



# Obama Biden Watch



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## Obama's Leadership Gulf

"Part of the problem, I'll be honest with you, I just don't think that there is a sense of urgency in the White House where the President is cracking the whip day in, day out and saying, 'Why is it that we're not getting this done?'"

-- Senator Barack Obama, August 26, 2007, Remarks In New Orleans About The Response To Hurricane Katrina

Senator Barack Obama was brutal in his criticism of President Bush and his administration's response to Hurricane Katrina. Obama, like so many other typical politicians before him, exploited a tragedy for his own personal political gain. Like a broken record during the presidential campaign of 2007-2008, Obama tied everything President Bush did or didn't do to the unpopular Iraq War, including the catastrophe in New Orleans and our Gulf Coast. "I mean, you think about the amount of attention that's been devoted to Iraq. 'All hands on deck.' I don't get that same sense that there's a focus on getting this work done," Obama said in 2007.

Looking back, this criticism was good politics for Obama, as he was given an opportunity to cash in on Bush fatigue while firing up his primary base at the same time. But was it justified? Was President Bush responsible for the hurricane? Of course not. Could any president have responded satisfactorily to the unprecedented disaster of Hurricane Katrina? The honest answer is

probably not. President Bush just happened to be at the helm at the time, and presidents are held responsible for these events, no matter what.

Bush did what any other president would have done - do the best you can with what you've got at the time. However, the liberal media, in cahoots with Obama and the Democrat Party could not help but use the Katrina crisis in order to get back in power. From 2005 - 2008, Obama and the Democrats used the one-two punch of Katrina and the Iraq War to effectively put an end to President Bush's domestic agenda, making sure these issues dominated the last three years of the Bush Administration and 2008 presidential race.

Now fast forward to 2010. Is the BP oil spill currently destroying the Gulf of Mexico President Obama's fault? Of course not. Is his administration's response to the spill fair play for criticism? Based on the Democrats' own precedent, it certainly is.



Part of the oil spill devastation on May 19, 2010

*Continued on the next page...*

### **Executive Experience**

Why should any American really expect President Obama to be able to tackle a crisis like this one? He has never managed anything in his life but his own presidential campaign, and let's be honest, presidential campaigns don't have to deal with real life crises.

### **Handling The Problem Hand In Hand With BP**

Why did President Obama wait so many weeks to meet with BP? So typical of President Obama and his administration, the thinking was all political. The president didn't want to get caught on camera next to an evil BP executive for the world to see and for his political opponents to use against him in a television advertisement. Instead of doing the right thing - getting in a room with BP and figuring out the problem together, President Obama was thinking about 2012 and how to minimize his political damage.

### **Liberal Media Hypocrisy**

If the spill happened on President Bush's watch, what would have happened if he continued to golf regularly? Enough said! To make matters worse, an Obama spokesman recently defended the President's non-stop golfing by saying, according to *The Associated Press*, "the people of the country stand by the notion that 'their president ought to have a little time to clear his mind.'"

### **Dealing With Things Not On His Agenda**

President Obama is poor at dealing with things not in his vision for the future of America. President Obama essentially came to Washington to nationalize health care and dramatically expand the size and scope of government. When certain things emerge - large and small - that hold up his agenda, dealing with them in a presidential way appears to be a painful exercise for Obama. All presidents come to office with an agenda, but the great ones take unforeseen circumstances and rise to the occasion. This oil spill is fast becoming Obama's Iranian Hostage Crisis. His lack of leadership is causing the situation to cripple his presidency. Let's just hope the spill doesn't last 444 days.

### **In Closing**

The quote that opens this column is interesting in that it could be repeated verbatim by the candidate who runs against Obama for his job in 2012. In the words of candidate Obama, "Why is it that we're not getting this done?" Sometimes karma is painful.

## In this Issue

Obama's Leadership  
Gulf  
Pg. 1

Rep. Van Hollen to  
Determine Whose Speech is  
Free  
Pg. 3

Obama's Top Ten Worst  
Appointees  
Pg. 5

Citizens United  
Productions Presents  
Pg. 7

Final Thoughts  
Pg. 8

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## Chris Van Hollen to Determine Whose Speech is Free

At our nation's founding, the drafters of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights laid out a vision for the government that has proven very prescient over the past 200 years. It set forth limits on government powers, as well as rights reserved to the citizenry. Chief among these rights was the freedom of speech. The language penned by our Founding Fathers could not be clearer: "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech."

In establishing this fundamental right, our Founding Fathers certainly did not envision that one Congressman, consulting behind closed doors with special interest lobbyists, would be the ultimate arbiter of whose speech should be protected by the First Amendment. Sadly, this is the position we find ourselves in today.

Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) is the primary drafter of legislation aimed to chill political speech, the Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Elections, more commonly known as the "DISCLOSE Act." Representative Van Hollen, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and even President Barack Obama allege that this legislation is needed to respond to the recent decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. This landmark decision restored the right to political speech of individuals who seek to stand together and speak with one voice.

Cloaked under the populist rhetoric of campaign finance "reform" the legislation is proving to be anything but. As Representative Van Hollen has consulted with lobbyists from such diverse groups as Democracy 21 and the National Rifle Association, the legislation has become a series of carve outs for special interests. First and foremost the DISCLOSE Act



United States Representative  
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

seeks to regulate the speech of membership organizations, small businesses, and corporations. The legislation has been crafted, from its first draft, to provide special protections to labor unions. For example, labor unions are not subject to restrictions based on government contracting or work on TARP funded projects. Labor unions will also benefit from a carve out to the burdensome disclose regulations. Organizations will only be required to itemize funds received from individuals that total \$600 or more. The vast majority of union dues fall short of this \$600 threshold, ensuring that labor unions will be permitted to file very bare-bones financial disclosure reports.

We have now learned that Representative Van Hollen has further caved to special interests. An amendment offered by Representative Van Hollen exempts from the DISCLOSE Act's reporting provisions any organization that has been in existence

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more than 10 years, has over 500,000 members, has a presence in 50 states, and receives 15% or less of its funding from corporate interests. This desperate action to appease our nation's largest special interest organizations comes at the expense of the speech of ordinary citizens. It remains to be seen whether Citizens United will qualify for the exemption. The proposed amendment to the DISCLOSE Act determines that the speech of small and modest sized organizations is less important and less deserving of protection than that of larger organizations. It makes a political decision to ensure that only the largest established groups will be free to exercise their right to political speech without being subjected to burdensome regulation.

This amendment makes clear that the true purpose of the DISCLOSE Act is to limit speech in the current election cycle. Such efforts to chill speech are nothing more than poorly veiled attempts to protect incumbent politicians as Americans increasingly reject the Obama-Pelosi-Reid agenda. Allowing Representative Van Hollen to determine which speakers are worthy of First Amendment protection flies in the face of the First Amendment and the recent Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*. As the Court noted: "Premised on mistrust of governmental power, the First Amendment stands against attempts to disfavor certain subjects or viewpoints. Prohibited, too, are restrictions distinguishing among different speakers, allowing speech by some but not others."

By kowtowing to special interests, Representative Van Hollen has made it more likely that the DISCLOSE Act will not survive constitutional scrutiny if enacted into law. His misguided attempt to insulate incumbent politicians by limiting the voices of average citizens should be rejected. Despite this obvious preferential treatment for large special interest groups, well known

liberal advocacy groups are supporting the lobbyist crafted amendment. Fred Wertheimer of Democracy 21 has stated that the special interest amendment is a "very narrow exemption" that should not take away from the DISCLOSE Act. He attempts to defend the legislation because "Almost all c4 advocacy groups that make campaign-related expenditures will be covered by the donor disclosure provisions in the legislation, as will c4 groups formed to function as dummy or front groups or to serve as groups to make campaign-related expenditures without disclosing their donors." For supporters of campaign finance "reform" to stand silent as Representative Van Hollen determines whose speech is free, is hypocritical.

Representative Van Hollen argues that the DISCLOSE Act is necessary to prevent special interest groups from corrupting the political system. Unfortunately, the drafting of the DISCLOSE Act has revealed that Representative Van Hollen is in fact a slave to those special interests he seeks to regulate. While the Supreme Court has restored the First Amendment, it is again under attack by incumbent politicians with a partisan agenda.

While the legislation has passed in the House of Representatives, two coalitions of Democrats, the "Blue Dog" Democrats and some members of Congressional Black Caucus have voiced strong objections over the bill. This brazen attempt to impact the November elections should not be allowed to stand. Cooler heads may prevail in the Senate.

## Obama's Top Ten Worst Appointees

It's worth reviewing just how far from mainstream many of President Obama's nominations are and how the liberal mainstream media is largely silent on this issue. By contrast, George W. Bush's appointments were often labeled too "right wing" by liberals in the media and heavily scrutinized.

Notably, Bush's pick for Attorney General, John Ashcroft, was a nominee singled out by liberals and in the media for being "too conservative." The Ashcroft nomination was held up as an example of just how "out of touch" Bush was with the American people. By contrast, President Obama's more radical appointments are generally passed over by the liberal media, with only the alternative conservative news outlets highlighting them.



**Former Attorney General John Ashcroft was labeled "too conservative" by liberals**

These radical appointments should be a story of interest to the media, since Obama campaigned as a moderate. They demonstrate how he masked his true liberal agenda from the voters in order to get elected. Liberals understand that leftwing nominees and policies are deeply unpopular with the American people, and that America is still a largely "center-right" nation. Liberals have to enact their policies through

stealth, which is why they campaign as moderates to get elected, and then govern from the Left once they do.

The Obama administration is staffed with liberals across the board. In addition to his liberal judicial nominations with picks like Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and Goodwin Liu among others (and which will tilt the court system to the left), he has chosen leftists throughout his whole administration. If the public was given a full account of just how outside the mainstream the administration's appointments are, their dissatisfaction would grow even more. The following is a rundown of "Ten of the Worst Picks by the Obama-Biden Administration," which the mainstream media has minimized:

1) Dalia Mugahed – Obama's White House Muslim advisor, is an advocate of the totalitarian system of Islamic sharia law. According to Robert Spencer's JihadWatch.org, she has been a "firm defender of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Islamic Society of North American (ISNA)." Both of these groups are tied to the radical Muslim Brotherhood.

2) Van Jones – appointed the "Special Advisor for Green Jobs", aka the "Green Jobs Czar," Van Jones had to resign when it was discovered he was an active member in the American Communist Party, and asserted that George W. Bush caused the 9/11 attacks.

3) Kevin Jennings – appointed "Safe Schools Czar" at the Department of Education, is the founder of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Network (GLSEN). His organization promotes a radical homosexual political agenda, including risqué readings aimed at 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

4) Carol Browner – appointed Director of the White House

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Office of Energy and Climate Change. She was a former administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency under President Clinton. Browner's appointment caused a stir when it was discovered she is listed as one of the 14 leaders for the Socialist International's "Commission for a Sustainable World Society." Her name and biography were removed from the Socialist International website after the controversy emerged.

5) Mark Lloyd – appointed Chief Diversity Officer for the Federal Communications Commission. Lloyd used to work for leftist billionaire George Soros. He has called for a revival of the "Fairness Doctrine" to clamp down on conservative talk radio, and would issue fines to stations that were not "balanced." He proposed using the proceeds from the fines to go to liberal National Public Radio (NPR). Lloyd has also praised the Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez: "In Venezuela, with Chavez, it's really an incredible revolution – a democratic revolution."

6) Chai Feldblum – appointed a commissioner on the five member Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She is lesbian activist and former Georgetown University Law Professor. She has said that in her view, there isn't a single instance where religious expression would outweigh "gay rights."

7) Amanda Simpson – appointed Senior Technical Advisor at the Commerce Department, was once a man named Mitchell Simpson who had a sex change operation. Simpson is one of many Obama appointments intended to promote his homosexual activist supporters.

8) Anita Dunn – appointed White House Communications Director, she resigned over controversial statements from, among other things, praising Mao Tse Tung. Mao was a communist butcher of an estimated 70 million people. In a

speech before high school students, Dunn said: "Two of my favorite political philosophers – Mao Tse Tung and Mother Teresa, not often coupled with each other but the two people that I turn to most to basically deliver a simple point, which is you're going to make choices."

9) John Holdren – appointed director of the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy. According to Fox News, Holdren co-authored a book in the 1970s calling for laws requiring "compulsory abortions" in some cases, and advocated a "planetary regime" that would enforce draconian measures to administer the world's resources and growth.

10) Cass Sunstein – appointed administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. He taught at the University of Chicago Law School, has advocated giving animals legal standing to sue, in order to prevent animal cruelty. He praises taxes and big government saying "there is no liberty without dependency." He has also written that citizen's rights exist only the extent they are granted by the government.

These are just a sampling of Obama's appointments. There are many more radical appointments in the administration, with most of them largely ignored by the liberal mainstream media. These people are one of the clearest indicators of Obama's attempt to promote a radical leftwing agenda. The Obama administration is deeply unpopular with the American public at the moment, and partly as a result of choosing an administration outside of the mainstream, and so at odds with his campaign rhetoric.

## Citizens United Productions Presents



Citizens United is proud to announce that we have three new films in production that will be released in the coming months. These films will be hosted by the likes of Dick Morris, Rep. Michele Bachmann, as well as Newt and Callista Gingrich.

### ***America at Risk***

Newt and Callista Gingrich explore our current national security concerns and what is necessary to safeguard our country and our future. The tone of *America at Risk* is not to scare but to awaken—it is our civic duty to be aware and to be vigilant. This film will look at the problems we have experienced, current and future areas of concern, and potential solutions.

### ***America Again***

*America Again* creates a patriotic, inspiring, and moving message that rekindles our belief in America's greatness and the people's capacity to forge meaningful change. Dick Morris hosts a documentary indictment of the left and its efforts to turn America into a second-class country.

### ***Fire from the Heartland***

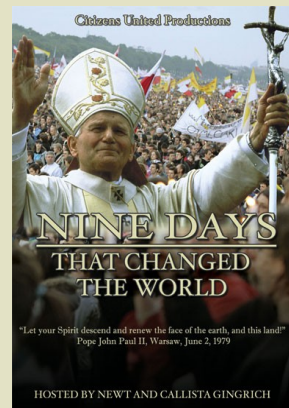
Congresswoman Bachmann (MN-6) gives her ideas about the root causes of our crisis; how our country got into its current economic predicament; what impact the crisis will have on Americans today and future generations; and what steps our country must take in order to solve its daunting problems.

Please visit [www.citizensunited.org](http://www.citizensunited.org) for the latest updates!

You can also check out the websites for our two latest releases available for purchase:



[www.generationzeromovie.com](http://www.generationzeromovie.com)



[www.ninedaysthatchangedtheworld.com](http://www.ninedaysthatchangedtheworld.com)

A FINAL THOUGHT FROM  
CITIZENS UNITED PRESIDENT  
DAVID N. BOSSIE

In 2006, Democrats swept into the majority in the House of Representatives and in the United States Senate. Their leaders, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, promised unprecedented levels of transparency, good governance, and fiscal responsibility. Four years later, now that Democrats control all the levers of government, both on Capitol Hill and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, they have succumbed to the temptations of incumbency that leads to broken promises and electoral defeat.

Almost as soon as they took the majority, Democrats started down the path of arrogant double-speak, assuming that nobody was paying attention. Representative Alan Mollohan, under investigation by the Department of Justice for questionable real estate deals, was permitted to keep his powerful position as a “Cardinal” on the Appropriations Committee, overseeing billions of taxpayer dollars – including the budget of the Department of Justice, the very same agency that was investigating him!

The ethical troubles continued in 2008 when long-time New York Congressman Charlie Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee which is responsible for writing tax laws, was found to have been taking advantage of rent-stabilized apartments to save himself almost \$4,000 per month in rent payments, using Congressional letterhead to solicit donations for an organization bearing his name, and numerous failures to pay taxes on everything from a Washington, DC parking space to income from his villa in the Dominican Republic. Despite the litany of offences, Representative Rangel remained the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for a full two years until fellow Democrats, perhaps realizing that incumbents were in a very precarious position

in 2010, began to turn on him and demanded that he resign his chairmanship.

Unfortunately, ethical lapses are not the only, or even the most serious, problem that Democrats have going into the 2010 election year. We’re all well aware of the nearly \$1 trillion “stimulus” package that Democrats rammed through both Houses of Congress in 2009 that hasn’t done anything to put Americans back to work, and we all know about the nearly \$1 trillion health care takeover that utterly fails to do anything to address the structural long-term fiscal crisis in this country. But this week, the Democrats took irresponsibility a step further and demonstrated once and for all that they’re more concerned with maintaining their majorities in the House and the Senate than they are with using their huge majorities to fix the gaping hole in this country’s fiscal future. In what can only be described as an act of election year cynicism, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer declared that House Democrats would not force their Members to take a difficult vote on a budget before the election, and would instead simply decline to pass a budget at all for the first time since modern Congressional budget rules went into effect.

At some point or another, the party in power becomes more enamored with staying in power than with solving problems. Sometimes it takes a decade, like the previous Republican leadership in the House, and sometimes, like the current Democrat leadership, it only takes a couple of years. Democrats will discover, just as Republicans did in 2006, that when a party abandons governing in favor of elections, it will pay the price at the polls.

Sincerely,  
David N. Bossie

