

Tarryl Clark – Challenge Ad – Fact Sheet

Audio	Facts
<p>Michele Bachmann wants to talk fiscal responsibility?</p> <p>I've met a payroll and a bottom line.</p> <p>And when Minnesota faced a record budget deficit, I cut my legislative compensation and budget.</p> <p>I think Congress should cut its pay 5% and get no raises until the budget is balanced.</p> <p>So here's my challenge to Michele Bachmann: Congresswoman, with Minnesotans struggling, when are you going to cut your pay and your budget?</p> <p>I'm Tarryl Clark, and I approve this message.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarryl Clark was the Executive Director of Community Action Partnership, a statewide organization. She managed multiple employees, made sure that they got health care, made payroll, and grew the organization. • Tarryl cut her per diem pay when the budget crisis hit in 2008. In total, she cut over \$13,000, well above the 5% cut she advocates for Congress. • Minnesota Legislators make \$31,500 per year plus a per diem. Their pay has been frozen for over a decade. [Senate Research, Public Record] • Clark also cut her office expenses, gutting her mailing budget, office supplies, and reducing staff hours to save money. • Bachmann sent more franked email and mail than the rest of the MN Delegation combined. In December 2009 the <u>Minnesota Independent</u> wrote of Bachmann, “She sent more than 1 million email messages or print mailings to them last quarter using her congressional franking privilege.” And, “Only six others in the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives can make that claim. The million-franking club is exclusively Republican and mostly Southern.” And, “Freshman Republican Erik Paulsen led the pack with 463,607 messages sent from July through September – not even half Bachmann’s 1,000,534. His GOP

	<p>colleague, John Kline, sent 280,115. Among Democrats, Betty McCollum led with 119,380. Tim Walz sent 105,174, Jim Oberstar sent 1,595, and Keith Ellison and Collin Peterson tallied zero.” [Minnesota Independent, 12/4/09]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachmann spent over \$100K of taxpayer money on franking in 2009 alone. In December 2009 the Minnesota Independent wrote of Bachmann, “But the U.S. government has spent more on her franking privilege so far this year than for any other Minnesotan in the U.S. House: \$105,581, or nearly 10 percent of her office’s total expenses — a proportion that’s also tops in the state’s House delegation.” [Minnesota Independent, 12/4/09]• Michele Bachmann was one of the top 3 spenders in Congress in the first quarter of 2009, “Members account for the expenditures quarterly, and an analysis of the first-quarter 2009 MRA reports shows dramatically different burn rates. Reps. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), Diane Watson (D-Calif.) and Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) each spent more than \$380,000 during the three-month period — more than \$100,000 more than the average first-quarter spending... Bachmann, by contrast, spent a significant portion of her MRA — more than \$100,000 — on printing and franked mail. [Politico, 6/19/09 http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0609/23924_Page2.html]
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