

Advertisement

washingtonpost.com > Opinions > The Plum Line

The Plum Line
By Greg Sargent

In partnership with
who runs GOV

About Greg | On Twitter | Greg on Facebook | Subscribe to RSS Feed | E-Mail Greg

SEARCH THIS BLOG

Posted at 8:43 AM ET, 02/ 3/2011

The Morning Plum

By Greg Sargent

* **Obama eschews "aggressive, overbearing role" in Egypt:** This will enrage conservatives who are criticizing Obama's handling of the Egypt crisis as insufficiently heavy-handed, but do check out Fareed Zakaria's [positive contrast of Obama's approach with that of Bush](#):

After 9/11, Bush put a harsh spotlight on the problem of Arab dictatorships in a way that made them impossible to ignore. But he discredited his cause with a foreign policy that was deeply unpopular in the Arab world ... Obama, by contrast, pulled back from an overbearing, aggressive American role, which made it possible for Egyptian liberals and democrats to find their voices without being branded as U.S. puppets.

* But: As [E.J. Dionne notes](#), Obama may yet pay a political cost for his caution: "Ultimately, Obama will be judged by results. If the Egyptian uprising eventually leads to an undemocratic regime hostile to the United States and Israel, the president will pay the price."

* Also: [Administration officials are privately worried](#) that Mubarak's sluggishness about getting that "orderly transition" started means things could get much, much uglier.

* **Health repeal battle shifts to the courts:** Senate Democrats yesterday defeated the GOP measure to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which means [it's time to redouble our attention on fighting this battle out in the courts](#). There's no denying that a Supreme Court ruling against the law is a very real possibility.

* **Dems maintain unity against repeal:** The courts may be the only hope for the repeal brigade, because the fact that Senate Dems held the line against repeal yesterday [makes it clearer than ever that it's going to be all but impossible to roll back the law by legislative means](#).

* **Republicans vow to press on:** With Senate GOPers [vowing to keep pressing ahead with legislative efforts at repeal](#), it remains to be seen whether Tea Partiers will be willing to give Republicans an "A for effort" if these efforts prove a bust.

* **Dems challenge GOP: Repeal and replace with what?** Expect Dems to keep hammering away at [this point](#) from Chuck Schumer:

"If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said: 'You know, you're right. We have to reduce costs. We have a better way,' and they offered a bill on the floor, well maybe we'd take a look at it. Easy to sit there and say, 'repeal.' What would you put in its place?"

* **Obama to prove yet again to "skeptics" that he's Christian:** The

Search input field with 'Go' button

RECENT POSTS

- What would conservatives do for Hillary St. Pierre?
- For the GOP, there's no putting the 'repeal' genie back in the bottle
- What's next for Senate reform?
- What should Obama do next on Egypt?
- The Morning Plum

Entries By Category

- 2010 elections
- 2012
- Campaign finance
- Climate change
- Economy / unemployment
- Financial reform
- Foreign policy and national security
- Happy Hour Roundup
- Health reform
- House Dems
- House GOPers
- Immigration
- Independents
- Joe Sestak
- Labor
- Miscellaneous
- Morning Plum
- Political media
- Senate Dems
- Senate Republicans
- Social Security
- Supreme Court
- Tea Party
- White House
- bipartisanship
- budget
- debt ceiling

Advertisement

Sponsored Links

Kill Your Wrinkles
Mom Reveals Shocking \$5 method for erasing wrinkles...Doctors hate her
Channel9.com

How to Stay Asleep?
Cambridge Researchers have developed an all natural sleep aid just for you.
HealthHeadlines.com

Buy a link here

Network News

MY PROFILE X

Friends' Activity

- Gene Weingarten - Memo to Dan Snyder: Thank you for your stewardship of the Redskins**
Gordon Cummings and 4,249 people shared this.
- Groundhog Day 2011: What did Punxsutawney Phil predict and is he right?**
Kamaren Suwijn and 1,028 people shared this.
- Owner: Kitten froze after waiting in cargo hold**
5,835 people shared this.
- 'The White Stripes belong to you now': Jack and Meg White break up the band**
1,563 people shared this.
- EPA reverses Bush-era water safety standards, will regulate contaminants**
1,191 people shared this.
- Pepco may charge more due to outages**
615 people shared this.
- Rumsfeld remains largely unapologetic in memoir**
Facebook social plugin

View More Activity

[RSS Feed](#)

[Subscribe to The Post](#)

© 2011 The Washington Post Company

Ways you can get us

[Mobile](#)
[Apps](#)
[Newsletter & alerts](#)
[RSS](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

[Podcasts](#)
[Widgets](#)
[Post Store](#)
[Photo Store](#)
[Washington Post Live](#)

Website

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

Web site

[Make us your homepage](#)
[Newspaper](#)
[Subscribe to the newspaper](#)
[Home delivery service](#)
[e-Replica](#)

Advertise

[In the newspaper](#)
[On the Web site](#)
[Mobile](#)
[Events](#)
[The Washington Post Company](#)
[Corporate Web site](#)

Partners

© 1996-2011 The Washington Post | [User Agreement and Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#)

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Ad Choices](#)