



# Political Update: New Faces &

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## New Policies

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# The New Regime

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- President Obama and Sec. Duncan Still Picking Deputy and Assistant Secretaries
- Personal staff and advisors, key advisors include:
  - ▣ Tony Miller, Chief Operating Officer
  - ▣ John Schnur, Senior Advisor
  - ▣ Marshall (Mike) Smith, Senior Advisor



# Nominated Appointees

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- Martha J. Kanter for Undersecretary of Education
  - Current Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, in Los Altos Hills, CA. Former Vice Chancellor for Policy and Research of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in Sacramento
- Glenn Cummings for Deputy Assistant Director of OVAE
  - Former Maine Speaker of the House. Current Dean of Institutional Advancement at Southern Maine Community College



# Additional Staff

- John Easton as Director of the Institute of Education Sciences
- Russlynn Ali as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
- Carmel Martin as Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development



# Additional Staff

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- Peter Cunningham as Assistant Secretary for Communication and Outreach
- Peter Groff as director for the faith-based and community initiatives center
- Jim Shelton - Assistant Deputy Secretary for the office of innovation and improvement.



# Many Vacancies

## Senate-Confirmed Positions By Agency

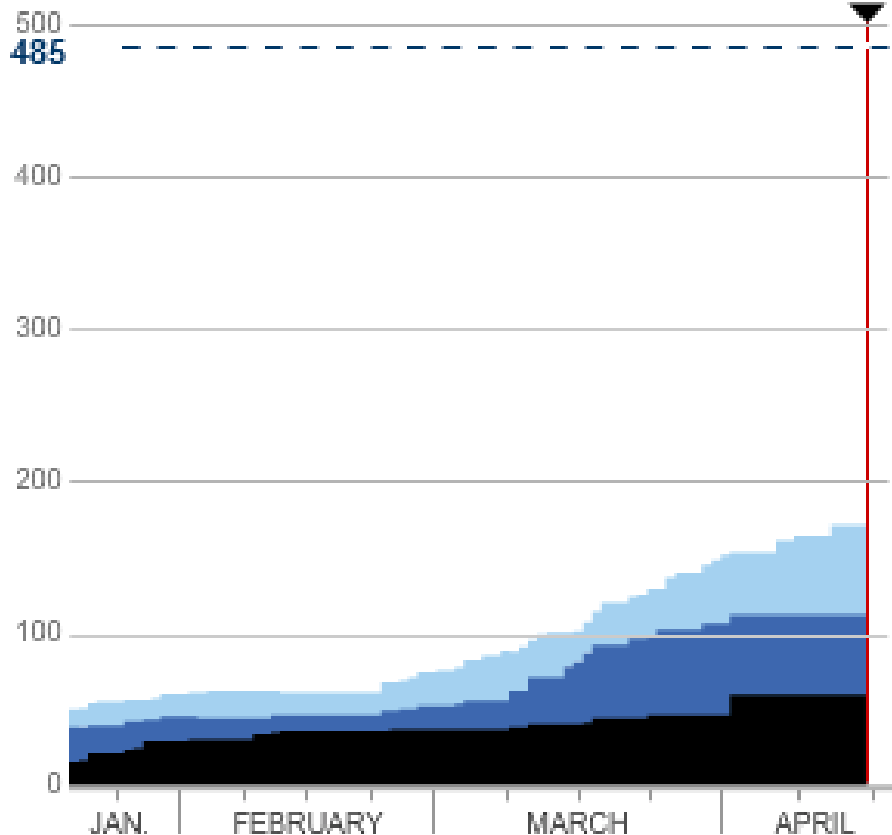
## Total

## Appointed White House Staff

■ Announced ■ Nominated ■ Confirmed □ Open

Obama has 485 Senate-approved positions to fill:

Displaying: Today



## Choices at a Glance

Announced

59

9.1%

Nominated

53

8.2%

Confirmed

59

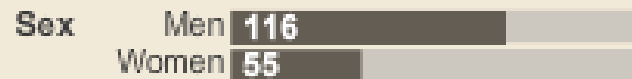
9.1%

314 Open

116 Not available (term not expired)

### DEMOGRAPHICS

### CONNECTIONS





# Administration's Agenda

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- President laid out 5 priorities for education in his campaign:
  - ▣ 1. Investing in early childhood initiatives, such as Head Start;
  - ▣ 2. Encouraging better standards and assessments by focusing on testing itineraries that better fit our kids and the world they live in;
  - ▣ 3. Recruiting, preparing, and rewarding outstanding teachers by giving incentives for a new generation of teachers and for new levels of excellence from all of our teachers;
  - ▣ 4. Promoting innovation and excellence in America's schools by supporting charter schools, reforming the school calendar and the structure of the school day; and
  - ▣ 5. Providing every American with a quality higher education--whether it's college or technical training.



# Administration's Agenda





# Administration's Agenda - ARRA

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- ARRA – Stimulus funding passed Congress in February
- Over \$780 billion in discretionary spending and tax breaks
- Highlights:
  - ▣ Title I - \$10 billion
  - ▣ IDEA – \$12.2 billion
  - ▣ WIA - \$3.95 billion
  - ▣ State Fiscal Stabilization – \$53.6 billion



# Administration's Agenda



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- Overarching Principles for ARRA
  - Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs
  - Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform
  - Ensure transparency and accountability and clear reporting
  - One time investments to minimize “funding cliff.”



# Administration's Agenda – ARRA

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- Core Values included in ARRA Assurances
  - Achieving equity in HQT teacher distribution and effective teachers
  - Improving collection and use of data
  - Enhancing the quality of standards and assessments
  - Supporting struggling schools



# Administration's Agenda - NCLB

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- 2009? 2010?
- Pitfalls have not diminished
  - Teachers Union push back on merit pay
  - Accountability sophistication and subsequent interventions
  - Freshman Democrats campaigned against NCLB, yet...
  - Washington consensus still holds



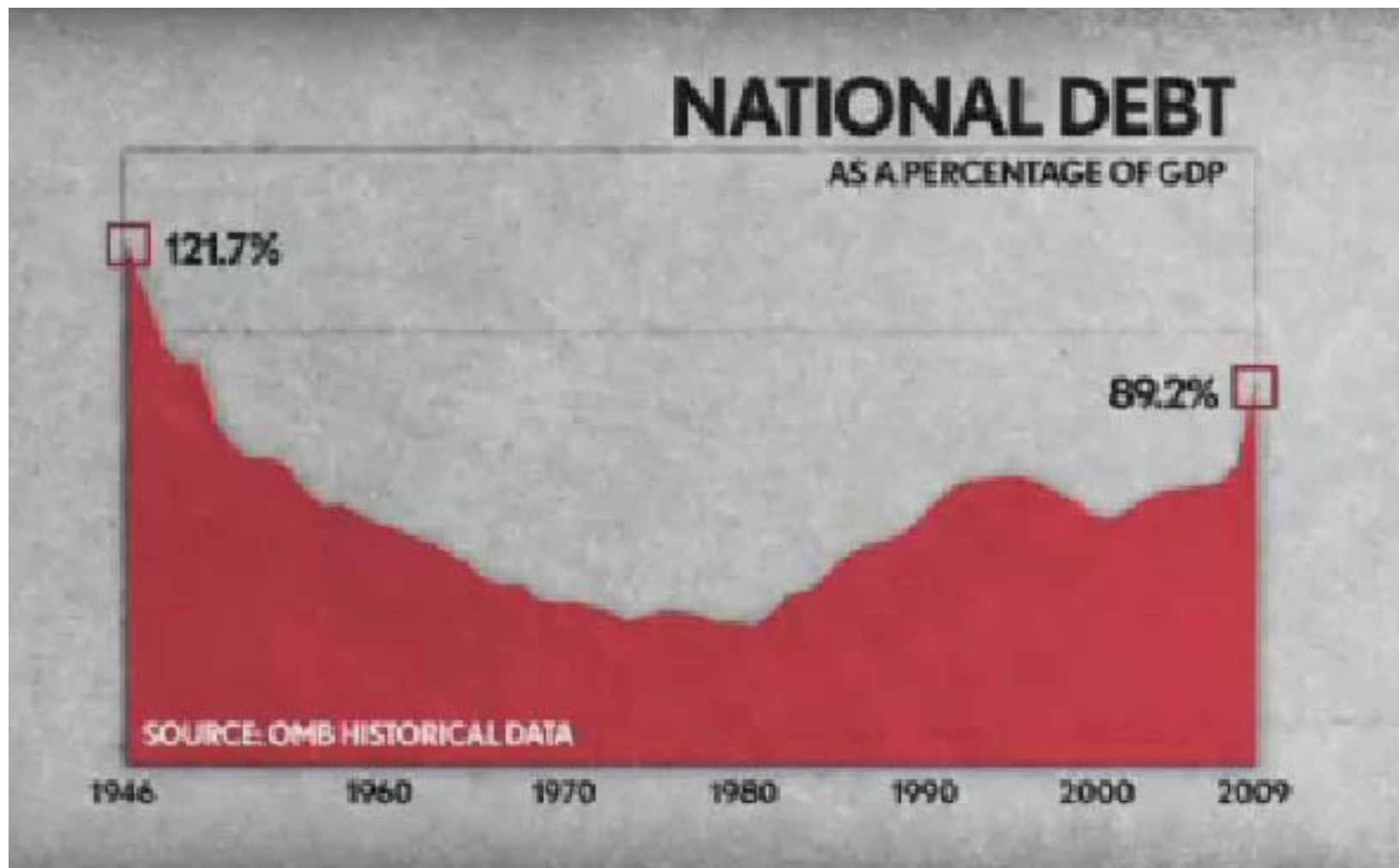
# Administration's Agenda - College Affordability

- Move the Pell grant program to the mandatory side of the Federal budget.
  - Not be subject to the annual appropriations process
  - Raise the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,550 a year and indexing it above inflation
- Originate all new loans in the direct lending program and tapping experienced private sector companies to collect and service the loans.



# Balancing the Budget

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# Congressional Overview

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- Democrats maintain strong majorities in both chambers
  - ▣ House: 254 Democrats, 178 Republicans
  - ▣ Senate: 56 Democrats, 41 Republicans, 2 Independent, 1 Vacancy
- Senate does not have filibuster-proof majority



# Congressional Overview

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- The lack of filibuster-proof majority will require bipartisan support
- Democrats will need full party support, both independents, and at least one Republican (with Franken victory in Minnesota)
- Senate Republicans, with complete party unity, can block legislation that passes House



# Congressional Overview

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- ❑ Blue Dog Democrats likely to be a problem for House majority
- ❑ Many sub-factions within the majority, such as the Blue Dogs and the CBC, are establishing their own priorities, outside the control of Speaker Pelosi
- ❑ Smaller voting blocs will be a factor in controversial votes



# ARRA

- More than \$100 billion for education means tough budget battles ahead
- Majority will need to balance education reform with deficit reduction
- Two year influx of supplemental ARRA funds will mean annual increases less likely



# Service America Act

- H.R. 1388, Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, passed 3/31/09.
- New service programs that would provide incentives for students and senior citizens to participate in volunteer community service.
- Increase the education reward for participants in national volunteer programs from \$4,725 to \$5,350 in fiscal 2010 and link it to the maximum Pell grant thereafter.



# Serve America Act

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- ❑ Volunteers age 55 and older will be permitted to transfer their service award to a child, grandchild or foster child
- ❑ Creates a summer service program for middle and high school students. It establishes a clean energy corps, education corps, veterans' corps, health futures corps and opportunity corps with a goal of boosting financial literacy
- ❑ First part of a tribute to Kennedy's legacy



# Congressional Agenda

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- Now that ARRA and Serve America Act are passed, Congress can move on to other priorities
- Key programs up for reauthorization:
  - NCLB
  - WIA
  - CNA
  - IDEA
  - IES



- Reauthorization long Overdue: 2003
- Not as divisive as NCLB, but continues to get overlooked in Congress
- Hearings held in 2007 and 2008, but no legislation considered by the majority



- Two hearings so far in 2009
  - ▣ Focus is on funding for workforce training programs
  - ▣ Greater inter-agency cooperation
  - ▣ Increased initiatives to promote workforce training



- Due to economy and other issues, effort lacks substantial support
- Hearing will continue throughout the summer
- Reauthorization unlikely in 2009



# Child Nutrition Act

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- CNA up for reauthorization this year
- May build off of momentum of Farm Bill in 2008
- Main Focus:
  - ▣ Increased federal funding
  - ▣ National standards



# IDEA

- Last reauthorized in 2004
- Despite being up for reauthorization in 2009, Congress is not expected to move on this until after NCLB, which could mean 2010 or later



- Institute of Education Sciences, created in 2003
- Authorized through 2008
- Schedule for reauthorization unknown
- Annual appropriations likely to continue



# Budget

- Budget Resolution: \$94 Billion for Function 500
- Level Funding Expected
- Appropriations Committee should start work soon



# Budget

- ARRA brought unprecedented increase in federal funds
- New focus on fiscal responsibility:
  - ▣ Additional increases unlikely...for now
- Future increases may come at expense of other programs



End

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