

*Mike Berman's*

# WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

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## SPECIAL EDITION

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## THE END IS NEAR

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It appears that the electorate will be more Republican and more conservative than any electorate going back to 1994. Based on Gallup's last survey before each of the preceding elections, and its surveys between 10/14-24/10, here are the numbers.

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>
GOP	49%	47%	51%	45%	55%
IND	7	6	4	4	4
DEM	44	47	45	52	40
CON	40%	45%	42%	42%	48%
MOD	48	42	40	37	32
LIB	12	13	18	21	20

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Public opinion as to whether the country is headed in the right direction (RD) or is on the wrong track (WT) has not changed much since March. By almost 2 to 1 folks believe it is on the wrong track.

	NBC/WSJ <u>RD/WT</u>	NYT/CBS <u>RD/WT</u>	WP/ABC <u>RD/WT</u>
October 21-26	----	34/61%	----
October 14	32/59%	----	----
October 5	----	32/63% CBS	----
September	32/60%	33/60%	----
August (late)	30/61%	----	----
August (early)	32/58%	----	----
June	29/61%	32/60%	37/60%
March	33/59%	----	38/60%
February	----	33/62%	----
January 2010	34/54%	36/55%	37/62%
December 2009	33/55%	37/56%	----
February 2009	41/44%	23/68%	31/67%

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Generally, when the incumbent President's job approval rating is below 50% his Party loses House seats in the double digit range.

Obama over all job approval App/Disapp)

	<u>NBC/WSJ</u>	<u>NYT/CBS</u>	<u>WP/ABC</u>
October 26	----	45/47%	----
October 2010	47/49%	45/45% (CBS)	50/47%
September 2010	46/49%	----	46/52%
August 2010	47/48%	48/44% (CBS)	----
June 2010	45/48%	47/43%	----
March 2010	48/47%	49/41%	53/33%
January 2010	48/43%	50/40%	53/44%
December 2009	47/46%	50/39%	50/46%
October	51/42%	----	57/40%
July	53/40%	----	58/37%
February 2009	60/26%	62/15%	68/25%

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When matched against the approval ratings of the last 8 Presidents in October of the 2nd year of their initial terms in office, Obama continues in 7<sup>th</sup> place, just ahead of Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. [Based on Gallup surveys]

	<u>App</u>	<u>Dis</u>
Kennedy	63	25-(Oct)
GW Bush (II)	62	31-(Oct)
Eisenhower	61	26-(Oct)
Nixon	58	27-(Oct)
Bush (I)	56	33-(Oct)
Carter	49	36-(Oct)
<u>Obama</u>	<u>44</u>	48-(Oct)
Reagan	42	48-(Oct)
Clinton	41	52-(Oct)

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## THE CONGRESS

Since the first issue of WW in this cycle, April 2009, the number of Senate seats that are Solid or Leaning Democrat has dropped from 15 to 10. The number of Solid or Leaning Republican seats has grown from 15 to 23. The number of Toss-up seats has grown from 7 to 12 and then fallen back to 4.

	<u>Solid D</u>	<u>Lean D</u>	<u>T-up</u>	<u>Lean R</u>	<u>Solid R</u>
October 28, 2010	8	2	4	6	17
October 2010	6	2	8	7	14
September 2010	7	1	12	3	14
July 2010	8	1	12	3	13
April 2010	7	3	8	6	12
April 2009	9	6	7	4	11

Of the 4Toss-Up races, 1 leans Democrat, 1 leans GOP, and 2 are even.

## THE U.S. SENATE

Democrats	57
Republicans	41
Independents	2 (caucus Dem)

Here is how the 37 Senate elections (19 Democratic incumbents, 18 Republican incumbents) look to me at this time (underlining reflects retirement). (D=Dem incumbent in office, R=GOP incumbent in office, I=Ind. Incumbent in office) [\*Gillibrand]

Safe <u>Democrat(8)</u> Connecticut <u>Delaware</u> Hawaii Maryland New York(A) New York(B)* Oregon Vermont	Leaning <u>Democrat(2)</u> California West Virginia	<u>Toss-Up(4)</u> Colorado Illinois Nevada Washington	Leaning <u>Republican(6)</u> Kentucky Louisiana <u>Missouri</u> <u>New Hampshire</u> <u>Pennsylvania</u> Wisconsin	Safe <u>Republican(17)</u> Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas Florida Georgia Idaho Indiana Iowa <u>Kansas</u> No. Carolina No. Dakota <u>Ohio</u> Oklahoma So. Carolina So. Dakota Utah
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	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Ind</u>
Seats not up in 2010	37	24	2
Safe in 2010	8	17	0
Leaning in 2010	2	6	0
 Total	 47	 47	 2
 Toss-ups	 4 (4D)		
	Even	3 (CO/NV/WA)	
	Lean GOP	1 (IL)	

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## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The generic ballot question is considered to be significant when it comes to predicting House elections, but not Senate elections.

In the selection of surveys noted below, the “generic” question is asked of registered voters, unless otherwise noted.

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>R/D</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Gallup	7/10-12/09	44/50	D+6
Gallup	3/1-7	44/47	D+3
ABC/WP LV	8/30-9/2/10	53/40	R+13
Fox	9/1-2	46/37	R+9
CNN/OR	9/1-2	52/45	R+7
Gallup RV	9/6-12	48/43	R+5
NYT/CBS	9/10-14	36/40	D+4
NYT/CBS LV	9/10-14	40/38	R+2
Gallup	9/13-19	45/46	D+1
CNN/OR	9/21-23	53/44	R+9
Gallup	9/20-26	46/46	--
Fox	9/28-29	44/38	R+6
Gallup	9/23-10/3	53/40	R+13 LV (Higher turnout)*
	9/23-10/3	56/38	R+18 LV (Lower turnout)*
ABC/WP	9/30-10/3	49/43	R+6 LV
CBS	10/1-5	45/37	R+8 LV
CNN/OR	10/5-7	52/45	R+7 LV
Gallup	10/7-17	48/43	R+5 RV
	10/7-17	53/42	R+11LV (Higher turnout)*
	10/7-17	56/39	R+17LV (Lower turnout)*
Fox	10/11-13	48/39	R+9 LV
Pew	10/13-18	50/40	R+10LV
Gallup	10/14-24	48/44	R+4 RV
	10/14-24	52/43	R+9 LV (Higher turnout)
	10/14-24	55/41	R+14LV(Lower turnout)
Newsweek	10/20-21	45/48	D+3 LV
NYT/CBS	10/21-26	46/40	R+6 LV
Bloomberg	10/24-26	47/44	R+3 LV

\* Gallup Lower turnout assumes that 40% of eligible Americans will vote.

\* Higher turnout assumes that more than 50% will vote.

The NBC/WSJ survey puts the question slightly differently than most of the other surveys: it asks respondents for their preference for the outcome of the coming Congressional elections.

		Registered R /D			
NBC/WSJ	6/10	45/43	R+2		
NBC/WSJ	8/10(early)	42/43	D+1		
NBC/WSJ	8/10(late)	43/43	0	LV 49/40	R+9
NBC/WSJ	9/22-26/10	44/44	0	LV 46/43	R+3
NBC/WSJ	10/10-14/10	44/46	D+2	LV 50/43	R+7

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One of the indicators of how many seats a President's Party will lose in a mid-term, as noted above, is the President's approval rating leading up to the election in the Gallup survey. Other apparent indicators, at least since 1994, are the Wrong Track number in the NBC/WSJ survey (e.g.: are things in the country on the wrong track?) and the disapproval of Congress number in the ABC/WP survey.

Here is what the numbers looked like in late September/early October of the election years listed below.

	<u>Pres Job Approval</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>Job Disapproval of Congress</u>	<u>Seats Lost</u>
Carter 1978	49%	--	--	-15 seats
Reagan 1982	42%	--	--	-20 seats
Reagan 1986	63%	--	--	- 5 seats
Bush I 1990	56%	59%	63%	- 8 seats
Clinton 1994	41%	55%	78%	-54 seats
Clinton 1998	65%	31%	44%	- 5 seats
Bush II 2002	62%	42%	43%	- 8 seats
Bush II 2006	37%	61%	66%	-30 seats
Obama 2010	46%	59%	76% (NYT/CBS)	

59% think it is time for a new person to be their representative in Congress.  
80% think it is time for most people in Congress to be replaced. [NYT/CBS 10/26]

The number of seats "The Cook Political Report" rates as solidly Democrat has dropped by 51 seats since April 2009, from 197 to 146. The total number of solidly Republican seats has grown from 139 to 162. The number of Toss-Ups has

grown from 5-40 seats. Of the current Toss-Ups, 38 are currently held by Democrats. Two are held by Republicans.

	<u>4/1/09</u>	<u>10/28/10</u>	
Solid Dem	197	134	(-63)
Likely Dem	36	25	(-11)
Lean Dem	19	31	(+12)
TOTAL Dem	252	190	(-62)
TOSS-UP	5	47	(+42)
TOTAL GOP	178	198	(+20)
Lean GOP	4	22	(+ 18)
Likely GOP	35	14	(-21)
Solid GOP	139	162	(+23)

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#### THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Democrats 256

Republicans 179

	<u>4/09</u>	<u>12/09</u>	<u>7/10</u>	<u>9/10</u>	<u>10/13/10</u>	<u>10/28/10</u>
TOTAL Dem	252	242	221	209	198	190
Solid Dem	197	174	154	154	141	134
Likely Dem	36	45	34	25	25	25
Lean Dem	19	23	33	30	32	31
Toss-up	5	19	33	45	40	47
D	4	16	30	42	38	46
R	1	3	3	3	2	1
Lean GOP	4	8	7	6	20	22
Likely GOP	35	15	13	14	15	14
Solid GOP	139	151	161	161	162	162
TOTAL GOP	178	174	181	181	197	198

[As always, thanks to “The Cook Political Report.” It is the best when it comes to analysis of Congressional races (as well as other electoral matters)].

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## A FEW THOUGHTS

This election is about the Democrats. Neither the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party is in good standing with the public. And incumbents are just plain out of favor. 48% would prefer a Congressional candidate who has no experience than one who has 10 years of experience in Congress. [NBC/WSJ]

Voters are reacting to their view that the Federal government, which the Democrats control, has let them down. They see that some have been protected from the current economic uncertainty – those who, in their view, who least need the help.

The same is also true, to a somewhat lesser extent, in State elections where Democrats have been in power.

When asked which one of the following issues is most important as they decide for whom to vote, they indicated:

Economic conditions	43%
Healthcare	23%
Size and Power of the Federal government	18%

[Gallup 10/21-24]

For too many Americans, the actions taken by the President and the Democratic Congress have done nothing to ameliorate those things which are oppressing them, as least so far as they can tell.

They know too many people who are still unemployed with no real prospects. And, at least as many people as those who are unemployed, now find themselves “under- employed.”

They have watched their neighbors lose their homes, and a majority of those who have not already lost their homes are concerned that they will not be able to pay their mortgages or their rent.

Because those who opposed healthcare reform were allowed to set the public environment in which it was debated and passed, most do not believe its implementation is in their best interest. What they do see, whether or not there is a cause and effect, is their costs of healthcare are rising. 46% think the healthcare reform legislation was a bad idea. [NBC/WSJ]



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A great deal is being made of the amount of money that is being spent on behalf of Republican candidates, some of it from anonymous sources. Truth be told, Democrats will not be outspent by Republicans in this election and in the Democratic coffers there is also some anonymity.

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#### THE END RESULT?

The Senate – Democrats + Independents	51
Republicans	49

The House – Democrats	208
Republicans	227

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