



Democrats Go On Offense... Against Charlotte

Democrats Aren't Excited About Having Their Convention In A City They Consider To Be "Second-Tier"

DEMOCRATS FIND CHARLOTTE TO BE A "GRIM" PLACE

WBTV: "DNC Outlook 'Grim,' Charlotte A 'Second-Tier Host City,' Article Says" (Chris Dyches, "DNC Outlook 'Grim,' Charlotte A 'Second-Tier Host City,' Article Says," [WBTV](#), 8/28/12)

The Charlotte Observer: "Charlotte Gets Dissed As A 'Second-Tier City'" ("Charlotte Gets Dissed As A 'Second-Tier City,'" [The Charlotte Observer](#), 8/29/12)

Democrats Have Complained That Charlotte Is A "Second-Tier Host City." "Democratic insiders see less enthusiasm on the part of the party faithful. Fewer politicians will be making the trip to a second-tier host city with few cultural attractions. And some worry that the parties that swirl around the convention will be less lavish than in years past." (Andy Sullivan, "Democrats Find It's Hard To Party On The Cheap," [Reuters](#), 8/27/12)

- **Democrat Lobbyist Heather Podesta Has Found The City Of Charlotte "Grim."** "'It's grim,' said Heather Podesta, a Democratic lobbyist who scouted 30 of the city's restaurants earlier this year." (Andy Sullivan, "Democrats Find It's Hard To Party On The Cheap," [Reuters](#), 8/27/12)

Democrats Are Not Excited About Attending The Democrat National Convention In Charlotte Where The City Is "Known More For Its Banks Than Its Cultural Amenities." "And many were already less than enthusiastic about spending a week in Charlotte, which is known more for its banks than its cultural amenities." (Andy Sullivan, "Democrats Find It's Hard To Party On The Cheap," [Reuters](#), 8/27/12)

The Democrat National Convention Has Only Scheduled Charlotte's Democrat Mayor Anthony Foxx To Speak And Has Not Scheduled The Democrat North Carolina Gubernatorial Candidate To Speak. "The DNC speakers list so far includes just one North Carolina face: Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx. Home state Gov. Bev Perdue is expected to give a 'welcome speech' but her slot is not yet scheduled. It is likely to come after 5 p.m. Tuesday when the convention gavel to a start but don't expect it to be long or appear in primetime. So far it looks like Democratic Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton -- the gubernatorial candidate in one of the most highly watched races in the country -- is getting snubbed." (John Frank, "Where's The DNC Love? N.C. Democrats Not In The Spotlight," [The News & Observer's](#) Under The Dome, 8/29/12)

- **The Republican National Convention Had More North Carolina Speakers During The First Day Of The Convention Than The Democrats Have Scheduled For The Entire Democrat National Convention.** "On the first day of the Republican National Convention, more N.C. politicians gave speeches than are scheduled to take the stage at the entire Democratic Convention

-- in North Carolina.” (John Frank, “Where’s The DNC Love? N.C. Democrats Not In The Spotlight,” [The News & Observer’s](#) Under The Dome, 8/29/12)

A NUMBER OF DEMOCRATS ARE SKIPPING THIS SO-CALLED “SECOND-TIER” OPTION

REP. LARRY KISSELL (D-NC): Kissell Has Decided Not To Attend The Democrat National Convention, Which Is Being Held 10 Miles From His District. “Democratic Representative Larry Kissell’s district is within 10 miles of the Charlotte, North Carolina, arena where the Democratic National Convention will be held starting Sept. 4. Kissell isn’t planning to attend.” (Kathleen Hunter, “Democratic Lawmakers Keep Obama At Distance In Campaigns,” [Bloomberg Businessweek](#), 8/3/12)

DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE HAYDEN ROGERS (D-NC): Rogers Has Decided Not To Attend The Democrat National Convention And Refused To Endorse Obama. “My sole focus is on running for Congress in the 11th District,” Rogers said. “I will be concentrating my time and energy on reaching out to as many voters as possible to discuss the issues facing Western North Carolina and America. I have no plans to attend the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte and will not be endorsing in the 2012 presidential race.” (John Ostendorff, “Rogers To Skip DNC, Won’t Endorse Obama,” [Asheville Citizen-Times](#) Politics Now, 7/3/12)

SEN. JON TESTER (D-MT): Tester Has Decided Not To Attend The Democrat National Convention In Order To Concentrate On His Senate Race. “Both Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-Mont.) and Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) will skip their parties’ upcoming national conventions, their campaigns told The Hill on Monday, in order to concentrate on their Senate race.” (Cameron Joseph And David Kaner, “Montana Senate Candidates Will Skip Parties’ Conventions,” [The Hill](#), 6/25/12)

SEN. JOE MANCHIN (D-WV): Manchin Has Declined To Attend The Democrat National Convention. “On Monday, West Virginia ‘super delegates’ Sen. Joe Manchin, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Rep. Nick Rahall, D-Beckley, announced they would not attend the 2012 Democratic National Convention, set for Sept. 3-6 in Charlotte, N.C. All have expressed concerns about the policies of Democratic President Barack Obama.” (Joselyn King, “House Candidates Not Attending Convention,” [Steubenville Herald-Star](#), 6/20/12)

REP. NICK RAHALL (D-WV): Rahall Has Declined To Attend The Democrat National Convention Citing “Concerns About The Policies Of Democratic President Barack Obama.” “On Monday, West Virginia ‘super delegates’ Sen. Joe Manchin, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Rep. Nick Rahall, D-Beckley, announced they would not attend the 2012 Democratic National Convention, set for Sept. 3-6 in Charlotte, N.C. All have expressed concerns about the policies of Democratic President Barack Obama.” (Joselyn King, “House Candidates Not Attending Convention,” [Steubenville Herald-Star](#), 6/20/12)

REP. LOUISE SLAUGHTER (D-NY): Slaughter Is “Skipping” The Democrat National Convention. “The four incumbent Democrats facing the toughest challenges in New York — Representatives Bishop, Hochul and Owens, as well as Representative Louise M. Slaughter of Rochester — are all skipping the convention, which begins Sept. 4 in Charlotte, N.C.” (Thomas Kaplan, “New York Democrats Skipping Convention For, Well You Name It,” [The New York Times](#), 8/16/12)

- **Rep. Slaughter Cited “A Lot Of Work To Do At Home” As Reason Not To Attend The Democrat National Convention.** “And Ms. Slaughter said, simply, ‘I have a lot of work to do at home. I’ll be here working in the district.’” (Thomas Kaplan, “New York Democrats Skipping Convention For, Well You Name It,” [The New York Times](#), 8/16/12)

UNIONS ARE ON STRIKE OVER CHARLOTTE HOSTING THE DEMOCRAT NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Democrat National Convention Will Be Held At A Nonunion Convention Center In A “Right-To-

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Work State With The Lowest Rate Of Unionization In The Country.” “It wasn’t just that North Carolina was a right-to-work state with the lowest rate of unionization in the country, Hill said. Nor was it the fact that delegates, lobbyists, and bigwig Democrats would be hobnobbing at nonunion hotels and listening to speeches at the nonunion Charlotte Convention Center.” (Naureen Khan, “Unions Divert Democratic Convention Money To Rally For Worker Rights,” [National Journal](#), 7/12/12)

“It Was A Stinging Rebuke To One Of The Democrat Party’s Most Loyal And Influential Constituencies. And Labor Leaders Are Fuming At The Slight.” (Molly Ball, “Labor Fumes Over Charlotte Pick,” [Politico](#), 2/5/11)

Labor Unions Say They Won’t Help Pay For The Convention “Partly Because It Is Upset That The Convention Will Be In A State Considered Unfriendly To Unions.” “Democrats are struggling to raise money for the party’s national convention this summer in Charlotte, N.C., in part because they’ve barred corporations and lobbyists from contributing. Now, one set of donors the party was banking on—organized labor—says it won’t help pay for the event or will scale back contributions, partly because it is upset that the convention will be in a state considered unfriendly to unions.” (Brody Mullins And Peter Nichols, “Democrats In Convention Box,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/3/12)

- **Construction Unions And Unite Here “Plan To Give Nothing” Towards The Convention.** “Labor unions chipped in \$8.6 million of the \$60.5 million the party spent in 2008 in Denver. This year, a number of construction unions, as well as the labor organization Unite Here, plan to give nothing, officials say.” (Brody Mullins And Peter Nichols, “Democrats In Convention Box,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/3/12)
- **The International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers Cited North Carolina’s Right To Work Law As Their Reason For Not Donating To The Democrat National Convention.** “The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers gave \$1 million in 2008, but it isn’t planning to contribute this year. It cites North Carolina’s ‘right to work law’ that is opposed by unions, as well as labor’s need to spend money on grass-roots campaign work. ‘Registration drives, get-out-the-vote drives and leafleting—that’s where we can make our best contribution,’ said spokesman Jim Spellane.” (Brody Mullins And Peter Nichols, “Democrats In Convention Box,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/3/12)
- **AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka: “This Year, We Will Not Be Making Major Monetary Contributions To The Convention Or The Host Committee For Events Or Activities Around The Convention.”** “Earlier this week, in a memo to member presidents and the executive council, Trumka indicated that the AFL-CIO would proceed in a similar manner. He encouraged them to support the Philadelphia rally and laid out the thinking on Charlotte. ‘This year, we will not be making major monetary contributions to the convention or the host committee for events or activities around the convention,’ Trumka wrote. ‘We won’t be buying skyboxes, hosting events other than the labor-delegates meeting, or bringing a big staff contingent to the convention.’” (Naureen Khan, “Unions Divert Democratic Convention Money To Rally For Worker Rights,” [National Journal](#), 7/12/12)