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PolitiFact Introduces New Meters to Track Congressional leaders and New Governors

WASHINGTON – PolitiFact, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact-checking website of the St. Petersburg Times, has launched the GOP Pledge-O-Meter, a new feature to track the campaign promises of congressional Republicans.

Using the same approach as PolitiFact’s Obameter, which tracks more than 500 of President Barack Obama’s promises, the Pledge-O-Meter will follow the promises that Republican leaders made during 2010, most from the “Pledge to America” that Republicans used as their campaign blueprint.

The Pledge-O-Meter, like the Obameter, has six levels. Three provide a broad picture of whether the GOP leaders are making progress – Not Yet Rated, In the Works, or Stalled; the other three indicate whether they kept the promise – Promise Broken, Promise Kept, Compromise or Promise Broken.

PolitiFact’s state partners also have launched similar features to track the promises of their new governors. Six have been launched: the Walk-O-Meter (Wisconsin), Scott-O-Meter (Florida), Linc-O-Meter (Rhode Island), Deal-O-Meter (Georgia), Kasich-O-Meter (Ohio) and the Kitz-O-Meter (Oregon). The state features are using the same rating system to track the gubernatorial promises.

“PolitiFact readers really seem to love the new meters,” said PolitiFact Editor Bill Adair. “The features are backed up by solid reporting, but they allow readers to see at a glance what kind of progress that elected officials are making on their promises.”

The award-winning Web site also will continue to use its Truth-O-Meter to fact-check statements.

About PolitiFact

PolitiFact.com was launched in 2007 to fact-check the presidential campaign. In 2009, the site began fact-checking pundits and talk show hosts and a new feature, the Obameter, was added to track President Obama’s 500-plus campaign promises. It has received numerous awards, including the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. PolitiFact also has eight state sites in Virginia, Oregon, Wisconsin, Ohio, Rhode Island, Georgia, Texas, and Florida.

The site is a product of the St. Petersburg Times, Florida’s largest newspaper with an average circulation of 377,235 Sunday and 239,684 daily (ABC publisher’s statement 9/26/10). Considered one of the top ten newspapers in the country, the newspaper has eight Pulitzer Prizes to its name, including two 2009 Pulitzer Prizes.