



## Getting Rid of Congress & the Government Shutdown

While the people of the U.S. are glad the stalemate between the Republicans and the Democrats and the president over the debt extension and money to run the federal government is over, they're still really angry with Congress and the administration. A couple

of weeks ago an *NBC/Wall Street Journal* said a huge percentage of us want to replace the current Congress:

- 60% said given an opportunity they'd replace every member of Congress.
- That's a complete overhaul.
- Just 35% said they'd keep "some" members.

As the agreement was reached, Republicans and Democrats and the president all continued to point at each other in the game of blame. President Obama signed the bill and reopened the government. He said the deal lifts a cloud of uncertainty and unease.

"There is a lot of work ahead of us, including our need to earn back the trust of the American people that has been lost over the last few weeks," Obama said.

House Speaker John Boehner — not to be outdone — also issued a statement that almost seemed like claiming victory. "The House has fought with everything it has to convince the president of the United States to engage in bipartisan negotiations aimed at addressing our country's debt and providing fairness for the American people under Obamacare. That fight will continue. But blocking the bipartisan agreement reached today by the members of the Senate will not be a tactic for us."

The agreement funds the government through January 15th and raises the debt ceiling. It also gives federal workers back pay so those that didn't work had a nice two week vacation.

The poll wanting to replace Congress got the largest percentage of replacement pushers, let's fire them all in the poll's history. Last week we asked you what you thought about these topics.

- **Who do you blame for the current crisis? Republicans? Democrats? The President? All?**
- **Should we replace the entire Congress?**
- **How do we go about doing that?**
- **Will replacing the Congress get us one that is better?**

## Here's what you said:

**George Staib, who did not include his agency name or city in his email to us said:** I blame our poor excuse for a president for the shutdown. I'm not surprised that the Democratic districts had the lowest percentage of those who wanted to replace the Congress. Most of them have been brain dead for a long time.

**Tanya Hicks, Conover Insurance Services, Yakima, WA said:** Thank you for asking our opinions! I try to fit in reading the PIA emails during my busy insurance filled day!

I have been starting to mistrust ALL Politicians, not just the opposing party. I would consider myself a conservative, not necessarily a Republican, but they usually get my vote. The old school Repubs need to go. John McCain and some of his cronies. There are a few good ones there, like Paul Ryan and Ted Cruz.

I think we need term limits, that would really end the problem of the established politicians trying to control Congress.

We take a revote, and give them 4-years each in office, just like the president, with one round of re-election — so a total of 8 years in office, and then they go home.

**Peter Distefano, Distefano Insurance Services, Concord, CA wrote:** On the Poll:

- They are all to blame
- Replace the entire Congress
- How — the best and easiest way is TERM LIMITS
- By knowing they have a limited time in office perhaps they will become statesmen instead of politicians and work for the public good instead of for their own greed

How to fix the debt:

- Stop lifetime salaries for congress and the senate
- Make federal employees (all) be in the social security system
- Make federal employees (all) be in the Affordable Care Act
- Make welfare recipients have to work
- Stop Anchor babies

**Don Ferderer, Don Ferderer Insurance, Diamond Bar, CA said:** I believe the Republicans in Congress are mostly to blame for this fiasco as the tea party is playing



to the source of their campaign funds. They are not trying to help the greater number of their constituents. I do not believe any of them were elected to change Obamacare at the expense of everything else. This is the same group that signed the No Tax Increase Pledge. They are obstructionists, plain and simple.



I also believe President Obama is a poor leader. While I do not blame him for the shutdown, he is probably the least effective president we have seen in the past century. He doesn't know how to reach across the political divide and make friends from the other party in Congress who may help him down the road. The old days of the President and the Speaker of the House having respect for each other ( even from the other party) are a thing of the past.

I would not replace the entire Congress but I probably would replace 75% of them. I don't know enough about the others to judge. I don't know how to replace them as they are elected by their own districts but I believe most people are fed up.

And, finally, there are no guarantees that we would get a better Congress, but at least they would get the message that if they do the same things the old Congress did, they are replaceable.

Thanks for the opportunity to put in my 2 cents worth.

**Liza Altaras, Safeco Insurance wrote:** I understand the public's frustration with the current state of affairs in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, the problem won't be solved by replacing Congress. In order to understand the root of the problem, the electorate needs to take a look in the mirror. THEY voted these people in to office and THEY WILL DO IT AGAIN unless they educate themselves on the issues. Do they know that, according to 14th Amendment to the Constitution, we can't default on our obligations? Do they realize that spending cuts are actually decreases to the requested budget increases? When Nancy Pelosi says there are no more cuts we can make in the budget, does anyone question her?

I recently watched a show where random people were asked to estimate the amount of the national debt. Out of approximately eight people interviewed, no one even came close the dollar amount. I think 3 trillion was the highest number offered. If the electorate does not take the time to learn even basic information about what's going on in Washington, D.C., do they have a right to complain? My vote is to take some blame off of Congress and put it on the people who put them in charge.

**Kelli Worthen, State Farm, Fife, WA said:** As a Bible Believing Christian and woman, I am extremely disappointed in our elected officials. I do believe that God puts these men and women in their political positions. I also believe that they, our elected officials, are not doing the job that they were created to do. They are putting their needs before the



needs of our great nation. They are thinking too much about themselves and not looking at the big picture.

The Big Picture you ask?? That there are people in our nation that are poor, needy and widowed! In Scripture, we are commanded to help these very people.

With the government the way it is right now, these people are being forgotten. God will not continue to bless our nation if we abandon these principles. Our nation was founded on the principles of Scripture. Let's get back to the basics! Let's remember how this nation was formed and what we stand for.

I do pray for our Nation and Government Leaders on a weekly basis. I also pray for a Revival for this nation. Like the Revival that happened after 9/11. We need the Lord to keep His blessing upon America. And right now, I believe we are playing with fire. We are playing with something that we, as American's, do not want to play with.

**Chris Howell, Indiana Lumberman's Mutual Insurance Company added:** The President and the Senate are the shoppers and the House holds the purse strings.....of course the shoppers are mad because they can't buy all they want....thank God for a little check and balance as designed by the framers of the Constitution. The House is getting a bad rap for trying to hold the spenders accountable and answering to their constituents.

An annual election for all would hold them more accountable to the electorate. Some are intoxicated with power and don't have the good of the nation at heart. Some are giving up their wages and are self sacrificing for the good of the nation.

We need to adhere to the common sense approach we all have to adhere to in our own personal budgets:

- Live on less than we earn.
- Save a portion of our income every year.

We can't provide free stuff for the masses without limitations...the pendulum has swung too far. We can't all be on disability, welfare and retirement benefits....we are killing our economic engine.

**Bill Tutton, Tutton Insurance Services, Santa Ana, CA wrote:** I blame both sides for the current crisis. But I weigh more heavily against the Democrats. They had more responsibility for driving up the national debt for the early years of the Obama presidency. No budget in the democratic controlled Senate for years. I blame the Republicans for driving a wedge in the negotiations without thinking through their



strategy and being ineffective. Obama can't help himself regarding politics over leadership, he needs to go.

Hopefully the country will wake up and vote out the reps that are forcing us to address the debt ceiling every two years! Time to give up on idealistic causes and get our house in order. They have enough money, spend it wisely.

Replacing the entire congress will not solve the problem. Look at California with term limits. It appears to be worse not better and we are changing reps every two terms.

**Rudy Pascual, an independent agent from Washington State who did not give us his agency name or city concluded:** All Washington are to be blamed for where this has come down to. It does not matter if the whole Washington politico is replaced. The replacements will be just as bad or even worse. The President is the leader for the whole United States. The buck stops there!

Personally let the shutdown happen. Shut the government and see what happens. I do not think it will matter a whole lot. It's Y2K again! America is a resilient country. Our economy will always rebound. The US will be difficult to be replaced as the base of economic power.

Washington is playing poker. Let the bluff happen!!!!

**Brad Parham, Parham Insurance Agency, Kaiser, OR:** You asked for comments so here goes — Short version:

- Blame them all
- Toss them all
- At every election for the next 4 years — refuse to vote for an incumbent
- Maybe, maybe not — but it will get us what Obama promises us in 2008 - - - change

“Better” may not be what we should be looking for . . . maybe what we should be looking for is a non-career politician, a non-partisan player and an independent thinker that is as yet uncorrupted, willing to look out for the whole instead of the narrow focused “what's in it for me” BS we've seen from career politicians for way too many years now.

**Want to add your voice to the topic? Or do you want to respond to what any of our respondents? Here are the questions again.**

- **Who do you blame for the current crisis? Republicans? Democrats? The President? All?**
- **Should we replace the entire Congress?**

- How do we go about doing that?
- Will replacing the Congress get us one that is better?

Send your comments — and include your agency name and city — to *Weekly INdustry News* Editor Gary Wolcott at [garywolcott@piawest.com](mailto:garywolcott@piawest.com).