

RNC Research BRIEFING

Democrat Dodgeball

The Democrats' Best Hopes For Playing Offense In 2014 Is To Try And Stay Out Of Sight

Political Handicapper Stuart Rothenberg: Grimes And Nunn "Are Trying To Hide As Much As Possible So That They Can Avoid ... Answering Tough Questions About Issues." "So, my guess is that the four candidates are trying to hide as much as possible and as long as possible so that they can avoid — or at least delay — answering tough questions about issues and, in the cases of Grimes and Nunn, about the president." (Stuart Rothenberg, "The Long Lost Tale Of Phil Maloof," [Roll Call](#), 5/19/14)

MEET MICHELLE NUNN: A CANDIDATE WHO STANDS FOR NUNN-THING

Georgia Democrat Senate Candidate Michelle Nunn Remains "Largely Undefined In The Eyes Of Many Voters." "Despite hailing from a political dynasty and entering the race nearly a year ago, the Democratic Senate candidate has remained largely undefined in the eyes of many voters." (Manu Raju, "Michelle Nunn Unscathed In Senate Run – For Now," [Politico](#), 5/20/14)

- **Nunn Has Become Skilled "At Avoiding Specifics On Policy Questions."** "At the same time, Nunn is deft at avoiding specifics on policy questions that could cause her heartburn in the fall." (Manu Raju, "Michelle Nunn Unscathed In Senate Run – For Now," [Politico](#), 5/20/14)

Politico's Manu Raju: "In Interview, Nunn Wouldn't Say If She Approved Of Obama's Job, Would Vote For ACA, Would Back Harry Reid." ([Twitter Feed](#), 5/20/14)

Political Handicapper Stuart Rothenberg: "I've Heard Some More Negative Evaluations Of Her [Nunn] Candidate Skills." "Nunn is often described as being smart and impressive, but I've heard some more negative evaluations of her candidate skills, including a report that she hesitates to take positions and is extremely cautious." (Stuart Rothenberg, "The Long Lost Tale Of Phil Maloof," [Roll Call](#), 5/19/14)

Nunn Has "Sidestepped" Every Debate Except One

Nunn Has Skipped Every Democrat Debate, Making Her First And Only Debate Appearance In The Last Week Of The Georgia Primary. "And as far as her own primary is concerned, she skipped at least seven debates and public forums with her long-shot Democratic opponents as she amassed a huge war chest in preparation for a ferocious general election battle. ... Her sole debate appearance was last week in Atlanta." (Manu Raju, "Michelle Nunn Unscathed In Senate Run – For Now," [Politico](#), 5/20/14)

Chuck Williams, Senior Editor At The Columbus, GA Ledger-Enquirer: "Michelle Nunn Lost My Respect Last Week." (Chuck Williams, Op-Ed, "Michelle Nunn's Tactics Politics As Usual," [Ledger-Enquirer](#), 4/28/14)

- **Williams: Nunn's Debate No-Shows Are "Insulting."** "She didn't see fit to come to Columbus for a regionally televised debate. But in a strange move, she was here a week before the debate at the Whitewater Express office right next door to the Columbus State University theater where the debate took place. Her people were trying to get coverage for that and other Columbus events. But then she ducks the debate where she and her handlers can't control the questions or environment. That is insulting." (Chuck Williams, Op-Ed, "Michelle Nunn's Tactics Politics As Usual," [Ledger-Enquirer](#), 4/28/14)

NUNN FAILS TO TAKE A STAND ON THE ISSUES***Despite Praising Obama In The Past, Nunn Has Refused To Say If She Supports Him As President Since Becoming A Candidate***

When Asked If She Supported Obama During Her Only Debate, Nunn Refused To Answer The Question. "During the debate, one of her opponents, ROTC instructor Todd Anthony Robinson, of Columbus, noted Nunn's ads don't mention she's a Democrat and asked her whether she supports President Barack Obama. 'I think it's self-evident that since I am on the stage here that I am a Democrat,' Nunn said, listing her support for increasing the minimum wage, immigration reform and pay equality. 'I am absolutely in pursuit of the Democratic nomination and at the same time I want to represent all of Georgia.'" (Christina A. Cassidy, "Democrats, Republicans Face Off In Senate Debates," [The Associated Press](#), 5/11/14)

Nunn On President Obama's Job Performance: "I'm Not Going To Get Into His Job Performance." "I'm not going to get into his job performance," Nunn said. 'My name is on the ballot; the president is not on the ballot this time.'" (Manu Raju, "Michelle Nunn Unscathed In Senate Run - For Now," [Politico](#), 5/20/14)

- **FLASHBACK: In 2010, Nunn Claimed She Was Thankful For Obama's "Extraordinary Leadership And Idealism."** NUNN: "We really do stand at a pivotal time at this very moment. There has never been a more exciting time. It's actually amazing to think about the fact that we have a President that is a community organizer, and the First Lady who started and ran an AmeriCorp program. How cool is that? Thanks to their extraordinary leadership and idealism, we are seeing a surge of interest and activity that is unprecedented." ([National Conference On Volunteering And Service](#), 6/2010)

Obama Met With Nunn Right Before She Announced And OFA Has Pledged To Support Her**Before Announcing Her Candidacy In July 2013, Nunn Met With Obama At The White House.**

"Michelle Nunn, the likely Democratic candidate for Senate in Georgia, praised President Barack Obama Thursday for supporting volunteerism ahead of a ceremony to highlight her group's work at the White House next week. Obama will host former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, Monday to honor the winner of the 5,000th Daily Point of Light Award." (James Hohmann, "Likely Ga. Hopeful Michelle Nunn To Meet With Obama," [Politico](#), 7/11/13)

Organizing For Action (OFA), The Group Tasked With Pushing Obama's Agenda, Has Already Pledged To Support Nunn's Candidacy. "Organizing for Action is looking to help Georgia Senate candidate Michelle Nunn, marking the first time that President Barack Obama's political arm has explicitly crossed into Democratic politics. Several political operatives and potential donors told POLITICO that OFA Executive Director Jon Carson made the pitch to help Nunn in various discussions this spring." (Reid J. Epstein, "Organizing For Action Pitches Help For Democrats," [Politico](#), 8/6/13)

Despite Accepting Harry Reid's Endorsement, Nunn Refuses To Answer Whether She Would Support Reid As The Senate Majority Leader

Nunn Has Refused To Say Whether She Would Vote For Sen. Harry Reid For Majority Leader If Elected. "As for Reid, she said she would vote for whichever Democrat will vow to break gridlock in the Senate — but wouldn't say if it is the Nevada Democrat. 'I will do it based upon an independent mind-set,' she said of her vote for majority leader." (Manu Raju, "Michelle Nunn Unscathed In Senate Run – For Now," [Politico](#), 5/20/14)

Reid Went To Bat For Nunn, Calling Her "Really Good" While Urging Democrats To Support Her Candidacy. Reid: "So the reason I mention this to you. It's important, OFA is strong and powerful and we want it to be. Also remember, the President will be only as strong as his Congress. So you got to do everything you can to help Nancy Pelosi to elect more House members to get rid of this stuff we have going on in the House. Which is really – understand? And remember, the strength of the President is in the Senate. We have to have enough to stop McConnell and what he doesn't do. And we have some good things going on around the country. We are not going to go down easy. We are going to stay up. I talked to Michelle Nunn today. I think there will be an important announcement out of Georgia tomorrow. That's Sam Nunn's daughter. She is really good." (Harry Reid, [Remarks To Organizing For Action](#), Washington, D.C., 7/22/13)

Nunn Has "Struggled" To Explain Her Position On ObamaCare Because She Refuses To Say What Her Position is

The Associated Press Headline: "Nunn Struggles To Explain Position On Health Care." (Bill Barrow and Christina A. Cassidy, "Nunn Struggles To Explain Position On Health Care," [The Associated Press](#), 5/19/14)

When Asked If She Supports ObamaCare, Nunn Dodged Answering , Saying She Thinks That "It's Impossible To Look Back Restrospectively." NUNN: "At the time the Affordable Health Care Act was passed, I was working for 'Points of Light,' I wish that we had more people who had tried to architect a bipartisan legislation." HUNT: "So Yes Or No?" NUNN: "So I think it's impossible to look back retrospectively and say what you would have done when you were there." (MSNBC's ["Morning Joe"](#), 5/19/14)

- **Nunn's ObamaCare Answer Drew A Sharp Rebuke From MSNBC's Chuck Todd, Who Called Her Answer "Terrible."** TODD: "But I have to say, I thought it was such a -- nothing screamed practiced politician like that answer Michelle Nunn gave on health care. You just can't -- it just doesn't come across as credible. What's at least more credible, saying well, I supported it but I don't like this, this, and this. At least there's a little credibility when you give that answer. When you somehow say well, I was busy doing another job." BRZEZINSKI: "You can't look back. Come on now." TODD: "That was a terrible answer she is gonna have to get a better answer." (MSNBC's ["Morning Joe"](#), 5/19/14)
- **Cynthia Tucker, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Political Columnist, On Nunn's Refusal To Answer A Question On ObamaCare: "Disappointed In Nunn."** ([Twitter Feed](#), 5/19/14)
- **The Associated Press Called Nunn's Refusal To Answer The ObamaCare Answer "Awkward."** "In GOP-leaning Georgia, Nunn's smooth glide to the Democratic nomination bumped up against her awkward refusal in a weekend interview to say whether she would have voted for the Affordable Care Act." (Bill Barrow and Christina A. Cassidy, "Nunn Struggles To Explain Position On Health Care," [The Associated Press](#), 5/19/14)

When The Associated Press Asked For Clarification On Nunn's ObamaCare Answer, Nunn's Campaign Refused To Say How She Would Have Voted On ObamaCare. "Asked for clarification

Monday, an aide issued a statement that reiterated Nunn's opposition to repealing the law and her belief that the law 'isn't doing enough to lower costs for Georgia families and businesses.' In the statement, spokesman Nathan Click did not answer how Nunn would have voted on the law had she been in Congress when it passed in 2010." (Bill Barrow and Christina A. Cassidy, "Nunn Struggles To Explain Position On Health Care," [The Associated Press](#), 5/19/14)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Jay Bookman: "I Can Attempt To Answer For Nunn: Yes, Of Course She Would Have Voted In Favor Of ObamaCare." "I can attempt to answer for Nunn: Yes, of course she would have voted in favor of ObamaCare. Every Democrat then in the Senate voted in favor of final passage, including those from conservative red states such as Arkansas, North Dakota and Louisiana. If her father, Sam Nunn, had been serving in the Senate in 2009, he too would have voted in its favor." (Jay Bookman, Op-Ed, "Yes, Nunn Would Have Voted For ObamaCare," [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), 5/20/14)

Georgians Are Left In The Dark On Nunn's Position On The Budget

Nunn "Has Avoided Specifics" When It Comes To Fixing The Budget. "Miles, Radulovacki and Robinson also pledged that any budget fix in Washington shouldn't include steep cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid and instead be anchored by a tax overhaul that focuses on eliminating tax breaks for corporations and wealthy individuals. Nunn has avoided specifics, but she calls repeatedly for eliminating the nation's annual budget deficit and chipping away at the accumulated \$17 trillion debt." (Bill Barrow, "Georgia Senate Candidates Blast Front-Runner Michelle Nunn," [The Associated Press](#), 5/17/14)

- **Nunn Has Offered Few "Clues On How She'd Tackle" The Deficit.** "And while she's critical of the president's failure to control the deficit, she offered few clues on how she'd tackle the vexing issue, other than general promises to root out waste and help control health care costs." (Manu Raju, "Michelle Nunn Unscathed In Senate Run – For Now," [Politico](#), 5/20/14)

When Asked About The Retirement Age, Raising Taxes, And Social Security – Nunn Said She Would Bring People Together At A Table. "Asked if she'd back raising the retirement age, reducing annual Social Security payments or raising taxes, Nunn said: 'None of us as individual senators are going to be able to embrace any one set of solutions. ... We'll have to sit around a table with people of goodwill in a bipartisan fashion to tackle the challenges.'" (Manu Raju, "Michelle Nunn Unscathed In Senate Run – For Now," [Politico](#), 5/20/14)

Georgia Veterans Can't Trust Nunn To Hold The Obama Administration Accountable For Lapses At VA Hospitals

Rather Than Taking A Stand For Veterans When Asked If U.S. Secretary Of Veterans Affairs Eric Shineski Should Resign Following The Deaths Of Veterans Waiting For Appointments At The VA, Nunn Answered That She Would "Defer" To Obama. NUNN: "I think all of us are outraged at the deaths of our veterans and I think that we owe it to them to make sure that we understand exactly what happened and that we remedy this situation and never let it happen again. We need accountability, we need to make sure there is congressional oversight of this issue. I defer to the President's judgment about the leadership that will be necessary to ensure that accountability and that transparency and that we actually change that system in order to preclude this from ever happening again." (Michelle Nunn, Remarks At Atlanta Press Club Debate, Atlanta, GA, 5/14/14)

Unlike Georgia's Current Senators, Nunn Refuses To Support The Port Of Savannah And Condemn The President For Holding Up Funding

Democrat Michelle Nunn Sidestepped Questions About Federal Funding – Which The Obama Administration Has Been Holding Up – For The Port Of Savannah. "Nunn didn't say what she thinks

the holdup on the funding is. 'I can't evaluate what's at play,' she told reporters. 'All I know is people need to work together. People need to sit down and talk and focus on solutions.'" (Jeanne Bonner, "Michelle Nunn Qualifies, Sidesteps Port Funding Finger Pointing," [Georgia Public Broadcasting](#), 3/6/14)

- **Senator Saxby Chambliss & Senator Johnny Isakson Have Taken President Obama To Task For The Failure To Fund The Port Of Savannah.** "President Obama released his proposed budget today, and one big missing item was any funding for construction of the deepening of the Port of Savannah. Instead, a little over a million dollars was slotted for further studies on the project. This, despite a visit by Vice-President Biden to Savannah last year when he promised to get funding, 'come hell or high water.' Georgia Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson are not happy. They released a joint statement this afternoon, saying: We are deeply disappointed and frustrated to see the promises to help advance the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project made by President Obama and Vice President Biden were not fulfilled in today's budget release. It is baffling to see this administration choose to ignore a statute passed just six weeks ago that cleared all remaining obstructions to moving forward with the project. The administration has once again chosen to ignore existing law, and in this case needlessly hamstringing the advancement of SHEP. ... Having wasted this opportunity and broken their promises to the state, we call on the administration to allow this project to move forward and to get out of the way of the people of Georgia. We are tired of waiting." ("Georgia Senators React To Lack Of Port Funding In President's Budget, Peach Pundit," [Pundit](#), 3/4/14)

MEET ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES: THE HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK CANDIDATE

Bowling Green Daily News: "The Grimes Campaign Has Been One Of Silence ..." "The Grimes campaign has been one of silence, avoiding simple, direct questions any candidate worth his or her salt could and should answer to voters and the media." (Editorial, "Grimes Masks Stance On Pipeline," [Bowling Green Daily News](#), 4/29/14)

- **Grimes Nine Month Silence On The Issues "Is Not The Mark Of A Leader."** "The latest example of how Grimes likes to have it both ways is breaking nearly nine months of silence on the Keystone XL pipeline, which President Barack Obama's administration has been playing political games with for years. After nine months of attending fundraisers with environmental activists opposed to the pipeline, Grimes finally says she supports it. This long-delayed response is reminiscent of her silence on sexual harassment allegations against former state Rep. John Arnold, D-Sturgis. Asked repeatedly for months, Grimes stayed silent, sidestepping the issue. Only after pressure mounted on her and Democratic Party leaders did Grimes speak out against Arnold. This is not the mark of a leader." (Editorial, "Grimes Masks Stance On Pipeline," [Bowling Green Daily News](#), 4/29/14)

BGDN: Grimes Avoidance Of The Issues "Are Not The Actions Of A Candidate For The U.S. Senate Or Any Office For That Matter." "Nice try, Mrs. Grimes, but your continued silence, half-answers and not being straight up with voters are not the actions of a candidate for the U.S. Senate or any office for that matter." (Editorial, "Grimes Masks Stance On Pipeline," [Bowling Green Daily News](#), 4/29/14)

The Courier-Journal's Joe Gerth: "Clearly We Don't Know Where She Stands On A Lot Of Issues."

"Clearly we don't know where she stands on a lot of issues. Her answers are generally vague except on topics she chooses to talk about, like jobs." (Jay Newton-Small, "McConnell Opponent Is Big On Style, Less So On Detail," [Time](#), 3/20/14)

- **Gerth: With Grimes, "You Get Largely Rote Answers."** "On those things she'll get on some detail, but even then you don't get anything on the number of jobs created or the costs of the plan. So you get largely rote answers." (Jay Newton-Small, "McConnell Opponent Is Big On Style, Less So On Detail," [Time](#), 3/20/14)

Grimes Has Developed A Reputation For Hiding From Interviews

Political Handicapper Stuart Rothenberg: “Grimes Has Received Ink For Allegedly Ducking Interviews.” (Stuart Rothenberg, “The Long Lost Tale Of Phil Maloof,” [Roll Call](#), 5/19/14)

According To Kentucky Reporters, Grimes “Does Not Submit To Lengthy Questioning.” “Local reporters say that while Grimes often takes questions after each such event—she has one every few weeks—she does not submit to lengthy questioning.” (Jay Newton-Small, “McConnell Opponent Is Big On Style, Less So On Detail,” [Time](#), 3/20/14)

- **“Such Limits To Access Makes It Difficult To Determine Whether’s A There There With Grimes, ...”** “Such limits to access makes it difficult to determine whether’s a *there* there with Grimes, something that can be hard to divine through stump speeches and 30-second made-for-television quotes.” (Jay Newton-Small, “McConnell Opponent Is Big On Style, Less So On Detail,” [Time](#), 3/20/14)

Last Month, Grimes Fled From Reporters When Asked About A Former Democrat Lawmaker And Campaign Contributor Accused Of Sexual Harassment. “Likely Democratic Senate nominee Alison Lundergan Grimes told about 150 Fayette County Democrats Tuesday night that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has ‘yesterday’s view of women.’ Then she declined to answer questions about a former Democratic lawmaker accused of sexual harassment.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Declines To Take Questions About Frankfort Sexual Harassment Case,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 4/8/14)

- **Despite Living Just A Mile From Where The Event Was Held, Grimes’ Campaign Said She Needed To Get Home Rather Than Answer Reporter’s Questions.** “Grimes’s spokeswoman, Charly Norton, said the candidate had to ‘get home,’ which is less than a mile from where the dinner was held. The candidate, who added a line about freedom of the press to her standard stump speech Tuesday night, refused to acknowledge reporters who walked out of the hotel with her.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Declines To Take Questions About Frankfort Sexual Harassment Case,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 4/8/14)

GRIMES WOULD RATHER PEOPLE NOT HEAR WHERE SHE STANDS WITH HIGH-POWERED DEMOCRATS AND ON THE ISSUES

Grimes Tries To Hide From Obama, Despite Supporting Him In The Past

“Indeed, Grimes Has Tried To Shed Any Association With The Unpopular President — So Much So That She Often Avoids Addressing Questions About His Major Policies.” (Manu Raju, “Bluegrass Bravado: Untested Alison Lundergan Grimes Takes On Mitch McConnell,” [Politico](#), 1/23/14)

Grimes Has Said She Does Not “Echo High-Powered Democrats” Like Obama. “In a state that votes primarily Republican, Grimes said her voice has its own, individual sound and does not echo high-powered Democrats such as President Barack Obama.” (Corianne Egan, “Grimes Meets Voters At Paducah Stop,” [The Paducah Sun](#), 1/29/14)

- **“Asked Whether She’d Vote For The President Again If She Had A Chance To Do It Over, Grimes Said ‘Your Facts Are Mistaken There’ And Wouldn’t Go Further.”** (Manu Raju, “Bluegrass Bravado: Untested Alison Lundergan Grimes Takes On Mitch McConnell,” [Politico](#), 1/23/14)

Grimes Publicly Backed Obama’s Reelection. “A spokeswoman later said Grimes had been a Hillary Clinton delegate at the 2008 Democratic Convention, though she was a member of the Kentucky delegation to the convention four years later and said publicly at the time that she backed the president’s reelection bid.” (Manu Raju, “Bluegrass Bravado: Untested Alison Lundergan Grimes Takes On Mitch McConnell,” [Politico](#), 1/23/14)

As Reid Fundraises For Grimes, Grimes Dodges Questions On Her Support For Reid

In January, “Grimes Refused Three Times” To Answer If She Would Support Another Term For Sen. Harry Reid As Senate Majority Leader. “Grimes refused three times following her filing to say if she would support Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid for another term leading the Senate. ‘I will evaluate all decisions, whether they be choices in leadership or legislation ... with this in mind: ‘Is it better for the people of Kentucky?’ That’s where I’ll be,’ she said when asked about Reid.” (Joseph Gerth, “Alison Lundergan Grimes Formally Files For Senate Race,” [The Courier-Journal](#), 1/10/14)

Grimes Is Hosting A June Fundraiser Hosting Reid As A Special Guest. “U.S. Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes will host a June fundraiser with one of the chief national Democrats whom Republicans have been trying to tie her to since she jumped into the race last year — U.S. Sen. Majority Floor Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada.” (Nick Storm, “Grimes Planning June Fundraiser With U.S. Sen. Harry Reid,” [CN2](#), 5/15/14)

- **Reid Has Helped Grimes Raise Money In The Past.** “Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will help raise funds for the 2014 opponent of Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, according to a report. Reid will hold a luncheon for Alison Lundergan Grimes, the Kentucky secretary of state and McConnell’s opponent in the 2014 elections, Kentucky News Channel 2 reported. The luncheon will take place in Las Vegas on Friday, Oct. 11 and tickets range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.” (James Arkin, “Report: Harry Reid To Fundraise Vs. Mitch McConnell,” [Politico](#), 9/13/13)

Kentuckians Don’t Know Where Grimes Stands On ObamaCare

When Faced With A “Simple” ObamaCare Question, Grimes Resorted To A Political Attack. “A simple question posed to Grimes about a key provision in ObamaCare — should the mandate on individuals to buy insurance be put off for a year? — prompts an answer about easing the burden on small businesses and a shot at McConnell.” (Manu Raju, “Bluegrass Bravado: Untested Alison Lundergan Grimes Takes On Mitch McConnell,” [Politico](#), 1/23/14)

- **Grimes Can’t Say Whether She Would Fully Repeal ObamaCare.** “She also blasted McConnell for wanting to abandon the law altogether, pointing out that the state’s health ratings are among the worst in the nation, and that other provisions in the law will extend coverage to an estimated 600,000 more Kentuckians. ‘Unlike Sen. McConnell, I don’t want to throw the baby out with the bath water,’ she said.” (Howard Fineman, “Alison Lundergan Grimes Talks Abortion As She Unfurls Policy Positions,” [Huffington Post](#), 8/3/13)

As Grimes Touts Her Jobs Plan, She Remains Mum On Specifics – Resorting To Political Attacks

In An Interview About Her Jobs Plan, Lundergan Grimes Couldn’t “Quantify How Many Jobs She Thought It Would Produce” Or “How Much It Might Cost Or How She Would Pay For It.” “Although Grimes has repeatedly touted the specificity and length of her plan, she could not, in an interview Wednesday night with the Herald-Leader, quantify how many jobs she thought it would produce, how much it might cost or how she would pay for it.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes’ Jobs Plan Lacks Price Tag, Estimate Of Jobs It Would Create,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 3/20/14)

“When Pressed About How She Would Pay For The Plan Grimes Returned To A Critique Of McConnell.” “A significant portion of the plan would require substantial federal investment, including numerous unspecified tax breaks for businesses and billions for road projects, something Grimes acknowledged during the interview. But when pressed about how she would pay for the plan and

whether that would involve raising taxes or borrowing more money, Grimes returned to a critique of McConnell.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes’ Jobs Plan Lacks Price Tag, Estimate Of Jobs It Would Create,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 3/20/14)

- **Asked Again About Her Jobs Plan’s Cost, Lundergan Grimes Went Back To Critiquing McConnell.** “Asked again whether there was a specific price tag for her plan, Grimes responded: ‘This plan itself, when you don’t have the hyper-partisanship that Mitch McConnell brings, when you have someone that’s focusing on the people as opposed to partisan politics and ending the loopholes that we see Mitch McConnell has given sending businesses overseas, when you have someone that’s interested in balancing the budget the right way by cutting waste, fraud and abuse and someone who is going to tackle problems that, for instance currency manipulation, that could actually help to not just grow jobs but to bring millions of dollars — \$470 billion to the nation, curb our deficit \$165 billion — that’s the pay-for in this plan,’ Grimes said.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes’ Jobs Plan Lacks Price Tag, Estimate Of Jobs It Would Create,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 3/20/14)

On Energy And The Environment, Grimes Tells Liberal Environmentalists One Thing And Kentuckians Another

On Energy, Grimes’ “Responses Straddle The Fence.” “Her responses straddle the fence with one-foot firmly in the pro-coal camp, saying that she opposes cap-and-trade and carbon tax legislation and she is trying to keep her other foot with the environmentalists.” (Joseph Gerth, “Alison Grimes Position On Climate Change Filibuster Straddles Fence,” [Courier-Journal](#), 3/12/14)

Grimes Has Refused To Say Where She Stands On Coal-Fired Power Plants And Whether She Supports Cap-And-Trade Legislation. “In an interview that the campaign limited to less than nine minutes, Grimes declined three times to say whether she opposes new federal emission regulations on coal-fired power plants, instead raising more general concerns about burdensome restrictions on Kentucky’s coal sector. She wouldn’t explicitly say whether she opposes cap-and-trade legislation to control global warming, saying instead there are ‘too many regulations’ on businesses. [A spokeswoman later said that Grimes does, in fact, oppose cap-and-trade.]” (Manu Raju, “Bluegrass Bravado: Untested Alison Lundergan Grimes Takes On Mitch McConnell,” [Politico](#), 1/23/14)

- **Grimes Declined To State Her Positions On A Host Of Issues Including Drilling In ANWR And Taxes.** “In the interview, Grimes wouldn’t say whether she’d back oil drilling in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (when pressed, she said she’d ‘consider’ it). She brushed aside a question about raising taxes for families who earn more than \$250,000 — saying only that the budget shouldn’t be balanced on the ‘backs of hard-working Kentuckians’ and attacking McConnell for ‘looking out for the top 1 percent.’” (Manu Raju, “Bluegrass Bravado: Untested Alison Lundergan Grimes Takes On Mitch McConnell,” [Politico](#), 1/23/14)

Grimes’ Campaign Has Said She’ll Fight For A Green Agenda After The Election. “A majority of Democrats are planning to takeover the Senate floor to bring attention to climate change in a so-called ‘talk-a-thon’ Monday. It’s unclear if Kentucky candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes either supports or would participate in the event. But a prominent environmentalist says the campaign is promising Grimes will be more aggressive in fighting for a green agenda after the election.” (“Alison Lundergan Grimes Unclear on Supporting Senate Democrats Climate Change ‘Talk-a-Thon,’” [WFPL](#), 3/10/14)