



Democrat National Chaos

Democrats Leave Charlotte After A Week Of Discord, Controversy, And Denial

THE WEEK BEGAN WITH DEMOCRATS UNABLE TO ANSWER WHETHER AMERICANS ARE BETTER OFF AFTER FOUR YEARS OF OBAMA

When Gov. Martin O'Malley (D-MD) Was Asked If Americans Were Better Off After Four Years Of Obama He Said "No." CBS's BOB SCHIEFFER: "Can you honestly say that people are better off today than they were four years ago?" GOV. MARTIN O'MALLEY: "No, but that's not the question of this election." (CBS' ["Face The Nation,"](#) 9/2/12)

When Asked If Americans Are Better Off Than They Were Four Years Ago, Obama Senior Adviser David Axelrod Didn't Respond To The Question. FOX's CHRIS WALLACE: "But you keep talking about Romney. I'd like to talk about the Obama record and I want to put some statistics up on the screen. Unemployment was 7.8 percent when the president took office; it's now 8.3 percent. Median household income was almost \$55,000; it's now less than \$51,000. Gas was \$1.85 a gallon when he took office, now it's \$3.78, almost double. The national debt was \$10.6 trillion and it may go past \$16 trillion this week. So just looking at the president's record and those statistics, David, is the average American better off than four years ago?" DAVID AXELROD: "Chris, as I said to you before, I think the average American recognizes that it took years to create the crisis that erupted in 2008 and peaked in January of 2009. And it's gonna take some time to work through it." (Fox's ["Fox News Sunday,"](#) 9/2/12)

When Asked If Americans Are Better Off Than They Were Four Years Ago, Obama Senior Adviser David Plouffe Refused To Say Yes Or No. ABC's GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: "But yes or no, are Americans better off today than they were four years ago?" DAVID PLOUFFE: "Listen, George, they did a good job of reciting all the statistics everyone's familiar with. I think everyone understands we were this close to a great depression. Because of the leadership of this President, we staved that off. We're beginning to recover. We have a lot more work to do. We need to grow jobs more quickly. We need to grow middle-class incomes more quickly. But, the question for the American people is, which path are we going to take? If we take Mitt Romney's path, economists have looked at this, the recovery would slow down, we wouldn't produce jobs. He would give huge tax cuts to people like himself and send the bill to the middle class and seniors. So, the question is, we're going to be far worse off if Mitt Romney is elected president and he gets a chance to enact the same economic policies that created the mess in the first place." (ABC's ["This Week,"](#) 9/2/12)

When Asked If Americans Are Better Off Now After Four Years Of Obama, DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse Says “Absolutely.” CNN’s JOHN BERMAN: “Brad you’ve been shaking your head, as you’ve been sitting off camera, because we’ve been playing all the sound from the last 24 hours of Democrats being asked ‘are you better off today than you were four years ago?’ So, I’ll give you the chance to ask the question, are we better off than we were four years ago?” BRAD WOODHOUSE: “Absolutely.” (CNN’s [“Early Start,”](#) 9/3/12)

Obama Deputy Campaign Manager Stephanie Cutter Says “Absolutely” Americans Are Better Off. NBC’s NATALIE MORALES: “Let me begin by starting with that central question on a lot of people’s minds, and that is are we better off today than we were four years ago when President Obama was elected?” STEPHANIE CUTTER: “Absolutely. Let me just walk you through what life was like four years ago.” (NBC’s [“Today Show,”](#) 9/3/12)

Obama: “We Are Absolutely Better Off Than We Were When I Was Sworn In...” OBAMA: “We are absolutely better off than we were when I was sworn in and we had 800 thousand jobs being lost in a month.” (Ryan Nobles, “NBC12 Exclusive: Obama Defends Record In One On One Interview,” [NBC 12,](#) 9/5/12)

OBAMA BEGAN THE WEEK BY GRADING HIS ECONOMIC RECORD AS “INCOMPLETE”

Obama Gives Himself An “Incomplete” On The Economy. REPORTER: “Your party says you inherited a bad situation, you’ve had three and a half years to fix it, what grade would you give yourself so far for doing that?” OBAMA: “You know, I would say incomplete.” ([KKTV \[Colorado Springs, CO\],](#) 9/3/12)

- **The Grade Is “Typically Given By Teachers To Students With Unfinished Work” And “Is What Obama Has Given Himself A Number Of Other Times.”** “The grade — typically given by teachers to students with unfinished work — is what Obama has given himself a number of other times. In a 2012 interview with ABC’s the View, Obama refused to give himself a letter grade other than ‘still incomplete.’” (Byron Tau, “Obama Grades Himself: Incomplete, Again,” [Politico,](#) 9/4/12)

During A Press Gaggle, Obama Campaign Traveling Press Secretary Jen Psaki Said Obama’s Grading Of Himself On The Economy As “Incomplete” And His “Desire To Do More Is Far Better Than A Failing Grade.” REPORTER: “But as a recipient of many ‘incompletes’ myself, I know that it’s not a passing grade. (Laughter.) So how do you make your pitch to the American public that an incomplete deserves a reelection?” PSAKI: “Well, I think what an incomplete means is that there’s more work that he wants to do for the middle class and for the American people. The alternative is to go back to the old playbook of failed policies and failing grades, and that’s what Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan want to do. That’s where they want to lead this country. So you have a choice: Either you have somebody who has accomplished a great deal, who has helped bring the economy back from the brink of collapse and still wants to fight more for the middle class and do more for the American people, or you have the Romney/Ryan team that wants to go back to the failed, rotten policies of the past. So I think an incomplete and a desire to do more is far better than a failing grade.” (White House Press Gaggle, En Route Norfolk, VA., 9/4/12)

Obama Deputy Campaign Manager Stephanie Cutter Insists Obama’s Incomplete Is Enough. ABC’S JAKE TAPPER: “So President Obama was asked recently about the grade he would give himself. And once again he gave himself an incomplete. It’s been four years. Does that answer cut it? An incomplete after a full term?” STEPHANIE CUTTER: “Yeah, it does, because, you know, once again I’ll remind you of what life was like when he took office. 800,000 jobs were lost in that month alone. 3.5 million in the 6 months prior. And, you know, pretty quickly he was able to turn job loss into job growth. But when he’s saying

incomplete, it means a number of different things. One: we're on a path forward. You know, we're on our way up. And there is a lot more that he wants to get done. He's not done yet." ([ABC News/ Yahoo News Forum](#), 9/4/12)

ON THE FINAL NIGHT OF THE CONVENTION, OBAMA DELIVERED A LACKLUSTER SPEECH THAT LACKED SPECIFICS

Time's Mark Halperin: Biggest Two Surprises In Charlotte Were The Weakness Of Obama's Speech And The Lack Of New Policies. "Perhaps the biggest two surprises in Charlotte were Obama's failure to offer new or vivid specifics on what he would do to create more jobs if he is allowed to keep his own, and the relative weakness of his speech, arguably not even one of the best four of the convention." (Mark Halperin, "From Tampa To Charlotte And Beyond," [Time's "The Page"](#), 9/7/12)

Charlotte Observer: "Obama Failed Biggest Test: Saying What Will Be Different" (Taylor Batten, "Obama Failed Biggest Test: Saying What Will Be Different," [Charlotte Observer](#), 9/7/12)

Politico: "Obama Offered The Time Warner Cable Arena Crowd Little In New Proposals." "Accepting the Democratic Party's nomination for re-election, Obama offered the Time Warner Cable Arena crowd little in new proposals, but reinforced the notion that his agenda to rebuild the economy needs only more time to reach success." (Reid Epstein, "President Obama At DNC 2012: 'Path Is Harder,' But Still Hope," [Politico](#), 9/6/12)

- **CNN's David Gergen: Obama "Lowered The Bar ... Not Promising As Much."** "Political consultant David Gergen said on CNN that Obama 'lowered the bar' for the public's expectations of him. 'It's a different aura. It's a more dignified speech, but he's scarred. He's more mature and he's not promising as much,' said Gergen." (Kevin Cirilli, "TV Pundits Split On Obama Speech," [Politico](#), 9/6/12)

The Atlantic's Molly Ball: Obama "Didn't Do Anything Special" And Delivered "A Warmed-Over Rehash Of His Stump Speech." "And then President Obama got up and just sort of didn't do anything special. The president, that legendary orator, vaunted crowd-mover, well-known sweeper-away of audiences in general and political conventions in particular, gave a warmed-over rehash of his stump speech, right down to the exit music, Bruce Springsteen's 'We Take Care of Our Own,' that generally plays him out at campaign events." (Molly Ball, "Obama's Convention Anticlimax," [The Atlantic](#), 9/7/12)

Bloomberg: "Obama's Speech Had Shockingly Little Content In Defense Of His Economic Policies Over The Last Four Years..." "Obama's speech had shockingly little content in defense of his economic policies over the last four years, focusing almost exclusively on results in the manufacturing and energy sectors." (Josh Barro, "Obama's Lane, Unconvincing Speech," [Bloomberg](#), 9/7/12)

The Washington Post's Ezra Klein: "The Jobs Crisis Was Notably Absent From The Speech..." "This might be politically smart, but the jobs crisis was notably absent from the speech, as was the American Jobs Act." (Ezra Klein, [Twitter Feed](#), 9/6/12)

DEMOCRATS CHANGED LANGUAGE IN THEIR PLATFORM REGARDING GOD AND JERUSALEM AT OBAMA'S REQUEST

Democrats Had To Change Party Rules To Insert Language Recognizing Jerusalem As The Capital Of Israel. "The party's platform committee left out language that asserts Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and will remain it -- a position that had been in party's 2008 document. Thanks to the rule-change on the convention floor Wednesday, it's in there again." (Marc Caputo, "Damage Control: DNC Reverses Course, Recognizes Israel-Capital Jerusalem; Arab-American Delegates Vote No," [The Miami Herald](#), 9/5/12)

"Obama Ordered His Staff To Have The Democratic Party's Platform Language Changed To Include

God And Affirm Jerusalem As The Proper Capital Of Israel. “President Obama ordered his staff to have the Democratic Party’s platform language changed to include God and affirm Jerusalem as the proper capital of Israel, a campaign source said Wednesday. Obama ordered his staff to make the change, the source said, and Democrats followed by restoring language on both on a floor vote. The changes happened after Republicans seized on both to attack the party.” (Reid Epstein, “Obama Intervened On God, Jerusalem Platform Language,” [Politico](#), 9/5/12)

- **Obama Saw The Platform Language Before The Convention And Did Not Object To The Removal Of Jerusalem And God At That Time.** “Obama had seen the language prior to the convention, a campaign source said, but did not seek to change it until after Republicans jumped on the omissions of God and Jerusalem late Wednesday. And even then, it had to be forced through a convention hall full of delegates who nearly shouted down the change.” (Reid Epstein, “Division Over Platform At DNC,” [Politico](#), 9/5/12)

Obama Advisers Valerie Jarrett And David Axelrod: Obama Was “Counting On Others.” CBS’s CHARLIE ROSE: “Why was it necessary for the President to have to make a phone call to change what the platform said about Jerusalem?” VALERIE JARRETT: “Well he just thought it was important to put back in what has been in the platform, Jerusalem being the capital, and so he put it back in. I don’t, I think...” ROSE: “He didn’t know it was not in?” JARRETT: “He was not aware...” DAVID AXELROD: “Honestly, Charlie, he hadn’t, you know, he was counting on others to he has some other duties and responsibilities. And so when he learned that what had been in the platform had been taken out he said ‘put it back in.’” ROSE: “When he learned yesterday?” AXELROD: “Yeah.” (CBS’s “This Morning,” 9/6/12)

- **CNN’s John King: “This Is Keystone Cops. They Can Blame Ted Strickland, They Can Blame Cory Booker. Somebody From The Obama Campaign Has To Read That Document.”** JOHN KING: “There are legitimate policy questions here, about the language about Israel, why did it happen? Israel splitting the party over what the language should say. But we would not be having this conversation, we should not be having this conversation. The Democrats last week decided to make a very big deal of the Republican platform. When you do that, it is politics 101. You better scrub yours because you know this is coming. This is keystone cops. They can blame Ted Strickland, they can blame Cory Booker. Somebody from the Obama campaign has to read that document has to say, here’s what we said four years ago when he was your candidate. It’s not like you have a new candidate.” ([CNN](#), 9/5/12)

CHAOS ERUPTED ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR OVER INCLUDING GOD AND JERUSALEM IN THE DEMOCRAT PLATFORM

After Three Votes Where The Nays Were Louder Than The Ayes, Democrat Convention Chair Antonio Villagairosa Confirmed The Passage Of The Language. “Villagairosa, in what quickly became an awkward moment, asked for the voice vote three times in all. After the second time, he paused for several seconds and looked behind him for guidance from a convention staffer -- possibly a parliamentarian -- before turning back and asking for a third vote. Even though the no’s were again as loud if not louder than the aye’s on the third vote, Villagairosa said he had determined that two thirds of those present had voted in favor. Boos filled the arena in response.” (Jon Ward and Joshua Hersh, “Democrats Efforts To Reinsert ‘God’ And ‘Jerusalem’ Into Platform Met With Loud Opposition,” [The Huffington Post](#), 9/5/12)

- **“Those Who Shouted Opposition To The Language Change Were As Loud, If Not Louder, Than Those Who Voiced Their Support.”** “But when Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villagairosa, the convention chairman, came to the podium to ask for the approval of the delegates, those who

shouted opposition to the language change were as loud, if not louder, than those who voiced their support.” (Jon Ward and Joshua Hersh, “Democrats Efforts To Reinsert ‘God’ And ‘Jerusalem’ Into Platform Met With Loud Opposition,” [The Huffington Post](#), 9/5/12)

- **Gov. Ted Strickland (D-OH) Was “Surprised At The Person In Charge Of The Gavel... I Expected That He Would Call The Votes To An End.”** “Asked if he was surprised by the reaction from delegates, Strickland said: ‘I was a little surprised at the person in charge of the gavel because I expected that he would call the votes to an end (after the first one).’” (Joe Hallett, “Gov. Strickland Caught In Firestorm At Convention,” [Columbus Dispatch](#), 9/6/12)

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz Was In A “Alternate Universe” For Denying The Discord On The Floor

DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL): “No, There Wasn’t Any Discord....It Was Absolutely Two-Thirds.” (Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/5/12)

CNN’s Anderson Cooper Wasserman Schultz Was In An “An Alternate Universe.” COOPER: “Brianna Keilar thank you very much. I’ve just got to go to the panel with this. I mean Debbie Wasserman Schultz said it wasn’t a change of language. There was no discord that we saw and it was a 2/3 vote. That is an alternate universe.” (CNN’s [“Newsroom,”](#) 9/5/12)

The Platform Debacle Was “A Very Embarrassing Moment”

The Huffington Post’s Jon Ward And Joshua Hersh: “An Embarrassing Moment For The Party...” “A rare unscripted moment at the Democratic National Convention here Wednesday resulted in an embarrassing moment for the party that is certain to be used in Republican television ads over the next two months.” (Jon Ward And Joshua Hersh, “Democrats Efforts To Reinsert ‘God’ And ‘Jerusalem’ Into Platform Met With Loud Opposition,” [The Huffington Post](#), 9/5/12)

National Journal’s Ron Fournier: “The Democratic Party Appeared To Come Out Against God, And I Just Don’t Think That’s A Winning Issue.” RON FOURNIER: “The Democratic Party appeared to come out against God, and I just don’t think that’s a winning issue. They literally removed God from the platform. And I guess I can understand it as far as, you know, the Byzantine politics of this kind of delegation, but boy, that’s not a very smart thing to do. And the President’s people, I think literally the President, got in front of that as soon as they could.” (CSPAN, 9/6/12)

CNN’s Dana Bash: “Very Awkward Moment ... There Was Booing.” BASH: “I was standing there, John, during this very awkward moment, and there was booing.” (CNN’s “Early Start,” 9/6/12)

CNN’s John Berman: “A Real, Real Moment Of Chaos ... A Completely Unforced Error.” BERMAN: “You can see it right here. This was a real, real moment of chaos and a completely unforced error, I think, for the Democrats.” (CNN’s “Early Start,” 9/6/12)

CNN’s Jessica Yellin: “A Self-Inflicted Wound.” YELLIN: “There’s a sense, clearly, that this was a self-inflicted wound that they could repair, that they had time to repair.” (CNN’s “Situation Room,” 9/5/12)

MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough: “It’s A Saturday Night Live Skit. ... A Very Embarrassing Moment.” SCARBOROUGH: “It’s a Saturday Night Live skit. ... A very embarrassing moment.” (MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” 9/6/12)

The Reversal On Jerusalem Became an International Incident

An Aide To Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas Criticized The DNC For Changing Their

Platform To Recognize Jerusalem As The Capital Of Israel, Saying The Democrats' Position Would "Destroy The Peace Process." "The Palestinians criticized the U.S. Democratic Party's decision to declare Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. The Democrats on Wednesday restored language in the platform saying Jerusalem 'is and will remain the capital of Israel.' A day earlier, the language had been removed from the platform, prompting Republicans to question U.S. President Barack Obama's support for Israel. The language is at odds with U.S. policy calling for the status of Jerusalem to be resolved through negotiations. Both Israel and the Palestinians claim east Jerusalem. Nabil Abu Rdeneh, an aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said Thursday the Democrat's decision might just be 'election propaganda.' He said a failure to recognize the Palestinian claim to East Jerusalem will 'destroy the peace process' and lead to 'endless war.'" ("Palestinians: Democrats' Failure To Recognize Our Claim To Jerusalem Will Destroy The Peace Process," [The Associated Press](#), 9/6/12)

Democrats Criticized The Incident As "An Unforced Error"

Newark Mayor Cory Booker (D-NJ): "It Was An Unfortunate Omission." CORY BOOKER: "It was an unfortunate omission, and it in no way detracts from the point that we have a president of the United States who believes both in God, we all know that, but also believes in that plank [supporting Jerusalem]." (CNN's "Starting Point," 9/6/12)

Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY): "I'm Glad They Saw The Error Of Their Ways." "They got a lot of calls from people like me," New York Representative Eliot Engel, a Democrat, said in an interview at the convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. 'I'm glad they saw the error of their ways.'" (Lisa Lerer and Jonathan D. Salant, "Democrats Amend Platform To Back Jerusalem As Israel Platform," [Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#), 9/5/12)

Senator Bob Casey (D-PA): "I Felt Pretty Frustrated That A Lot Of Us Who Have A Very Strong Point Of View On This Weren't Given A Heads Up, Weren't Given A Briefing On This, It Was Just Kind Of Sailing Along." "Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., said the move was a 'reasonable adjustment' because many Democrats felt the platform should reflect the party's belief that Jerusalem should be capital of Israel. 'I felt pretty frustrated that a lot of us who have a very strong point of view on this weren't given a heads up, weren't given a briefing on this, it was just kind of sailing along,' Casey said." (Julie Pace and Steve Peoples, "AP Sources: Obama Intervened On Platform," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

Democrat Strategist Paul Begala: "It's Beyond Awkward. It's Embarrassing. It's Stupid. It's An Unforced Error By My Party." "CNN'S WOLF BLITZER: "Paul Begala, I don't know about you, but to me, it didn't sound like a two thirds majority." PAUL BEGALA: "Sounded like three fourths? Five sixths? Ninety-nine one hundredths?" BLITZER: "I don't know what it sounded like but at best maybe it sounded even if you will. But what do you think?" BEGALA: "It's beyond awkward. It's embarrassing. It's stupid. It's an unforced error by my party. They don't need them. You know, look, the Chief Justice of the United States made a mistake with the Oath of Office. Everybody makes mistakes, even the smartest people in the smartest enterprises." CNN'S JOHN KING: "He's got a life time appointment." BEGALA: "That's a great point." (CNN's ["The Situation Room"](#), 9/5/12)

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The Reversal On Jerusalem Angered DNC Delegates

President Of The Arab American Institute Dr. James Zogby Called The Move To Include The Jerusalem Capital Language "Insulting To My Community." "The president of a top Arab American group is lashing out at the 11th hour political maneuvering that restored language about Israel capital to the Democratic convention platform — calling the move 'insulting to my community.' Dr. James Zogby,

president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), a DNC delegate and a member of the convention's platform committee, blasted the re-insertion of language affirming that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel in an interview with POLITICO." (Byron Tau, "Arab-Americans Object To Jerusalem," [Politico's "Politico 44"](#), 9/5/12)

Zogby Said He Was "Proud That So Many Delegates Delivered A Resounding No." "Jim Zogby, the president of the Arab American Institute, wrote in a statement that he was 'disappointed in the irregularities of the procedure.' 'This effort hurts the president and it hurts chances for a lasting peace,' Zogby continued. 'I am, however, proud that so many delegates delivered a resounding no.'" (Kevin Liptak and Ashley Killough, "Convention Floor Chaos: Democrats Alter Platform, Disagree," [CNN's "PoliticalTicker"](#), 9/5/12)

- **Noor Ul-Hasan, A Muslim Delegate From Utah: "There Was No Discussion. We Didn't Even See It Coming. We Were Blindsided By It."** "There was no discussion. We didn't even see it coming. We were blindsided by it,' said Noor Ul-Hasan, a Muslim delegate from Salt Lake City, who questioned whether the convention had enough of a quorum to even amend the platform." (Josh Lederman and Julie Pace, "Democrats Change Platform To Add God, Jerusalem," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)
- **Michigan Delegate Jamana Judeh Was Not Present For The Vote On Jerusalem, But Said, "I Would Have Yelled And Screamed And Said No. That's Wrong. There's Absolutely No Reason For It."** "Jamana Judeh, a second Michigan delegate, said she was happy yesterday when she heard that the Jerusalem issue had been taken out of the platform. 'Everybody feels good, that finally, maybe, the party is acknowledging us,' Judeh said, referring to the 55-member Arab American delegation at the convention. While Judeh was not on the floor for the vote at the time, she said she would have yelled 'no' if she were present. 'I would have yelled and screamed and said no. That's wrong. There's absolutely no reason for it,' she said." (Kevin Liptak and Ashley Killough, "Convention Floor Chaos: Democrats Alter Platform, Disagree," [CNN's "PoliticalTicker"](#), 9/5/12)
- **Washington Delegate Gus Mansour Objected To The Amendment Saying, "This Is Not Because I'm Against Israel – Jerusalem Is For All Of Us."** "A friend of Lebanese descent who also protested the amendment, Gus Mansour of Lynnwood, said 'This is not because I'm against Israel – Jerusalem is for all of us.'" (Mark Landler, "Democrats Restore Language Declaring Jerusalem Israel's Capital," [The New York Times' "The Caucus"](#), 9/5/12)
- **Washington Delegate And Iraqi-American Majid Al-Bahadli Called the Vote "Undemocratic" And Said "Jerusalem Is Arab And Jewish And Christian, It Cannot Be For One Country."** "Among those shouting 'No' on the convention floor was a delegate from Washington, Majid Al-Bahadli, who said, 'Jerusalem is Arab and Jewish and Christian, it cannot be for one country.' Mr. Al-Bahadli, an Iraqi-American who said he had been in a prisoner of war camp under Saddam Hussein, said the vote process undemocratic." (Mark Landler, "Democrats Restore Language Declaring Jerusalem Israel's Capital," [The New York Times' "The Caucus"](#), 9/5/12)
- **Michigan State Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) Opposed The New Language On Jerusalem And Was Frustrated That There Had Not Been A "Fair And Just" Debate.** "Jerusalem 'is a hub of all three religions and we should recognize that fact,' said Rashida Tlaib, a Michigan state representative who said she opposed amending the platform. 'It should not belong to just one people. It makes me feel a little frustrated that this isn't being discussed in a fair and just way,' she said." (Zeke Miller, "Chaos As Democrats Try To Put Jerusalem, God Back In Platform," [BuzzFeed](#), 9/5/12)
- **Utah Delegate Angela Urrea: "We Shouldn't Be Declaring Jerusalem As The Capital Of Israel."** "Angela Urrea, a delegate from Roy, Utah, said she felt it was sprung on the convention without any discussion. 'The majority spoke last night,' Urrea said, referring to Tuesday's vote. 'We

shouldn't be declaring Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.'" (Julie Pace and Steve Peoples, "AP Sources: Obama Intervened On Platform," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

The Inclusion Of "God" Drew Sharp Opposition From Delegates And Atheist Groups

Teresa MacBain, Spokeswoman For American Atheists: "What Appeared To Be A Bold Move By The Democrats To Be Inclusive Has Been Pulled Away." "'We're disappointed,' Teresa MacBain, spokeswoman for American Atheists, told POLITICO. 'What appeared to be a bold move by the Democrats to be inclusive has been pulled away. It sends a mixed message. Many, many people who are nonbelievers fall in the lines of the Democrats.'" (Kevin Cirilli, "Atheists Bummed By Democrats' God Flip," [Politico](#), 9/5/12)

- **Utah Delegate TJ Ellerbeck Voted Against The Amendment Because "When You Bring In One Deity Above Any Other Deity, You're Automatically Excluding People."** "'This is the big-tent party. We want to include all faiths,' said TJ Ellerbeck, a delegate from Salt Lake City who voted against the amendments. 'And when you bring in one deity above any other deity, you're automatically excluding people.'" (Evans Morris-Santoro, "Utah Delegates Help Launch A Democratic Insurrection Over Platform Changes," [TPM](#), 9/5/12)
- **New Mexico Delegate Terri Holland Said The DNC Was Forced "To Kowtow To The Religious Right."** "'In interviews, several said they were bothered by the reference to God. Terri Holland, a delegate from New Mexico, said she thought the word was put back in 'to kowtow to the religious right,' something the party should never do. 'I don't think it has a business in anybody's platform,' she said.'" (Matea Gold and Christi Parsons, "Democrats Stumble On Party Platform Language," [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/6/12)
- **Wyoming Delegate Barbara Herz Said Religion Should Not Be Included In The Platform.** "'One dissenter, who said she hadn't made it in to voice her 'no,' said she opposed the inclusion of God. 'I think the best thing we could do is separate religion and politics,' said Barbara Herz, of Wyoming. 'We should let every person make their own religious decisions and keep it out of the platform.'" (Zeke Miller, "Chaos As Democrats Try To Put Jerusalem, God Back In Platform," [BuzzFeed](#), 9/5/12)
- **New Mexico Delegate Richard Cooley Said The Vote Taking Should Have Been More Precise, "Especially On Such A Divisive Issue."** "'She and fellow delegate Richard Cooley said the proceedings were haphazard, and that the platform should have taken a paper ballot vote. Neither were even aware the changes would be made until Villaraigosa got up on the podium and started speaking. 'We're Democrats, we love that stuff,' Holland said, about paper ballots. Cooley added that Democrats had learned the importance of proper vote-taking in the Bush-Gore election in 2000. They shouldn't take any vote for granted, he said, especially on such a divisive issue. 'We all have our own God,' he said.'" (Alana Semuels and Christi Parsons, "Obama: Why Was 'God' Taken Out Of Platform In The First Place?" [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/5/12)

Georgia Delegate John Washburn: "I'm Upset With The Process. That's Why I Voted No." "'I didn't get a chance to read it and there was no discussion. It was up there for 30 seconds and then it was down. I'm upset with the process. That's why I voted no,' said John Washburn, a Georgia delegate." (Zeke Miller, "Chaos As Democrats Try To Put Jerusalem, God Back In Platform," [BuzzFeed](#), 9/5/12)

California Delegate Kalimah Salahuddin Voted No, Saying She Thought There Should Have Been More Discussion. "Kalimah Salahuddin a 36-year-old delegate from Pacifica, California, said she voted against it because she felt like it needed further discussion. 'I was actually pretty surprised. I thought I was going to be the only one in saying no in California,' she said. She, like many, said it was too difficult to tell if there really was a two-thirds vote. 'I just don't know if it was two-thirds people or two-thirds

louder' on the third vote, she said." (Kevin Liptak and Ashley Killough, "Convention Floor Chaos: Democrats Alter Platform, Disagree," [CNN's "PoliticalTicker"](#), 9/5/12)

Idaho Delegate Don Kershner: "I Think It Failed...It's Clearly A Dividing Subject." "I think it failed,' said Don Kershner, a delegate from Boise who said it sounded to him — sitting in the opposite end of the arena from the speaker's platform — that at least 50% of delegates opposed the changes. Kershner was one of the only delegates from Idaho in the arena when the changes were made — itself a problem, he said. But he said he thought the party should have left well enough alone. 'They shouldn't have messed with it,' said Kershner, wearing a white cowboy hat supporting the Boise State Broncos. 'It's clearly a dividing subject. We don't want to drive a wedge into the party.'" (Alana Semuels and Christi Parsons, "Obama: Why Was 'God' Taken Out Of Platform In The First Place?" [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/5/12)

THE DNC MOVED THE LOCATION OF OBAMA'S SPEECH TO A SMALLER SETTING BECAUSE OF ALLEGED BAD WEATHER

Democrat National Convention CEO Steve Kerrigan Stated That Obama's Convention Speech Would Be In Back Of America Stadium "Rain Or Shine." "'The event on Thursday is going on rain or shine at this point,' the convention CEO, Steve Kerrigan, said." (Russell Berman, "Convention Organizers: Obama Speech Will Happen No Matter The Weather," [The Hill](#), 9/3/12)

- **Obama's Convention Speech Was Moved Indoors Due To Forecasted Rain.** "Democratic officials confirm to POLITICO that President Obama's prime time address will be moved indoors to the Time Warner Center. The Thursday address was scheduled to be at Bank of America stadium — an outdoor venue with more than 70,000 seats. But forecasts are predicting thunderstorms, forcing a last minute change in venue. Campaign officials have been saying all week that the event would go forward 'rain or shine' — but reversed themselves Wednesday." (Byron Tau, "Obama Speech Moved Indoors," [Politico's "44"](#), 9/5/12)

65,000 People Will Be "Locked Out" From Watching Obama's Convention Speech After Moving The Speech From Bank Of America Stadium. "The Stadium had become a focal point of criticism over its ties to Wall Street, but also a point of pride for Democrats who argued that their convention would be the first to be book-ended by events open to the public. Instead, 65,000 supporters of Obama will be locked out of the far-smaller Time Warner Cable Arena." (Zeke Miller, "Rain Will Keep 65,000 Ticketholders From Obama," [BuzzFeed](#), 9/5/12)

- **The Charlotte Observer's Editorial Board Editor, Taylor Batten, Stated That, After Yanking Credentials For 50,000 People, The DNC Can No Longer Claim To Be The "Most Open And Accessible Convention In History."** "Not that the whole 'most open and accessible convention in history' had a leg to stand on anyway, but now that claim is officially dead. The Democrats just yanked credentials from some 50,000-plus potential voters who had planned to cheer on President Obama's acceptance speech in person Thursday night." (Taylor Batten, Op-Ed, "Democrats Blow It By Moving Obama," [The Charlotte Observer's "Opinion"](#), 9/5/12)

Charlotte Meteorologist Brad Panovich: "Severe Threat Is Almost Zero Thursday Night & Chance Of Rain Is 20%." "'Severe threat is almost zero Thursday night & chance of rain is 20%,' [Brad] Panovich wrote. Obama campaign officials have been saying all week that the event at Bank of America stadium in front of more than 70,000 supporters would go forward 'rain or shine.'" (Byron Tau, "Charlotte Meteorologist: Why Cancel? Forecast Improving," [Politico's "44"](#), 9/5/12)

THE DNC CHAIR REFUSED TO BACK DOWN AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED SHE HAD LIED ABOUT COMMENTS MADE BY THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO AMERICA

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At A Training Session For Jewish Democrats, DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz Claimed That Israeli Ambassador To The U.S. Michael Oren Had “Accused Republicans Of Being ‘Dangerous’ To Israel By Criticizing President Obama’s Record.” “Democratic National Committee chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz claimed on Monday that Israel’s ambassador to the United States has accused Republicans of being ‘dangerous’ to Israel by criticizing President Obama’s record. The Florida congresswoman made the charge at a training session for Jewish Democrats held by the Obama campaign here at the Democratic National Convention, aimed at teaching Jewish Democrats how to convince their fellow Jews to vote for Obama.” (Phillip Klein, “Debbie Wasserman Schultz: Israeli Ambassador Called GOP ‘Dangerous For Israel,’” [The Washington Examiner](#), 9/4/12)

- **Israeli Ambassador To The U.S. Michael Oren: “I Categorically Deny That I Ever Characterized Republican Policies As Harmful To Israel.”** “Mr. Oren issued a statement saying: ‘I categorically deny that I ever characterized Republican policies as harmful to Israel. Bipartisan support is a paramount national interest for Israel, and we have great friends on both sides of the aisle.’” (Mark Landler, “Pushed By Obama, Democrats Alter Platform Over Jerusalem,” [The New York Times](#), 9/5/12)

After Ambassador Oren Repudiated Her Statement, The DNC Chair Accused *The Washington Examiner* Of “‘Deliberately’ Misquoting Her,” Despite Audio Proving Otherwise. “Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz on Tuesday sharply denied saying that Israel’s ambassador to the United States had claimed Republicans are ‘dangerous’ to Israel and accused *The Washington Examiner* of ‘deliberately’ misquoting her — but audio posted online by the conservative newspaper suggests otherwise.” (Mackenzie Weinger, “DNC Chairwoman Denies GOP-Israel Quote,” [Politico](#), 9/5/12)

- **DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL): “I’ve Heard No Less Than Ambassador Michael Oren Say This, That What The Republicans Are Doing Is Dangerous For Israel.”** WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: “We know, and I’ve heard no less than Ambassador Michael Oren say this, that what the Republicans are doing is dangerous for Israel. They’re undermining Israel’s security by suggesting that the United States and Israel don’t have anything other than a unique and close and special relationship. It undermines Israel’s security to its neighbors in the Arab world, and to its enemies.” (Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, [Remarks At A Training Session For Jewish Democrats, Charlotte](#), NC, 9/3/12)
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THE DNC ACCEPTED CORPORATE MONEY AFTER SAYING THEY WOULDN’T

DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz Claimed That The Democrat National Convention Would Be Funded Without Corporate Money. “We’re funding this convention without cash from lobbyists, political action committees or corporations.” (Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Op-Ed, “Hosting The Most Open Convention In History,” [Politico](#), 8/2/12)

The Democrat National Convention’s Organizers Turned To Corporate Donations To Gain The Funds Needed To Host The Convention. “Organizers of this year’s convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, turned to corporations after the city’s host committee struggled to reach its \$36.7 million fundraising goal, according to the people, who requested anonymity.” (Hans Nicholas and Jonathan Slant, “Companies Pay \$20 Million To Fund Democratic Convention,” [Bloomberg](#), 9/4/12)

- **The DNC Accepted \$20 Million From Bank Of America And Wells Fargo.** “Companies including Bank of America Corp. and Wells Fargo & Co. (WFC) have contributed \$20 million toward the cost of the Democratic National Convention, helping fund an event that Democrats initially said wouldn’t accept corporate money, according to two people familiar with the matter.”

(Hans Nicholas and Jonathan Slant, "Companies Pay \$20 Million To Fund Democratic Convention," [Bloomberg](#), 9/4/12)

Duke Energy CEO, Jim Rogers "Has Been Working Hard," Raising Up To \$11 Million In Corporate Money For The Democrat National Convention. "Duke Energy Chief Executive Officer Jim Rogers, co-chairman of the host committee, 'has said that he secured \$10 million to \$11 million from local corporations from Charlotte,' said Tom Williams, a spokesman for Duke. 'He has been working hard to build on those numbers to bring in money' for the convention, Williams said." (Hans Nicholas and Jonathan Slant, "Companies Pay \$20 Million To Fund Democratic Convention," [Bloomberg](#), 9/4/12)

DNC ATTENDEES SPENT THE CONVENTION COMPARING REPUBLICANS TO NAZIS

California Democrat Party Chair John Burton Compared Republicans To Nazi Propagandist Joseph Goebbels. "Greetings from the California delegation breakfast at the DNC where before he had a cup of coffee Democratic Party Chair John Burton – much like his ol' pal Guv Jerry Brown once did – just compared the Republicans to Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels, for 'telling the big lie,' a reference to several falsehoods GOP VP nominee Paul Ryan recently told. 'They lie and they don't care if people think they lie... Joseph Goebbels – it's the big lie, you keep repeating it,' Burton said Monday before the Blake Hotel breakfast. He said Ryan told 'a bold-faced lie and he doesn't care that it was a lie. That was Goebbels, the big lie.'" (Joe Garofoli, "CA Dem Chair John Burton Compares GOP To Nazi Goebbels For 'Telling Big Lie,'" [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 9/3/12)

- ***San Francisco Chronicle: Burton "Went Beyond The Pale" With His Comments.*** "California Democratic Party Chairman John Burton is known for his potty mouth and explosive statements. But he went beyond the pale in his comments before a state delegation Monday, comparing Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan – and Republicans in general – to Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi regime's infamous minister of propaganda." (Editorial, "Burton's Comments Out Of Line," [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 9/4/12)

Dean Of Kansas Democrat Delegation Pat Lehman "Referred To Hitler Himself" To Attack Republicans. "And Pat Lehman, the dean of the Kansas Democratic delegation, referred to Hitler himself when protesting Republican claims that they want voter identification laws to prevent voter fraud. 'It's like Hitler said, if you're going to tell a lie, tell a big lie,' Lehman said. 'And if you tell it often enough and say it in a loud enough voice, some people are going to believe you.'" (David Jackson, "A Third Nazi Reference At Democratic Convention," [USA Today](#), 9/5/12)

- ***Lehman Was "Wholly Unapologetic" About Her Comments Comparing Conservatives To Hitler, Saying Republicans Are Just Pigs Squealing Because They Got Caught Lying.*** "Lehman says she's not going anywhere and was wholly unapologetic about the outrage her comment generated among conservatives. 'They're used to getting away with lying and nobody calling them out on it,' Lehman said. 'When pigs get caught under the gate, they usually squeal.'" (Dion Lefler, "Kansas Democratic Conventioneer Dismisses Conservative Outrage Over Hitler Comment," [The Wichita Eagle](#), 9/5/12)

South Carolina Democrat Party Chair Dick Harpootlian Compared Gov. Nickki Haley (R-SC) To Hitler Mistress Eva Braun. "Yet another Nazi reference at the Democratic convention. The chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party today compared Nikki Haley, the state's Republican governor, to Hitler mistress Eva Braun." (David Jackson, "A Third Nazi Reference At Democratic Convention," [USA Today](#), 9/5/12)

- ***"Noting That Republicans Are Holding Opposition Press Briefings In A Basement Studio At The NASCAR Hall Of Fame, Dick Harpootlian Told A South Carolina Delegation Breakfast***

Today: 'She Was Down In The Bunker A La Eva Braun.'" (David Jackson, "A Third Nazi Reference At Democratic Convention," [USA Today](#), 9/5/12)

- **Harpootlian Refused To Apologize For Comparing Governor Haley To A Nazi.** "The Chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party is refusing to apologize after he compared his state's Republican Gov. Nikki Haley to Adolf Hitler's mistress Eva Braun." (Peter Hamby, "Haley A Nazi? Democrat Not Backing Down From Analogy," [CNN](#), 9/5/12)
- **Richard Harpootlian Has Bundled At Least \$200,000 For Obama's Re-Election.** ([Center For Responsive Politics](#), Accessed 9/5/12)

"Alexandra Gallardo Rooker, A Big Wig In The California Democratic Party, Said That The California Delegate Who Compared Paul Ryan To Nazi Joseph Goebbels 'Doesn't Go Far Enough.'"

(Daniel Harper, "Another Dem. Compares Republicans To Nazis," [The Weekly Standard](#), 9/6/12)

- **Gallardo Rooker:** "John is John. Anybody that knows him, knows that it just depends what your personality is like, what your politics. Sometimes people think he goes too far, sometimes people think he doesn't go far enough." (Daniel Harper, "Another Dem. Compares Republicans To Nazis," [The Weekly Standard](#), 9/6/12)

HUNDREDS OF CONVENTION ATTENDEES WERE LOCKED OUT OF THE CONVENTION CENTER

On Wednesday Night, The Democrat National Convention Locked Out Close To 200 People From The Time Warner Cable Arena. "The Time Warner Cable Arena, which is hosting the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., went on temporary lockdown Wednesday night with close to 200 people outside the entrance literally pressed up against the glass doors trying to get in." (Sherisse Pham, "Temporary Lockdown Of DNC Leaves Attendees, Donors Stranded," [ABC's "OTUS"](#), 9/5/12)

For An Hour Hundreds Of Delegates, Spectators And Media Were Locked Out Of Entering The Time Warner Cable Arena. "For a frustrating hour, hundreds of delegates, spectators and media outside the Time Warner Center waited, yelling to law enforcement about the delay and demanding that they be let in." (Sherisse Pham, "Temporary Lockdown Of DNC Leaves Attendees, Donors Stranded," [ABC's "OTUS"](#), 9/5/12)

BEFORE THE CONVENTION EVEN BEGAN, DELEGATES WERE SENT HOME FOR MISBEHAVING

The Sunday Prior To The Start Of The Democrat National Convention, A California Delegate Was Forced To Leave After "Impersonating A Member Of Congress To Police." "A delegate from the California Democratic Party was booted from the national convention in Charlotte on Sunday afternoon after allegedly impersonating a member of Congress to police." (Jonathan Easley, "Dem Delegate Booted After Impersonating A Member Of Congress," [The Hill](#), 9/3/12)

Charlotte Police Were Called To Handle Two Intoxicated Members Of The California Delegation After They Caused A Disturbance In A Hotel Lobby. "Earlier this morning, we received reports that indicated two members of the delegation were intoxicated when they arrived at their hotel. Hotel staff noticed that one of the men appeared to be unconscious and immediately called paramedics for assistance. The delegate was taken to a local hospital. He has since recovered and been released," said California Democratic Party spokesman Tenoch Flores in a statement. 'Additionally, the other delegate according to several reports, became disruptive with hotel staff and emergency technicians, prompting the hotel to call police. The delegate was not arrested.'" (Robert Yoon, "California Delegate Steps Aside After Police Incident," [CNN's "PoliticalTicker"](#), 9/2/12)