

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

September 30, 2011

This week, President Obama continued his travels to talk about the American Jobs Act, going to Denver to highlight the positive impact of the bill, which would put more Americans back to work with jobs rebuilding and modernizing America's schools. The President also delivered his third annual Back-to-School Speech at a local high school in Washington, D.C., as students across the country begin their school year. The Democratic National Committee hit Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney for his ties to Donald Trump in a new web video released on Monday. The DNC also wrapped up the week by announcing new Spanish language TV ads that will run this weekend in Denver and Las Vegas and which call out Republicans for saying "no" to President Obama's policies and the American Jobs Act, which would get more Americans working again and put more money back into the pockets of small businesses and middle class families, including Hispanics. Additionally, as the Republican candidates for president continued to crisscross the country and raise money, the DNC and Democratic state parties were hot on their trail – holding events and conference calls and releasing statements on the GOP field's disastrous policies and lack of vision in moving our nation forward. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz appeared on CBS News' "Face the Nation," where she discussed a number of issues and continued to hold Republicans accountable for their failed policies.

DNC Releases Web Video Linking Donald Trump, Mitt Romney

On Monday, in advance of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's scheduled meeting with Donald Trump, the Democratic National Committee released a web video, "Trump, Romney; 'You're Fired'" highlighting the comparisons between the two men. In the video, the narrator notes that "Both support an economic plan that would help out the richest and the big corporations, but not the middle class," and that both would "slash Social Security" and "end Medicare as we know it." The video ends with Trump saying his trademark "You're fired" line to the pair.

To watch the DNC's new web video, you can go [here](#).

President Obama Promotes American Jobs Act During Visit to Denver School

On Tuesday, the President paid a visit to Abraham Lincoln High School in Denver, Colorado, where he spoke about the American Jobs Act, which will get more Americans back to work by modernizing, rebuilding and repairing schools across America. The President said:

"Look, pass this jobs bill, and right here in Colorado, thousands of construction workers will have a job again. This is one of the most common-sense ideas out there. All over the country there are roads and bridges and schools just like Lincoln that are in need of repair. One of the reasons we



came here was this is the fastest-growing school in one of the fastest-growing school districts in Colorado.

"So Lincoln has been adding new AP courses and new language courses, and the wonderful principal and administrators here have been making sure -- and the teachers here have been making sure that kids have upgraded computers and learning software that's necessary to prepare all of you students for the jobs and the economy of the future. But you know what? Things like science labs take money to upgrade. The science labs here at Lincoln High were built decades ago, back in the '60s. I don't know if you've noticed, but science and technology has changed a little bit since the 1960s. The world has changed a little bit since the 1960s. So we need to do everything we can to prepare our kids to compete. We need to do everything we can to make sure our students can compete with any students, anywhere in the world. And every child deserves a great school -- and we can give it to them.

"We can rebuild our schools for the 21st century, with faster Internet, and smarter labs, and cutting-edge technology. And that won't just create a better learning environment for students -- it will create good jobs for local construction workers right here in Denver, and all across Colorado, and all across the country. There are schools all throughout Colorado in need of renovation."

To watch video of the President's speech in Denver, you can go [here](#).

President Obama Delivers Third Annual Back-to-School Speech at Washington, D.C. School

As students across the country begin their school year, President Obama delivered his third annual Back-to-School Speech on Wednesday at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C. The President, joined by



Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, spoke directly to students during his remarks, where he said:

"The point is you don't have to wait to make a difference. You're first obligation is to do well in school. You're first obligation is to make sure that you're preparing yourself for college and career. But you can also start making your mark right now. A lot of times young people may have better ideas than us old people do anyway. We just

need those ideas out in the open, in and out of the classroom.

"When I meet young people like yourselves, when I sat and talk to Donae, I have no doubt that America's best days are still ahead of us, because I know the potential that lies in each of you. Soon enough, you will be the ones leading our businesses and leading our government. You will be the ones who are making sure that the next generation gets what they need to succeed. You will be the ones that are charting the course of our unwritten history. And all that starts right now -- starts this year.

"So I want all of you who are listening, as well as everybody here at Banneker, I want you to make the most of the year that's ahead of you. I want you to think of this time as one in which you are just loading

up with information and skills, and you're trying new things and you're practicing, and you're honing -- all those things that you're going to need to do great things when you get out of school.

"Your country is depending on you. So set your sights high. Have a great school year. Let's get to work."

You can watch video of the President's Back-to-School Speech [here](#).

DNC Unveils New Spanish Language TV Ads

On Friday, DNC Hispanic Caucus Vice Chair Andres Ramirez and Colorado Democratic Party Chairman Rick Palacio held a press conference call announcing the DNC's new Spanish-language ads, which are launching this weekend in Denver, Colorado and Las Vegas, Nevada. The new ads blast Republicans for saying "no" to President Obama's policies and the American Jobs Act, which would get more Americans back to work and put more money back into the pockets of small businesses and middle class families, including the Hispanic community.

Following the call, Chairman Palacio released a statement saying:

"The new DNC ads are an opportunity to highlight what's at stake in this election for Hispanics and all Americans, and the importance of passing President Obama's American Jobs Act. The President believes that we must take action to support the hard working families that drive our nation's prosperity and growth. But in the meantime, Republicans are doing their very best to stop President Obama's efforts. Not because they want to do what's best for the country, but because they want a political victory. These are the same Republicans who have given too much control of their party to the far-right elements of the GOP and the Tea Party – and their policies are just not right for Hispanics."

Vice Chair Ramirez also released the following statement:

"The contrast between the Republican field and President Obama is simple, yet daunting. Hispanic Americans will choose next November between a President who passed legislation to keep hundreds of thousands of Latinos out of poverty, expanded educational opportunities for Hispanic students, and fought to pass comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act and a Republican field whose leading candidates oppose the DREAM Act and a path to citizenship for immigrants and would cut funding for education, end Medicare as we know it, and slash Social Security. The American Jobs Act, which is mentioned in the new DNC ad, is the perfect example of the problem that Republicans face with Hispanics. Latino families are working hard every day to meet their responsibilities, and the American Jobs Act is an opportunity to put more Americans back to work. The question is whether Republicans will put people ahead of politics."

You can watch the DNC's new Spanish language TV ad [here](#).

Holding Republicans Accountable

On Sunday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz appeared on "Face the Nation" on CBS News, where she faced off against Republican National Committee Chair Reince Priebus. The two spoke with host Bob Schieffer about a range of topics, including President Obama's recent speech at the Congressional Black Caucus awards dinner and the current field of 2012 Republican presidential candidates.

Additionally, Democratic State Parties across the country continued to push back this week against the Republican presidential candidates and their failed policies. On Tuesday, as Rick Perry headed to Baltimore, Maryland for a fundraiser, the Maryland Democratic Party held a press conference call discussing Perry's disastrous record on education and a whole host of issues – a record of policies that have hurt the middle class, seniors and students while protecting millionaires and billionaires.

On Wednesday, while Republican candidate Mitt Romney traveled to New Hampshire to participate in a town hall event, the New Hampshire Democratic Party held a press conference with the Manchester City Democrats Chair in front of Romney's town hall to highlight a series of recent flip flops by the former Massachusetts governor. In

conjunction with these efforts, the New Hampshire Young Democrats kicked off a campaign to collect flip-flop sandals in honor of Romney's ever-changing positions.

That same day, in response to Rick Perry's fundraising trip to Tennessee to raise campaign dollars in Memphis and Knoxville, Tennessee Democratic Party Chairman Chip Forrester released a statement, which said:

"Rick Perry won't be shy today about applauding his own record in Texas. But what he won't tell you is the truth about what his administration has meant for middle-class Texans. When it comes to delivering for middle-class families, this cowboy is all hat and no cattle."

On Thursday, the North Carolina Democratic Party continued the effort to hold Rick Perry accountable for his failed policies. While the Texas Governor visited Charlotte for a fundraiser, state Democratic Party Chair David Parker released the following statement on Perry's abysmal record:

"Despite his poor taste in Barbecue, Rick Perry should feel right at home with the extreme agenda of Thom Tillis, Pat McCrory and the rest of the North Carolina Republicans. Rick Perry endorsed the Tea Party Republicans' plan to end Medicare, slash resources for K-12 education and eliminate hundreds of thousands of jobs. When it comes to economic policies that erode middle class security, Rick Perry is in lockstep with Thom Tillis, Pat McCrory and the rest of the Republicans who want to turn back the clock on North Carolina.

"Rick Perry is just another Texas governor ready to recycle the very same failed economic ideas that have caused average Americans to work harder and harder and fall further behind. Just like Bush and the Republicans, Perry has doggedly pursued the tired idea that says if we just give those at the top a little more, everyone will benefit. We've seen how this movie ends: huge corporate profits, good jobs shipped overseas and the middle class falling further behind."

Finally, in response to Governor Perry's "major policy speech" in Atlanta on Friday, the Democratic Party of Georgia held a press conference discussing the flawed economic and educational policies of the Texas Governor, and the negative impact those policies would have on middle-class families in Georgia and across the country. The press conference featured three Georgia residents: State Senator Curt B. Thompson, teacher TJ Copeland, and small business owner Runako Godfrey.

Key Issues in the News and Background

Talking Points: American Jobs Act – Modernizing America's Schools

- President Obama paid a visit on Tuesday to Abraham Lincoln High School in Denver, Colorado, where he spoke about the American Jobs Act, which will get more Americans working again by modernizing, rebuilding and repairing schools across America. The American Jobs Act will grow the economy by getting more Americans back to work and putting more money back into the pockets of working folks.
- During his visit, the President said, "We have a lot to do to make sure everyone in this country gets a fair shake, a fair shot, and a chance to get ahead. That's the number one thing I think about each day – your lives. Your opportunities. That should be the number one thing every public servant in Washington thinks about. There is so much we could all accomplish together if we can finally get Washington to act – if we can get folks in that city to stop worrying so much about their jobs and start worrying more about yours. That's why I sent Congress the American Jobs Act."
- The American Jobs Act makes a \$25 billion investment in national school infrastructure, leading to the modernization of at least 35,000 public schools.
 - The priority will be on schools in need. To this end, 40% of the funds will go to the 100 biggest high-need public school districts.
- Through the American Jobs Act, the state of Colorado could end up receiving as much as \$265,100,000 for K-12 schools, supporting up to 3,400 jobs.
 - The Denver County School District could end up receiving as much as \$75.5 million in funding.

- The bill also makes a \$5 billion investment in modernizing our nation’s community colleges, improving their infrastructure and enabling them to continue to serve our students and our local communities for generations to come.
 - Colorado’s community colleges could end up receiving \$57,500,000 in funds during the next fiscal year.
- The American Jobs Act provides funding not just for repairs and renovations to our nation’s schools, but also for badly needed infrastructure rebuilding projects across the country that are ready to get started now and that will put hundreds of thousands of Americans back to work.
- There are millions of out-of-work construction workers willing to take these jobs, so Congress should help them by passing the American Jobs Act now.
- Here’s how the American Jobs Act works:
 - First, **it gives a tax cut to small businesses**, not large corporations, that expand and hire more employees now, and it provides a tax cut to small businesses that decide to raise salaries for current workers.
 - Second, **it gets Americans back to work**, including our nation’s first responders, veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as many as 280,000 teachers who were laid off due to state budget cuts, and hundreds of thousands of construction workers who will repair our crumbling infrastructure and make badly needed renovations to more than 35,000 public schools. These are projects chosen based on their necessity and their impact, not on special interests or political influence. It also increases employment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of low-income young people and adults via a new Pathways Back to Work Fund, which provides resources for: summer and full-year jobs for young Americans, newly designed job training programs to quickly place low-income workers in jobs, and vetted programs encouraging employers to hire disadvantaged workers.
 - Third, **it aids Americans who are out of work**, by extending unemployment benefits that provide families a lifeline as they seek new employment, and by offering a reformed system with programs that build new skills, connect unemployed Americans with actual jobs, and provide needed assistance to those who have been out of work long-term. It also prevents companies from discriminating against out-of-work Americans in hiring and offers a tax credit to companies who hire those who have been unemployed for more than 6 months.
 - Fourth, **it helps everyday Americans keep more of their hard-earned money**, by slashing in half the payroll tax that is taken out of every employee’s paycheck – this will save working families \$1,500 per year, on average. It also eliminates existing barriers in the current federal refinancing program, the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP), allowing more Americans to refinance their mortgages at historically low rates, keep their homes and save their money.
 - Finally, **the plan won’t increase the deficit and is fully paid for**, as the President has instructed the Congressional Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction to do additional deficit reduction to cover the cost of the bill. If the committee fails to do so, the bill will be paid for by a range of offsets, including:
 - 1) Eliminating subsidies and special tax breaks to Big Oil. Even oil and gas company executives have admitted that there is little genuine need for these breaks, with high gas prices already driving the industry’s success.
 - 2) Limiting tax benefits for high-income Americans – households making over \$250,000 and individuals making over \$200,000 – to 28% of their income. This ensures that our tax code is fair for all Americans, not just our nation’s wealthiest individuals.

- 3) Abolishing the carried interest loophole. This ensures that some hedge fund and other investment managers who had been paying a lower tax rate due to a loophole will now pay an ordinary tax on their income, just like other middle and working class Americans.
- 4) Eliminating the corporate jet loophole. This closes the special loophole that currently allows corporate jets to be depreciated 2 years faster than standard commercial airliners, moving it back from 5 years to 7 years.
 - Americans know the recession and our national economic crisis did not occur overnight, and we won't have it solved overnight either. Middle class Americans have watched their economic security erode for decades.
 - President Obama believes that merely recovering from our economic crisis is not enough. We need to rebuild the economy the American way, through a balanced and fair approach that ensures Wall Street and Main Street are playing by the same set of rules – where honest, hard work is rewarded and folks who game the system are penalized.
 - The American Jobs Act is about rebuilding the economy for the long haul, producing the jobs of the future. We need to make sure Washington is not living beyond its means, so that we can make smart investments in small business innovation, education, and American-made products that will sell in the global economy – rather than outsourcing jobs, allowing for costly loopholes, and making reckless fiscal deals at the expense of America's middle class.
 - Ordinary Americans work hard every single day to pay their bills and meet their responsibilities – now, the question is whether or not Washington will do the same.
 - President Obama has emphasized that it's time for Congress to do its part – rather than paying lip service to our nation's job creators, Congress should actually help them right now by passing the American Jobs Act and putting more Americans back to work.

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Talking Points: Anwar al-Awlaki

- This morning, Anwar al-Awlaki – a leader of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula – was killed in Yemen. Awlaki's death is a blow to al Qaeda's most active operational affiliate- a group that is a serious threat to the United States, our allies and partners, and the Yemeni people.
- As the leader of external operations for al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Awlaki took a lead role in plotting and directing attempts to murder innocent Americans and was directly tied to several attempted terrorist attacks on the United States. For example, he was behind the failed attempt to blow up U.S. cargo planes in 2010. He also repeatedly called on persons in the United States and around the world to kill innocent people in an attempt to advance a murderous agenda.
- Anwar al-Awlaki's death is another significant milestone in the broader effort to defeat al Qaeda and its partner organizations. This success is a tribute to the efforts of Yemen and its security forces, who've worked closely with the United States over the last few years.
- Anwar al-Awlaki and his organization are responsible for the deaths of many Yemeni civilians. Even though Awlaki cast himself as an Islamic cleric, his victims were overwhelmingly Muslim. Muslims, and people of all faiths, have rejected his hateful ideology and targeting of innocent civilians. He was killed because the government and people of Yemen joined the international community in a common effort against al Qaeda.
- Although weakened, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula remains a dangerous terrorist organization. We will remain vigilant against any threats to the United States and our allies and partners. But make no mistake- today is further proof that al Qaeda and its partners will find no safe haven, no matter where they are in the world.

Below are names of terrorists removed from the battlefield as the result of CT operations by the United States and/or its partners around the globe

August 2009:

- Baitullah Mahsud, a leader of Tehrik e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) killed in Pakistan

September 2009

- Noordin Muhammad Top, JI operational planner, killed in Indonesia
- Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan , AQ in East Africa (AQEA) planner, killed in Somalia

December 2009

- Saleh al-Somali and 'Abdallah Sa'id, AQ operational commanders, killed in Pakistan

February 2010

- Abdul Ghani Berader, Taliban deputy and military commander, captured in Pakistan
- Muhammad Haqqani, Haqqani network commander, killed in Pakistan
- Qari Zafar, Lashkar-e Jhangvi leader, killed in Pakistan

March 2010

- Hussein al-Yemeni, AQ operative, killed in Pakistan
- Dulmatin, a senior JI operative believed to have been involved in the 2002 bombings in Bali, was killed during a raid in Indonesia.

April 2010

- Abu Ayyub al-Masri and Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, AQI leaders, killed in Iraq

May 2010

- Mustafa Abu al-Yazid aka Shakyh Sa'id al-Masri, AQ senior leader, killed in Pakistan

June 2010

- Hamza al-Jawfi, AQ commander, killed in Pakistan

May 2011

- Usama Bin Ladin, AQ leader, killed in Abbottabad, Pakistan

June 2011

- Ilyas Kashmiri, AQ senior commander, killed in Pakistan.
- Ammar al-Wa'ili, Abu Ali al-Harithi, and Ali Saleh Farhan, AQAP senior operatives, killed in Yemen.
- Harun Fazul, Al-Qa'ida in East Africa senior leader, killed in Somalia.

August 2011

- 'Atiyah 'Abd al-Rahman , AQ senior leader, killed in Pakistan.

September 2011

- Yunis al-Mauritani, AQ external operations commander, arrested in Pakistan.
- Abu Hafs al Shahri, AQ chief operations officer, killed in Pakistan

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