

SAM BROWNBACK

08 WATCH: DECEMBER 2005



IN FOCUS:

Brownback Is Positioning Himself to be the “John Ashcroft of 2008.”

According to the [American Spectator](#), “Kansas Senator Sam Brownback is positioning himself to be the John Ashcroft of 2008 -- the socially conservative candidate who could run as the needed vice-presidential antidote for a nominee with frayed ties to the religious right: McCain? Giuliani? Pataki? Romney?”

[[American Spectator](#), 12/05]

BUZZ WATCH:

Charlie Cook Said That Brownback Is the Leading Representative of One of the Three Wings of the Republican Party That Are Vying for Nomination in 2008. The [Kansas City Star](#) reported that, based on observations by political analyst Charlie Cook of the [Cook Political Report](#), “The 2008 GOP presidential nomination could come down to three candidates, each representing different wings of the party: Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, from the ‘sacred’ bracket, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, from what Cook called the ‘secular’ bracket, and Sen. George Allen of Virginia in the ‘bridge’ bracket.” [[Kansas City Star](#), 11/13/05]

Brownback May be Politically Boxed-In by Evangelical Efforts to Halt Global Warming. The National Association of Evangelicals will soon issue their first policy statement on global warming calling for mandatory greenhouse gas controls. The NAE source criticizes the climate change position of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK), who is a leading skeptic about the science supporting human responsibility for climate change. According to [Inside Fuels and Vehicles](#), “The NAE plan could further flare tensions in the Republican base... Observers say other conservative Republicans could be in similar awkward positions, including Sens. George Allen (R-VA), Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Rick Santorum (R-PA), all of whom may be presidential candidates in 2008. Congressional aides for the three senators either declined to comment or could not be reached on the NAE statement.” [[Inside Fuels and Vehicles](#), 11/17/05]

DAY JOB:

Brownback Plans to Introduce Flat Tax Bill for Residents’ Federal Taxes in Washington DC.

Brownback is looking to introduce legislation that would make Washington, DC a “laboratory” for testing a flat tax’s merits, and plans to hold hearings early next year to explore the issue. “I’m excited about it,” Brownback said. Brownback said that making D.C. a test case would, with limited potential for negative impact, provide valuable data about the effects of a flat tax that would prove helpful in determining whether it should be applied nationwide. Brownback is chairman of the Senate’s subcommittee on the District of Columbia, part of the Appropriations Committee. [[New York Sun](#), 11/30/05]

Brownback Pushing His Anti-Stem Cell Bill. According to Daniel Perry, executive director of the Alliance for Aging Research, the anti-cloning bill sponsored by Sen. Brownback “would gut research being done by the private sector and the states.” Brownback’s bill would bar the mixing of embryos to create what are known as chimeras, but would not bar the commonplace techniques of adding human cells to existing laboratory animals. [[National Journal](#), 12/12/05]

Brownback Voted Against Measure to Fully Fund LIHEAP Program. Brownback voted against an amendment by Sen. Reed (D-RI) that would fund Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by imposing a one-year temporary tax on oil company profits from the sale of crude oil. The motion was rejected 50-48. [Senate Roll Call Vote #339, 11/17/05]

Brownback Voted To Extend The PATRIOT Act. In 2005, Brownback voted to end a filibuster on a bill to extend the PATRIOT Act's authorities to combat terrorism, some provisions of which are set to expire on December 31, 2005. President Bush has said he would veto a three-month extension, arguing it would be inadequate. But without an extension, 16 provisions would expire at the end of the year. [Senate vote 358, HR 3199, Failed 52-47 (60 votes needed) 12/16/05; AP, 12/16/05]

Brownback Voted Against Measures to Protect Consumers from Future Gas Spikes. On November 17, Brownback voted against an amendment from Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) that would have improved the Federal Trade Commission's ability to protect consumers from price-gouging during energy emergencies. The amendment was rejected. A day later, Brownback voted against an amendment that would have eliminated a tax break that allows oil and gas companies like ExxonMobil, Shell, ConocoPhillips, Chevron and BP Amoco to write off in a single year so-called intangible drilling costs of exploration and development. [Senate Vote #334, 11/17/05; #332, 11/18/05]

MONEY UPDATE:

Brownback's PAC Has Raised Nearly \$70K as of June 2005. Sen. Sam Brownback's (R-KS) Restore America PAC has raised \$69,987 during the first six months of 2005. Restore America PAC has not yet filed its latest quarterly report; the latest available numbers are from January through June 2005. [tray.com]

Brownback Has the Support of Ultra-Right Domino's Mogul. In the race for raising presidential campaign money, Brownback has secured the commitment of Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan. Monaghan is the founder of Domino's Pizza and, according to the Daily Catholic, "A strong pro-lifer who had spoken out on behalf of the Sanctity of Life, his journey toward his ambitions today began in the late eighties when he donated thousands to Operation Rescue for the pro-life cause and was immediately called on the carpet by NOW and Planned Parenthood." Monaghan also founded Ave Maria University, to serve "young people seeking an ultra-conservative Catholic education" and a surrounding town based on conservative Catholic faith. [National Journal On Call, 12/16/05; Daily Catholic, 10/19/99; Naples News, 11/30/05; Boston Phoenix, 6/17/05]

SCHEDULE RECAP:

11/29/05—Africa: Brownback and Richard Durbin (D-IL) traveled to the Congo, Rwanda, and Kenya from November 29th to December 7th to examine the conflict in eastern Congo, post-genocide Rwanda, and conservation projects in Kenya. Brownback and Durbin will meet with local officials, ambassadors, and aid workers and visit sites important to the issues of genocide, conservation, regional conflict, HIV/AIDS, and terrorism. [Brownback Press Release]

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