

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Democrats have recently celebrated two very important anniversaries-- the 75th anniversary of Social Security and the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Last week, the President traveled to Wisconsin where he toured a factory supported by the Recovery Act and talked about this Administration's efforts to increase 'Made in America' manufacturing, traveled to Washington state where he talked with small business owners about this Administration's work to support small business growth and job creation, and traveled to Ohio for a kitchen table conversation about the Administration's work with middle-class American families. At the end of the week, Democratic National Committee members from around the country gathered in St. Louis to conduct important party business. In addition, the Administration continued its ongoing response to the oil spill in the Gulf and the President recently took a trip to the Gulf Coast to talk about recovery efforts with local business people.

What's Happening?

DNC Meeting in St. Louis: Last Thursday and Friday Democratic National Committee members from around the country gathered in St. Louis to conduct important party business and strategize before the midterm elections. They heard from Vice President Joe Biden, The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, and Chairman Tim Kaine on what's at stake this November. They also heard from important Missouri leaders and voted to approve the Call to the Convention and the Delegate Selection Rules, two important documents that broadly govern our presidential nominating process. These documents include important improvements to our process, including increasing by approximately 700 the number of pledged delegates elected from the states, the District of Columbia and



territories, thus increasing the proportional influence of pledged delegates at the 2012 Democratic National Convention from approximately 80 percent in 2008 to approximately 85 percent in 2012. DNC Members also voted to set the dates of the primaries and caucuses for the four states permitted to hold contests within the pre-window— Iowa on February 6, New Hampshire on February 14, Nevada on February 18, and South Carolina on February 28. The pre-window starts in February 2012, approximately one month later than in 2008.

The incredible enthusiasm at the DNC Meeting in St. Louis in November is further evidence that we are well positioned as we go full steam ahead into election season.

75th Anniversary of Social Security: August 14th was the 75th anniversary of the day President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law in 1935. In recognition of that occasion, DNC Chairman Tim Kaine and James Roosevelt, a DNC member and the grandson of President Franklin Roosevelt, held a conference call to talk about the differences between Democrats and Republicans on the issue of Social Security. Specifically, while Democrats continue to work to protect Social Security –at a time when half of all working Americans lack access to a retirement plan through their employer – Republicans continue to advocate ending Social Security as we know it. On the conference call, Chairman Kaine said:



"In seventy-five years since passage, [Social Security] has done exactly what it was intended to do, reducing the elderly poverty level. But more than the statistics, it's enabling people to live in dignity in their senior years...President Obama and Democrats across the country are very dedicated to preserving this wonderful program..."

"Many Republicans across the country and across time have been against Social Security. Both candidates and office holders right now are indicating that they support privatization, they support taking some portion of the guaranteed retirement benefit that American seniors have paid, and putting them into the same

hands of the people who drove the economy into the ditch and lost trillions of dollars from 410k plans. Many, many Republicans this election season are floating this idea...and others are trying to drum up concern around the financial soundness of Social Security in an unwarranted way and suggesting that we need to make dramatic changes...

"The Republicans advocating these changes are not friends of senior citizens. At the Democratic Party, we're celebrating this birthday and we're pledging to continue to fight to...protect Social Security against these attempts, and we will continue to highlight the Democratic Party's role in strengthening it, [and] the Republican Party's role in opposing it."

90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment: Last Wednesday was the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guarantees women the right to vote. In celebration of that anniversary, DNC Chairman Tim Kaine said:

"Ninety years ago today, a Tennessee legislator acting on the advice of his suffragist mother cast the decisive vote in favor of ratification – tipping the balance in the Tennessee legislature and giving suffragists the final state needed to certify the 19th Amendment. In the nine decades since, women have made incredible strides toward equality...but unfortunately, inequality among the genders persists. That is why it is more important today than ever that women – and all Americans – exercise their hard-won right to vote.

"President Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress have fought to level the playing field for women by enacting new laws upholding the principle of equal pay for equal work, by fighting for policies that make it easier for parents to balance work and family, by combating gender-based inequalities in our health system, and by making government more responsive to women's concerns. But Republicans have opposed the progress enacted by Democrats, and they have pledged to defeat Democratic Congressional leaders who have been advocates for women's equality in this fall's elections. We cannot allow that to happen.

"On this 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, I urge women – and all Americans –not only to celebrate the history of women's suffrage and the progress our country has made since its founding in extending civil and voting rights to all eligible Americans without regard for race or gender, but also to get out there and make use of their vote to ensure that women's progress continues unabated."



Talking About Manufacturing in Wisconsin: Last Monday, President Obama traveled to Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, where he visited the ZBB Energy Corporation factory. The ZBB Energy Corporation, which manufactures technologically advanced batteries that allow consumers to bank alternative energy – like solar energy – for later use, has received \$1.3 million in Recovery Act State Energy Program loans. Those loans have helped to pay for a major factory renovation that has tripled ZBB Energy's manufacturing capacity. In time, that increased capacity will lead to the hiring of 80 additional workers. Speaking at the factory, President Obama talked about the importance of building up our nation's 'Made in America' manufacturing capabilities. The President said:

"There are folks in Washington right now who think we should abandon our efforts to support clean energy. They've made the political calculation that it's better to stand on the sidelines than work as a team to help American businesses and American workers...They said no to rebuilding infrastructure. And they said no to clean energy projects. They even voted against getting rid of tax breaks for shipping jobs overseas so we could give those tax breaks to companies that are investing right here in Wisconsin.

"And my answer to people who have playing politics the past year and a half is, they should come to this plant. They should go to any of the dozen new battery factories, or the new electrical vehicle manufacturers, or the new wind turbine makers, or the solar plants that are popping up all over this country, and they should have to explain why they think these clean energy jobs are better off being made in Germany or China or Spain, instead of right here in the United States.

"See, when folks lift up the hoods on the cars of the future, I want them to see engines stamped 'Made in America.' When new batteries to store solar power come off the line, I want to see printed on the side, 'Made in America.' When new technologies are developed and new industries are formed, I want them made right here in America. That's what we're fighting for. That's what this is about."

Talking About Small Businesses in Seattle: Last Tuesday, President Obama was joined by Senator Patty Murray and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke at a roundtable discussion with three small business owners in Seattle, Washington. At that roundtable, President Obama emphasized the importance of small businesses as job creators and as an essential part of the American economy, and discussed this Administration's efforts to help small businesses to survive and thrive during these difficult times. In his remarks following that discussion, the President highlighted the steps his Administration has already taken to support small businesses, and he called on Republicans in Congress to join with Democrats to do even more to support those critical job creating enterprises. The President said:

"When I took office, we put in place an economic plan to help small businesses...At its heart was a simple idea: While government can't guarantee their success, government can knock down the barriers that stand in the way and help create the conditions to help small businesses grow and to hire.

"And that's why we've passed eight tax cuts for America's small businesses. Tax cuts for hiring unemployed workers. Tax cuts for investing in new equipment. As part of health insurance reform, 4 million small business owners recently received a postcard in their mailboxes telling them that they could be eligible for a health care tax credit worth perhaps tens of thousands of dollars...

"These steps and others are making some difference. But...it's clear that we've got to do more. And that's why I'm urging the Senate once again to approve a jobs bill that will do two big things for small businesses: cut more taxes and make available more loans...So when Congress reconvenes, this jobs bill will be the first business out of the gate, and I ask Senate Republicans to drop their efforts to block it. I believe we can work together to get this done for the folks standing beside me, and for small businesses, their employees, and communities that depend on them all across the country."

A Kitchen Table Conversation in Ohio: Last Wednesday, President Obama visited with families in Columbus, Ohio and took their questions regarding the work that the Administration has been doing to rebuild the American economy and get our country back on track. In that conversation, one Ohio firefighter thanked the President for this Administration's efforts to increase funding for fire departments across the country; an Ohio woman asked about what kinds of benefits the Affordable Care Act would have for her disabled brother; and a health care worker asked about what the President is doing to protect and strengthen Medicare. The President answered all their questions, and also addressed a few of the Administration's accomplishments more generally. The President said:

"One of the ways that I stay in touch is through events like this, as well as reading letters from constituents and voters all across the country every night. And obviously what's on a lot of people's minds right now is the economy. We went through the worst recession that we've had since the Great Depression. And when



I was sworn in about 18 months ago, we had already lost several million jobs and we were about to lose several million more. We lost 800,000 jobs the month I was sworn in. And so we had to act fast and take some emergency steps to prevent the economy from going back into what could have been a Great Depression.

"And we were successful in doing so. We stabilized the economy; we stabilized the financial system. We didn't have a complete meltdown. And whereas we were losing jobs in the private sector when I was first sworn in, we're now gaining

jobs, and we've gained jobs seven consecutive months in the private sector. The economy was shrinking about 6 percent; the economy is now growing. So we've made progress. But...we can't go back to doing things the way we were doing them before. We've got to go forward. That's what we're trying to do. And hopefully as we continue over the next several months and the next several years, we're going to see a Columbus and an Ohio and a United States of America that is going to be stronger than it was before this crisis struck. I am absolutely confident of that. But we've got more work to do."

Ongoing Response to the Oil Spill: President Obama recently visited the Gulf Coast, where he talked with small business owners and Navy Secretary Ray Mabus about the ongoing recovery efforts in the area. After his roundtable discussion with those small business owners, the President said:

"The well is capped. Oil is no longer flowing into the Gulf. It has not been flowing for a month. [But] I'm here to tell you that our job is not finished and we are not going anywhere until it is. That's the message



that I wanted to come here and deliver directly to the people along the Gulf Coast -- because it's the men and women of this region who have felt the burden of this disaster. They watched with anger and dismay as their livelihoods and their way of life was threatened these past few months. And that's why I made a commitment in my visits here that I was going to stand with you not just until the well was closed, not just until the oil was cleaned up, but until you had fully recovered from the damage that's been done. And that is a commitment that my Administration is going to keep."

To that end, the Administration is continuing to direct efforts to contain and clean up the BP oil spill, help the people of the Gulf Coast, and guarantee that all those affected by the spill are compensated for their losses. Nearly 30,000 personnel continue to work to protect the shoreline and the Gulf Coast environment. In addition, more than 4,000 vessels and dozens of aircraft are assisting in containment and cleanup efforts. Approximately 2.25 million feet of containment boom and 8.8 million feet of sorbent boom have been deployed to contain the spill, and more than 34 million gallons of an oil-water mix have been recovered.

[Holding Republicans Accountable](#)

Five Things to Know: Recently, the DNC sent emails to voters in five states highlighting five things they need to know about their Republican Senate candidates: Richard Burr, Rob Portman, Rand Paul, Dan Coats, and Roy Blunt.

For example, the email to North Carolina voters noted that Republican Senator Richard Burr has "received \$432,102 in campaign contributions from oil and gas interests to date -- and has said that we have 'no option' but to continue pursuing offshore drilling." Similarly, the email to Indiana voters noted that Republican Senate candidate Dan Coats "wants to repeal health insurance reform that will expand coverage options for an additional 508,000 Indiana residents." And the email to Ohio voters said that Republican Senate candidate Rob Portman "was a key supporter of George Bush's plan to privatize Social Security, saying that Bush 'demonstrated political courage and leadership on this issue.'" In addition, the emails to voters in Kentucky and Missouri highlighted the extreme positions of Rand Paul and Roy Blunt, respectively.

Wherever you live, look for more emails like these detailing the extreme positions of Republican candidates in your state in between now and the November elections. We know Republicans are out of touch with hard-working Americans, and we're going to make sure American voters know it too.

[Organizing for America](#)

Commit to Vote: President Obama is asking Organizing for America supporters to commit to vote in this fall's elections. In his email to supporters, the President said:

"Eighteen years ago, shortly after graduating from law school, I helped lead a voter registration campaign in Chicago that generated record turnout on Election Day. That experience taught me one of the most important lessons I ever learned as a community organizer: When people promise that they'll do something -- like voting -- they are far more likely to do it. That's why one key part of our Vote 2010 plan this year is to get folks like you from across the country to commit to vote, to make sure we get as many people as we can to cast their ballots this fall. But getting the commitments we need starts with your own promise to make it to the polls and cast your ballot. Will you please commit to vote in the 2010 elections?"

You can commit to vote this year and find out more about what you can do to help elect and reelect the President's allies by visiting <http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/commit-to-vote-min/?source=HQB>.

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

Talking Points: Relief for Small Businesses

- Small businesses have historically created two-thirds of all new American jobs, and they are a vital part of the American economy and our economic recovery. That's why the President has called for a number of measures that will make it easier for small enterprises to get off the ground, grow, and hire new workers.

- The President's proposals are built on the idea that although government can't guarantee an entrepreneur's success, it can help to remove some of the barriers to business creation and expansion, like the lack of affordable credit. And although government isn't able to replace the millions of jobs that disappeared in the recession, it can support the conditions that enable small businesses to hire additional workers, through tax breaks and other measures.
- This Administration has cut taxes for small businesses no less than eight times. They passed an economic plan that has already supported more than 70,000 loans for small businesses. And they waived fees on new SBA loans to help business owners save money. Those loans and additional savings helped small business owners to get the capital they needed to invest in and build their businesses.
- Under the jobs bill enacted by the President last March, businesses that hire unemployed workers are eligible for tax cuts, and businesses that invest in new equipment are able to write those investments off. And as a result of health insurance reform, 4 million small business owners have received a postcard informing them that they may be eligible for a health care tax credit that could be worth tens of thousands of dollars this year.
- But there's still more that government can do to help small businesses. So President Obama is pressing Congress to quickly approve additional tax breaks and lending incentives for small businesses – measures that will boost growth and job creation.
- If the legislation the President is supporting is passed, small businesses will see new benefits immediately. The legislation Congress is considering does away with capital gains taxes for critical investments in small enterprises, increases the deductions that small businesses can claim for investments and expenses, and increases the availability of credit.
- Despite Republicans' history of partisanship and obstructionism, they should be able to join with Democrats to provide this critical relief for American small businesses. Those businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy and they are at the forefront of the economic recovery – it is simply imperative that this legislation pass.