



**TO:** Interested Parties

**FR:** Meredith Kelly, DCCC Communications Director

**DT:** May 22, 2017

**RE:** Charging Forward, DCCC Announces Battlefield Expansion

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**Key Takeaway:** Today the DCCC is adding 20 new Republican-held seats to our offensive battlefield

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Debacle. Fiasco. Train wreck. Sinking ship. Pandemonium. Three-alarm fire. Dumpster fire. Soup sandwich. Goat Rodeo...

None of these words or phrases can appropriately encapsulate the first 120 days of Republican-controlled Washington. House Republicans started the 2018 cycle in a defensive crouch as part of the President's party in his first midterm. But what has transpired since is much more disturbing and damaging. Through self-inflicted wounds, chaos, ethical issues and a trail of betrayals and broken promises to voters, House Republicans and President Trump have made their long 2018 slog even more difficult. And it's clear that the surface is starting to crack beneath them.

Meanwhile, House Democrats spent the first half of 2017 working together with the grassroots to hold House Republicans accountable and fight for the needs of all hardworking Americans. Through [proactive engagement](#) with allies on the ground, unprecedented [small-dollar fundraising](#), stellar candidate recruitment and [key structural changes](#), the DCCC is preparing for battle and taking key steps to better position House Democrats for the midterms.

A great deal can change between now and Election Day. Until then, there are key factors influencing the 2018 midterms in Democrats' favor:

- **President Donald Trump:** President Trump's record-low job approval ratings at this point in the cycle threaten House Republicans. As [Charlie Cook](#) notes, "more than anything else, midterm elections are referenda on the incumbent president."
  - According to a recent [NBC News/WSJ Poll](#) President Trump has a -15 net job approval rating (39% approve, 54% disapprove).

- The ongoing investigations into Russian interference in our elections and President Trump’s potential abuse of power in recent weeks only further demonstrate the need for a check and balance in Congress.
- **House Republicans & Healthcare:** “Led” by Speaker Ryan, House Republicans are pushing a deeply unpopular policy agenda that has a personal, damaging and unforgettable impact on voters across the political spectrum, with healthcare repeal at the tip of the spear.
  - According to a May 11<sup>th</sup> national Quinnipiac Poll, only [21%](#) of respondents nationally support the Republicans’ Repeal & Ripoff Bill.
  - [Recent data](#) from Public Policy Polling showed that 53% preferred the Affordable Care Act over the Republicans' American Health Care Act. Only 27% prefer Repeal & Ripoff.
- **Impressive Candidates Stepping up:** The only way to take advantage of the opportunities created by the national environment is with strong Democratic candidates who fit their districts, are accessible to voters, and can show them what it’s like to be represented in Congress by someone who has their back.
  - The early reviews are in. [Article](#) after [Article](#) after [article](#) after [article](#) makes clear that Democratic candidates with impressive and diverse profiles are stepping up to run for Congress across the country.
- **Untested Republicans, Retirements and Special Elections Trending in Democrats’ Favor:**
  - [Longtime Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen’s](#) recent harassment of a constituent at her workplace is just the latest evidence that entrenched Republicans across the map [aren’t ready for primetime](#). As many face their first competitive race in years, they will also buckle under the pressure and further threaten their reelection prospects.
  - As President Trump and House Republicans continue to embarrass and betray anyone associated with them, the [the DCCC expects there will be more retirements](#) like Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27), which put otherwise unreachable seats into play.
  - NRCC and Congressional Leadership Fund have spent over \$15 million on independent expenditures in a desperate attempt to hold onto deep-red seats in Kansas, Montana and Georgia that Democrats haven’t held in decades. Regardless of the ultimate results, the double-digit swings in Democrats’ favor is an ominous sign for Republicans and evidence that [Independents](#) and even Republicans are willing to identify with and vote for Democrats in the special elections and 2018 midterms. Remember – there are 94 seats more competitive than GA-06 based on 2016 Congressional performance, and 71 seats more competitive based on Cook PVI.

**House Republicans’ midterm prospects grow dimmer with each passing day thanks to the endless supply of chaos, scandal and broken promises to voters from Republican-controlled Washington. Today, the DCCC is expanding our offensive battlefield, bringing our targeted districts for recruitment and potential investment to 80 Republican-held seats.**

**Round Two (5/22/17):**

- AZ-06 – David Schweikert
- CA-22 – Devin Nunes
- CA-50 – Duncan Hunter
- FL-06 – Ron DeSantis
- FL-16 – Vern Buchanan
- GA-07 – Rob Woodall
- IL-12 – Mike Bost
- IN-02 – Jackie Walorski
- MI-01 – Jack Bergman
- MI-06 – Fred Upton
- MO-02 – Ann Wagner
- MT-AL – Greg Gianforte (*updated 5/26/17*)
- NC-02 – George Holding
- NM-02 – Steve Pearce
- NY-21 – Elise Stefanik
- NY-23 – Tom Reed
- OH-10 – Mike Turner
- OH-14 – Dave Joyce
- VA-05 – Tom Garrett
- VA-07 – Dave Brat
- WV-03 – *open*

**Round One (1/30/17):**

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

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