

# THE HILL

---

August 2, 2017

## Gingrich to GOP: Pass tax cuts or get ready for Speaker Pelosi

*By: Rebecca Savransky*

Former Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) is urging Republicans to pass tax cuts, warning that failing to do so could result in voters coming together against Republican lawmakers.

“The specter of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is looming,” Gingrich and Brad Anderson, former CEO of Best Buy and a member of the Job Creators Network, wrote in a piece published Wednesday in USA Today.

“Following Republicans’ failure to fix the country’s health care system, polls show Americans are increasingly flirting with Democratic governance in Congress next year.”

As a result, Republicans need to change their game plan, the two wrote.

“The next six months must not be the same as the last six months,” the piece said.

“To regain their legislative momentum and keep their majority, Republicans must clearly demonstrate they are fighting for the country’s hardworking taxpayers. This means passing a major tax cut by Thanksgiving — and making it retroactive to the start of this year.”

The two wrote that by 2018, the tax cuts will then have “spurred economic growth and wage increases.” This will give Republicans momentum heading into the 2018 midterm elections, they said.

But, the two warned, Republicans need to stay focused on the issue at hand.

“A tax cut package directed at small businesses and the middle class is better policy than politics,” they wrote.

The first step to writing tax cut legislation involves rejecting the idea that it “needs to be revenue neutral,” the op-ed said.

“Instead, Republicans should argue that the tax cuts should be deficit neutral — meaning they wouldn’t add to the deficit because of the economic growth they’d produce,” they said.

“We know that deficit neutrality might ruffle the feathers of some fiscal hawks. For them, we have only one question: Which will be more expensive, having House Speaker Nancy Pelosi attempt to implement a Democratic agenda, or passing a deficit-neutral Republican tax cut ensuring that voters will view Republicans as the party of middle-class prosperity in November 2018?”

Gingrich and Anderson also said passing tax cuts by November is better than pursuing comprehensive reform next spring. They said Republicans can always go back to tax reform in 2019.

“Serious tax cuts will bring Americans more — and better — job opportunities, with higher take-home pay. That’s why we think this is the key to keeping the Republican majority in 2018,” the two wrote.

“In short, Republican lawmakers must come together over tax cuts for hardworking taxpayers before hardworking taxpayers come together against Republican lawmakers.”

The piece comes after the Senate last week failed to pass a “skinny” bill repealing ObamaCare. President Trump has since waged a public pressure campaign, urging Republicans not to give up on their promise to repeal and replace ObamaCare.

Republicans plan to sell tax reform over the August recess, following the release of shared tax-reform principles. They are hoping to get voters excited about forthcoming legislation and will have business groups and conservative advocacy organizations helping with the effort.

This is a talking point that Gingrich has hit on in the past. In July, Gingrich joined small business owners in a nationwide campaign to encourage Congress to shift from health-care to tax reform, stating that if something was not done then there was a “real chance of having Nancy Pelosi as the next Speaker of the House.”

