

# THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

**June 1, 2012**

This week, President Obama and Vice President Biden honored our veterans and those who are currently serving. On Saturday, Vice President Obama addressed the graduating class at West Point. On Monday, President Obama and the First Lady commemorated Memorial Day in the morning at a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and at an event commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War at the Vietnam War Memorial. On Wednesday, President Obama signed the Export-Import Reauthorization Act. On Wednesday, President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor awarded to U.S. civilians, to thirteen celebrated and dedicated Americans. On Friday, President Obama traveled to Honeywell Golden Valley Facilities in Minnesota to talk about veterans and jobs and urge Congress to act on his "To-Do List."

This week, Obama for America released a four minute video, a new web video, and online content examining Mitt Romney's failed record as governor of Massachusetts and Republican criticism of that failed record. On Tuesday, Mitt Romney received the number of delegates needed to become the Republican nominee. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement on Romney achieving this number of delegates after six years campaigning, millions of dollars spent, and a year of tepid support. The DNC released a Facebook video titled "Little to Like," which provides a Facebook timeline of Romney's path to the nomination from declaring "corporations are people," that we should let the housing foreclosure process hit rock bottom, that he isn't concerned about the very poor, and that he likes firing people. On Thursday, the DNC held a press conference call with Congressman Xavier Becerra and DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse to highlight Mitt Romney's failed record as Governor of Massachusetts. On Friday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement in honor of pride month.

## **Vice President Biden Delivers Commencement Address to West Point Graduates**

Vice President Biden addressed West Point graduates over the weekend. The Vice President heralded the graduates' accomplishments and praised the proud traditions of West Point. He concluded his remarks by stating:

"West Point has prepared you to lead us to face these new challenges, some of which we have yet to even contemplate, let alone encounter. Because as I said at the start, you are not only strong and committed, you are also some of our nation's sharpest minds, with the training to take today's missions -- counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, training foreign armies -- and the minds to adapt to tomorrow's horizons, from cyberspace to outer space.

"There is such a proud history here. Such a proud tradition. And I have no doubt that many of you in this class are not only



going to make extraordinary contributions to the military but also to civilian life because West Point is in the business of producing -- not only great officers -- it produces great leaders and great Americans.

"As President Theodore Roosevelt said, upon West Point's Centennial, 110 years ago next month, he said: 'Your duty here at West Point has been to fit men to do well in war. But it is a noteworthy fact that you also have fitted them to do singularly well in peace. The highest positions in the land have been held, not exceptionally, but again and again by West Pointers.' West Pointers who have risen to the first rank in all occupations of civilian life.

"Were he here today he'd only alter that quote slightly -- young men and women are prepared to do that."

Read Vice President Biden's remarks [here](#).

### **[President Obama and the First Lady Commemorate Memorial Day](#)**

On Monday, President Obama and the First Lady celebrated Memorial Day in the morning at a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. President Obama laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and to honor the sacrifices made to protect our people, our country, and our democracy.



President Obama said, "These 600 acres are home to Americans from every part of the country who gave their lives in every corner of the globe. When a revolution needed to be waged and a Union needed to be saved, they left their homes and took up arms for the sake of an idea. From the jungles of Vietnam to the mountains of Afghanistan, they stepped forward and answered the call. They fought for a home they might never return to; they fought for buddies they would never forget. And while their stories may be separated by hundreds of years and thousands of miles, they rest here, together, side-by-side, row-by-row, because each of them loved this country, and everything it stands for, more than life itself."

Later in the afternoon, the President and the First Lady went to the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War and honor those who served:





"[We] come to this wall -- to this sacred place -- to remember. We can step towards its granite wall and reach out, touch a name. Today is Memorial Day, when we recall all those who gave everything in the darkness of war so we could stand here in the glory of spring. And today begins the 50th commemoration of our war in Vietnam. We honor each of those names etched in stone -- 58,282 American patriots. We salute all who served with them. And we stand with the families who love them still."

Watch highlights from the President's remarks at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War on Memorial Day [here](#).

### [President Obama Signs Export-Import Reauthorization Act](#)

On Wednesday, President Obama signed the Export-Import Reauthorization Act, which extends the Export-Import Bank's mandate through September 2014. The Export-Import Bank provides financing to U.S. exports and helps maintain a level playing field for U.S. businesses so that they can compete in a global economy at no cost to American taxpayers.

The Export-Import Act ensures that U.S. exports continue to increase which in turn boosts our economy. U.S. exports have increased to \$2.15 trillion over the past twelve months and have reached a point higher than any previous 12-month period in history due in part to the Export-Import bank. This record-breaking level of exports supported 9.7 million exports-related jobs in 2011, an increase of 1.2 million exports-related jobs since 2009.



The President said: "Two years ago, I set a goal of doubling American exports over five years. Today, with the trade agreements that we've signed into law, with the help of some of these same members of Congress, we're making historic progress. Soon, there are going to be millions of new customers for our goods and services in Korea, in Colombia and Panama. That way, even though we got some Hyundais over here, we're also going to have some Chryslers and Fords and Chevys in Seoul that are imported from Detroit and Toledo and Chicago.

"We're also making sure that American businesses have better access to the 95 percent of the world's consumers who live beyond our shores. And that's why the bipartisan bill that I'm about to sign is so important. By reauthorizing support for the Export-Import Bank, we're helping thousands of businesses sell more of their products and services

overseas and, in the process, we're helping them create jobs here at home. And we're doing that at no extra cost to the taxpayer."

Read the President's remarks [here](#).

### **President Obama Awards the Medal of Freedom to Thirteen Americans**

On Wednesday, President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor awarded to U.S. civilians, to thirteen celebrated Americans, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens; U.S. Senator and astronaut John Glenn; civil rights leader John Doar; legendary musical artist Bob Dylan; novelist Toni Morrison; civil rights activist Dolores Huerta; and the NCAA's winningest basketball coach Pat Summitt.

The President said, "Together, the honorees on this stage, and the ones who couldn't be here, have moved us with their words; they have inspired us with their actions. They've enriched our lives and they've changed our lives for the better. Some of them are household names; others have labored quietly out of the public eye. Most of them may never fully appreciate the difference they've made or the influence that they've had, but that's where our job comes in. It's our job to help let them know how extraordinary their impact has been on our lives. And so today we present this amazing group with one more accolade for a life well led, and that's the Presidential Medal of Freedom."



Read the entire remarks [here](#) and read the entire list of award recipients [here](#).

### **President Obama Travels to Minnesota, Talks about Veterans and Jobs**

On Friday, President Obama traveled to Honeywell Golden Valley Facilities in Minnesota to talk about veterans and jobs and urge Congress to act on his "To-Do List." We're still fighting our way back from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. May's positive jobs growth shows we're making progress, but we need to do more to repair the damage. The President is doing everything he can to keep putting Americans back to work. Now isn't the time for Congressional Republicans to sit on their hands.

The President said, "So my message to Congress: Now is not the time to play politics. Now is not the time to sit on your hands. The American people expect their leaders to work hard no matter what year it is. The economy still isn't where it needs to be. There are steps that could make a difference right now -- steps that can also serve as a buffer in case the situation in Europe gets any worse." President Obama continued, "[W]e can't fully control everything that happens in other parts of the world -- disturbances in the Middle East, what's going on in Europe. But there are plenty of things we can control here at home. There are plenty of steps we can take right now to help create jobs and grow this economy." Congress could enact the five proposals in the President's "To-Do List" that would immediately create jobs and boost our economy. The "To-Do List" includes proposals that would eliminate tax incentives to companies that ship jobs overseas, provide a ten percent tax cut to businesses that hire workers or increase wages,

cut the red tape so that responsible homeowners can refinance loans at the current affordable rates, invest in affordable clean energy, and help returning veterans find work.

President Obama visited Honeywell to highlight the last proposal in his to do list because Honeywell has made it a mission to hire more veterans. President Obama said, "I believe that no one who fights for this country should ever have to fight for a job when they come home. And for Congress, that means creating a Veterans Job Corps so we can put our returning heroes back to work as cops and firefighters, on projects that protect our public lands and resources. And they should do it right now."

Read the President's remarks [here](#).

### **Other Activity**

This week, the President's campaign released a four minute video, "[Broken Promises: Romney's Massachusetts Record](#);" a web video, "[Romney Economics: Republicans on Romney's Massachusetts Record](#);" and [online content](#) examining Mitt Romney's failed record as governor of Massachusetts and Republican criticism of that failed record. Mitt Romney has consistently claimed that his business experience taught him lessons that he would implement as president to grow the country's economy. When he ran for governor of Massachusetts, he pointed to the same business experience and made the same promises – that job creation would pick up, the debt would go down, taxes and spending would be reduced, and the size of government would shrink. But Romney Economics actually resulted in the opposite: Massachusetts plummeted to 47th out of 50 in job creation, manufacturing jobs fell at twice the national average, average family incomes also fell, and the state's debt rose to the highest per capita debt in the country. It's clear that Romney Economics didn't work then, and it won't work now. America can't afford Romney's same broken promises. The video includes interviews with Massachusetts Mayors and Legislators who worked with Mitt Romney during his time as governor.

On Monday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement in recognition of Memorial Day. She said:

"As we reflect on the lives of America's fallen heroes, and the immeasurable loss felt by their loved ones, we must also remember our solemn duty to millions of veterans and their families across the country, whose sacrifices we must continue to honor. For protecting our nation, we owe them the care they were promised and the benefits they earned. President Obama understands that commitment, and we see it every day – from helping veterans find work when they return home and afford a college education to securing the largest increase in VA funding in decades so our veterans can get the care and benefits they need, including treatment for PTSD and traumatic brain injury." Chair Wasserman Schultz concluded, "We salute each and every one of you, and we will never forget your unparalleled dedication to our country."

On Tuesday, in response to Bob McDonnell's campaigning in Wisconsin for Scott Walker, the DNC held a press conference call with Representative Gwen Moore and Virginia State Senator Louise Lucas to expose Scott Walker, Bob McDonnell, and Mitt Romney's efforts to roll back women's rights. While their extreme positions may be winning them support from the far-right, American women are realizing that Scott Walker, Bob McDonnell, and Mitt Romney are far too extreme to lead our country.

Rep. Gwen Moore said:

The stakes are far too high for next Tuesday's recall election, and women and hardworking families facing a very clear choice. Since he was elected, Governor Scott Walker has done nothing but turn his back on the middle class and divide Wisconsin. While trying to place an even greater burden on Wisconsin students, middle class families and workers, he's been focused on cutting sweetheart deals for his campaign donors and special interests. Scott Walker's plan to pay for it all is slashing budgets for teachers and education, forcing Wisconsin residents to pay higher health care premiums, and launching a full-scale assault on collective bargaining rights for state employees. This is all part of his grand strategy to quote "divide and conquer."



Senator Louise Lucas said:

"In the Commonwealth of Virginia, we've seen the devastating impact this assault on women's rights can have. I led the fight against the Governor Bob McDonnell's outrageous ultrasound bill in the legislature that is part of the movement to strip away women's rights and re-fight cultural battles that were decided decades ago. While Mitt Romney has refused to say whether he supports the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which helps women fight back when they're paid less than men for the same work, Scott Walker actually signed a bill to repeal equal pay protections in Wisconsin. While Mitt Romney, Scott Walker and Bob McDonnell have done everything possible to alienate women, President Obama and Tom Barrett have stood by them. Our country needs leaders like President Obama and Tom Barrett, who understand that women aren't a special interest group. They are America's mothers, daughters, sisters and wives."

On Tuesday, Mitt Romney reached the number of delegates needed to become the Republican nominee. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement on the subject, saying that he achieved this after six years campaigning, millions of dollars spent, and a year of tepid support. Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said:

"Romney may have finally gained enough delegates to become the nominee, but what's been truly remarkable about his path to the nomination is how much damage he's left in his wake as he enters the general election. On what should be a good news day for Romney, he once again reminds us of his commitment to 'Romney Economics' and the far-right wing of his party with his pandering to Donald Trump. Mitt Romney's lack of moral leadership is striking: he values the support of folks like Trump – no matter how extreme their views. This November, Americans will have a clear choice between an economy that is built to last and one that is built on outsourcing, loopholes, and risky financial deals that jeopardize our entire economy and threaten the security of the middle class. Those failed policies are not what Americans want, and that's why they won't support Mitt Romney in the fall."

The DNC also released a Facebook video title "[Mitt Romney: Little to Like](#)," which is the DNC's version of Mitt Romney's Facebook time line for the last year. In that time we've learned that Mitt Romney and his brand of Romney Economics are wrong for the middle class.

From declaring "corporations are people" and we should let the foreclosure process hit bottom to saying he isn't concerned about the poor and likes firing people Mitt Romney's time line shows he would return to the same failed policies of the past and is out of touch with the needs of the middle class. And Mitt's time line, in the words of his fellow Republicans, shows that Romney Economics - whether his time as a corporate raider dismantling companies and jobs for profit or his abysmal record as Governor of Massachusetts where he finished 47th out of 50 in jobs - would be a disaster for the American people.

And of course, there's Donald Trump - liking an article on Mitt's time line, about himself, naturally. When it comes to Mitt Romney's time line and what we've learned over the past year, there is little to like.

On Thursday, the DNC held a press conference call with Congressman Xavier Becerra and DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse to highlight Mitt Romney's Solyndra hypocrisy and failed record as Governor of Massachusetts. Mitt Romney ignored his own record of using taxpayer dollars to pick winners and losers – some of whom were donors to his campaign.

DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse said:

"The reality is that Solyndra received funding through a Department of Energy program created under the Bush Administration – a program that has supported tens of thousands of jobs across the country and is moving forward with investments in many innovative projects. In fact, one of those is the first nuclear plant built in the U.S. in decades and another is the world's largest wind farm. Under Romney, Massachusetts gave \$4.5 million in government loans to [Spherics, Inc. and Acusphere] run by Romney Campaign donors – those loans have since defaulted. As Governor, Mitt Romney's record was one of dismal job creation, outsourcing, increased spending, and the highest per capita debt in the nation. Now, [Romney would] cut

clean energy funding ceding jobs that come with it to China in order to please his Big Oil campaign donors, including keeping massive tax cuts for the oil industry on the middle class' dime. Massachusetts couldn't afford Romney Economics, and America can't either."

Congressman Becerra said:

"When Romney was running for governor of Massachusetts, he made the same promise he's making now: he said that the values and lessons he learned as a corporate-buyout specialist could help grow the economy. He was wrong. It didn't. He made specific promises – the same ones he's making today – that he would create more jobs, less debt, and smaller government. But anyone who takes a good look at his record will find that Romney Economics did the opposite. Once he took office, he failed to deliver all those promises and more. Massachusetts ranked 47th out of 50th in job creation under Mitt Romney . . . while most of the country succeeded. Massachusetts' manufacturing declined by twice the national average. Debt grew in Massachusetts by 16.4 percent, and Governor Romney raised taxes and fees by \$750 million a year on middle-class families and businesses. No matter how you slice the numbers, Massachusetts couldn't afford Romney Economics then, and neither can the American economy today."

Listen to the entire call [here](#).

On Friday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement honoring LGBT Pride Month, which is the month of June. Chair Wasserman Schultz stated:

"As a nation, we've wiped 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' off the books, so that gay and lesbian service members can serve our nation without having to hide who they are. He's required all hospitals receiving Medicare or Medicaid funding to recognize visitation and medical decision-making rights for LGBT patients, and he's taken unprecedented steps to prevent bullying against LGBT students as well as advance and protect the rights of LGBT individuals across the globe." She added, "And just last month, the President affirmed his personal support for marriage equality, stressing his belief that it's wrong to prevent loving, committed couples who want to marry from doing so."

"On the first day of LGBT Pride Month, I'm so proud of the millions of LGBT Americans who continue their march toward full equality and proud of our President for always standing in their corner. While the struggle continues, discrimination continues to give in to justice with every passing day, and we will never stop fighting until inequality for the LGBT community is nothing but a relic of the past."

### [Key Issues in the News and Background](#)

#### **JOB: We're Coming Back from the Worst Economic Crisis since the Great Depression; Republicans in Congress Should Work with the President to Create More Jobs Now**

**Key Point:** We're still fighting our way back from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. May's positive jobs growth shows we're making progress, but we need to do more to repair the damage. The President is doing everything he can to keep putting Americans back to work. Now isn't the time for Congressional Republicans to sit on their hands.

- **Continuing Our Recovery:** Businesses created jobs in May for the 27<sup>th</sup> straight month, continuing our recovery from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.
  - The 82,000 private-sector jobs created in May mean businesses have created nearly 4.3 million jobs over the past 27 consecutive months of growth. But we need to do more.
  - *Please see [this chart](#) showing that the President's policies not only helped the private sector stop the free fall, but reverse the trend.*
- **We're Coming Back:** We always knew this recovery wouldn't be easy, and that it wouldn't happen overnight. But we will come back stronger because of the hard work and innovation of American workers and businesses.

- The auto industry is back, with Chrysler having its best May in five years, GM its best month since 2009, and Ford's CEO saying they can't build cars fast enough.
- Manufacturers are consistently creating jobs for the first time since the late 1990s, adding more jobs last month and 495,000 jobs since January 2010.
- **We Need To Do More:** Our economy is growing, and it needs to be growing faster. That's why the President is doing everything he can to keep putting Americans back to work, including taking executive actions to put more Americans back to work when Republicans in Congress refuse to do their jobs.
  - The President is also fighting to restore economic security for the middle class, making critical investments in clean energy, education and manufacturing so we can out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world.
  - Mitt Romney would cut those investments and go back to the same failed policies that created the crisis in the first place.
- **Congressional Republicans** have blocked many of the President's commonsense proposals to put teachers back in classrooms, police and firefighters back on our streets and construction workers back on the job. There's no excuse for playing politics when so many people are looking for work. They should work with the President to create more jobs now and pass his commonsense "To-Do List" that will help put more Americans back to work.
- 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:
  - 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.
  - Fighting to keep investing in manufacturing, education, and infrastructure and keeping teachers and first responders on the job.
  - Holding Wall Street accountable so this kind of crisis never happens again.
  - Cracking down on those who take advantage of consumers.

### **MASSACHUSETTS: Romney Economics Didn't Work Then and It Won't Work Now**

**Key Point:** Mitt Romney claims his business experience will grow our economy, the same claim he made when he ran for governor of Massachusetts. But Romney Economics actually resulted in slower job creation, more debt and bigger government. Romney Economics isn't about long-term economic growth – it's about two sets of rules, one for those at the top and another for everyone else. It didn't work then, and it won't work now.

- **Romney Economics:** As governor, Romney brought to Massachusetts the values and lessons he learned as a corporate-buyout specialist, where he bought and bankrupted companies, putting profits for himself and his investors ahead of the long-term health and growth of the companies he acquired.
  - His business experience was about two sets of rules – one for his investors, and another for the workers who lost their jobs, pensions and benefits.
  - Now he wants to bring that same set of values to Washington, so it's worth looking at what Romney Economics did to Massachusetts.
  - Romney Economics promised Massachusetts more jobs, less debt and smaller government, and the economic conditions were primed for Romney to keep his promises. Once in office, he failed to deliver.
    - *For more information, please go to [RomneyEconomics.com](http://RomneyEconomics.com) and see [this new campaign video](#) titled "Broken Promises: Romney's Massachusetts."*
- **It Didn't Work Then:** While the national economy emerged from recession in November 2001 and was creating jobs by July 2003, Romney's Massachusetts lagged six months behind. The state's economic growth stayed that way, trailing the rest of the country every year of Romney's term.
  - Jobs: Under Romney, Massachusetts plummeted to 47<sup>th</sup> out of 50 in job creation and manufacturing jobs fell at twice the national average, the third-worst record in the country. As jobs disappeared, hundreds of thousands of people left the state.
  - Taxes: Romney raised taxes and fees on Massachusetts residents more than 1000 times. When he left office, the tax burden had gone up by \$1,200 per person.



- Government: Romney increased spending by 6.5 percent a year, and he tried to increase it even more as state government jobs grew at six times the rate of private-sector jobs. In the end, he left his successor with a billion-dollar deficit.
  - Debt: Under Romney, debt went up by more than \$2.6 billion – a 16 percent increase in just four years. He left Massachusetts taxpayers with more debt per person than in any other state.
  - Income: While Romney was governor, median household income grew nationally but fell in Massachusetts, lagging far behind the rest of the country.
  - Unemployment: On Romney's watch, Massachusetts' unemployment rate fell slower than the national rate. When he took office, the state's unemployment rate was lower than the national average; when he left office, it was higher.
- **It Won't Work Now**: Romney has drawn the wrong lessons from his experience, again using his misguided economic philosophy to guide the policies he's promising today. He's making the same promises he made when he ran for governor, and America can't afford the same results we saw in Massachusetts.
  - **President Obama** believes we need a job-creating economy built to last – one where we grow the economy from the middle out, not the top down, and where hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone from Main Street to Wall Street does their fair share and plays by the same rules.

### **SMALL BUSINESSES: America's Small Businesses Can't Afford Romney Economics**

**Key Point:** Mitt Romney visited a Nevada small business and distorted the President's support for America's small businesses. President Obama has helped small businesses grow, create jobs and lift up their communities. Romney Economics fails to help small businesses and doubles down on failed policies of the past.

- **Romney Economics**: As a corporate-buyout specialist, Romney cared about maximizing profits for himself and his investors, not creating jobs or helping companies grow.
  - Romney Economics is about two sets of rules – one for Romney and others at the top, and another for everyone else. Now he wants to bring those values to the Oval Office.
  - On issue after issue, Romney Economics fails to help small businesses and would roll back what the President has done to support them.
- **Taxes**: Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, creating two out of every three new jobs. Lower taxes help them grow and create jobs.
  - President Obama cut taxes for small businesses 18 times, helping them grow and create jobs while lowering their costs. He's urging Congress to pass a new 10 percent tax credit for small businesses that hire new workers or give their current employees a raise.
  - Romney Economics means tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations. He'd cut taxes for corporations by more than a third – costing taxpayers nearly \$1 trillion over the next decade. These cuts would almost entirely go toward the largest businesses, which pay more than 90 percent of corporate taxes while representing only a tiny share of firms.
- **Accessing Credit**: Small business loans are a critical part of helping small businesses grow, create jobs and lift up their communities.
  - President Obama has so far helped more than 150,000 small businesses receive Small Business Administration-supported loans so they could expand, invest and hire workers.
  - Romney Economics means fewer small business loans. He endorsed a budget that could gut the SBA by nearly 20 percent, preventing small businesses from getting loans that are critical to helping them grow.
- **Investments**: Restoring middle-class security for small businesses means we need to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world.
  - President Obama is helping America lead the world in college graduates, strengthening innovation and manufacturing, and building a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure. He's ensuring our economy is built to last and rewards hard work.
  - Romney Economics would hurt the middle class to pay for tax cuts weighted toward the wealthy. He'd gut investments in areas important to small businesses, like education, training, innovation, manufacturing and infrastructure.