



## **Pelosi, Boehner Get an Early Start on Recess Message Wars**

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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Minority Leader John A. Boehner of Ohio could not wait for the recess to begin to exchange political salvos over the legislative scorecard and agenda of the Democratic majority.

The two leaders laid out competing economic agendas Thursday, establishing themes for campaigning during the six-week recess and drawing battle lines for the September work period.

Boehner ridiculed Pelosi and the Democrats for pushing session-ending jobs and manufacturing bills, and predicted that Democratic lawmakers seeking re-election this fall would have a tough time defending the health care overhaul (PL 111-148, PL 111-152) and the House-passed cap-and-trade plan (HR 2454) for limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

“Finally, after 18 months of moving their job-killing policies, now they want to go out and talk about their manufacturing agenda,” Boehner said. “Our members are going to be out there doing town halls. What are the Democrat members going to do? They’re going to hide.”

Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland said Democrats will be glad to tell constituents about accomplishments including the economic stimulus package (PL 111-5) and the health care law, and to explain new jobs initiatives.

Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, chairman of the House Democrats’ political organization, said the majority’s September to-do list includes legislation intended to tighten enforcement of trade and dumping restrictions and a bill (HR 2378) sponsored by Tim Ryan of Ohio that would expedite economic sanctions against China or other trading partners whose currencies the Treasury Department judges to be “misaligned.”

Pelosi said she will focus during the recess on incentives for manufacturers, worker training and trade-related measures. She will begin to make campaign appearances next week when she visits Democratic incumbents Earl Blumenauer of Oregon and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico.

Boehner said that Republicans will highlight their support for extending all of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts (PL 107-16, PL 108-27) that expire at the end of the year, and their opposition to the health care law and other Democratic initiatives.

Democratic leaders back President Obama's proposal to extend the current tax rates for most taxpayers but to let rates increase for individuals earning at least \$200,000 and couples with incomes of \$250,000 or more.

Republican aides said Boehner will appear on behalf of 30 House candidates in 17 states during the recess and that GOP leaders will continue to work on proposals intended to spur economic growth that House Republicans and their constituents have suggested as part of the party's evolving campaign agenda, dubbed "America Speaking Out."

Both sides will have ample time to prepare for the September session. According to the House Historian's office, the planned 45-day vacation will be the second-longest break the House has taken since 1945, only a day shorter than the 46-day summer recess in 2004.