



WEEKLY UPDATE

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President Obama on the Midterm Elections

On Wednesday, President Obama addressed the nation from the East Room following the midterm elections the day before. In his speech, the President called for greater bipartisanship and cooperation between Democrats and Republicans.

The President, who hosted Republican and Democratic Congressional leaders at the White House today, declared his eagerness “to work with the new Congress to make the next two years as productive as possible.” He also recognized the importance for leaders of both parties across the aisle to take responsibility in ensuring the progress of this country.

“The American people sent a message, one that they’ve sent for several elections now,” the President said, “...they expect the people they elect to work as hard as they do. They expect us to focus on their ambitions and not ours. They want us to get the job done.”



Watch the President’s address [here](#).

“All of us, in both parties, have a responsibility to address that sentiment,” President Obama said. “As President, I have a unique responsibility to try and make this town work. So, to everyone who voted, I want you to know that I hear you. To the two-thirds of voters who chose not to participate in the process yesterday, I hear you, too. All of us have to give more Americans a reason to feel like the ground is stable beneath their feet, that the future is secure, that there’s a path for young people to succeed, and that folks here in Washington are concerned about them. So I plan on spending every moment of the next two-plus years doing my job the best I can to keep this country safe and to make sure that more Americans share in its prosperity.”

The President emphasized his continued commitment to pursue issues important to the American people such as immigration reform, education, and climate change, but he also promised to measure ideas “not by whether they are from Democrats or Republicans, but whether they work for the American people.”

In conclusion, President Obama stated that despite differences among the two parties, his main goal is to lead a bipartisan effort in ensuring a better future for the American people. “I still believe in what I said when I was first elected six years ago last night. For all the maps plastered across our TV screens today, and for all the cynics who say otherwise, I continue to believe we are simply more than just a collection of red and blue states. We are the United States.”

ICYMI – MSNBC's Kasie Hunt: GOP is Playing with Matches

Following Speaker Boehner's post-election press conference in which he yet again would not commit to acting on immigration reform, MSNBC's Kasie Hunt discussed how Republicans risk "burning themselves" if they fail to recognize that more than anything, this election was a repudiation of what's wrong with Washington.

Transcript:

"When you play with matches, you run the risk of burning yourself. The thing is though I think that Republicans in Congress run the risk of burning themselves if they approach this the wrong way. And I think they know that — I think Speaker Boehner and the incoming Majority Leader Mitch McConnell both know that this election as much as it was a wave for Republicans, it was more of a repudiation of everything that's wrong with Washington and they are not going to fix that by, you know, continuing this pattern of gridlock. You heard, Mitch McConnell say yesterday that there's not going to be any more financial crises among those.



View the clip [here](#).

Welcome Home, Governor Christie!

NJ STAR-LEDGER: CHRIS CHRISTIE, HOMECOMING KING



Boehner Rewrites History on Immigration

During today's press conference, Republican Speaker John Boehner said Republicans would have done something on immigration this year if it wasn't for the flood of unaccompanied minors at the border.

Let's see....

In the summer of 2013 the Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill – the Speaker didn't take it up.

In January 2014, Speaker Boehner released the Republican principles on immigration – and then a few days later made excuses for why the GOP wouldn't act.

In June, President Obama announced that he would take executive action on immigration, after Boehner and Republican leaders in the House told him they wouldn't do anything this year – and Republicans threatened impeachment and another government shutdown.

Here's the thing...

There was more than enough time to get immigration reform done before the issue of unaccompanied minors arose.

And...

There's still time to pass immigration reform now.

The truth is....

Republicans are conveniently trying to sell their revisionist version of history as the reason for why they haven't done anything on this issue.

As if lying through his teeth wasn't enough, Boehner also threatened that there would be hell to pay if the President acts on immigration reform on his own.

However, when asked if he would hold a vote if the President guaranteed that he wouldn't act on his own, Boehner wouldn't commit to it.

The following is a reaction from Pili Tobar, Director of Hispanic Media for the DNC:

"Per usual, Boehner and his fellow Republicans are rewriting history, while offering no solutions. Republicans threatened to shut down the government and impeach the President if he takes executive action on immigration, yet they keep repeating excuses and blocking progress on an issue that the American people want resolved.

"Republicans are out of excuses and there's no time to act like the present. If Republicans won't act, they need to get out of the way and let the President lead on this important issue."

CQ Roll Call: Script Will Be Flipped in 2016 Senate Majority Battle

After securing control of the Senate Tuesday, Republicans are already staring down a daunting map for 2016.

The majority of the Senate battleground in the next election cycle will be fought on Republican turf, with the GOP defending 24 seats to the Democrats' 10. There is more trouble for the party beneath those raw numbers; only two Democratic seats are in competitive states, while more than half a dozen Republican incumbents face re-election in states President Barack Obama carried at least once.

Republicans appear to have put themselves in as strong a position as possible, coming out of the midterms with potentially a 54-seat majority. But the next electoral fight for the Senate fundamentally looks nothing like 2014: Democrats are on offense, the playing field is packed with pricey media markets and every race is positioned down-ballot from a presidential contest.



"I think attention will turn to it as soon as the dust settles from this cycle," Republican pollster Dan Judy said of 2016. "The environment will certainly be tougher for us with a lot of competitive seats to defend in swing states, but I'm hopeful that a Republican majority for two years will allow us to advance a constructive agenda that our incumbents can run on in 2016."

The makeup of the new landscape is a direct result of Republicans' dominant performance in 2010, picking up six Senate seats in a wave election. But that GOP class now faces re-election and constitutes the most endangered seats — thanks at this point, without challengers yet, to each states' current partisan leanings.

That includes first-term Sens. Mark S. Kirk of Illinois, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania, Rob Portman of Ohio, Marco Rubio of Florida and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire.

"There is an increasing correlation between presidential and Senate voting," said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman, with recent examples in Arkansas, West Virginia and other states where Democrats lost seats Tuesday by wide margins. "That made the map Democrats' biggest enemy in 2014, but the same fact will make the map our best friend in 2016."

Read the rest of the article on CQ Roll Call [here](#).

In the States

- The New Hampshire Democratic Party released a statement on Tuesday night following Senator Jeanne Shaheen's re-election victory. "Jeanne has been a dedicated and fierce leader for this state for decades. She is the best possible person to be serving the people of New Hampshire in the Senate. She fights for all of us," said Ray Buckley. The State Party Chair went on to applaud her special achievement, "Senator Jeanne Shaheen has always and will always continue to put New Hampshire first during her historic second term as our United States Senator, the first for a New Hampshire Democrat since 1972. The working families will have an ally in Washington, as she continues to fight for access to women's health care, college affordability, and an increase in the minimum wage." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair Ray Buckley released a statement following Governor Maggie Hassan's re-election victory. "Tonight's results confirm that Granite Staters support Governor Hassan's proven record of bipartisan leadership that's moving New Hampshire in the right direction. The Granite State will be in good hands as Governor Hassan continues to reach out across party lines to deliver results for our people, businesses and economy, and move our state forward." Buckley also commended Hassan's efforts to improve and expand New Hampshire's transportation, health, and education systems, and concluded, "Governor Hassan will continue working to build an economy that works for everyone in New Hampshire." Read the full statement [here](#).
- Following his re-election as the U.S. Senator for New Mexico, Tom Udall released a statement marking the achievement. Thanking the volunteers, supporters, and voters that helped him during his campaign, he looked towards the future saying, "For me, this election has been about one thing: Fighting to move our state forward. I get up every morning ready to do what's right for New Mexico – to grow our economy, make a better future for our children, and ensure everyone has a fair shot at getting ahead." The newly re-elected Senator also called attention to the task ahead of him, "We're fighting to support our national labs and military bases and the small businesses that rely on them, to raise the minimum wage, ensure women get equal pay for equal work, protect Social Security and Medicare, fix our broken immigration system...As I listen to New Mexicans, it's very clear that we face great challenges. But there are also great opportunities ahead, and together we can realize New Mexico's potential." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, Pennsylvania Democratic Party Chair Jim Burn released remarks following Tom Wolf's election as the state's new Governor. "Tonight, Pennsylvania made the historic decision to change the direction of this Commonwealth. For the past 4 years, the Pennsylvania Democratic Party and many across the State worked tirelessly to call attention to the direction that Governor Corbett was taking the Commonwealth. Tonight's victory for Tom Wolf is a culmination of those efforts and a testimonial to Mr. Wolf's message, leadership and ability to move our State in a direction that is beneficial to all Pennsylvanians." Read the full statement [here](#).