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## US House Whip-Up Wed 9/1/10: Public turns against dem management

LP

Posted by [Clyde Middleton](#) on Sep 1 2010 Filed under [News & Opinion](#), [Politics](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#). You can leave a response or trackback to this entry



A new USA Today/Gallup poll out today made it a delight to get out of bed this morning. According to the poll, Americans believe "Republicans in Congress would do a  
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better job than the Democrats in Congress of handling seven of nine key election issues. The parties are essentially tied on healthcare, with the environment being the lone Democratic strength." Republicans lead Democrats on federal spending by 15 percentage points, by 11 points on the economy and by 25 points on terrorism. The new poll is the latest sign in recent weeks that Americans are saying thanks, but no thanks to the ideological agenda pursued by President Obama and Speaker Pelosi.

Now on to the news ...

### **THE ECONOMY: The President's Economic Policies Have Failed To Buoy Small Business Job Creators**

**Jobs Jobs ... Jobs? Not So Much ... The President's Ever Changing Jobs Message Continues To Fall Flat.** After a first year mainly focused on health reform, and a bleak December 2009 employment report, the Obama administration was finally ready to talk, in Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel's words, about "jobs, jobs, jobs." ... Six months later, following additional health-reform drama, arcane financial reform, a national immigration debate and a sluggish oil spill response, 67 percent of Americans said the president had not focused enough on job creation. ... This is a president who has lost control of his public message. It wanders unleashed from park to alley, stopping to sniff every cable news story along the way. Some blame a political and communications team that is reactive and undisciplined. But there is another possibility. Perhaps the president doesn't talk about job creation because he doesn't have much to say. Obama has tried a number of economic messages. If I hadn't spent a lot of money, you would be even more miserable than you currently are hasn't worked very well, especially since the administration predicted that its stimulus spending would keep unemployment around 8 percent. Don't blame me, blame Bush is negative and backward-looking. Just give me a little more time and things will work out seems both passive and plaintive. Obama would do another round of stimulus spending if he could — the primary Democratic approach to job creation. But having spent beyond public patience, this isn't a realistic option. [The Washington Post](#)

**Economic Uncertainty, Stemming From Democrat Talk Of Tax Hikes, Is Preventing Businesses From Hiring.** All the talk about taxes—whether to raise them to address the deficit or cut them to stimulate the economy—may be having its own effect on growth. Allan Meltzer, an economics professor at Carnegie Mellon University, said the economy wouldn't fully revive until Washington resolved uncertainty surrounding business costs, including taxes. "Companies are cutting their expenditures and not hiring because they're very uncertain" about these costs, he said. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

**Serious About Helping Small Businesses, Improving Job Creation, and Removing Economic Uncertainty ... Start With The Payroll Tax.** A well-devised tax cut could be different. Cutting taxes has been the heart of the Republican economic program for 30 years, and last year's stimulus bill showed that Mr. Obama was open to tax cuts. The question, then, is what kind of cut can put people back to work quickly. ... the most effective tax cut for putting people back to work quickly is one that businesses and households get only if they spend money. Perhaps the broadest example is a temporary cut in the payroll tax for businesses, which reduces the cost of employing people. [The New York Times](#)

### **THE ECONOMY (2): The Stimulus Failed To Help The States That Needed It Most ...**

**Reckless Spending: Stimulus Money Didn't Reach Areas That Needed It The Most.** A new study reveals there was no correlation between the allocation of stimulus money and the level of economic stress suffered by individual states. States with the highest levels of unemployment — including Michigan — received lower per capita stimulus allotments than other, more prosperous states. If, as claimed, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was all about creating jobs, the allocation system was faulty at best. The study indicates that other factors were at play — whether local politics, the skill of each state's congressional delegation in securing funds, or other issues that had nothing to do with the alleged purpose of the stimulus. The process does not argue for the effectiveness of another round of similarly crafted stimulus appropriations. ... "Take Michigan, for instance," de Rugy writes: "At the time, Michigan's 12 percent unemployment rate was the highest in the country. So far, it has received \$310 per person in stimulus funds. That's below the average stimulus per person across all states (\$350)." [The Detroit News](#)

**WOW: With Washington Under Complete Democrat Control, Federal Spending Soars 16% In One Year.** Federal domestic spending increased a record 16 percent to \$3.2 trillion in 2009 ... The rise in spending was the largest since the Census Bureau began compiling the data in 1983. ... Many Republicans accuse President Obama and his Democratic allies of being reckless spenders who are harming the nation's long-term economic prospects by inflating the deficit. "The stimulus put the nation a trillion dollars further into debt, which was bad enough, but an additional concern is that there will be efforts to extend and make permanent many of the stimulus programs," said Chris Edwards, an economist at the Cato Institute, a right-leaning think tank. [The Washington Post](#)

### **AGENDA WATCH: The American People Reject The Democrats' Style Of Governance, Believe**

## Republicans Would Do A Better Job

**Americans Feel A Republican Congress Would Do Better...** A new USA Today/Gallup poll finds Americans saying the Republicans in Congress would do a better job than the Democrats in Congress of handling seven of nine key election issues. The parties are essentially tied on healthcare, with the environment being the lone Democratic strength. The Republicans' advantage on most issues is an indication of the currently favorable political environment for the party. Of particular note is the parity between the two parties on healthcare, an issue on which Americans historically have viewed the Democrats as superior. [Gallup](#)

- Republicans have a 15 point advantage on **federal spending**
- Republicans have an 11 point advantage on **the economy**
- Republicans have a 5 point advantage on **jobs**
- Republicans have a 3 point advantage on **dealing with corruption in government**

**How Do Americans Rank The Issues?** (Scale: extremely important, very important, moderately important, or not that important)

- 62% view **The Economy** as extremely important
- 60% view **Jobs** as extremely important
- 51% view (Routing Out) **Corruption In Government** as extremely important
- 51% view **Federal Spending** as extremely important

**MESSAGE WARS: WaPo Guru Dan Balz:** It is clear that, by almost any measure, Democrats badly lost the month of August. [The Washington Post](#)

**Dem Leadership Aide Agrees?** "What we can't afford is unforced errors. ... My sense is, at the national level, we need a fairly error-free September." [Roll Call](#)

**National Journal's Oracle Charlie Cook: Too Little Too Late For Democrats...** Labor Day is almost here and Democrats are still waiting for the cavalry to arrive. An exhaustive scan of the horizon reveals no rescuers and none of the things Democrats badly need to save them from tough midterm election losses on Nov. 2. [National Journal](#)

**Even The Crystal Ball Predicts Serious Trouble For President Obama and "Speaker" Pelosi ...** "Voters are going to deliver a big fat message to President Obama, which he will not want to hear," said Larry Sabato, who runs Crystal Ball. [The Financial Times](#)

## HEALTH CARE: A Doctor Takes Matters Into His Own Hands To Raise Awareness About ObamaCare

**Dear Patients: Vote to Repeal ObamaCare.** Facing a nationwide backlash, Democratic congressional candidates have a new message for voters: We know you don't like ObamaCare, so we'll fix it. This was the line offered by Democrat Mark Critz, who won a special election in Pennsylvania's 12th congressional district after expressing opposition to the law and promising to mend it—but not to repeal it. As a doctor I know something about unexpected recoveries, and this latest attempt to rescue ObamaCare from repeal needs to be taken seriously. For Democrats who voted for ObamaCare, this tactic is an escape route, a chance to distance themselves from the president with a vague promise to fix health-care reform in the next Congress. To counter this election-year ruse, my colleagues and I at Docs4PatientCare are enlisting thousands of doctors in an unorthodox and unprecedented action. Our patients have always expected a certain standard of care from their doctors, which includes providing them with pertinent information that may affect their quality of life. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

## IRAQ

**Editorial: What About What Was Achieved By Our Troops In Iraq?** In announcing the end of "our combat mission" in Iraq, the President sounded the right notes of gratitude to our troops, a continuing "commitment to Iraq's future," and even a salute to President George W. Bush, albeit to his predecessor's patriotism rather than to his most significant achievement, which was persevering as a war leader until our goals were reached. But to our mind—and we suspect to the foreign ear—he also focused too much on the "huge price" and burdens of the last seven years, rather than on what our troops accomplished, or on the strategic opportunities that their sacrifice now allows. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

## THE WAR ON TERROR ROUNDUP

**Salim Gets Life In Prison For Attack On Prison Guard.** One of Osama bin Laden's top henchmen was sentenced to life in prison on Tuesday for stabbing a prison guard in the eye after his wheelchair-bound victim angrily told him "you're going to hell." Blind in one eye, ex-prison guard Louis Pepe faced down Mamdouh

Mahmud Salim via closed-circuit television from his Colorado prison cell. ... Salim showed no emotion when the judge meted out the sentence. He is being held at the notorious high-security Supermax prison in Florence, Colo. Salim was brought to the U.S. after his 1998 arrest to stand trial in the August 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa. The attacks killed 224 people, including a dozen Americans. [New York Daily News](#)

**WHAT TO WATCH**

**Dems Are Really In Trouble ... Gallup Indicates Wave ... Dems Response: "Make It In America" Will Save Our Jobs.** House lawmakers also will continue to push their "Make it in America" manufacturing jobs initiative and will try to move legislation that would repeal a small-business reporting requirement established under the health care law. "It is going to be a combination of emphasizing the jobs and small-business-related bills that we've done and drawing even sharper contrasts with the Republicans," the House Democratic leadership aide said. [Roll Call](#)

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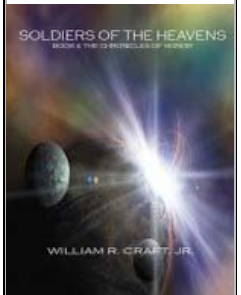
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