

The Politics of Obamacare: How the Affordable Care Act is Playing in the Midterm Elections
Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Speaker Biographies

Drew Altman

Drew Altman is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. He is an innovator in the world of foundations and a leading expert on national health policy who publishes and speaks widely on health issues. Dr. Altman founded the current-day Kaiser Family Foundation in the early 1990's, directing a complete overhaul of the Foundation's mission, staff, and operating style. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Altman was Commissioner of the Department of Human Services for the state of New Jersey under Governor Tom Kean. As Commissioner, he developed nationally recognized initiatives in welfare reform, school-based youth services, programs for the homeless, and Medicaid managed care. Dr. Altman was Director of the Health and Human Services at the Pew Charitable Trusts; Vice President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, where he led the development of the Foundation's programs in HIV/AIDS, health services for the homeless, and health care financing; and he served in the Health Care Financing Administration in the Carter administration. Dr. Altman received his BA from Brandeis University and his Masters in political science from Brown University. He earned his PhD in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, did his post-doctoral work at the Harvard School of Public Health, and taught public policy at MIT before moving on to public service. He holds an honorary doctorate from the Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Altman is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Institute of Medicine.

Mollyann Brodie

Mollyann Brodie is responsible for all aspects of the Foundation's public opinion survey efforts, including the monthly Kaiser Health Tracking poll, the Foundation's work on Americans' attitudes toward global health policy, and the ongoing survey partnerships with media organizations including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and NPR. Dr. Brodie's efforts focus on understanding public opinion and knowledge on health care policy issues, and the role of opinion in health policy debates. Her research has been published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* and *Health Affairs*. Brodie is co-editor of the book *American Public Opinion and Health Care* (CQ Press, 2011). She is also responsible for all executive operations of the Foundation, including directing the President's Office and supporting the activities of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and Board Committees. Dr. Brodie was recently elected Vice President/President-Elect of the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). She previously served on AAPOR's Executive Council and as president of its Pacific Chapter, PAPOR. She received a M.S. in Health Policy and Management and a Ph.D. in Health Policy from Harvard University.

Charlie Cook

Charlie Cook is Editor and Publisher of the Cook Political Report and a political analyst for *National Journal* magazine, where he writes a twice weekly column. Charlie is considered one of the nation's leading authorities on American politics and U.S. elections. In 2010, Charlie was a co-recipient of the American Political Science Association's prestigious Carey McWilliams award to honor "a major journalistic contribution to our understanding of politics." In the spring semester of 2013, Charlie served as a Resident Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Charlie founded the *Cook Political Report* in 1984 and became a columnist for Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill, in 1986. In 1998 he moved his column to *National Journal*. Charlie has served as a political analyst or election night analyst for CBS, CNN and NBC News and has been a frequent political analyst for all three major broadcast news networks and has appeared on *Meet the Press* and *This Week*. *The New York Times* has called Charlie "one of the best political handicappers in the nation" and has said the *Cook Political Report* is "a newsletter which both parties regard as authoritative." The late David Broder wrote in the *Washington Post* that Charlie was "perhaps the best non-partisan tracker of Congressional races," while CBS News' Bob Schieffer called the *Cook Political Report*, "the bible of the political community."

Jim Morrill

Jim Morrill has worked for the Charlotte Observer for more than 30 years, where he covers politics. He grew up near Chicago and went to Loyola University. After serving in the Peace Corps in West Africa he got a Master's in Journalism from the University of Illinois. In 2000 he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

Kathie Obradovich

Kathie Obradovich has been covering government and politics in Iowa for more than 25 years. As political columnist for the Des Moines Register, she covers presidential politics and the Statehouse. Her columns and breaking news coverage appear on the Register opinion page, DesMoinesRegister.com and social media. She is a regular reporter on Iowa Public Television's "Iowa Press" and a frequent guest on other state, national and international news programs. She's also on the faculty of Iowa State University's Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication. From 2003 to 2009, Kathie was political editor at the Register and lead editor for the nationally recognized Iowa Poll. Previously, she was a reporter, editor and Statehouse bureau chief for the Lee Enterprises newspapers in Iowa. Kathie is an Iowa native and a graduate of Iowa State University.