

DCCC

Battleground Brief

The second quarter of 2012 closes with Republicans on defense over student loan rate hikes, deportation of DREAM Act-eligible children, and offensive, medically inaccurate statements on rape and women’s health…again. And this was before House Republicans failed to pass the Farm Bill—one of the most significant domestic measures on the calendar this year. The DCCC continues to hold their feet to the fire for their chaos, dysfunction, and extremism.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

**Student Loan Rates**

With student loan interest rates set to increase July 1st unless Congress acts, the DCCC is holding Republicans accountable for their plan to spike loan rates for students across the country. The DCCC is supporting grassroots efforts by students in local districts to pressure their Republican congressmen to act.

Following our ad campaign in student newspapers, the DCCC launched a Twitter campaign against 28 House Republicans, encouraging students to tweet #DontDoubleMyRate at their Representatives.

* “Dem committees attack House Republicans on student loans” [The Hill, [6/18/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/306167-dem-committees-attack-house-republicans-on-student-loans#ixzz2WaNPrw89)]
* “DSCC, DCCC Take up student loan rates battle” [Politico Morning Score, [6/18/13](http://www.politico.com/morningscore/0613/morningscore10945.html)]
* “Dems target Rigell over looming student loan interest rate hikes” [Daily Press, [6/18/13](http://www.dailypress.com/news/breaking/dp-nws-students-rigell-student-loans-20130618%2C0%2C5902933%2Cprint.story)]

**DCCC Videos Highlights Republicans’ Obsessive Focus on Rolling Back Women’s Health Rights**

While poll after poll shows that Americans want Congress to focus on job creation, Republicans returned to one of their favorite pastimes—restricting a woman’s right to choose—and continued to reveal their anti-science, anti-woman ideology with blatantly offensive and ignorant comments about rape. The DCCC released a video highlighting House Republicans’ focus on social issues instead of jobs:



The vote to ban all abortions nationally after 20 weeks of pregnancy came on the heels of a hearing on the bill in which anti-woman zealot Trent Franks said that the “incidence of rape resulting in pregnancy are very low.”

* “GOP congressman: Rate of pregnancies from rape is ‘very low’” [Washington Post, [6/12/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/06/12/gop-congressman-rate-of-pregnancies-from-rape-is-very-low/?Post+generic=%3Ftid%3Dsm_twitter_washingtonpost)]
* Franks “stands by comment that pregnancy rate ‘very low’ from rape” [CBS, [6/12/13](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57588978/rep-trent-franks-r-ariz-stands-by-comment-that-pregnancy-rate-very-low-from-rape/)]
* “Franks defends remarks on rape” [Arizona Republic, [6/12/13](http://www.azcentral.com/news/politics/articles/20130612franks-defends-remarks-rape.html)]

**DCCC Launches “America Deserves a Vote” Campaign**

On the six month anniversary of the tragic shooting in Newtown, Connecticut the DCCC launched “[America Deserves a Vote](http://www.americadeservesavote.com/),” calling on Speaker John Boehner to allow a bill strengthening background checks to come to a vote, so that we can finally make progress toward preventing future gun violence.

* “DCCC launches ‘America Deserves a Vote’” [Politico Huddle, [6/14/13](http://www.politico.com/huddle/0613/huddle10920.html)]
* “Democrats Launch ‘America Deserves a Vote,” [The Note, [6/14/13](http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2013/06/six-months-after-newtown-an-anniversary-comes-and-goes-the-note/)]

Watch the video and sign the petition here: [www.americadeservesavote.com](http://www.americadeservesavote.com)

**DCCC Runs Spanish Language Radio Ads**

Following House Republicans’ callous vote to attempt to re-start deportations of DREAM Act-eligible young people, the DCCC began running ads on Spanish language radio stations in targeted districts. Listen to an example ad (in Spanish) [here](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDrKc3B62ZE&feature=youtu.be).

* “Ads take on House GOP on immigration” [Politico, [6/10/13](http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=8F3A75F9-E72C-4C5F-8BBB-56E36F4EEFC1)]
* “Democrats go after Republicans over deportation vote” [CNN, [6/11/13](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/06/10/democrats-go-after-republicans-over-deportation-vote/)]
* “DCCC targets GOP lawmakers for immigration vote” [The Hill, [6/10/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/304599-dccc-targets-gop-lawmakers-for-immigrant-vote)]
* “DREAM Act ads target Minnesota Republicans en Español” [Minneapolis Star Tribune, [6/10/13](http://www.startribune.com/politics/blogs/210856321.html)]
* “Democrats launch Spanish-language radio ads against Frank Wolf for immigration vote” [Washington Post, [6/11/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/va-politics/democrats-launch-spanish-language-radio-ads-against-frank-wolf-for-immigration-vote/2013/06/11/45dfc93e-d2d5-11e2-9f1a-1a7cdee20287_story.html)]

The DCCC Latino Council, chaired by Reps. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) and Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), also continues its outreach to Hispanic voters and potential Hispanic candidates. We already have two Latino candidates running as part of our new Jumpstart program for top recruits—Pete Aguilar in CA-31 and Michael Eggman in CA-10. We have also identified a list of districts where the Hispanic vote will be key to our success, and will be implementing specific field plans to target voters there.

**DCCC Out-Raises NRCC for 5th Straight Month**

The DCCC announced that we raised $6.1 million in May, while the NRCC reported raising $1.4 million less, only $4.7 million.

The DCCC also has $1.5 million more cash on hand—we have $11 million in the bank to the NRCC’s $9.5 million.

**DCCC Delivers a Tea Party to Speaker Boehner**

With the Tea Party veering toward open warfare with Speaker Boehner and his leadership team once again, the DCCC decided to play “peace broker,” and delivered a basket of tea to the Speaker’s office, complete with mugs labeled for the House’s top Tea Party extremists.

See the basket and the coverage:

* “More Tea, Mr. Speaker? Courtesy of DCCC” [Roll Call, [6/20/13](http://hoh.rollcall.com/more-tea-mr-speaker-courtesy-of-dccc/)]

RELEVANT NEWS:

* **The GOP’s clueless caucus** “They’ve waxed philosophic about “legitimate rape,” reflected on the economic role of “wetbacks” and denounced the actions of “brazen, self-described illegal aliens.” They’ve lamented that “mom got in the workplace” and called out the United States attorney general for casting ‘aspersions on my asparagus.’ Call them the clueless caucus of the Republican Party.” [Politico, [6/19/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/06/gop-clueless-caucus-93029.html?hp=t1_3)]
* **Three Signs Republicans Haven’t Learned Any Lessons From 2012 “**The party's own political and policy recommendations are falling on deaf ears. The establishment isn't fully getting behind a compelling blue-state Senate candidate out of fear that its money could go to waste. The grassroots are driving even pragmatic conservative representatives well to the right of public opinion on immigration. And both are rebuking their most popular governor even though he boasts conservative credentials. Welcome to the GOP, circa 2013.” [National Journal, [6/13/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/columns/against-the-grain/three-signs-republicans-haven-t-learned-any-lessons-from-2012-20130613)]
* **House defeats farm bill in surprise move** “A broad five-year farm bill went down to a surprise defeat in the House on Thursday when Republican conservatives revolted against the legislation… The 234 to 195 vote was the latest rebuke to House GOP leaders, who have struggled to muster enough control of the chamber to pass major legislation. The defeat also bodes ill for legislation on the budget and immigration that is expected to be debated in the House this summer and fall.” [Washington Post, [6/20/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2013/06/20/8d04ba3a-d9de-11e2-a9f2-42ee3912ae0e_story.html)]
* **Autopsy On GOP Social Issues is ‘Grossly Overstated’ Say GOP Lawmakers** “Republican lawmakers have a message for those who want the party to soften its emphasis on social conservatism in hopes of reaching a wider national audience: Not so fast. House Republicans flexed their cultural and conservative muscles Tuesday, passing the most restrictive abortion measure in years. They also advanced legislation to crack down on immigrants living illegally in the country, even as senators pursue a plan that would offer those same millions a shot at citizenship.” [AP, [6/19/13](http://news.yahoo.com/social-issues-still-fire-gop-despite-2012-loss-071228645.html)]
* **Undaunted by 2012 Elections, Republicans Embrace Anti-Abortion Agenda** “House Republicans seem eager to reopen the emotional fight over abortion by bringing to the floor on Tuesday a measure that would prohibit the procedure after 22 weeks of pregnancy — the most restrictive abortion bill to come to a vote in either chamber in a decade… Republican leaders acknowledge that its purpose is to satisfy vocal elements of their base who have renewed a push for new restrictions on reproductive rights, even if those issues harmed the party’s reputation with women in 2012.” [New York Times, [6/17/13](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/18/us/politics/undaunted-by-2012-elections-republicans-embrace-anti-abortion-agenda.html?ref=politics)]
* **The failure of the farm bill—and why House Republicans can’t be led** “The majority party in the House should never — repeat NEVER — lose floor votes on major (or, really, minor) pieces of legislation… It’s not the first time that the GOP leadership team of House Speaker Eric Cantor (Va.), House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (Va.) and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (Calif.) have failed to wrangle conservatives allied with the tea party into line… The Republican House conference, as currently comprised, cannot be led…’If they can’t manage the farm bill, what’s going to happen on immigration?,’ asked Democratic Congressional Committee Chairman Steve Israel (N.Y.).” [Washington Post, [6/20/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/06/20/the-failure-of-the-farm-bill-and-why-house-republicans-cant-be-led/)]
* **House: Senate immigration bill DOA** “Senators, powerful outside groups and the White House are working intently to ensure that the Senate produces an immigration bill that could glide through the Republican House. Wait until it reaches the parallel universe of the House of Representatives… In the House, the idea of a two-party solution to a problem as thorny as immigration is met with scoffs in many quarters.” [Politico, [6/19/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/06/house-senate-immigration-bill-doa-93083.html?hp=t3_3)]
* **Why Emasculating the Speaker Is Rarely a Good Idea “**They’re at it again. Conservatives outside of Congress …have signed a letter in support of a rule that would bind the House Republican Conference to bring legislation to the floor only if a majority of House Republicans support it (the so-called Hastert Rule). The effort is simply the latest attempt by elements of the right to emasculate Speaker John A. Boehner and his colleagues in the House leadership.” [Roll Call, [6/13/13](http://blogs.rollcall.com/rothenblog/why-emasculating-the-speaker-is-rarely-a-good-idea/)]
* **What the “Hastert rule” fight tells us about House Republicans** “The goal? Not to actually change the so-called “Hastert rule”, named after the former Illinois House Speaker. Rather, the aim of conservatives is to send a clear warning to House Speaker John Boehner (Ohio) not to push legislation this summer and fall on immigration and budget matters unless the measures have popular support among House Republicans.” [Washington Post, [6/17/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/06/17/what-the-hastert-rule-fight-tells-us-about-house-republicans/)]

BY THE NUMBERS:

* [Gallup](http://www.gallup.com/poll/163052/americans-confidence-congress-falls-lowest-record.aspx): According to the latest Gallup poll, America’s confidence is this Republican Congress is the lowest on record for any Congress, ever—just 10 percent
	+ This puts Congress dead last in popularity among all the institutions Gallup tested, below HMOs, big business and television news
	+ Gallup also shows that [just 39 percent of Americans view the Republican Party favorably](http://www.gallup.com/poll/163133/americans-view-gop-less-favorably-democratic-party.aspx), and that Democrats remain more popular. (46 percent view Democrats favorably)
* [Democracy Corps](http://www.democracycorps.com/attachments/article/946/dcor.bg.graphs.062013.v6.pdf): Republicans incumbents are vulnerable in the 49 most competitive Republican-held districts, and voters are open to change, according to the latest Democracy Corps survey that looks at voters in competitive House districts.
	+ Republicans are in a dead heat with Democrats in their 24 most vulnerable seats—they lead Democrats by just 1 point, 43 percent to 42 percent.
	+ In the 49 competitive Republican seats, just 38 percent of voters want to reelect their Member of Congress

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* **Friday, July 12, 2013**

**DCCC Reception and Dinner Hosted by Wendy and Barry Meyer**

Los Angeles, CA

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

* **Saturday, July 13, 2013**

**DCCC Reception Hosted by Rep. Huffman**

Belvedere, CA

Contact: Hannah Bruce, bruce@dccc.org, (202) 485-3532

* **Thursday, July 25, 2013**

**DCCC Lobster Bake Hosted by Rep. DeLauro**

Branford, CT

Contact: Jeff Lewis, lewis@dccc.org, (202) 741-1845

* **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

* **Monday, August 19, 2013**

**DCCC Reception and Dinner at the Home of Karen and Stephen Durkovich**

Santa Fe, NM

Contact: Hannah Bruce, bruce@dccc.org, (202) 485-3532

* **Wednesday, August 21, 2013**

**Rep. Polis Majority Fund Reception**

Boulder, CO

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

* **Wednesday, August 21, 2013**

**Rep. Polis Majority Fund Dinner**

Boulder, CO

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

* **Thursday, August 22, 2013**

**DCCC Reception Hosted by Elaine and Gerry Schuster with Rep. Kennedy**

Osterville, MA

Contact: Jeff Lewis, lewis@dccc.org, (202) 741-1845

* **Sunday, August 25, 2013**

**DCCC Women’s Reception Hosted by Carrin Patman**

Houston, TX

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

* **Sunday, August 25, 2013**

**DCCC Dinner Hosted by Melanie and Ben Barnes**

Austin, TX

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

* **Monday, September 23, 2013**

**DCCC Reception Hosted by Rep. Castor**

Tampa, FL

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

* **Tuesday, September 24, 2013**

**DCCC Reception Hosted by Maria Elena and Rep. Pedro Pierluisi**

San Juan, PR

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