

Palm Harbor, FL (September 7, 2011) – Last night, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09) hosted a federal budget forum and workshop at East Lake High School, where participants were able to hear from the Congressman and work in small groups to develop their own version of a federal budget.

The workshop was meant to foster a better understanding of the federal budget process, and allowed attendees to select which policies they would like to implement to reduce our deficits and improve our long-term fiscal outlook and economic future.

"I enjoyed visiting with my constituents about how they would address our nation's fiscal challenges, and I think it was an eye-opening experience," Bilirakis said. "This event gave local taxpayers an inside look at the budget and let them use their spending priorities to create a model federal budget."



The workshop, titled Principles & Priorities, was organized by the Concord Coalition, a national non-partisan organization that teaches participants about the federal budget and provides realistic insight into how some of the policy proposals in today's news would affect the nation's bottom line and the constituents of the 9th district.

After an introduction by Bilirakis and a presentation by the Concord Coalition, participants reviewed current spending priorities, suggested principles for the future, and then applied these principles by selecting from several dozen priorities being discussed in Washington.

"When dealing with something as complicated and massive as the federal budget, it's important that voters understand how their tax dollars are being spent," Bilirakis said. "We must build a solid foundation for economic growth, and that begins with improving our fiscal situation."

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