

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Jordan Pierce

**O:** 510.550.8176

**C:** 510.593.5785



## **Bay Area High School Students First in the Country to Use New Online Game that Lets Users Tackle National Debt**

Palo Alto-Based Nonprofit & Federal Budget Expert Partner to Create  
Nonpartisan Online Simulation, the “Federal Budget Challenge”

- What:** Gunn High School students will be the first audience in the country to use a new online game ([www.federalbudgetchallenge.org](http://www.federalbudgetchallenge.org)) that allows users to take on the federal deficit by making their own policy decisions on critical issues.
- Why:** To mark the national launch of the “Federal Budget Challenge” online simulation
- Who:** Sarah Henry, Program Officer, Next 10, Gunn High School economics students
- Where:** Henry M. Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306, Classroom V14
- When:** **Tuesday, November 10 1:05 PM**
- Visuals:**
- Screen projection of online game
  - Students discussing policy decisions
  - Participants using hand-held instant response devices to record their decisions

Palo Alto, CA – In Washington, the battle rages on over the fiscal impact of healthcare reform. Lawmakers are facing tough choices that will affect our nation’s balance sheet for years to come. On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, a group of Bay Area high school students will take on the national debt themselves. Gunn High School students will be the first audience in the country to use the “Federal Budget Challenge,” an online simulation from nonprofit nonpartisan organizations Next 10 and the Concord Coalition. The Federal Budget Challenge, officially launched to the public that day, allows users to make policy decisions and try to reduce the federal deficit. The new simulation follows Next 10’s successful “California Budget Challenge,” an online tool used by more than 120,000 engaged Californians.

“It’s only appropriate that we debut this tool before an audience of young people,” said F. Noel Perry, founder of Next 10. “If we continue on our current course, federal deficits will total over \$14 trillion dollars over 10 years and these same teenagers will bear the brunt of that debt. Our nation’s finances impact all of us and it’s our responsibility to understand how the federal budget works. This tool allows users to set their own priorities and make policy choices that reflect their values and vision for the future.”

The Federal Budget Challenge (available at [www.federalbudgetchallenge.org](http://www.federalbudgetchallenge.org)) leads users through a series of policy choices ranging from Homeland Security to healthcare. At each step along the way, a graph displays how their choices impact federal budget deficits ten years into the future. Users can opt to receive a detailed explanation of each choice, offering arguments for and against each option.

“As the federal deficit soars, the baby boomers begin to retire and both houses debate the cost of healthcare, it is now more critical than ever that Americans understand the way our nation’s finances work,” said Robert Bixby, President of the Concord Coalition. “The Federal Budget Challenge is an interactive and engaging way for Americans to learn about some of the tough choices facing our country.”

Nonprofit, nonpartisan groups Next 10 and The Concord Coalition partnered to create the Federal Budget Challenge. The Concord Coalition is one of the nation’s leading advocates for generationally responsible fiscal policy. Founded in 1992 by the late Senator Paul Tsongas (D-Mass,) former Senator Warren Rudman (R-NH), and former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Peter Peterson, the Concord Coalition is dedicated to educating the public about how to build a sound economy for future generations. California-based Next 10 educates, engages and empowers Californians to improve the state’s future.

In the months to come, Next 10 and The Concord Coalition will take the Federal Budget Challenge on the road, visiting classrooms and community meetings throughout the country. At each stop, they will teach audiences about the workings of the federal budget and give them a flavor for what it takes to make tough decisions about our nation’s finances.

To mark the launch of the tool, The Concord Coalition and Next 10 will hold a series of events in California and Washington D.C. Students at American University, George Washington University, and Palo Alto’s Henry M. Gunn High School will be among the first to use the tool and try their hands at reducing the deficit. For further details or to attend any of these events, please contact the number above.

# # #

**About Next 10:** Next 10 is an independent, nonpartisan organization that educates, engages and empowers Californians to improve the state’s future. [www.next10.org](http://www.next10.org)

**The Concord Coalition** is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to educating the public about the causes and consequences of federal budget deficits, the long-term challenges facing America's unsustainable entitlement programs, and how to build a sound foundation for economic growth.