

DCCC

Battleground Brief

DCCC ACTIVITY:

The DCCC continues to be aggressive and on offense. The House Democratic Caucus had a successful retreat at the beginning of the month, and emerged united behind President Obama’s agenda—in stark contrast to the disarray of Tea Party House Republicans.

The DCCC showed this video at the retreat, showcasing House Republican dysfunction. Chairman Israel also sent the video to our top recruits.



At the retreat House Democrats announced record-breaking fundraising totals, and President Obama pledged unprecedented assistance for House races:

* **DCCC chair: Jan. record in member donations** “Rep. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.), the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, told House Democrats Thursday the Committee had a record-breaking month in terms of member participation, raking in roughly $2 millionfrom members in January.” [Politico, [2/7/13](http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-congress/2013/02/dccc-chair-jan-record-in-member-donations-156405.html?hp=r5)]
* **House Democrats see political winds shifting in their direction. “**[T]he groups’ mood and outlook couldn’t have been more different. Democrats…emerged from their meetings convinced that…the national conversation is shifting in their direction…A GOP retreat…was more introspective as Republicans conducted a somber assessment of their November election losses.” [Washington Post, [2/8/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/house-democrats-see-political-winds-shifting-in-their-direction/2013/02/08/2e2830e4-71fd-11e2-8b8d-e0b59a1b8e2a_story.html)]
* **Obama Plans Fund-Raising Trips to Aid Senate and House Candidates** “The president, who has a vested interest in Democrats retaining their Senate majority and trying to narrow Republican control of the House, is already making plans to return to the campaign trail. He has agreed to hold at least 14 separate fund-raising events this year.” [New York Times, [2/7/13](http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/07/obama-plans-fundraising-trips-to-aid-senate-and-house-candidates/?partner=rss&emc=rss&smid=tw-thecaucus)]

The DCCC also broke January fundraising records last month, raising more than $6 million—more than the NRCC, despite being in the minority—and making headlines with our online fundraising success:

* **DCCC Outraises NRCC in January** “The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is off to a flying start for the 2014 fundraising cycle, bringing in $6.1 million in January and ending the month with $4.6 million in the bank.” [National Journal, [1/19/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/blogs/hotlineoncall/2013/02/dccc-outraises-nrcc-in-january-19)]
* **House Democrats Cash In With Online Fundraising Program** “[L]ast cycle, House Democrats crushed their competitors thanks to a dramatic spike in online fundraising…The online boom more than leveled the fundraising playing field for the minority party, allowing the campaign arm to raise $28 million more than its GOP counterparts last cycle.” [Roll Call, [2/18/13](http://www.rollcall.com/news/house_democrats_cash_in_with_online_fundraising_program-222502-1.html?zkPrintable=true)]

Chairman Israel released a memo to Members detailing the ways in which House Democrats are in a stronger position heading into 2014 than we were going into 2012. The Chairman explained how the Republican talking point that the “six-year itch”, implying a president’s party always loses seats in his second midterm election, is a myth, and how redistricting will not hamper Democratic opportunities, but instead will harm Republicans as it pushes their party further and further out of the mainstream. [Politico, [2/15/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/democrat-we-can-win-the-house-in-2014-87709.html)]

Valentine’s Day was last week, and in honor of the holiday the DCCC imagined some of the cards that House Republicans might be sending out for the occasion. Here is one of the highlights, and you can view the whole slideshow of valentines [here](http://dccc.org/pages/11725/).



* DCCC writes Valentine’s cards for the House GOP [Daily Caller, [2/14/13](http://dailycaller.com/2013/02/14/dccc-writes-valentines-cards-for-the-house-gop/)]
* Democrats volley back with Valentine’s Day cards mocking GOP [The Hill, [2/14/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/283127-democrats-volley-back-with-valentines-day-cards-mocking-gop)]

RELEVANT NEWS:

* **Obama and Unions Could Cause GOP Heartburn in 2014** “Here’s another cause for GOP concern: What if the 2013 and 2014 electorates are more Democratic than is usual in non-presidential years?...Democrats have a few advantages in a tough year. President Obama has said he will do eight fundraisers for House Democrats this year, and help recruit candidates as well. On the nuts-and-bolts front, Democrats will be able to count on some extra union help in addition to Obama's national advocacy and campaign operations.” [National Journal, [2/14/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/politics/obama-and-unions-could-cause-gop-heartburn-in-2014-20130214)]
* **Romney Pollster Warns GOP Members Not to Count on Six-Year Itch**“National Republican Congressional Committee Vice Chairman Lynn Westmoreland of Georgia and top GOP pollster Neil Newhouse told members to be on guard for Obama’s campaign machine. Westmoreland warned that just because the Obama for America campaign has relaunched as Organizing for Action and Obama is not eligible for re-election does not mean he will not be present on the political scene.” [Roll Call, [2/13/13](http://atr.rollcall.com/romneys-pollster-warns-gop-members-not-to-count-on-six-year-itch/)]
* **Minimum Wage Battle May Wound Republicans** “President Barack Obama’s push for a $9-an-hour minimum wage in his State of the Union address this week has already been rejected by Speaker John A. Boehner, but that’s not necessarily a bad thing for Democrats… The last time the parties tangled over the minimum wage, it ended up as a staple of Democratic messaging heading into the party’s 2006 takeover of Congress.” [Roll Call, [2/13/13](http://www.rollcall.com/news/minimum_wage_battle_may_wound_republicans-222434-1.html?zkPrintable=true)]
* **Republicans predict sequester will happen “**Top congressional Republicans predicted Wednesday that the sequester will hit at the end of the month – the latest chapter in the series of budget battles that have stymied Washington in the last few years.” [Politico, [2/13/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/house-republicans-predict-sequester-will-happen-87581.html)]
* **Democrats see 2014 opportunity in gun control debate** “Democratic campaign strategists believe Republican opposition to the gun control push led by President Obama will make the GOP vulnerable with voters in suburban districts — the very seats Democrats are focusing on in their bid to regain the House majority. A memo Monday from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee outlines how it believes ‘Tea Party Republicans’ are hurting the party overall with their stance against expanded gun control measures.” [The Hill, [2/11/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/282155-democrats-see-2014-opportunity-in-gun-control-debate)]

CANDIDATES:

* [IA-03]—Small businessman **Mike Sherzan** will challenge Republican Tom Latham in IA-03. President Obama carried the 3rd district, and Sherzan’s message of bolstering the Middle Class and protecting the social safety net will resonate with Iowa voters. [National Journal, [2/11/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/blogs/hotlineoncall/2013/02/iowa-democrat-mike-sherzan-declares-house-bid-against-latham-11)]
* [NY-11]—Dominic Recchia, Coney Island City Councilman, will challenge Republican incumbent Michael Grimm. Grimm is out-of-step with this moderate New York district, which was hard hit by Hurricane Sandy and which has been neglected by Tea Party Republicans. [The Hill, [2/18/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/283669-report-recchia-to-take-on-rep-grimm-)]

BY THE NUMBERS:

* Approval of the Tea Party Republican Congress remains abysmal, at 15%, [according to the most recent Gallup poll.](http://www.gallup.com/poll/160625/congress-approval-holding-steady.aspx)
* [Rasmussen Reports finds Democrats’ lead increasing in the Congressional ballot](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/mood_of_america/generic_congressional_ballot), with American now preferring Democrats 43% to 37%.

FLOOR ACTION:

* 222 Tea Party House Republicans voted on Friday to adjourn for ten days without a solution to the looming sequester, which experts say will have devastating economic effects. The adjournment for vacation leaves only one week left to avert the crisis, with Republicans showing no interest in a compromise that would save the economy. [H Con Res 15, [Vote #43](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll043.xml), 2/15/13]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* **Saturday, February 23, 2013**

**DCCC Lunch Hosted by Rep. Castro**

San Antonio, TX

Contact: Amelie LeBreton, lebreton@dccc.org, (202) 485-3403

* **Saturday, February 24, 2013**

**DCCC Reception Hosted by Rep. Cuellar**

Laredo, TX

Contact: Amelie LeBreton, lebreton@dccc.org, (202) 485-3403

* **Sunday, March 10, 2013**

**DCCC Dinner Hosted by Dr. John Sperling**

Phoenix, AZ

Contact: Dan Boysen, Boysen@dccc.org, (202) 485-3448

* **Friday, March 15, 2013**

**DCCC Finance Dinner hosted by Chairman Israel and Leader Pelosi**

New York, NY

Contact: Megan Nashban, Nashban@dccc.org

* **Friday, March 22, 2013- Saturday, March 23, 2013**

**DCCC Annual New York Issues Conference**

New York, NY

Contact: Molly Perkins, perkins@dccc.org, (202) 485-3508