

DCCC

Battleground Brief

Republicans continue to cater to their extremist base and nominate unelectable candidates. This past week has seen the party risk snatching defeat from the jaws of victory yet again in South Carolina’s red 1st district, while right-wing Members torpedo their Leadership’s healthcare bill.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

DCCC Chairman Steve Israel sent a memo to Members of the Democratic Caucus updating them on our fundraising and recruiting progress. In the memo, Chairman Israel writes that “We are ahead-of-schedule on recruitment, ahead-of-expectations on fundraising, and ahead-of-the-curve on defining the Republican Congress."

Israel wrote that “at the end of March 2011, we had five (5) announced candidates in five districts. Today, we have 13 announced candidates and another 7 have committed but not set announcement dates.” He also detailed the DCCC’s record-breaking fundraising success in the first quarter of this year, writing that “the DCCC had a record-breaking first quarter, raising $22.6 million since January 1– the best first quarter in DCCC history—and out-raised the NRCC by more than $5 million.”

**Read the full memo** [**here**](http://images.politico.com/global/2013/04/25/caucus_memo_-_house_democrats_firing_on_all_cylinders.html)**.**

* “DCCC Memo Cites Advantages Over House GOP” [Hotline On Call, [4/25/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/blogs/hotlineoncall/2013/04/dccc-memo-cites-advantages-over-house-gop-25)]
* “DCCC chairman’s memo to members: ‘we’re ahead of schedule’” [[4/25/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/296091-dccc-chairmans-memo-to-members-were-ahead-of-schedule)]
* “House Dems Tout Recruits to Caucus” [[4/25/13](http://atr.rollcall.com/house-dems-tout-recruits-to-caucus/)]
* “DCCC Chair Steve Israel memo, ‘House Democrats Firing on All Cylinders’” [Politico Playbook, [4/25/13](http://www.politico.com/playbook/0413/playbook10519.html)]

The DCCC launched paid online advertising calling on Republicans in Congress to end their obstruction and allow a vote on commonsense gun violence prevention measures, including background checks. The following ads began running online last week: (note these ads below don’t link to anything)

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Read more about the ads:

* “Gun Background Checks Deserve A Vote In The House, DCCC Says” [Huffington Post, [4/22/13](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/22/gun-background-checks-dccc_n_3132257.html?1366647279)]

Chairman Israel appeared on MSNBC to discuss House Republicans’ obstruction on gun violence prevention and immigration reform. Chairman Israel said, “the House of Representatives, under Republican Speaker John Boehner, is hiding behind the Senate. People deserve a vote.” He continued, “Speaker Boehner, give these Americans the vote that they deserve. It is a dereliction of duty for the House of Representatives not to bring a vote on background checks to the floor of the House. We’re being paid to vote, we ought to earn our salary.”

Watch the clip here:



RELEVANT NEWS:

* **A House in chaos** “The GOP leadership is dealing with an unprecedented level of frustration in running the House, according to conversations with more than a dozen aides and lawmakers in and around leadership. Leadership is talking past each other. The conference is split by warring factions. And influential outside groups are fighting them. The chaos has led to a sense of stalemate for House Republicans.” [Politico, [5/1/13](http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=C7AF3FCB-804A-41F5-BD6E-6993579B527F)]
* **GOP angst grows over leadership battles** “The failure of House Republican leaders to pass a healthcare measure this week exposes a GOP weakness going into the high-profile debt-ceiling talks this summer. A number of high-ranking Republican lawmakers close to the whip operation told The Hill, on the condition of anonymity, that there has been a “disconnect” with leadership lately.” [The Hill, [4/26/13](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/296343-angst-over-leadership-fumbles?tmpl=component&print=1&layout=default&page=)]
* **Even on mundane posturing bill, GOP divide plays out** “A seemingly mundane vote on Wednesday intended to help Republicans soften their image on the health care issue laid bare some of the still-raw divisions between the GOP’s pragmatists and the party’s more obstinate ideologues. House Republican leaders were forced to pull a vote on legislation designed as a prime opportunity to fuse conservative priorities with a proposal easily grasped by voters: improving coverage for Americans with pre-existing conditions” [NBC News, [4/24/13](http://firstread.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/04/24/17899416-even-on-mundane-posturing-bill-gop-divide-plays-out?lite)]
* **Another sad tale from the Republican House** “Can House Republicans manage to pass even symbolic bills any more? It’s beginning to look as if the answer is: No, they cannot… The bottom line is that Republicans, with their somewhat smaller caucus in the current Congress, are close to incapable of enough agreement to pass anything through the House by themselves but still highly resistant to working with Democrats to get things done.” [Washington Post, [4/24/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2013/04/24/another-sad-tale-from-the-republican-house/)]
* **House Majority Leader’s Quest to Soften G.O.P.’s Image Hits a Wall Within** “Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House majority leader, has been trying for months to remake the image of the Republican Party, from one of uncompromising conservatism to something kinder and gentler. It isn’t working so well… Items that Mr. Cantor had hoped would change the Republican Party’s look, if not its priorities, have been ignored, have been greeted with yawns or have only worsened Republican divisions.” [New York Times, [4/24/13](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/25/us/politics/majority-leaders-quest-to-soften-gops-image-hits-wall.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&)]
* **House GOP program to shore up shaky incumbents** “Despite the relatively early stage of the election cycle, several of the Republicans have drawn serious Democratic opponents… Democrats have signaled that they plan to target each of the Republicans, and have already begun casting each of them as products of a broken Congress.” [Politico, [4/22/13](http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=BA4BAB89-FCBD-45BC-8FA4-73541FDEF25B)]
* **Former chief of staff to break silence on Michele Bachmann** “GOP operative Andy Parrish, a former chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, is expected to tell an Iowa Senate ethics panel that her 2012 presidential campaign made improper payments to its state chairman.” [Minneapolis Star Tribune, [4/18/13](http://www.startribune.com/politics/statelocal/203515841.html?refer=y)]

FLOOR ACTION:

* While the sequester continues to hurt Americans across the country, forcing cancer clinics to turn Medicare patients away and local schools to kick kids out of Head Start, House Republicans voted to fix a tiny piece of the sequester—airport delays.
* The House Republican Leadership faced another embarrassing defeat at the hands of their own members last week, when they were forced to pull a mostly-symbolic healthcare bill pushed by Majority Leader Eric Cantor at the last minute after conservatives revolted.
	+ **House lacks support for GOP health care bill** “House Republican leaders shelved a health care bill scheduled for a vote Wednesday because they did not have the votes in their own party to pass it… The decision was a blow to both Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., whose collective efforts were not enough to clinch the votes.” [USA Today, [4/24/13](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/04/24/cantor-health-care-obamacare-preexisting-conditions/2110529/)]

BY THE NUMBERS:

* An overwhelming 62% of voters—and 70% of Independents—believe Republicans in Congress don’t care about people like them, according to [the new Quinnipiac poll](http://www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes--centers/polling-institute/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=1890). Voters also say they prefer one-party control of Congress and the White House by 5 points, 48% to 43%.
* The Quinnipiac poll also shows that Democrats continue to lead the generic Congressional ballot:
	+ “Poll: Democrats have early lead in 2014 midterms” [The Hill, [5/1/13](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/polls/297107-poll-democrats-have-early-lead-in-2014-midterms?utm_campaign=hillballotbox&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter)]
	+ “Poll: Democratic edge for 2014” [Politico, [5/1/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/05/poll-2014-elections-90815.html?hp=l4)]
	+ “Democrats in decent shape for ’14 elections, new poll finds” [McClatchy Newspapers, [5/1/13](http://blogs.mcclatchydc.com/washington/2013/05/democrats-in-decent-shape-for-14-elections-new-poll-finds.html)]

SC-01 SPECIAL:

The special election in South Carolina’s 1st district continues to be very close. The first district is a solidly Republican district that voted for Mitt Romney by more than 18 points. There are 119 House Republicans in Congress who hold seats that are more Democratic than this one. But because of the strength of Colbert Busch’s background as an independent, problem-solving businesswoman, and the disastrous campaign of Mark Sanford, this race is now in play.

Meanwhile, the DCCC continues to invest in the Colbert Busch campaign. The DCCC has sent staff members down for support, and continues to run [its Independent Expenditure (IE) ad](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyc0D4tXg5E&feature=youtu.be), highlighting Congressman Sanford’s betrayal of the public trust.

CANDIDATES:

* [CA-10]—Farmer and beekeeper Michael Eggman announced last week that he will challenge Rep. Jeff Denham in this district that President Obama won in 2012. Denham is out of touch with this moderate district and Eggman’s agricultural roots will connect with voters of the Central Valley. [Democrats Land Buzzy Recruit in Another Obama-GOP House District, National Journal, [4/26/13](http://www.nationaljournal.com/blogs/hotlineoncall/2013/04/democrats-land-buzzy-recruit-in-another-obama-gop-house-district-26)]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* **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

* **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