

DCCC



Battleground Brief

With the end of the year in sight, House Democrats continue to go on offense against House Republicans' reckless dysfunction and obstruction of commonsense solutions. The damaging failures this year by House Republicans keep hurting American families, as they refuse to take up bipartisan measures like immigration reform and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Time is running out in 2013 to focus on creating jobs and growing the economy, but Speaker Boehner and House Republican leaders are making it clear that they will add to the wreckage heap of their Majority.

This recklessness and irresponsibility is spurring Democratic recruits to jump into competitive races, and causing Republican retirements across the country. While news cycles ebb and flow, the work we are doing now to recruit strong candidates, put new races in play, and amass a commanding financial advantage will have a lasting impact on the 2014 battlefield.

DCCC ACTIVITY:

DCCC CONTINUES TO BREAK FUNDRAISING RECORDS

The DCCC raised \$7 million in October, setting another record for an off-year October, and raised \$2.4 million more than the NRCC. We continue to be in our strongest-ever position for this point in an off-year and well ahead of the NRCC by all measures: we have outraised them for the year by more than \$12 million, raising \$65.2 million this year, and we have more than \$7 million more cash-on-hand (\$25.3 million to their \$18.2 million)

- "House Republicans Raise \$2 Million Less Than Democrats in October" [Roll Call, [11/20/13](#)]
- "DCCC sets off-year October fundraising record" [The Hill, [11/20/13](#)]
- "DCCC has another big money month" [Politico, [11/20/13](#)]
- "DCCC Posts Big Fundraising Month" [National Journal, [11/20/13](#)]
- "House Democrats Fundraising At Record Pace" [Huffington Post, [11/20/13](#)]

Chairman Israel Releases Memo on Future Budget Negotiations

DCCC Chairman Steve Israel released a memo to Members of the Democratic Caucus last week outlining the failures of this Republican Congress, warning that the "worst may be yet to come" in budget negotiations, and touting the Democratic recruits who have announced campaigns since the shutdown.

- "DCCC Chairman: 'Worst may be yet to come' on budget negotiations" [The Hill, [11/13/13](#)]

Read the full memo [here](#).

Chairman Israel Discusses Health Care on CNN

On CNN with Jake Tapper last week, DCCC Chairman Steve Israel said that we should improve the Affordable Care Act, not defund and repeal the entire law, giving insurance companies free rein over Americans' health care.

Take a look:



DCCC On Offense:

DCCC Goes After Republicans for “Blank Page” Agenda

When Majority Leader Eric Cantor handed out a blank piece of paper to his colleagues, labeled “Agenda 2014,” the DCCC launched Google ads in more than 30 competitive districts, encouraging people to visit 2014RepublicanAgenda.com and see for themselves the non-existent House Republican agenda.

- “DCCC hits Republicans for blank-page agenda” [The Hill, 11/19/13]

DCCC Launches Facebook Ad Campaign on Next #GOPShutdown

The DCCC will not let House Republicans get away with another damaging and reckless government shutdown, and launched Facebook ads warning voters that vulnerable Republican Congressmen have refused to rule out another shutdown over defunding the Affordable Care Act.

- “DCCC Runs Facebook Ads On Shutdown Tactics” [Politico, 11/12/13]
- “DCCC Targets Meehan, Fitzpatrick with Online Ads” [Politicspa.com, 11/13/13]
- “D-Trip Knocking Grimm, Reed On Facebook” [YNN TV, 11/12/13]
- “Three Ads Attacking Congressman Joe Heck Online” [The Nevada View, 11/12/13]

VIRGINIA’S ELECTIONS

The 2013 Virginia elections were a referendum on Tea Party ideology and government dysfunction – and Republicans lost in a state emblematic of the 2014 battlefield, where Democrat Terry McAuliffe defeated Tea Party Republican Ken Cuccinelli.

The results in the off-year Virginia Governor’s race are often an early harbinger of what voters will do in the upcoming midterms – and even Republicans admit it. Republicans won the gubernatorial race in Virginia in 2009 and had a successful 2010 midterm, while Democrats won the 2005 gubernatorial race before their success in the 2006 midterms. What’s more, Democrats defied history with their victory in Virginia—Virginia has not elected a governor of the same party that controls the White House since 1973.

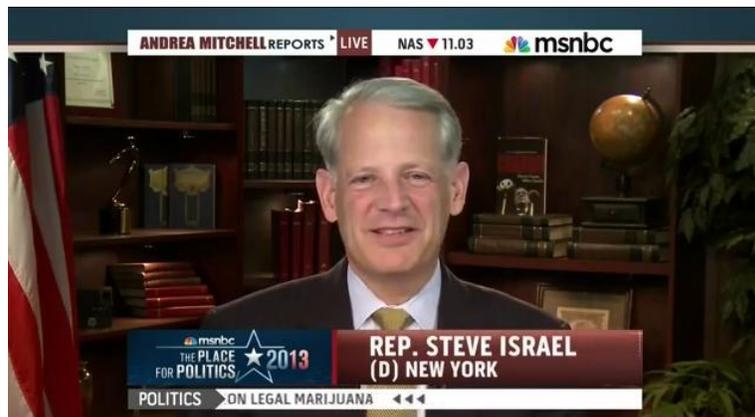
Above all, Virginia’s election results proved two key strategic imperatives for 2014:

- When they are engaged, the coalition of voters that propelled President Obama to victory will turn out in a non-presidential year.
- The House Republican-Ken Cuccinelli agenda is toxically unpopular—House Republicans belong to the Ken Cuccinelli wing of the Republican Party.

Chairman Israel Discusses Virginia Elections on MSNBC

On MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, DCCC Chairman said that the Virginia gubernatorial election results were "a referendum on whether you embrace the Ted Cruz, John Boehner, Ken Cuccinelli approach to government, which is shut down, slow down, crisis, inflicting pain on the economy in order to achieve partisan objectives. And Democrats were able to run on that, and that did seal the deal."

Watch the Chairman on MSNBC here:



RELEVANT NEWS

- **Democrats are looking to expand the 2014 House map. Here's where.** "House Democratic strategists are aggressively looking to expand the 2014 map by competing in some districts that were not major battlegrounds in the 2012 campaign in the hopes of giving themselves a bit of a margin for error next November... 'We knew that we could dive deeper into the map because we took on this very intentional process of analyzing the districts and finding the ones that are winnable,' said Kelly Ward, the executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee" [Washington Post, [11/11/13](#)]
- **Democrats say minimum-wage battles to help 2014 turnout.** "Democrats hope a slew of potential ballot initiatives to increase the minimum wage next year in key states will drive up voter turnout and help their party in midterm congressional elections... 'The refusal to increase the minimum wage is just one of the ways House Republicans have inflicted harm on the economy and hurt people's pocketbooks,' said New York Rep. Steve Israel, who chairs the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. '2014 is going to be a referendum on who has helped the middle class and who has hurt the middle class.' Israel said a dozen key House races could benefit from higher turnout in states where Democrats and labor activists are pushing the wage increases." [USA Today, [11/14/13](#)]
- **House Republicans Shrug At National Republican Party Woes.** "Many other House Republicans owe their elections to similarly small and ideologically intense electorates. These GOP lawmakers pay far less attention to the party's national reputation. And that deeply frustrates activists trying to build broad, national coalitions to elect a Republican as president in 2016 and beyond. Yoho and his fellow tea party-backed House members essentially say, 'Not my problem.'... Yoho and many colleagues were

elected by a conservative subset of a conservative subset of a conservative subset.” [Huffington Post, [11/13/13](#)]

- **Did Medicare Part D have the same rollout problems as the Obamacare online marketplaces? True.** “[Chairman Steve] Israel said, ‘Things went wrong with the Medicare prescription D plan that George Bush rolled out.’ There definitely were problems, and in some cases, the parallels between the prescription benefit program’s introduction and the Obamacare marketplaces are strikingly similar. While we also found some serious differences in the laws, we can’t find fault with Israel’s fairly general statement. We rate his statement True.” [Politifact, [11/13/13](#)]
- **The Party of Zilch.** “Rather than be the party of solutions in a gridlocked capital, appealing to a leadership-starved public, the GOP is the party of obstruction... That's the GOP motto: *If Obama is for it, we're against it.* That may be enough to appease Obama haters who make up a considerable core of the Republican midterm voting bloc... But this is the exact wrong way for Republicans to win the emerging generation of voters, the millennials, whom polls show are far more tolerant and practical than GOP leaders in Washington.” [National Journal, [11/19/13](#)]
- **Congress seems to be done legislating for the year** “It’s just mid-November, but it’s quickly becoming a reality: Washington could be mostly done making laws for the year... In short, if there are hopes of sending President Barack Obama the comprehensive immigration bill so many have lobbied for, or the Employee Non-Discrimination Act before 2014, they’re likely to be dashed.” [Politico, [11/11/13](#)]
- **Election Day ‘a very good day to run as a Democrat.’** “But Cuccinelli's conservatism is not limited to him alone, according to Democrats. ‘Republicans in Congress are Ken Cuccinelli Republicans. They share the same agenda and their agenda is going to go over just as well in suburban, moderate districts,’ said Kelly Ward, executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Ward called Cuccinelli the first casualty of the partial government shutdown that Democrats blame GOP tactics for inciting, namely by tying the defunding of Obamacare to the funding of the rest of the government. But Cuccinelli ‘certainly won't be the last,’ she said.” [CNN, [11/6/13](#)]
- **Downtown Turns Out For DCCC Women.** “The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee held a Thursday event to benefit their Frontline Women members at the home of Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine), according to a tipster. Hosted by Reps. Lois Frankel (D-Fla.) and Pingree, the event featured Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and DCCC chair Steve Israel. The fundraiser is expected to raise more than \$100,000 for the nine female Democrats.” [Politico, [11/15/13](#)]

RECRUITMENT UPDATE:

House Republicans’ self-destruction over the shutdown was a boon to DCCC recruiting, and that will have a lasting impact on the shape of the 2014 battlefield. Since the shutdown began, Democrats have added eight more problem-solving candidates to our already-strong recruitment class.

The New York Times [wrote](#):

“Here and nationally, the Democratic Party is enjoying something of a boomlet in newly declared candidacies for the House... Almost all say they are driven to run — ostensibly, at least — by disgust over the shutdown, first espoused by Senator Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican, and embraced by Tea Party Republicans in the House and, eventually, most others as well.”

New candidates announcing include:

- **Aimee Belgard, NJ-03** After reports surfaced that the Burlington County Freeholder was considering running in this seat that President Obama won twice, Congressman Jon Runyan announced his retirement, with aides citing frustration with the Tea Party Republican House. Belgard [said](#) in her announcement that “We have more political gamesmanship and irresponsible discord than I can ever remember in Washington. We need a change from the ego-driven politics that shutdown the government and brought our nation to the brink of default.”
- **Joe Bock, IN-02** The official at Notre Dame’s Eck Institute for Global Health will give voice to constituents frustrated with Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, who won by the skin of her teeth in 2012 and who recklessly voted to keep the government shutdown and to default on our debt. Bock [said](#): “The government shutdown was a great example of the inverse of what we need to be doing to exude confidence and show the kind of stability that’s required for people to be investing and offering people jobs and giving people raises.”
- **Pete Festersen, NE-02** The Omaha City Councilman had declined a run last summer, but reconsidered after Congressman Lee Terry voted to shut down the government and deny paychecks to hundreds of thousands of workers, while keeping his own because he’s “got a nice house.” Festersen [said of his decision](#), “Like most people, my frustration has grown by the day over the last month, with the government shutdown and the brinkmanship on the debt ceiling. Change is needed. And I felt it was my responsibility to be that change.”
- **Glen Gainer, WV-01** The West Virginia state auditor said in announcing his run that “After they went so far as to shut the government down, it really struck a nerve with me,” Gainer said. “I felt it’s time for people to be represented by someone who will work every day for their interests and never shut the government down.”
- **Bill Hughes Jr., NJ-02** The local prosecutor and son of former Representative Bill Hughes, who represented New Jersey’s second district for 20 years, will be a strong contrast to Congressman Frank LoBiondo in this district that President Obama carried twice. When he announced his campaign, Hughes [said](#): “New Jersey residents are tired of the irresponsible brinksmanship in Washington that brought on the reckless government shutdown and continues to threaten jobs. Our community can’t afford to be represented by someone who continues to oppose any reasonable solutions and keeps repeating the same failed policies that are hurting our economy.”
- **Alex Sink, FL-13** Former gubernatorial nominee and chief financial officer for the state of Florida Alex Sink said she is running in the special election for this highly competitive seat that President Obama won because she has “gotten very upset about the government. Why can’t these people understand they’re hurting everyday Americans? I can’t be complaining unless I’m willing to be part of the solution.”
- **James Lee Witt, AR-04** President Clinton’s former director of FEMA is running in this open seat [because](#), "I've spent my adult life bringing people together during the toughest times of their lives in disasters. Nowhere needs disaster relief more than Washington. No place needs to be brought together more than Congress. I don't claim to know everything, but I do know that name calling and partisan bickering aren't going to solve any problems."

BY THE NUMBERS:

The shutdown did lasting damage to the Republican brand, and the chaos they caused in Washington has clearly damaged Republican incumbents more.

- 65 percent of voters in Republican-held want to replace their Member of Congress, while only 50 percent of people in Democratic-held districts feel that way. [[George Washington University Battleground Poll](#), 10/27-31/13]

While the rocky roll-out of the Affordable Care Act is currently dominating headlines, a new National Journal poll makes clear that the Republicans' repeal strategy is not a winning one:

- Only 38% of respondents want to repeal the ACA, while 58% want to either wait and see before making any changes, or want Congress to provide more funds to ensure the law is implemented effectively. [[National Journal](#), 11/14-17/13]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Tuesday, December 3, 2013**
DCCC Latino Council Reception
Washington, DC
Contact: Johana Borjas, borjas@dccc.org, (202) 485-3419
- **Tuesday, December 10, 2013**
DCCC Speaker's Cabinet Holiday Luncheon
Washington, DC
Contact: Becca Durr, durr@dccc.org, (202) 485-3445

SAVE THE DATE

- **Friday, March 21, 2014 - Sunday, March 23, 2014**
DCCC New York Issues Conference
New York, NY
- **Friday, August 15, 2014 - Sunday, August 17, 2014**
DCCC Napa Valley Weekend and Issues Conference
Napa, CA