 2004 and more than 1,500 injured in a terrorist attack on Madrid's commuter train system. This is not an isolated incident. One-third of terrorist attacks worldwide target transportation systems — public transit is the most frequent target.

With nearly nine billion passenger trips taken on U.S. mass transit systems each year, investing in the safety of these systems must be a priority for the Department of Homeland Security.

"To my understanding, not one cent in the transportation bill is devoted specifically to security. We should not be forcing states, cities, and regions to choose between a transportation system that works and one that is secure."

[Rep. Jim Turner \(D-TX\)](#), Ranking Democrat
Select Committee on Homeland Security

[[Letter](#) to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge: "Homeland Democrats: Rail Security Must Be a Priority" from 15 Democrats of the Select Committee on Homeland Security March 15, 2004; "House Democrats: Administration's Rail Security Efforts Off-Track" From the Office of Congressman Jim Turner [Press Release](#) April 1, 2004]

For more information: "Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security: Republican Homeland Security Funding Falls Short As Law Enforcement Struggles to Keep American Communities Safe." [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004]

[90 Percent of Cities Haven't Received \\$1.5 Billion Share of Homeland Security Funding.](#) "A study last fall [2003] by the U.S. Conference of Mayors showed 90 percent of cities had not received their share of \$1.5 billion allocated by the nation's largest homeland security funding program. Moreover, an informal poll in 43 states recently showed that a third of counties nationwide still have not seen any federal funding for first responders," -- Larry Naake, Executive Director of the National Association of Counties. ["Ridge Cites State 'Logjam' for Aid Delay" [Associated Press](#) Feb. 12, 2004]

"If you talk to mayors, to governors, to police chiefs, they are just not ready, and we had better get ready."
— Sen. Warren Rudman, R-NH
(retired)

[Report: Homeland security grossly underfunded by [CNN.com](#) 6/30/03]

Examples

November 2001: "Senate Democrats pressed ahead ... with ... a fiscal 2002 spending bill for the Defense Department that includes \$15 billion in extra funding for homeland security and recovery efforts following the attacks of September 11—\$15 billion the White House refuse[d] to endorse." ["Senate gets to slow start on contentious defense bill" [CNN's Inside Politics](#), 12/7/01]

December 2001: A day after the Senate Appropriations Committee votes 29-0 for a bill that includes \$13.2 billion for homeland security programs, Bush threatens to veto it. [*Had Enough?* James Carville]

"Senate Republicans reduce homeland security funding in the Defense Appropriations bill by \$4.6 billion. Under further pressure from the White House, conferees reduce funds by an additional \$200 million. This reduction comes from the areas of airport security, port security, nuclear facility security, and postal security." [*Had Enough?* James Carville]

June 2002: "The Senate, by a bipartisan vote of 71-22, pass[ed] a spending bill that include[d] \$8.3 billion for homeland security. The next day, the president's senior advisers recommend a veto of this "*excessive homeland security spending.*" [*Had Enough?* by James Carville]

August 2002: "Bush decides not to spend the \$2.5 billion in emergency funding for homeland security. He casts his decision as one of "fiscal responsibility." [*Had Enough?* by James Carville]

April 2003: Senate Republicans defeated South Carolina Democratic Senator Fritz Hollings's \$1 billion proposal to improve port security. [Port security's needed funding, [The Post and Courier](#) 4/7/03]

Senate Republicans rejected five Democratic proposals worth \$4.8 billion in additional homeland security funding to offset the costs to local and state governments for additional costs for first responders, safeguard nuclear weapons and nuclear material in the U.S. and throughout the world and nuclear detectors at seaports around the world. Republicans rejected the funding. FOX News reported "Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he only supported assistance to the airline industry..." ["House, Senate Panels Pass Amended War Budget" [Fox News](#) 4/1/03; "Democrats Want More Homeland Security Spending" [Cybercast News Service](#) 4/2/03]

Congressional Republicans rejected a Democratic proposal to add \$2.5 billion for tightened security at dams, more aid to state and local emergency agencies, and other domestic safety efforts. On a straight party line vote in committee, the 35 Republicans voted against the homeland security funding while the 28 Democrats voted for the additional funding. ["House, Senate Panels Pass Amended War Budget" [Fox News](#) 4/1/03]

June 2003: "[T]he House Appropriations Committee and later on the House floor, Republicans rejected a Democratic amendment to add \$1 billion for homeland defense, paid for by trimming a piece of the recently enacted tax break for 200,000 millionaires from \$88,000 each to \$83,000." ["Unprepared For Terrorists" [Washington Post](#) 7/6/03]

- 557 Public Statements on National Security between Inauguration Day and September 11, 2001: Bush Administration Mentions Al Qaeda only ONCE—to say they will continue President Bill Clinton’s policy to Block Trade with the Taliban.

Timeline: <u>January 20, 2001 to September 10, 2001</u> Bush Administration Public Statements on National Security, Defense and International Affairs	
Total number of security-related statements from 1/20/2001 to 09/10/2001:	557
Total number with <i>al Qaeda</i> mentioned: (continuation of President Clinton’s executive order blocking transactions with Taliban)	1
Total number with “ <i>Osama bin Laden</i> ” mentioned: (17 in posed questions at press briefings)	19
Total number with “ <i>Iraq or Saddam Hussein</i> ” mentioned:	104
Total number with “ <i>missile defense</i> ” mentioned:	101
Total number with “ <i>weapons of mass destruction</i> ” mentioned:	65
<i>Sources:</i> Official news releases, press briefings, press availabilities, news advisories, speeches, public addresses, executive orders, and proclamations posted by the White House, the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the Department of Justice; transcripts of major media appearances by top Bush administration officials (Sunday talk shows and others).	
For full report, go to Center for American Progress .	

[Democrats Increase Funding Homeland Security, Republicans Take it Away.](#) Democrats fight for better equipment for firefighters and police, stronger borders’ protection, and realistic plans to respond to emergencies.

[Democrats Introduce Bills to Provide America With Homeland Security Funding, Republicans Refused to Let Congress Vote.](#) Rep. Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, submitted two amendments to the Transportation Equities Act authorizing \$250 million in grants to local transit authorities for improving security of transit systems. The House Rules Committee did not permit the amendments to be voted on by the full House. [“House Democrats: Administration’s Rail Security Efforts Off-Track” From the Office of Congressman Jim Turner [Press Release](#) April 1, 2004]

[Democratic Budget Provides \\$5.9 Billion More for Homeland Security than Republican Budget.](#) Closing the security gap in a number of key areas – including our borders, our ports, our railroads, and our aviation system – is a top priority for Democrats. The Democratic budget provides \$5.9 billion more than the Republican budget over the next five years for homeland security. That’s \$5 billion MORE than Bush’s budget over the next five years for homeland security. [“Fact Sheet: GOP Budget and Homeland Security” [Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) March 25, 2004; “Fact Sheets for House Consideration of the 2005 Budget” [House Budget Committee Democratic Caucus](#) March 23, 2004]

[Democrats Added Funding to Budget Resolution -- Republicans Defeated in Partyline Vote.](#) During Budget Committee mark-up of the budget resolution, Republicans defeated on a partyline vote a Democratic amendment that would have added funding to strengthen homeland security elements including port security, first responders, and aviation and border security. [“Fact Sheets for House Consideration of the 2005 Budget” [House Budget Committee Democratic Caucus](#) March 23, 2004]

[John Kerry's Priority: A Plan to Defend Our Homeland](#)

[A National "Defend America" Initiative](#)

On 9-11, Americans showed they want to contribute to their communities and our country. Yet, the Bush Administration has asked little of Americans, focusing instead on giving more tax cuts to the wealthy. John Kerry believes winning the War against Terrorism will require the best our country has to offer and asking more of Americans. He will make Homeland Security a central mission of the National Guard as well as AmeriCorps. John Kerry's plan will also include a *New Community Defense Service* for volunteer manpower in the event of an attack. Kerry will call on the private sector to bring technological innovations to the war on terrorism. ["Defending the American Homeland" [John Kerry for President Website](#)]

[A New 'First Defenders' Initiative to Assure Local Responders Equipped and Ready](#)

America shouldn't require First Responders/Defenders to be inadequately staffed or equipped. However, again and again, the Bush Administration has looked the other way when it comes to real money for First Defenders. John Kerry believes First Defenders should be a priority. Kerry's *First Defenders Program* will assure First Defenders have the gear to do their jobs safely and effectively. John Kerry proposes creating a new fund for fire fighters – named after a 9-11 hero, Father Mychal Judge, the chaplain of the New York City Fire Department who died delivering last rites. The *Father Judge Fund* is similar to the COPS program and hires up to 100,000 new firefighters to provide the equipment necessary to assure firefighters are prepared. Kerry believes we must restore funding to COPS and its initial mission of 100,000 new police officers. This initiative develops appropriate standards for preparedness in our cities and provide resources so communities can meet these goals. ["Defending the American Homeland" [John Kerry for President Website](#)]

[Bringing Information Technology to the War on Terror](#)

Most firefighters and local police don't have necessary equipment to communicate with each other during an attack. John Kerry believes local enforcement agencies must have the technology they need to fight terrorism, assuring First Responders can communicate in an attack and be able to share information with appropriate state and local officials. With better technology, we can replace these "big-net" tactics with more targeted efforts to identify real terrorism suspects. ["Defending the American Homeland" [John Kerry for President Website](#)]

[Reforming Domestic Intelligence](#)

Many examinations of 9/11 raise serious questions about whether the FBI is the right agency to conduct domestic intelligence collection and analysis. Kerry believes the Bush Administration's proposed Terrorist Threat Integration Center, (TTIC) will not be able to do the job, given its dependence on other agencies' analysts, the bureaucratic divide created between those charged with identifying vulnerabilities and those charged with eliminating vulnerabilities, and too many people in charge complicating coordination of state and local governments to share information. John Kerry believes simplifying bureaucracy makes sense. America needs an independent intelligence capability that focuses explicitly on domestic intelligence. ["Defending the American Homeland" [John Kerry for President Website](#)]

[A National Homeland Health Initiative](#)

America's public health system has risen to important challenges before, but it lacks necessary means to detect or contain major outbreaks of illness or injury. John Kerry believes we must connect the nation's public health systems with a real time detection system to pool patient data nationwide. This initiative provides training in developing plans for surges in outbreaks. We also need to increase research –bringing together the best of the public and private sectors to develop broad-spectrum designer antidotes so our First Responders and our population can be protected and treated from the widest possible range of attacks. ["Defending the American Homeland" [John Kerry for President Website](#)]

[Defending Our Skies, Sea and Land](#)

Currently, 95% of all non-North American U.S. trade travels by sea and arrives in relatively few ports. John Kerry believes improvements in port security must be made and recognizes global prosperity and America's economic power depends on an efficient commerce system. Kerry's plan develops standards for port security and other

container loading facilities and assures facilities meet basic standards. To improve commerce security, John Kerry believes in accelerating the timetable for action plans agreed to in the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico “smart border” accords as well as implement security measures for cross-border bridges. John Kerry will pursue modest safety standards for privately held infrastructure and will help owners find economical ways to pay for increased security. [“Defending the American Homeland” [John Kerry for President Website](#)]

For more information: [John Kerry: A Homeland Security Plan to Keep America Safe](#) and [Plans to Assure America is Prepared for Increased Terrorism Threat:Calls for More Information and Resources for Local Law Enforcement.](#)

Additional Resources: Democratic National Committee Research
[The Bush Record: Homeland Insecurity](#)

Center for American Progress
[Think Again: Whatever Happened to Homeland Security?](#)
[HOMELAND SECURITY – LACKING SECURITY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL:](#)

The Democratic Party: Securing the Homeland

