

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

May 11, 2012

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On Tuesday, the DNC released a new web video, “Mitt Romney: More Severely Conservative than Rick Santorum” in response to Senator Rick Santorum’s less than enthusiastic endorsement of Romney. Also Tuesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz issued a statement on the results of the Indiana Republican Primary for Senate. On Thursday, Mitt Romney held two fundraisers in Kansas City and Omaha. Ahead of the fundraisers, the DNC held two press conference calls to highlight Mitt Romney’s failed record in creating jobs in both the public and private sector.

President Obama Provides Congress An Economic “To Do” List

President Obama traveled to Albany, New York Tuesday and provided Congress a list of initiatives to enact that would create jobs and help restore middle class security. The President said that simply because this is an election year, it does not prevent Congress from getting things done.

Each initiative in the President’s “to do” list has garnered bipartisan support in the past and will help create an economy built to last. Specifically, President Obama called on Congress to provide companies a 20% tax credit for bringing jobs back to the US paid for by eliminating tax incentives for companies that move their companies overseas. Secondly, the President called on Congress to cut the red tape for homeowners who have been paying their



mortgages by passing legislation that allows them to refinance at today’s lower rates. Third, the President would like to expand the 30% tax credit to investments in clean energy manufacturing, which helps create jobs and allows the U.S. to be more energy independent. Fourth, the President would like to see the creation of a Veteran Jobs Corps to help returning veterans find jobs that serve their communities. And finally, he asked Congress to provide a 10% tax credit to small businesses that create new jobs in 2012.

The goal of these initiatives is to create more jobs at home by rewarding companies that create jobs in the United States and create incentives for companies to bring jobs back home. Read the entire remarks [here](#).

President Obama Shows Support for Same-Sex Marriage

President Obama expressed his support for same-sex marriage Wednesday in an interview with ABC News. In the interview, the President stated:



"I've been going through an evolution on this issue. I've always been adamant gay and lesbian Americans should be treated fairly and equal. That's why, in addition to everything we've done in this administration – rolling back 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' so that outstanding Americans can serve our country, whether it's no longer defending the 'Defense Against Marriage Act' which tried to federalize what has historically been a state law – I've stood on the side of broader equality for the LGBT community.

"But I have to tell you that over the course of several years, as I talked to friends and family and neighbors, when I think about members of my own staff who are incredibly committed monogamous relationships – same sex relationships – who are raising kids together, when I think about those soldiers or airmen or marines, sailors who are out there fighting on my behalf, and yet feel constrained, even now that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is gone because they're not able to commit themselves in a marriage. At a certain point I've just concluded that, for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same sex couples should be able to get married."

President Obama Travels to Nevada to Discuss Refinancing Initiative

On Friday, President Obama traveled to Reno, Nevada to call on Congress to cut red tape and allow responsible homeowners who have paid their mortgages on time to refinance at today's lower interest rates, which would reduce their payments by hundreds of dollars a month. This is part of the President's "To-Do List" for Congress he announced earlier this week.

In Reno, the President said: "I am calling on Congress to give every responsible homeowner the chance to save an average of \$3000 a year by refinancing their mortgage. It's a simple idea. It makes great sense, and I know it will have an impact." Read the entire remarks [here](#).

Holding Republicans Accountable

On Tuesday, the DNC released a new web video, "[Mitt Romney: More Severely Conservative than Rick Santorum](#)" in response to Senator Rick Santorum's less than enthusiastic endorsement of Mitt Romney in the middle of the night.

Also Tuesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement on the results of the Indiana Republican Primary for Senate, in which longtime Republican Senator, Dick Lugar, was ousted by Tea party favorite Richard Mourdock.

Following Senator Dick Lugar's primary defeat, Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said:

"It's official: the Republican Party is now indistinguishable from the Tea Party. Tonight in Indiana, the Tea Party drove Sen. Dick Lugar out of the United States Senate and nominated Tea Party candidate Richard Mourdock, a candidate who will fit in well with the presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. Mourdock opposed the rescue of the iconic American auto industry, calling it 'illegal.' Without President Obama's decisive action, Chrysler would have been liquidated and thousands of Hoosiers would have lost their jobs – including the 4,500 workers at four Chrysler plants in Kokomo, Indiana."

On Thursday, Mitt Romney held a fundraiser in Kansas City, Missouri. Ahead of the fundraiser, the DNC held a press conference in Kansas City with AFL-CIO President Duke Dujakovich and Jeff Jones, a former GST Steel employee, exposing Mitt Romney's history of shipping jobs out of Kansas City. At the press conference, speakers discussed the fact that Mitt Romney often cites his experience creating jobs as proof that he has what it takes to turn the economy around, but GST employees in Kansas City know first-hand that his business expertise was loading companies up with debt and bankrupting them while he and his investors walked away with millions.

Following his trip to Kansas City, Mitt Romney traveled to Omaha, Nebraska for a second fundraiser on Thursday. The DNC held a press conference call with Nebraska State Senator Brenda Council and Scott Utech from Teamsters Local 544 to highlight Mitt Romney's failed record as governor and his support for the same failed economic scheme that wrecked the economy. The call focused on Mitt Romney's back-to-the-future economic scheme, which 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.

On Friday, DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse, Mecklenburg County Commissioner Jennifer Roberts and Raleigh Small Businessman Doug Leupen held a conference call to discuss Mitt Romney's support for the same failed economic scheme that wrecked the economy and weakened the middle class.

On the call Doug Leupen said:

"As a small business we are a direct beneficiary of the progress... Our staff has grown 40% since 2009 so we have been busy putting people back in jobs here in North Carolina."

"We can either 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."

On the call Jennifer Roberts said:

"We've really focused on becoming an energy hub and part of what's allowed us to do that is the federal government's understanding that we are in a new energy environment...we have a great success story here."

"Under Romney Massachusetts was 47th out of 50 in job creation, state spending increased by 6% a year, debt increased by 16%, and Romney left his successor with a one billion dollar deficit. His record is a record of failed economic leadership."

Key Issues in the News and Background

New Campaign Ad Highlights Where We Came From, Where We Need to Go: Forward

Key Point: The Obama campaign released an ad highlighting the President's commitment to the American worker and his belief that a strong and growing economy built to last has to start with restoring the basic values that made our country great – values like hard work, fairness and opportunity.

- Coming off a weekend of rallies where tens of thousands of people enthusiastically came out to see the President and the First Lady, the Obama campaign released a new television ad Monday that highlights the President's record and his commitment to the American worker. The ad will be running in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Nevada, New Hampshire, Iowa, North Carolina, Florida and Colorado. President Obama believes that a strong and growing economy built to last has to start with restoring the basic values that made our country great – values like hard work, fairness and opportunity.
 - Please see [the new campaign ad](#), titled "Go."
- From the moment President Obama took the oath of office, he's fought for a forward-looking America, where hard work pays off and responsibility is rewarded, where everyone has a fair shot and does their fair share, and everyone from Wall Street to Main Street plays by the same rules.
 - When the auto industry was on the verge of financial collapse, President Obama boldly decided to rescue it. He saved more than a million jobs up and down the supply chain, and now GM is once again the number one automaker in the world.
 - President Obama is also cracking down on the risky financial deals that crashed our economy and caused the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.
 - We lost more than 800,000 jobs the month President Obama took office. Now, instead of losing jobs, we're creating them – 4.2 million jobs over 26 consecutive months of private-sector growth.
- But there's still more to do to keep America moving forward and restore economic security for the middle class. That's why President Obama is running for re-election: America cannot afford to go back.
- We probably won't see any ads this cycle that talk accurately about Mitt Romney's record. It will be mostly more of the same strategy that won him the nomination – hiding behind Super PACs to carpet-bomb his opponents with misleading and widely debunked attacks.

President Obama Urges Congress to Pass "To Do List" To Help Create Good Jobs

Key Point: President Obama urged Congress this week to pass a commonsense, five-point "To Do List" that will keep us moving forward. We need a job-creating economy built to last where we make things the rest of the world buys – not one based on outsourcing, loopholes, or risky financial deals that jeopardize everyone, especially the middle class.

- On Tuesday, President Obama is calling on Congress to act on a commonsense, concrete plan that will help create jobs and restore economic security for the middle class. He's proposing a five-point "To Do List" that will keep us moving forward toward a job-creating economy built to last.
- The President believes we should be rewarding companies that create in America, not those that send American jobs to other countries. The first item on this list gives a new 20 percent tax credit to companies that bring jobs back home, paid for by eliminating tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas.
- The rest of the President's "To Do List" for Congress:
 - Gets rid of red tape so hardworking and responsible homeowners can refinance their mortgages at current low rates.
 - Gives small businesses tax credits for hiring new workers.
 - Creates more American jobs by investing in clean energy manufacturers here at home, which will help us continue reducing our dependence on foreign oil.
 - Honors our veterans by creating a Veterans Jobs Corps that will help them find work and serve their communities.

- Mitt Romney doesn't have a problem with sending American jobs overseas.
 - Romney was a corporate-buyout specialist who shut down American plants, sent jobs overseas and invested in businesses that helped even more companies do the same.
 - As governor of Massachusetts, Romney vetoed a bill that would have stopped sending state jobs overseas – and he offshored state jobs that could have employed the people of Massachusetts.
 - Romney's promises are just as bad as his record. He opposes the President's tax reform plan, which would end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. He also wants more tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas.

Santorum Tepidly Endorses Romney after Attacking Him Throughout GOP Primary

Key Point: Rick Santorum's tepidly endorsed Mitt Romney this week. Even Santorum knows that Romney's brand of economics would be a disaster for our country and our economy – he's been telling voters about it throughout the Republican primary.

- Rick Santorum tepidly endorsed Mitt Romney this week. Like many endorsements of Romney, his wasn't an enthusiastic one. Even Santorum knows that Romney's brand of economics would be a disaster for our country and our economy – he's been telling voters about it throughout the Republican primary.
- Just weeks ago Santorum was hammering Romney for his failed record as Massachusetts governor, when Romney:
 - Ranked 47th out of 50 in job creation, with manufacturing jobs falling at twice the national average, the third-worst record in the country.
 - Left his successor with a billion-dollar deficit and left Massachusetts residents with more debt per person than any other state.
 - Created six times more government jobs than private-sector jobs.

AUTO RESCUE: After Clearly Opposing President Obama's Successful Auto Rescue, Mitt Romney Is Trying to Take Credit for It

Key Point: Mitt Romney is trying to take credit for President Obama's successful rescue of the auto industry, which saved more than a million jobs when we could least afford to lose them. Romney is hoping we forget that when the industry was on the verge of collapse, he said we should "let Detroit go bankrupt."

- Mitt Romney said this week he will "take a lot of credit" for the success of America's automakers. He'll say anything to get elected.
 - Please see [this new campaign video](#) titled "Mitt Romney vs. Reality: Auto Recovery Edition."
- Romney thinks we don't remember what he says. That's not the kind of character we want in a President. We need a leader who always tells us where he stands, not someone who repeatedly lies and says anything to get elected:
 - Romney aired an attack ad, and then claimed he didn't know anything about it – even though at end of it, you can hear his voice saying he approved them.
 - Romney's lied about his hunting record and about the guns he didn't own.
 - Romney also talked about remembering a parade that happened years before he was born, and falsely claimed his dad marched with Martin Luther King.
- Romney is trying to rewrite history again. Romney suggests that the car companies should've used private financing to restructure, ignoring the widely recognized fact that that could never have happened.
 - The credit markets were frozen solid when the auto industry was on the verge of collapse. There was no private financing available – even Romney's old firm, Bain Capital, refused to help finance the auto rescue.
 - Finance and bankruptcy experts agree: letting Detroit go bankrupt, as Romney wanted, would've destroyed some of America's most iconic companies and would have been a total catastrophe for America's best workers.
 - In exchange for emergency rescue loans, President Obama demanded tough concessions and shared sacrifice from both labor and management. And in return, America's carmakers are retooling and creating energy-efficient cars of the future.

- Romney called the President's bold decision "tragic" and said it would make GM into "the living dead." He was wrong then, and he's wrong now.
- The President's tough and decisive action, which Romney opposed, is paying off. Detroit is building cars of the future and America's carmakers are creating jobs.
 - GM and Chrysler repaid their outstanding government loans years ahead of schedule. GM is once again the world's top carmaker.
 - The auto industry added more than 230,000 jobs since June 2009, and 2011 was the strongest year of industry job growth since 1994.
 - Demand for American cars is going up, so GM, Ford and Chrysler are starting to run three production shifts a day at plants across the country. More shifts and new facilities mean jobs for thousands more workers in Michigan and Ohio.
- Even Romney's own supporters can't believe Romney's latest indefensible comment. Senator John McCain, one of Romney's top surrogates and supporters, was astonished when he heard about it.

STUDENT LOANS: GOP Senators Vote to Double Student Loan Interest Rates, Romney Fails to Stand Up to Republicans in Congress

Key Point: Mitt Romney let Senate Republicans once again turn their back on young adults. They voted yesterday to double interest rates on federal student loans, costing students money and making it harder for more Americans get a fair shot at an affordable college education and the skills they need to find a good job.

- Senate Republicans stood with big business yesterday, voting to double student loan interest rates to protect tax loopholes and giveaways for Big Oil and rewarding companies that ship jobs overseas. Mitt Romney is the Republican Party's standard bearer, and he failed to stand up to the Republican Senators he should be leading.
- Yesterday's vote was disappointing, but it's not too late to stop federal student loan interest rates from doubling on July 1. The clock is ticking, but Congress still has time to act. Republicans can keep standing with corporate interests and stand in the way of our students' success, or they can finally make sure our country's next generation of leaders and workers can afford college.
- President Obama believes keeping college within reach is key to growing our economy. That's why he's calling on Congress to do the right thing, save students money and keep college affordable since it's a critical part of an economy that's built to last.

ENERGY: Mitt Romney Takes Money from Big Oil and Does Its Bidding

Key Point: Mitt Romney is raising more money today from the Big Oil donors who share his backward priorities. Romney owes voters an explanation for why he supports Big Oil's demands.

- Today Mitt Romney is raising money at the home of billionaire oil executive and campaign advisor Harold Hamm, who has supported manipulating energy prices. Romney is also campaigning in Colorado, where he distorted the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy that's making America more energy independent.
- Romney's taken almost a million dollars from the oil and gas industry, and he supports a laundry list of its demands, including:
 - Giving massive tax breaks to oil and gas companies that are posting record profits.
 - Eliminating protections against Wall Street speculators who manipulate oil prices.
 - Criticizing fuel economy standards that help families an average of \$8,000 at the pump.
- Since taking office, President Obama has aggressively pursued an all-of-the-above energy strategy.
 - He's helped increase our domestic oil production to an 8-year high and reduce our dependence on foreign oil to a 16-year low.
 - The President is helping double our renewable electricity production, and natural gas production in Colorado is at an historic high.

MARRIAGE: President Obama Supports Equality for All Americans; Mitt Romney Opposes Civil Unions and Would Write Discrimination into the Constitution

Key Point: While President Obama believes in equal rights and protections for all Americans, Mitt Romney believes in inequality and discrimination.

- President Obama's personal view is that it's wrong to prevent couples who are in loving, committed relationships, and want to marry, from doing so.
- It's no secret the President has gone through some soul-searching on this issue. He's talked to his wife about it, like so many couples do. He's heard from folks – gay friends in long-term, loving relationships; brave young servicemen and women he got to know through the fight to end Don't, Ask Don't Tell; staff members; folks who sent compelling letters about their lives. It's no doubt they've shaped his view on this issue.
- In the end, the President cares most deeply about how we treat other people. The President and First Lady are both practicing Christians, and obviously this position may be considered to put them at odds with the views of others. When they think about their faith, they not only recall its central tenets, but also the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you'd want to be treated. The President believes every American deserves the same rights and protections he has.
- This is about civil marriages and civil laws. This isn't a federal issue. The President respects religious liberty. Churches and other faith institutions are still going to be able to make determinations about what their sacraments are and what they recognize. People are going to have differing views on marriage, and those views, even if we disagree strongly, should be respected.
- Mitt Romney doesn't believe in equality for all Americans. Yesterday he doubled down on his opposition to both same-sex marriage and civil unions, and he's pledged to write discrimination into the Constitution with an amendment to stop committed gay and lesbian couples from marrying. This would be the first time we amended the Constitution to discriminate and deny Americans equal rights.
 - Please see [this new campaign video](#), titled "Mitt Romney: Backwards on Equality."
- Romney's opposition to civil unions puts him to the right of even President Bush. He would let states ban civil unions and discriminate against gay and lesbian Americans, stopping them from enjoying many equal rights and benefits including:
 - Health insurance for their partners and kids.
 - Hospital visitation rights.
 - Adopting children together.
 - Making emergency medical decisions for their partners.

HOUSING: President Obama Urges Congress to Pass "To Do List" To Keep Moving America Forward and Help Responsible Homeowners Who Pay Their Bills

Key Point: The President believes hardworking and responsible homeowners who pay their mortgages on time should be able to refinance at current low rates and feel secure in their homes. He's urging Congress to pass a commonsense, five-point "To Do List" that will keep us moving forward.

- Friday the President was in Nevada, the state hit hardest by foreclosures. He urged Congress to get rid of red tape so hardworking, responsible homeowners who make their mortgage payments on time can refinance their mortgages at today's historically low rates and feel secure in their own homes.
- This was the second part of the President's five-point "To Do List" that will keep us moving forward toward a job-creating economy built to last. President Obama is calling on Congress to act on a commonsense, concrete plan that will help create jobs and restore economic security for the middle class.
- Mitt Romney has no plans to help hardworking and responsible homeowners who make their mortgage payments on time.

- Foreclosures in Massachusetts quadrupled on Romney's watch. Now he wants to repeal Wall Street reform, which ends the abuses in the mortgage system that contributed to the housing crisis.
 - In Nevada, Romney said we should let foreclosures "hit the bottom" rather than taking action to support families at risk of losing their homes.
 - In Florida, the second-hardest-hit state, Romney told underwater homeowners that banks were "feeling the same thing" they are. He said we should feel bad for banks, but hasn't proposed anything to help families trying to stay in their homes.
- Mitt Romney's top economic advisor, Glenn Hubbard, is the architect of a proposal very similar to the President's plan, which Hubbard believes would help millions of homeowners nationwide. Romney should explain to Nevada families who have paid their mortgages on time why he disagrees with his top economic adviser and believes they shouldn't be able to refinance their loans.
 - We need a job-creating economy built to last, where hard work pays off and responsibility is rewarded – not one based on outsourcing, loopholes, or risky financial deals that jeopardize everyone, especially the middle class.