WASHINGTON

GOP budget uses deep cuts to rein in deficit

Plan focuses on benefits, Medicare to balance books

By ANDREW TAYLOR

WASHINGTON – Mind- ing deep cuts to safety-net programs for the poor with politically rocky cuts on Medicare, Republicans contending the House unveiled an election-year budget blueprint Tuesday that paints stark differenti- es from a proposal released by President Barack Obama last month.

The Republican proposal, which would leave alone key benefit programs for the elderly and the poor from drastic cuts proposed by their allies responded with a plan that provides a sharp election- season contrast to the budget released by Obama last month. It would rely on tax increases on the wealthy but for the most part would leave alone key benefit programs such as Medicare.

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