

DCCC

Battleground Brief

The DCCC took the fight over the sequester and the new Ryan Budget to Tea Party Republicans, aggressively going on offense and targeting Republicans in their own districts. Chairman Israel made the case on CNN’s State of the Union, and the DCCC launched a paid and grassroots campaign. Chairman Israel also announced the 2013-2014 class of Frontline Members.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

How bad have things gotten for the Tea Party House Republicans? Take a look at the video the DCCC released last week highlighting Republicans’ plummeting poll numbers:



The DCCC began a paid and grassroots campaign targeting vulnerable Republicans and holding them accountable for their inaction on the disastrous sequester cuts.

* **DCCC places sequestration blame on Republicans with new ads** “The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is launching paid online advertising that attempts to saddle House Republicans with responsibility for the impending series of automatic cuts known as the sequester.” [The Hill, [2/21/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/284151-dccc-places-sequestration-blame-on-republicans-with-new-ads)]
* **DCCC launches sequester calls** “The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is launching robocalls against 23 House Republicans on Thursday, hoping to exploit growing voter anger over the lack of action in Washington to avert the sequester.” [Washington Post, [2/28/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/02/28/whos-afraid-of-the-big-bad-sequester-not-most-people/)]
* **Dems target swing district Fla. GOPers on sequester** [Tampa Bay Times, [2/21/13](http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/dems-target-swing-district-fla-gopers-on-sequester/2106256)]
* **DCCC Hits Fitz on Sequestration—Again** [Politics [PA, 2/28/13](http://www.politicspa.com/dccc-hits-fitz-on-sequestration-again/46318/)]
* **Dems target Grimm, ‘chronic chaos’ of ‘Tea Party Congress’ over looming cuts** [New York Daily News, [2/21/13](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/dems-target-grimm-chronic-chaos-tea-party-congress-looming-cuts-article-1.1269874?localLinksEnabled=false)]
* **Democrats link Latham to ‘tea party chaos’ in Web ad** [Des Moines Register, [2/21/13](http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/02/21/democrats-link-latham-to-tea-party-chaos-in-web-ad/article)]

Chairman Steve Israel took the Democratic message to the airwaves, including appearing on CNN’s Sunday morning show “State of the Union” to call on Tea Party Republicans to put politics aside and allow a vote on the Democrats’ balanced alternative to the sequester. Watch Chairman Israel here:

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While Republicans continue to block a vote on Democrats’ sequester fix, House Democrats forced a vote last week on sequester repeal. Every single Republican voted to keep the sequester in place.

* **Democrats charge Republicans supporting sequestration with vote to fund government** “[Democrats] said that by passing the bill, the Republicans seemed to be favoring the sequester. They even attempted to strike language locking the sequester into place, but that was rejected in a partisan vote.” [the Hill, [3/6/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/286621-democrats-charge-republicans-supporting-sequestration-with-vote-to-fund-government-)]

House Democrats ensured the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, after a more than 500 day-delay by House Republicans, two thirds of whom voted against this critical legislation. Despite their obstruction of and opposition to VAWA, many House Republicans had the audacity to try to claim credit for its passage. The DCCC held them accountable:

* **Violence Against Women Act Now Touted By Republicans Who Voted Against Bill** “Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee spokeswoman Emily Bittner called it ‘shameful’ that Republicans would try to take credit for something that passed without their support.” [Huffington Post, [3/7/13](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/07/violence-against-women-act_n_2832014.html?1362699260)]

*Women LEAD and Latino Council*

The DCCC continued our commitment to electing a diverse caucus, announcing the formation of the 2014 “Women LEAD” program and the Latino Council. Representatives Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Lois Frankel (D-FL) will head the Women LEAD effort, and Representatives Henry Cuellar (D-TX) and Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) will spearhead the Latino Council. You can find more information on the councils here:

* [DCCC Women LEAD](http://www.dccc.org/pages/women_lead)
* [DCCC Latino Council](http://dccc.org/blog/entry/dccc_announces_cuellar_lujan_will_lead_latino_council_to_expand_democrats_r/)

A critical component of our strategy to expand our caucus is protecting all of our Democratic incumbents. To that end, Chairman Israel announced the 26 members of the 2013-2014 Frontline Program, under the leadership of Representative Tim Walz (D-MN). The highly successful Frontline Program is a partnership between the DCCC and Members to build successful campaign operations for the 2014 cycle.

* **Democrats launching plan for 2014 at-risk members** “The program, which was borne out during Rahm Emanuel’s tenure as DCCC chairman, aims to provide institutional support to the incumbents, giving them advice on everything from how to run their congressional offices to how to set up get-out-the-vote efforts.” [Politico, [3/4/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/03/democrats-launching-plan-for-2014-at-risk-members-88402.html?hp=l2)]
* **Democrats aim to protect vulnerable House members** “The campaign committee for House Democrats is going on offense to protect vulnerable incumbents, releasing a list Tuesday of 26 lawmakers who will receive fundraising and outreach support for the 2014 elections.” [USA Today, [3/5/13](http://www.usatoday.com/story/onpolitics/2013/03/05/democrats-2014-elections-incumbents-barber/1964269/)]

These are the Frontline Members who will need our support this cycle:

2013-2014 Frontline Members

Representative Ron Barber (AZ-02)

Representative John Barrow (GA-12)

Representative Ami Bera (CA-07)

Representative Tim Bishop (NY-01)

Representative Julia Brownley (CA-26)

Representative Cheri Bustos (IL-17)

Representative Lois Capps (CA-24)

Representative Suzan DelBene (WA-01)

Representative Bill Enyart (IL-12)

Representative Elizabeth Esty (CT-05)

Representative Pete Gallego (TX-23)

Representative Joe Garcia (FL-26)

Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-01)

Representative Ann McLane Kuster (NH-02)

Representative Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18)

Representative Dan Maffei (NY-24)

Representative Jim Matheson (UT-04)

Representative Mike McIntyre (NC-07)

Representative Patrick Murphy (FL-18)

Representative Bill Owens (NY-21)

Representative Scott Peters (CA-52)

Representative Raul Ruiz (CA-36)

Representative Brad Schneider (IL-10)

Representative Carol Shea-Porter (NH-01)

Representative Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-09)

Representative John Tierney (MA-06)

RELEVANT NEWS:

* **Freshmen Democrats in the House launch sweeping fundraising effort** “Democratic freshmen in the House have launched a robust push to engage the entire class of 2013 in fundraising for the party’s campaign committee… A committee source at the dinner described the push as “incredibly rare and very aggressive,” and noted that the rate of giving from the class of 2013 has already been higher than usual.” [The Hill, [3/12/13](http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/287479-freshman-democrats-launch-sweeping-fundraising-effort-)]
* **Stymied by a GOP House, Obama looks ahead to 2014 to cement his legacy** “President Obama…is taking the most specific steps of his administration in an attempt to ensure the election of a Democratic­-controlled Congress in two years… Obama has committed to raising money for fellow Democrats, agreed to help recruit viable candidates, and launched a political nonprofit group dedicated to furthering his agenda and that of his congressional allies.” [Washington Post, [3/2/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/stymied-by-a-gop-house-obama-looks-ahead-to-2014-to-cement-his-legacy/2013/03/02/5f6f8b94-827d-11e2-a350-49866afab584_print.html)]
* **The GOP’s sequester message muddle** “The Republicans’ message on the sequester couldn’t be clearer: They don’t have a unified one… And so far, any attempts the Republicans have made to take their case to voters don’t seem to be working and the public is placing the blame squarely on them.” [Politico, [2/24/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/the-gops-sequester-messaging-muddle-87993.html)]
* **Rothenberg: Democrats’ Economic Narrative Still Trumps GOP’s “**Congressional Republicans figured that after the fiscal cliff, they’d have the advantage talking about the sequester and, down the road, the continued funding of the government. Clearly, they were wrong.” [Roll Call, [2/21/13](http://www.rollcall.com/news/rothenberg_democrats_economic_narrative_still_trumps_gops-222560-1.html?zkPrintable=true)]
* **GOP governors to Hill Republicans: Do something** “Ask Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert what they think of Hill Republicans’ strategy on the sequester, and you get the exact same response: ‘What strategy?’… It's a reality check moment for the Republican Party, with state leaders fearing they'll be left to clean up the economic disaster back home.” [Politico, [2/24/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/gop-govs-to-hill-get-back-to-bargaining-table-88014.html)]
* **Club for Growth targets Republicans** “The Club for Growth, the anti-tax group that has spent heavily in Republican primaries in the past few cycles, is launching a website that names nine GOP members of Congress in safe seats and urges people to help find challengers to them… There’s a question mark included in the list of nine lawmakers, allowing people to suggest any sitting member who they think deserves a primary challenge.” [Politico, [2/27/13](http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=0E94A1C3-BF69-F206-46D81953ACA5D81B)]
* **Republicans are losing the spending argument** “[A] major part of Republicans’ overall approval problem — in this case on federal spending — comes from divisions within their own party…  Republicans have put their battle to rein in federal spending front and center as they seek to (re)define who they are as a party. And, at least according to these numbers, that effort has yet to pay dividends — even within their own base.” [Washington Post, [2/27/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/02/27/republicans-are-losing-the-spending-argument/?print=1)]
* **Boehner Halts Talks on Cuts, and House G.O.P. Cheers** “Mr. Boehner, in some ways, finds himself the leader of the House Republicans with nowhere to actually lead. Among those who placed him in his post and could conceivably remove him, the test of his leadership seems to be how little action he takes.” [New York Times, [2/28/13](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/01/us/politics/house-republicans-cheer-boehners-refusal-to-negotiate-on-cuts.html)]

BY THE NUMBERS:

* **Voters Trust Democrats on Medicare.** “When asked who would do a better job when it comes to Medicare, voters said 40 percent trust Democrats, compared to 22 percent who said Republicans.” [NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll, [2/26/13](http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Sections/A_Politics/_Today_Stories_Teases/13061-FEBRUARY-NBC-WSJ.pdf)]
* **Americans Support Democrats on Sequester**. A USA Today/Pew Research Center poll found that 49 percent of Americans believe that Congressional Republicans are to blame if there is no agreement reached. (And we all know what happened.) [USA Today/Pew Research Center, [2/21/13](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/02/21/poll-pew-obama-gop-guns-energy-immigration-sequester/1934233/)]
* **Voters Want a Balanced Approach.** According to a Bloomberg News poll, almost three in five Americans say the budget deficit should be curbed through a combination of spending cuts and tax increases on companies and high earners—the balanced approach Democrats favor—rather than focusing exclusively on spending reductions, the House Republican plan. [Bloomberg News, [2/21/13](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-22/americans-back-spending-cut-delay-amid-budget-deal-push.html)]
* **Americans Overwhelmingly Support Background Checks**. “New polls released by Mayors Against Illegal Guns conducted by Douglas E. Schoen LLC showed likely voters in a wide range of states and congressional districts overwhelmingly support background checks for all gun sales. The average support for background checks for all gun sales among 41 congressional district polls was 89 percent; the average among 21 statewide polls was 86 percent.” [[Mayors Against Illegal Guns](http://www.demandaction.org/polls)]

FLOOR ACTION:

* Motion to Recommit – The entire House Republican caucus voted against stripping a measure out of the Continuing Resolution that explicitly called for keeping the indiscriminate cuts of the sequester. [HR 933, [Vote #61](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll061.xml), 3/06/13]
* Two-thirds of House Republicans – 138 members – voted against reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. [S. 47, [Vote #55](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll055.xml), 2/28/13]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**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

**Wednesday, April 3rd, 2013**

**DCCC Reception at the home of Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer**

San Francisco, CA

Contact: Lisa Presta, lisapresta@yahoo.com, (415) 681-1049

**DCCC Dinner at the Home of Ann and Gordon Getty**

San Francisco, CA

Contact: Lisa Presta, lisapresta@yahoo.com, (415) 681-1049

**Thursday, April 4th, 2013**

 **DCCC Reception and Dinner hosted by Cindy and Alan Horn**

Los Angeles, CA

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

**Monday, April 8th, 2013**

**DCCC Luncheon hosted by Congresswoman Nita Lowey**

New York, NY

Contact: Megan Nashban, Nashban@dccc.org, (202) 741-1846

**Monday, April 15th, 2013**

**DCCC Breakfast Hosted by Congresswoman Kaptur**

Cleveland, OH

Contact: Liz Robertson, Robertson@dccc.org, (202) 485-3436

**Tuesday, April 30th, 2013**

**DCCC Dinner Hosted by Amber and Steve Mostyn and Ellen Susman**

Houston, TX

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

**Wednesday, May 1st, 2013**

**DCCC Dinner Hosted by Wendy and Marc Stanley**

Dallas, TX

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