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Did Your Side Win? Why Congressional Ineptitude Is Your Fault

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*“Rooting for same outcome in debt ceiling debate that I root for in BCS standings: A giant clusterf*ck that casts doubt on the entire system.” –Radley Balko, 7/31/11*

Just when you thought the job performance of Congress couldn't sink any lower, along comes the [Debt Ceiling Debacle](#) to confirm that politicians in Washington DC can limbo much, much lower.

If you had a nickel for every time someone said, wrote or tweeted “The system is broken!” during this disgustingly partisan episode, you'd probably have enough to buy yourself a House or Senate seat in 2012, as has become election-cycle custom. So what's it going to take for real change to come to our nation's capital? Probably nothing. Because it ain't happening. And it's mostly our fault.

Huffington Post senior writer [Radley Balko](#) (formerly of *Reason* and the libertarian CATO Institute) is a terrific investigative reporter and a brilliant social commentator. His work on defending our increasingly eroded civil liberties and exposing the crimes against humanity in our criminal justice system is not to be missed. But [his tweet](#) on Sunday about the #debtceiling negotiations, a fun and practical statement in theory, unfortunately exists outside the political reality of what we're up against in DC: