



To: Interested Parties
FR: Dan Sena, DCCC Executive Director
DT: January 30, 2017
RE: House Democrats Playing Offense

House Democrats are starting the 2018 election cycle on offense. Republican incumbents across the country are damaged after unexpectedly close 2016 contests, dozens find themselves defending seats where Donald Trump is already deeply unpopular, and together the House Republicans and Trump Administration are pushing a wildly unpopular agenda that threatens their standing from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt.

The American people have repeatedly organized this month in peaceful marches to resist the Trump Administration and the Republican vision for our country, from their plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act without a replacement, to a tax-payer funded Mexican border wall and this weekend's dangerous Muslim ban. This widespread backlash will only grow as Trump and House Republicans continue to ignore this loud chorus from their constituents, who so clearly oppose what this Republican-controlled Washington D.C. has to offer.

The DCCC has and will continue to harness this organic energy on the ground, through unprecedented grassroots engagement and digital fundraising, aggressive earned and paid-media accountability, and recruiting in a smart, expanded battlefield that takes lessons from the previous election.

REPUBLICANS ON DEFENSE

History Isn't On Their Side:

- Since 1900, there are **only three examples** of the president's party gaining seats in the first midterm: 2002 (George W. Bush), 1934 (Franklin D. Roosevelt) and 1902 (Teddy Roosevelt).
- In modern history- since 1982- the **president's party has lost an average 28 seats** in the first midterm election, even accounting for Republican gains in 2002 under President Bush.

President Trump's Historic Unpopularity:

- In all midterms over last 23 years, the sitting president has **needed a net-positive job approval in the double-digits** in order to stave off losses.
- According to a [new Quinnipiac University Poll](#) conducted over Donald Trump's first five days as President, **only 36% of voters approve of his job performance**.
- Trump has reached **majority disapproval** ([Gallup Poll](#)) in a record-shattering 8 days.

Deeply Unpopular Agenda:

- On policy, House Republicans are taking the wrong lessons from 2016: kowtowing to Trump's most divisive policies like his border wall, while opposing him on popular plans to preserve Medicare or action on trade.
- The Republican plan to repeal the **Affordable Care Act** is [deeply unpopular](#), and will continue to create political backlash across the country.
- Republican attacks on **Medicare, Social Security and Planned Parenthood**, and **efforts to gut ethics and transparency safeguards** will have repercussions at the ballot box.

DEMOCRATS ON OFFENSE

BREAKING NEWS: The DCCC added **635,000 new grassroots supporters** since January 1st - a **20 percent growth of the Committee's entire list in one month**. Almost half of these new supporters joined during the weekend of Donald Trump's inauguration and the Women's March.

The DCCC has raised approximately **\$3.2 million from grassroots supporters in January**, with an average gift of **\$17**. These are the Committee's most successful January digital fundraising numbers.

The Battlefield:

In 2018, the DCCC will build on the innovative strategies and battle-tested tactics that allowed House Democrats to defy historical trends and gain six seats while protecting nearly every incumbent, despite Republicans winning the White House in 2016.

The DCCC will initially focus on an expanded battlefield that includes, but is not limited to:

- **23 seats** that House Republicans hold, that Hillary Clinton won
 - Of those seats, Republicans hold 7 that President Obama never won – indicating a potential Trump-driven problem for these Republicans
- **10 seats** that House Republicans won and Hillary Clinton narrowly lost (by 4 points or less)
- **Open seats** that we anticipate to occur with regularity this cycle, as House Republicans take Administration positions, run for other offices, or retire altogether.

DCCC Targets- Round One:

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • AL-02 – Martha Roby | • MN-03 – Erik Paulsen |
| • AR-02 – French Hill | • NC-08 – Richard Hudson |
| • AZ-02 – Martha McSally | • NC-09 – Robert Pittenger |
| • CA-10 – Jeff Denham | • NC-13 – Ted Budd |
| • CA-21 – David Valadao | • NE-02 – Don Bacon |
| • CA-25 – Steve Knight | • NJ-02 – Frank LoBiondo |
| • CA-39 – Ed Royce | • NJ-03 – Tom MacArthur |
| • CA-45 – Mimi Walters | • NJ-07 – Leonard Lance |
| • CA-48 – Dana Rohrabacher | • NJ-11 – Rodney Frelinghuysen |
| • CA-49 – Darrell Issa | • NY-01 – Lee Zeldin |
| • CO-03 – Scott Tipton | • NY-11 – Dan Donovan |
| • CO-06 – Mike Coffman | • NY-19 – John Faso |
| • FL-18 – Brian Mast | • NY-22 – Claudia Tenney |
| • FL-25 – Mario Diaz-Balart | • NY-24 – John Katko |
| • FL-26 – Carlos Curbelo | • NY-27 – Chris Collins |
| • FL-27 – Illeana Ros-Lehtinen | • OH-01 – Steve Chabot |
| • GA-06 – <i>Tom Price</i> | • OH-07 – Bob Gibbs |
| • IA-01 – Rod Blum | • PA-06 – Ryan Costello |
| • IA-03 – David Young | • PA-07 – Pat Meehan |
| • IL-06 – Peter Roskam | • PA-08 – Brian Fitzpatrick |
| • IL-13 – Rodney Davis | • PA-16 – Lloyd Smucker |
| • IL-14 – Randy Hultgren | • TX-07 – John Culberson |
| • KS-02 – <i>Lynn Jenkins</i> | • TX-23 – Will Hurd |
| • KS-03 – Kevin Yoder | • TX-32 – Pete Sessions |
| • KY-06 – Andy Barr | • VA-02 – Scott Taylor |
| • ME-02 – Bruce Poliquin | • VA-10 – Barbara Comstock |
| • MI-07 – Tim Walberg | • WA-03 – Jaime Herrera Beutler |
| • MI-08 – Mike Bishop | • WA-08 – David Reichert |
| • MI-11 – Dave Trott | • WV-02 – Alex Mooney |
| • MN-02 – Jason Lewis | |