



## PRAISE FOR NANCY PELOSI'S LEADERSHIP

**President Barack Obama:** "Let me tell you about Nancy Pelosi...Nancy Pelosi is tough... But with style and grace, but most importantly, with steely determination, she does not back down, she is there doing battle each and every day on behalf of not only her constituency here in California, but people all across America who are looking for a fair shake, who are looking for a decent job, who are looking for quality health care, who want a good education for their kids, who want a planet that they can pass on to their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren. That's what Nancy Pelosi is all about. We could not have done any of the stuff that we've done this year without one of the best Speakers imaginable." [\[10/15/09\]](#)

**Vice President Joe Biden:** "The single most successful, the single most persuasive, the single most strategic leader I have ever worked with is Nancy Pelosi." [\[7/19/10\]](#)

**Norm Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute:** "She's the strongest Speaker we've seen in our lifetime. She's relentless. She knows how to push the right buttons. She makes things happen." [\[Globe and Mail, 3/24/10\]](#)

**Thomas E. Mann, Brookings Institution:** "What we can say at this point is that she has been the most successful speaker in decades, with an extraordinary record of legislative achievement. Her energy and skill in keeping her party together under unified Republican opposition and courage in pushing ahead with such difficult issues as health reform have already earned her a place in the pantheon of powerful speakers of the House." [\[Politico, 12/20/10\]](#)

**Bono:** "No one has fought harder than Nancy Pelosi since the day she came into office 25 years ago...Millions of people all over the world owe their lives to Nancy and the bipartisan coalition that fought to contain the AIDS epidemic, not just here in America, but in the poorest parts of this planet." [\[6/6/12\]](#)

**Rachel Maddow, MSNBC:** "TARP, the stimulus, health reform, Wall Street reform, student loan reform, the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell', the new GI bill...[Pelosi's] Speakership was Sam Rayburn-esque." [\[6/6/12\]](#)

**Kirsten Powers, Daily Beast:** “Nancy Pelosi will without a doubt be remembered as one of the most effective and powerful Speakers in U.S. history... Substantively, she has overseen one of the most productive Congresses in history to include the passage of an economic stimulus package, a massive health care overhaul and financial reform. [[Daily Beast, 10/22/10](#)]

**Mark Shields:** “She is the master of that House...she did something which Tip O`Neill or Sam Rayburn could never do. Not once, not twice, but three times, she passed health care through the House of Representatives. And she stands, in my judgment, as the most powerful political woman in the history of this country.” [[PBS News Hour, 3/26/10](#)]

**Charlie Cook:** Pelosi is “the most powerful speaker we've seen in modern history.” [Washington Post, 7/1/10]

**Paul Begala, CNN:** “Look at her historic accomplishments: The Lilly Ledbetter Equal Pay Act for women, credit card reform, student loan reform, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which tripled AmeriCorps, Cash for Clunkers, the Clean Energy & Security Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and most important, fundamental health care reform. The political winds have shifted against her, but the light of history will shine favorably upon her.” [[CNN, 11/2/10](#)]

**Mark Siegel, Democratic Strategist:** “She's Lyndon Johnson in a skirt. She was patient, tireless, persistent and cajoling - and she pulled off what no one else could.” [[NY Daily News, 3/23/10](#)]

**Howard Meyerson, Los Angeles Times:** “But when it comes to being a speaker -- the presiding officer of the House of Representatives and the leader of its majority party -- Pelosi is without peer. No speaker in the past century has played such a key role in enacting major reforms. No speaker since Henry Clay, who wielded the gavel in the 1810s and '20s, has had so great an effect on American life...San Francisco and Baltimore, West Coast liberal and New Deal boss -- you can see all these in Pelosi's passion, her charm, her toughness, her smarts.” [[3/26/10](#)]

**Eleanor Clift, Newsweek:** “Pelosi is that rare public official in Washington who, when she says she'll get something done you can take it to the bank, or in the case of health care, to the White House...” [[3/24/10](#)]

**Gail Russell Chaddock, Christian Science Monitor:** “Make no mistake: Nancy Pelosi is the most powerful woman in American politics and the most powerful House speaker since Sam Rayburn a half century ago...she has shown uncommon skill in enforcing discipline in Democratic Party ranks at a time when members are more fractious and ideologically diverse than in decades.” [[7/13/10](#)]

**Gail Collins, New York Times:** “She is the most powerful woman in the country, the most fearless person on Capitol Hill and on track to be one of the most productive speakers in history.” [[6/26/10](#)]

**Jessica Yellin (CNN):** “She has been enormously successful as a speaker, wielded power effectively and gotten a lot done.” [CNN – John King, USA, 10/1/10]

**Wall Street Journal:** “Much to the fury of conservative critics, Ms. Pelosi has proved herself as a legislative tactician, digging into the arcana of House procedure to wiggle big bills past opposition roadblocks.” [\[3/20/10\]](#)

**The Economist:** “Mrs. Pelosi is arguably the most powerful woman in American history. There have been female governors, secretaries of state and Supreme Court justices, but only one female speaker.” [\[3/18/10\]](#)

**David Rhode, Political Science Professor at Duke University:** “She is a hell of a lot more effective speaker than Sam Rayburn. She got her party to do things that Sam Rayburn couldn't.” [Washington Post, 7/22/10]

**Daniel Shea, Director of the Center for Political Participation, Allegheny College:** “Nancy Pelosi will go down in history as an exceedingly skillful, powerful and effective speaker. Few of her predecessors could note as many significant accomplishments in such a short period of time. She not only broke the glass ceiling, she shattered it!...” [\[Politico, 12/20/10\]](#)

**Theda Skocpol, Harvard:** “Nancy Pelosi will end up going down as one of the great speakers in U.S. history...She produced more leadership accomplishments in two years than most speakers produce in a decade, and Pelosi's Democrats accomplished major reforms that the United States badly needs... Polls aside, she is the master of House processes, and she has guts. She knows when to fight and when to fight another day. She will give 'em hell.” [\[Politico, 12/20/10\]](#)

**John Aloysius Farrell:** “Pelosi rates more than an asterisk as the first woman to hold the office. She helped lead her party back to power in 2006 and played a key role in Democrats’ takeover of Congress and the White House in 2008. With her, Democrats had significant success, seizing a moment of one-party government to pass landmark legislation, while grappling with war and an economic downturn.” [\[Politico, 11/4/10\]](#)

**Vince Bzdek, Washington Post:** “Sure, President Obama pushed health-care reform to the top of the country's agenda, and the Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate were essential to passing the bill. But make no mistake: The overhaul happened because Nancy Pelosi wanted it to happen, deep in her DNA.” [\[3/28/10\]](#)