



[Scott Brown For Senate](#)

Lower Taxes. More Jobs. Vote For Brown On January 19th.

[Does Obama Deserve a B+?](#)

Mitt Romney Isn't Sure Let us know what you think

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January 13, 2010

Daily Roundup

Many may have already seen this, but it [appears](#) that the gloves continue to come off in Massachusetts:

Massachusetts's top election official says it could take weeks to certify the results of the upcoming U.S. Senate special election. That delay could let President Barack Obama preserve a key 60th vote for his health care overhaul even if the Republican who has vowed to kill it wins Democrat Edward M. Kennedy's former seat.

Secretary of State William F. Galvin, citing state law, says city and town clerks must wait at least 10 days for absentee ballots to arrive before they certify the results of the Jan. 19 election. They then have five more days to file the returns with his office.

Galvin bypassed the provision in 2007 so his fellow Democrats could gain a House vote they needed to override a veto of then-Republican President George W. Bush, but the secretary says U.S. Senate rules would preclude a similar rush today.

... Massachusetts Democrats already changed state law last fall so the governor could appoint a fellow Democrat to fill the seat after Kennedy died in August.

Now that interim replacement, Sen. Paul G. Kirk Jr., says he will vote for the bill if given the chance, even if Republican Scott Brown beats Democrat Martha Coakley in Tuesday's special election to fill the seat permanently. Brown, a state senator, has pledged to vote against the bill; Coakley, the state attorney general, supports it.

Hopefully, Massachusetts voters will catch wind of this news, as it would reinforce Brown's message of bringing an independent voice that fights for the people's best interests to the Senate.

James Pethokoukis [reports](#) that President Obama may change course and angle to maintain the rates instituted by the Bush tax cuts:

That's the DC buzz, that the WH will use bank tax to de facto pay for a 1-2 year extension of ALL the Bush tax cuts, including capital gains. The assumption was that the wealthier folks would be left out. But this would give Ds a tax cut to vote. With unemployment high and maybe going higher, Ds are scrambling for ideas.

A broader debate on this issue could create a fissure in the Democratic Party, with liberals advocating for a rollback of the rates on upper income earners and moderate members leaning toward opposing the increase, for fear of negative economic effects.

Lastly, Daniel Ikenson of the Cato Institute has [offered](#) some insightful commentary on the Commerce Department's most recent trade deficit numbers:

The U.S. trade deficit jumped to its highest level in 10 months, according to data released by the U.S. Commerce Department this morning. What to make of this?

Every month the Commerce Department publishes data on the value of U.S. exports and imports. And every

month, the media do an absolute hatchet job explaining the meaning of those data. As I've been arguing for a long time, careless reporting and inaccurate media analyses of imports, exports, the trade balance (exports minus imports), the "Trade Account" and the slightly broader measure of international trade activity called the "Current Account" help explain the growing aversion of Americans to trade and trade agreements during the past decade.

...But the fact is that imports are very much pro-cyclical. They increase as the economy grows and decrease when it contracts. One of the more obvious reasons for this is that as personal consumption increases (decreases), consumer demand for imports increases (decreases). But another critical, but less discussed, reason is that U.S. producers rely heavily on imported raw materials, components, and capital equipment. As businesses starts to ramp up output, demand for imported intermediate goods rises. Purchases of intermediate goods have accounted for over half of all U.S. import value in recent years, which would suggest that the rising trade deficit has more to do with business being poised for expansion than with consumers itching to go to the mall.

Yet, media and politicians often characterize imports as a sign of profligacy. They argue that balanced trade or a trade surplus should be an objective of economic policy, and that policies designed to slow import growth can accomplish more balanced trade. But imports and exports are also very much positively correlated. They rise and fall together. Imports are contained in domestic output, and a good chunk of domestic output is exported. Buy more from abroad, and foreigners can afford to buy more from us. Sell more abroad and we can afford to buy more from foreigners. Stymie imports and you get stymied exports.

As a side note, Ikenson declined to mention that oil constitutes a large portion of U.S. imports, further suggesting that railing against the concept and nominal value of the trade deficit misses the mark.

by Anthony Dalke @ 8:50 pm. Filed under [2010](#), [Barack Obama](#), [Issues](#), [R4'12 Essential Reads](#)
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12 Responses to "Daily Roundup"

1. *YoungGOP* Says:
[January 13th, 2010 at 8:56 pm](#)

Let me guess, their top election official is a Democrat, who is just wanting to delay the outcome of the vote.

2. *YoungGOP* Says:
[January 13th, 2010 at 8:57 pm](#)

And if Martha Coakley wins, the outcome will be decided alot quicker than if Brown wins.

3. *Howard Cosell* Says:
[January 13th, 2010 at 9:24 pm](#)

Update from my Worchester, MA big sister.

My sister says now everybody is talking about this election at her office. There is a negative tv ad against Brown every half hour. The Brown ads are of better quality but there are more Coakley ads running. Big Sis believes Brown will win with a simply stated reason. The margin of victory for Brown among the men will be greater than the victory for Coakley among the women. I asked why?

Big Sis answer "If your an undecided women you vote for the hot guy" If your an undecided man and take one look at Coakley you "vote for the hot guy"

4. *WSU Says:*

[January 13th, 2010 at 9:49 pm](#)

In all fairness, people are getting turned off from trade because of the number of jobs we've lost because of it, particularly in the manufacturing sector, and because of the billions of dollars we're sending to other nations instead of keeping it flowing here.

I'm not sold that our current trade policies are working.

5. *Adam Says:*

[January 13th, 2010 at 10:49 pm](#)

It doesn't matter. In fact, it's probably better for our side if they DO drag their feet. All it will do will fire up the right even more and push Indies to the right for November.

I hope Brown wins and they try to f*ck us over. Everyone will see it for what it is.

6. *Cincinnati Kid Says:*

[January 13th, 2010 at 11:02 pm](#)

Coakley's strategy is simple...Get the Dems fired up! Since she outnumber Republicans 3-to-1 all she would need to do is make them show. The problem with her strategy is she is needing to go negative in order to do it.

I am sure more Democrats will now come out to vote. The only question is who will they be voting for???

Think people in Washington are not paying attention? Obama is trying to force a compromise before the election. Problem is the House Dems currently are not moving. Check out the gossip of what happened today...

<http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dc/2010/01/and-michael-mcauliff.html>

7. *AKReport Says:*

[January 13th, 2010 at 11:29 pm](#)

Brown may be more liberal than Romney, but since it's MA I will take a RINO over a Socialist any day.

8. *Aron Goldman Says:*

[January 13th, 2010 at 11:37 pm](#)

Barney Frank to hold Financial Services hearings on limiting executive pay

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/75709-rep-frank-to-hold-hearings-on-limiting-executive-pay>

9. *Jay Says:*

[January 13th, 2010 at 11:40 pm](#)

I actually think Brown will win. Not only are two top tier pollsters showing a tie, but the momentum is clearly with Brown. Plus Coakley seems to be pulling a McCain strategy by doing everything she can to lose. Her campaign is literally imploding. When you have unions running attack ads suggesting Brown is pro-rape and calling his supporters "right-winged extremists", you know their desperate. And the fact that top Dems are even talking about delaying Browns sitting so that an unelected official can vote "yes" shows how worried they are.

Of course if they do that, well, the Dems can say goodbye to control of both the House AND Senate.

10. *Aron Goldman Says:*

[January 14th, 2010 at 12:18 am](#)

Daschle-dashing Thune in 2012 mix

<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=2548601C-18FE-70B2-A8E7E0F79DBD1AD6>

11. [Aron Goldman](#) Says:
[January 14th, 2010 at 1:16 am](#)

‘Credible threat’ from al Qaeda in Yemen

The United States is closely monitoring a “credible threat” from al Qaeda in Yemen against the U.S. homeland, two senior officials told CNN.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/01/13/alqaeda.threat/>

Pakistan Taliban Chief Targeted by U.S. Drone

A U.S. drone fired two missiles on Thursday at a compound in northwest Pakistan where Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud was believed to have been, Pakistani officials told Reuters, but it was unclear if he was killed. The suspected U.S. missiles killed at least 12 alleged militants in a compound formerly used as a religious school in Pakistan’s North Waziristan tribal region, officials said, the eighth such attack in two weeks.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,582998,00.html>

12. [MWS](#) Says:
[January 14th, 2010 at 2:47 am](#)

Anthony,

Good to see you posting. I would disagree with Ikenson. I think it defies common sense that we can continue to buy far more than we can produce in perpetuity with no consequences. It defies economics, too. Our trade deficit is “balanced” by a net outflow of capital every year. In fact, one can think of our trade deficits as the deal our government struck with Asia to finance our budget deficits. We buy their goods, they buy our treasuries. Everyone’s happy, right?

Right?

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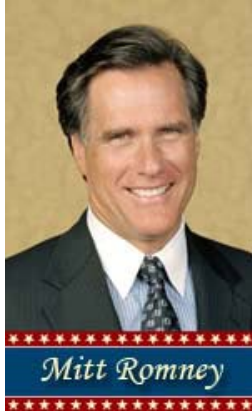
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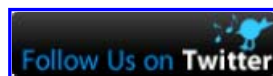
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