



Traffic Weather

Local/News Sports Weather Traffic Business Entertainment Things to Do Life/Travel Opinion Shopping/Classifieds Autos Homes Jobs Place an Ad

OPINION BLOG

Blogs Columnists Editorials Op-Ed Local Voices Letters to the Editor Sunday Commentary North-South Dallas Project Ask the Editor Political Tools

« The Big Story: Big night for Republicans (except in Dallas County) | Main | Did Dallas County voters forgive, forget or just overlook incumbents' scandals? »

Comments 1 | Recommend 1

Still waiting for change



9:33 AM Wed, Nov 03, 2010 | Permalink
Tod Robberson / Editorial Writer Bio E-mail Suggest a blog topic

Well, it's been several hours since voters empowered the Republicans to take action. But **unemployment** is *still* up there near 10 percent. The deficit is rising. Taxes are *still* too high. Big government is *still* out of control. Geez, I thought these guys were going to change things. So where's the change?

I know, that sounds more than a little impatient, but that's the unrealistic expectation of voters these days. The clock started ticking for **Obama** within hours of his election, and even though the new GOP-majority House is still two months away from being sworn in, they are already on notice that voters expect everything, and they expect it now, dadgummit. The airwaves are full of advice from pundits today about how the Republicans should handle the raging bull they've just lassoed. Here's some of the best wisdom I've culled from them:

Michael Tanner is a senior fellow at the **Cato Institute** (talking to **NPR**): The top three issues in this election were: the economy, the economy, and the economy. ...That needs to be Republicans' first, second, and third priority. Indeed, it could be argued that one factor in the Democrats' defeat was that they spent so much time in the last two years discussing issues besides the economy. If Republicans spend their first weeks in power debating "Don't Ask Don't Tell" or abortion restrictions, voters are likely to treat them the same way they did Democrats this year. ... Ban Earmarks. True, they don't amount to a lot of money, just 1.2 percent of federal discretionary spending. But earmarks are an important structural and symbolic component of government spending. Republicans imposed a moratorium on earmarks in 2010, but it expires next year. If that were to happen, voters could rightly conclude that Republicans were not serious about controlling spending. At the very least, Republicans should renew the moratorium. Even better would be a permanent ban on earmarks. ...

Investigate -- Carefully. Certainly a little bit of oversight is long overdue in Washington. Rep. **Darrell Issa** (R-CA) will be in charge of the Government Oversight Committee with its investigatory and subpoena power. But Republicans need to remember that overzealousness during the Clinton years hurt them. Too often, investigations appeared partisan and mean-spirited. They need to hold the **Obama** administration accountable, but in a careful and restrained way. Any discussion of impeachment or Obama's birth certificate is an automatic disqualifier.

Tim Rutten, **Los Angeles Times**: One of the first tests of [incoming House Speaker **John Boehner's**] ability to discipline populist revolutionaries fresh from the electoral barricades will come when the new Congress is asked to raise the federal debt limit from \$12.4 trillion to \$14.3 trillion. No Congress has ever refused to approve such an increase and, if such a refusal were to occur, the consequences for the global financial system would be apocalyptic. Many of the new senators and House members have pledged to vote against an increase in the debt. **Tim Phillips**, president of Americans for Prosperity -- one of the more active national tea party groups -- told Politico this week that the Republicans' new House majority "cannot fold on the debt."

Marc Ambinder, The Atlantic: Privately, **White House** officials hope that Republicans immediately adopt a celebratory, no-compromise, "we're back!" posture, and hope that they don't take the advice of Sen. **Mitch McConnell**, who will call the election a mere "course correction." Before or after [Obama's trip to] Asia, he is almost certain to invite the new leaders of Congress to the White House, or to **Camp David**. There will be private meetings and a public photo op. Message: it's easy to say no, guys, but now this big pile of problems is on you, too

And then there's former Bush speech writer **David Frum**:

Home | Contact Us | HelpCenter | Advertising | Site Map | About Us | Career | News Feeds
Terms of Service | Privacy | About our Ads | Special Offers
© The Dallas Morning News, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

VOTER GUIDE

Compare candidates in the Nov. 2 statewide elections and create your own ballot.

Street address:
City:
ZIP code:
Submit Query

View the Voter Guide

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- My airport experience
- Study supports legalization
- Transition for Fannie, Freddie
- Girls will be girls?
- Obama the correct target
- No one is facing hard truths
- The roots of Dr Pepper
- Don't let polls affect your vote
- Three Cheers:
- More time for chores
- Send a Letter

Alerts Newsletters Widgets

Advertisement

How about a \$30 Visa® Gift Card SUBSCRIBE WELCOME

Get your TollTag at www.NTTA.org
NTTA NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

SPOTLIGHT

Voter Guide: Compare candidates in the Nov. 2 general election and create your own ballot.
► **Blog:** Politics
► **Elections coverage**
► **Our recommendations**

Bridging Dallas North-South Gap: Editorials and opinion columns from *The Dallas Morning News*.
► 10 Drops in the Bucket
► **Blog:** Southern Dallas

Texas Faith: Talking politics, religion and culture
► About the project
► Panel of experts

FEATURED COLUMNISTS

Mark Davis

Mark Davis: Rangers' script almost defies belief



DAVID FRUM ON THE COLBERT REPORT..



advertisement

embed this player

In other words: **GOP** candidates made some pretty big promises -- perhaps even bigger than what Obama and the Democrats promised in 2008. And to deliver those promises, you're going to have to refuse to budge on raising the debt ceiling while being forced to deliver on those tax cuts. The budget won't balance easily, and you will not escape responsibility for the economic consequences of your decisions. Welcome to Obama's hell, Republicans. It's your problem now, too.

Create A Screen Name

Screen names can only consist of letters and numbers. Your screen name will appear to everyone.

NOTE: You cannot change, delete, or edit your screen name once you hit "Save".

CHECK
CANCEL

Leave Comment

Having problems seeing comments?

Guidelines: We welcome your thoughts, but for the sake of all readers, please refrain from the use of obscenities, personal attacks or racial slurs. All comments are subject to our terms of service and may be removed. Repeat offenders may lose commenting privileges.

New Look: Find more information about the updated commenting and social tools

You must be logged in to contribute. [Log in](#) | [Register Now!](#)



Supported Browsers

- Internet Explorer 7+
- FireFox 3+
- Safari

X Close

Try clearing your cache: In Firefox, go to Tools / Clear Recent History. Check the "Cache" box and uncheck all other boxes. Click "Clear now." In Internet Explorer, go to Tools / Internet Options. Check the "Delete browsing history on exit" box. Select "OK."

If you are using Internet Explorer 7, make sure Phishing Filter is turned off by going to Tools / Phishing Filter / Turn Off Automatic Website Checking.

If you are using Internet Explorer 8, make sure InPrivate Filtering is turned off and InPrivate Filtering data has been cleared. To turn off InPrivate Filtering go to Tools / InPrivate Filtering Settings, select the "off" button and click "OK".

To clear InPrivate Filtering data

- Go to Tools / Internet Options.
- Click the "Delete" button under "Browsing history" on the General tab.
- Make sure "Preserve Favorites website data" is unchecked.
- Make sure "InPrivate Filtering data" is checked.
- Click the "Delete" button.
- Click the "OK" button to exit the Internet Options window.
- Refresh the page.

TrackBack

TrackBack URL for this entry:

<http://dmn.beloblog.com/cgi-bin/mt/mt-t.cgi/291883>

William McKenzie

William McKenzie: Perry wins elections but still lacks a legacy



[Blog entries](#)

TRANSPORTATION BLOG

Huge GOP majority in Texas House likely dooms transportation funding increase

If GOP tide rises today, Texas will gain allies on transportation as U.S. embraces Perry's priorities: tolls, privatization

TEXAS DEATH PENALTY BLOG

How the legal system can learn from mistakes

We should greet Anthony Graves' release with joy and disgust

SOUTHERN DALLAS CATEGORY

Wet, dry and southern Dallas

West Dallas students working for West Dallas

THE EDUCATION FRONT BLOG

Good teaching: How would you define it?

What would you like to see coming out of Tuesday's election concerning education?

TEXAS ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT BLOG

EFH makes more money, but execs worry about paying off debt

Panda invests in \$90M NJ solar plant

ALSO ONLINE

Issues for 2010: *DMW* editorial board identifies its top priorities

2009 Texan of the Year: The Heroes of Fort Hood

Behind the Opinions: A User's Guide (.pdf)

Editorial Page staff: The people behind the editorial pages

e-thePeople: Your voice in civic discourse

Contact City Hall

Advertisement

How about a **\$30 Visa® Gift Card** SUBSCRIBE

John Barrow & Son
YOU'RE WELCOME

Goldman Sachs

PROGRESS IS
When local engineers find opportunity.

CATEGORIES

- Betsy Simnacher
- Bill McKenzie
- Colleen McCain Nelson
- Jarrett Rush
- Jim Mitchell
- Keven Ann Willey
- Michael Landauer
- Mike Hashimoto
- Nicole Stockdale
- Rodger Jones
- Sharon Grigsby
- Sounding Off
- Southern Dallas
- Texan of the Year
- The Big Story
- The Editorial Board sounds off