By: Jake Sherman and Carrie Budoff Brown and John Bresnahan

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The fiscal cliff negotiations are at such a standstill that not even aides to President Barack Obama and H

And the way the White House sees it, there won't be further face-to-face talks between the two leaders u

In this high-stakes battle over trillions of dollars in budget cuts and tax increases, the lack of any visible r

The advantage, at this point, clearly belongs to Obama. Senior administration aides say the president do

Republicans are desperate to gain political ground — and say Monday's counteroffer by Boehner at leas

The proposal by Boehner and other top House Republicans — including Budget Committee Chairman P

The White House didn't get any heads up about the GOP plan, a sign that the offer was for public consu

The GOP proposal — which raises $800 billion in revenue while keeping current tax rates where they ar

Republicans say they're taking a long view. They acknowledge they'll be blamed in the short term if the

Polls show that Republicans have a long way to go in their effort to paint Obama as intransigent. A new

Figures like those cause real concern on the Republican side. A half-dozen senior GOP aides acknowle

Either way, this week will reveal much about where the negotiations are heading.

If talks don't resume soon, it means Obama is holding firm to his hard line of Clinton-era tax rates. Oban

Despite the current standstill, Republicans said Tuesday they wouldn't be surprised to see a resumption

Even though they're losing the public relations battle, House Republican leaders insist they're comfortab

Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the California Republican who is No. 3 in House GOP leadership, said his party's

"When you think about it, you're back to status quo," McCarthy told POLITICO. "And you've been throug

A House Republican aide said his party loses little by sticking to a hard line.

"We're going to get crushed either way," the aide said, referring to whether the GOP buckles on taxes or

In fact, Republicans may gain more by tacking to the right, since many of their members have more to fe

The White House is holding firm, too.

Press secretary Jay Carney ridiculed Boehner's proposals as "magic beans and fairy dust." And adminis

"I don't think the issue right now has to do with sitting in a room," Obama said. "We're going to have to s

If the speaker does relent, West Wing officials say, he is likely to get a whole lot in return on entitlements

Both sides concede that they have to see progress by next week for any deal to come together by the e

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat who is close with the White House, said Rep. Tom Cole (

"You know Tom Cole, I know Tom Cole. Tom Cole was the chairman of the [National Republican Congr

"He's imagining how it is how the House Republicans are going to stand up on Jan. 1st and 2nd and 3rd

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