



November 22, 2013

A Big Week for Big Data

This week, the Obama Campaign announced it will transfer crucial data to the DNC, allowing our organization to improve its technological tools and voter file, making outreach even more effective. See below, for DNC Director of Technology, Andrew Brown's response to this exciting news:

This has been a big week for data and technology in the Democratic Party. The DNC, our candidates, and state parties are now getting access to new data assets that the Obama campaign built to help win the 2012 election. This is great news and yet another way that our party is building on our technological lead over Republicans.

While we're getting access to new data, the way we'll apply it isn't new. In both 2008 and 2012, the DNC worked hand-in-hand with the Obama campaign to create the tools that collected and analyzed information about volunteers, supporters, and donors, and helped them run the most data-driven campaign to date.

And our commitment to technology innovation didn't begin with electing President Obama. In 2005, we committed to build the Democratic Party in all 50 states and equip everyone with the know-how, tools, and data needed to win campaigns. That's exactly what we did in the run-up to 2008, and we haven't taken our foot off the pedal since.

In the past year, we've been working overtime and making investments to adapt the tools and strategies used in 2012 to prepare for campaigns of all sizes for 2014.

We did a trial run with campaigns in 2013, and the results speak for themselves. We won the Virginia governor's race, and will for the first time in more than forty years hold all five statewide offices in that pivotal battleground state. Bill de Blasio is the first Democratic mayor of New York City in a generation, and Cory Booker has already been sworn in and begun to serve people of New Jersey in the U.S. Senate.

These campaigns were able to hit the ground running with the tools and information they needed to make smart, data-driven decisions from Day One. And because they worked hand-in-hand with the DNC, the experience and lessons they learned will go into making those tools even better as we work to make them available to campaigns up and down the ticket in 2014.

We look forward to integrating the Obama campaign data into our systems and continuing to work with all our state parties to use information to run smarter, more effective campaigns.

2014 is going to be a great year to run as Democrat. We have a winning message of fighting for middle class Americans and the cutting-edge tools to deliver that message to the voters.

Andrew Brown,
Director of Technology

[DNC Releases Videos in English and Spanish to Press GOP on Immigration Reform](#)

On Wednesday, the DNC released a set of videos in Spanish and English highlighting Republican inaction on immigration reform.

The videos emphasize the lack of political will from the Republican Party to make any progress on immigration reform. Speaker John Boehner has said publicly, he has “no intention, ever” on going to conference on the Senate’s bill that would tighten our border security, provide a pathway to citizenship for those living in our country, improve our legal immigration system, and grow our GDP by \$1.7 trillion over the next 20 years.

Watch the videos below, and click [here](#) to read the Politico write up.

Spanish Video:



English Video:



[How Obamacare Is Working In Pennsylvania](#)

While [politicians in Washington continue to point fingers over Obamacare](#), folks in Pennsylvania are seeing the benefits of the law. In the past week, here are some of the stories we've seen.

- In Lackawanna County, after years of denials because of his pre-existing condition, [a self-employed contractor now has better health care coverage](#) for less money thanks to Obamacare.
- In Philadelphia, [Obamacare has cut a diabetic small businesswoman's monthly premiums by \\$500](#) – and that's before she factors in the tax credits.
- In Pittsburgh, [a South Side man has benefited twice from Obamacare](#) – first with high-risk coverage, then with lower-cost coverage through the exchange.

But if [Pat Toomey](#) and [Republicans in the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation](#) had their way, **this would all go away**. Their gut, block, and repeal strategy on Obamacare would take us back to a broken system where people would be denied coverage due to preexisting conditions, women could be charged more than men for the same coverage, and people could be kicked off their plans just for getting sick.

With Obamacare here to stay, it's only a matter of time until more Pennsylvanians – and more Americans – have stories just like these....

[WBRE: Self-Employed Pennsylvanian 'Very Happy' with ACA's 'Better Coverage'](#)



[NBC 10: ACA Helps Diabetic Small Business Owner Lower Health Costs](#)



[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: South Side man living proof that new federal health insurance exchange site can work](#)

“Joseph Lucas is a South Side house painter who has spent much of his adult life without health insurance coverage. ... Three years after dropping coverage, on Oct. 10, 2010, he was hospitalized with an aortic aneurysm. Eleven days after that, he was given his discharge papers and a hospital bill for \$69,000. He was also given, going forward, a pre-existing condition in the eyes of health insurers. ... **That's when he learned about the provision of the 2010 Affordable Care Act that created a new 'high-risk' insurance plan, meant to provide coverage for uninsured people with pre-existing health conditions.** ... 'I'm not very computer-savvy,' Mr. Lucas said, and navigating the healthcare.gov website took him time over a few days. ... Mr. Lucas had a choice of more than 30 plans from Highmark, UPMC Health Plan and HealthAmerica, he said. Ultimately, he selected a 'silver-level' plan from Highmark. After a federal tax credit of \$233 a month is factored in, his coverage will cost **about \$150 a month** -- a great price, he said, for a 50-year-old man with an aortic condition. ... **The Affordable Care Act benefited him twice, he says, first with the high-risk coverage, then with the health exchange and the new rules that say policies offered on the exchange can't account for a person's health.**”

The 5 Stages of GOP Shutdown Grief

Since the GOP shutdown the government last month, Republicans have continually changed their spin. First they cheered it, then claimed the President was responsible, later admitted it was their doing, and finally promised to not do it again before reversing course and saying the whole thing was worth it.

Why do Republicans keep changing their story? Because they know how toxic it's going to be with voters going into the 2014 elections, and that despite the GOP's singular focus on gutting and misrepresenting Obamacare, the American people still oppose repealing the law.

Here's a quick rundown of the five stages of grief that Republicans have so far gone through trying to justify and explain their government shutdown that cost the economy \$24 billion.

Stage One:

The government shutdown is the right thing to do, we're excited about it.

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN): "We're very excited," "It's exactly what we wanted, and we got it."
[Washington Post, [9/28/13](#)]

Rep. John Abney Culberson (R-Tex.): "It's wonderful" [Washington Post, [9/28/13](#)]

Stage Two:

Contrary to all evidence, we didn't shut down the government President Obama and the Democrats shut down the government!

Headline: "Tea Party Republicans blame Obama for the shutdown they planned" [Los Angeles Times, [10/7/13](#)]

Stage Three:

Ok, we tried to shut down the government. We know it was a dumb idea, we promise we won't do it again.

Headline: "GOP's McConnell promises no more shutdowns over ObamaCare" [The Hill, [10/17/13](#)]

Stage Four:

Actually, the shutdown was "absolutely" worth it.

Sen. Ted Cruz was asked last week if the government shutdown was worth it, his answer— "*absolutely*".
[Washington Post, [11/14/13](#)]

Stage Five:

It only "appeared" like we participated in the government shutdown.

Sen. Rand Paul: "Even though it did appear as if I was participating in it, I said it was a dumb idea." [Fox News, [11/18/13](#)]

[Weekly Address: Progress in America's Energy Future](#)

Last Friday, President Obama discussed America's energy future in his [weekly address](#). It was recently announced that America is producing more domestic oil than buying foreign oil for the first time in almost twenty years. The President highlighted the fact that America has seen improvements partly because we are wasting less energy and lowering our carbon emissions. With the production of more energy in America, the economy continues to grow.



[VP, DNC Chair in Panama and Houston](#)

This week, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz joined Vice President Joe Biden on his trip to ports in Houston, TX and Panama City, Panama.

On Monday, the delegation visited the Port of Houston, where the Vice President discussed the need for our country to investing in infrastructure to improve America's competitiveness and strengthen our economy. On Tuesday, they toured the Panama Canal expansion project, which is set to double the capacity of the canal and spark job creation back home in America.

At the Canal, Vice President Biden explained the importance of the project to those working on the expansion.

He said, "What you're doing here today, and what my colleagues and I are witnessing, is going to change global commerce. It's shifting once again. A new generation of massive vessels, known as post-Panamax ships, are able to carry twice or even three times as many containers as what has come before. These ships are wider, longer, and their drafts are deeper.

"I just looked at 'the old Canal.' It can accommodate a 106-foot-wide ship. The Canal being built here will accommodate 160-foot-wide ships. The arrival of these new ships presents an opportunity for countries to transport goods more cheaply than ever before."

While in Panama, the Vice President also met with President Ricardo Martinelli of Panama, and laid a wreath at Corozal American Cemetery and Memorial to honor U.S. military members who died in service to the United States.

In the States

- This week, Albuquerque voters rejected an extreme abortion ban that would restrict women's access to healthcare and insert the government into personal decisions that should be between a woman and her doctor. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz applauded the results [saying](#), "The measure put before Albuquerque voters was unnecessarily restrictive, making no exception even in cases of rape or incest, and inserting government in a very private and personal health decision best left to a woman, her family, and her doctor." Democrats in New Mexico had even more to celebrate after flipping the city council back in their control.
- In Louisiana, Louisiana Democratic Party Chair, State Senator Karen Carter Peterson [wrote an op-ed](#) criticizing Governor Bobby Jindal for putting politics ahead of people by rejecting the expansion of Medicaid. Louisiana would have saved \$100 million during the fiscal year and insured thousands of residents that badly need the coverage. You can read the op-ed [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party Communications Director Harrell Kirstein released a [statement](#) on Senate Republicans' refusal to compromise and expand Medicaid in the state. Kirstein said, "Senator Morse failed the people of New Hampshire today. His refusal to compromise is costing 58,000 Granite Staters access to affordable health insurance. Despite clear evidence that Medicaid Expansion would boost the economy, create jobs, save the state of New Hampshire money, and strengthen the economic and health security of thousands of working New Hampshire families – Senate Republicans took a page from Ted Cruz's play book, sided with the Tea Party and refused to work out a solution."
- In Michigan, the Democratic Party [called out](#) U.S. Senate Candidate Terri Lynn Land for saying that the decision to re-open the government was "a mistake." Land and her fellow Tea Party members cost Michigan millions of dollars in taxpayer money during the shutdown. Land has also held zero campaign events in Michigan, relying on money from the DC Tea Party establishment to fund her campaign.