

## "Political Groundhog Day" - February 2010

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The world famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his home in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania less than a week ago to predict six more weeks of winter. This was a blow to many people who feel like they have been stuck in this dreary season for more than a few months. We are talking about people who have been downright depressed by the proposed policy of Washington that seems to be nothing more than tax hikes on a weary country. Maybe it wasn't the groundhog that dashed spirits with his blustery prediction, but instead a Democratic Congress and President who have been filling news headlines with nothing but gloom.

Almost all of what we've heard lately from the Democratic leadership reminds us of a political Groundhog Day. They wake up and go to work in a position to change things for the better but their old ways continue to play out to the detriment of the people surrounding them, or in this case their constituents.

We heard in President Obama's State of the Union a declaration to reduce the deficit and "freeze spending". [Not only was this a direct contradiction over campaign pledges](#), but days later, he reveals his budget with a proposed deficit of \$8.5 trillion over the next 10 years.

We also saw headlines from Congress about how "open" the healthcare debate would be, even with pledges to broadcast negotiations on C-SPAN. Not only did this promise fall short, but the Democratic leaders are even considering entering into reconciliation to slam the bill through with only 51 votes.

On January 19th, it felt like the first day of spring. Massachusetts voted to send the first Republican Senator to Washington since 1972. This was not just about Scott Brown being a Republican. This race was about so much more. The Massachusetts Senate race captivated the country because the will of the people was not being followed by our leaders and it was up to the citizen's of a historically liberal state to end the groundhog day of tax and spend. Hope and Change didn't come from the 2008 election; instead it's coming from every day Americans who are tired of the politics that are putting them out of work and into debt.

We are bucking Punxsutawney Phil's prediction that this cold season is continuing. The way we see it; things are just starting to warm up.

***Rich Beeson, Tony Feather, Jeff Larson & David James***  
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