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**The Hotline**

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## THE BLOGOMETER

*The Blogometer is a daily report from The Hotline taking the temperature of the political blogosphere. The Blogometer appears in The Hotline's subscription-only tip sheet and in this space every weekday at noon.*

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**May 01, 2009**

## 5/1: Souter Goes Home

Political bloggers are buzzing over the news that SCOTUS Justice **David Souter** [plans to retire](#) at the end of the current court term. Most liberal bloggers [want](#) Pres. **Obama** to nominate a replacement who is as least as liberal as Souter. Meanwhile, conservative bloggers don't think it matters all that much whom Obama nominates to replace Souter, since Souter has been a consistent member of the Court's liberal bloc. **Matt Lewis** writes: "The good news for conservatives is that, because Souter was so liberal, his departure is unlikely to change the makeup of the court." However, righty bloggers still think the Senate confirmation process will be politically useful for the GOP, since it will [provide](#) them with "an opportunity to show Obama as no post-partisan moderate but as a liberal idealogue."

What else is happening in the blogosphere?

- Conservative bloggers ([Erickson](#), [Jackson](#)) are angry that the NRSC is reportedly recruiting other candidates (such as Rep. **Jim Gerlach**) to run for Senate in PA because it views ex-Rep. **Pat Toomey** (R) as unelectable.
- Liberal bloggers ([Bowers](#), [BooMan](#), [Sirota](#), [Dayen](#), [Greenwald](#)) are angry and despondent after 12 Dem senators joined the 40 GOP senators in [voting down](#) the so-called "cramdown" amendment, which "would have given homeowners in financial trouble greater flexibility to renegotiate the terms of their mortgages."
- Liberal bloggers ([Lewison](#), [Benen](#), [Moulitsas](#)) think the new [House GOP ad](#) -- which uses images of the Pentagon burning on 9/11 -- is evidence of the GOP's desperation. Among conservative bloggers, [Gateway Pundit](#) thinks the ad is "terrific," but [Allahpundit](#) wonders "why [House Min. Leader **John**] **Boehner** and crew are hitting [Obama] on foreign policy instead of on the economy."

## SOUTER: Take Advantage Of This Opportunity, Mr. President

The netroots want Obama to nominate a replacement for Souter who is as least as liberal as the departing Justice:

- [Firedoglake's Attaturk](#): "[T]his is a case where you remember you have a large majority in the Senate and try to appoint someone like, well, David Souter -- okay maybe a little left of that."
- [Oliver Willis](#): "President Obama should appoint an honest-to-goodness liberal to the Supreme Court. [...] We need a justice in the mold of **Thurgood Marshall**, and not someone squishy enough to be the 'swing' justice in the archetype the media loves so much. We need someone who is solid as a rock on civil rights, right to choice, limits on corporate power, and an overall progressive viewpoint on the Constitution, our laws, and the overall role the court has to play."
- [Open Left's Chris Bowers](#): "It is quite possible both to appoint a more progressive Justice than Souter, and also to increase the lacking diversity on the court. Given the current balance, appointing a woman to fill Souter's position is a must, and appointing a minority woman might also be essential. Further, this might be a situation where having 60 seats in the Senate is actually useful, as any Democrats voting against President Obama's nominee from the right can easily be painted as the ultimate party backstabbers."
- [MvDD's Jonathan Singer](#): "I think it is incumbent on President Obama not

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