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Battle for Congress: Midterm Elections 2010






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1.		OPEN	
2.	Antonio Neves on Camera 	On Camera: Hi, I'm Antonio Neves. The battle for the House of Representatives is already underway here in Washington, and across the country. And the outcome could have a huge impact on the second half of President Obama's first term.	00:10
3.	U.S. Capitol Bldg. 	Narration: This November all 435 seats in the House are up for election, as well as 36 seats in the Senate. At stake are the large majorities the Democratic Party holds in both houses.	00:26
4.	David Cantanese, POLITICO on camera 	David Cantanese: If you look back historically, presidents usually lose seats in their first midterm election. It happened to Ronald Reagan, it happened to President Clinton	00:39
5.	Talking with Cantanese 	Narration: David Cantanese writes for Politico, a Washington newspaper and website that covers national politics. Like most journalists and politicians, he expects the Democrats to lose some seats in the House of Representatives.	00:52
6.	Cantanese on Camera	David Cantanese: The question is how many? I mean do they lose 20 seats in the House? That would be pretty good, if they lose only 20 seats. Does it get higher? Do they lose 40?	1:05

7.	Breakdown of House of Representatives 	Narration: 40 will be the most important number on election night this year. Right now there are 253 Democratic members of the house and 177 Republicans. Five seats are vacant. If the Democrats lose more than 40 seats, they lose their majority. Control of the House turns over to the Republicans.	1:15
8.	Shira Toeplitz, Roll Call, on Camera 	Shira Toeplitz: If you talk to Republicans now versus 14 months ago, 16 months ago the enthusiasm gap has totally closed. // Now Republicans are really excited. Their base is a lot more energized.	1:36
9.	At Roll Call 	Narration: Shira Toeplitz of Roll Call, a newspaper that covers Congress, says that both the Republicans and Democrats are counting on the health care bill, which passed in March, to energize their voters.	1:49
10.	Energizing voters 	Shira Toeplitz: Democrats are beating their chests so excited that they pass what they consider landmark healthcare reform legislation the first time basically since FDR. But Republicans are very excited because they think this will be a huge issue. They think they can really run against this in November.	2:00
11.	President Obama signs Healthcare Bill 	Narration: But despite all the attention Health Care received this year, it probably will not even be the most important issue for voters.	2:18
12.	Economic Concerns 	Shira Toeplitz Number one in any election, whether people choose to admit it, is always going to be the economy. It's the economy stupid. That was Bill Clinton's phrase. Well it's the economy stupid every single election. And it's a huge issue right now given the recession.	2:26

13.	<p>Job Bank</p> 	<p>David Cantanese Where's the unemployment rate in August, in September? Does it climb? Remember the stimulus was the first thing the Obama Administration came out of the gate with as their big policy to fix the economy. //if you're a Democrat, you voted for that stimulus, you have to point to projects in your district, you have to point to things going on whether its roads, transportation projects, a new building, a new senior center. You're going to see a lot of //Republicans pointing to that overall unemployment number// saying look we passed this huge stimulus bill and here we are still with this 10% unemployment rate or whatever the unemployment rate will be.</p>	2:40
14.	<p>Neves on camera</p> 	<p>On Camera: This election many eyes will be on Illinois where not only are 19 house seats are up, also President Obama's old Senate seat.</p>	3:17
15.	<p>Susan Elhert on Camera</p> 	<p>Susan Elhert The major issue that's important to me is job loss and the economy.</p>	3:27
16.	<p>Cortney Dunmars on Camera</p> 	<p>Cortney Dunmars I do think jobs are important. I think in some cities like Chicago it's pretty hard to find a job.</p>	3:30

17.	Josh Carson on Camera 	Josh Carson I've been out of school since for two years now just because I don't have the funds, the income or anything to get the student loans I need so that's very important to me, I want to get back in school, I want to finish my education.	3:38
18.	Busy Chicago streets 	Narration The opinions of voters like these have been heard by the political parties getting ready for the fall campaigns.	3:49
19.	Angel Garcia, Young Republicans of Chicago, on Camera 	Angel Garcia What we're going to do is try to energize people and get the Republican numbers up and win a couple of seats.	3:57
20.	Talking with Angel Garcia 	Narration: For Angel Garcia and other members of the Young Republican organization is Chicago the economy will be front and center.	4:03
21.	Angel Garcia on camera	Angel Garcia: Jobs aren't being created. The argument has been made that this leadership today has been more interested in healthcare than in creating jobs. So I think jobs and spending are the two most important issues.	4:12

22.	<p>Ann Liston, Democratic Consultant, on Camera</p> 	<p>Ann Liston: People want this president to succeed.</p>	4:24
23.	<p>Talking with Ann Liston</p> 	<p>Narration: Democratic Consultant Ann Liston has a different perspective.</p>	4:26
24.	<p>Healthcare Supporters Rally</p> 	<p>Ann Liston: They want his agenda to succeed, his jobs plan, his healthcare plan and so they know that you know sometimes it takes a lot of help in Congress in order to get much of these policies passed and they want to see a Congress that's moving forward and helping this president pass his agenda</p>	4:30
25.	<p>Tea Party rally</p> 	<p>Narration: From her base in Chicago, Ann Liston says the wild card in this election will be Tea Party voters...groups not affiliated with Democrats or Republicans but united in opposition to the way the government is being run.</p>	4:49
26.	<p>Liston on Camera</p>	<p>Ann Liston: I don't know yet what the impact of the Tea Party is. I know they are a very vocal and loud organization and group. I'm not sure of all that they stand for and we've really sort of tried to find out what they really stand for.</p>	5:04
27.	<p>Ralph Sprovier, Tea Party spokesman, on Camera</p> 	<p>Ralph Sprovier Well they think we're an arm of the Republican party. And as a former Republican, that's further from the truth in this state especially. The state of Illinois has some good people in it, Democrats and Republicans.</p>	5:17

28.	Talking with Ralph Sprovier 	Narration: Ralph Sprovier is a spokesman for the Tea Party movement in Illinois.	5:29
29.	Sprovier on Camera	Ralph Sprovier: The four primary pillars of the Tea Party is basically smaller government, leave up to individual choice, free markets, strong Constitutional beliefs //And just less taxes.	5:34
30.	Garcia on Camera	Angel Garcia: The Tea Party movement is outside of either party. But when we see what their major concerns are many of them align with the Republican Party. My only concern is that if they start doing a third party movement or start running as independents	5:46
31.	Changing the political map? 	Narration: That could draw votes away from Republican candidates and help Democrats.	6:00
32.	Toeplitz on Camera	Shira Toeplitz: We know a third party often doesn't win elections, but they do have a huge impact on the final results	6:05
33.	Cantanese on Camera 	David Cantanese: I don't see a bunch of Tea Party candidates winning the nomination and then going to you know to beat Democrats. But people are going to turnout in these midterm elections. Who are energized? We have these older pool of voters but what about the Tea Party voters?	6:10
34.	Youth Turnout 	Narration: Historically fewer people vote in the mid-term elections . Both parties will be working hard to get voters to the polls. And politicians and journalists will be watching to see if President Obama can turn out the large number of young people who voted for him in 2008.	6:27

35.	Toeplitz on Camera	Shira Toeplitz Midterm elections are so often considered a referendum on the President's agenda. Let's remember that the President, in addition to being President, is also the head of the Democratic Party de facto in a lot of ways. So this midterm election will be a huge referendum on him.	6:43
36.		Narration: I'm Antonio Neves for the dot news.	6:57