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## GOP must focus on jobs to win

Tue, 09/21/2010 - 1:20pm | posted by Jason Pye

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As Republicans look to take back the House, independent voters are letting the GOP know that they don't care about mosques, gay marriage or other social issues. They are focused [only on the economy and jobs](#):

*Mr. Cornyn, who has been on the receiving end of anti-establishment anger, argued that the Tea Party had helped Republicans in one important respect, by moving the debate away from social issues. While Tea Party supporters tend to be socially conservative on issues like same-sex marriage and abortion, most say they don't want to talk about them; they believe that by spending so much time on those issues, the Republican Party failed to focus on fiscal conservatism.*

*While social issues tend to be polarizing, Republicans can win on economic issues, Mr. Cornyn said, because the Democrats have been in charge as the economy has gone south.*

*"As I've traveled," he said, "I've talked to a lot of folks who are basically independents who say: I'm fine with the Republicans as long as we're talking about fiscal responsibility. Where I go off the reservation is when you talk about social issues."*

Over at [Reason](#), Nick Gillespie [notes](#):

*If the GOP can credibly embrace the idea that endless bailouts (many of which were instituted by a Republican president) of GSEs, big banks, car companies, homeowners (but never renters!), etc. are a bad idea; that increasing total government outlays by 104 percent in an eight-year period is really awful; and that doubling down on the less-winnable of two dumb wars is not smart, maybe they deserve another shot at running the House.*

Whether social conservatives like it or not, their issues just aren't important any longer and conservatives like [Mitch Daniels](#) are right. As David Boaz told me in [the podcast I posted earlier](#), "10 years from now, 20 years from now, Republicans will not want to admit they ever opposed gay marriage."

Failing to align themselves with voters will be [snatching defeat from the jaws of victory](#).

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I want to believe it, but how does Christine O'Donnell fit into that characterization of the Tea Party voter? In order to align with those voters, the GOP has to embrace her politics on masturbation and