



How to beat Obama

Published: 10:36 AM 05/19/2011 | Updated: 10:40 AM 05/19/2011

By [The Daily Caller](#)

In late April, before a band of Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden, President Obama's approval ratings were near all-time lows — in the low to mid 40s, according to most polls. The president's approval ratings improved in the wake of the raid; more than two weeks later, they remain about five points higher than they were before the terrorist leader's death.

Some analysts have concluded that by killing bin Laden, Obama has neutralized one of the Republicans' strongest arguments — that he's weak on national security issues — and substantially improved his re-election prospects. But Republicans still have a path to victory in November 2012. The Daily Caller asked political commentators and activists from across the political spectrum what the eventual Republican nominee needs to do to defeat President Obama next year. Here's what they said:

The nominee needs to appeal to minorities and young people

Presidents usually get re-elected, and presidents who track down Osama bin Laden increase their odds. On the other hand, there have been four presidential elections since World War II with an unemployment rate above 7 percent. Three of those presidents — Ford, Carter, and Bush I — were defeated. The exception was Ronald Reagan, who went into the 1984 election with an unemployment rate at 7.2 percent, but down substantially. Obama hopes he'll get credit for an improving (though still not good) jobs picture and replicate the Reagan experience. Of course, one difference is that Reagan's policies actually boosted economic growth. Obama's policies seem to be having a different effect, given the extremely slow recovery.

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You can't beat someone with no one, and right now the Republican field looks very weak. Republicans are looking at the recent victory of the Canadian Conservatives, which offers some hope that center-right parties can win among minorities. Back in the 60s, the radicals used to say "chicks up front"; expect to see "Hispanics up front," like Senator Marco Rubio and Governors Susana Martinez and Brian Sandoval, in Republican efforts over the next 18 months.

In 2008 Barack Obama won two-thirds of the under-30 vote. Republicans need to deal with that problem before it becomes permanent. Focusing on fiscal issues, not social issues, would help to unite the center-right-and-libertarian coalition that Republicans need. Being perceived as anti-immigrant and anti-gay is hurting Republicans, especially among the young people Obama brought to the polls.

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