



Obama Biden Watch



Volume 2
Issue 10

November 2010

www.obamabidenwatch.org
www.citizensunited.org

Beware of the Lame Duck Congress

Republicans may be in control of the U.S. House of Representatives when the 112th Congress comes to Washington, D.C. in January, but the 111th Congress isn't dead yet. When the disastrous Pelosi-Reid-led Congress comes back for its lame duck session on November 15th, it should have one thing in mind: do no more harm to country or party. But clearly, doing what the American people want has not been the modus operandi thus far. We should all be uneasy, because two months is enough time to do a lot more damage if we let our guards down.

Let's review. When the 111th Congress began its war against prosperity in January 2009, the national debt registered at \$10.6 trillion; it is currently \$13.7 trillion and rising rapidly. The unemployment rate stood at 7.7 percent. Today, 22 months later, because Obama, Pelosi, and Reid focused on everything *except* jobs and the economy, our unemployment rate has been stuck at 9.6 percent for three months and has been over 9 percent for 18 straight months. This is the first time this has happened since 1982-1983, when unemployment stayed above 9 percent for 19 straight months before the Reagan economic package took effect and ushered in unprecedented economic growth for the rest of the decade. If this lame duck Congress does one thing and one thing only - it is imperative that it extends every single one of President Bush's tax relief items. Before the

historic 2010 elections, Obama, Pelosi, and Reid's tax strategy seemed to be centered on picking and choosing who deserves tax cuts and who doesn't. Continuing this anti-growth mentality in the lame duck Congress would be a colossal mistake and would cause gridlock in the U.S. Senate. It doesn't take a genius to know that in this type of economic situation every American urgently needs tax relief, not just the folks Obama, Pelosi, and Reid judge to be worthy of help.

It's not a stretch to say that a majority of Americans would be satisfied with the 111th Congress coming back, extending the tax cuts and leaving for home, never to be seen again, except in the history books in the "how NOT to govern" section. However, if Obama, Pelosi, and Reid go in the wrong direction once again - that is to force unpopular legislation on the American people while they still have the numbers - they would only be inviting further destruction of their party as well as setting back our economic recovery. Whether it be attempting to pass an amnesty immigration bill that would reward illegal activity; or trying to ram cap and trade (also known as cap and tax) through the Senate somehow; or convincing some fragile Senate Republicans to approve President Obama's naïve New START treaty; or for a third time, trying to limit First Amendment rights with the DISCLOSE Act, Democrats would

Continued on the next page...

be wise to look at their 2012 election map a bit early before doing something astonishingly dense.

Consider these stubborn facts. In the U.S. Senate for starters, 21 Democrats and 2 Independents who caucus with Democrats will face the voters in 2012. Across the aisle, only 10 Republicans in the Senate are up for re-election. At least 11 of these Senate Democrats (Sherrod Brown (OH); Maria Cantwell (WA); Bob Casey (PA); Amy Klobuchar (MN); Joe Manchin (WV); Claire McCaskill (MO); Ben Nelson (NE); Bill Nelson (FL); Debbie Stabenow (MI); Jon Tester (MT); and Jim Webb (VA)) is likely to face tough challenges. Conversely, only 2 out of 10 Republicans are expected to face any serious challenge (Scott Brown (MA) and John Ensign (NV)).



Jim Webb (D-VA) and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) are two of the Senate seats most vulnerable in 2012

There is no doubt that anyone who joins the effort to move on these unpopular items on the Democrat wish list would be remembered by the voters in two years and appropriately punished. Meanwhile, across the U.S. Capitol Building in the lower chamber, although more than 60 House Democrats just lost their seats, at least two dozen more members had their political lives flash before their eyes in very close races. These Democrats know who they are and would be wise to stop Nancy Pelosi's lame duck charge before it starts.

In closing, the best course of action for the lame duck Democrats is to simply work with Republicans to extend all the Bush tax cuts, and then go home and get started on a different agenda that doesn't make American's think of Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter's worst days.

In this Issue

Beware of the Lame Duck Congress
Pg. 1

Welcome to Congress—Advice to the Incoming Freshman Members of Congress
Pg. 3

Don't Forget the State Legislative Victories
Pg. 5

Conservative Women Led the GOP Comeback
Pg. 7

Final Thoughts
Pg. 8

Published By
Citizens United

Editor
David N. Bossie

Managing Editor
J.T. Mastranadi

Contributors
Chris Berg
Robert Vandervoort
Jeff Marschner
Alexa Moutevelis

Publication Design
Kirk Risinger
Julie Drinkard

Copyright © 2010 by
Citizens United

Welcome to Congress – Advice to the Incoming Freshman Members of Congress

You've endured a long, hard campaign season, weathered vicious attacks from your opponents, on Election Night, you triumphed, and now you will take your seat in the 112th Congress. Now the real work begins.

While much of your time from now through your swearing in will be filled with thanking supporters, hiring staff, and retiring campaign debt, it is imperative that you devote some time to reflect on what it is that brought you to this point. Why did the voters select you on Election Day; what do they expect from you; and how will you make good on your promises to the American public?

Republicans gained over 60 seats in the House of Representatives this Election Day. This electoral tsunami is a reflection of how the American public is feeling. They are tired of President Obama, Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi and their failed liberal agenda. From Obamacare, to flawed economic stimulus packages, to cap and trade, they've had enough.

The voters embraced your candidacies and ultimately cast their ballots for you because they want a real change. They want principled conservatives who will come to Washington and stand firm on their promises to cut spending, restore fiscal discipline, and actually create an environment that fosters economic growth and job creation. There are a few bold ideas that Americans endorsed by electing you this Tuesday which, if accomplished, will help correct the course of our great nation.

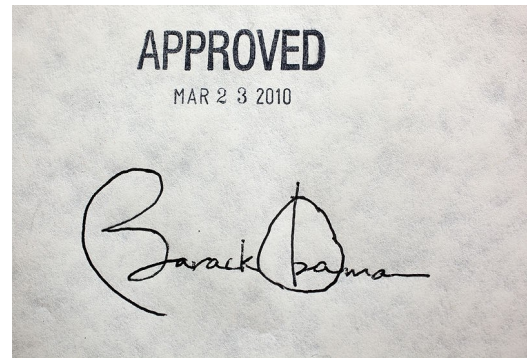
Make the Bush Tax Cuts Permanent

The current Congress has shown an unwill-

ingness to make the Bush era tax cuts permanent. Because the Democrat majority has focused on class warfare rather than leadership, our nation is on the verge of one of the largest tax increases in its history. The Bush tax cuts doubled the child tax credit, lowered capital gains tax rates, eliminated the marriage penalty, and lowered all tax brackets. In these troubled economic times, allowing these tax cuts to expire will have disastrous consequences. Renew the Bush tax cuts permanently for all.

Repeal Obamacare

On March 21, 2010 the House of Representatives passed the unconstitutional Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare. The hastily-crafted legislation was written behind closed doors and did not afford Members of Congress the opportunity to read, much less understand, the legislation before voting on it.



President Obama's signature on the unpopular healthcare overhaul bill that Republicans are trying to repeal now that they have captured the majority in the U.S. House

Contained within the bill is an unprecedented mandate that individuals purchase private insurance. This affront to individual liberty requires that Americans purchase a government-approved product, or face a substantial fine. The government can't tell you what kind of car to purchase, how can it tell you what kind of health care is acceptable?

Continued on the next page...

Repeal this unconstitutional legislation.

Change the Way Washington Works

While the policy agenda is important, so too is the business of how our government operates. As we saw in the last Congress, neither members nor their staff had sufficient time to read voluminous legislation before being forced to cast their votes. During the healthcare debate, Republican Leader John Boehner cautioned:

“And look at how this bill was written. Can you say it was done openly, with transparency and accountability? Without back-room deals, and struck behind closed doors, hidden from the people? Hell no, you can’t!”

Have you read the bill? Have you read the reconciliation bill? Have you read the manager’s amendment? Hell no, you haven’t!”

Learn from this legislative debacle. Support efforts to place every bill online for at least 3 days before voting on it.



Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), an opponent of the Obama health-care bill, will become the Speaker of the House in January 2011 and change the direction of the U.S. House

Another important legislative guideline – say no to earmarks! The American people are tired of legislation being crafted in backroom deals based on personal interests. There should be no more “Cornhusker Compromises,” “Louisiana Purchases,” or “Bridges to Nowhere.” If the Congress is to enact legislation, it should be for the good of all Americans, not the special interests of the few.

We’ve already seen members of the political establishment express a need to “co-opt” the incoming freshman members who are proud Tea Party conservatives. I’ve seen far too many Members of Congress come to town and forget the principles and values that their constituents embraced when sending them to Washington.

Stay true to your values, stay true to your principles, and as Jefferson Smith exhorted in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*:

“Just get up off the ground, that’s all I ask. Get up there with that lady that’s up on top of this Capitol dome, that lady that stands for liberty. Take a look at this country through her eyes if you really want to see something. And you won’t just see scenery; you’ll see the whole parade of what Man’s carved out for himself, after centuries of fighting. Fighting for something better than just jungle law, fighting so he can stand on his own two feet, free and decent, like he was created, no matter what his race, color, or creed. That’s what you’d see. There’s no place out there for graft, or greed, or lies, or compromise with human liberties ...

Great principles don’t get lost once they come to light. They’re right here; you just have to see them again!”

Don't Forget the State Legislative Victories

On November 2nd, conservatives were ecstatic that control of the House of Representatives was taken away from liberal Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). That election brought in over 60 new Republicans (with some close races still to be decided as of this writing). Conservatives are hopeful these new Republicans will drive a stake through the heart of the Obama Administration's leftwing agenda. Conservatives also saw gains in the Senate, with Rand Paul (R-KY) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) being among some of the more conservative members elected that night.



Rand Paul (R-KY) won a coveted seat in the formerly Democrat-dominated Senate against Jack Conway in the November 2, 2010 midterm elections

And while conservative gains fell short of full control in the Senate, Republicans picked up 11 governorships from the Democrats, with many of the newly elected GOP governors being conservative. A majority of governors in 2010 were Democratic, now it's a Republican majority.

Below these big ticket races, conservatives should also consider the historic gains made in the state legislatures. Republicans gained a whopping 680 seats in state legislatures (with a few more races yet to be decided as of this writ-

ing). According to *The Hotline*, "The GOP gained majorities in at least 14 state house chambers. They now have unified control -- meaning both chambers -- of 26 state legislatures." Before the Tuesday elections, Republicans had unified control of only 15 chambers.

This is far more than the Republicans gained in their 1994 wave (with 472 seats), and even more than the 1974 Democratic Watergate-era wave (628 seats). Control of four state legislative chambers, as of this writing, is being decided due to the closeness of the elections: New York, Oregon, Colorado, and Washington.

If you include states where Republicans picked up just one of the two state legislative chambers, you have to go back to 1928 to find a time when Republicans controlled this many state legislatures. This should be good news for conservatives, as sound state policies now have a chance of being enacted after liberal Democratic control. States that enact conservative fiscal policies and other conservative policy measures may soon take the lead in getting out of the economic doldrums Obamanomics has created.

From 1956 to 2002, Democrats controlled a majority of the nation's legislative seats. Their lock began to break during the George W. Bush years, but swung back in 2006. After seeing what the Democrats' lurch to the left has brought, majorities across the country voted to put a stop to it in 2010.

In the South, historic bastions of Democratic state legislative power suddenly shifted into Republican hands. North Carolina's legislature flipped for the first time since 1870. Alabama saw both chambers become Republicans, which had not occurred since Reconstruction.

In the Rust Belt and Midwest, the GOP gained control of the state legislatures in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana.

In Iowa, Republicans picked up control of the state senate, along with bringing back Republican governor Terry Branstad. And in another shocker, all three of the Iowa Supreme Court justices lost their retention elections. These were the three justices that voted to overturn Iowa's law protecting traditional marriage. State judges across the country (where they are accountable to the voters) are on notice now that there is a limit to out of touch liberal judicial activism.

The Midwestern state of Minnesota, which gave us liberal Democrats like Eugene McCarthy, Hubert Humphrey, and Walter Mondale, couldn't resist the Republican tide. Republicans picked up both state chambers in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" for the first time.

Even New England, long a bastion of liberal Democratic stalwarts, moved Republican. Maine elected a Republican governor, state senate, and state house.



Republican Paul LePage will be the next governor of Maine. Le Page took over for Democrat John Baldacci, showing how the Republican tide is gaining strength in New England.

New Hampshire, long a Republican outpost in a sea of Democratic neighbors, was recently seen to be succumbing to the Democrats. Not after the 2010 elections. The Granite State

saw Republicans win back both state legislative chambers, including a jaw dropping 100 seat gain in the state's 400 member state house.

These changes at the state level not only mean that conservative policy ideas now have a chance of being enacted, but it could also help keep Republican gains in the House of Representatives for possibly the next decade. For one thing, state legislators are a sort of "farm team" for the party in power, helping them field good candidates for Congress when one retires. For another, a majority of these legislatures will be involved in the redistricting battles that lay ahead after the recent 2010 Census.

Not all states legislatures draw up district lines. In California, during this past election, voters passed Proposition 20, which allows for an independent commission to draw up the state and Congressional district boundaries. However, it remains to be seen just how non-partisan the California independent commission will be.

Helping Republicans gain power at this level was Ed Gillespie, the chairman of the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC). His organization spent more than \$30 million to help Republicans win control of state legislatures. He stated in his post-election memo: "The bottom line is that Republicans will have a much greater impact on the redistricting process as a result of yesterday's elections."

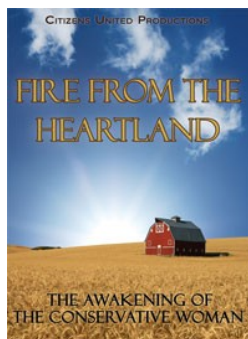
Where state legislatures draw up the districts, Republicans are now firmly in the driver's seat. Conservatives should work to make sure that Republicans stay on the conservative path, but not overlook their recent victories over many formidable liberal bastions at the state level. The Democratic losses, after the 2006 and 2008 gains, could not have come at a worse time for them and their liberal agenda.

Conservative Women Led the GOP Comeback

Conservative Republicans nationwide made a resounding comeback Tuesday night, recapturing the majority in the U.S. House by picking up more than 60 seats - the biggest gains since 1948! In addition to the historic night in the House, Republicans added 6 seats in the U.S. Senate, 18 State House chambers switched, and there will be 11 new Republican governors starting in 2011.

President Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and soon-to-be-ex Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi saw a repudiation of their irresponsible and out of touch left-wing agenda, and the comeback of a vibrant and hopeful conservative movement - with women leading the way.

A large number of Republican women ran for Congress this year – 51 to be exact – and those winning their races included Sandy Adams of Florida, Diane Black of Tennessee, Vicky Hartzler of Missouri, Jaime Herrera of Washington, Kristi Noem of South Dakota, and Martha Roby of Alabama, all of whom took over seats previously held by Democrats. They will join *Fire From the Heartland* cast members and incumbent Congresswomen Michele Bachmann, Cynthia Lummis, and Jean Schmidt in the House this January.



Citizens United Production's film *Fire From the Heartland*, the second film in the Tea Party Trilogy, is host to three women who will once again take office in January 2011

Some of the other notable GOP women who prevailed include rising stars Nikki Haley and Susana Martinez, the first female governors of South Carolina and New Mexico, respectively, and Kelly Ayotte, who trounced liberal Rep. Paul Hodes to

become the junior U.S. Senator from New Hampshire.



Nikki Haley will be the governor of South Carolina, the first woman to ever hold the position

When one traces the roots of the conservative movement, women have always served as its back bone. The leadership of strong conservative women throughout history such as Clare Boothe Luce, Phyllis Schlafly, and Margaret Thatcher brought forth the leaders of today like Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin, which in turn yielded this year's crop of female leaders.

2010 has truly been the Year of the Conservative Woman and *Fire From the Heartland* tells many of these women's stories in their own voices. Strong women like Sonnie Johnson, Dana Loesch, Jenny Beth Martin, Michelle Moore, Deneen Borelli, and Jamie Radtke felt compelled to spring into action and become the voices of today's conservative movement because they saw their families' futures threatened.

We saw "Mama Grizzlies" who had never been involved with politics before take to the streets and lead Tea Party rallies. As Rep. Bachmann says in the film, "It's not that men don't see what's going on, but women feel it." It is with these thoughts and concerns that American women led the charge to take our country back.

Conservative women lit a fire from the heartland and on Election Night we saw that fire spread from coast to coast in the form of GOP victories.

FINAL THOUGHT FROM
CITIZENS UNITED PRESIDENT
DAVID N. BOSSIE

Dear Friend,

This fall has been a very busy season at Citizens United. We premiered three documentaries; *America at Risk*, *Fire from the Heartland*, and *Battle for America*. All were well received, and *Battle for America* was named "Film of the Year" by Fox Nation. All three films pushed the debate in their issue areas and I am proud of the final products.

Our first of three documentaries, *America at Risk*, hosted by Newt and Callista Gingrich, was premiered on the ninth anniversary of the September 11th attacks to a crowd of over 350 people in Washington, D.C. The film investigates the roots of radical Islam's hatred toward the West. As we pass the one year anniversary of the Fort Hood terrorist attack, the Obama Administration refuses, to this day, to acknowledge that the Fort Hood shooting was a result of radical Islam. *America at Risk* is a must see documentary that will help shape the War on Terror debate in the years ahead.

The second documentary released was *Fire from the Heartland*. The documentary premiered on September 22nd in Washington, D.C. *Fire from the Heartland* is a powerful statement about women in the conservative movement. From the founding of the republic and the settling of the West, to the battles of Phyllis Schlafly against the ERA, to Sarah Palin and the rise of the Tea Party, *Fire from the Heartland* is a highly stylized film of breathtaking beauty and remarkable power. I was honored to have Congresswomen Michele Bachmann, Jean Schmidt, and Cynthia Lummis attend the premiere.

The third documentary, *Battle for America* with Dick Morris, premiered on September 30th. With the historic election that took place earlier this month, *Battle for America* helped shape the debate. The documentary is a no-holds-barred examination of an Administration and Democrat Congress that set out to "transform" America but ended up energizing grassroots conservatives and lighting the fuse for a populist rebellion called "the Tea Party" movement. This film brings America back to its core principles based upon a limited federal government. *Battle for America* is the third movie in the "Tea Party Trilogy" which includes *Fire from the Heartland* and *Generation Zero*.



As we enter the holiday season, all three of these films would make great gifts for anyone who believes in liberty and freedom. All three films, as well as the 14 other powerful Citizens United documentaries can be purchased on Citizens United's website at www.citizensunited.org. Please support these films so we can make more documentaries that will tell the truth of the Obama Presidency.

Finally, as we celebrate Thanksgiving, please remember our military families who have missing seats at the dinner table. Our men and women in uniform sacrifice so much so that we can live under the umbrella of freedom. They put their lives on the line everyday so that you and I can enjoy what America has to offer. So as you sit down at the Thanksgiving table, please say a prayer and give thanks to those who are away from their families protecting our freedom.

Sincerely,
David N. Bossie