

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

June 15, 2012

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This week, the DNC kicked off its "Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus Tour" with its first stop in Exeter, NH and will visit all of the states on Romney's bus tour through the weekend and into early next week. The DNC also focused on several press conference calls to highlight Mitt Romney's failed Massachusetts record and counter Mitt Romney's comments that we don't need more firemen, more policemen, and more teachers.

President Obama On New Department of Homeland Security Policy to Make Our Immigration Policy More Fair and Efficient

On Friday, the Department of Homeland Security announced a new policy to make our immigration policy more fair and efficient.

President Obama said, "This morning, Secretary Napolitano announced new actions my administration will take to mend our nation's immigration policy, to make it more fair, more efficient, and more just, specifically for certain young people sometimes called DREAMers. Now, these are young people who study in our schools, they play in our neighborhoods, they're friends with our kids, they pledge allegiance to our flag. They are Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper. They were brought to this country by their parents, sometimes even as infants, and often have no idea that they're undocumented until they apply for a job or a driver's license or a college scholarship."



President Obama continued, "This is a temporary stop-gap measure that lets us focus our resources wisely while giving a degree of relief and hope to talented, driven, patriotic young people..."

"In the absence of any immigration action from Congress to fix our broken immigration system, what we've tried to do is focus our immigration enforcement resources in the right places. So we prioritized border security, putting more boots on the southern border than at any time in our history -- today, there are fewer illegal crossings than at any time in the past 40 years. We focused and used discretion about whom to prosecute, focusing on criminals who

endanger our communities rather than students who are earning their education. And today, deportation of criminals is up 80 percent. We've improved on that discretion carefully and thoughtfully. Well, today, we're improving it again.

President Obama concluded, "This is the right thing to do."

Read the full remarks [here](#) and watch the video [here](#).

[1 Year Anniversary of the White House Rural Council](#)

On Monday, in a press conference with local TV reporters from rural America, President Obama discussed the findings of a [report](#) on agri-business and the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC). Compiled by the WHRC addressing small business growth and jobs, as well as the agricultural economic community, the report outlined the progress of initiatives that, to date, has affected over 50,000 small businesses, and led to the highest agricultural export levels ever.

Through the SBIC, the White House has appropriated close to \$2.4 billion dollars, \$400 million of which has already been allocated for fiscal 2012. The remaining 2 billion will be distributed out over the next four years.



To read more on this, click [here](#).

[President Obama Signs Presidential Policy Directive on Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

On Wednesday, President Obama signed a new Presidential Policy Directive on the sub-Saharan Africa region. The Directive provides a close partnership between the United States and our African partners to help promote prosperity, peace and security, democratic structural support, and opportunity and development.

In particular, the Directive will focus on strengthening democratic institutions and promoting economic growth, trade and investment at every level of government in the region. This will include keeping governments accountable and emphasize human rights efforts. The Directive promises to also promote entrepreneurship and empowerment of young leaders as well as expanding sub-Saharan Africa's access to the global markets and strengthening economic governance.

[President Obama Presents Israeli President Shimon Peres with the Medal of Freedom](#)

On Thursday, President Obama presented Israeli President Shimon Peres with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In his statements honoring the Israeli President, President Obama referred to President Peres' 65 year career working for the State of Israel, taking his first assignment in 1947. He spoke about how much President Peres has done for the friendship and close relationships between Israel and America.



"The United States is fortunate to have many allies and partners around the world. Of course, one of our strongest allies, and one of our closest friends, is the State of Israel. And no individual has done so much over so many years to build our alliance and to bring our two nations closer as the leader that we honor tonight -- our friend, Shimon Peres."

You can read the Presidents full remarks [here](#).

President Obama Travels to Ohio, Lays Out His Vision to Keep Moving America Forward

On Thursday, President Obama traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, and laid out a clear vision to keep moving America forward toward an economy built to last. President Obama said, "More than anything else, this election presents a choice between two fundamentally different visions of how to create strong, sustained growth; how to pay down our long-term debt; and most of all, how to generate good, middle-class jobs so people can have confidence that if they work hard, they can get ahead."

President Obama continued to explain his vision for the country: "Now, this isn't some abstract debate. This is not another trivial Washington argument. I have said that this is the defining issue of our time -- and I mean it. I said that this is a make-or-break moment for America's middle class -- and I believe it. The decisions we make in the next few years on everything from debt and taxes to energy and education will have an enormous impact on this country and on the country we pass on to our children."

The President also addressed the gridlock in Washington between parties of completely disparate values and ideas, and concluded, "This election is your chance to break that stalemate."

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

Holding Republicans Accountable

This week, the DNC kicked off its "Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus Tour" with its first stop in Exeter, NH and will visit all of the states on Romney's bus tour through the weekend and into early next week. The DNC also focused on several press conference calls to highlight Mitt Romney's failed Massachusetts record and counter Mitt Romney's comments that we don't need more firemen, more policemen, and more teachers.

On Monday, Mitt Romney attended a fundraiser in Atlanta. In response, the DNC held a press conference call with Georgia House Democratic Leader Staci Abrams and DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis, Jr. On the call Georgia House Democratic Leader Abrams said:



"While the President has put a jobs plan on the table that addresses areas of employment where we need to spur hiring the most right now – keeping police officers on the street and teachers in the classroom, Mitt Romney promised to eliminate even more public sector jobs for policemen, firefighters and teachers. While job creation in Massachusetts lagged during Romney's tenure as Governor despite his promises, calling for job elimination when we're still digging out from the economic crisis is nothing short of stunning.

As governor, Mitt Romney's cuts to K-12 education were among the highest in the nation and forced thousands of teacher layoffs. In fact, his cuts to local aid in his first year resulted in the layoffs of 14,500 teachers, police officers, librarians and others. During his four years as governor, he never allowed education funding to return to pre-recession levels."

Later in the day DNC Vice Chair and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and DFL Chairman Ken Martin held a press conference call responding to Romney's claims. Both focused on the fact that Minnesotans are hard-working Americans who want to make their cities and towns a better place, and ensure that every American has a shot at the American Dream and the opportunity to live in a safe, prosperous community. To say anything otherwise is further proof that Mitt Romney is detached from the reality of Minnesotans.

Mayor R.T. Rybak said:

"Those federal programs are critical to the basic services people need in the cities in tough times. For Mitt Romney to suggest that we don't need the programs that keep firefighters on the streets and cops on the street and teachers in the classroom, really at a time when he is favoring the idea of more tax cuts for the very wealthy shows he is simply out of touch. We have a choice in this country, we can put a little more on the backs of those with an enormous amount of money to let us have police officers, firefighters, and teachers, or we can simply say that we won't have any way to help local communities deliver basic services just so we can help those at the top end."

DFL Chairman Ken Martin said:

"Over and over again, Romney put those at the top ahead of the middle class. Now he's repeating the same broken promises to the whole country. He's said that if he's elected President, he'll enact a tax plan that gives millionaires and billionaires a tax cut of nearly 25 percent, and actually raises taxes on 18 million hardworking Americans. Now Romney's proposing troubling economic policies that are little different from his worst business practices: more budget-busting tax cuts for the very wealthy paid for by the middle class, no investing for our nation's long term strength and letting Wall Street and corporate interests write their own rules again."

On Wednesday morning the DNC released a video titled, "[Fewer of Me](#)" which features a police officer, firefighter, and teacher recognizing that Mitt Romney would cut their jobs while cutting taxes for people like himself. Their proof lies in his record in Massachusetts, knowing that if he did it there he would do it to the country as well.

On Wednesday, Democratic National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement on Congressman-elect Ron Barber's victory Tuesday night against Tea Party candidate Jesse Kelly, stating "it is a tremendous victory for Ron, the people of Arizona, and Democrats across this country." Chair Wasserman Schultz stated:

"Ron's victory will help build momentum for Democrats gaining control of the House and provides clear evidence that independents are not shifting toward Republicans and their failed economic policies. Republicans should take note.

"Ron's victory in a Republican-leaning district where GOP outside groups outspent Democratic outside groups by more than half a million dollars reveals how vulnerable Republicans are this November. Republicans have a 7-point voter registration advantage in the district and pulled out all the stops in this race, but middle-class Arizonans spoke loud and clear. This is a sign of things to come this November. Kelly and his Republican allies promised the same policies that Romney is promising now: more budget-busting tax breaks for the wealthy with fewer rules for Wall Street – the same formula that benefitted a few but crashed our economy and punished the middle-class. But voters made it crystal clear that they don't want any more tax breaks for large corporations and millionaires and billionaires paid for with cuts in their Social Security and Medicare.

On Friday, Mitt Romney launched his six-state bus tour. The DNC kicked off its own tour on Friday, the "Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus Tour" with its first stop in Exeter, NH and will visit all of the states on Romney's bus tour through the weekend and into early next week. The DNC launched the tour in Exeter, NH with a press conference highlighting Mitt Romney's failed Massachusetts record and vision, which included DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse; Massachusetts State Representative David Linsky; Jen Hollis, a Massachusetts Teacher; Laura Hainey - AFT-NH President; Rhonda Wesolowski - NEA-NH President; Terie Norelli - Former Speaker and Current House Democratic Leader; and Dave Lang - President, Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire.

Brad Woodhouse said:

"This bus tour is called the Romney Economics: Middle Class Under the Bus Tour. It's a fitting name because that's exactly what Romney Economics would do for the middle-class and the hardworking people across this country. He'd actually throw the middle class under the bus to advance his trickle-down economics agenda to protect the very wealthy people like him in this country at the expense of the hard-working people in New Hampshire."



"To make matters worse, Romney is completely out of touch with middle-class Americans and he doesn't get how to create jobs for them either. His job creation plan is to fire teachers, firefighters, and police officers – the people who are the backbone of our communities. No matter what Mitt Romney thinks, the people of America want cops on the beat, firefighters at the ready, and teachers in the classroom."

State Rep. Linsky said:

"For the past decade Romney has distorted his record as a businessman and governor of Massachusetts. But as a Massachusetts State Representative, I am tired of his distortions. Setting the record straight about Mitt Romney's record is so important to me and my fellow colleagues that we have followed him here to do it."

"On a national scale, Mitt Romney says he'll enact a tax plan that gives millionaires and billionaires a tax cut of 25 percent, and actually raises taxes on 18 million hardworking Americans. It's absurd and it's unfair to continue to make the middle-class sacrifice."

Terie Norelli said:

"Mitt Romney would cut programs critical to middle-class economic security, including education, medical research and clean energy in order to pay for a \$5 trillion tax cut geared towards millionaires and billionaires. And he would create more incentives for companies to ship jobs overseas."

"These cuts would devastate our local communities. When teachers are pulled from the classroom and first responders are pulled off their beat, it weakens our communities."

Laura Hainey said:

"As the President of AFT-New Hampshire, it's my job to make sure our children are getting all the help they need to succeed. I believe we need strong teachers who can provide kids with the attention they need to grow and learn. President Obama wants to reward good teachers with higher pay and that's why he wants to train more teachers."

"I feel blessed to be an educator and I take great pride in my work. I believe, like President Obama, each and every child in our country deserves a world class public education. One that gives them the skills they need to find a job. That's why I'm standing with President Obama."

Later Friday, the DNC tour moved on to Scranton, PA where a press conference was held with Former Representative Patrick Murphy; Matt Cartwright, Congressional Candidate; Mark McDade, Former Scranton Teacher, Pennsylvania State Education Association member; Massachusetts State Rep. John Scibak; and Jen Hollis, Massachusetts Teacher. The tour will continue on to Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton, Ohio on Saturday; Madison, WI and Davenport, IA on Sunday; and Grand Rapids, Lansing and Detroit, MI on Monday.

Key Issues in the News and Background

TWO VISIONS, TWO PATHS: President Obama Will Move Us Forward and Mitt Romney Would Take Us Backward; The American People Will Choose Where We Go From Here

Key Point: President Obama was in Ohio this week to deliver the first in a series of speeches that lay out the clear choice in this election between a vision that moves us forward and creates an economy built to last, and one that would send us backward to the failed policies of the past decade.

- **The American people can break the stalemate** between two fundamentally different visions of how to grow the economy, create middle-class jobs and pay down the debt.
- **President Obama** believes America prospers when hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share and plays by the same set of rules. To create jobs, reduce our deficit and build a stronger economy from the middle class out, President Obama believes we need to:
 - **Education:** Invest in good teachers and help more students go to college and get job training – not pack kids into crowded classrooms and slash scholarships.
 - **Energy:** Invest in promising sources of energy, like wind, solar, clean coal, biofuels, nuclear and natural gas, to create a market for innovation and good jobs of the future – not go back to relying on foreign oil or subsidizing Big Oil.
 - **Innovation:** Invest in our best scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs so they innovate here – not cede leadership to countries like China and India.
 - **Infrastructure:** Rebuild our roads, bridges, ports and broadband technology to attract businesses and create jobs here – not pet projects, bridges to nowhere and crumbling infrastructure.
 - **Tax Reform:** Reward businesses that create jobs here instead of those that send them overseas, and must ask the wealthiest to contribute their fair share again – not give millionaires another tax break at the expense of the middle class.
- **Mitt Romney** and his allies in Congress believe that if you take away protections for consumers and workers and cut taxes even more for the wealthiest Americans, the market will solve all our problems on its own. Their refusal to ask the wealthiest Americans to pay even a nickel more in taxes is the biggest source of gridlock in Washington, and the reason we haven't reached a grand bargain to bring down our deficit and Congress hasn't passed a jobs plan that would put a million people back to work. Romney's plan would:
 - Roll back financial reform and let Wall Street write its own rules again.
 - Repeal health reform, costing tens of millions their health coverage and allowing insurance companies to discriminate based on preexisting conditions.
 - Provide a \$5 trillion tax cut weighted to millionaires and billionaires, blowing a hole in the deficit and forcing cuts to programs critical to middle-class security, including education, medical research and clean energy.
 - Turn Medicare into a voucher program, when a similar plan showed it would increase costs on seniors by as much as \$6,350 a year.
 - Encourage companies to ship jobs overseas by giving them tax breaks.

- **It didn't work then, it won't work now.** We tried Romney's failed formula for most of the last decade. It benefitted a few, but crashed our economy and hurt the middle class. It didn't grow our economy, create good jobs or pay down our debt – it caused the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.
 - According to independent economists, Romney's economic plan would increase the deficit, fail to create new jobs in the short term, and make our economy worse.
 - One economist recently said that implementing all of Romney's policies "would push us deeper into recession and make the recovery slower."
- **The American People** will decide which path we take as a nation – not just in the next four years, but for generations to come. That's what's at stake. It's a choice between:
 - An economy built from the top-down, or from the middle class out.
 - Everyone fending for themselves, or everyone pitching in and working together.
 - Moving backward with Mitt Romney, or moving forward with President Obama.

HEALTH REFORM: Mitt Romney Wants to Repeal Obamacare and "Replace" It With Nothing New, Leaving Millions of Americans Uninsured and Ignoring Rising Health Costs

Key Point: This week, Mitt Romney again promised to "repeal and replace" Obamacare, but he really doesn't have a plan to do anything on health care. His centerpiece is a law that's been on the books for more than 15 years, and he would leave millions more people uninsured while ignoring rising health care costs.

- **Preexisting Conditions:** Romney says his plan would let anyone with a preexisting condition who has been "continuously insured" get coverage if they "lose their job or change jobs," but that law has been on the books since 1996.
 - Romney wouldn't help people who lose their jobs and can't afford COBRA, or children diagnosed with cancer or autism while their families are uninsured.
 - Up to 129 million Americans have preexisting conditions, and they all deserve the protection Obamacare provides. Romney would leave most of them on their own.
- **More Uninsured Americans:** Romney would block grant Medicaid and slash billions of dollars from the program, which helps disabled kids and the elderly afford health care. Independent experts estimate drastic block grants would leave up to 27 million people without health insurance.
- **No Help for Rising Costs:** Obamacare is already tackling rising health care costs, and slowing health care cost growth may become the new normal.
 - This week, budget experts reported that Obamacare actually lowered health care costs last year, partly by cracking down on insurance companies for wasteful spending and requiring rebates if they spend too much on overhead.
 - Romney would repeal Obamacare's aggressive deficit reduction provisions and has offered no serious ideas to replace them and address rising health care costs.

JOBS: The President's Jobs Plan Will Grow Our Economy by Putting Teachers, Cops and Firefighters Back to Work; Romney Would Cut Their Jobs like He Did in Massachusetts

Key Point: President Obama's jobs plan would put teachers back in classrooms and first responders back on our streets, part of his plan to help create up to a million new jobs that Congress left on the table last year. Mitt Romney has a different plan – he wants to cut jobs for teachers, policeman and firefighters, just like he did in Massachusetts, undermining our recovery and hurting the middle class. Romney Economics didn't work then and it won't work now.

- **Public-Sector Jobs:** As we've created nearly 4.3 million private-sector jobs over the last 27 months, we've lost 450,000 state and local government jobs – many of them teachers and first responders. In the last 18 months, we've added private-sector jobs every month but lost public-sector jobs in 16 of them. According to leading economists, public-sector job losses are dragging down the economy.
- **Mitt Romney** didn't value jobs for teachers, police and firefighters when he was governor of Massachusetts, and he doesn't now. He'd cut those jobs, but that's not the way to grow our economy. A

leading economist even said Romney's plans to slash investments would actually push the economy back into recession.

- Please see [this new campaign video](#) on Romney's job elimination plan.
- **Romney Economics** is the same failed plan for growth now that it was in Massachusetts. Romney slashed investments in local aid, costing 14,500 teachers, cops, librarians and others their jobs. On his watch, the state ranked 47th out of 50 in job creation. Romney Economics didn't work then and it won't work now.
 - Teachers felt the system was out to get them, and it was with Romney in charge. Many feared young teachers would lose their passion and leave teaching altogether. Massachusetts classrooms got more crowded on Romney's watch.
 - Police: Fewer cops meant fewer arrests and more criminals who got away. Massachusetts cities were less safe on Romney's watch – both murder and robbery rates went up over his term.
 - Firefighters: Romney vetoed millions of dollars for the clothing, safety equipment and technology that keep firefighters alive when they run into burning buildings. He also vetoed more than \$1 million for fire education. The vetoes were so wrong that both parties in the State House and Senate overrode them unanimously.
- **President Obama** knows we need to grow our economy and jumpstart job creation by addressing weak areas identified in May's jobs report, namely public employees and construction workers. His plan would help stop those layoffs, putting teachers, cops, firefighters and construction workers back to work. It would also spur small business hiring, make job-creating investments in clean energy and help veterans find jobs.
- **Worthwhile Investments**: President Obama has always stood by those who teach our children, patrol our streets and run into burning buildings. He saved their jobs because they're important to their families and ours. It's a worthwhile investment for everyone.
 - Teachers: So far he has helped states prevent massive layoffs of more than 400,000 educators nationwide. His jobs plan would help support 325,000 more jobs for teachers in classrooms across the country.
 - Police: He's supported hiring police officers with grants and investments that help state and local law enforcement maximize their resources and encourage their best public-safety efforts. His jobs plan will keep cops on streets across the country.
 - Firefighters: He's supported hiring programs, provided safety equipment and modernized firehouses that have helped firefighters keep their jobs and stay safe. His jobs plan will keep firefighters on the job across the country.

SMALL BUSINESSES: Romney Stifled Start-Up Creation in Massachusetts and Would Do the Same as President; Romney Economics Didn't Work Then and Won't Work Now

Key Point: Mitt Romney claimed his business skills and experience would accelerate the economy, but small business activity slowed dramatically in Romney's Massachusetts. He's making identical promises this week, but independent economists have said Romney's policies would not address the crisis and could actually make the economy worse. Romney Economics didn't work then, and it won't work now.

- **Romney Economics**: This week, Mitt Romney is at a small business in Florida, claiming again that his business experience will help it and other small businesses grow. But small business activity slowed dramatically in Romney's Massachusetts. Romney Economics didn't work then and it won't work now.

- **Massachusetts Under Romney:** He failed to create an economic environment that would attract entrepreneurs and encourage small business owners to grow and hire.
 - Start-Ups Fell: Under Romney, business starts fell by 10 percent, hitting their lowest point in his last year in office – the same year he now claims his economic policies finally started working. Each year he was in office, start-up growth in Massachusetts lagged behind the national average.
 - Going Out of Business: When Romney took office, more entrepreneurs were starting small businesses than shutting them down. When he left, the opposite was true – the number of small businesses shrank during his term.
 - Symptom of Decline: The state lagged far behind the rest of the nation, ranking 47th in job growth, 44th in economic growth and 35th in household income. People fled Massachusetts and Romney’s struggling economy in droves, leading to the artificially low unemployment rate Romney brags about today.

- **Massachusetts After Romney:** The state is a now national leader in growth. Its economy has improved significantly, in stark contrast to its poor performance under Romney.
 - Start-Ups Are Rising: When the President took office, nationwide start-up creation was plummeting. He reversed the trend, and now more small businesses are being created across the country. National start-up creation went up by nearly 20,000 new businesses in the first couple years of President Obama’s term.
 - Back in Business: Massachusetts created more than 5,300 new businesses in the third quarter of 2011, which is the latest data available. Romney never achieved that much growth. Massachusetts hasn’t created that many new businesses in a quarter since the end of 2000, at the height of the tech boom.
 - Symptom of Growth: When Romney was governor, Massachusetts grew almost half as fast as the nation as a whole. But in 2011, it had the 7th fastest growing economy in the country and its GDP growth outpaced the nation as a whole.