

DCCC

Battleground Brief

As spring turns to summer in the capitol, the DCCC is turning up the heat on House Republicans. This Republican Congress has continued their assault on middle class families, and the DCCC continues holding them accountable. From allowing student loan interest rates to rise, to holding the 37th vote to repeal patient protections in the Affordable Care Act, this Republican Majority continues to put special interests first and middle class American families dead last.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

**DCCC Launches Paid Ads Holding Republicans Accountable for Patient Protections Repeal**

The DCCC launched paid advertising and paid grassroots phone calls holding Republicans accountable for their obsessive focus on repealing vital protections in the Affordable Care Act. In May House Republicans voted for the 37th time to put insurance companies back in charge of our healthcare, wasting taxpayer money and accomplishing nothing.

Watch the web ad run in Congressman Bill Young’s district here:



Read coverage of the paid campaigns here:

* “Dems going on offense on Obamacare” [Washington Post, [5/15/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2013/05/15/dems-going-on-offense-on-obamacare/)]
* “Dems target Republicans with attack ads ahead of ObamaCare repeal vote” [The Hill, [5/15/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/politics-elections/299831-dccc-targets-republicans-ahead-of-obamacare-repeal-vote)]
* “Democrats think they have the winning argument on the repeal vote” [Politico Huddle, [5/13/13](http://www.politico.com/huddle/0513/huddle10690.html)]

**DCCC Targets Republicans on** **Student Loan Rate Hikes**

The Committee also went on offense against House Republicans on rising student loan interest rates, which are set to increase at the end of June unless Congress acts. Far from fixing the problem, House Republicans passed a supposed “fix” that will actually increase students’ rates by huge amounts in the future. The Associated Press said that the Republican plan would raise student loan interest rates up to 8.5 percent, and that “[i]n real dollars, the GOP plan would cost students and families heavily, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.” [AP, [5/16/13](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/house-take-student-loan-fix)]

The following is an example of a web ad the DCCC is running in college newspapers in targeted districts around the country:

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Read coverage of the DCCC’s paid outreach to students here:

* “DCCC hits six House Republicans on student loans” [The Fix, [5/31/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/05/31/the-stubbornness-of-barack-obama-why-its-always-worked-for-him-and-why-it-might-not-now/)]
* “National Dems target Kline in student loan standoff” [Minneapolis Star Tribune, [5/31/13](http://www.startribune.com/politics/blogs/209685521.html)]
* “The DCCC placed an ad where” [News Service Florida, [5/31/13](http://politics.nsfblogs.com/2013/05/31/dccc-southerland-ad-florida-state/)]

You can sign the petition yourself at: [www.dccc.org/students](http://www.dccc.org/students)

The Committee also released [a web video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slxjMySyB6I&feature=youtu.be) highlighting Republicans’ anti-student bill.

**DCCC Announces More Record-Breaking Fundraising for April**

The DCCC outraised the NRCC again in April – the latest month for which figures were available – continuing our successful fundraising streak that has led us to beat the NRCC during the first four months of the year:

The DCCC also has more cash on hand and less debt:

* The DCCC ended April with $10.4 million in the bank, while the NRCC has only $8.7 million
* The DCCC has $4.1 million in debt, compared to the NRCC’s $6.4 million in debt

The DCCC continued to break online records in April, bringing in $1.4 million from grassroots donors—our best April ever.

**Chairman Israel’s Recruitment Efforts Highlighted**

The New York Daily News [profiled DCCC Chairman Steve Israel’s recruitment efforts](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/democratic-house-article-1.1354170). Wrote the Daily News:

“This is the most important part of the cycle,” [Chairman Israel] told me during a working lunch in his DCCC office. “You can have all the money in the world, all the polling, but unless you have good candidates, you don’t win.” Israel resembles a general manager before the NFL draft, intensely evaluating talent and making key decisions on whom to back or cajole to consider entering the fray. He’s routinely up at 2:30 a.m., emailing.

Israel contends he can be competitive in 55 GOP-held districts…They’re districts where President Obama got between 48% and 51% last year; ones on the outskirts of Democrat-dominated cities like Denver, Miami and New York; and some further out in “exurbia,” with growing numbers of moderates and independents…”problem solvers” and “solutionsists” are the horses Israel wants to ride. “Don’t focus on the politics,” whatever the subject, he says. “Focus on solutions.”

**DCCC Highlights Jumpstart Candidates at DC Conference**

The DCCC brought candidates and prospective candidates together for two days of training in Washington at the end of May. These problem-solving candidates are taking on vulnerable Republican incumbents in targeted districts around the country, and the DCCC is providing them with critical early support.

* “House Democrats Fete Top Recruits in DC” [Roll Call, [5/22/13](http://atr.rollcall.com/house-democrats-fete-top-recruits/)]

As a reminder, our Jumpstart Candidates are:

* **Redlands Mayor Pete Aguilar (CA-31).** In the most Democratic district held by a Republican, Mayor Aguilar has a proven record of delivering for families of the Inland Empire.
* **Judge Ann Callis (IL-13).** Former Third Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Ann Callis is running for Congress to take her record of reform to Washington and be a strong voice for downstate Illinois families.
* **Farmer Michael Eggman (CA-10).** Michael Eggman is a local farmer and beekeeper in the central valley who understands what farms and small businesses need to succeed.
* **Attorney Gwen Graham (FL-02).** Gwen Graham, the daughter of former Governor Bob Graham, grew up in a family dedicated to public service, worked in the Leon County Public Schools and is committed to getting results for North Florida families.
* **Councilman Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. (NY-11).** Councilman Recchia is a fiscally responsible leader who has proven his ability to get results as Chairman of the Finance Committee for the New York City Council.
* **Former Colorado House Speaker Andrew Romanoff (CO-06).** Congressman Mike Coffman is attempting to hide his extreme record in this increasingly moderate district while Speaker Romanoff has demonstrated his commitment to middle class families time and again.
* **Former Army Ranger Kevin Strouse (PA-08).** Kevin Strouse’s family has lived in southeastern Pennsylvania since before the Revolutionary War, and generations of his family have served in uniform, including him. Strouse spent the last decade first as an Army Ranger, then as a CIA analyst.

BY THE NUMBERS:

* [Washington Post/ABC News](http://www.washingtonpost.com/page/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2013/05/23/National-Politics/Polling/question_11079.xml?uuid=Ns8xOMOYEeKWQqVhd_HN9w): Democrats lead the generic congressional ballot by 8 points, 48 percent to 40 percent. The poll showed that voters side with Democrats on the issues:
	+ [67 percent say Senate Republicans were wrong](http://www.washingtonpost.com/page/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2013/05/23/National-Politics/Polling/question_11068.xml?uuid=HPkXBsOYEeKWQqVhd_HN9w) to reject a bipartisan background checks bill to prevent gun violence.
	+ [56 percent disapprove of the sequester](http://www.washingtonpost.com/page/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2013/05/21/National-Politics/Polling/question_11064.xml?uuid=X2uQdMHLEeKapvwhroB6ig)—and that disapproval grows to 58 percent among Independents and 60 percent among women.
* [CNN](http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnn/2013/images/05/20/rel6b-1.pdf): Republican brand has sunk to record lows. Republicans have a 35 percent favorable rating and a 49 percent unfavorable rating—the highest since CNN started asking the question in polling.
* [NBC News/Wall Street Journal](http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Sections/NEWS/A_U.S.%20news/US-news-PDFs/13200%20May-June%20NBC-WSJ%20%286-4-13%20Release%29.pdf): The public prefers that after next year’s elections, Democrats control Congress, 45 percent to 42 percent. The same poll showed how far the Republican brand has fallen:
	+ Just 32 percent of those surveyed had a favorable opinion of the Republican Party, while 41 percent viewed the party unfavorably.

RELEVANT NEWS:

* **Rising economy shifts 2014 election landscape** “Democrats down the line are echoing that message and taking credit for progress while arguing that Republicans are standing in the way of a stronger recovery. ‘Home values are going up and debt is going down, and all we are telling Republicans is: ‘Don’t screw this up,’ said Rep. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.), chairman of the DCCC. ‘The 2014 campaign is going to be a referendum on whether we continue the progress that’s been made or whether we continue to allow House Republicans to obstruct everything and choose partisanship.’” [Politico, [5/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/05/2014-election-economy-92053.html)]
* **House Republicans broken into fighting factions** “[T]he House has not approved ambitious legislation this year. Lawmakers have instead focused on trying to re-brand the party around kitchen-table issues — although even some of those bills have run into trouble. And the most momentous policy decisions, including an immigration overhaul and a fresh deadline for raising the federal debt limit, have no coherent strategy to consolidate Republicans, much less take on the Democrats.... The majority is ‘adrift,’ according to a longtime conservative…A junior Republican called it a ‘fractured’ conference when it comes to the biggest issues.” [Washington Post, [6/4/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/house-republicans-have-broken-into-fighting-factions/2013/06/03/7533e606-b8ff-11e2-92f3-f291801936b8_story.html)]
* **Study: Republicans are “the less credible party”** “[R]esearchers found that claims from Republican officials were labeled as ‘false’ or ‘pants on fire’ by a 3-to-1 margin, compared to claims from Democratic officials. Conversely, half as many Republican claims were labeled ‘entirely true.’” [Salon, [5/28/13](http://www.salon.com/2013/05/28/study_republicans_are_the_less_credible_party/)]
* **Charlie Cook: Republicans’ Hatred of Obama Blinds Them to Public Disinterest in Scandals** “Republicans are so focused on their bitter battles against Obama, they can’t see how little impact the “scandals” have had on public opinion… The simple fact is that although the Republican sharks are circling, at least so far, there isn’t a trace of blood in the water.” [National Journal, [5/21/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/columns/off-to-the-races/republicans-hatred-of-obama-blinds-them-to-public-disinterest-in-scandals-20130520)]
* **Report: How GOP lost young voters** “The [College Republicans’] report stressed that the GOP should better explain how its policies translate into economic growth for the country and for individuals. On an issue that hits especially close to home for young voters — student loans — Democrats are perceived as taking more action. ‘I think they’re more in tune to what we need right now with student loans, getting a job, fixing the housing market and the environment,’ observed one focus group participant from Orlando, Fla.” [Politico, [6/2/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/06/gop-youth-vote-report-92119.html)]
* **Dole: ‘I doubt’ I could make it in today’s GOP** “Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole says he doesn't believe he could make it in the modern Republican Party… Dole, a wounded World War II veteran from Kansas and icon of the party, said he believes it needs to rethink the direction it's heading in. ‘They ought to put a sign on the National Committee doors that says 'Closed for repairs,' until New Year's Day next year,’ he said. ‘And spend that time going over ideas and positive agendas.’” [Politico, [5/26/13](http://www.politico.com/blogs/politico-live/2013/05/dole-i-doubt-i-could-make-it-in-todays-gop-164794.html)]
* **Tea pariers reject immigration reform** “A coalition of tea party organizations and conservative leaders will release a [scathing letter](http://images.politico.com/global/2013/05/20/coalition_immigration_letter.html) Tuesday against the Senate Gang of Eight immigration bill… Tuesday’s letter makes clear that conservative opposition against this stab at immigration reform is widespread.” [Politico, [5/21/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/05/tea-partiers-reject-immigration-reform-91652.html)]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* **Sunday, June 23, 2013**

**DCCC Dinner Hosted by Rep. Cicilline**

Narragansett, RI

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

* **Monday, June 24, 2013**

**DCCC LGBT Council Kick Off Issues Conference and Reception**

New York, NY

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

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

Austin, TX

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