



TJIC Alert

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GOVERNANCE

1. More Than Elections: How Democracies Transfer Power

International Information Programs January 2010 40 p.
Full Text: <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0110.pdf>

Democracy requires more than holding elections. Healthy democracies are defined by the expectations of citizens and the common rules, understandings, and trust they build. This *eJournal USA* explores the contours of civil society and political legitimacy within which peaceful transitions of power can occur.

2. U.S. Opinion Turns Against The Globalism Of Its President

Bruce Stokes *YaleGlobal* December 10, 2009
Full Text: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-opinion-turns-against-globalism-their-president>

All of President Obama's internationalist and multi-lateral policies may come to naught if he cannot convince Americans that such a strategy is in their best interest. Moreover, if American public opinion cannot be reversed, an insular country could erode US international standing and weaken its ability to obtain a consensus on a wide range of issues, according to columnist Bruce Stokes.
[Note: contains copyrighted material].

3. Obama Seen As More Friendly Than His Party: GOP Seen As Friendlier To Religion Than Democrats

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press December 1, 2009 10 p.
Full Text: <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/568.pdf>

More Americans continue to view the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (48%) than rate the Democratic Party that way (29%). President Barack Obama's administration, however, is seen as friendly toward religion by more people (37%) than the Democratic Party as a whole. And all three get higher ratings for friendliness toward religion than the news media (14%), scientists (12%) or Hollywood (11%).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

4. Obama Image Unscathed By Terrorism Controversy

Andrew Kohut

Pew Research Center for the People & Press

Full Text: <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/578.pdf>

51 p.

January 14, 2010

In the aftermath of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, the government's ratings for reducing the threat of terrorism have slipped. In addition, 33% now say that the ability of terrorists to launch a major attack on the U.S. is greater than it was at the time of 9/11; that is up only slightly from November but is the highest percentage expressing this view in surveys dating to 2002. The public also has become far more concerned that government anti-terrorism policies fail to protect the country adequately – and far less concerned that these policies restrict civil liberties.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

5. Public's Priorities For 2010: Economy, Jobs, Terrorism

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

January 25, 2010

19 p.

Full Text: <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/584.pdf>

As President Obama begins his second year in office, the public's priorities for the president and Congress remain much as they were one year ago. Strengthening the nation's economy and improving the job situation continue to top the list. And, in the wake of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, defending the country from future terrorist attacks also remains a top priority. At the same time, the public has shifted the emphasis it assigns to two major policy issues: dealing with the nation's energy problem and reducing the budget deficit.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

6. Lobbying The Executive Branch: Current Practices And Options For Change

Jacob R. Straus

Congressional Research Service

Full Text: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40947_20091201.pdf

18 p.

December 1, 2009

The report outlines the development of registration requirements for lobbyists engaging executive branch officials since 1995. It also summarizes steps taken by the Obama Administration to limit and monitor lobbying of the executive branch; discusses the development and implementation of restrictions placed on lobbying for Recovery Act and EESA funds; examines the Obama Administration's decision to stop appointing lobbyists to federal advisory bodies and committees; considers third-party criticism of current executive branch lobbying policies; and provides options for possible modifications in current lobbying laws and practices.

7. Anti-Money Laundering: Improved Communication Could Enhance The Support FinCEN Provides To Law Enforcement

U.S. Government Accountability Office

December 2009

44 p.

Full Text: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10141.pdf>

The majority of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) GAO surveyed reported finding FinCEN's support useful in their efforts to investigate and prosecute financial crimes, but FinCEN could enhance its support by better informing LEAs about its services and products and actively soliciting their input.

8. Rationalism In Regulation

Christopher C. DeMuth and Douglas H. Ginsburg

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Full Text: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/20091203-DeMuth-Ginsburg.pdf>

39 p.

December 4, 2009

The essay addresses such questions as whether regulation has been notably different in Republican and Democratic administrations and whether cost-benefit analysis has employed "antiregulation" biases that have blocked or weakened important health, safety, and environmental protections. It also considers several contentious issues in regulatory cost-benefit analysis--such as adjustments to account for "unintended" costs and benefits of government rules and for the age and "quality of life" of protected populations, and the discounting of benefits that will occur in the near or distant future. Finally, the essay argues that White House oversight of regulatory policymaking is a legitimate and essential means for presidents to pursue their policy objectives.
[Note: contains copyrighted material].

9. Standards for A New Century

Karen Theroux

Carnegie Reporter

Available online at http://www.carnegie.org/reporter/pdf/19/Reporter_Fall_2009.pdf

p. 28-34,36

Fall 2009

Theroux, a writer with the Carnegie Corporation's public-affairs department, writes that the Obama administration is focused on education reform, particularly on the upgrading of standards; there is support from the leadership on Capitol Hill, plus the realization that there are proven strategies that work in the classroom. The United States is preparing to switch from mostly local control of education to nationally aligned Common Core State Standards -- evidence-based, internationally benchmarked guidelines that are expected to transform teaching and learning across the country, allowing students uniform access to higher education and greater opportunity. Assessments and standards are inseparable, and innovation in testing and accountability is critical to transforming the education system.
[Note: contains copyrighted material].

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TJIC Alert Issue: February 2010

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