

DCCC

Battleground Brief

The DCCC continued its ahead-of-schedule recruitment efforts, announcing the first round of Jumpstart candidates this week. As Democrats touted top-tier, problem-solving challengers, Republicans in Congress continued their assault on working families. House Republicans also ramped up their outreach to women…by sending Mark Sanford back to Congress.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

**New ‘Jumpstart’ Program**

The DCCC unveiled its newest program for candidates, the Jumpstart program. DCCC Chairman Steve Israel created this new initiative this cycle to provide early financial, communications, operational and strategic support to help top-tier candidates get a head start in these highly-targeted races. We will win 2014 in 2013 with our outstanding recruits.

The following candidates were the first to be named Jumpstart candidates:

* **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.
* **Businessman Jim Graves (MN-06).** Businessman Jim Graves will take his successful record as a job creator to get results for Minnesota middle class families and replace the ideology and celebrity-seeking of Congresswoman Michele Bachmann.
* **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.

The DCCC also released the following video highlighting our Jumpstart candidates:

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Read coverage of our Jumpstart announcement here:

* “DCCC unveils plan to boost top prospects in 2014” [Politico, [5/9/13](http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=3D9E9209-FADC-471F-8653-D6F229FE2F92)]
* “Democrats Launch New Program for House Recruits” [Roll Call, [5/9/13](http://atr.rollcall.com/democrats-launch-new-program-for-house-recruits/)]
* “DCCC launches effort to support top recruits, NRCC announces top Dem targets” [The Hill, [5/9/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/298723-dccc-launches-effort-to-support-top-recruits-nrcc-announces-top-dem-targets)]

**President Obama Fundraises for DCCC**

President Obama headlined his second fundraiser of the year for the DCCC this week. The New York City event was hosted jointly with the DSCC.

* “Obama raises millions for Dems in NYC” [Politico, [5/13/13](http://www.politico.com/politico44/2013/05/obama-raises-millions-for-dems-in-nyc-163866.html)]
* “Obama lending fundraising muscle to congressional Democrats” [Washington Post, [5/13/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/05/13/obama-lending-fundraising-muscle-to-congressional-democrats/)]
* “At high-dollar fundraisers, Obama laments DC gridlock” [CBS News, [5/13/13](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57584293/at-high-dollar-fundraisers-obama-laments-d.c-gridlock/)]

**SC-01 Special Election**

As Republicans struggle to repair their standing with women voters, Mark Sanford is now the newest face of the Republican Congress. South Carolina’s first district is overwhelmingly Republican—Mitt Romney won it by 18 points—and only became competitive at all because the Republican primary electorate again nominated a flawed Republican.

To win in 2014, we must take risks and wade deep into Republican territory with strategic investments like those that made this overwhelmingly-Republican district competitive. This was a smart investment for us because we raised as much in support of the SC-01 election as we spent there, and put other scandal-plagued, Sanford-esque candidates in much more competitive districts on notice.

* “Mark Sanford might win on Tuesday. That’s good news for Democrats.” [The Washington Post, [5/6/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/05/06/mark-sanford-might-win-on-tuesday-thats-good-news-for-democrats/)]

FLOOR ACTION:

**House Republicans vote for the “Pay Working Families Less” Act**

They tried to call it the “Working Families Flexibility Act,” but as numerous outside sources detailed, this rehashed proposal would cut workers’ pay with no guarantee of paid vacation days when employees need them, and give working families less flexibility, not more.

* “When ‘Flex Time’ Means Ripping Off Workers” [Time, [5/3/13](http://ideas.time.com/2013/05/03/when-flex-time-means-ripping-off-workers/#ixzz2SFAmhING)]
* “GOP pushes bogus workplace bill from 1996” [Salon, [5/6/13](http://www.salon.com/2013/05/06/gop_pushes_bogus_workplace_bill_from_1996/singleton/)]
* “The GOP’s New Outreach to Women: It’s a trap” [The Nation, [5/7/13](http://www.thenation.com/blog/174210/gops-new-outreach-women-its-trap)]

The DCCC hit Republicans in their districts, calling the legislation the “Pay Working Families Less Act” in a press release and making sure that local press were aware of the true nature of this anti-family bill, and we got results. Watch local coverage that uses DCCC language in Congressman Steve Southerland’s district:



**House Republicans vote for the “Pay China First” Act**

As the Republican Congress continues to manufacture crises by threatening to default on the nation’s debt, House Republicans pushed through a new plan that will put millionaire Chinese bondholders first in line if default happens. The plan would ensure that bondholders in China, Iran and the Cayman Islands would be paid before American troops, disabled veterans, doctors and hospitals treating Medicare patients, and American small businesses.

* “John Boehner On Debt Ceiling: Let’s Pay China First, Then U.S. Troops” [Huffington Post, [5/7/13](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/07/john-boehner-debt-ceiling_n_3233422.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003)]

RELEVANT NEWS:

* **Who Can Take Republicans Seriously? “**Senate and House Republicans are refusing to meet with Democrats to negotiate over the budgets passed by each chamber… Republican lawmakers have become reflexive in rejecting every extended hand from the administration, even if the ideas were ones that they themselves once welcomed.” [New York Times, [5/13/13](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/13/opinion/who-can-take-republicans-seriously-on-the-budget.html?smid=tw-share&_r=0)]
* **U.S. Spending Cuts Seen as Key in Slowing Growth** “[E]conomists like Diane Swonk, chief economist for Mesirow Financial in Chicago, say the economy would be showing much more momentum if it were not for the combination of higher payroll taxes that went into effect in January, as well as the process of automatic spending cuts known as sequestration that began to bite last month.” [New York Times, [5/3/13](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/03/business/economy/government-spending-cuts-contribute-to-slower-growth.html)]
* **Congressional Elections and the Sixth-Year Myth** “[W]e know that the election should be governed by traditional factors: the economy, the president’s popularity, how overexposed the party is. The fact that it is a sixth-year election is, by itself, pretty meaningless. But we should also bear in mind that the fact that the Democrats got walloped in 2010 means that it would be highly unusual for factors to coalesce and create a really bad year again in 2014. This should put a damper on Republican expectations for 2014, and give Democrats some hope that they can make some gains.”
* **GOP Fundraises off Benghazi attack** “Because no good scandal should go to waste, the National Republican Congressional Committee has enlisted John Bolton to turn the Benghazi attack into cash for Republican congressional campaigns… This is the second such solicitation from the NRCC, which on Friday set up a fundraising page to ‘demand answers’ about the ‘coverup.’” [Salon, [5/14/13](http://www.salon.com/2013/05/14/gop_fundraises_off_benghazi_attack/singleton/print/)]
* **Fed up, RNC’s Fla Hispanic outreach director becomes Democrat** “Presumably few Republican operatives have a better handle on the national Republican party's efforts to court Hispanic voters than Pablo Pantoja…appointed by the Republican National Committee to oversee Hispanic outreach in Florida last year… Now - amid another debate over immigration reform and a widely touted Heritage foundation study on immigrants touted by a fellow who used to argue that Hispanics have a lower IQ than non-Hispanic immigrants - Pantojo has decided he's more comfortable joining the Democratic party.” [Tampa Bay Times, [5/13/13](http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/former-rnc-hispanic-outreach-director-in-florida-switches-to-democrat/2120764)]

BY THE NUMBERS:

* The [latest CBS/New York Times poll](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57582435/poll-59-of-americans-unhappy-about-senate-gun-vote/?pageNum=2) shows that voters stand with House Democrats on today’s major issues, and that House Republicans are increasingly out-of-touch:
* 83 percent favor (and 14 percent oppose) a path to citizenship that includes paying fines and back taxes, criminal background checks and learning English.
* 88 percent favor (and 11 percent oppose) background checks for gun purchases including 83 percent of independents.
* 57 percent of voters favor a balanced approach to deficit reduction that includes tax increases and spending cuts while only 36 percent support spending cuts alone.
* The [same poll](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57582435/poll-59-of-americans-unhappy-about-senate-gun-vote/?pageNum=2) found that 69 percent of all voters—and even a majority of Republicans—disapprove of this Republican Congress, and 85 percent said this Congress was more interested in serving special interests than the people they represent.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* **Wednesday, May 29, 2013**

**DCCC Reception and Dinner with President Obama**

Chicago, IL

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

* **Saturday, June 1 2013**

**DCCC Dim Sun Reception hosted by Congresswoman Judy Chu**

Monterey Park, CA

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

* **Tuesday, June 4, 2013**

**DCCC Women LEAD Luncheon Hosted By Reps. Frankel and Pingree**

Washington, DC

Contact: Becca Durr, durr@dccc.org, (202) 485-3445

* **Saturday, June 8, 2013**

**DCCC Reception in Silicon Valley hosted by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo**

Sillicon Valley, CA

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

* **Monday, June 10, 2013**

**DCCC Finance Dinner in San Diego hosted by Congressman Juan Vargas**

San Diego, CA

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

* **Sunday, June 23, 2013**

**DCCC Dinner Hosted by Rep. Cicilline**

Providence, RI

Contact: Megan Nashban, (202) 741-1846

* **Monday, June 24, 2013**

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

New York, NY

Contact: Megan Nashban, (202) 741-1846

* **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