



positions of power those who hold dangerous and extreme views.

To his credit, President Obama has placed himself on the front lines of his party's effort to retain control of the Congress, arguing that while his policies have not yet fully taken hold, the nation will be better off when they do. The problems the country faces did not develop overnight and they will not be solved overnight, he has said repeatedly, charging that the Republican history is one of obstructionism and that progress can only occur if Democrats remain in the majority.

It's a hard sell to convince deeply unhappy people that the party in power — the presumed source of the unhappiness — should be given the opportunity to continue in power. Instant gratification is always present in politics and is always difficult to deal with. This year, though, it seems more pronounced.

There can be no doubt that in 2010 change is in the air, just as it was in 2008. How deeply the desire for it runs remains to be seen.

*Carl Golden is a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton College.*

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