

RNC Research BRIEFING

Bluegrass Bypass

Grimes Again Dodges On The Issues

Yesterday, Senate Candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes (D-KY) Declined “Four Times” To Say If She Would Vote For The Obama Supplemental Funding Request For The Border. “Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes declined on Thursday to say how she would vote on President Barack Obama's request for \$3.7 billion to address the immigration crisis on the nation's southern border. When asked four times if she would vote for the supplemental funding that Obama requested from Congress on Tuesday, Grimes focused her answers on criticizing her opponent, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Declines To Take A Stance On Obama’s Request For Emergency Immigration Funds,” [The Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 7/10/14)

- **Grimes Employed An “Oft-Used Line” To Dodge The Questions.** “Pressed on whether she would vote for the \$3.7 billion supplemental, Grimes repeated her oft-used line that she is ‘going to assess everything when I’m in the United States Senate in the light of ‘is it good for Kentucky?’” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Declines To Take A Stance On Obama’s Request For Emergency Immigration Funds,” [The Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 7/10/14)

It's The Second Time This Week That Grimes Has Left Kentucky Wondering Where She Stands

Earlier This Week, Grimes “Bypassed A Question” About Her Plans For Medicare. “Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes says Kentucky U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell has taken votes to hurt the state’s seniors but bypassed a question Tuesday about what she would do differently. After addressing the International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers (IBEW) District 4 Progress Meeting in Louisville Tuesday, Grimes took questions from reporters on her new ad released prior to the event.” (Jacqueline Pitts, “Grimes Stands By New Ad Hitting McConnell On Medicare But Does Not Offer Own Plan,” [CN2](#), 7/8/14)

- **“And When Asked By Pure Politics What Plan She Would Like To See To Shore Up The Medicare Program For Future Generations, Grimes Moved On To Another Question.”** (Jacqueline Pitts, “Grimes Stands By New Ad Hitting McConnell On Medicare But Does Not Offer Own Plan,” [CN2](#), 7/8/14)
- **“A Reporter From The Associated Press Asked The Same Question As Grimes Was Leaving But She Did Not Respond Then Either.”** (Jacqueline Pitts, “Grimes Stands By New Ad Hitting McConnell On Medicare But Does Not Offer Own Plan,” [CN2](#), 7/8/14)

NO ONE KNOWS WHERE GRIMES STANDS ON THE ISSUES

Earlier This Year, Grimes Declined Answering Eight Questions In Eight Minutes

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In An Interview, Grimes 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 Position On 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)
- **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)
- **"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 Avoided Answering Questions On ObamaCare

In May, Grimes Twice Refused To Answer If She Would Have Voted For ObamaCare. "Democratic Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes on Wednesday twice refused to say whether she would have voted for President Barack Obama's signature health care law." (Adam Beam, "Ky. Democrat Mum On Question Of 'ObamaCare Vote,'" [The Associated Press](#), 5/22/14)

- **Last Year, Grimes Couldn'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)

Grimes Ducked Questions From Reporters On Her Jobs Plan For Kentucky

In A March Interview About Her Jobs Plan, 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)

Grimes Repeatedly Refused To Answer Questions About Her Support For Senate Majority Leader Harry 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 Fled Reporter’s Questions About A Campaign Contributor And Elected Democrat Accused Of Sexual Harassment

In April, 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 Refused To Answer If She Would Return Arnold’s Campaign Contribution. “When the Herald-Leader asked if Grimes would return the \$250 check from Arnold, Grimes said that ‘this campaign is about in terms of the work that we have done thousands of individuals, over 30,000 contributions.’” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Declines To Take Questions About Frankfort Sexual Harassment Case,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 4/8/14)

- **Arnold Contributed \$250 To Grimes’ Campaign.** “She also accepted a \$250 campaign contribution from a John Arnold, according to her last fundraising report.” (Sam Youngman, “Grimes Declines To Take Questions About Frankfort Sexual Harassment Case,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 4/8/14)

GRIMES’ CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN WIDELY PANNED FOR HER LACK OF SUBSTANCE ON THE ISSUES

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)

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)

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 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)

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)