



What They Are Saying ...

Romney Qualified As Commander-In-Chief In The Face Of Obama's Desperate Attacks And Empty Promises

AFTER THREE DEBATES, OBAMA HAS FAILED TO MAKE THE CASE THAT HE IS QUALIFIED FOR FOUR MORE YEARS AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

CNN's John King: "Three Debates. The Trend Line Is Moving Governor Romney's Way." CNN's JOHN KING: "Three debates. The trend line is moving Governor Romney's way. In all nine toss-up states, Governor Romney was in a stronger position this morning than he was the day before the first debate, and we have two weeks to election. Now, the movement Romney's way is now slowed, but it's still moving Romney's way. If it keeps moving Romney's way, even at the slow pace it is right now, he will be the next President of the United States." ([CNN](#), 10/22/12)

- [VIDEO: CNN's John King: Trend Line Is Moving Governor Romney's Way](#)

MSNBC's Chuck Todd: "The President's Got Bigger Problems Than Just Disqualify Mitt Romney Now. The President Has To Re-Qualify Himself For A Second Term." MSNBC's CHUCK TODD: "Look, the president's got bigger problems than to just disqualify Mitt Romney now. The president has to re-qualify himself for a second term. I think they've made that decision. I think that's why you see the closing argument style of advertising that they have. That's being unveiled today. It's Obama candidate to camera. You look at the president's closing statement last night. I think they now realize that they don't have -- two weeks is not enough time to have the conversation with voters that they want to have. He missed his opportunity. He blew it in that first debate. If the president tactically, if they lose this election, tactically, the biggest mistake will be the president's performance in that first debate because it gave him the room to do that." (MSNBC's "Morning Joe," 10/23/12)

- **MSNBC's Chuck Todd: "[T]wo Weeks Is Not Enough Time To Have The Conversation With Voters That They Want To Have. He Missed His Opportunity. He Blew It In That First Debate."** MSNBC's CHUCK TODD: "You look at the president's closing statement last night. I think they now realize that they don't have -- two weeks is not enough time to have the conversation with voters that they want to have. He missed his opportunity. He blew it in that first debate. If the president tactically if they lose this election, tactically, the biggest mistake will be the president's performance in that first debate because it gave him the room to do that." (MSNBC's, "Morning Joe," 10/23/12)

ABC's Rick Klein: "In a debate about who should be commander-in-chief, Mitt Romney was just as much in command as the man in the job now." (Rick Klein, "Mitt Romney Keeps Command Amid Attacks – And Looks To Future," [ABC News](#), 10/23/12)

The Wall Street Journal: "About 45 minutes into Monday night's Presidential debate on foreign policy, we found ourselves asking which of the two men on stage in Boca Raton was the incumbent and which was the challenger." (Editorial, "Commanders In Chief," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/23/12)

- **The Wall Street Journal:** "If Mr. Obama wanted to make the Republican look 'wrong and reckless,' as he said, he surely failed." (Editorial, "Commanders In Chief," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/23/12)

TIME's Mark Halperin On Mitt Romney: "Not Just Last Night But Over The Three Debates, I Think He Came Across As Someone Who A Lot Of People Could See As President." TIME's MARK HALPERIN: "If there's an impact on the race, it seems to me that Mitt Romney really did achieve that. Again, not just last night but over the three debates, I think he came across as someone who a lot of people could see as president and then moved to the question of 'Do we want four more years of the president's economic policies, or do we want to try something new?' That's where Governor Romney wants the argument." (MSNBC's "[Morning Joe](#)," 10/23/12)

- **Politico's Dylan Byers:** "Romney looks presidential. Period. & that is what he needs from these three debates." (Dylan Byers, [Twitter Feed](#), 10/22/12)
- **CNN's Rebecca Sinderbrand:** "And Romney's biggest strength in the debates so far -- an aura of unshakeable confidence -- promised to be a critical asset in a night devoted to leadership. More than what he said, voters reacted to the way he said it." (Rebecca Sinderbrand, "Analysis: Obama Didn't Score Knockout But Landed More Punches," [CNN](#), 10/23/12)

Politico's Glenn Thrush: "Rules or no, Romney was at his most effective when calmly articulating his economic case and calling out the president for failing to articulate a detailed vision for his second term." (Glenn Thrush, "Mitt Romney: I Come In Peace," [Politico](#), 10/23/12)

- **Politico's Glenn Thrush:** "Romney didn't embarrass himself on the issues, and showed an easy mastery of the details that has sometimes bedeviled lesser candidates." (Glenn Thrush, "Mitt Romney: I Come In Peace," [Politico](#), 10/23/12)

OBAMA FOUGHT FROM BEHIND AS A CHALLENGER DOWN IN THE POLLS

MSNBC's Chuck Todd: Obama Acted Like He Was "The Guy Who's Behind In This Debate." MSNBC's CHUCK TODD: "I would have said candidate Obama is acting like the guy who's behind in this debate and candidate Romney is acting like the guy who thinks he's ahead, in the way they approached this debate." (MSNBC's "Morning Joe," 10/23/12)

- **MSNBC's Joe Scarborough: "If I Didn't Know Any Better, I Would Guess The Guy That Was Jabbing Romney Every Time Was Down Five Points In The Polls."** MSNBC's JOE SCARBOROUGH: "We've got a sitting president, Chuck, that was correcting and going after the challenger time and time again. You're exactly right. If I didn't know any better, I would guess the guy that was jabbing Romney every time was down five points in the polls. Why did they do that last night? Why did team Obama decide to be so aggressive?" (MSNBC's "Morning Joe," 10/23/12)
- **National Journal's Major Garrett:** "It felt like he was taking his sleeve, rolling it back and saying here's my disdain for you, Governor Romney, and I'm not sure that's exactly the kind of moment

that the President would prize the most. And at one voters might say it felt a little harsh.” (CBS’s “This Morning,” 10/23/12)

- **National Journal’s Beth Reinhard:** “At the risk of appearing unstatesmanlike, he verged into snark and sarcasm.” (Beth Reinhard, “The Debates Are Over And It’s Still A Coin Toss,” [National Journal](#), 10/23/12)
- **Northeastern University’s Alan Schroeder:** “In His Worst Moments Obama Sounded Downright Condescending ...” “In his worst moments Obama sounded downright condescending, as when he prefaced a criticism of Romney with the words, ‘I know you haven’t been in a position to execute foreign policy....’” (Alan Schroeder, Op-Ed, “Was Obama Too Relentless With Romney?,” [CNN](#), 10/23/12)
- **Reuters’ Steve Holland And Matt Spetalnick:** “He had a biting and perhaps condescending response when the Republican said the U.S. Navy had fewer ships now than at any time since 1917 and needed more.” (Steve Holland And Matt Spetalnick, “Obama On Attack In Foreign Policy Debate, But Romney Steady,” [Yahoo! News](#), 10/23/12)

Boston Herald’s Joe Battenfeld: “Romney Looked More Like The Front-Runner And Obama Looked More Like A Worried Incumbent.” “Obama, needing a big night to revive his flatlining campaign, sneered and scoffed at Mitt Romney all night but couldn’t deliver the knockout blow that would stop the GOP nominee’s momentum. Romney looked more like the front-runner and Obama looked more like a worried incumbent.” (Joe Battenfeld, Op-Ed, “Desperate Prez Launches Zingers, But Not Much Else,” [Boston Herald](#), 10/23/12)

- **The Associated Press:** “Republican Mitt Romney is acting like a challenger who feels he has enough momentum and time to overtake the president by Election Day, two weeks from now. Judging from Monday’s final debate, President Barack Obama almost seems to agree.” (Charles Babington, “Analysis: Calm Romney Pins Hopes On Momentum,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/23/12)
- **The Washington Post’s Aaron Blake:** “Anyone watching the debate who hadn’t seen recent polls of the presidential race would have assumed that Obama was very much fighting from behind.” (Aaron Blake, “Obama The Instigator vs. Romney The Reserved,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/23/12)
- **The Washington Post’s Aaron Blake:** “The aggressive posture he staked out was the kind of strategy most often employed by candidates who need to make up ground.” (Aaron Blake, “Obama The Instigator vs. Romney The Reserved,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/23/12)