

Make us your start page

Washington, DC | Personalize
72° Fog/Mist

All Opinions PostPartisan Left-Leaning Right-Leaning Toles Cartoons Telnaes Animations Local Columnist Index

In the News 'American Idol' Ed Schultz Buster Posey Joplin, Mo. Mark Haines Jared Loughner

Search The Washington Post



About Jennifer Rubin | On Twitter | On Facebook | RSS Feed | E-mail Jennifer

ABOUT JENNIFER RUBIN

Posted at 07:45 AM ET, 05/26/2011

I'm a labor-lawyer-turned-blogger who believes in limited government, in free markets and that nearly all wisdom can be found in the Godfather movies and the Torah. [Read more](#)

Morning Bits

By Jennifer Rubin

The [worst](#) state Republican Party: "Once again, a New York Republican blew it. While the national debate rages about whether Tuesday's special election in the 26th Congressional District was a referendum on Medicare, recriminations are flying in the Empire State, directed at a state GOP that can't seem to get its act together."

The [best](#) short summation of President Obama's fundamental error: "Central to Israel's continued existence as the nation-state of the Jewish people is the Palestinian recognition that there can be no so-called 'right of return' to Israel, and that the Palestinian leadership and people must acknowledge that Israel will continue to exist as the nation-state of the Jewish people within secure and recognized boundaries. Unless President Obama sends that clear message, not only to the Israelis but to the Palestinians as well, he will not move the peace process forward. He will move it backward."

Actually, the [worst](#) thing Tim Pawlenty could do would be to go isolationist. ("To make the most of his momentum, he should stop criticizing Barack Obama's Libyan intervention as insufficiently ambitious.") So far, he's sitting at the grown-up table on national security, debt and pro-growth policies.

In fact, he's at his [best](#) when he's not pandering to the green-eyeshaders and instead standing up for a bold foreign policy. He told the Cato Institute crowd: "I'm not one who is going to stand before you and tell you we should cut the defense budget."

The [worst](#) approach to bipartisan debt reduction efforts: holler at Republicans for refusing to raise taxes. Alan Simpson becomes unhinged, asking in reference to Grover Norquist. "What kind of a nut is this guy?" Actually Norquist sounds pretty sane: "I suppose that the former senator can have fun calling me names if he wants, but his argument is with the Republican caucus in the House and the Senate and with the majority of the American people, who see this as a spending problem. And the only way to solve the spending problem is to spend less."

The [best](#) advice for Republicans on Medicare comes from Karl Rove: "Next year, Republicans must describe their Medicare reforms plainly, set the record straight vigorously when Democrats demagogue, and go on the attack. Congressional Republicans—especially in the House—need a political war college that schools incumbents and challengers in the best way to explain, defend and attack on the issue of Medicare reform. They have to become as comfortable talking about Medicare in the coming year as they did in talking about health-care reform last year. There needs to be preparation and self-education, followed by extensive town halls, outreach meetings, visits to senior citizen centers, and the use of every available communications tool to get the reform message across."

RELATED LINKS

- Post Partisan
- The Plum Line
- Ezra Klein
- The Fix
- 44

SEARCH THIS BLOG

Search input field with Go button

SUBSCRIBE

Select dropdown menu

RECENT POSTS

- Republican senators try to end recess appointments
- Morning Bits
- Experts weigh in on Obama's Middle East flub
- Democrats and Republican unite on Israel, against the president
- Democrats fail to scare the public on the debt ceiling

Entries By Category

- 2012 campaign
- American Jews
- Budget
- Conservative movement
- Economy
- Education
- Friday question
- Governors
- Hillary Clinton
- House GOP
- Human Rights
- Immigration
- Iran

Network News

Hide this

Friends' Activity Most Popular Twitter Activity

Your Friends' Most Recent Activity

Login You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' activity

Harold Camping says May 21, 2011 was 'invisible judgment day,' world will end October 21, 2011 - Und 19,589 people shared this.

A link between climate change and Joplin tornadoes? Never! 11,743 people shared this.

On path to riches, no sign of fluffy majors 3,858 people shared this.

Democrats join Republicans in questioning Obama's policy on Israel 1,198 people shared this.

Five myths about America's schools 6,513 people shared this.

Vote on Patriot Act extension delayed as Rand Paul pushes for amendment on gun rights - 2chambers -. 772 people shared this.

Facebook social plugin

Follow The Post: View More Activity

Advertisement: What's your channel? The Budget Deficit or Attention Deficit Disorder? Focus on the opinions that fit your interests at [Trove.com](#)

The Post Most: Opinions

Most Popular Section

- Paul Ryan gets a taste of his own shameless demagoguery
- In a New York election, talking back to the Tea Party
- Where Netanyahu fails himself and Israel
- Wait! Paul Ryan has a point
- A link between climate change and Joplin tornadoes? Never!

Top Videos

Top Galleries

Connect with PostOpinions



Facebook: Become a fan of Washington Post Opinions

- Israel
- Media
- Morning Bits
- National Security
- Obamacare
- President Obama
- Right Turn
- Senate Democrats
- Senate GOP
- Senate Republicans
- Taxes
- foreign policy
- law

- Stories By Date
- Full Monthly Archive

[Worst](#) vote ever on a president's budget? The Senate yesterday voted 97-0 against Obama's plan. Rep. Paul Ryan's budget got 40 votes, but the best showing was for [Sen. Pat Toomey's offering](#) (42 votes).

By Jennifer Rubin | 07:45 AM ET, 05/26/2011

Categories: [Morning Bits](#)

[Send](#)

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



Previous: [Republican senators try to end recess appointments](#)

Next: [Experts weigh in on Obama's Middle East flub](#)

Weigh In [About Discussions, Badges](#) [Discussion Policy](#)



LOG IN REGISTER + SHARE THIS DEBATE

You are not logged in. You must login or register with the Washington Post to comment or post. If you post before logging in, your comment will be saved while you are guided through the login process.

Type your comment here...

Limit 3000 characters (3000 characters remaining)

[Post](#)

Top Comments (1) **All Comments (2)**

[Newest first](#) [Oldest first](#) [Most Recommended first](#)



nvjma wrote:

The New York Republican Party is as incompetent as the gang that couldn't shoot straight; but it is still better than the Massachusetts "Republican" Party.

The fact that Romney is a creature of the Massachusetts "Republican" Party is another liability for him, one he has so far hardly had to deal with.

Today 5/26/2011 8:56:20 AM EDT

[Recommend](#)

[Reply](#)

[Report](#)

[RSS Feed](#)

[Subscribe to The Post](#)

© 2011 The Washington Post Company

Today's Opinions Poll

Should Republicans abandon Paul Ryan's plan for Medicare?

Yes

No

[Vote](#)

[view results](#) [Online Survey Software SurveyGizmo](#)

This is a non-scientific user poll. Results are not statistically valid and cannot be assumed to reflect the views of Washington Post users as a group or the general population.

Post Opinions E-letters

Sign-up for e-mail newsletters and alerts and get the news you need delivered directly to your inbox.

Behind the Government Showdown

Today's Opinions

Sunday Agenda & Roundup

Enter your e-mail address

[Subscribe](#)

[See all Washington Post Newsletters](#)

Join a Discussion

Thursday, May 26, 2011

11:00 AM [Sports talk with David Sheinin](#)

11:00 AM [Home Front: Design advice from Jura Koncius and Terri Sapienza](#)

12:00 PM [Carolyn Hax Live: Advice columnist tackles your problems \(Thursday, May 26\)](#)

12:00 PM [Oprah's final shows: Lisa de Moraes' TV Column](#)

12:00 PM [D.C.'s big stories: Lunchline's Clinton Yates breaks them down \(Video\)](#)

1:00 PM [Campus Overload Live with Jenna Johnson](#)

1:00 PM [Got Plans? Discuss great ideas for local entertainment, dates and family fun with the Going Out Gurus.](#)

2:00 PM [The Web Hostess: Online manners, memes and must-see video](#)

2:00 PM [The Sarah Palin movie; Kim Kardashian's engagement and huge 20.5-carat ring; So long, Oprah, and more: Celebrity Live](#)

[See schedule of all upcoming Live Q&As](#)

Top Jobs

- [Business Jobs](#)
- [Computer Jobs](#)
- [Construction Jobs](#)
- [Education Jobs](#)
- [Engineering Jobs](#)
- [Healthcare Jobs](#)
- [Legal Jobs](#)
- [Management Jobs](#)
- [Media Jobs](#)
- [Non-Profit Jobs](#)
- [Sales Jobs](#)
- [Science Jobs](#)

Keyword

e.g. Marketing

Location

City, State or Zip

[Search](#)

PROVIDED BY [SimplyHired](#)

Ways you can get us

- [Mobile](#)
- [Apps](#)
- [Widgets](#)
- [Post Store](#)
- [Photo Store](#)
- [Washington Post Live](#)

- [Podcasts](#)
- [Newsletter & alerts](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

The Washington Post

- [About Us](#)
- [Work for us](#)
- [Community Relations](#)
- [PostPoints](#)
- [Corrections/Suggestions](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Contact the Ombudsman](#)

Web site

- [Make us your homepage](#)

Newspaper

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Home delivery service](#)
- [e-Replica](#)

Advertise

- [In the newspaper](#)
- [On the web site](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Events](#)

The Washington Post Company

- [Post Company web sites](#)

Partners