



A VOTE FOR MORE WAR

THE COST TO NORTH CAROLINA

August 2007

With Congress' recent vote for an additional \$100 billion more in war spending, the total spent or allocated for the Iraq War alone rises to nearly half a trillion dollars. The cost to taxpayers of North Carolina now totals \$12.3 billion.¹

The taxpayer costs of the Iraq War to North Carolina

Already appropriated	\$10.2 billion
Appropriated in May	\$2.1 billion
Total	\$12.3 billion

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.²

After four years, the Iraq War continues unabated:

- ◆ An average of 163 daily attacks by insurgents and militia was recorded in May, 2007—roughly twice the average one year earlier—while daily attacks in Baghdad increased from 28.9 to 50.7 attacks per day, despite the recent “surge”. Meanwhile, Baghdad residents receive on average only 5.6 hours of electricity per day.³

The human costs⁶

- ▷ 3,653 U.S. soldiers dead
 - 85 from North Carolina
- ▷ 26,953 U.S. soldiers wounded
 - 701 from North Carolina
- ▷ hundreds of thousands of Iraqis dead
- ▷ over 2 million Iraqis displaced in Iraq
- ▷ another 2 million Iraqi refugees in other countries

- ◆ Apart from the tens of thousands of reported U.S. casualties, nearly one in five returning veterans suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.⁴

- ◆ 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.⁵

Notes: ¹NPP'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 additional \$100 billion in war spending passed in May by Congress. State breakdowns are based on the share of taxes paid by each state into the federal funds budget according to IRS data. ²See 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. ³Brookings Institution, *Iraq Index*, July 30, 2007. ⁴A National Center for PTSD study indicated that 18% of veterans returning from Iraq had PTSD. ⁵Program on International Policy Attitudes, 'The Iraqi public on the U.S. presence and the future of Iraq,' September 27, 2006. ⁶Figures from Iraq Coalition Casualties as of July 31, 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 the \$100 billion recently appropriated by Congress, for each congressional district in the state of North Carolina. Alongside the cost is what the people of North Carolina could have if the money was spent locally instead.

<i>Congressional District and Representative</i>	<i>Cost of the Iraq War</i>	<i>Number of children that could have been provided with health care for the length of the Iraq War</i>	<i>OR Number of affordable housing units that could have been built</i>	<i>OR Number of elementary schools that could have been built</i>
<i>01 Butterfield</i>	\$679.48 million	78,138	6,431	75
<i>02 Etheridge</i>	\$872.51 million	100,336	8,258	96
<i>03 Jones</i>	\$896.49 million	103,093	8,484	99
<i>04 Price</i>	\$1.29 billion	148,143	12,192	142
<i>05 Foxx</i>	\$950.02 million	109,250	8,991	105
<i>06 Coble</i>	\$1.04 billion	119,645	9,847	114
<i>07 McIntyre</i>	\$813.59 million	93,561	7,700	90
<i>08 Hayes</i>	\$917.01 million	105,453	8,679	101
<i>09 Myrick</i>	\$1.32 billion	151,544	12,472	145
<i>10 McHenry</i>	\$900 million	103,498	8,518	99
<i>11 Shuler</i>	\$830.36 million	95,489	7,859	91
<i>12 Watt</i>	\$855.65 million	98,398	8,098	94
<i>13 Miller</i>	\$981.95 million	112,921	9,293	108

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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