



Obama, Where's Your Positive Vision?

9 Days Out And All Obama Can Do Is Run A Negative Campaign

THIS MORNING, SENIOR OBAMA ADVISOR DAVID AXELROD WAS PRESSED ON OBAMA'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE



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On CNN, Obama Senior Advisor David Axelrod Was Pressed On Obama's Lack Of A Positive Vision For The Future. CNN's CANDY CROWLEY: "There's a Gallup poll out that shows that over the past couple of days the president's approval rating has actually dropped about seven points, and it coincides with this kind of rhetoric. Is that your closing argument? Is your closing argument to continue to pound Governor Romney?" DAVID AXELROD: "First of all, Candy, I'm happy to go poll to poll for you, but let's set aside the polls for a second. The governor's closing -- the president's closing message is exactly what I said before, which is we've made some progress. We have to build on that process, and we have to move forward in a way that builds an economy that works for the middle class. And what we can't do is go back to the failed policies of the past. Governor Romney, the centerpiece and really the only piece of his plan that is real is this \$5 trillion tax cut. \$2 trillion in extra spending for the Pentagon. No plan to pay for, it and deregulate

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Wall Street. This is what's going to move us forward, and that's not going to move us forward."

CROWLEY: "I ask you this because in general closing statements, as you know, tend to turn back to the positive side and there is an argument that folks, that a candidate still is pounding his adversary at this point is worried." (CNN's ["State Of The Union."](#) 10/28/12)

WITHOUT A VISION, NEGATIVITY IS OBAMA'S ONLY OPTION

The Washington Post's Dan Balz: Obama Has Been "Rightly Criticized For Not Being More Specific About His Second-Term Agenda." "The president has rightly been criticized for not being more specific about his second-term agenda. What economic policies does he have that he hasn't already tried? What is he truly prepared to do on the deficit?" (Dan Balz, "For Obama and Romney, Monday's Debate Is Crucial," [The Washington Post](#), 10/20/12)

- **"Having Gone This Far, It's Not Likely He Will Start Filling In Those Blanks In The Final Two Weeks. He Prefers To Tell Voters Why They Should Fear Romney."** (Dan Balz, "For Obama and Romney, Monday's Debate Is Crucial," [The Washington Post](#), 10/20/12)
- **Obama Hasn't Restored "A Sense Of Faith And Optimism About The Next Four Years."** "But what he also hasn't done yet is restore a sense of faith and optimism about the next four years. That's what Michael Jones was looking for last week, not merely a recitation of a litany of actions undertaken. It remains a missing piece in the president's message." (Dan Balz, "For Obama and Romney, Monday's Debate Is Crucial," [The Washington Post](#), 10/20/12)

Democrat Strategist Noted "The Obama Campaign Made A Strategic Choice To Avoid Talking About The Future And Instead Focus On Tearing Down His Opponent." "Another Democratic strategist told CBS News that the Obama campaign 'made a strategic choice' to avoid talking about the future and instead focus on tearing down his opponent Mitt Romney. The decision, the strategist said, was a response to the mood of the electorate, the status of the economy and likely a host of other factors. There's no reason to think the president will now change tactics and offer additional details about his agenda." (Leigh Ann Caldwell, "With 19 Days To Go Until Election Day, Obama Stays Vague," [CBS News](#), 10/18/12)

- **"Obama's Decision to Offer Relatively Few Details Concerning Agenda Differs From His 2008 Presidential Run."** "Mr. Obama's decision to offer relatively few details concerning his agenda differs from his 2008 presidential run, when he promised to pass health care reform, immigration reform, climate change legislation, an increase in the minimum wage, an expansion of Pell grants and he vowed to close Guantanamo Bay." (Leigh Ann Caldwell, "With 19 Days To Go Until Election Day, Obama Stays Vague," [CBS News](#), 10/18/12)
- **New York Magazine's John Heilemann: "The Status Quo Is Not Acceptable To Voters Now."** JOHN HEILEMAN: "A big part of the problem with that is that President Obama is not putting on a broader scale his argument is, effectively at the debate the other night: I want a second term because I want to keep doing what I was doing, what I have been doing for the last four years and this a wrong track country. The country, the right track wrong track, is getting better but 55% thinks we're on the wrong track. The status quo is not acceptable to voters now." (MSNBC's "Now With Alex Wagner," 10/18/12)