

2010 in the United States

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Events in the year **2010 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- **President:** Barack Obama (D-Illinois)
- **Vice President:** Joe Biden (D-Delaware)
- **Chief Justice:** John Roberts (New York)^[1]
- **Speaker of the House of Representatives:** Nancy Pelosi (D–California)
- **Senate Majority Leader:** Harry Reid (D–Nevada)
- **Congress:** 111th

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Bob Riley (Republican)
- Governor of Alaska: Sean Parnell (Republican)
- Governor of Arizona: Jan Brewer (Republican)
- Governor of Arkansas: Mike Beebe (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Arnold Schwarzenegger (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Bill Ritter (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: Jodi Rell (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: Jack Markell (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Charlie Crist (Republican)
- Governor of Georgia: Sonny Perdue (Republican)
- Governor of Hawaii: Linda Lingle (Republican) (until December 6), Neil Abercrombie (Democratic) (starting December 6)
- Governor of Idaho: Butch Otter (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: Pat Quinn (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: Mitch Daniels (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Chet Culver (Democratic)
- Governor of Kansas: Mark Parkinson (Democratic)
- Governor of Kentucky: Steve Beshear (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Bobby Jindal (Republican)
- Governor of Maine: John Baldacci (Democratic)
- Governor of Maryland: Martin O'Malley (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Deval Patrick (Democratic)
- Governor of Michigan: Jennifer Granholm (Democratic)
- Governor of Minnesota: Tim Pawlenty (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Haley Barbour (Republican)
- Governor of Missouri: Jay Nixon (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Brian Schweitzer (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Dave Heineman (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Jim Gibbons (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: John Lynch (Democratic)
- Governor of New Jersey: Jon Corzine (Democratic) (until January 19), Chris Christie (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Governor of New Mexico: Bill Richardson (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: David Paterson (Democratic) (until end of December 31)
- Governor of North Carolina: Bev Perdue (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: John Hoeven (Republican) (until December 7), Jack Dalrymple (Republican) (starting December 7)
- Governor of Ohio: Ted Strickland (Democratic)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Brad Henry (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Ted Kulongoski (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Ed Rendell (Democratic)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Donald Carcieri (Republican)
- Governor of South Carolina: Mark Sanford (Republican)
- Governor of South Dakota: Mike Rounds (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Phil Bredesen (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Rick Perry (Republican)
- Governor of Utah: Gary Herbert (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Jim Douglas (Republican)

- Governor of Virginia: Tim Kaine (Democratic) (until January 16), Bob McDonnell (Republican) (starting January 16)
- Governor of Washington: Christine Gregoire (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Joe Manchin (Democratic) (until November 15), Earl Ray Tomblin (Democratic) (starting November 15)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Jim Doyle (Democratic)
- Governor of Wyoming: Dave Freudenthal (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Jim Folsom, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Craig Campbell (Republican) (until December 6), Mead Treadwell (Republican) (starting December 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Bill Halter (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Mona Pasquil (Democratic) (until April 27), Abel Maldonado (Republican) (starting April 27)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Barbara O'Brien (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Michael Fedele (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Matthew Denn (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Jeff Kottkamp (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Casey Cagle (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: Duke Aiona (Republican) (until December 6), Brian Schatz (Democratic) (starting December 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Brad Little (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Becky Skillman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Patty Judge (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Troy Findley (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Daniel Mongiardo (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana:
 - until May 3: Mitch Landrieu (Democratic)
 - May 3-May 17: vacant
 - May 17-November 22: Scott Angelle (Republican)
 - starting November 22: Jay Dardenne (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: Anthony G. Brown (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Tim Murray (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: John D. Cherry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Carol Molnau (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Phil Bryant (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Peter Kinder (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: John Bohlinger (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Rick Sheehy (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Brian Krolicki (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey: Kim Guadagno (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Diane Denish (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Richard Ravitch (Democratic) (until end of December 31)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Walter H. Dalton (Democratic)

- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Jack Dalrymple (Republican) (until December 7), Drew Wrigley (Republican) (starting December 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Lee Fisher (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Jari Askins (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Joseph B. Scarnati (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Elizabeth H. Roberts (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: André Bauer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Dennis Daugaard (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Ron Ramsey (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: David Dewhurst (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Utah: Greg Bell (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Brian Dubie (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Bill Bolling (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Brad Owen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Barbara Lawton (Democratic)

Events

January

- January 1
 - Same-sex marriage becomes legal in New Hampshire.^[2]
 - Illinois' ban on texting while driving goes into effect. Additionally, cellular telephone use is banned entirely while driving through a highway construction or school speed zone in Illinois.^[3]
- January 2 – North Carolina bans smoking in bars, restaurants, public places, and vehicles. The new law exempts cigar bars, private clubs, and some hotel/motels.^[4]
- January 13 – Google announces that they were the target of a cyber attack from China. The incident prompts the company to consider pulling out of China.^[5]
- January 19 – A special election is held in Massachusetts to elect a new Senator to take the vacant seat held by the late Ted Kennedy.^[6] Republican Scott Brown beats State Attorney General Martha Coakley, who had earlier been considered a certain winner.
- January 21 – Citizens United vs. FEC: The Supreme Court of the United States rules that the First Amendment prohibits restrictions on independent political expenditures by corporations, associations, and unions.
- January 27 – President Obama in his first State of the Union Address emphasizes the nation's economy, job creation, putting an end to the don't ask, don't tell policy in the military, and restated his commitment for healthcare reform in the nation.^[7]



January 19: Supporters of Republican candidate Scott Brown in Massachusetts' special election. Brown's victory in Massachusetts continued a pattern of conservative victories for public office and gave the GOP their 41st senator.

February

- February – The jobs market hits a post-recession bottom of 129,655,000 payroll employees, a decline of 8,710,000 from the peak in December 2007.

- February 1 – Japanese car company Toyota announces a fix for car accelerator problems and recalls cars in the United States.^[8]
- February 2 – The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs opens a worshipping site for earth-centered religions on their campus promoting religious tolerance.^[9]
- February 5 – The Tea Party movement that gained momentum in 2009 during the national healthcare debate host their first convention in Nashville, Tennessee.^[10]
- February 7
 - A gas line explodes at a Middletown, Connecticut power plant under construction, killing 5 people.^[11]
 - Super Bowl XLIV is played in Miami, Florida, between the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts. The Saints carried a 31–17 victory over the Colts and won their first world championship.^[12] The featured half-time show performance was given by the British band, The Who.^[13]
- February 8 – The 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.^[14]
- February 12 – A biology professor, Amy Bishop, at the University of Alabama opens fire at the Huntsville campus, killing 3 people.^[15] When she was 21, Bishop fatally shot her 18-year-old brother, Seth Bishop, on December 6, 1986, at their home in Braintree, Massachusetts.^{[16][17]} The incident was initially classified as an "accident" by Braintree police. On June 16, 2010, Bishop was charged with first degree murder in her brother's death nearly 24 years after his shooting.^[18]
- February 12 – February 28 – The United States compete at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia and win 9 gold, 15 silver, and 13 bronze medals.
- February 17
 - Three employees of Tesla Motors are killed when the small aircraft they were flying crashes into a house in a residential neighborhood.^[19]
 - Haiti frees most of the members of an Idaho Baptist missionary group who were charged with child trafficking and kidnapping in the wake of the Haitian earthquake.^[20]
- February 18
 - After setting fire to his home, Andrew Joseph Stack commits suicide by flying his private plane directly into an IRS building in Austin, Texas.^[21]
 - President Barack Obama issues Executive Order 13531 establishing the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.
- February 23 – The United States Navy officially announces that it will end its ban of women in submarines.^[22]
- February 25 – Incident at SeaWorld Orlando: A SeaWorld employee in Orlando, Florida, is killed by a killer whale during a live performance.^[23]
- February 26 – New York Governor David Paterson announces that he will not be a candidate in the Democratic primary for the November gubernatorial election.^[24]

March

- March – A shortage of tomatoes which lasts until April begins.^[25]
- March 3 – The District of Columbia's same-sex marriage law goes into effect.^[26]
- March 5 – Former Jefferson County, Alabama, commission president and mayor of Birmingham Larry Langford is sentenced to 15 years in prison for soliciting bribes related to municipal bond swaps.^[27]
- March 7 – At the 82nd Academy Awards, *The Hurt Locker* wins six Oscars including the first Directing award for a female director, Kathryn Bigelow.^[28]

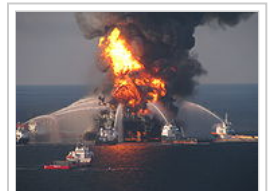
- March 19 – NASA announces that 2010 will likely become the warmest year on record due to global warming based on an analysis of temperature record data from the Goddard Institute for Space Studies.^[29]
- March 21 – The United States House of Representatives passes the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its companion Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 by votes of 219–212 and 220–211, respectively.^[30]
- March 23
 - U.S. President Barack Obama signs the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law aiming to insure 95% of Americans.^{[31][32][33]}
 - 14 states (Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Louisiana, Alabama, Michigan, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Washington, Idaho, and South Dakota) announce plans to sue the federal government over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.^[34]
- March 28–March 30 – Nine people thought to be Hutaree militia members are arrested in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana for their alleged involvement in a plot to kill police officers and possibly civilians using explosives and/or firearms.^[35]



March 23: Obama signing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

April

- April 1 – Official tabulation of the 2010 US Census begins.^[36]
- April 4 – The 2010 Baja California earthquake occurred on April 4 (Easter Sunday) with a moment magnitude of 7.2 and a maximum Mercalli intensity of VII (*Very strong*). The shock originated at 15:40:41 local time south of Guadalupe Victoria, Baja California, Mexico. The 89-second quake was widely felt throughout the Western United States, some southern states, and northwest Mexico and was also felt across a large swath of North America. It was also the strongest to rock Southern California in at least 18 years (since the 1992 Landers earthquake, M 7.3). Most of the damage occurred in the twin cities of Mexicali and Calexico on the Mexico–United States border. There were at least two fatalities in Mexicali,^[28] one of which was caused by a collapsed house.^{[29][30][32]} Major damage to irrigation systems occurred, severely impacting over 80,000 acres of agriculture in the Mexicali Valley.^[33] 25,000 people overall were impacted by the earthquake.^[34]
- April 5
 - A coal mine owned by Massey Energy in Montcoal, West Virginia explodes, killing at least 25 miners.^[37]
 - North Dakota joins the 14 other states suing the federal government over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.^[34]
- April 5–April 20 – STS-131: Space Shuttle *Discovery* delivers a Multi-Purpose Logistics Module to the International Space Station.^[38]
- April 6 – Arizona becomes the 16th state to sue the federal government over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.^[34]
- April 13 – Georgia becomes the 17th state to sue the federal government over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.^[34]
- April 15 – President Barack Obama delivers a major speech on the future of NASA's human spaceflight program. He commits to increasing NASA funding by \$6 billion over five years and



April 20: The blazing remnants of the offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon

completing the design of a new heavy-lift launch vehicle by 2015 and to begin construction thereafter. He also predicts a U.S. crewed orbital Mars mission by the mid-2030s.

- April 20
 - An explosion occurs at the *Deepwater Horizon* oil rig, killing 11 workers, causing the rig to sink two days later and initiating a massive offshore oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico; this environmental disaster is now considered the largest in U.S. history.^{[39][40][41]}
 - Alaska becomes the 18th state to sue the federal government over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.^[34]
- April 22 – A Boeing X-37B is launched from Cape Canaveral on mission USA-212.
- April 23 – Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signs the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act, which is the broadest and strictest anti-illegal immigration measure in decades.^[42] It receives national and international attention and has spurred considerable controversy.^[43]

May

- May 1 – 2010 Times Square car bombing attempt: Car bomb fails to go off in Times Square, New York City.
- May 6 – The "flash crash" occurs at the New York Stock Exchange, temporarily depleting 1,000 points off of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. It is the largest intra-day fall ever.
- May 14 – Three states (Nevada, Indiana, and Mississippi) join the other 18 states that are suing the federal government over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.^[34]
- May 20 – Two police officers are murdered by a father and son during a routine stop in West Memphis, Arkansas. Joseph Kane and Jerry Kane Jr. were later killed after a shootout with pursuing officers.

June

- June 18 – The Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act is introduced in the US Senate.^[44]
- June 19 – China announces it will raise the yuan against the US Dollar after the US Congress announces it will penalize China unless it does so, causing widely imported Chinese goods to the United States to become more expensive, and to raise demand for US goods.^[45]
- June 28 – The United States Department of Justice rounds up ten suspects alleged to have participated in the Illegals Program, a multi-year effort by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service to infiltrate the U.S.^{[46][47]}

July

- July 1 – Texting while driving bans go into effect in Iowa, Wyoming, Alabama, and Georgia.^[48]
- July 8 – Illegals Program: Ten people uncovered by the FBI as Russian spies plead guilty in court to conspiracy to act as foreign agents.^[49]
- July 9 – Illegals Program: The Russian spies are deported from the United States in exchange for four people imprisoned for alleged contact with Western intelligence bodies.^[50]
- July 15 – The BP Oil Spill is stopped for the first time, 86 days after oil started leaking into the Gulf of Mexico.^[51]
- July 21 – The Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is signed into law by Barack Obama.^[52]
- July 24 – A dam in Delhi, Iowa, collapses due to stress following heavy rain causing massive flooding along the Maquoketa River and in the city of Manchester, Iowa.^[53]

August

- August 3 – Omar Thornton goes on a killing spree at a Hartford Distributors plant in Manchester, Connecticut, killing 8 before committing suicide.
- August 4
 - Forty US billionaires announce plans to give half of their wealth to charitable organizations.^[54]
 - Proposition 8, the voter initiative amendment to the California Constitution that eliminated "the right of same sex couples to marry", is ruled unconstitutional by Judge Vaughn Walker of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The case, *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, eventually reached the Supreme Court under the name *Hollingsworth v. Perry*.^[55]
- August 7 – Former Solicitor General of the United States Elena Kagan is sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.^[56]
- August 19 – Iraq War: The last U.S. combat troops leave Iraq.^[57]
- August 31 – Iraq War: U.S. president Barack Obama declares an end to combat operations in Iraq.^[58]

September

- September 1 – James J. Lee takes three hostages at the Discovery Channel headquarters. The standoff ends when Lee is fatally shot. None of the hostages are harmed.^[59]
- September 2
 - Another oil rig explodes and catches fire in the Gulf of Mexico. 13 workers that were on the rig were rescued from the water. It has been reported the rig was not in production of oil or natural gas at the time of the explosion. It is reported that no hazardous materials have entered the waters of the Gulf.^{[60][61]}
 - U.S. launches direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in Washington D.C, United States.^[62]
- September 6 – The Fourmile Canyon Fire, the most costly wild fire in Colorado state history begins west of Boulder, Colorado.
- September 9 – A Pacific Gas and Electric Company natural gas line explosion in San Bruno, California, destroys 53 homes and damages 120 others. 7 people die, 20 are injured, 6 are still missing.^[63]
- September 11
 - The Medal of Honor is awarded for the first time since the Vietnam War; US Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta received the medal for his actions during the War in Afghanistan.
 - Pastor Terry Jones says that the Dove World Outreach Center will not burn the Koran.^[64]
- September 16 – A severe storm in the New York City area drenches the city streets, uproots trees, and spawns two tornadoes.^[65] A woman is killed by a falling tree in Brooklyn.^[66]
- September 21 – The US Senate strikes down a bill that would end the controversial don't ask, don't tell with a vote of 56–43, almost completely along party lines.^[67]
- September 23 – The United States and other western nations including Britain, Sweden, Australia, Belgium, Uruguay and Spain walk out of the United Nations General Assembly following claims by the President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that the "majority of the American people as well as most nations and politicians around the world" say that the 9/11 attacks were the work of the government of the United States trying to protect Israel.^{[68][69]}



September 9:
2010 San Bruno
pipeline explosion

- September 30 – Massachusetts bans text messaging for all drivers. Massachusetts is the 29th U.S. state to enact a text messaging while driving ban. Violators may be fined \$100.^[70]

October

- October 1 – Rahm Emanuel resigns as White House Chief of Staff to run for Mayor of Chicago. Senior Advisor Pete Rouse takes over his duties temporarily until a permanent replacement is announced.^[71]
- October 13 – US Federal Judge Virginia Phillips declares don't ask, don't tell unconstitutional and temporarily ends the policy. The US Department of Justice immediately appeals the ruling as is required when a federal judge rules on a national law.^[72]
- October 19 – A US Federal Judge strikes down the appeal of the Department of Justice. The US Military begins accepting applications for gay service members. Don't ask, don't tell temporarily ends.
- October 20 – Barack Obama's administration announces it will also appeal the judge's ruling on the constitutionality of don't ask, don't tell even though Obama announced earlier in the year that he wished to end the policy.
- October 26 – A US Federal Judge orders Limewire to shut down after they ruled that the website's ability to share music for free was illegal and violated copyright laws.
- October 29 – President Barack Obama confirms that two packages sent to the US from Yemen were filled with explosives.

November

- November 1
 - The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals stays Judge Virginia Phillips' injunction on "don't ask, don't tell" pending appeal.^[73]
 - The San Francisco Giants defeat the Texas Rangers to win their first world series in 56 years.
- November 2 – Midterm elections: The Democrats keep control of the Senate, but the Republicans gain 6 seats, reducing the Democrats' majority. The Republicans gain control of The House with a gain of at least 64 seats, making it the largest seat change for any party since the 1948 election and the largest for any midterm since the 1938 midterm elections. Republicans also win a majority of Governorships, adding 12 to the other 11 who won their reelection bids, and a majority of State Legislatures.
- November 4 – The US Federal Reserve announces it will buy \$600 billion in bonds to encourage economic growth.
- November 8 – An unexplained plume, seemingly from a "mystery missile", near Los Angeles, California, makes national headlines.^[74] It is later determined to be the contrail of a commercial jet^[75] as similar photos appear the next day coinciding with daily commercial flights.^[76]
- November 9
 - The San Francisco Board of Supervisors bans Happy Meal toys, served by McDonald's, on obesity concerns.^[77]
 - A Boeing Dreamliner makes an emergency landing in Laredo, Texas, after smoke was reported in the cabin.^[78]
- November 10
 - Washington and Michigan ban the alcoholic energy drink Four Loko. New York bans it a few days later.^{[79][80]}



November 28: Julian Assange's WikiLeaks begins releasing confidential U.S. diplomatic documents

- The chairmen of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform issue a controversial draft report proposing cuts in funding, tax increases, and other changes to reduce the federal deficit.^[81]
- November 12 – The US Supreme Court refuses to intervene on the controversial don't ask, don't tell policy while it is on appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.^[82]
- November 17 – Midterm elections: Republican incumbent Lisa Murkowski wins the Alaska Senate race, defeating the tea party favorite, Joe Miller, and becoming the first Senate write-in winner since 1954.^[83]
- November 18 – General Motors returns to trading on the New York Stock Exchange after declaring bankruptcy in July 2009, 16 months earlier.
- November 19 – Darvocet, a common pain medication, is removed from the market at the request of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.^[84]
- November 28 – United States diplomatic cables leak: WikiLeaks publicly releases the first of thousands of confidential documents sent by U.S. diplomats.
- November 30 – General Motors holds a ceremony at its Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly plant to introduce the first Chevrolet Volt plug-in hybrid electric vehicle off the assembly line.^[85]

December

- December – The Unemployment Rate ends the year at 9.3%.
- December 2 – The US House of Representatives passes H.R. 4853 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/4853>) that extends tax cuts for families making under \$250,000, but raises taxes on those making over that amount with a 234–188 vote.^[86]
- December 3 – USA-212 lands at Vandenberg Air Force Base, completing the first mission of the Boeing X-37B.
- December 4 – The US Senate rejects H.R. 4853 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/4853>) with a vote of 53–36.^[87]
- December 5 – President Barack Obama begins negotiating with Republicans and comes up with a bill that would let all tax cuts remain in effect for two years and extends unemployment benefits for another 13 months.
- December 13 – A Virginia federal judge rules that parts of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, specifically the individual mandate that would require all Americans to get health care by 2014, is unconstitutional.^[88]
- December 15
 - The US Senate passes the Obama-GOP tax compromise with a vote of 81–19.^[89]
 - The US House of Representatives passes a stand-alone bill that repeals the controversial don't ask, don't tell policy with a vote of 250–175.^[90]
- December 16
 - Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announces he will not have enough votes to pass a \$1.1 trillion spending bill that would fund the federal government for fiscal year 2011.^[91]
 - The US House of Representatives passes the Obama-GOP tax compromise with a vote of 277–148.
- December 17 – President Obama signs the tax compromise bill, known as the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.
- December 18
 - The US Senate rejects discussion of the controversial DREAM Act from reaching the Senate floor with a vote of 55–45.^[92]
 - The US Senate votes to repeal the controversial don't ask, don't tell policy with a vote of 65–31.

- December 21
 - The results of the 2010 US Census are released. The US population grows by 9.7% to 310 million, the smallest percentage increase since the Great Depression.^[93]
 - The Federal Communications Commission passes new net neutrality laws with a 3–2 vote.^[94]
 - The US Senate passes a spending bill that will keep the federal government running through March 4, 2011.^[95]
- December 22
 - President Barack Obama signs the don't ask, don't tell repeal into law.
 - The US Senate passes the START Treaty with Russia and a bill that would give free healthcare to 9/11 first responders.
- December 31 – The United States Navy's ban on smoking in submarines goes into effect.^[96]

Ongoing

- War in Afghanistan (2001–present)
- Iraq War (2003–2011)

Births

- May 28 – Louis, Duke of Burgundy, son of Louis Alphonse, Duke of Anjou
- November 11 – Lisa Irwin, missing person

Deaths

January

- January 1 – Lhasa de Sela, singer and songwriter, died in Montreal, Quebec (b. 1972)
- January 4 – Casey Johnson, socialite (b. 1979)
- January 5
 - Kenneth Noland, abstract painter (b. 1924)
 - Murray Saltzman, Russian-American rabbi and activist (b. 1929)
- January 13 – Teddy Pendergrass, singer and songwriter (b. 1950)
- January 19
 - Jennifer Lyon, contestant on *Survivor: Palau* (b. 1972)
 - William Vitarelli, educator and architect (b. 1910)
- January 22 – Jean Simmons, British actress, wife of Stewart Granger and Richard Brooks, died in Santa Monica, California (b. 1929)
- January 23 – Earl Wild, pianist (b. 1915)
- January 24 – Pernell Roberts, actor (b. 1928)
- January 27
 - Zelda Rubinstein, actress (b. 1933)
 - J. D. Salinger, author (b. 1919)
 - Howard Zinn, historian (b. 1922)

February

- February 1 – Justin Mentell, actor (b. 1982)
- February 9 – Walter Morrison, inventor (b. 1920)
- February 12 – Leroy Nash, murderer (b. 1915)
- February 14 – Doug Fieger, singer and songwriter (b. 1952)
- February 17 – Kathryn Grayson, actress and opera soprano (b. 1922)
- February 19 – Jamie Gillis, pornographic actor (b. 1943)
- February 20 – Alexander Haig, 59th United States Secretary of State from 1981 till 1982 and army General (b. 1924)
- February 25 – Andrew Koenig, actor, son of Walter Koenig, died in West Vancouver, British Columbia (b. 1968)

March

- March 10 – Corey Haim, Canadian actor, died in Burbank, California (b. 1971)
- March 11 – Merlin Olsen, American football player and actor (b. 1940)
- March 14 – Peter Graves, actor and brother of James Arness (b. 1926)
- March 18 – Fess Parker, actor (b. 1924)
- March 20 – Liz Carpenter, journalist and author (b. 1920)
- March 23 – Midge Costanza, social and political activist (b. 1932)
- March 24 – Robert Culp, actor (b. 1930)
- March 28
 - Fred Ascani, air force General (b. 1917)
 - Dan Duncan, businessman and philanthropist (b. 1933)
 - Herb Ellis, jazz guitarist (b. 1921)
 - June Havoc, Canadian-born American actress and sister of Gypsy Rose Lee (b. 1912)
 - John Purdin, baseball player (b. 1942)
- March 30 – David Mills, journalist, television writer and producer (b. 1961)

April

- April 1 – John Forsythe, actor (b. 1918)
- April 2
 - Mike Cuellar, Cuban-American baseball player (b. 1937)
 - Chris Kanyon, wrestler (b. 1970)
 - Thomas J. Moyer, lawyer and judge (b. 1939)
- April 7 – Christopher Cazenove, British actor (b. 1945)
- April 10
 - Dixie Carter, actress and wife of Hal Holbrook (b. 1939)
 - Arthur Mercante, Sr., American boxer and referee (b. 1920)
- April 14 – Peter Steele, singer (b. 1962)
- April 16 – Daryl Gates, police chief for Los Angeles, California (b. 1926)
- April 19 – Guru, rapper (b. 1961)
- April 20 – Dorothy Height, civil rights activist (b. 1912)

May

- May 2 – Lynn Redgrave, British-born American actress, daughter of Michael Redgrave, and sister of Vanessa Redgrave (b. 1943)
- May 4 – Ernie Harwell, American baseball sportscaster (b. 1918)
- May 7 – Wally Hickel, 2nd Governor of Alaska from 1966 till 1969 and from 1990 till 1994. (b. 1919)

- May 9 – Lena Horne, singer and actress (b. 1917)
- May 10 – Frank Frazetta, artist (b. 1928)
- May 16
 - Ronnie James Dio, singer and songwriter (b. 1942)
 - Hank Jones, pianist (b. 1918)
 - Aiyana Jones, murder victim (b. 2002)
- May 22 – Martin Gardner, science writer (b. 1914)
- May 24 – Paul Gray, bassist and songwriter (b. 1972)
- May 26 – Art Linkletter, Canadian-born American television variety host (b. 1912)
- May 28 – Gary Coleman, actor (b. 1968)
- May 29 – Dennis Hopper, actor, director, and writer (b. 1936)
- May 31
 - William A. Fraker, cinematographer (b. 1923)
 - Louise Bourgeois, French-born American sculptor (b. 1911)

June

- June 1 – William H. Ginn Jr., general (b. 1928)
- June 3 – Rue McClanahan, actress (b. 1934)
- June 4 – John Wooden, basketball player and coach (b. 1910)
- June 6 – Marvin Isley, singer-songwriter and bass player (The Isley Brothers and Isley-Jasper-Isley) (b. 1953)
- June 12 – Les Richter, American football player (b. 1930)
- June 13 – Jimmy Dean, country music singer, television and film actor, and entrepreneur (b. 1928)
- June 18 – Ronnie Lee Gardner, murderer (b. 1961)
- June 19
 - Manute Bol, Sudanese-born American basketball player (b. 1962)
 - Paul Thiebaud, art dealer (b. 1960)
- June 28 – Robert Byrd, United States Senator from West Virginia from 1959 till 2010. (b. 1917)
- June 30 – Elliott Kastner, film producer (b. 1930)

July

- July 5 – Bob Probert, Canadian ice hockey player (b. 1965)
- July 11
 - Bob Sheppard, American football and baseball public address announcer (b. 1910)
 - Walter Hawkins, pastor and gospel music singer (b. 1949)
- July 12 – Harvey Pekar, comic book writer (b. 1939)
- July 13 – George Steinbrenner, American baseball owner (b. 1930)
- July 16 – James Gammon, actor (b. 1940)
- July 23 – Daniel Schorr, journalist (b. 1916)
- July 27 – Maury Chaykin, American-born Canadian actor (b. 1949)
- July 28 – George P. Lee, American religious leader (b. 1943)
- July 31 – Mitch Miller, record producer, classical musician, and singer (b. 1911)

August

- August 8 – Patricia Neal, actress and wife of Roald Dahl (b. 1926)
- August 9 – Ted Stevens, United States Senator from Alaska from 1968 till 2009. (b. 1923)
- August 13 – Edwin Newman, journalist, died in Oxford, England (b. 1919)
- August 14 – Abbey Lincoln, singer and actress (b. 1930)

- August 16 – Bobby Thomson, Scottish-born American baseball player (b. 1923)
- August 20 – Jack Horkheimer, astronomy television show host (b. 1938)
- August 26 – William B. Lenoir, engineer and astronaut (b. 1939)
- August 29 – Peter Lenz, amateur motorcycle racer (b. 1997)

September

- September 3 – Robert Schimmel, comedian (b. 1950)
- September 7 – Glenn Shadix, actor (b. 1952)
- September 8 – Rich Cronin, singer and songwriter (b. 1974)
- September 11
 - Kevin McCarthy, actor (b. 1914)
 - Harold Gould, actor (b. 1923)
- September 20 – Kenny McKinley, American football player (b. 1987)
- September 22
 - Tyler Clementi, notable victim (b. 1991)
 - Eddie Fisher, singer, actor, and husband of Debbie Reynolds, Connie Stevens, Elizabeth Taylor, and father of Carrie Fisher (b. 1928)
- September 26 – Gloria Stuart, actress (b. 1910)
- September 27 – Sally Menke, film editor (b. 1953)
- September 28 – Arthur Penn, film director (b. 1922)
- September 29
 - Greg Giraldo, comedian (b. 1965)
 - Tony Curtis, actor and husband of Janet Leigh and father of Jamie Lee Curtis (b. 1925)
- September 30 – Stephen J. Cannell, television writer and producer (b. 1941)

October

- October 10 – Solomon Burke, singer and songwriter, died in Haarlemmermeer, Netherlands (b. 1940)
- October 14
 - Simon MacCorkindale, British actor and husband of Susan George (b. 1952)
 - Benoit Mandelbrot, Polish-born French and American mathematician (b. 1924)
- October 16 – Barbara Billingsley, actress (b. 1915)
- October 19 – Tom Bosley, actor (b. 1927)
- October 20 – Bob Guccione, pornographer (b. 1930)
- October 23 – Fran Crippen, long-distance swimmer, died in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (b. 1984)
- October 25 – Lisa Blount, actress and producer (b. 1957)
- October 28 – James MacArthur, actor (b. 1937)
- October 29 – George Hickenlooper, documentary producer (b. 1963)
- October 31 – John Selfridge, mathematician (b. 1927)

November

- November 1 – Shannon Tavaréz, actress (b. 1999)
- November 5 – Jill Clayburgh, actress (b. 1944)
- November 10 – Dino De Laurentiis, Italian film producer and husband of Silvana Mangano, died in Los Angeles, California (b. 1919)
- November 13 – Ken Iman, American football player and coach (b. 1939)

- November 15
 - Larry Evans, chess grandmaster (b. 1932)
 - Ed Kirkpatrick, baseball player (b. 1944)
 - William Edwin Self, actor, director, and producer (b. 1921)
- November 16
 - Ronni Chasen, publicist (b. 1946)
 - Donald Nyrop, businessman (b. 1912)
- November 21 – David Nolan, political activist (b. 1943)
- November 25 – C. Scott Littleton, anthropologist and academic (b. 1933)
- November 27 – Irvin Kershner, film director (b. 1923)
- November 28 – Leslie Nielsen, Canadian-born American actor (b. 1926)

December

- December 2 – Ron Santo, American baseball player and sportscaster (b. 1940)
- December 5 – Don Meredith, American football player and sportscaster, and actor (b. 1938)
- December 7 – Elizabeth Edwards, lawyer and wife of John Edwards (b. 1949)
- December 10
 - John Bennett Fenn, Nobel chemist (b. 1917)
 - MacKenzie Miller, horse trainer and breeder (b. 1921)
- December 11 – Dick Hoerner, American football player (b. 1922)
- December 13 – Richard Holbrooke, 22nd United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 1999 till 2001. (b. 1941)
- December 15 – Blake Edwards, film director, screenwriter, producer, and husband of Julie Andrews (b. 1922)
- December 17 – Captain Beefheart, singer and songwriter (b. 1941)
- December 22 – Fred Foy, radio and television announcer (b. 1921)
- December 24 – Roy Neuberger, banker and philanthropist (b. 1903)
- December 26 – Teena Marie, singer and songwriter (b. 1956)
- December 28 – Billy Taylor, pianist (b. 1921)

See also

- 2010 in American music
- 2010 in American television
- List of American films of 2010

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