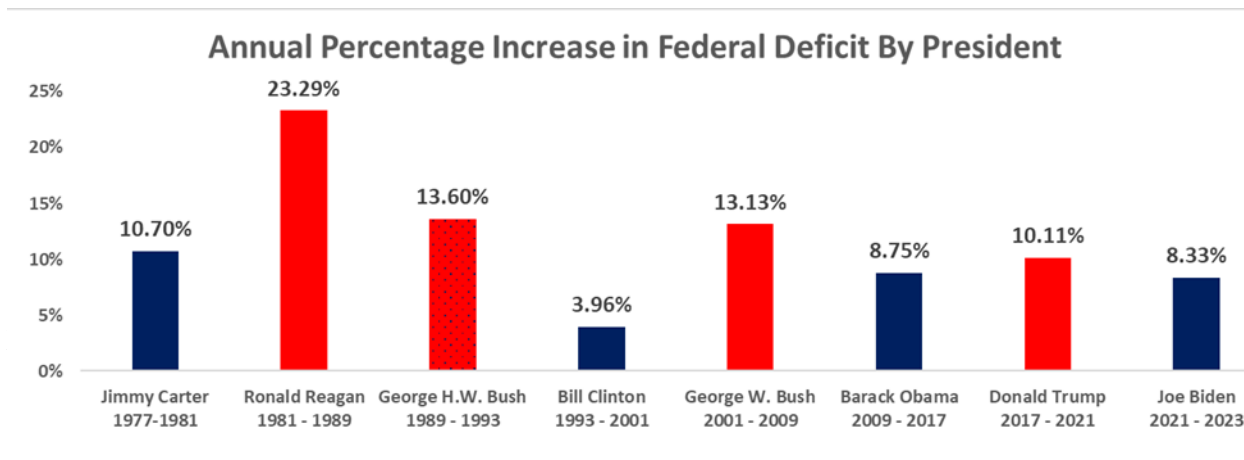
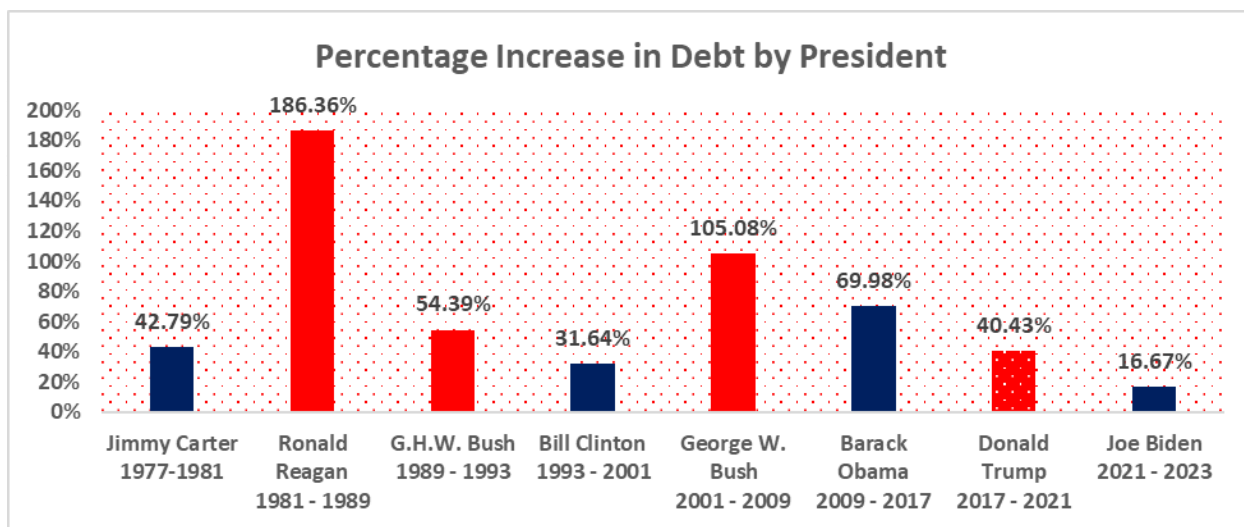


# The Delray Democrat

“There You Go Again”<sup>1</sup>

Michael K. Cantwell

With the economy generating nothing but good news, get ready for Republicans to begin yowling about the deficit. But they are the real budget busters. Next to blowing up the economy, it’s what they do best.



Not only are the three worst budget busters Republicans (while the three best stewards are Democrats), the Republicans don’t only rack up deficits while in office. They contribute to their predecessors’ deficits by leaving them economic disasters to clean up.

<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), February-March 2024, page 2.

For example, despite inheriting three straight annual budget surpluses from Bill Clinton, the feckless George W. Bush bequeathed Barack Obama the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression. Nearly 3.5 million jobs were lost in the final 6 months of Bush's term, and an additional 5 million were lost before Obama's stimulus began to right the economy. When 8.5 million fewer people are working, they are not paying taxes and government is spending money to help them.

Despite the 5 million jobs lost in his initial year, Obama left office with 12.5 million more Americans working than when he entered office, a jobs record that at the time was exceeded only by Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan. No president had presided over a longer expansion than Obama since 1939.

See the pattern? As did Bush, Donald Trump inherited a strong economy from his predecessor and left his successor an economy that was in tatters. He cannot be blamed for Covid (which I once correctly [mused](#) might be the *deus ex machina* that would end the Greek tragedy that was his presidency), but his colossal incompetence in responding to the pandemic left Biden with the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression and the worst public health crisis in over a century.