

Nepali American Public Affairs Council (NAPAC)

19 Longknoll Way, Kingsville, MD 21087

www.napac-us.org

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Hi Friends,

As I look outside my window, I see the glory of Fall Season, whole neighborhood shining like a canvass of the artist. With the migratory birds flying to the South, and fresh breeze getting cooler and cooler, it's signaling the coming of winter.

However it has already been the cold winter for the Democrats. We are seeing the slowly fading away of the aura of President Obama. Once considered invincible, we are witnessing the wear and tear signs after two years of deep financial crisis, unemployment and the controversial health care bill. His popularity falling to the lowest, Republicans taking the House with a thumping majority and Democrats barely keeping the majority the majority with the narrowest margin, the Republicans are sharpening their swords and knives for a share of their flesh and there is going to be **big change** in the way things are run in this country.

President Obama is already signaling the **Change** by inviting the victorious Republicans to the White House for discussion. The country is definitely going to shift to the right, hopefully to what is regarded the center by the Democrats and not the center regarded by the Republicans. No matter how much the pendulum swings, it will have a lasting impact on the policies and most of them will profoundly impact us, Nepali Americans, one way or other. Bush's tax cuts will remain almost intact or not much different from what it was, a large gift to the nations' wealthiest, it will mean **more taxes on the middle class**.

Liberalization of immigration policies including giving legal status with a pathway to citizenship to many with no legal status will be on hold at best or a very restrictive law with draconian punitive measures may pass. Many benefits to unemployed and poor **will be curtailed**. **Social security benefits** and **retirement age** will change. **Health policy** will definitely change, it will not be completely repealed as the Republicans are thundering to do, but definitely many benefits will be curtailed. There will be steps taken to check or reduce many benefits taken to protect the **consumers, minorities and women**. It will have major impact on the next selection of the **Supreme Court justices**.

Similarly it will have its impact on the foreign policy, aid to developing countries, funding to combat terrorism and Nepal may lose a significant portion of US aid. On the other hand, **business climate** will be more favorable and **job situation** will improve. Restrictions on credit card charges, banking policies, all will be minimized if not completely tossed out.

So it is time for us, Nepali Americans, to be alert, and start being active in the mainstream to advocate policies that are in our interest both here in the US and Nepal.

With this in mind, we have taken a breather; we have taken a fresh look at the political landscape and are gearing ourselves for action. We will be more proactive, we will be more involved and we will march on to look after our interests.

We have **redesigned our website**. We have reformulated our plan of action. Please visit our website at www.napac-us.org and give us your feedback. Please help us by being our Friend. We will highly appreciate it.

So let us start with simple things:

1. Know who your congressman and senator are.
2. Go and meet them when they come to visit their constituents.
3. Get their contact address, local and Washington DC
4. Know the address and the contact number of the local office
5. Whatever your political affiliation; Democrat, Independent or Republican, ensure that you keep your contact with your elected representatives.
6. Keep in touch with the elected representatives at the local level; Mayor, Governor, Assemblyman or Senator.
7. Make a contribution, however small, so that you are in their list of contributors

(You can go to the link below to find your congressman and senators

www.house.gov/zip/ZIP2Rep.html (for congressman)

www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm (for senators)

As we go on, we will identify some issues that are of mutual interest to us as a community and discuss our plan of actions. Please send me suggestions but let us make sure these are larger community issues and not individual cases.

As a first project, we are building a directory of Nepali Americans (Citizens, Green Card Holders and those in the process) to facilitate communication among us. We need your help and support. Please send us the following information to our email address napac.america@gmail.com

1. **Names: (you and your spouse)**
2. **Address:**
3. **Telephone Numbers:**
 - **Home:**
 - **Cell:**
4. **Email address:**
5. **Education:**
6. **Profession & skills:**

We are planning to publish it as the Directory. Unless directed by you not to make it public, we will take it as your approval to post it on our website and publish it in our Directory.

Let us get moving, we have a lot to do, we have along distance to travel. Good thing is that we have started moving in the right direction.

I look forward to hearing from you. Wishing you happy Thanksgiving holidays.

Warm regards,

Dr. Shyam Karki
President, NAPAC