



Opinion

[\[Print\]](#) [\[Email\]](#)

[Share](#)



Examiner Editorial: 'We're not the other guys' isn't good enough, GOP

Examiner Editorial
August 23, 2010

Republicans currently enjoy a 50 percent to 43 percent advantage over Democrats among registered voters, the highest yet in Gallup's weekly tracking of the 2010 midterm elections. But a Republican victory in November will mean nothing if it means more GOP business-as-usual.

That is why it is critically important for congressional Republicans to put forward a concrete agenda before the election as an alternative to that of big-spending congressional Democrats. Instead, Republicans appear satisfied to fall back on a one-plank platform: "We're not the Democrats."

That won't cut it because, as pollster Scott Rasmussen recently told The Wall Street Journal, the GOP will benefit from voters' desire to oust the party in power, but "75 percent of Republicans say their representatives in Congress are out of touch with the party base. Should they win big this November, they will have to move quickly to prove they've learned lessons from the Bush years."

Those Bush years too often displayed little difference between Republicans and Democrats in Washington. Much of the vast expansion of the federal government by Democrats was previewed by the Bush-led Republicans. Obamacare's overreach? Don't forget the Republicans entitlement-expanding and budget-busting Medicare Part D.

In fact, Republicans have been off the reservation since long before Bush ever entered office. The 1994 Republican Revolution marked the first time in more than 40 years that Republicans held a congressional majority. They won while pledging specific policy goals in their Contract with America, including term limits, a balanced budget amendment, and welfare reform.

Some significant progress was made but in a few years the revolution was all but abandoned. The Cato Institute's Ed Crane recently noted that the "combined budgets of the 95 major programs that the Contract with America promised to eliminate … increased by 13 percent."

Today, most Americans are ready as never before to shrink government and stop the spending madness. This presents the GOP with an opportunity it didn't have in 1994, an electorate exhausted by Washington politicians and their doubletalk.

But the GOP so far seems unwilling to lay out specifics about how it plans to respond to what Americans are saying if they restore the party to majority status in the House and/or Senate. House Minority Whip Eric Cantor, R-Va., boasts of the Republican "YouCut" website that solicits ideas from voters but that effort barely rises above window dressing. Rep. Paul Ryan's, R-Wis., "Roadmap to Economic

Recovery" is a serious program for entitlement reform, yet the party leadership has not embraced it.

Similarly, the Heritage Foundation has compiled 128 policy recommendations across 23 major policy areas for shrinking government and making it work better. The Examiner will be offering a number of ideas on this page in coming days as well. Republican leaders risk squandering an historic opportunity by ignoring such recommendations. The voters are waiting.

Topics

[editorial](#) , [Gop](#)



[Playground to get its fix](#)

It only took 8 years, but the Recreation and Park Department has finally approved a nearly \$1 million contract for the second of three phases in a project to reconstruct the...

—[Kamala Kelkar](#)

[State legislation calls for yacht race in Bay](#)

Draft memo to yachting types: California thinks you are absolutely awesome and hopes you will race your boats in San Francisco Bay. State Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, has...

—[John Upton](#)

[End of census contributes to jump in unemployment](#)

The unemployment rate shot up statewide between June and July, which economists attribute to the loss of temporary census workers. California lost a total of 9,400 jobs during...

—[Erin Sherbert](#)

[Muni operators onboard, albeit begrudgingly, for service restoration plan](#)

Muni's plan to restore 61 percent of its recent service reductions is getting much-needed, albeit begrudging, support from its operators union. In May, the San Francisco...

—[Will Reisman](#)

[More Under the Dome posts...](#)



[E.J. Dionne has it right](#)

Well, in part, anyway: [T]he power of negative thinking won [Democrats] back both houses of Congress in 2006. Their supporters swarmed the polls to say no to George W. Bush...

—[David Freddoso](#)

[Morning Examiner: Time to torch your house?](#)

Housing will never be a good investment again. Or maybe it will. They're still trying to figure out who's won in Australia. (What is it with English-speaking...

—[David Freddoso](#)

[New K-12 school in Los Angeles costs taxpayers \\$578 million UPDATED!](#)

There's been an ongoing budget crisis in Los Angeles this year. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was at one point threatening to shut city services down two days a week to make...

—[Mark Hemingway](#)

[Philly requiring bloggers to pay \\$300 for a business license](#)

It looks like cash hungry local governments are getting awfully rapacious these days: Between her blog and infrequent contributions to ehow.com, over the last few years she...

—[Mark Hemingway](#)

[More Beltway Confidential posts...](#)



To view this site, you need to have Flash Player 8.0 or later installed. Click [here](#) to get the latest Flash player.

MOST POPULAR STORIES

[Dickey: Latest additions to Pac-10 Conference not all positive](#)

[Grenade found in North Beach garage](#)

[Shark sighting a sign of the times](#)

[Ocean Beach may be center of harnessing wave power](#)

[Family of slain cyclist outraged driver is free](#)

[Dog stabbed at Fort Funston](#)

[First smog alert of the summer issued for Monday](#)

[Over 80 arrested at LA rave party](#)

[Dana Loesch: Sarah Palin and the rise of the Feminist Right](#)

[Subway travel times disputed](#)

WeeklyStandard.com

Recent Posts

Thousands Protest Ground Zero Mosque

Dean: If Dems Lose, It's Obama's Fault

Gerecht on Reasons Why Israel Should Attack Iran

Turn your blog into a customized app

Make a custom blog app you can share with others!

widgetbox

Get Widget

.submission { display: none; } .submission { display: none; }

Reader Comments

All comments on this page are subject to our Terms of Use and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Examiner or its staff. Comment box is limited to 200 words. Comments that advocate violence, racism, or libel as well as comments written in ALL CAPS are not permitted.

[blog comments powered by Disqus](#)



[RSS](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Rack Locations](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Find this article at:

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/opinion/Examiner-Editorial-Were-not-the-other-guys-isnt-good-enough-GOP--101267574.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.