Hot Topics from DC

What Does 2011 Tell Us About 2012?

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Surveying the Political Landscape

November 2010 Seems So Long Ago

- Historic Election Results
  - Republicans gain 63 seats
    - Largest gain since 1948
    - 242 Republican members
  - Democrats retain control of the Senate
    - Majority shrinks to 53
    - The further from 60, the more difficult
- Governors & State Houses
  - Republicans gain 10 governorships
  - 20+ state chambers flip to Republican control
A Polarized Congress

- Moderates in Both Parties Lost Seats in 2010
- Compromise is Not Looked Upon Favorably
- Leadership Squabble In House
- Democrats Beginning to Distance Themselves From the President
- “Stimulus” and “Bailout” are 4-Letter Words
Electoral Volatility
(to say the least)

- 1955-1994 – 40-Year Democratic Control of House of Representatives
- 1994-2006 – 12-Year Republican Control of House of Representatives
- 2006-2010 – 4-Year Democratic Control of House of Representatives
- 2012-????

Is Change the New Constant?
Is Anger the New Mood?
Occupy Wall Street (and other places)

- Left Wing Tea Party?
  - No more bailouts
  - Little people being ignored
  - Intra-party anger

- Does this Movement Have Political Legs
  - Will we see OWS candidates?
  - Who would they target – Democrats or Republicans?
If you had to choose, who do you blame more for the economic problems facing the United States -- [ROTATED: financial institutions on Wall Street (or) the federal government in Washington]? 

By support for the Occupy Wall Street and Tea Party movements, and by party ID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blame Wall Street more</th>
<th>Blame federal government more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporter of Occupy Wall Street</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporter of Tea Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>independents</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>49</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

USA Today/Gallup, Oct. 15-16, 2011

GALLUP®
The Senate Looks Tippy

- 53 Democrats – 47 Republicans
  - 23 Democrat seats up for re-election
  - 10 Republican seats up for re-election
  - Vulnerable seats: 10 Democrat, 2 Republican.
    - Republicans only need a net gain of 4
- Independent Voters Key
  - 2006: Independents voted 57%-39% for Democrats
    - Senators up for reelection this cycle were elected
    - Republicans lose 6 Senate seats
  - 2010: Independents voted 56%-38% for Republicans
    - Republican House swept into office
    - Democrats lose 6 Senate seats
The House is Less Certain

- Democrats Would Need Net Gain of 26 Seats
  - Republicans can sustain some losses
  - Democrats unlikely to hold all seats

- Incumbents Could Be At Risk
  - Several Tea Party Republicans elected in swing districts formerly held by moderate Democrats
  - Anger could impact both parties
No One Likes Congress!

Congressional Job Approval -- 2011 Trend
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>% Disapprove</th>
<th>% Approve</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>13</td>
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</table>

GALLUP

Ties All-Time Low
General Dissatisfaction with Governance

Reaction to How the Nation Is Being Governed
On the whole, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the nation is being governed?

GALLUP®
Independents Leaning Republican

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<th></th>
<th>March 2011</th>
<th>May 2011</th>
<th>July 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All registered voters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Obama reelected</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer Republican</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other/DK (Vol.)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Obama +10</th>
<th>Obama +11</th>
<th>Obama +1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent voters</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obama reelected</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer Republican</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other/DK (Vol.)</td>
<td>26</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
Pivoting to the Presidential Election

- Will the Economy Determine the Winner?
  - Unemployment over 9% for 27 of last 28 months
  - 16% of Americans unemployed, under-employed, or have given up looking
  - Can Republican nominee lose despite those statistics?

- How Does Public Anger Play Out?

- What Can/Will Change in the Next Year?

- Key Swing States:
  - PA, NC, VA, WI, MI, OH, CO, NV, FL
The Generic Ballot

Obama (Blue) vs. Generic GOP Candidate (Red)

Source: Gallup
Republican Nomination Trend

Romney
Cain
Perry
Paul
Gingrich
Bachmann
Santorum
Hunstman

Source: CNN/ORC
Steady (Boring?) Mitt...

Mitt Romney Favorable/Unfavorable Rating
Latest Poll: 10/10/2011

- Favorable (37.3%)
- Unfavorable (33.8%)

POLLSTER.COM
Sarah Can Read the Tea Leaves...

Sarah Palin Favorable/Unfavorable Rating
Latest Poll: 10/02/2011

POLLSTER.COM

Favorable (26.7%)  Unfavorable (58.3%)
Front-Loaded Republican Primaries

S = Super Tuesday
March 6-10
People to DC: We’re On the Wrong Track

State of the Country: Right Direction / Wrong Track
Latest Poll: 10/14/2011
President Barack Obama Job Approval
Latest Poll: 10/17/2011

- Approve (42.6%)
- Disapprove (52.5%)
Independents Haven’t Wavered

President Barack Obama Job Approval (INDS ONLY)
Latest Poll: 10/16/2011

President Barack Obama Job Approval
Latest Poll: 10/17/2011

Independent Voters

All Voters
Another Worry for White House & Democrats:

"How enthusiastic would you say you are about voting for president in next year's election?"

Democrats:
- Extremely or Very enthusiastic: 43%
- Somewhat enthusiastic: 34%
- Not too enthusiastic: 10%
- Not at all enthusiastic: 12%

Republicans:
- Extremely or Very enthusiastic: 64%
- Somewhat enthusiastic: 20%
- Not too enthusiastic: 7%
- Not at all enthusiastic: 9%

Source: CNN/ORC October 2011
It’s the Economy...

- 59% believe President’s Economic Policies Will Fail
- In 2010 47% Thought President’s Economic Policies Would Fail

President Barack Obama Job Approval - Economy
Latest Poll: 10/04/2011

Source: CNN/ORC
October 2011
What About Pennsylvania?

- Sen. Casey Runs for Reelection in 2012
  - Favorable rating: 47%
  - Job approval rating: 46%
  - Support against generic Republican: 46%

- Few House Seats Considered Vulnerable
  - Redistricting could affect Altmire, Doyle, Critz
  - Fitzpatrick & Meehan are in swing districts
So What Does this All Mean?

- If the Election Was Held Today…
  - But it’s not
- House & Senate are Volatile
- A Real Candidate Will Help Demystify the White House Picture
- Budget Agreements Reached Today Could be Undone Tomorrow (or in 2013)
- Predictions Can Be Unpredictable
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