

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

May 4, 2012

On Monday, First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado to make opening remarks at the 2012 Warrior Games. On Tuesday, President Obama traveled to Afghanistan to meet with President Karzai and sign a Strategic Partnership Agreement. Looking ahead, this Saturday, President Obama will travel to Ohio and Virginia to hold campaign rallies.

On Tuesday, the DNC held a press conference call with DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Lilly Ledbetter on how Mitt Romney is wrong on economic issues for women. Following a Romney campaign event in Virginia, Virginia Democratic Delegates Mark Sickles and Charniele Herring held a press availability to highlight Mitt Romney's failed record as Governor of Massachusetts. Following Rep. Michele Bachmann's endorsement of Mitt Romney on Thursday, the DNC released a video highlighting Romney's support of policies that would turn back the clock on women's health. On Friday, Mitt Romney met with Senator Rick Santorum in Pennsylvania, and the DNC released a web video and a memo regarding Santorum's greatest hits against Romney's failed economic leadership and inability to create jobs in Massachusetts.

First Lady Michelle Obama Speaks at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2012 Warrior Games in Colorado

On Monday, First Lady Michelle Obama and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey spoke at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2012 Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Warrior Games enables men and women who have suffered injuries during a tour of duty to participate in athletic completion.



The First Lady addressed the crowd of more than 200 veterans, saying, "I am humbled and inspired." She praised the veterans for their dedication, saying, "your work, your commitment, your devotion to this country does not go unnoticed. It truly does not... you have got a First Lady and a President who is cheering you on not just today, but truly every single day. And you have an entire country that loves you and respects you, and strives to live up to the example that all of you set."

President Obama Travels to Afghanistan to Sign Strategic Partnership Agreement

On Tuesday, President Obama traveled to Afghanistan and signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with President Karzai. The Strategic Partnership Agreement provides a framework for our future relationship with Afghanistan and affirms the cooperation between the United States and Afghanistan based on mutual respect and shared interests.

Specifically, the strategic partnership agreement includes mutual commitments to strengthening Afghan institutions and governance, promoting shared democratic values, advancing security and promoting cooperation, and developing the country socially and economically. President Obama was clear to say that the United States will not have a permanent military base in Afghanistan, but commits Afghanistan to provide U.S. personnel access to and use of Afghan facilities through 2014 and beyond. Moreover, the strategic partnership agreement designates that Afghanistan is a "Major Non-NATO Ally."



While in Afghanistan, President Obama addressed the nation:

"As we emerge from a decade of conflict abroad and economic crisis at home, it's time to renew America -- an America where our children live free from fear and have the skills to claim their dreams. A united America of grit and resilience, where sunlight glistens off soaring new towers in downtown Manhattan, and we build our future as one people, as one nation."



Read the entire remarks [here](#).

While in Afghanistan on Tuesday, the President also addressed the troops at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The President thanked them for their service and sacrifice, and he announced that 23,000 troops will come home by the summer of 2012:



"When we see our homeland violated, when we see our fellow citizens killed, then we understand what we have to do. And because of the sacrifices now of a decade, and a new Greatest Generation, not only were we able to blunt the Taliban momentum, not only were we able to drive al Qaeda out of Afghanistan, but slowly and systematically we have been able to decimate the ranks of al Qaeda, and a year ago we were able to finally bring Osama bin Laden to justice.

"That could have only happened because each and every one of you, in your own

way, were doing your jobs. Each and every one of you -- without a lot of fanfare, without a lot of fuss -- you did your jobs. No matter how small or how big, you were faithful to the oath that you took to protect this nation. And your families did their job -- supporting you and loving you and remembering you and being there for you.

"And so, together, you guys represent what is best in America. And you're part of a long line of those who have worn this uniform to make sure that we are free and secure, to make sure that those of us at home have the capacity to live our lives. And when you're missing a birthday or you're missing a soccer game or when you're missing an anniversary, and those of us back home are able to enjoy it, it's because of you.

"And I'm here to tell you, everybody in America knows that. And everybody in America appreciates it. And everybody in America honors it. And when the final chapter of this war is written, historians will look back and say, not only was this the greatest fighting force in the history of the world, but all of you also represented the values of America in an exemplary way."

You can read the full remarks [here](#) and watch the video [here](#).

New Online Tool: The Life of Julia

On Thursday, the Obama campaign rolled out an online interactive tool that allows women to see for themselves how the policies of President Obama and Mitt Romney would affect them at different stages of their lives.

President Obama has made critical investments in education, health care and the economy that have helped women of all ages. The Romney-Ryan budget in contrast would slash funding for critical programs and end Medicare as we know it to pay for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires—and Mitt Romney has said he would repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Please click [here](#) to use the online tool.

Like 23k Tweet 733 Email

THE LIFE OF JULIA

Take a look at how President Obama's policies help one woman over her lifetime—and how Mitt Romney would change her story.

CLICK TO GET STARTED

Bureau of Labor Statistics Releases April Jobs Numbers

On Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the jobs report for the month of April, showing that we're making progress, but that we need to do more to keep putting Americans back to work. Private sector businesses have created jobs for the 26th month in a row, adding 130,000 private sector jobs for a total of 4.25 million jobs over that time period. President Obama continues to lead a recovery for the middle class—this is after inheriting the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. This momentum is encouraging, but we need to do more to strengthen the economy and put Americans back to work. That's why President Obama is doing everything he can to get Americans back to work, including taking executive actions when Republicans in Congress refuse to do their jobs.

President Obama Heads to Virginia and Ohio to Hold Campaign Rallies this Weekend

President Obama will hold two campaign rallies this weekend in Ohio and Virginia. The President will lay out what's at stake in this election: a choice between President Obama's continuing to work to strengthen the middle class and Mitt Romney's vision, which includes budget-busting tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires paid for with cuts in programs vital to the middle class along with fewer rules for Wall Street. The contrast could not be clearer and the stakes could not be higher this November.

Holding Republicans Accountable

The DNC held a press conference call with DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Lilly Ledbetter on how Mitt Romney is wrong on economic issues for women.

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said:

"The centerpiece of Mitt Romney's economic plan is a costly tax plan that overwhelmingly benefits wealthy Americans and asks middle class women to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest. In fact, the budget he said he would sign if he were President, is a new tax cut for millionaires and billionaires that averages \$150,000.

"But this budget comes at the expense of investments that benefit the middle class and create jobs for women, and would cut require an across-the-board cut by at least 35 percent.

"That means cuts to education funding that would lay off more teachers, two-thirds of whom are women. That means cuts to college scholarship aid, which disproportionately impacts women, who make up about 57 percent of Pell Grant recipients. We know that because women have a longer life expectancy, there are 6 million more women over age 65 than men. That means the deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in the Romney-Ryan budget would disproportionately affect women."

Lilly Ledbetter said:

"It's unfortunate that Mitt Romney and the Republicans want to dismiss the facts and write their own version of reality. But I will tell you what reality looks like – reality is when a woman works day in and day out just as hard as everybody else but makes just 77 percent of what her co-workers make – because of the mere fact that she is a woman.

"But the consequences of unequal pay reach far beyond the paychecks women take home every week; this is an issue of economic security. Just like men, women's pensions and Social Security are based on an unfair salary, so over the course of their careers, women are being cheated out of hundreds of thousands of dollars that could go toward their children's education or their family's medical bills or could be invested back into our economy and small businesses around the country."

Also on Tuesday, the Democratic National Committee released the following statements honoring AAPI Heritage Month and the President's positive impact on AAPI communities:

Statement from DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz:

"Throughout this month, we honor the important contributions of AAPI communities to our national identity. From Hawaii's plantations to America's railroads to our vibrant Chinatowns and Japantowns, we recognize the role that AAPIs have played and will continue to play in American history. Members of AAPI communities across the country have given so much for our great nation, having suffered and sacrificed along the way. They have worked to achieve the American Dream and continue to invest in building a prosperous future for our country.

"We have seen significant progress under President Obama's policies with respect to improving the lives of AAPIs nationwide. We've helped 7.6 million AAPI workers keep more money in their pockets, provided \$7 billion and counting in loans to AAPI small business owners, and signed into law 18 different tax cuts for AAPI-owned small businesses. Through the Affordable Care Act, we have expanded access to preventive care and treatment and improved language access. The President appointed three AAPI members to his Cabinet, and he has doubled the number of AAPIs on the federal bench. While we're proud of all that we have achieved, we also know there is more work to do. That's why it is absolutely critical that we re-elect President Obama in November and continue to move our country forward, giving AAPIs and all Americans a fair shot at the American Dream."

Statement from DNC Vice Chair Mike Honda:

"This Heritage Month, we are reminded of our hard-fought progress through the decades, and certainly in the last four years since President Obama's historic election. Let us celebrate the progress we've made with AAPI communities and work together to eliminate disparities that negatively impact AAPIs. President Obama understands the diverse challenges our AAPI communities face. He reinstated the White House Initiative on AAPIs and the Advisory Commission on AAPIs, which have provided a constant voice connecting AAPI communities with federal agencies.

"We must not backslide from what we have accomplished for AAPI students, families, seniors and small businesses. We certainly need four more years to continue that work. In 2008, AAPI voters turned out in record numbers to vote for the President. With all that's at stake, we will aim to have AAPI voters break records again in support of the President and Democrats running for Congress. There is too much at stake, and we need to support our President who will keep fighting to increase opportunities for AAPIs and all Americans."

Statement from Bel Leong-Hong, Chair of the DNC Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus:

"For more than two centuries, Democrats have represented the interests of working families, representing values – hard work, equality and opportunity – shared by AAPIs. As we celebrate another Heritage Month, we should also look to the political empowerment that will move AAPIs and all Americans forward. I look forward to AAPIs helping re-elect President Obama and elect the record number of AAPIs running for public office. It's crucial that AAPIs continue to support Democratic candidates who advocate for our issues and struggles. We need to support the President, maintain the Democratic majority in the Senate, and retake the majority in the House because there is still more work to do for AAPIs and all Americans."

On Wednesday, Romney traveled to Virginia. Virginia Democratic Delegates Mark Sickles and Charniele Herring held a press availability after the Romney event in Chantilly, VA to highlight Mitt Romney's failed record as Governor of Massachusetts and the failed policies he wants to return to that led to the economic collapse.

On Thursday, Mitt Romney held an event in Virginia with Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann. Rep. Bachmann endorsed Mitt Romney at the event, and in response, the DNC released a video titled [Romney, Bachmann, McDonnell: Turning Back the Clock on Women's Health](#), which highlights the trio's shared plan to turn back the clock on women's health.

On Friday, Mitt Romney met with Senator Rick Santorum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania prior to attending an event at a manufacturing company. The DNC released a video titled ["If Mitt Romney's an economic heavyweight, we're in trouble."](#) The video highlights Senator Santorum's view of Mitt Romney as a failed governor and a leader who is unable to create jobs. The Democratic National Committee also released a memo from Communications Director Brad Woodhouse to accompany the video that outlines Senator Santorum's greatest hits against Mitt Romney as a failed governor:

Santorum: "If Mitt Romney's an economic heavyweight, we're in trouble, because he was 47th out of 50 in job creation in the state of Massachusetts when he was governor. He may have had some success at making money for himself and his partners at Bain Capital, and I give him a lot of credit for doing so, but that's a very different thing than going out and creating an atmosphere for people to create - that create jobs." [This Week, ABC, [3/18/12](#)]

Good points. We couldn't agree more, Senator. How anyone could make the case that they are the best to lead on jobs with a record that lousy – 47th out of all 50 states – is baffling. It was only weeks ago that Senator Santorum hammered Romney for this very point. As Senator Santorum alluded to, for a man who touts his ability to create jobs as one of his only strengths, Romney's resume for job creation as evidenced by his record in Massachusetts, is abysmal to say the least.

But it's not just that Massachusetts was 47th in the country in job creation under Romney's tenure that undercuts the central theme of his candidacy. No, Romney failed in nearly all areas related to the economy and jobs: under Romney, Massachusetts increased its debt, expanded government, lost manufacturing jobs at a rate twice the national average, wages fell and income declined. And there's nothing in Romney's policies - from the \$5 trillion in tax cuts weighted towards the wealthy at the expense of investments in the

middle-class and long term growth to a corporate tax plan that creates incentives for companies to shift jobs and profits overseas - that suggests he would do any better as President.

Key Issues in the News and Background

Businesses Add Jobs; We Need To Do More To Keep Putting Americans Back To Work

Key Point: April's positive jobs growth show we're making progress, but we need to do more to keep putting Americans back to work.

- Businesses created jobs for the 26th straight month in April, with President Obama continuing to lead a recovery for the middle class after inheriting the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.
 - Please see [this chart](#) showing that the President's policies not only helped the private sector stop the free fall, but reverse the trend.
- With 130,000 private-sector jobs created in April, businesses have now created more than 1 million jobs in the past five months and 4.25 million jobs over the past 26 months.
 - American manufacturers are creating jobs for the first time since the late 1990s, adding more jobs last month, totaling 489,000 jobs created since January 2010.
 - The unemployment rate fell to 8.1 percent, down one percentage point since last August.
- While this momentum is encouraging for the middle class and small businesses, we need to do more to strengthen the economy and put Americans back to work. The President is doing everything he can to get Americans back to work, including taking executive actions when Republicans in Congress refuse to do their jobs.
- The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression wasn't created overnight, and we always knew the economy wouldn't recover overnight. That's why the President is:
 - Holding Wall Street accountable.
 - Cracking down on those who take advantage of consumers.
 - Putting more money into working families' pockets so they can fuel the recovery.
 - Cutting taxes 18 times for small businesses to help them hire and grow.

New Campaign Video Outlines How Far We've Come, and Where We're Going: Forward

Key Point: President Obama's vision keeps us moving forward, toward a job-creating economy built to last – where hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same rules.

- Monday the campaign released a new video, titled "Forward," which will be played live at the President's first campaign rallies next Saturday in Ohio and Virginia. The video outlines the challenges America faced as President Obama took office, and the progress we've made toward a strong middle class and an economy built to last – where hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone does their fair share and plays by the same rules.
 - Please see [the new campaign video](#), titled "Forward."
- We'd already lost 4.4 million jobs when President Obama took office amid the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Some said our best days were behind us, but the President fought hard, never losing faith in our ability to meet challenges.
- From day one, President Obama took immediate action to stop the bleeding and reverse the trend, saving up to 4.2 million jobs while laying the groundwork for a recovery with strong roots and an economy built to last. And we've since had 25 straight months of private-sector job growth, with businesses creating 4.1 million jobs in that time.
- But that's only the beginning of what we've seen under President Obama's leadership.

- He boldly decided to rescue the American auto industry when it was on the verge of collapse and others said we should let it go bankrupt, saving more than a million jobs up and down the supply chain.
 - After nearly a century of failed attempts, he cracked down on insurance-company abuses and is ensuring every American will finally have access to quality and affordable care.
 - Because he kept his promises, the Iraq war, Osama bin Laden and “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” are all history.
 - He cracked down on the Wall Street schemes that crashed our economy, cut payroll taxes for 160 million working Americans to save the typical worker \$1,000, cut taxes for small businesses 18 times, and proposed a balanced plan to reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion.
 - He protected equal pay for women, doubled investments in Pell Grants, and tripled the number of women on the Supreme Court, including appointing the first Latina.
- But there’s still more to do. We’re now at a make-or-break moment for the middle class. President Obama knows that the only way to reclaim the security it has lost is to restore the basic values of fairness and opportunity that made our country great.

President Obama to Hold First Campaign Rallies Tomorrow in Ohio and Virginia

Key Point: President Obama will hold his first campaign rallies tomorrow in Ohio and Virginia to lay out the clear choice this November between continuing to move forward to an economy that’s built to last, or go back to the same policies that lead to the greatest recession in our lifetimes. That is the choice.

- President Obama will hold his first campaign rallies tomorrow in Virginia and Ohio, which will be streamed live online at www.barackobama.com/live. Now that the Republicans have finally settled on Mitt Romney, voters will face a very clear choice this November.
- The American people will choose between President Obama’s vision for moving America forward, or Mitt Romney’s vision that would take us backward.
 - We either can give more tax breaks to the wealthiest, let Wall Street write its own rules again, widen loopholes for corporations, and stick seniors and the middle class with the bill – or we can reclaim the security the middle class has lost by restoring the basic values that made our country great.
 - We either can settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well while more and more Americans barely get by – or we can build a nation where everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share and plays by the same rules.
 - We either can go back to an economy based on outsourcing, bad debt and risky financial deals – or we can keep moving forward to rebuild an economy where hard work pays off and responsibility is rewarded.
- Romney’s back-to-the-future economic scheme is familiar and troubling: more budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthy and fewer rules for Wall Street – the same formula that benefitted a few, but crashed our economy and punished the middle class.
 - Romney says we need a businessman as president, but his business expertise was shipping jobs overseas, loading companies up with debt and bankrupting them while he and his investors walked away with millions, and a President like that would be a disaster for the middle class and would never create an American economy built to last.
 - As governor, Romney applied the same values he learned as a corporate buyout specialist to Massachusetts. He promised to create jobs, reduce debt and shrink the government, but he failed on all three counts.
 - Under Romney, Massachusetts was 47th out of 50 in job creation, government grew by 6 percent a year, state debt increased by 16 percent, and Romney left his successor with a \$1 billion deficit and his constituents with the highest per-capita debt in the country.
 - The policies that Romney is proposing now are just as bad. The Romney-Ryan budget plan would end Medicare as we know it to pay for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. Romney’s tax plan gives the wealthiest Americans a \$250,000 tax cut that they don’t need and didn’t ask for, would increase the deficit by \$5 trillion over the next decade and pass on that debt to the next generation.

Romney Campaigns in New Hampshire, Once Again Distorts President Obama's Record

Key Point: President Obama has instituted fewer, smarter and more efficient regulations than his predecessor, and he's helping rebuild America's fishing industry for the long run.

- Mitt Romney campaigned in New Hampshire Tuesday and distorted the truth about the President's record of reducing burdensome business regulations. In truth, President Obama has instituted fewer, smarter and more efficient regulations than his predecessor, and he's helping rebuild America's fishing industry for the long run.
- President Obama's regulations are fewer, smarter and more efficient, helping our economy grow while making sure everyone plays by the same set of rules.
 - He approved fewer regulations during his first three years than President Bush did in the same amount of time, benefitting the economy by more than \$91 billion – 25 times what Bush's regulations did.
 - He's also initiated an overhaul of the regulatory system that cuts red tape and should save businesses \$10 billion over the next five years.
 - 80 percent of economists believe the current regulatory environment is good for American businesses.
 - And under the President's leadership, we've seen 25 straight months of private-sector job growth, with businesses adding 4.1 million jobs in that time.
- Romney is resorting to dishonest attacks against President Obama to draw attention away from his own record as governor of Massachusetts. Romney's Massachusetts saw anemic job growth, more debt, increased spending, higher taxes, and bigger government – the opposite of what he's promising the American people.

Bachmann Endorses Romney, Campaigns With McDonnell: All Bad for Women's Health

Key Point: Mitt Romney and Governor Bob McDonnell have made it clear they want to turn back the clock on women's health, winning the support of Tea Party standard-bearer Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann.

- Mitt Romney is campaigning in Virginia with supporter Governor Bob McDonnell and Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann, who just endorsed Romney. Romney and McDonnell want to turn back the clock on women's health, winning the support of Tea Party standard-bearer Michelle Bachmann.
 - *Please see [this new DNC video](#) on the subject.*
- Romney bought Bachmann's Tea Party endorsement by selling out America's women to the extreme Republican base that wants to defund Planned Parenthood, restrict women's access to preventive health care and turn back the clock on women's health.
 - Romney and Bachmann both want to defund Planned Parenthood, a vital health care provider for millions of American women and families.
 - McDonnell signed into law a bill that requires women to undergo an ultrasound before they can get an abortion, forcing women to undergo a medical procedure they don't need.
 - Romney also called *Roe v. Wade* "one of the darkest moments in Supreme Court history" and said he wants the Supreme Court to overturn it.