

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

June 8, 2012

On Monday, President Obama discussed the importance of the Paycheck Fairness Act. On Tuesday, Senate Republicans turned their backs on America's women and voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act, and President Obama released a statement. On Wednesday, Vice President Biden met with a group of leaders from colleges and universities across the country to discuss college affordability. On Thursday, President Obama traveled to the University of Nevada in Las Vegas to discuss his "Income Based Repayment" (IBR) plan for the repayment of student loans.

This week, Obama for America released a thirty-second ad called "Jobs," and a web video, "The Romney Campaign's Double Standard." On Tuesday, the DNC held a press conference in Fort Worth, Texas with Tarrant County Democratic Party Chairman Steve Maxwell and Executive Director Keith Annis highlighting Romney failed economic record. Additionally, on Tuesday, Karl Rove's SuperPAC released an ad distorting the President's record on the national debt. The DNC pushed back on the false claims in these ads and highlighted the devastating reality Romney Economics would have on middle-class families. On Tuesday night, Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement on the Wisconsin recall election and the out of state, secret, and corporate special interest money that flooded Wisconsin for Scott Walker. On Friday, Mitt Romney promised he'd cut jobs for firemen, policemen, and teachers. DNC Vice Chair RT Rybak released a statement in response highlighting how out of touch Mitt Romney is with the needs of middle-class Americans. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Massachusetts Mayor John Barrett held a press conference call to discuss Mitt Romney's failed economic record in Massachusetts and the impact Romney Economics would have on Utah and the nation as Romney fundraises in the state.

President Obama Highlights the Importance of Equal Pay

On Monday, the President stressed the importance of the Senate passing the Paycheck Fairness Act on a conference call, saying:

"Women still earn just 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. It's worse for African American women and Latinas. Over the course of her career a woman with a college degree is going to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars less than a man who is doing the same work.

"So at a time when we're in a make-or-break moment for the middle class, Congress has to step up and do its job. If Congress passes the Paycheck Fairness Act, women are going to have access to more tools to claim equal pay for equal work. If they don't, if Congress doesn't act, then women are still going to have difficulty enforcing and pressing for this basic principle."

In 2011, an average 25-year-old woman earned \$5,000 less in one year than the average 25-year-old man. That adds up to \$34,000 less over 10 years and \$431,000 less over her entire lifetime.

On Tuesday, Republicans in the Senate turned their backs on America's women and voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act. President Obama, disappointed with Senate Republicans, released the following



statement:

"This afternoon, Senate Republicans refused to allow an up-or-down vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act, a commonsense piece of legislation that would strengthen the Equal Pay Act and give women more tools to fight pay discrimination. It is incredibly disappointing that in this make-or-break moment for the middle class, Senate Republicans put partisan politics ahead of American women and their families. Despite the progress that has been made over the years, women continue to earn substantially less than men for performing the same work. My Administration will continue to fight for a woman's right for equal pay for equal work, as we rebuild our economy so that hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and every American gets a fair shot to succeed."

Vice President Biden Meets with University Leaders to Discuss College Affordability

On Wednesday, Vice President Biden met with a group of leaders from colleges and universities across the country to discuss college affordability and the importance of institutions of higher education providing transparency with respect to the cost of attendance and financial aid. Colleges and universities currently provide information on costs and aid, but it often is not clearly outlined for students and their families, nor do they provide information on the estimate of students' future loan payments.



The universities in attendance committed to making the realities of the cost of college more transparent starting with the 2013-2014 academic year. Vice President Biden said that this commitment will "empower students and their families to be back in the driver's seat when they're choosing a college and how to pay for that education."

President Obama Travels to Las Vegas, Discusses Keeping Student Loan Interest Rates Low

On Thursday, President Obama traveled to the University of Nevada in Las Vegas to discuss his "[Income Based Repayment](#)" (IBR) plan for the repayment of student loans. The President understands the stresses of student loans as he was serving in the U.S. Senate before he finished paying his student loans.

The IBR plan has been in effect since 2009 and was updated in 2010. Currently, the IBR plan caps payments of former students' loans at 15 percent of their current income when student loans are paid on time. By 2014, the cap will decrease to 10 percent of a former student's income. The President said:



"This is a program that more people need to know about. And we're going to start doing more advertising about this because this is really important. For those of you who are still in school, you're about to graduate, as long as you make your monthly payments on time -- all right, so pay your bills on time -- we will cap the payments you have to make on

your student loans at 10 percent of your discretionary income once you graduate 10 percent."

Watch the entire speech [here](#).

Also as part of the President's event at UNLV Thursday, President Obama released a [memorandum](#) for federal student loan borrowers. The memorandum provides clarification on the options available to student loan repayment and a more simplified process for the IBR application.

[Holding Republicans Accountable](#)

This week, Obama for America released a thirty-second ad called "[Jobs](#)," and a web video, "[The Romney Campaign's Double Standard](#)." Released in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, "Jobs" asked the American people to join the President in calling on Congress to pass his commonsense plan to create jobs now. Nine months ago, the President proposed the American Jobs Act that included bipartisan, commonsense proposals that an independent economist said would put nearly 2 million people back to work right away; however, Republicans largely blocked the measures that would create jobs and left more than a million jobs on the table.

On Monday, in response to Mitt Romney's campaign fundraisers in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon, the DNC held a press conference in Portland with Democratic State Party Chair Meredith Wood Smith, State Representative Lew Frederick, AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, local business leaders and area workers that focused on Mitt Romney's failed record as Governor of Massachusetts.

On Tuesday, Mitt Romney traveled to Texas for a series of events and fundraisers. In response, the DNC held a press conference in Fort Worth, Texas with Tarrant County Democratic Party Chairman Steve Maxwell and Executive Director Keith Annis highlighting Romney failed economic record.

Additionally, on Tuesday, Karl Rove's SuperPAC released an ad distorting the President's record on the national debt. The DNC pushed back on the false claims in these ads and highlighted the devastating reality Romney Economics would have on middle-class families.

DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse said:

"Mitt Romney has made it perfectly clear that he thinks Congressman Paul Ryan's budget is the right approach for the country. The extreme Romney-Ryan budget would be a disaster for both the middle class and America's seniors, who would see Medicare end as we know it to pay for more budget busting tax breaks for millionaires like Mitt Romney."

Pennsylvania Democratic Party Chairman Burn said:

"Mitt Romney promises Pennsylvanians that he will decrease taxes, fix the debt, and bring prosperity – these are the same broken promises he made when he ran for governor of Massachusetts. Now let's take a look at Romney's failed record on controlling debt and reckless spending. Simply put, Romney has no credibility on the issue. As a business man, he loaded companies up with debt and then bankrupted some and made millions of dollars for himself and his partners. All while thousands of middle-class workers lost their jobs. As Governor of Massachusetts, Romney followed the Republican playbook. State spending went up by an average of 6.5 percent a year. He loaded the state with debt – increasing it by 16 percent over four years –leaving the people of his state with the largest per capita debt in the nation."

Colorado Democratic Party Chair Rick Palacio said:

"Romney claims that he is "Mr. Fix It" and he is the man for the job to reduce our national debt. But Mr. Fix It didn't fix it in Massachusetts, and his tax and spending plans won't fix it now. Romney's plan to fix the debt reads like a bad fiction novel and would only add fuel to the fire. Romney's plan would explode the deficit with \$5 trillion in tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and would stick middle class families with the bill. Not only would Romney's plan increase the debt and dig a deeper hole for our children, but he also fails altogether to outline any specific plan to actually pay for these luxuries. This all sounds familiar because it's the same plan that wrecked our economy and left middle class families behind in the largest recession since the Great Depression."

On Tuesday night, Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement on the Wisconsin recall election and the out of state, secret, and corporate special interest money that flooded Wisconsin for Scott Walker:

"Despite the disappointing outcome of tonight's election, there is no question that over the past year this recall effort sent a message to Scott Walker that his brand of divisive politics is offensive and wrong. Thousands of Wisconsinites mounted this effort in the face of a flood of out of state, secret and corporate special interest money– amounting to a massive \$31 million war chest for Governor Walker to just \$4 million on our side.

"And as we turn our attention to the fall, we will not cede an inch in Wisconsin to Mitt Romney who has been behind in virtually every single recent poll and who wants to go back to the same failed policies of the past from which Wisconsin is recovering. And while we're not taking anything for granted, if Mitt Romney thinks he's going to be the first Republican to win Wisconsin since Ronald Reagan he's got another thing coming."

On Thursday, Mitt Romney held an event and a fundraiser in St. Louis, Missouri. In response, the DNC held a press conference with St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley, St. Louis Building and Trades Council Executive-Secretary

Jeff Aboussie, and St. Louis City Democratic Chairman Brian Wahby to highlight Mitt Romney's failed record as Governor and the disastrous impact Romney economics would have on St. Louis.

On Friday, Mitt Romney said, "[President Obama] says we need more firemen, more policemen, and more teachers. Did he not get the message of Wisconsin? The American people did. It's time for us to cut back on government and help the American people." DNC Vice Chair and Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak released the following statement in response:

"Could Mitt Romney be any more disconnected from the concerns of middle class Americans? To suggest that police, firefighters and teachers aren't helping the American people and aren't vital to our communities shows that he has no clue what's going on in the real world. Mitt Romney's assertion that the American people don't benefit from firemen, policemen and teachers is so detached from reality I did a double take – I had to check twice to be sure he had actually said it.

"As Mayor of Minneapolis, I can tell you that residents in our city understand and appreciate the important services that our firefighters, police officers and teachers provide. Our businesses, homes and schools are all better off thanks to the tireless work of our firefighters, police officers and teachers. Suggesting that the American people don't want safer homes, safer streets and smaller class sizes really makes you wonder which Americans Mitt Romney is talking to. It certainly isn't any middle class Americans or those without Swiss bank accounts."

Also, on Friday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Massachusetts Mayor John Barrett held a press conference call to discuss Mitt Romney's failed economic record in Massachusetts and the impact Romney Economics would have on Utah and the nation as Romney fundraises in the state.

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said:

"John is one of many Massachusetts officials who have come forward in recent days with a very simple message: Romney Economics Didn't Work for Massachusetts and It Won't Work for Utah or America. So much of what Mitt Romney says today as he campaigns for the Presidency echo the same hollow promises he made to people like John 10 years ago when Mitt Romney was running for Governor.

"[U]nfortunately for Mitt Romney – there is also plenty in his career as a corporate buy-out specialist that Americans will find troubling and question rather or not Mitt Romney has the right experience to be President of the United States at such a make or break moment for the middle class." She continued, "It wasn't about investors and workers playing by the same set of rules. And it certainly wasn't about building an economy meant to last by strengthening the security of the middle class."

Mayor Barrett said:

"In Massachusetts, [Romney] promised more jobs, less debt and small government. Sadly, the record shows that Mitt Romney broke all of those promises . . . Massachusetts dropped from 36th all the way down to 47th in job creation when he was governor. Manufacturing jobs were lost at twice the national rate under Mitt Romney – in fact he had the third worst record on manufacturing jobs in the nation. Romney hit the middle class with tax and fee hikes, and cut taxes for 278 of Massachusetts' wealthiest individuals, which cost taxpayers more than \$75 million.

"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. It's the same formula that benefitted a few, but crashed our economy in the first place and undermined security for the middle class."

Key Issues in the News and Background

JOBS AD: Businesses Have Created Nearly 4.3 Million Jobs in 27 Months; Congress Should Work With the President Now to Create A Million More

Key Point: The President's jobs plan would put teachers, cops, firefighters, and construction workers back to work right now. Republicans in Congress have no excuse for playing politics when so many people are looking for work – we can't afford to wait.

- **New Ad:** Today the campaign released a new ad in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia asking the American people to join the President in calling on Congress to pass his commonsense plan to create jobs now.
 - Please see [the new campaign ad](#), titled "Jobs."
- **American Jobs Act:** Nine months ago the President proposed the American Jobs Act, full of commonsense steps that an independent economist said would put nearly 2 million people back to work. Congress passed some parts, like the payroll tax cut, but Republicans largely blocked the parts that would create jobs and left more than a million jobs on the table.
- **Create Jobs Now:** The President's jobs plan would keep teachers, firefighters, cops and construction workers on the job and address two weak areas identified in May's jobs report, continued layoffs of construction workers and public employees. Congress can and should help prevent these layoffs – the answer is sitting on their desks. It's time for them to act.
- **Congress' To-Do List:** The President is also urging Congress to pass his commonsense "To-Do List" that'll help create jobs now while moving America forward toward an economy built to last. It would create more jobs here at home, helping small businesses create jobs and putting veterans back to work. Republicans and Democrats should be able to work together on these priorities to help the economy and support the middle class.
- **Mitt Romney** claimed this week that the President doesn't have a jobs plan. That's an incredible distortion – Romney opposed the plan when the President proposed it last fall. Romney's failed Massachusetts record gives him little credibility putting Americans back to work. Romney Economics didn't work then, and it won't work now.
 - **Jobs:** Under Romney, Massachusetts plummeted to 47th 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.
 - **Unemployment:** Workers leaving the state on Romney's watch artificially depressed the unemployment rate, which still fell slower than the national rate. When Romney took office, the state's unemployment rate was lower than the national average; when he left office, it was higher.

ROMNEY AD: Romney Distorts His Failed Massachusetts Record; Romney Economics Didn't Work Then and It Won't Work Now

Key Point: Mitt Romney's new ad doesn't resemble anything close to the truth about his failed Massachusetts record of slower job growth, lagging unemployment and raising taxes and fees on middle-class families and small businesses. Romney Economics didn't work then and it won't work now.

- **The Facts:** After months of not talking about his Massachusetts record, Romney is finally trying to defend it. But his claims about his failed record don't hold any water – Romney Economics didn't work then and it won't work now.
 - **Jobs:** Under Romney, Massachusetts plummeted to 47th 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.

- **Unemployment:** Workers leaving the state on Romney's watch artificially depressed the unemployment rate, which still fell slower than the national rate. When Romney took office, the state's unemployment rate was lower than the national average; when he left office, it was higher.
- **Taxes:** Romney raised more than 1,000 fees on Massachusetts residents. When he left office, the tax burden had gone up by \$1,200 per person after Romney raised taxes and fees by \$750 million a year.
- **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 and his successor with a billion-dollar deficit.
- **No New Ideas:** Instead of offering new solutions to boost the economy, Romney keeps resorting to angry, dishonest rhetoric about either the President or his own record. He's been running for President for years, but he can't seem to come up with a single new idea or policy to grow the economy and strengthen the middle class.
- **President Obama** has proposed a commonsense jobs plan that would put teachers, cops, firefighters, and construction workers back to work right now while helping small businesses hire and veterans find jobs. Yet Congress has refused to act, leaving a million new jobs from his plan on the table. We need to keep America moving forward.

MASSACHUSETTS JOBS: Romney Campaign Undermines Attacks on the President

Key Point: The Romney campaign's new standard for judging Romney's economic record argues he should be judged only on his last year in office since he inherited a bad economy. The Romney campaign should then judge the President's economic record by the 4.3 million private-sector jobs he created since turning the economy around, since the President indisputably inherited the worst economy since the Great Depression. Romney has simply undercut his core argument against the President's handling of the economic crisis by trying to play by two sets of rules.

- **The Facts:** Romney claims his first three years in office don't count because he inherited a bad economy, but he's attacking the President starting from January 2009. That's hypocritical, even for Romney. In fact, over the first 39 months of their terms, President Obama has created five times more jobs in Massachusetts than Romney did as governor.
 - Please see [this new campaign video](#) on the subject.
- **Double Standard:** Romney is using a double standard. He inherited a stronger economy, one that had suffered a much shallower recession that lasted eight months and ended more than a year before Romney took office. The President inherited an economy that was still in the middle an 18-month recession – the longest since the Great Depression – that lasted until June 2009 and lost more than 800,000 jobs the month he took office.
 - In the first 27 months of the jobs recovery, which began in March 2010, U.S. employment has grown by nearly 3 percent.
 - In the 27 months after jobs began to grow under Romney, Massachusetts jobs grew by only 2 percent – well below the national average at that time.
- **Romney Economics** didn't work then, and it won't work now. While the national economy emerged from recession in November 2001 and was creating jobs by July 2003, Romney's Massachusetts lagged behind and grew at a slower rate than the national economy every year that Romney was in office.
 - Massachusetts plummeted to 47th out of 50 in job creation over Romney's four years, compared to 36th in the four years before he took office and 11th in the four years after he left. On Romney's watch, manufacturing jobs were lost at twice the national average, the third-worst record in the country.
 - Even in Romney's last year in office – the year the Romney campaign would like to focus on – Massachusetts ranked 30th in job creation, with more than half the country adding jobs at a faster rate.

- As jobs disappeared, nearly a quarter of a million people left the state – artificially lowering Massachusetts’ unemployment rate to 4.7 percent, which was still higher than the national average.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS: President Obama Is Helping Women Fight for Equal Pay; Mitt Romney Should Stand Up for America’s Women and Support Paycheck Fairness

Key Point: This week, the Senate voted on the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes that prevent women from securing equal pay and help stop pay discrimination before it starts. If Mitt Romney wants to represent America’s women, he should stand up and demand that Republicans in Congress support it and other laws to help make equal pay a reality.

- **Romney Refused to Stand Up for Equal Pay:** When first asked if Romney supports the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which the President signed to help women fight for the equal pay they deserve, his campaign hesitated and replied “we’ll get back to you on that.” Romney later refused to give a straight answer when pressed whether he would’ve signed the Ledbetter Act, failing to stand up for America’s women.
- **Romney Hasn’t Shown Leadership:** Romney has said he wouldn’t change current pay equity laws, suggesting he opposes the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would help stop pay discrimination before it starts and ensure people can’t be fired for saying how much they get paid. His campaign didn’t respond to five messages from one newspaper asking whether he supports it.
- **President Obama** believes hard work should pay off for all Americans, and he’s always helped women fight for equal pay for equal work. He believes women should be paid the same as their male coworkers – America’s economic security depends on it.
 - The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the first bill he signed into law. Now he’s urging Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.
 - As the father of two daughters, the President cares deeply about making sure they and all women live in a country that rewards hard work and responsibility equally.

CROSSROADS AD: Rove Distorts the President’s Record; Romney Economics Piled Debt on Companies, Massachusetts Taxpayers, Would Do the Same to the Entire Country

Key Point: Karl Rove’s new ad released this week distorts the President’s record on spending and debt. Mitt Romney has no credibility on controlling debt given his \$5 trillion tax plan that would blow a hole in the budget, his private-sector record of piling debt on companies and his failed Massachusetts record of running up debt on constituents. Romney Economics didn’t work then and it won’t work now.

- **The Facts:** Rove’s new ad attacks debt created by two unfunded wars started before the President took office. The President’s balanced plan will reduce our debt by \$4 trillion over the next decade, and he’s already signed into law more than \$2 trillion in deficit reduction.
 - Ending Wars: The President responsibly ended the Iraq war and he’s drawing down our combat mission in Afghanistan. Romney wants to keep fighting those wars with no end in sight.
 - Lowest Spending Growth in Nearly 60 Years: Under President Obama, federal spending growth has been slower than under any President since Eisenhower.
 - Please see [this graph](#) on the subject.
- **Mitt Romney** has no credibility on controlling debt and reckless spending.
 - Businessman: Romney Economics loaded companies up with debt before bankrupting some and made millions of dollars for Romney and his partners while thousands of middle-class workers lost their jobs.
 - Governor: Romney Economics loaded Massachusetts taxpayers up with debt before he left his successor with a \$1 billion deficit and taxpayers with the most per-capita debt in the country. State spending went up by an average of 6.5 percent a year. Romney Economics didn’t work then and it won’t work now.

- As President: Romney Economics promise to do the same thing. He'll explode the deficit with \$5 trillion in tax breaks weighted to millionaires and billionaires without saying how he'll pay for it – because he knows that no matter what, the middle class will be stuck with the bill.

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

Key Point: This week Mitt Romney 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.
 - Two Sets of Rules: 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 that same set of values to the entire country.
 - Massachusetts: As governor, Romney raised taxes and fees on hardworking families and small businesses more than 1000 times. Romney Economics didn't work then and it won't work now. On issue after issue, it 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 each year. 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 income 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 21st 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.