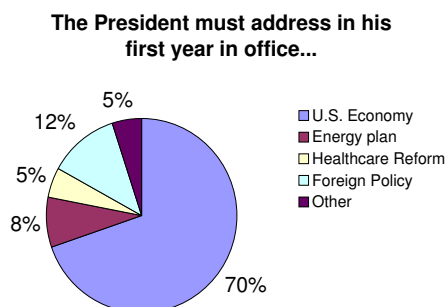


Advice to New President

Even before the November 4 election and as the U.S. economy began a precipitous tailspin, political pundits began speculating about what issues the new president should address in the early days of his presidency—if not sooner. During that time LocumTenens.com decided to find out what issues were on the minds of America's physicians. In October 2008 we received 1,457 responses to a two-question survey regarding the top issue area he should address in his first year in office (multiple-choice) and their advice to the new president (open-ended).



Considering our timing, it's no surprise that among 119 radiologists responding to the LocumTenens.com survey, close to three fourths (70%) indicated the U.S. economy was the most pressing year-one issue. However, it's interesting to note that physicians are not that different from many other Americans who were concerned about many issues beyond their own careers and industries as the 2008 election neared. Highlights of their open-ended comments follow.

What advice would you offer to the president regarding his first 100 days in office?

“Establish nonpartisan task forces to deal with the economy, energy, healthcare reform, and foreign policy.”
 – Radiologist, Pennsylvania

U.S. Economy

“Work to stabilize the stock market and the dollar. Get more people working so we can get the economy stable and get consumer confidence up so they will start spending money again.” – Radiologist, Maryland

“Slash government spending and establish an outline to balance the federal budget.” – Radiologist, New Mexico

“Sign legislation imposing regulation of the mortgage and credit industry.” – Radiologist, Louisiana

“Fix the economy... reduce taxes to stimulate businesses. Reduce anti-trust constraints, which were fine when there was no globalization but now work against American business interests which are competing against businesses around the world. At the same time, initiate all of the capabilities for production of energy—ALL of them at once and not in a piecemeal fashion. Eliminate pork-barrel politics and earmark policies from intrusion into our law-making.”
 – Radiologist, California

Energy

“Fund development for a new energy source. Get off foreign oil, creating new jobs in the process. Next end the dependence on China and redevelop our industrial base.” – Radiologist, North Carolina

“Immediately begin process of bringing nuclear power plants on line and start development of wind power sites (decreasing the power of groups opposing sites) and encourage people to install solar panels by giving tax breaks to those who do so.” – Radiologist, Maine

What advice would you offer to the president regarding his first 100 days in office? *Continued*

Healthcare Reform

“Control healthcare costs by mandating insurance, banning self referral and curbing frivolous lawsuits by establishing pre-trial screening/arbitration conducted by trained professionals.”– *Radiologist, USA*

“Do not forget to cut healthcare costs! It does not cost anyone \$800 to hang a bag of IV saline...but that is what we charge insurers and patients!”– *Radiologist, New York*

“Healthcare should be available to everyone with an emphasis on prevention and personal responsibility. A healthier people needs less healthcare dollars and money can eventually better be spent in area of disease research and containment. However, we must first enable all people to have adequate healthcare to work towards this goal.”

– *Radiologist, Kentucky*

U.S Foreign Policy

“Meet with foreign leaders to address world economy and initiatives for stabilizing Middle East and withdrawing from Iraq.”– *Radiologist, Massachusetts*

“Focus on the economy and foreign affairs. Try to improve the image of the United States of America.”

– *Radiologist, Michigan*

“Must lead with care for the real acute problems Americans face: jobs and financial issues. Care for the future like decreasing debt, improving environment, clean energy technology, serious resolution of Medicare and Social Security, some way to improve healthcare not at expense of doctors, and foreign affairs supporting democracies.”

– *Radiologist, California*



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