



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BISHOP LANDS SEAT ON HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

#### **Congressman Also Adds Coast Guard Subcommittee**

**Washington, DC**—Congressman Tim Bishop was named today by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee to serve on the powerful House Budget Committee. Bishop, the Vice Chair of the Democratic Budget Group, sought the assignment to help restore fiscal discipline and set priorities. Bishop also added a third subcommittee to his portfolio on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

“The Budget Committee draws the blueprints for the fiscal decisions and priorities we pursue,” Bishop said. “I want to be in the room, helping define those priorities.”

“I’m very pleased Congressman Bishop will be joining the Budget Committee and I look forward to working with him in tackling the tough budget challenges before us, first and foremost the huge deficit this Administration has run up,” Congressman John Spratt, Chairman of the House Budget Committee, said. “As Vice Chair of the Democratic Budget Group, Tim will play a major role as we work to wipe out the deficit in five years with fiscal responsibility and restraint. We will fight to ensure that Social Security is safe and sound for generations to come.”

The Budget Committee sets the total amount of the federal budget and annual funding limits for each government function. Bishop is eager to work with Chairman Spratt to restore pay as you go rules. Those rules state that any increase in entitlement benefits has to be paid for by a new revenue source or by an equivalent cut in other benefits, and any cut in taxes has to be offset by an equal cut in entitlement spending or by changes elsewhere in the tax code. In other words, no such legislation can expand the deficit. Pay as you go rules were vital to creating a surplus under President Clinton, reaching \$236 billion in 2000. Last year, the budget had a \$248 billion deficit.

“Bringing back pay as you go rules will not eliminate the deficit overnight, but it will put our nation back on the path to the fiscal discipline and balanced budget we had in the late ’90s,” Bishop said.

Bishop also added the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. That panel has jurisdiction over all activities of the Coast Guard, including its duties, organization, functions, and personnel. The Subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the regulation of ocean shipping and the Federal Maritime Commission, the Jones Act, and the Merchant Marine.

“I am very glad to add this subcommittee, the Coast Guard’s search-and-rescue and port security functions are vital to the safety of our community,” Bishop said.

Although members of Congress typically serve on just two committees, Bishop was granted a waiver by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee to add a third committee assignment – on the Budget Committee. He also serves on the House Education and Labor Committee, and was also appointed early today to the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness and the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

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