

DCCC

Battleground Brief

The DCCC begins the second quarter of 2013 in a strong position, with record-breaking fundraising, candidates announcing in competitive districts around the country, and a sustained offense to hold Republicans accountable for their extremism and obstruction. A new Washington Post-ABC poll says 70% of Americans believe Republicans in Congress are out-of-touch.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

**Recruitment**

The DCCC continues to recruit problem-solving challengers who fit their districts, and a wave of candidate announcements garnered attention around the country.

The Washington Post ran a front page story titled “Democrats push problem solvers in House contests.” The post wrote, “The best way to defeat the conservative, ideologically driven GOP, Democrats say, is to field non-ideological “problem solvers” who can profit from the fed-up-with-partisanship mood of some suburban areas… Israel has been traveling the country to win over skeptics, delivering detailed, 90-minute presentations laying out what he sees as a path to victory.” [Washington Post, [4/7/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/democrats-push-problem-solvers-in-house-contests/2013/04/06/16c02154-9bde-11e2-9a79-eb5280c81c63_story.html)]

The DCCC released the following video highlighting these “solutionist” candidates, who will serve as the antidote to this unpopular Tea Party Congress:

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**DCCC Breaks Fundraising Records, Out-Raises NRCC**

According to first quarter finance numbers, the DCCC raised a record $22.6 million and out-raised the NRCC by $5.1 million despite being in the minority. This was our most successful first quarter ever—even more than in past election years. Our online program continued to break records, with 229,000 online donations, growing 83% more than in Q1 of 2012.

Our Democratic Members also stepped up like never before. We raised a record $4.3 million from Members this quarter—more than any first quarter since we lost the Majority. Over 50 percent of our Members have now contributed to or raised for the DCCC, including an astounding 92% of our freshmen.

* “DCCC Outraises NRCC in March” [National Journal, [4/19/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/blogs/hotlineoncall/2013/04/dccc-outraises-nrcc-in-march-19)]
* “House Democrats outraise House Republicans in first quarter of 2013 fundraising” [AP, [4/19/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/house-democrats-outraise-house-republicans-in-first-quarter-of-2013-fundraising/2013/04/19/9df2d7c4-a918-11e2-9e1c-bb0fb0c2edd9_story.html)]
* “DCCC outraises NRCC in first quarter by $5.1M” [The Hill, [4/19/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/294951-dccc-outraises-nrcc-in-first-quarter-by-51m)]

**DCCC on Offense**

The DCCC also continued holding Republicans accountable for their extreme budget that hurts middle class families—actually raising middle class taxes and ending the Medicare guarantee, while giving a tax breaks to special interests. We began paid online ads in 17 vulnerable Republicans’ districts, and put up billboards reminding voters that their Republican Member of Congress is not looking out for them. Watch the customized web ad video here:



Learn more about the web video advertising and billboards:

* “DCCC Targets Republicans over House budget” [CNN, [4/1/13](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/04/01/dccc-targets-republicans-over-house-budget/)]
* “Democrats hit ‘vulnerable’ House Republicans with digital ad buy” [Yahoo! News, [4/1/13](http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/ticket/democrats-hit-15-house-republicans-digital-ad-buy-140619303--election.html)]
* “Democrats target Tom Latham, trying to peg him as ‘radical’” [Des Moines Register, [4/9/13](http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/04/09/democrats-target-tom-latham-trying-to-peg-him-as-radical/article?nclick_check=1)]
* “Democrats fire early salvo at Rep. C.W. Bill Young” [Tampa Bay Times, [4/6/13](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/democrats-fire-early-salvo-at-rep-cw-bill-young/2113644)]
* “Does billboard critical of Walorski signal start of 2014 election?” [Elkhart Truth, [4/11/13](http://www.elkharttruth.com/article/20130411/NEWS01/704119983)]

**South Carolina Special Election**

Despite the fact that South Carolina’s 1st district voted for Mitt Romney by 18 points, the special election for Congress has become competitive. The Democratic candidate, Elizabeth Colbert Busch, is a tough, independent businesswomen who is exactly the type of problem-solving Democrat that we are recruiting across the country.

As the race tightened and former Congressman Mark Sanford’s campaign imploded, the DCCC took to the airwaves to remind voters that they can’t trust Mark Sanford. You can watch the ad here:



There are 119 Republican-held districts that are more Democratic than SC-01 and the DCCC will drive deep into this Republican-held territory to take on flawed nominees and win Republican seats next November.

**Chairman Israel Appears on MSNBC**

As the Republican Party continues attempting a PR makeover, DCCC Chairman Steve Israel appeared on MSNBC to discuss House Republicans’ resistance to comprehensive immigration reform. Watch the clip here:



**Battlefield Update**

The Cook Political Report released its [updated PVI (Partisan Voting Index)](http://cookpolitical.com/story/5604) scores for the House districts recently and the data defied Republican talking points about 2014. In fact, the scores showed a 51 Republican-held seat battlefield (51 seats between D+5 and R+5) and proved that redistricting only minimally limited the number of competitive districts from 103 to 90 rather than devastate House Democrats as some Republicans claim.

RELEVANT NEWS:

* **House Dems show better first-quarter fundraising than at-risk Republicans “**House Democrats are winning the early round of the 2013 fundraising battle over a number of at-risk Republicans. Several House Republicans facing potentially tough reelection campaigns reported lackluster results in first-quarter filings with the Federal Election Commission.” [The Hill, [4/17/13](http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/294355-house-dems-show-better-first-quarter-fundraising-than-at-risk-republicans)]
* **DCCC Reaps Record Rewards From Freshmen** “The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is getting a big lift from its freshman members…The participation rate, according to the source, was a record for Democratic freshmen. In all, the members contributed $226,250 to the DCCC and raised nearly $1.18 million. Those are prodigious totals for lawmakers just getting their feet wet in Washington, a haul Democrats say is evidence of the new class’s commitment to retaking the House majority.” [National Journal, 4/16/13]
* **DCCC Raised $3.2 Million at Obama Fundraiser** “It was the first of eight DCCC fundraisers the president has committed to in the 2014 cycle. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., attended the events — cocktails at one home and then dinner at another — and Obama stressed the importance of returning her to the House speaker position. […] The president noted that Israel ‘is doing an often thankless, extraordinarily difficult job.’ At the end of February, the DCCC had $7.6 million in the bank compared to the National Republican Congressional Committee’s $4.4 million cash on hand.” [Roll Call, [4/4/13](http://atr.rollcall.com/dccc-raised-3-2-million-at-obama-fundraiser/)]
* **House GOP campaign chairman under fire from his own party** “The House Republican campaign chief came under fire from senior members of his own party on Thursday after he split with party leaders in criticizing a Social Security change in President Obama’s budget that Republicans have long sought.” [The Hill, [4/11/13](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/293421-house-gop-campaign-chairman-under-fire-from-his-own-party)]
* **Healthcare an obstacle as Republicans court Latinos** “As Republican leaders try to woo Latino voters with a new openness to legal status for the nation's illegal immigrants, the party remains at odds with America's fastest-growing ethnic community on another key issue: healthcare. Latinos, who have the lowest rates of health coverage in the country, are among the strongest backers of President Obama's healthcare law… attacking the law risks undermining the RNC's planned minority outreach campaign.” [LA Times, [4/1/13](http://www.latimes.com/health/la-na-latinos-healthcare-20130401%2C0%2C7209187%2Cprint.story)]
* **A Very White Republican Leadership Plans Minority Outreach** “As the Republican Party gears up to launch a concerted, well-funded outreach effort aimed at attracting elusive minority voters, it's not just battling dismal poll numbers and tough demographic trends — it's working to overcome its own overwhelming whiteness. There is not a single racial minority among the 20 most senior officials who run the Republican National Committee, National Republican Congressional Committee, and National Republican Senatorial Committee.” [BuzzFeed, [3/28/13](http://www.buzzfeed.com/mckaycoppins/a-very-white-republican-leadership-plans-minority-outreach)]
* **A Republican website without “Republicans”.** “One thing you won’t find on the front page, however, is the word ‘Republican,’ except for at the very bottom in a disclaimer box that reads, ‘Paid for by the National Republican Congressional Committee.’… One possible reason for the omission: The Republican brand has seen better days.” [Salon, [4/8/13](http://www.salon.com/2013/04/08/a_republican_website_without_republicans/)]
* **DCCC asks GOP: Backing Mark Sanford?** The House Democrats’ campaign arm hopes to turn former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford’s victory in Tuesday’s primary into a national headache for the GOP.” [Politico, [4/3/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/south-carolina-mark-sanford-republican-support-89593.html?hp=r2)]
* **Guns May Give Democrats a Shot at** **2014** “Democrats believe Republicans will have a hard time explaining why they voted against legislation that secures more money for school safety and closes the so-called gun show loophole…Public support for background checks regularly polls above 80 percent. And for women, that number reaches beyond 90 percent.” [US News, [4/16/13](http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/04/16/guns-may-give-democrats-a-shot-at-2014)]

BY THE NUMBERS:

* A full 70% of the public thinks the Republican Party is out of touch with average Americans, according to the latest Washington Post-ABC New poll. [Politico, [4/16/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/poll-republicans-democrats-out-of-touch-90132.html?hp=r5)]
* Gallup found that the top critique American have of any political party is that Republicans are “unwilling to compromise” or “too inflexible.” The top policy criticism of Republicans is “Republicans' focus on the rich or protecting the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.” [Gallup, [4/1/13](http://www.gallup.com/poll/161573/americans-top-critique-gop-unwilling-compromise.aspx)]
* Democrats are now leading Republicans by 8 points in the generic Congressional ballot, according to Quinnipiac, 43% to 35%. [Quinnipiac, [4/3/13](http://www.quinnipiac.edu/images/polling/us/us04032013.pdf/)]

CANDIDATES:

A flurry of candidate announcements generated attention around the country.

* [CA-31]—Redlands Mayor **Pete Aguilar** announced he will take on Congressman Gary Miller, who is widely viewed as the most vulnerable incumbent in the country. Miller is sitting in a district that President Obama won 58.5% and is far to the right of his diverse constituents, while Mayor Aguilar has a proven record of looking out for families of the Inland Empire. [Redlands Daily Fact, [4/2/13](http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/news/ci_22918664/redlands-mayor-pete-aguilar-announces-another-bid-congress)]
* [FL-02]—**Gwen Graham**, daughter of former Governor Bob Graham, will run in Florida’s 2nd district. Graham is a Leon County school administrator, while Congressman Steve Southerland has been profiled by national media as the consummate “Tea Party Insider. [Tampa Bay Times, [4/2/13](http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/daughter-of-bob-graham-to-challenge-us-rep-steve-southerland/2112594)]
* [MN-02]— Congressman John Kline already has two challengers. 2012 challenger The founder of the non-profit CaringBridge, **Sona Mehring**, announced her intention to run. Mehring founded CaringBridge in 1997 as a way to help families coping with health crises keep in touch with friends and family. In addition, 2012 Democratic-nominee **Mike Obermueller** will run again. [Minneapolis Star Tribune, [4/1/13](http://www.startribune.com/200964741.html)]
* [NY-23]—Tompkins County Chairperson **Martha Robertson** will run against Congressman Tom Reed in New York’s 23rd district. The experienced public servant will get an early start in this competitive district. [Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin, [4/10/13](http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20130410/NEWS/304100064/Tompkins-County-Legislature-chair-s-congressional-candidacy-goes-public)]
* [PA-08]—**Kevin Strouse**, a former Army Ranger and CIA analyst who has served tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, will challenge Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick. [Bucks County Courier Times, [4/4/13](http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/the_intelligencer_news/army-ranger-to-begin-th-district-campaign/article_a840a0ff-c5e1-585e-944d-ccc4742ea298.html)]

FLOOR ACTION:

* **Boehner Violates Hastert Rule Again** “The House approved a bill Tuesday without the support of a majority of the Republican Conference, about one month after Speaker John A. Boehner sought to assure his conference that he intended to observe the ‘Hastert rule.’” [Roll Call, [4/10/13](http://blogs.rollcall.com/goppers/boehner-violates-hastert-rule-again/)]
* **Paycheck Fairness Act Blocked By House Republicans “**House GOP leadership is not likely to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act up for a vote any time soon, but House Democrats used a procedural move to force them to go on record opposing the bill on Thursday… Democrats also put forth a motion on Thursday known as the "Previous Question," which would have enabled them to put the Paycheck Fairness Act up for a vote, but Republicans killed the effort by a vote of 226 to 192.” [Huffington Post, [4/11/13](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/11/paycheck-fairness-act_n_3063804.html?view=print&comm_ref=false)]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* **Tuesday, April 30, 2013**

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

Houston, TX

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

* **Wednesday, May 01, 2013**

**DCCC Luncheon Hosted by Congressman Veasey**

Fort Worth, TX

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

* **Wednesday, May 01, 2013**

**DCCC Dinner hosted by Lisa Blue Baron, Lynda and Art Brender, Joan and Terry Oxford, Dr. Geetha and Paul Pandian, Dara and Jeff Tillotson and Wendy and Marc Stanley**

Dallas, TX

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

* **Thursday, May 09, 2013**

**Steve Israel Victory Fund Dinner hosted by Laurie and Marty Scheinman**

Sands Point, NY

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

* **Monday, May 13, 2013**

**House Senate Victory Fund Dinner with President Obama**

New York, NY

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

* **Wednesday, May 15, 2013**

**DCCC DC Leadership Summit Dinner hosted by Congressman Keith Ellison and Congressman Andre Carson**

Washington, DC

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

* **Thursday, May 16, 2013**

**DCCC DC Leadership Summit Breakfast hosted by Congressman Keith Ellison and Congressman Andre Carson**

Washington, DC

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

* **Wednesday, May 29, 2013**

**DCCC Reception and Dinner with President Obama**

Chicago, IL

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

* **Friday, August 16, 2013- Sunday, August 18, 2013**

**DCCC Speaker’s Cabinet Napa Valley Weekend and Issues Conference**

Napa, CA

Contact: Johana Borjas, borjas@dccc.org, (202) 485-3419