

## Former Senators Offer Insight for ENPAC Members



On Tuesday October 16, just hours before that evening's Presidential debate, ENPAC members across all Entergy service areas dialed-in to an exclusive "tele-town hall" event with former U.S. Senators John Breaux (D-LA) and Trent Lott (R-MS) for an insider's view of the upcoming election and policy issues that affect Entergy and our industry.

Speaking from Entergy's D.C. office, the Senators opened the discussion with their unique overviews of the race between President Obama and former Gov. Mitt Romney, offering projections on swing-state results, electoral votes and party rule in Congress.

Senator Lott opened by thanking ENPAC members for their involvement in the PAC, saying, "as somebody that benefitted from support from ENPAC in my years in the House and Senate, it really does make a difference." In his opening remarks, Senator Breaux added that it's important for employees to remain active in ENPAC, because, "through the PAC you're able to influence elections not just in your home state but around the country" and thereby influence policy beneficial to Entergy and its employees.

Regarding the election, both Senators agreed with Sen. Lott's belief that "it's basically a toss-up in the election right now." In spite of the fact that California and New York appear locks for Obama and Florida for Romney, the consensus was that

Ohio, Virginia and other swing states would be the deciding factor. Both Senators agreed with the consensus that the House of Representatives would retain its Republican majority status but that both the Senate and White House were “up in the air.”

Moderator Dan Turton—Entergy’s VP of Federal Government Affairs—opened the floor to questions from ENPAC members. One question, from Entergy Nuclear Project Manager John Mahoney in Mississippi, asked how the election could impact the energy sector and nuclear energy.

Responding, both Lott and Breaux said they envisioned energy policy making major strides in the future, with Lott questioning the current administration’s commitment to energy and the regulatory powers of the Environmental Protection Agency. The former Senator from Mississippi said an “all of the above” energy policy that pushes for more nuclear and more natural gas would be beneficial. Senator Breaux added that nuclear energy “has a very bright future” as a clean, dependable power source, and he predicted that the U.S. would soon be oil and gas independent and even able to export oil in five years.

Another question, from Entergy Services Sr. HR Representative Vicki Darlington in New Orleans, asked what could be done about the “polarization” in Congress. Senator Lott expressed that “you need real men and women of good leadership” who consider the issues and make a sensible vote, no matter what the special interests are pushing. Senator Breaux offered several explanations for the current polarization and gridlock, one of which was that Members work only mid-week, spend more time in their home states and less time working together in D.C. developing a legislative rapport.

Finally, the gentlemen were asked whether or not they would accept an invitation to work in either administration in January, to which Senator Lott replied, “thirty-nine years in politics is enough.”

Thank you to all the ENPAC members who participated in the tele-conference. Keep an eye out for future ENPAC-exclusive events to help you stay informed with what’s happening behind the headlines.