



# Tea Party Convention Re-Cap

The movement is maturing. The rallies were good for last year, because that's what we could do last year. This year we have to change things. **We have got to win.**

The goal is electing a conservative Congress in 2010  
and a conservative president in 2012.

The convention tried to channel anger into action called "Electioneering 101." The convention focused on wanting people to leave connected with other activists, so we can recruit good candidates, get candidates exposed to the voters, and get voters to the polls.

The mass protests and town-hall rage that have come to define the movement in its first year, this convention was designed to demonstrate that the tea-party movement is "growing up," There were sessions on leadership, political philosophy and such nuts-and-bolts topics as "how to do voter-registration drives," as movement leaders try to turn grass-roots power into political gain in November's midterm elections and beyond.

The "tea party" activists all agree:

Government is too big.

Spending is out of control.

Individual freedom is at risk.

And

President Barack Obama's policies are making it all worse.

But that's where the consensus ends among the diverse groups of frustrated Americans

who count themselves part of this fledgling coalition.

Most were afraid, fed up and angry, but where this movement is going to go, we just don't know.

If the "we the people" who attended this first national "tea party" convention are uncertain, imagine the difficulties of the Republican and Democratic parties, both of which are trying to leverage this antiestablishment energy for their own gain. How it works out could make a big difference in elections this fall and beyond.

### **Here's what's clear:**

This is pure people-driven politics. This is an ideological mix of libertarianism and conservatism with the common denominator being lower spending and smaller government.

This is a loose collection of citizen groups with no leader but many voices. And this is the product of long-simmering anger.

Is it just a blip? Or will it emerge as a lasting political powerhouse shaping elections and government for years to come?

**"This movement is beginning to mature ... not as a third party but a force to be reckoned with in the traditional party structure."**

There are "tea party" groups that **insist** the convention hosts didn't speak for them. And viewpoints among attendees here varied.

[Following are links you might want to look up.](#)

#### **Tea-Party Convention: Lessons on Palin and the Movement**

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/time/20100208/us\\_time/08599196072600](http://news.yahoo.com/s/time/20100208/us_time/08599196072600)

Her speech - <http://themoderatevoice.com/62060/sarah-palins-keynote-speech-at-national-tea-party-convention/>

**Andrew Breitbart** gave a rousing speech about the media – I did get to meet with him and say thank you for all he is doing in fighting the culture war. He is a Tulane Graduate.... Go figure.... And he loves New Orleans.

<http://biggovernment.com/jhoft/2010/02/06/andrew-breitbart-at-national-tea-party-convention-to-media-its-not-your-business-model-that-sucks-its-you-that-sucks/>

**Judicial Watch:** the non-partisan public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption.

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jan/judicial-watch-sponsors-national-tea-party-convention-february-4-6-2010>

**Tea Party Emporium :** <http://www.teapartyemporium.com/>

**Youth Leadership:** to increase the number and effectiveness of conservative activists and leaders in the public policy process. <http://www.leadershipinstitute.org/>

**Rediscovering Our Principles, Reclaiming Our Future:** In the midst of frenzied efforts to remake our nation—of endless government initiatives involved in virtually every aspect of our daily lives—Americans are increasingly concerned: How did we get so far off track? And how can we get America back on course?

<http://www.westillholdthesetruths.org/>

**ISSUES 2010** <http://www.issues2010.com/>

**Dr. B. Leland Baker** is the author of "Tea Party Revival: The Conscience of a Conservative Reborn - The Tea Party Revolt Against Unconstrained Spending and Growth of the Federal Government." <http://www.amazon.com/Tea-Party-Revival-Conservative-Unconstrained/dp/143274917X>

It is written at a defining moment in history: the end of the United States' Superpower status due to America's experiments with Big Government growth, unconstrained spending, and disregard for the Constitution. Dr. Baker's message of adherence to the Constitution, is viewed as radical to Big Government politicians, but is considered common sense to members of the Tea Party movement. He argues for the value and importance of constitutional principles--freedom, foremost among them--in contemporary political life. He explains how constitutional compliance leads to smaller, limited government, which results in lower spending, lower taxes and greater freedom for all Americans. He explains how over-spending has placed our children and grandchildren in fiscal bondage for the next century and answers "How did it come to this?" Using the principles as espoused in this concise but powerful book, Baker fundamentally explains today's political landscape, the concerns and demands of the Tea Party movement in clear and concise terms. **He offered to the tea party leaders: we can buy the book in bulk at cost and use it as a fundraiser... I do have a copy and will share at the next meetup.**

**Personal Note:**

**I did meet many people and I have stories too numerous to lay out here....**

**A GRATITUDE OF THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT THAT MADE THIS CONVENTION POSSIBLE FOR ME.**

**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE MARDI GRAS !**

