

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Second Presidential Debate

President Obama was the clear winner of Tuesday night's second presidential debate. He made it clear to the American people that he possesses the strength, decisiveness and steady hand that our country needs – and that he has a vision to keep moving America forward and build our economy not from the top down, but from the middle out. Voters across the country also saw the President clearly break down the 'sketchy deal' that Mitt Romney has offered them: his plan to spend a whopping \$5 trillion on a tax cut for the wealthiest few that they don't need, and \$2 trillion on a defense buildup that the Pentagon hasn't asked for– without any explanation as to how he would pay for it.



DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on tonight's presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York:

"President Obama didn't just win tonight – Mitt Romney lost, and he did it by launching one misfire after another in his attacks against the President, in addition to missing the mark on his own proposals. When called out for the lack of substance to his own plans, Romney was clearly flustered and took it out on the moderator rather than

actually offering a defense of his indefensible plans. And just as he's done at every twist and turn of his campaign, he misled the American people – not only by refusing to tell the truth about his plan to take away women's access to affordable contraception or his pledge to veto the DREAM Act, but also by lying about the President's immediate response to the terror attack in Benghazi. Mitt Romney showed once again that all he has to offer are more false attacks, more empty proposals and more failed leadership – and the American people simply deserve better than that."

Obama for America Deputy Campaign Manager Stephanie Cutter issued the following statement in reaction to the Romney campaign's [series of answers](#) on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act:

"It's troubling that Mitt Romney's campaign still can't get their answer straight on where Mitt Romney stands on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which gives women greater ability to enforce in court their right to fair pay. From the six seconds of silence six months ago when they were first asked this question, to a top aide's walk back of a statement last night that Mitt Romney wouldn't have supported the law when it was passed, the Romney campaign is making what should be an easy answer extremely complicated. But, for millions of women, there is nothing complicated about it. As the President said last night, this is not just a women's issue, it's a family issue and an economic issue. Three weeks out from an election, the American

people need a clear and final answer on whether Mitt Romney would have signed the Lilly Ledbetter Act into law – and whether or not he would sign the Paycheck Fairness Act that President Obama has been fighting for.”

Following Tuesday night’s debate, the DNC released the following video, [#ObamaWinsDebate](#).

Vice President Biden Hits Campaign Trail in Florida

Vice President Joe Biden traveled to Ft. Pierce, Florida and was fired up about a new term that gets to the heart of the choice between Obama-Biden and Romney-Ryan: “Romnesia.” Here’s what he said about it:

“[Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan] have two core principles that they’ve been running on for the past three years. The first one is a \$5 trillion tax cut and significantly cutting entitlement programs and education programs. But all of a sudden you heard Governor Romney claim, ‘A \$5 trillion tax cut? What are you talking about?’ All of a sudden, as my little granddaughter Natalie would say, ‘What happened? Did Casper the Ghost steal it?’ I mean, where did it go? That was the core of what they’re running on.



“The President has a new term for this sort of ability to change your mind so quickly. He calls it ‘Romnesia’. Boy, I tell you what, I hope you all don’t get Romnesia. It’s a bad disease—and it’s contagious. Because all of a sudden, Paul Ryan, the budget hawk, the guy who introduced a whole budget plan that actually already passed the House of Representatives—all of a sudden he doesn’t remember it. He doesn’t remember what it actually does to the vital programs that mean so much to ordinary people. He says it doesn’t cut, it just slows growth.

“Folks, Ryan saying his budget doesn’t decimate Medicare and Medicaid and eviscerate education, it’s a little like Mitt Romney standing in an unemployment line in Florida and turning to the guy and saying, ‘Look, I didn’t outsource your job—I offshored it.’”

First Lady Michelle Obama Hits the Campaign Trail in Ohio

First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to Ohio and North Carolina this week to campaign and let people know about the importance of early voting in those states. First Lady Michelle Obama said: “So I want you and everyone here today to send folks to vote.barackobama.com. for all the information you need, and tell them that they don’t have to wait until November the 6th to cast their votes. Here in Ohio, and in states all across the country, voting has already begun. And this morning I saw just how quick and easy it can be to do your part when I voted early.

“And in the next couple of weeks, Barack is going to do the same -- he’s going to vote early in person back home in Chicago. So we want you all to vote early. All right? We want you to think about voting early, whether it’s by mail or in person -- vote early. Because when you vote early then you can spend that time on Election Day getting everyone you know out to vote.” Read the First Lady’s remarks in Ohio [here](#).

*****DNC-OFA GOTTA VOTE BUS TOUR*****

With citizens in states across the country already casting votes in the 2012 election, the Democratic National Committee and Obama for America are conducting a month-long "[Gotta Vote](#)" Bus Tour which rolled through Virginia and North Carolina this week.



As the DNC/OFA Gotta Vote Bus Tour continues to roll across the Tar Heel State during the start of early voting, North Carolinians in every corner of the state have already been encouraged to take advantage of early voting and help voters make sure they are registered to vote. With a new poll showing that President Obama still [maintains a narrow lead](#) in the state, the President's supporters are filling lines out the door of early voting locations, knowing that every vote counts is crucial to winning the state and re-electing President Obama.

With stops in Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Greenville, New Bern, Wilmington and Fayetteville, the Gotta Vote bus tour made it clear: If you want to ensure that President Obama has four more years to continue moving the country forward, you gotta register, and you gotta vote.

Take a look at some of the local coverage the bus has received: <http://youtu.be/npwOd6tokFI>

[DNC's 'Gotta Vote' bus rolls through Wilmington](#)

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One day after early voting began in North Carolina, the Democratic National Committee's and Obama for America's "Gotta Vote" bus tour rolled through the state. The bus stopped in Wilmington around lunchtime to encourage citizens to vote and help them make sure they are registered. The tour started the day in Jacksonville and finished up in Fayetteville. The bus will stay in the state through the end of the week. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall and Lt. Governor Walter Dalton were special guests for the stop in Wilmington. Early voting in North Carolina will continue through November 3. During early vote, North Carolinians can register and vote at the same time at any early vote site in their county.

[Pushing N.C. early voting with a bus and a board game](#)

Washington Post // Mary C Curtis

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — So it's come to this. As the Democratic National Committee and Obama for America "[Gotta Vote](#)" bus tour made its way through North Carolina on Tuesday, the game of "[Mittnopoly](#)" made its debut ("not a game for the 47 percent"). You can probably guess the stops on the board: a Bain shutdown for the unlucky, a luxury tax break if you land well. With blind trusts or an inheritance to cushion any blow, the fix is in no matter the roll of the dice. The gimmicky game, the bus (with its "forward, not back" slogan) and the speeches all point to the Oct. 18 through Nov. 3 early voting period in the state. While other states have been battling proposed voting limits, in North Carolina you can register to vote and cast a ballot at an early voting location. Getting out the vote is no game for Democrats or Republicans here.

[DNC chair fires up supporters in Asheville](#)

Asheville Citizen-Times // Jon Ostendorff

The chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee started her North Carolina bus tour here on Tuesday with a speech to supporters outside President Obama's campaign office. U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, R-Fla., said Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is trying to hide his conservative views as Election Day nears.

[Democrats hit N.C. roads for early voting](#)

Raleigh News Observer // Rob Christensen

The Democrats will begin a bus tour across North Carolina on Tuesday designed to heighten interest in early voting, which begins on Thursday. The "Gotta Vote" Bus Tour, which will begin in Asheville, will feature Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Reps. G.K. Butterfield and David Price, former Congressman Bob Etheridge and other local and national figures. The tour is being sponsored by the Democratic National Committee and the Obama campaign.

[Democratic chair visits Charlotte](#)

Charlotte Observer

Democratic National Chairman Debbie Wasserman Schultz rolled into uptown Charlotte Tuesday afternoon on the second stop of her party's "Gotta Vote" bus tour. The big blue bus, painted with slogans such as "Forward Not Back" came to Charlotte from Asheville, the start of a statewide tour. Democrats unveiled a mock board game called "Mittnopoly." "'Mittnopoly' is a game in which profits come before people," Wasserman Schultz said before flying out for Tuesday night's presidential debate.

[Obama for America bus comes to Winston-Salem Wednesday](#)

Winston Salem Journal // Staff

The Democratic National Committee and the Obama For America's "Gotta Vote" Bus Tour is coming to Winston-Salem Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., at the northeast Winston-Salem Obama for America field office, 8100 North Point Blvd., Suite N. On hand will be state Sen. Linda Garrou, state Rep. Earline Parmon and N.C. House candidate Ed Hanes. The bus will make stops in High Point and Greensboro later that day. Early voting begins Thursday.

[Holding Republicans Accountable](#)

The President's campaign released a new television ad, "[Seen](#)" this week. Mitt Romney is attempting to claim—dishonestly—that he isn't strongly opposed to a woman's right to choose. He's trying to hide his real position because he knows it will hurt his chances to win. The new ad highlights the real Mitt Romney—he said he would be "delighted" to sign a bill that banned all abortions – period. Women can't trust Mitt Romney on this and so many other issues.

Romney can't seem to be honest about his \$5 trillion tax plan that is skewed to wealthiest Americans or how he would pay for it – and in the first debate he got caught. It only works if you believe in the fairy dust known as #MittMath. The DNC released a new video this week highlighting Mitt Romney's tax plan: #MittMath. To watch the video click [here](#). To get the details on the Romney-Ryan tax plan, check out the DNC's new tool: <http://www.RomneyTaxPlan.com>.

Following Tuesday night's presidential debate, Lilly Ledbetter, Cecile Richards, and Jesse Mermell, a Brookline Selectman and former Executive Director of MassGAP, called out Mitt Romney for failing to address equal pay for women, referring to women as resumes in binders and lying about his positions on contraception and women's health. The three also pointed out that, as the [Huffington Post reported today](#), a senior Romney campaign advisor revealed after last night's debate that Mitt Romney opposed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act when it passed.

Mitt Romney may want to spin his record but the bottom-line is that women cannot trust him to stand up for their health or economic security.

Cecile Richards:

"Throughout this election, women across the country have watched Mitt Romney get it entirely wrong on the issues that matter to us – and then cynically and dishonestly try to hide those same positions. Last night's debate was no exception. As part of Romney's eleventh-hour costume change, he refused to be honest about his plan to take away women's access to affordable contraception. Obamacare ensures that women can access contraception – in addition to stopping insurance companies from charging women more than men for the same coverage, and making sure that being a woman is no longer a preexisting condition in this country. But Mitt Romney would repeal it on day one – eliminating these critical benefits and protections. Romney also tried to mislead the American people last night about his plan to turn women's health decisions over to their bosses. The fact is that he has declared his support for the Blunt-Rubio Amendment, which would let any employer deny women employees access to coverage for birth control. And any statement to the contrary by Mitt Romney is a bald-faced lie."

Lilly Ledbetter:

"When asked about equal pay for equal work, the President didn't hesitate. He talked about women as breadwinners for American families. Mitt Romney refused to answer the question and didn't tell the truth. He doesn't understand the challenges women face or believe in helping them fight for equal pay. President Obama knows that when women make less than men for the same work, it threatens the economic security of entire families. That's why the first bill he signed was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which helps women fight for the equal pay they earned. Mitt Romney would not dare say whether or not he would have voted for a simple bill that would allow women to earn equal pay for equal work – something women have been fighting generations for. And his senior advisor even admitted that Mitt Romney did not support the law. Last night Romney said women want more flexible jobs and that is a reason why they make less. Now, I worked tirelessly at a tire factory for 17 years – and I never asked for flexibility or any special treatment because I was a woman. Mitt Romney's solution last night on leveling the playing field was to point out he once had a binder full of women applicants. That binder didn't help me at Goodyear, and it's not helping the women across this country, making 77 cents for every dollar a man gets."

Jesse Mermell, Brookline Selectman and former Executive Director of MassGAP:

"From 2004 – 2008 I was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Women's caucus, the non-partisan group that provided the Romney transition team resumes of qualified women to fill senior Romney Administration posts in 2002. Those are the 'binders' of women that Romney referred to during last night's debate. To be clear, Romney didn't request those resumes. Our group approached the Romney transition team with the resumes or so called binders full of women. Why did Mitt Romney need binders full of women to find qualified candidates? Why didn't his staff already have women in mind for cabinet positions? Were there no women in his 25 years of professional experience that he had worked with and thought was qualified? At the time Romney paid lip service to the public about hiring more women in senior positions and treated it like a quota. But like with so many other things with Mitt Romney, the facts didn't match the rhetoric. Facts are facts, and despite what Governor Romney claimed in the debate last night, there were fewer women in senior administration positions during his term than the Governors who came before and after him."

On Friday, Republican Party field director Colin Small was arrested in Virginia on charges of committing voter registration fraud. Small, who was part of a broader swing-state operation financed by the RNC, was first hired by Strategic Allied Consulting – a firm run by GOP consultant Nathan Sproul, who has a lengthy history of being accused of voter registration fraud and whose activities on behalf of the RNC in Florida this cycle are the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation.

In response to this revelation – part of a growing voter registration fraud scandal that has embroiled the RNC – DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"Over the course of this election cycle, the Republican National Committee has now been implicated or alleged to have been involved in voter registration fraud in no fewer than three states: Virginia, Colorado and my home state of Florida. It's not hard to connect the dots here – each of these cases is directly connected to Chair Reince Priebus, who as Chair of the RNC hired a firm headed by Nathan Sproul, a longtime Republican consultant with a known history of alleged voter registration fraud.

"But Sproul's checkered past hasn't affected his success. In 2008, it didn't stop then-Wisconsin GOP Chair Reince Priebus from hiring Sproul to run his absentee ballot walk program. It didn't stop the Romney campaign from paying \$80,000 to a separate Sproul-run firm. It certainly didn't prevent Karl Rove's American Crossroads PAC from paying nearly \$1 million to Sproul's firms for voter outreach. And it has not stopped the RNC from directing millions to Sproul's firm since Reince Priebus became Chair last year. It should come as no surprise, then, that Colin Small – the Republican Party field director arrested yesterday for dumping voter registration forms in the trash – was working under the supervision of RNC officials and was first hired by a Sproul-run firm.

"The fact that these allegations aren't surprising does not make them any less reprehensible. What we have seen throughout this cycle is a concerted effort by the RNC and its allies to win the game by rigging it altogether. They have repeatedly violated the trust of the American people and launched one attack after another on the fundamental right to vote – and it's a fight they will continue to lose. Just as we have for decades, the Democratic Party will continue to push back on these shameful tactics and keep working to

ensure that all eligible Americans are able to make their voice heard in this and future elections.”

Issues in the News

NEW AD: Americans From across the Country Are “Sticking” with President Obama Because He’s Moving our Economy Forward

Key Point: OFA released a new ad today that features Americans from across the country discussing the economic progress they’ve seen in their communities thanks to President Obama. They’re “sticking” with the President because he’s moving our economy forward.

- **Must Watch:** [This new OFA ad](#), “Main Street,” running in CO, IA, NV and VA.
- **The American people are** seeing the economic progress being made in their communities as a result of the tough decisions this President made to rebuild an economy meant to last.
- When the President took office, **we were losing 800,000 jobs a month**. But the President’s policies have brought us back from the brink and we’re now moving forward again:
 - Businesses have added 5.2 million new private-sector jobs over the past 31 straight months of private-sector job growth
 - The unemployment rate is at its lowest level since January 2009.
 - Consumer confidence is at a five-year high.
 - Foreclosures are at a five-year low.
- **The President understands there’s more work to do to get people back to work and restore economic security for the middle-class.** That’s why his plans are creating an economy built to last – from the middle out, not the top down.
- **But this is no time to turn back to the failed policies that got us into this mess.** As one hardworking American says in the new ad, “Stick with this guy. He will move us forward.”

WOMEN: The President Has Consistently Stood Up for Women’s Health and Economic Security; Romney Never Has Because He Doesn’t Understand the Challenges Women Face

Key Point: The President has always been a strong advocate for women’s economic and health security, but Romney has not. He refuses to stand up for equal pay for equal work and believes politicians and women’s bosses should make women’s health decisions instead of women.

- **President Obama has always fought for issues important to women and families because he believes women’s issues are America’s issues.** Mitt Romney’s binders blunder was just his latest failure on issues important to women. Women can’t trust Romney to stand up for them because he’s never understood the challenges they face.
 - **Must Watch:** [This new OFA video](#) featuring Cecile Richards that highlights President Obama’s commitment to issues important to women and families.
- **The President has always fought for women’s economic security, but Romney hasn’t – not at Bain Capital, not as governor of Massachusetts and not now.**
 - The President knows women have long been breadwinners or co-breadwinners in their homes, and those numbers only continue to go up. When women make less than men for the same work, it challenges their economic security and hurts the economy as a whole. Romney just doesn’t get it.
 - Romney still refuses to “weigh in” on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act because he doesn’t believe in helping women fight back when they don’t receive equal pay. The President weighed in on it – he made it the first bill he signed into law.
 - Romney needed binders of resumes to find qualified women for his cabinet in Massachusetts because his corporate buyout firm didn’t have any female partners.
 - Over Romney’s term, those binders were barely put to good use. The percentage of women in senior state government positions declined on Romney’s watch.

- **President Obama has always been a strong advocate for women’s health, but Romney would roll back the clock and make women’s health decisions for them.**
 - The President is protecting a woman’s right to choose, but Romney would take it away. He promises to appoint Supreme Court justices to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*.
 - Romney would deny millions of women access to preventive care – including contraception, mammograms and wellness visits – by repealing Obamacare, which ensures coverage for preventive care at no extra cost and will stop insurers from charging women more than men for the same coverage.
 - Romney would turn women’s health decisions over to their bosses and politicians.
 - Romney would defund Planned Parenthood, which millions of women rely on for health services like contraception and breast and cervical cancer screenings.

AUTO RESCUE: Romney Profited from the Auto Rescue He Opposed and the Misfortune of Auto Workers He Used to Attack the President; He’s Always Put Profits over People

Key Point: Romney profited from the auto rescue he opposed and from the misfortune of non-union Delphi Automotive workers, who he then exploited to falsely attack the President. This is just one more example of Romney’s profits-over-people mentality.

- **Mitt Romney profited off of the President’s auto rescue, despite saying we should “let Detroit go bankrupt.”** He personally profited off the deal that cut the pensions of workers at Delphi Automotive before exploiting them to falsely blame the President for their misfortune. Romney has always put his own profits and politics over people.
 - **Must Read:** [Today’s report in The Nation](#) exposing Romney’s profits.
- **After President Obama rescued the auto industry, Romney personally profited from the deal that cost Michigan and Ohio workers at Delphi Automotive their pensions.** He has more than \$1 million invested in the hedge fund that swooped in to buy a stake in Delphi during its bankruptcy. According to *The Nation*, Romney has made at least \$15 million.
- **Romney has never stood up for American workers – he’s always put profits over people.** First he wanted to “let Detroit go bankrupt,” but when the President boldly chose to rescue the auto industry, Romney made sure to profit off of it even as workers and investors made shared sacrifices, like cutting back on hours, wages and production.
- **Romney will say anything to close the deal with voters, even if it isn’t true.** After profiting from these workers’ misfortune, he exploited it with false attacks against the President. That’s not standing up for American workers like the President has. It’s using them for political purposes.
- **Romney isn’t telling the truth about what happened to Delphi. Here are the facts:**
 - President Obama’s bold decision to rescue the American auto industry helped save more than a million jobs up and down the supply chain.
 - If we had “let Detroit go bankrupt” like Romney wanted, Delphi likely would have been liquidated and its employees would have lost their jobs.
 - A GAO review of the administration’s role in the auto rescue found that decisions about Delphi workers’ pensions weren’t made by the administration.