

The Conservative Galaxy There was a time when conservatism in Washington consisted of George Will, Paul Weyrich, the Heritage Foundation, and a few sharp operators in suburban Virginia. Today, conservatives can claim much of the prime real estate in the capital. As a new Republican House, led by John Boehner, and an enlarged Senate Republican minority, led by Mitch McConnell, prepare to challenge the Obama administration, we spent a month interviewing conservatives to find out who has clout and who doesn't.

The **Republican Governors Association**, now led by **Rick Perry**, spent \$129 million in the last election and should top that in 2012.



Tom Donohue has made the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** the most powerful lobby in Washington.



David Frum's website, **FrumForum**, is the gathering place for conservatives who still believe the Earth is round.



If the decentralized Tea Party has a lobby in Washington, it's **Dick Armey's FreedomWorks**. A wild card in conservative politics.



The Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision has made **Karl Rove's American Crossroads** the preferred destination for big GOP donors.



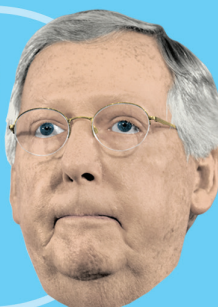
It's standing room only for **Grover Norquist's** Wednesday meeting of conservative activists at **Americans for Tax Reform**.



Heritage Foundation staffers provided the talking points for Republican opponents of the New START treaty.



Many of the **American Enterprise Institute's** heavyweights are gone, but its president's anti-statist polemicizing is popular with the GOP.



Cato's libertarianism appeals to some youthful conservatives who are more likely to read *Reason* than *The Weekly Standard*.



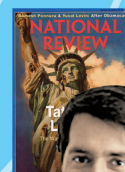
Conservatives still take their cues from **The Wall Street Journal's** editorial page.



A bare hint of bipartisan compromise can bring a stiff rebuke from **Rush Limbaugh**, as Representative **Darrell Issa** recently discovered.



Fox News Chairman **Roger Ailes** and his talking heads set the tone for conservative Washington—and it's pretty nasty.



The House Republicans gave **Rich Lowry's National Review** a first look at their "Pledge to America."

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

The **Hoover Institution** and the **Hudson Institute** are two conservative think-tanks where thought still occurs. **National Affairs** is the wonky successor to *The Public Interest*.



One prominent Republican lobbyist explained **K Street's** influence this way: "Congressmen come in, and they are from East Bumfuck... and their heads are spinning, and you sort of come to the people that brought you."



Thanks to *Citizens United*, **Karl Rove** now overshadows the **Republican National Committee**. **Michael Steele** is probably on his way out, but it won't matter who runs it.



Neoconservatives like **Bill Kristol**, **Richard Perle**, and **Paul Wolfowitz**, have had to stand in the corner since the Iraq War fiasco.



In bad economic times, **James Dobson** and other social conservatives have found that their issues are a low priority for Republicans.

Top row to bottom, left to right: Arroyo: Kevin Detsch/UPI; Donohue: Reuters/Joni Kurkawa/Pool; Rove: A.M.P.A. Photos; Norquist: Roger L. Wollenberg/UPI; McConnell: Michael Reynolds/EPA; Limbaugh: Alex C. Glenn/UPI; Ailes: Dennis Van Tine; Hannity: Earl S. Ceyer/UPI; Beck: Chris Keane/Reuters; Steele: Kevin Detsch/UPI; Perle: Michael Krimmel/UPI; Wolfowitz: Yori Gritap/Reuters; Dobson: Katie Falkenberg/The Washington Times; all via London