

DCCC



Battleground Brief

House Republicans fled Washington for the August vacation after the most humiliating, unproductive and disastrous legislative session in memory. Now, Republican members are on defense trying to explain to voters in their districts the impact of this broken Congress: no jobs agenda, nothing to strengthen the middle class and no path forward to fix to our broken immigration system.

The DCCC is getting aggressive - with our grassroots partners, we're going into districts and holding Republicans accountable. We continue to win the fight week-by-week, district-by-district, while we build our campaigns for next year with strong finances and top-tier recruits.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

CHAIRMAN ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Chairman Israel Discusses Republican Obstruction on CNN

DCCC Chairman Steve Israel appeared on CNN's Sunday morning show, State of the Union, to talk about how Republicans' chaos and obstruction is hurting the economy and hurting the middle class.

Chairman Israel said: "Look, we're not going to campaign on the fact that the Republicans are chaotic and that the Congress is broken. We're campaigning on the fact that their chaos and the broken Congress is hurting the economy. They left for a six-week recess. They couldn't even pass a highway bill. You don't pass a highway bill, that's fewer contracts for highway companies. That's a lower pay checks for highway workers. They couldn't pass a farm bill based on bipartisanship. That's a tougher deal for rural economies. So the fact of the matter is that their chaos, their extremism is hurting the economy."



Chairman Israel's Memo Sets Stage for August

Chairman Israel also released a "State of Play" memo, setting the stage for August and discussing our successful DCCC fundraising, our ahead-of-schedule recruitment efforts, and our August plans to go on offense against Republicans in their own districts. Chairman Israel wrote:

"With the House Republican in disarray, battling internally over losing strategies as their popularity sinks to new lows with each poll, House Democrats are building a solid foundation of strong fundraising and strong candidates. With 15 months to Election Day, we are well-positioned to make 2014 a referendum on Republicans' broken Congress – where gridlock and obstruction are hurting middle class jobs and undermining seniors' Medicare guarantee."

- "DCCC chairman launches pre-recess rally" [Politico, [8/1/13](#)]

Chairman Israel Releases Op-Ed Making the Case for Immigration Reform

Chairman Israel penned an op-ed that ran on CNN, making the case for immigration reform and imploring House Republicans to listen to Americans demanding progress. Chairman Israel wrote:

- "The only obstacles to finally fixing our broken immigration system are Speaker John Boehner and House Republicans. If House Republicans fail to act, voters who care about this issue -- especially our growing Hispanic population -- will know they can't count on House Republicans... There are several House Republicans whose constituents will demand progress on immigration, and House Democrats want to work with them on finally achieve lasting reform. We can do this, but only if we do it together."

DCCC AUGUST OFFENSE:

DCCC Launches August Offense Radio Ads

As House Republicans headed back to their districts, the DCCC launched radio ads titled "Wrong Priorities" the very day that they returned to their districts, calling on 18 targeted Congressmen to get their priorities straight.

- "DCCC wants Rigell to straighten priorities" [WAVY TV, [8/5/13](#)]
- "Democratic radio ads charge Young, Southerland with taking 'vacation'" [Tampa Bay Times, [8/5/13](#)]
- "Democrats kick off summer recess by hitting House Republicans with hometown ads" [Yahoo News, [8/5/13](#)]

Executive Director Kelly Ward Calls for Grassroots Action

The DCCC released a video featuring our Executive Director, Kelly Ward, telling grassroots activists that now is the time to hold Republicans accountable at home, in their communities.

In the video, Kelly discusses four most important numbers we're thinking about at the DCCC: 40—the number of times House Republicans have voted to repeal health care reform, 0—the number of jobs bills that House Republicans have passed, 17—the number of seats we need to take back the House, and 37—the number of days House Republicans are on vacation.

And imploring grassroots supporters to make Republicans listen by delivering petitions, protesting, showing up at town hall meetings, Kelly concludes, "I know we ask you to help us out here a lot, but the stakes are so high. And remember there's one number that matters more than any of them, and that is number one. One person can absolutely make a difference – and that one person is you."



- “The DCCC is putting out some recess messaging” [Politico, [8/6/13](#)]

DCCC Runs Web Ads Targeting Vulnerable Republicans, Using Boehner Comments

Following Speaker John Boehner’s comments on Face the Nation that House Republicans should be “judged on how many laws we repeal,” the DCCC ran web ads targeting specific Republicans for being part of this partisan, do-nothing problem.



- “DCCC is running online campaign in about two dozen districts starting today” [Politico, [7/23/13](#)]

DCCC PAYS OFF DEBT, OUTRAISES NRCC

Nine months ahead of schedule and an unprecedented six months earlier than in past cycles, **the DCCC has now paid off its 2012 debt and is debt free.** This frees up more than six figures in interest payments that can now be spent directly on campaigns—the equivalent of putting an additional seat in play for 2014.

- Politico: “DCCC pays off the last of its 2012 debt. [Politico, [7/17/13](#)]

The DCCC also out-raised the NRCC for the second quarter in a row: in the second quarter of 2013, the DCCC raised \$18.2 million—and out-raised the NRCC by \$1.4 million.

Despite being in the minority, **the DCCC has now out-raised the NRCC for the year** by \$6.5 million (\$40.8M to \$34.3M).

RELEVANT NEWS

- **Pelosi’s Plan to Put Work-Family Issues on Washington’s Agenda** “Nancy Pelosi and a handful of Democratic colleagues plan to unveil a new policy agenda on Thursday afternoon. The focus will be on initiatives to help women—mostly, by making sure they get equal treatment in the workplace and helping them navigate work-family issues... You might be wondering why Pelosi would choose this particular moment to lay out such an agenda. It’s not like Congress is spending time on these issues. But that’s precisely the point Pelosi wants to make, and has actually been trying to make for a while. Congress should be spending time on these issues. She’s right.” [The New Republic, [7/18/13](#)]
- **Nancy Pelosi opens front on women’s economic issues** “House minority leader Nancy Pelosi laid out her new ‘When Women Succeed, America Succeeds: An Economic Agenda for Women and Families’ Thursday ... Pelosi adamantly focused on economic issues, despite the high-profile fight over abortion in Texas and military sexual assaults occupying Washington. The three-pronged platform focuses on pay, work-family balance and child care.” [San Francisco Chronicle, [7/18/13](#)]
- **Congress: Divided, discourteous...taking a break** “The accomplishments are few, the chaos plentiful in the 113th Congress, a discourteous model of divided government now beginning a five-week break. [...] Across the Capitol, unsteady bookends tell the story of the House’s first seven months in this two-year term. Internal dissent among Republicans nearly toppled Speaker John Boehner when lawmakers first convened in January. And leadership’s grip is no surer now: A routine spending bill was pulled from the floor this week, two days before the monthlong August break, for fear it would fall in a crossfire between opposing GOP factions.” [AP, [8/3/13](#)]
- **Congress leaves with big problems unsolved** “The government shuts down Sept. 30. The farm bill isn’t done. The appropriations process is in shambles. Immigration reform is stagnant. And Congress is heading for the exits. The tensions on Capitol Hill are high, as legislative achievements are low. The anger, frustration and disappointment was exposed after the House Republican leadership pulled a transportation spending bill from the floor this week because funding levels were too high for some, too low for others.” [Politico, [8/2/13](#)]
- **Republican fiscal splits erupt; Rogers rips party leadership on spending cuts** “Long-running Republican tensions over the Ryan budget’s deep spending cuts boiled over Wednesday as the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee accused his party of being unable to support them... He hinted that a vote on the measure was scrapped because leaders didn’t have the votes to support the deep cuts he was directed to write, and accused Republicans of effectively abandoning House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan’s (R-Wis.) budget.” [The Hill, [7/31/13](#)]
- **The GOP’s shutdown showdown** “House Republicans, in their final days at work before taking a five-week vacation, have come out with a new agenda: ‘Stop Government Abuse.’ A more candid slogan might be: ‘Stop Government.’... the real ‘government abuse’ is what the House itself is doing... House Republicans aren’t even trying to get the job done — which would seem to confirm the suspicion that they are precipitating a crisis.” [Washington Post, [7/30/13](#)]
- **Republicans want their party to change—just not the way you think** “Republican voters say it’s time for the party to change. But simply moderating the GOP’s views is not the prescription they are offering. In fact, what they want is just the opposite, a more conservative Republican Party.” [Washington Post, [8/1/13](#)]

- **Post-Romney, some in GOP reject advice to moderate** “After Mitt Romney's 2012 loss, many senior Republicans concluded the party must moderate its image on issues such as immigration and reproductive rights. But some GOP lawmakers have done the opposite... These trends worry establishment Republicans. And they expose a growing split in the GOP.” [AP, [8/6/13](#)]
- **After 3 years, House Republicans still voting to repeal ‘Obamacare,’ but have no replacement** “Three years after campaigning on a vow to “repeal and replace” President Barack Obama’s health care law, House Republicans have yet to advance an alternative for the system they have voted more than three dozen times to abolish in whole or in part.” [AP, [7/21/13](#)]
- **House Republicans set to Defy Obama Mostly White Men** “The core group of Republicans who are pushing the House toward a showdown with the White House over the debt ceiling and government spending is made up of 41 members -- all white men except for two. More than half are from Southern states, their average re-election vote was 65 percent and most have served for fewer than five years in the House. This small, homogeneous group of lawmakers is exercising out-sized influence as it bucks the House leadership, eschews compromises with President Barack Obama and exerts a rightward influence on a Republican conference of 234 members.” [Bloomberg, [8/1/13](#)]
- **Donald Trump, John Boehner hit the links** “Speaker John Boehner played golf with businessman and perennial presidential tease Donald Trump Tuesday in New Jersey... Trump, who funded what he dubbed an investigation into President Barack Obama’s citizenship, has had nice things to say about Boehner of late.” [Politico, [8/6/13](#)]
- **Republicans rake in cash from oil-and-gas industry** “The oil and gas industry has donated overwhelmingly to Republicans for the 2014 election cycle through various political action committees, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. GOP candidates snagged 85 percent of the \$2.6 million in contributions from the oil and gas industry.” [The Hill, [8/8/13](#)]
- **GOP uses George W. Bush sympathy card to raise money** “News that former President George W. Bush had heart surgery Tuesday to unblock an artery stunned everyone. The House GOP’s campaign arm used the event as an opening to seek donations.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/7/13](#)]

BY THE NUMBERS:

- [Quinnipiac](#): Voters support a Democrat for Congress over a Republican by 4 points (40- 36)
- [CBS](#): 76 percent of voters disapprove of this Republican Congress, including 64 percent among independents and 56 percent among Republicans.
 - Nearly 9 in 10 voters (88 percent) say Members of this Republican Congress are making decisions based on their own political interest, not the best interests of the country.
- [NBC/Wall Street Journal](#): 83 percent of voters disapprove of this Republican Congress, a record high for the NBC/WSJ poll
 - The number 1 problem with this Republican Congress that voters cited (44 percent) was "the partisanship and inability of Congress to get things done.”
- [ABC/Washington Post](#): Only 21 percent of Americans identified themselves as Republicans, the lowest number since November 2009.
 - A majority (52 percent) of Republicans think that the Republican Party is going in the wrong direction, while 72 percent of Democrats think the Democratic Party is going in the right direction

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **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 Ben Barnes
Austin, TX
Contact: Amelie LeBreton, lebreton@dccc.org, (202) 485-3403
- **Friday, September 13, 2013**
DCCC Luncheon Hosted by Rep. Larson
Hartford, CT
Contact: Manjiri Machak, Machak@dccc.org, (202) 741-1846
- **Sunday, September 15, 2013**
DCCC Political Update and Dinner hosted by Rep. Bonamici
Portland, OR
Contact: Hannah Bruce, bruce@dccc.org, (202) 485-3532
- **Monday, September 16, 2013**
DCCC Luncheon hosted by Rep. Kilmer and Rep. Heck
Seattle, WA
Contact: Hannah Bruce, bruce@dccc.org, (202) 485-3532
- **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
- **Friday, September 26, 2013**
DCCC Chairman's Council Dinner
New York, NY
Contact: Manjiri Machak, Machak@dccc.org, (202) 741-1846