

# American Bridge 21st Century: Blocking debt limit increase debate, Senate Republicans push country towards an economic catastrophe

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**Senate Republicans today voted to block debate on a measure to avoid a government shutdown and a debt default, further pushing the country towards an economic catastrophe** — and putting [partisan political games](#) ahead of the country's economic stability in the midst of an economic recovery and a still-raging global pandemic.

"It's shameful that Republicans are playing political games and pushing the country toward a catastrophic default that stands to wipe out millions of jobs and trillions in wealth, throw small businesses into turmoil, and endanger Social Security payments and veterans benefits," **said American Bridge 21st Century President Jessica Floyd.** "It's never been more clear that Republicans will throw anyone under the bus to try to get ahead, because today they're accelerating towards a looming crisis that will hurt millions of working families — all because they seem to think it will help their political chances in 2022. They're mistaken, and we will make sure that voters hold them accountable."

Republicans — who uniformly opposed the Democratic American Rescue Plan's economic recovery investments earlier this year — have previewed this "[political game](#)" for months, even [floating demands for cuts](#) to Social Security and Medicare in exchange for a debt ceiling extension. And since August, **Ron Johnson has [organized his Republican colleagues against](#) voting to raise the debt limit on a bipartisan basis — even though it's something that Republicans have historically supported and even today [admit is a](#)**

**necessary step to avoid a financial crisis.**

Despite the [widely-publicized, “dire” consequences](#) of a debt default, 2022 Senate incumbents **Ron Johnson, Marco Rubio, and Chuck Grassley** each voted to block debate on any debt limit increase — as did 2022 retiring Senators **Pat Toomey, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, and Rob Portman**, whose potential GOP successors will be forced to answer for their votes on the campaign trail.