

Outlook for Washington in the 110th Congress

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Overview

- A few words about November 7
- A brief look at the lame duck
- Nature of the New Congress
- New Leaders / Key Members
- Democrats' Agenda for the 110th
- The White House Responds
- Visions of 2008

A few words about Nov 7...

- New Ratios
 - 232-203 House (exact reverse)
 - 50-49-1 Senate
 - 28-22 Governors (exact reverse)
- Anti-incumbent mood NOT bipartisan
- Regional character
 - New England D's now 21 of 22 seats
 - Northeast & Far West = Blue regions
 - Southeast & Plains = Red regions
 - Midwest & Southwest = Purple America?
- Winning strategy: Recruit centrists

A few words about Nov 7...

- Independents = more than one quarter
- Moderates = nearly one half
- Both groups leaned hard Dem in 2008
- Unpopular war = Unpopular incumbent
 - Under 40% rule
- Economy / Corruption / Values
- Limitations of a base strategy
 - Policy tile / Reliance on GOTV

A brief look at lame duck...

- Fiscal disarray = CR
- No NSA surveillance approval
- No Bolton / No new judges
- No extension of estate tax cut
- India nukes done
- Vietnam trade?
- Robert Gates hearings / confirmation

Nature of the New Congress...

- Tight Senate: No real floor majority
- Tight House: Factions rule
- Lack of discipline / hierarchy
- Politics paramount: Centrism tested
- Deals or confrontation?
- The urge to investigate
- Old bulls, old scores

Floor Leaders...

House Democrats

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California
 - First woman to become Speaker
- House Majority Leader
 - Steny Hoyer of Maryland
- House Majority Whip
 - James Clyburn of South Carolina
- House Democratic Caucus Chair
 - Rahm Emanuel of Illinois

Floor Leaders... House GOP

- House Republican (Minority) Leader
 - Hastert steps aside
 - John Boehner of Ohio (Majority Leader)
- House Republican (Minority) Whip
 - Roy Blunt of MO (Majority Whip)
- House Republican Conference Chairman
 - Adam Putnam of FL (former Policy chair)

Floor Leaders...The Senate

- Senate President
 - Dick Cheney of Wyoming
- Senate President Pro Tempore
 - Robert Byrd of West Virginia
- Senate Majority Leader
 - Harry Reid of Nevada
- Senate Majority Whip
 - Dick Durbin of Illinois
- Senate Conference Vice Chair
 - Charles Schumer of New York
- Senate Conference Secretary
 - Patty Murray of Washington

Floor Leaders... Senate GOP

- Senate Minority Leader (Republican)
 - Mitch McConnell of Kentucky
- Senate Minority Whip (Assistant Ldr)
 - Trent Lott of Mississippi
- Senate Republican Conference Chairman
 - ┌ Jon Kyl of Arizona
 - ┌ Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas (Policy)
- Senate GOP Campaign Chair (NRSC)
 - ┌ John Ensign of Nevada

Key New Members of Senate

- Senate centrists:
 - Corker (lone GOP member of class)
 - Casey / Webb / Tester (SASC / ENR)
 - McCaskill / Klobuchar (both to CS&T)
- Senate liberals
 - ┌ Sanders (ENR, EPW, HELP)
 - ┌ Whitehouse (Budget, EPW, Aging)
 - ┌ Brown (HELP)
 - ┌ Cardin (EPW, For Rels)

House Chairs and RMs

- House Appropriations
 - David Obey WI / Jerry Lewis CA
- House Budget
 - John Spratt SC / Ander Crenshaw FL
- House Ways and Means
 - Charles Rangel NY / Jim McCrery LA
- House Government Reform
 - Henry Waxman CA / Tom Davis VA

House Chairs and RMs

- House Energy & Commerce
 - John Dingell MI / Joe Barton TX
- E&C: Health SubCtee
 - Henry Waxman / Nathan Deal GA
- E&C: Oversight & Investigations
 - Bart Stupak MI / Ed Whitfield KY

House Chairs and RMs

- House Judiciary
 - John Conyers MI
 - Jim Sensenbrenner WI
- House Intelligence
 - Silvestre Reyes TX
 - Peter Hoekstra MI
- House Homeland Security
 - Bennie Thompson MS
 - Peter King NY

Senate Chairs and RMs

- Senate Appropriations
 - Robert Byrd W VA / Thad Cochran MS
- Senate Finance
 - Max Baucus MT / Charles Grassley IA
- Senate Budget
 - Kent Conrad SD / Judd Gregg SD
- Senate Homeland Security & Gov Affairs
 - Joe Lieberman CT / Susan Collins ME

Senate Chairs and RMs

- Senate Armed Services
 - Carl Levin MI / John Warner VA
- Senate Foreign Relations
 - Joe Biden DE / Richard Lugar IN
- Senate Judiciary
 - Pat Leahy VT / Arlen Specter PA
- Senate Health Educatn Labor & Pensions
 - Ted Kennedy MA / Mike Enzi WY

Democrats' Agenda for the 110th

- “New Direction” for Iraq
- Economic security: Minimum wage
- Economic security: College costs
- Health: Insurance availability
- Health: Prescription drug costs
- Taxes: Cuts revised & extended
- Immigration: Comprehensive again
- Stem cells and abortion limits
- Energy policy package (climate change)

Democrats' Agenda for the 110th: Oversight and Investigation

- Government Reform
 - Waxman goes after Bush Administration
- Armed Services
 - Skelton goes after the Pentagon
- Ways & Means
 - Stark goes after drug companies
- Homeland Security
 - Bennie Thompson goes after FEMA
- Energy & Commerce
 - Dingell & Waxman go after ...

The White House Responds

- Return of Bush 41
 - The Baker Regency
 - The Cheney Eclipse
- Fake right, go left?
 - Freeze conservatives
 - Make deals with Democrats
- Reagan '87 Model
- Clinton '96 Model
- Caveat: The Rove Factor

Visions of 2008

- Pressure on House Democrats
 - Margin too narrow to hold?
- Pressure on Senate Republicans
 - GOP must defend 21 of 33
- Distraction of Presidential Primaries
- Lack of incumbent POTUS or VP
- Few governors (4 of last 5)
- Four states voting in January 2008

Visions of 2008: Republicans

- 1st Tier: John McCain
- 2nd Tier: Mitt Romney / Rudy Giuliani
- 3rd Tier: Newt Gingrich
- 4th Tier: Sam Brownback / Chuck Hagel
 - Mike Huckabee / Tommy Thompson
 - Tom Tancredo / Duncan Hunter
- Unicorns: Colin Powell / Condi Rice
- Gone: Frist, Santorum, Allen, Owens

Visions of 2008: Democrats

- 1st Tier: Hillary Clinton / Al Gore
- 2nd Tier: Barack Obama / John Edwards
- 3rd Tier: Evan Bayh / Tom Vilsack
- 4th Tier:
 - Joe Biden / Chris Dodd / Tom Daschle
 - Bill Richardson / Wesley Clark / John Kerry
- Gone: Mark Warner, Russ Feingold

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