

Program Brief

“A RESTLESS ELECTORATE: TEMPORARY ANGER OR LONGTERM SHIFT?”

A talk by

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(<http://www.politico.com/reporters/DavidMark.html>;

image: http://images.politico.com/global/reporter/100409_david_mark.jpg)



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David earned his B.A., cum laude, from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, in 1995. He earned a M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1997.

He is also author of the highly acclaimed *Going Dirty: The Art of Negative Campaigning*, published by Rowman & Littlefield in March 2006, and released in paperback in March 2007.

Politico.com: <http://www.politico.com/>

REMARKS, STATEMENTS AND BRIEFINGS

Remarks by the President after a Cabinet Meeting

The White House

November 4, 2010

...obviously what's going to be critically important over the coming months is creating a better working relationship between this White House and the congressional leadership that's coming in, as well as the congressional leadership that carries over from the previous Congress. ...

I mentioned yesterday we have to act in order to assure that middle-class families don't see a big tax spike because of how the Bush tax cuts have been structured. It is very important that we extend those middle-class tax provisions to hold middle-class families harmless.

But there are a whole range of other economic issues that have to be addressed: unemployment insurance for folks who are still out there looking for work; business extenders, which are essentially provisions to encourage businesses to invest here in the United States, and if we don't have those, we're losing a very important tool for us to be able to increase business investment and increase job growth over the coming year. We've got to provide businesses some certainty about what their tax landscape is going to look like, and we've got to provide families certainty. That's critical to maintain our recovery. ...

FULL TRANSCRIPT: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/04/remarks-president-after-a-cabinet-meeting>

Press Conference by the President

The White House

November 3, 2010

... Over the last two years, we've made progress. But, clearly, too many Americans haven't felt that progress yet, and they told us that yesterday. And as President, I take responsibility for that.

What yesterday also told us is that no one party will be able to dictate where we go from here, that we must find common ground in order to set -- in order to make progress on some uncommonly difficult challenges. And I told John Boehner and Mitch McConnell last night I am very eager to sit down with members of both parties and figure out how we can move forward together.

I'm not suggesting this will be easy. I won't pretend that we will be able to bridge every difference or solve every disagreement. There's a reason we have two parties in this country, and both Democrats and Republicans have certain beliefs and certain principles that each feels cannot be compromised. But what I think the American people are expecting, and what we owe them, is to focus on those issues that affect their jobs, their security, and their future: reducing our deficit, promoting a clean energy economy, making sure that our children are the best educated in the world, making sure that we're making the investments in technology that will allow us to keep our competitive edge in the global economy. ...

FULL TRANSCRIPT: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/03/press-conference-president>

President's Upcoming Trip to Asia and U.S. Foreign Policy after the Mid-Term Elections

FPC Briefing with Mike Hammer, National Security Council Spokesman

Foreign Press Center, Washington, D.C.

November 4, 2010

... MR. HAMMER: ... I've had the great privilege to serve in the last three administrations at the White House and have seen that there is a very strong tradition in the United States of bipartisanship. National security interests are such that both Republicans and Democrats see them very much in the same way, and that is that we want to ensure the safety and protection of the American people, we want to create economic opportunity and certainly a better future for America.

And so I don't see that there's any reason to be concerned as far as the President's ability to continue to push forward with a very robust international agenda that advances the interests of the United States. The President was very clear yesterday in his press conference relating to domestic issues that he wants to work with the new Congress and will do so. But particularly on the issues of foreign policy, you may see disagreements occasionally about the type of approach

that may be undertaken, but it's quite heartening as an American to see that both parties truly want to and see the interests very much in similar ways and should be able to continue to work together. So we're not at all concerned about that. In fact, what you saw in our elections, it's a moment of celebration of American democracy, that the American people are the ones that really have the power and through that power the President and the rest of his team try every day to work hard to advance their interests. ...

FULL TRANSCRIPT: <http://fpc.state.gov/150420.htm>

A Point of View from the White House – How the Election Will Affect the Obama Administration's Agenda

FPC Briefing with Mike Allen, White House Reporter for *Politico*

Foreign Press Center, Washington, D.C.

November 4, 2010

... MR. ALLEN: ... And we all were fortunate to experience something pretty unusual because, as you all know, normally in the United States, we have a national election every four years. But I call this the leap election because we got to have an extra national election, a time when there was no part of this crazy country where there wasn't a race that was close and a race that was important and a race that was interesting and exciting to cover. And now the best part is that all these candidates, many of whom very colorful, very interesting, will be coming to Washington. So now we get to cover them firsthand.

I'm just going to time travel a little bit and flash forward to February 2011, when you have the new Congress, when you have a Speaker Boehner, when you have a President Obama who's starting to think about his reelection in 2012, and when you have a number of – a big number, probably – of Republicans who are starting to think about running for president. So in January or February or early next year, we're going to have this amazing convergence of all the most exciting things you can see in American politics: a new world order, a new order of prominence on Capitol Hill, and this amazing election – sorry about that; excuse me – and at the same time, the beginnings of an election that's going to run for close to two years.

The most exciting thing about this election, and what makes it a great story for *Politico* and for all of you, is that changes in American politics, revolutions in American politics, waves in American politics, used to come every 30 years, maybe every 12 years. Now we're getting them every two years. As you guys remember, whether you were here or whether you were posted elsewhere, in January 2009, Barack Obama was not only untouchable in America but Republicans were totally on the back foot. *Time Magazine* was out with a cover of an elephant and it said, "Endangered Species." And so in less than two years, we've had a complete reversal of fortune. People like myself, and so you shouldn't listen to me – people like myself said that it would take a generation for Republicans to come back, that they would need a whole new message, that they would need a whole new cast of characters. But now, instead, with the same cast of characters and with the same message, Republicans are bigger than ever and are toe to toe with Barack Obama, who is an amazing historical force. ...

FULL TRANSCRIPT: <http://fpc.state.gov/150350.htm>

Analysis of Election Results

FPC Briefing with David Lublin, Professor, American University

Foreign Press Center, Washington, D.C.

November 4, 2010

... MR. LUBLIN: ... What does it all mean? What it really means, obviously, is that the country is being returned to the situation that it has experienced for most of its legislature since World War II; namely, that the presidency is controlled by one party while at least one house of Congress – in this case the House of Representatives – is controlled by the other. As I'm sure you all know, the Republicans made historic gains and picked up – it looks like around 64-odd seats – in the House of Representatives, and they also made substantial gains in the Senate, though, currently it looks like to me that the Democrats, including Independent who caucus with them, will hold about 53 of the 100 Senate seats. So life is about to get more interesting in our Republic. ...

QUESTION: Which path do you think that President Obama will take, the path that took President Clinton after losing the – his first midterm elections or the path that took Ronald Reagan after losing again his mid-term elections?

MR. LUBLIN: I think he'll do a bit of in between. I think the Democratic Party in Congress is noticeably more liberal which, of course, in American-speak means more left wing rather than right wing, as it does in many countries, and so as a result, he needs to sort of support his party's base. I think in some ways, this will provide opportunities as well as dangers for President Obama. It will be much harder for him to get any part of his agenda through Congress, but it will also provide opportunities to draw distinctions with the Republicans. So if they pass legislation that he doesn't like, he

can veto it and force them to negotiate with him. I think he'll (inaudible) with President Clinton in the sense that sometimes clash can be very good for presidents with Congress, particularly because they have the bigger microphone. And the one thing I'd point out – and I think the Republicans are a bit more aware, which may mean they're a bit smarter about this than Newt Gingrich this time; we'll see how it plays out – but that they're sort of aware that they are not necessarily that popular right now. I mean, my understanding is that polls show that the incoming Speaker of the House John Boehner is actually less popular than the outgoing speaker of the House. So it's not necessarily going to be the case that making the Republican leadership the face of the Republican Party is going to help them that much and it's – they're going to have to – however, they're also going to have to cater to a lot of their new members who want to push their agenda.

I think you're going to see a lot of clash, you're going to see a fair amount of gridlock, but at times you'll also maybe see the parties strategically working together because ultimately the American people want to see their federal government getting the people's business done and parties that look simply obstructionist, be they the Democrats or the Republicans, can eventually pay at the polls. ...

FULL TRANSCRIPT: <http://fpc.state.gov/150348.htm>

***AMERICA.GOV* ITEMS**

(published by the Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State)

No Major Foreign Policy Shift after U.S. Midterm Election

By Michelle A. Brooks, Staff Writer

November 5, 2010

Washington — Following major Republican gains in the November 2 midterm elections, President Obama is expected to face challenges implementing his agenda, but the foreign policy objectives are not expected to change, political experts say.

Republicans gained more than 60 seats, giving them majority control of the House of Representatives in the Congress that will convene in January 2011. They also earned more seats in the Senate, although Democrats retained a slight majority. ...

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2010/November/20101105154821ellehcim0.9899713.html?CP.rss=true>

Incumbent Governors Fare Well in U.S. Midterm Elections

By Bridget Hunter, Staff Writer

November 5, 2010

Washington — In many U.S. states, voters opted to keep their chief executives, but the large number of 2010 gubernatorial contests in which no incumbent stood for re-election November 2 means there will be many new faces at the next meeting of the National Governors Association, a bipartisan association whose members include all current governors.

In the United States, governors' races are held each year but more governors are elected during midterm elections — those held at the midpoint of the president's term — than in any other year of the four-year cycle that corresponds to the president's term. Because the 37 states electing governors in 2010 included the nation's most populous states, four out of every five U.S. voters had the opportunity to cast a vote for governor. ...

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2010/November/20101105191340tegdirtb0.6945416.html?CP.rss=true>

Midterm Elections Reduce but Retain Democratic Majority in Senate

By Bridget Hunter, Staff Writer

November 4, 2010

Washington — Democrats and Democratic-caucusing independents will hold at least 52 seats and Republicans at least 47 in the 112th Congress that convenes in January 2011. The outcomes of two races in the far northwestern part of the nation were still inconclusive on November 4.

The midterm elections will shift the composition of the Senate a bit to the right as Republicans gain seats, but Democrats will retain control of the chamber when the next Congress convenes. ...

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2010/November/20101104165927tegridrb0.9037134.html?CP.rss=true>

Republicans Win Majority in U.S. House of Representatives

By Ralph Dannheisser, Special Correspondent

November 3, 2010

Washington — Republicans gained at least 60 seats in the House of Representatives in elections held November 2, more than enough to wrest control of the chamber from the Democrats when the 112th Congress convenes in January 2011.

With about a dozen results still outstanding at midday November 3, Republicans had secured 239 seats in the new Congress, compared with 185 for the Democrats.

The result means divided government for at least the next two years, as Democrat President Obama will have to share power with Republicans in the House of Representatives. Democrats retained control of the Senate, but with a reduced majority. ...

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2010/November/20101103165734hplar0.4182093.html?CP.rss=true>

Midterms Show Voters Still Worried About Economy, Obama Says

By Stephen Kaufman, Staff Writer

November 3, 2010

Washington — Reacting to the 2010 midterm elections November 2 that resulted in the Democratic Party losing control of the House of Representatives, slimming its majority in the Senate and losing some gubernatorial contests, President Obama said American voters had sent a message that they are frustrated with the state of the U.S. economy and acknowledged he had not made as much progress as he had hoped on several domestic concerns. ...

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2010/November/20101103155148nehpets0.6446802.html?CP.rss=true>

Divided U.S. Government Can Work, Scholars Say

By Jeff Baron, Staff Writer

October 29, 2010

Washington — The prospect of a divided U.S. government — with a president from one political party and at least one chamber of Congress controlled by the other party — has raised questions about what the next two years might be like in Washington.

William A. Galston has studied how the U.S. government works and offers something of a weather forecast for it: an extended period of storms, probably giving way to brighter days as a Democratic White House and a Republican Congress work with one another.

“By and large, in my experience, divided government can indeed produce results. Those results are usually preceded by periods of intense conflict,” said Galston, a senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution, a leading Washington policy research group.

Unlike many countries with parliamentary governments, the United States elects its chief executive and its lawmakers separately, and the three branches of government — legislative, executive and judicial — are designed to be equal and capable of limiting one another’s power. Congress passes laws and appropriates money; the president can veto laws or sign them and put them into practice with regulations; and the courts enforce the laws and decide whether the laws and the actions of the government violate the U.S. Constitution. ...

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2010/October/20101029101244ffej0.2838861.html?CP.rss=true>

USEFUL LINKS

- **Federal Election Commission**

<http://www.fec.gov/>

In 1975, Congress created the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to administer and enforce the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) - the statute that governs the financing of federal elections. The duties of the FEC, which is an independent regulatory agency, are to disclose campaign finance information, to enforce the provisions of the law such as the limits and prohibitions on contributions, and to oversee the public funding of Presidential elections.

- **U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

<http://www.eac.gov/>

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, and serving as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration. EAC also accredits testing laboratories and certifies voting systems, as well as audits the use of HAVA funds.

Other responsibilities include maintaining the national mail voter registration form developed in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

- **USA Elections in Brief**

Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State
Posted January 2008

A background guide to the entire U.S. electoral system, from federal, state, local, and primary elections to related topics such as polling and the role of the parties and the media.

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/publications/books/elections-in-brief.html>

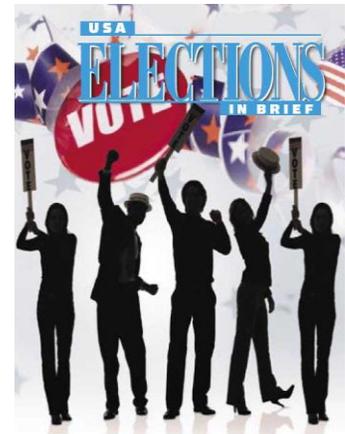
- **Congressional Elections**

House, Senate both central to lawmaking but have different election means

Elections for the U.S. Congress can be as competitive and important as those for president. This is because of the central role that Congress plays in making laws.

Unlike a parliamentary system where the chief executive comes from the parliament, the American system, as noted, separates the legislature and the presidency. Presidents and legislators are elected separately. Although a sitting president may propose laws to Congress, they have to be drafted in Congress by his allies within that institution, and must be passed by the Congress before being sent back to the president for his signature. The House and Senate are legally and politically independent of the will of the president.

FULL TEXT: <http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/None/None/20080407115633eaifas0.2323267.html>



- **Class III - Senators Whose Terms of Service Expire in 2011**

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/reference/two_column_table/Class_III.htm

Class III terms run from the beginning of the 109th Congress on January 3, 2005, to the end of the 111th Congress on January 3, 2011. Senators in Class III were elected to office in the November 2004 general election, unless they took their seat through appointment or special election.

- **Unofficial List U.S. House of Representatives Members-Elect for the 112th Congress**

Office of the Clerk

U.S. House of Representatives

http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/112-members-elect.pdf (pdf)

- **National Governors Association**

<http://www.nga.org>

- **2010 Gubernatorial Election Results**

In 2010, gubernatorial elections were held in 37 states and two territories and two governors ran for United States Senate (ND and WV). In 2011, there will be 29 new governors.

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.1c2c738c15d95853ee28aca9501010a0/?vgnextoid=fea2c6e553295210VgnVCM1000005e00100aRCRD>

- **Election Results**

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.5cd31a89efe1fle122d81fa6501010a0/?vgnextoid=1ee04ec0abafb210VgnVCM1000005e00100aRCRD>

- *The New York Times*

Election 2010

<http://elections.nytimes.com/2010/>

- *The Washington Post*

Campaign and Election News & Analysis

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/politics/campaigns.html>

- *CNN*

Election Center

<http://edition.cnn.com/ELECTION/2010/>

- *Politico.com*

2010 Election Coverage and Political News

<http://www.politico.com/2010/>

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The program page on **“The Restless Electorate: Temporary Anger or Longterm Shift?”** will be available at:

<http://austria.usembassy.gov/events/mark.html>.

Information about the services and resources of the American Reference Center is available at:

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For your convenience all links included in this brief are hyperlinked.

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