

October 10, 2009

■ **Allstate/NJ Poll:
Impact of Recession**

■ **Gordon Smith
At the Helm of NAB**

National Journal

2010



**An early look at what's on
the agenda for Congress and
the White House next year.**

■ **A SPECIAL REPORT**

**Economy, Immigration, National Security,
Taxes, Energy, Education, Health Care,
Trade, Guantanamo, Labor, Transportation,
Food Safety, Supreme Court**

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Fault Lines



AP PHOTO/CBS

Hail the mea culpa! Late-night TV host David Letterman has admitted to sex with his assistants and made an on-air apology to his wife. Wouldn't it be refreshing if more public figures embraced this cathartic practice? A few admissions of fault you'll never hear:

President Obama to gays: "I really appreciate you folks, but there's nothing I can do to help you. Sorry about all those promises. My bad."

Rep. John Murtha to earmark opponents: "I admit I've wasted a lot of public money back home. Vote to fund the Murtha Institute for Pork-Barrel Reform in Johnstown, and I'll fly you all to the annual conference."

Hamid Karzai to Obama: "So sorry the Afghan elections were a sham, but petty tribalism, corruption, and the subjugation of females are part of my backward, 16th-century culture. Hey, I'm still better than the Taliban."

Creigh Deeds to Virginia Democrats: "Sorry I'm so rotten on the stump. I'd rather undergo piercing of tender body parts than do any more public speaking."

—Randy Barrett and NJ Staff

iLawmaker Want to find a congressional office phone number or a Hill aide's e-mail address? Review a bill or peek at a member's Twitter feed? There's an app for that. Several, actually. One of the most popular appears to be "Congress in Your Pocket," which ranges from 99 cents to \$99.99 depending on the version. The software, which has more than 20,000 iPhone and BlackBerry users, will soon feature note-taking and sharing capabilities, as well as *Cook Political Report* rankings,

according to its creators at the Cohen Research Group. Fox News Channel has also hinted at a partnership for the 2010 midterm elections. "It's quick, easy, and essential," says Morgan Reed, a lobbyist for the high-tech sector. He says he loves the app for what it's not: "another spiral-bound facebook to be lost, stolen, or obsoleted every time a member or staff person leaves." —Andrew Noyes



Murmurs

Psst! The CIA announced last month that it was setting up a center on Climate Change and National Security. The office is apparently a retread of an idea hatched by Vice President **Al Gore** in the 1990s. The CIA's Environmental Center was closed by the GOP-controlled Congress after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Knowledgeable sources say that the director of the new center is a CIA employee who was involved in the last go-round, and they add that the office has a tiny staff and practically no budget ... Delaware GOP Rep. **Michael Castle**'s decision to run for the Senate comes after months—indeed, years—of consideration by the former governor. In May, Castle told *National Journal* that his three decades of government experience—including as a state legislator, lieutenant governor, governor, and, of course, House member for 18 years—would be "a crucial part of any campaign" for the Senate. "Part of the problem in Congress is that people come here without any background in government. It takes them a while to adjust. I fortunately have had that background." Castle further noted that he hasn't had a great shot at the Senate in the past because a seat hasn't opened up for millennia ... Rep. **Pete Sessions**, R-Texas, who is known as an aggressive fundraiser, is trying to lure lobbyists to Disney World for a big bash on Friday, November 6, to benefit Pete PAC and enjoy "dinner and fireworks under the stars," according to a flier making the rounds on K Street. The solicitation says that participants' families can attend the dinner at the Grand Floridian Resort & Spa if a company PAC ponies up \$5,000 or an individual lobbyist forks over \$1,000. And as an extra enticement to corral checks, House Minority Leader **John Boehner**, R-Ohio, is listed as a "special guest" ...