

October 2010

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

AMERICAN POLITICS ON THE EVE OF THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The Brookings Institution, November 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2010/11_midterm_elections_mann/11_midterm_elections_mann.pdf

How did Barack Obama, a new United States President of such extraordinary presence and promise, fall so quickly from grace? Why have his considerable achievements - financial stabilization and economic stimulus, health, education, and financial regulatory reform - not paid political dividends for him and his party? Does the emergence of the Tea Party movement and its wary embrace by the Republican Party signify a sharp ideological turn to the right, an unwillingness to engage seriously and responsibly the staggering challenges confronting the country, and a possible withdrawal of the U.S. from a critical leadership role in global affairs?

GROUND WAR MORE INTENSE THAN 2006, EARLY VOTING MORE PREVALENT

Pew Research Center for People and the Press, October 21, 2010

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/666.pdf>

As the midterm elections approach, there is every indication that voter turnout will be as high as in 2006, but unlike four years ago, Republicans -- not Democrats -- are now more engaged and enthusiastic about casting a ballot. The prospects for a GOP turnout advantage on Election Day are almost as favorable in the new Pew Research Center survey as they have been in all previous polls throughout the campaign.

GUIDE TO STATE BALLOT MEASURES FOR 2010

Stateline, October 13, 2010

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=479649>

As states continue to climb out of the recession, voters will take up measures that could dramatically affect future state budgets and tax revenue. Nationwide, 155 questions are slated to appear on statewide ballots this fall ranging from lowering property taxes in Indiana to overturning a new soda tax in Washington.

IN ANTICIPATION OF NOVEMBER 2: BLACK VOTERS AND CANDIDATES AND THE 2010 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, October 2010

http://www.jointcenter.org/publications_recent_publications/political_participation/in_anticipation_of_november_2_black_voters_and_candidates_and_the_2010_midterm_elections

This analysis provides a brief review of the potential role of black voters and candidates in the 2010 Midterms. In particular, it examines some past midterm elections where a strong black turnout had a very material effect on various election outcomes. Black voters are strategically situated in 2010 to have a major impact provided an effort is made to get them to polls on November 2.

INDEPENDENTS OPPOSE PARTY IN POWER ... AGAIN

Pew Research Center, September 23, 2010

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1739/independent-voters-typology-2010-midterms-favor-republicans-conservative>

For the third national election in a row, independent voters may be poised to vote out the party in power. The Republican Party holds a significant edge in preferences for the upcoming congressional election among likely voters, in large part because political independents now favor Republican candidates by about as large a margin as they backed Barack Obama in 2008 and congressional Democratic candidates four years ago.

LATINOS AND THE 2010 ELECTIONS

Pew Hispanic Center, October 5, 2010

<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=127>

In a year when support for Democratic candidates has eroded, the party's standing among one key voting group – Latinos -- appears as strong as ever. Two-thirds (65%) of Latino registered voters say they plan to support the Democratic candidate in their local congressional district, while just 22% support the Republican candidate, according to a nationwide survey of Latinos.

THE MIDTERM ELECTION CAMPAIGN: 20 DAYS LEFT - HOT HOUSE AND SENATE RACES

Foreign Press Center, October 13, 2010

<http://fpc.state.gov/149386.htm>

This is the transcript of a briefing by Alexander Burns, POLITICO reporter, at the Washington Foreign Press Center on the "HOT" House and Senate Races.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS GENERATE RUSH OF IMMIGRATION MEASURES

Migration Policy Institute, October 15, 2010

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?ID=802>

With the midterm elections looming and Congress about to adjourn, influential senators on both sides of the aisle introduced immigration and national security bills in September, prompting widespread speculation about the deeper political calculations underlying the measures.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2010: DRIVING FORCES, LIKELY OUTCOMES, POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

The Brookings Institution, October 4, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2010/1004_midterm_elections/20101004_midterm_elections.pdf

Will the Republicans take over the House and possibly the Senate? Or has the Republican wave ebbed? What role will President Obama play in rallying seemingly dispirited Democrats -- and what effect will reaction to the sluggish economy play in rallying Republicans? Is the Tea Party more an asset or a liability to the G.O.P.'s hopes? What effect will the inevitably narrowed partisan majorities have in the last two years of Obama's first term? And how will contests for governorships and state legislatures around the nation affect redistricting and the shape of politics to come?

THE REVENGE OF THE MODERATES IN U.S. POLITICS

The Brookings Institution, October 20, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1020_moderates_mcdonald.aspx

The trend of moderate independent candidates who have forsworn party affiliations is not new to U.S. politics. Since the Civil War, when the modern Republican Party was established to compete against the Democratic Party, minor party or unaffiliated candidates have won election to the House or Senate a total of 697 times. Of these, 89 percent of elected minor party candidates had voting records ideologically between the two major parties.

THE TEA PARTY, THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT, AND THE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

The Brookings Institution, October 5, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2010/1005_religion_survey/20101005_religion_survey.pdf

Before the 2008 election, religious conservatives were the most energetic force on the right side of Republican politics. Since 2009, however, the Tea Party has emerged, especially in media accounts, as the most dynamic movement in conservative politics. Has the Tea Party in fact displaced the religious right or do they stand side by side as equally influential forces in the GOP? How distinct are they from each other, and how much is there an overlap among their supporters? How do these groups compare to other groups, including more progressive groups, in the American religious landscape? And what role will issues of concern to social conservatives, such as abortion and gay marriage, play in the 2010 elections?

WILL 2010 REPEAT 1994 IN GOVERNORS' RACES?

Stateline, October 7, 2010

<http://stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=519016>

There's a lot of talk about how this November's election could rival the 1994 "Republican Revolution," in which the GOP reclaimed both chambers of Congress. But largely overlooked in the speculation are the gubernatorial campaigns in which the GOP also won an unexpected majority in 1994.

DIVERSITY

A POSITIVE APPROACH TO STUDYING DIVERSITY IN ORGANIZATIONS

Harvard Business School, October 5, 2010

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/11-024.pdf>

Considering that the topic of workplace diversity often garners unhappy discussions of prejudice, isolation, and conflict, it's not surprising that many researchers avoid the topic altogether. The authors propose a positive approach to studying diversity, with hopes that this will lead managers to feel more positive about adopting diversity policies in the workplace.

HEALTH CARE

HEALTH REFORM AT SIX MONTHS

Center for American Progress, September 23, 2010

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/09/health_reform_anniversary.html

In the coming months millions of families will be able to access preventive care without paying a deductible or copayment, and people who are seriously ill no longer need to worry about exhausting their plan's lifetime benefits. These are tangible improvements to our health insurance system that would not have happened without the Affordable Care Act.

But these new rights and benefits—and other health system improvements included in the new health care law—are threatened by health reform opponents who would repeal the Affordable Care Act and unravel the benefits it provides. This draconian step would leave millions of Americans without the hope of attaining health coverage, and would impose real costs on the health care system and the people who use it.

IMMIGRATION

REFUGEES: BUILDING NEW LIVES IN THE U.S.

U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs, October 2010

<http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0710.pdf>

Since 1980, millions of refugees have been resettled in the United States. Individual Americans welcome and help integrate refugees into U.S. communities large and small and, in turn, the resettled refugees enrich American culture. This edition of eJournal USA presents some background information and includes several personal stories.

TEN ECONOMIC FACTS ABOUT IMMIGRATION

The Brookings Institution, September 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/09_immigration_greenstone_looney/09_immigration.pdf

Most Americans agree that the current U.S. immigration system is flawed. Less clear, however, are the economic facts about immigration—the real effects that new immigrants have on wages, jobs, budgets, and the U.S. economy—facts that are essential to a constructive national debate.

LABOR

BRINGING JOBS TO PEOPLE: HOW FEDERAL POLICY CAN TARGET JOB CREATION FOR ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS

The Brookings Institution, October 13, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/10_job_creation_bartik/10_job_creation_bartik.pdf

This paper proposes three solutions to bring jobs to distressed areas: customized job training programs for businesses and employees, advice and consulting services through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, and a package of grants for local services and tax breaks through a reformed and revitalized Empowerment Zone program.

WORKING IN RETIREMENT: A 21st CENTURY PHENOMENON

Families and Work Institute, October 6, 2010

<http://familiesandwork.org/site/research/reports/workinginretirement.pdf>

Working in retirement may still sound like an oxymoron, but not for long. Just as people in their twenties are now creating a new life stage of transitioning into the workforce, the generation of workers currently in their fifties and sixties is redefining the notion of "retirement." Already today, one in five workers aged 50 and older has fully retired from his or her former career job but currently is working for pay in a new role, which we define as a "retirement job."

POVERTY

THE GREAT RECESSION AND POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA

The Brookings Institution, October 7, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/1007_suburban_poverty_allard_roth/1007_suburban_poverty_acs_kneebone.pdf

Poverty increased by much greater margins in 2009 than 2008, with cities and suburbs experiencing comparable rates of growth in the recession's second year. Between 2008 and 2009, cities and suburbs gained 1.2 million poor people, together accounting for about two-thirds of the national increase in the poor population that year.

STRAINED SUBURBS: THE SOCIAL SERVICE CHALLENGES OF RISING SUBURBAN POVERTY

The Brookings Institution, October 7, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/1007_suburban_poverty_allard_roth/1007_suburban_poverty_allard_roth.pdf

Research exploring issues of poverty typically has focused on central-city neighborhoods, where poverty and joblessness have been most concentrated. As a result, place-based U.S. antipoverty policies focus primarily on ameliorating concentrated poverty in inner-city (and, in some cases, rural) areas. Suburbs, by contrast, are seen as destinations of opportunity for quality schools, safe neighborhoods, or good jobs.

All previous web alerts can be found at :
<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>