

Obama Strategist Acknowledges Battle Ahead

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — President Barack Obama's chief political adviser on Tuesday conceded that a dark cloud looms over the American economy and Obama's political future, describing the president's road to a second term in the White House as "a titanic struggle."
"We have the wind in our face because the American people have the wind in their faces," David Axelrod told an audience of New Hampshire politicians and business leaders. "So this is going to be a titanic struggle. But I firmly believe we're on the right side of the struggle."
But even as he acknowledged the stark political reality, Axelrod said the president would ultimately win re-election, in part because of the flawed field of Republican candidates. He characterized their plans to repair the nation's ailing economy as the same kind of deregulation and tax cuts that caused the downturn in the first place.
"This isn't new wine and old bottles. This is old wine and old bottles," Axelrod said.
He also assailed Republican contenders, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, in an interview with The Associated Press.

Israel Approves New Homes In East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel granted the go-ahead on Tuesday for construction of 1,100 new Jewish housing units in east Jerusalem, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ruled out any freeze in settlement construction, raising already heightened tensions after last week's Palestinian move to seek U.N. membership.
Israel's Interior Ministry said the homes would be built in Gilo, a sprawling Jewish enclave in southeast Jerusalem. It said construction could begin after a mandatory 60-day period for public comment, a process that spokesman Roi Lachmanovich called a formality.
The announcement drew swift condemnation from the Palestinians, who claim east Jerusalem as their future capital. The United States, European Union and United Nations all expressed disappointment with Israel's decision.
In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Israeli announcement was counterproductive to efforts to relaunch Mideast peace talks. She said both Israel and the Palestinians should avoid provocative actions, and that international mediators will remain focused on guiding the two sides back to direct negotiations.
Richard Miron, a spokesman for U.N. Mideast envoy Robert Serry, said the announcement "sends the wrong signal at this sensitive time."

Outside Of Big 3, GOP Candidates Low On Cash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only three Republican presidential candidates are worth any money — campaign money, that is. Mitt Romney, Rick Perry and Ron Paul have banked millions. But the other GOP candidates are struggling or broke, putting their candidacies in question four months before the first nominating contests take place.
Ahead of a critical fundraising deadline Friday, all of the GOP's contenders — regardless of the level of their financial health — are furiously courting donors in Texas, Georgia, Washington and elsewhere. It's a last-minute attempt to pick up cash before they file a three-month summary that will measure one aspect of the financial strength of their campaigns.
"With the support of people like you, we will be able to get America back to work again," Romney wrote to his email list Tuesday while he personally pressed donors in New York to pony up.
The candidates' own cash is just part of the picture because, this year, outside groups are allowed to raise and spend unlimited amounts of money to back specific candidates. And allies of Romney, Perry and Paul all have formed so-called SuperPACs to help their preferred candidates win the nomination.
That money aside, Romney's campaign says he could raise as much as \$18 million by Friday, the sum he brought in during the first weeks of his campaign earlier this year. He'll likely come in below that, though he still is expected to lead the field.

Gay Couples Living Together Double In Decade

WASHINGTON (AP) — Increasingly visible, the number of gay Americans telling the U.S. census they're living with same-sex partners nearly doubled in the past decade, to about 650,000 couples. And more than 130,000 recorded partners as husband or wife.
Census figures released Tuesday provide a rare snapshot of married and unmarried same-sex couples in the U.S. based on the government count conducted last year, when gay marriage was legal in five states and the District of Columbia. It comes at a time when public opposition to gay marriage is easing and advocacy groups are seeking a state-by-state push for broader legal rights.
Some 131,729 same-sex couples checked "husband" or "wife" boxes on their decennial census forms, the first time people could do so, after gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts starting in 2004.
That 2010 tally of married gay couples is higher than the actual number of legal marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships in the U.S. Even after New York legalized gay marriage in June, a Census Bureau consultant, Gary Gates of UCLA, put the actual number of legally recognized gay partnerships at 100,000.
"There's no dispute the same-sex population increases from 2000 and 2010," said Martin O'Connell, chief of the fertility and family statistics branch at the Census Bureau. In cases of couples who reported they were living in a marriage relationship, "they basically responded that way because that is truly how they felt they were living."

SURVEY:

Health Insurance Costs Surge In 2011

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — The cost of employer-sponsored health insurance surged this year, snapping a trend toward moderate growth, but experts say these increases may slow again in 2012.
Annual premiums for family coverage climbed 9 percent and surpassed \$15,000 for the first time, according to a report released Tuesday by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research and Educational Trust. Premiums for single coverage rose 8 percent compared to 2010.
That compares to increases last year of 3 and 5 percent for family and single coverage, respectively. The study shows that premiums for both family and single coverage have more than doubled since 2001, while worker wages have risen 34 percent.
Kaiser CEO Drew Altman said a number of factors may have played a role in this year's percentage jump. He noted that health care costs continue to rise, and insurer profits and the health care overhaul also have some impact.
The overhaul, which Congress passed last year, aims to eventually cover millions of uninsured people. Kaiser said initial provisions of the law contributed between 1 and 2 percentage points to this year's premium hikes, which is about what many insurance analysts and benefits experts expected.
Companies and workers split premiums for employer-sponsored coverage, the most common form of health insurance in the United States, and employers generally pick up 70 percent of the bill or more.
Businesses likely reacted to these cost increases by giving a smaller raise or no wage increase to their workers, said Helen Darling, CEO of the National Business Group on Health, a nonprofit organization that represents large employers on health care issues.
"(Workers) basically are giving their pay raise to the health system," said Darling, who was not involved with the Kaiser study. "It's really bad news."
The annual study was conducted earlier this year and includes results from more than 2,000 companies nationwide. It also indicates that many more families than previously believed have benefited from a popular provision in the overhaul that allows young adults to stay on a parent's health plan until they turn 26.
Kaiser asked employers how

year's budget, with a Nov. 18 deadline for that legislation. President Barack Obama's \$447 billion jobs proposal that would cut payroll taxes and increase spending on school construction and other infrastructure has already divided the parties. But the next really big deal is the special 12-member bipartisan supercommittee and whether it can come up with a plan to slash \$1.5 trillion over 10 years by Nov. 23 — the day before Thanksgiving.
These fights will unfold against the backdrop of a feeble economy that Obama is desperate to jumpstart as he pushes for a second term, and an exasperated electorate that looks at Washington and dislikes what it sees.
"The heat will be on, the heat from the American people," said former Republican Sen. Alan Simpson, who believes Americans struggling economically will be asking, "Why stretch us out like this?"
Lawmakers also will be under pressure from political factions demanding that they stand firm for party beliefs.
"You have to support getting control of excessive spending and debt," said Sal Russo, a longtime Republican operative and founder of the Tea Party Express, a well-funded wing of the populist movement. "Are you helping to solve the problem or making it worse?"

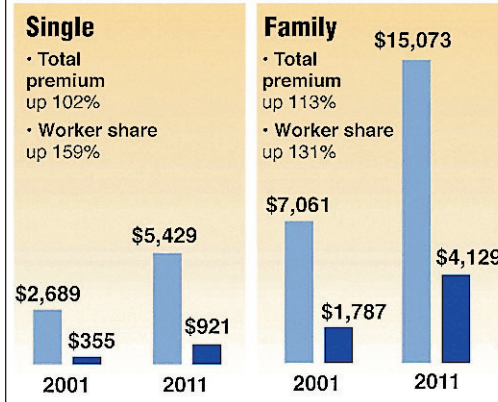
Worker health insurance

The average annual premium workers pay for employer-provided health insurance rose by 8 percent for singles, 9 percent for families in 2011.

Premium costs compared

2011 vs. 10 years ago for all plan types

■ Total cost (what employer and worker pay)
■ What worker pays



60% of employers now offer health insurance, down from 68% in 2001

2.3 million adult children were enrolled in their parent's employer sponsored plan due to health reform act

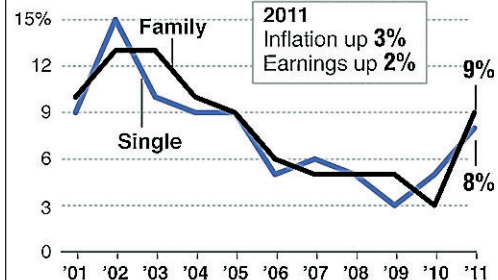
31% of covered workers enrolled in plans with deductible of at least \$1,000 for single worker

150 million non-elderly Americans covered by employer-sponsored health insurance, the largest source of health insurance in

26% of large firms (200 workers or more) offer health benefits for retirees, down from 37% in 2001

Worker share of premium

Percent change in family and single worker plans



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Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, Health Research and Educational Trust
Graphic: Judy Treible

Congress Dodges One Crisis, Now On To The Next

BY DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One crisis averted, on to the next.
The day after Congress managed to avoid a government shutdown — again — Republicans and Democrats stared ahead Tuesday at major fights over spending that underscore a deep divide that's sure to define the fast-approaching national elections.
Monday night, lawmakers had postponed their dispute over whether billions for disaster aid must be paid for with cuts elsewhere in the budget, finessing a pact to keep the government operating.
But tea party-driven Republicans are still insisting on significant spending cuts this fall, with some arguing that a hard-fought congressional agreement this summer to fund the government at \$1.043 trillion in 2012 was too generous. Democrats, many of whom complained of too many concessions and reductions in this year's showdowns, are furiously trying to protect government programs.
The next skirmish will be over how and where to spend the new

Meet Dr. Nielsen, Nephrologist

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF **Byron S. Nielsen, M.D., Board Eligible Nephrologist**

Dr. Nielsen is a graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. He completed his Internal Medicine residency training and his nephrology training at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Dr. Nielsen will provide the diagnosis and treatment of adult kidney diseases including but not limited to those associated with underlying medical ailments, genetic disorders, autoimmune diseases and vasculitis. He also specializes in the treatment of hypertension, electrolyte disturbances, the medical management of kidney stones, and provides both inpatient and outpatient dialysis.

The Clinic is pleased to bring a Nephrologist to our medical community as well as to the many patients he will serve. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Nielsen and his wife, Stacy, and their two sons, Bailey and Cade, to Yankton.

Dr. Nielsen began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. on August 1, 2011. Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-1082.

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South Dakota LOTTERY

LOOK WHO'S WINNING!

LESLIE MCBEE Nelsonville, OH \$1,000 EZ MONEY
BEVERLY UNZELMAN Sioux Falls \$15,000 HOT CASH
BENJAMIN BEARCE Belle Plaine, KS \$5,000 EZ MONEY

MORE WINNERS ADDED EVERY DAY!

Dawlon Briones Fedora \$30,000 Prairie Dog Bingo	Jill Saffel Yankton \$5,000 Wild Card 2	Mark Sell Dakota Dunes \$5,000 Black II
Tamara Walter Crofton, NE \$300 Lucky Cash Crossword	Mike Stich Sioux Falls \$1,000 EZ Money	Ashley Sorenson Sioux Falls \$500 Black II
Thomas Allen Hendersonville, TN \$200 Camaro Cash	Timothy Domel Jasper, MN \$1,000 Flashback Cash	Scott Bleeker Harrisburg \$500 Wild Card 2
Shadow Montona Sioux Falls \$150 Sizzler	Robert Rippentrop Sioux Falls \$700 Revvin' 7's	Sue Chambers Sioux Falls \$500 Cash Stash
Tom Grevillius Sioux Falls \$150 Sizzler	Dean Schneider Vermillion \$600 Mega Millions Megaplier	James Halsey Springfield \$500 Wild Card 2
Esequiel Gutierrez Sioux Falls \$1,000 EZ Money	Steve Wineinger Sioux Falls \$501 Wild Card 2	Tim England Tea \$500 Hot Cash
Amanda Holland Sioux Falls \$1,000 Cash Stash	Vicki Muchow Sioux Falls \$500 Cash Blast	Theresa White Lightning Sioux Falls \$500 Cash Line Bingo
Pete Turcar Sioux Falls \$1,000 EZ Money	Ruby Reisig Colman \$500 Hot Cash	David Ludens Springfield \$500 All in to Win

SANDRA WILSON Fordyce, AR \$1,000 EZ MONEY
CODY SPRECHER Parkston \$1,000 EZ MONEY
PRISCILLA KGOSIMORE Sioux Falls \$300 SUPER MONOPOLY

South Dakota LOTTERY See more winners online at lottery.sd.gov

Must be 18 years or older to play. Please play responsibly.