



# Democrats' March Misery

*Democrats' Terrible March Is Looking More Like A Bad Omen For The Rest Of This Year*

**FOLLOWING A TOUGH MARCH, POLITICAL EXPERTS ARE PREDICTING AN OMINOUS NOVEMBER FOR DEMOCRATS**

***The Washington Post's John Sides: "Democrats' Prospects For 2014 Do Not Look Rosy. There Is Little Chance That They Will Retake The House, And A Good Chance They Will Lose Seats."*** (John Sides, "Why Republicans Can Be Even More Optimistic About Taking The Senate," [The Washington Post](#), 3/31/14)

- **Sides: "Even Worse, There Is A Significant Chance That They Will Lose Control Of The Senate."** "Even worse, there is a significant chance that they will lose control of the Senate. Our forecasting model said as many as two months ago. That forecast continues to square with the sense of many analysts — even those who mocked the forecast." (John Sides, "Why Republicans Can Be Even More Optimistic About Taking The Senate," [The Washington Post](#), 3/31/14)

**Political Prognosticator Nate Silver: The GOP Has A 60 Percent Chance Of Winning The Senate, Could Have A Really Big Win In 2014.** ABC'S JONATHAN KARL: "Republicans need six seats, what's the projection? How many are they going to pick up?" SILVER: "I'd say exactly six, but it's probably six plus or minus five." KARL: "That means they could pick up 11 seats." SILVER: "They could. Yeah." KARL: "What you're saying is a 60% chance that Republicans win the senate." SILVER: "Something like that. So you can kind of imagine a bell curve distribution sort of where this is the most likely outcome. This is what republicans need to take over. This is 51, right, for them. So you see probably 60% of the pie is colored in here." KARL: "Translation for the math impaired, Nate's projection is a 40% chance Democrats hold on, but a 60% chance the GOP wins, with a 30% shot they win big. Still a lot of time, but a pretty decent chance of a really big win." SILVER: "That's right." (ABC's ["This Week"](#) 3/23/14)

- **Two Years Ago, Democrats Described Nate Silver As A "Soothsayer" For Accurately Predicting The 2012 Race.** "Democrats are turning against Nate Silver, the political data guru they touted in 2012. Two years ago he was described as soothsayer after repeatedly saying that President Obama would win a second term, accurately predicting the winner of each state in the 2012 contest." (Alexander Bolton, "Democrats Turn On Nate Silver," [The Hill](#), 3/24/14)
- **Now Democrats Are Attacking Silver's November Predictions.** "Democrats loved him then, but now they're attacking him. The difference, of course, is that the Democrats' political fortunes have taken a turn for the worse and Silver isn't optimistic about their chances in November." (Alexander Bolton, "Democrats Turn On Nate Silver," [The Hill](#), 3/24/14)

**The Atlantic's Molly Ball: Democrats Are Acting Like "Chickens With Their Heads Cut Off" In Denial Over 2014.** BALL: "I am tracking the level of Democratic panic. There's a lot of 2010 déjà vu going around. They've just lost a high profile special election. They've even got Scott Brown back to torment them. And so there is a question about is this going to be 2010 all over again and if so, how do they deal with it? I think right now we're in the chickens with their heads cut off stage of that process, there is a little bit of denial, no, Obamacare is going to be great, and we'll run on it. The fact of the matter they haven't figured out what to do or if it can be salvaged." CNN'S JOHN KING: "That's a highly technical term in politics, the chickens with their head cut off phase." (CNN's ["Inside Politics,"](#) 3/30/14)

### **Obama's Job Approval Reached New Lows In March**

#### **The Wall Street Journal Headline: "WSJ/NBC News Poll: Obama's Approval Rating Hits New Low"**

(Patrick O'Connor, "WSJ/NBC News Poll: Obama's Approval Rating Hits New Low," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 3/12/14)

- **Hitting A New Low, Obama's Job Approval Rating Is At 41 Percent, While 54 Percent Disapprove.** "Mr. Obama's job approval ticked down to 41% in March from 43% in January, marking a new low. Some 54% disapproved of the job he is doing, matching a previous high from December, when the botched rollout of his signature health law played prominently in the news." (Patrick O'Connor, "WSJ/NBC News Poll: Obama's Approval Rating Hits New Low," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 3/12/14)

#### **"Americans Surveyed In The Poll Said They Were Less Inclined To Support A Candidate If The Person Had Been Endorsed By Mr. Obama Or Was A 'Solid Supporter' Of His Administration."**

"Americans surveyed in the poll said they were less inclined to support a candidate if the person had been endorsed by Mr. Obama or was a 'solid supporter' of his administration. Approval of Mr. Obama is particularly weak in the South and Midwest, regions where Democrats could have a tough time defending Senate seats." (Patrick O'Connor, "WSJ/NBC News Poll: Obama's Approval Rating Hits New Low," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 3/12/14)

- **48 Percent Of Americans Say They Are Less Likely To Vote For A Candidate That Supports The Obama Administration, While 26 Percent Are More Likely.** ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll](#), 1,000A, MoE 3.1%, 3/5-9/14)

#### **Politico Headline: "Poll: Obama Approval At Record Low"** (Tal Kopan, "Poll: Obama Approval At Record Low," [Politico](#), 3/5/14)

- **"For The First Time In A Fox News Poll, Fewer Than Four Voters In Ten—38 Percent—Approve Of President Obama's Job Performance."** (Dana Blanton, "Fox News Poll: Obama's Approval Hits New Low," [Fox News](#), 3/5/14)

### **IN FL-13, DEMOCRATS LOST WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN "IDEAL" RACE**

**What Was Supposed To Be An "Ideal" Race For Democrats Was "Another Blow" With A Loss In FL-13.** "The Florida special election Tuesday was supposed to be an ideal chance for Democrats to show that 2014 isn't a lost year. Instead, they were dealt another body blow, further weakening their prospects for this year's midterms." (Alex Isenstadt, "Florida Loss Big Blow To Democrats' 2014 Hopes," [Politico](#), 3/11/14)

- **"Democrats Couldn't Have Asked For A More Golden Opportunity."** "Democrats couldn't have asked for a more golden opportunity. They had the right candidate matchup: Alex Sink, a respected former statewide official who nearly won the governorship in 2010, up against a former lobbyist, Republican David Jolly. They had the right district: A swing region of Florida that appeared poised to elect a Democrat after more than four decades of GOP representation. And they certainly had the money: In a year of staggering GOP spending, Sink far outraised her opponent and got nearly \$4 million in help from outside Democratic groups. In the end, it wasn't

enough. Jolly won by 3,456 votes. And he did it by playing a hand Republicans across the country are expected to follow: Run as an opponent to the president's unpopular health care law and the Democrat as for it." (Alex Isenstadt, "Florida Loss Big Blow To Democrats' 2014 Hopes," [Politico](#), 3/11/14)

- **"Dems Should Not Try To Spin This Loss,' Paul Begala, A Onetime Top Political Aide To Former President Bill Clinton, Wrote On Twitter. 'We Have To Redouble Our Efforts For 2014.'" (Alex Isenstadt, "Florida Loss Big Blow To Democrats' 2014 Hopes," [Politico](#), 3/11/14)**

## DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES SUFFERED SETBACKS OF THEIR OWN MAKING

### ***Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) Paid His Granddaughter More Than \$31,000 Through His Campaign***

**Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid's Campaign Paid His Granddaughter More Than \$31,000 For Jewelry.** "After additional reporting found that Harry Reid's campaign paid his granddaughter's company approximately \$31,000 for jewelry, the Senate majority leader said he will repay the full sum, but he pushed back against journalists probing into his family's affairs." (Adam O'Neal, "Reid To Reimburse Campaign \$31K Paid To Kin For Gifts," [Real Clear Politics](#), 3/27/14)

- **Ralston Reports' Jon Ralston: "The Optics Here Are Just Horrific."** JON RALSTON: "The FEC wants to know more about the gifts purchased with campaign funds. The rules only allow officials to give gifts of nominal value. It would take quite a number of nominal gifts to add up to \$17,000. Either way, the optics here are just horrific." (KSNV's [Ralston Reports](#), 3/25/14)

**Reid Was Forced To Reimburse His Campaign For The Payments To His Granddaughter.** "The amount Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) plans to reimburse his reelection campaign jumped from about \$16,000 to at least \$31,000, according to reports. On Tuesday, Nevada journalist Jon Ralston reported that 2016 campaign funds were given to Reid's granddaughter, Ryan Elisabeth Reid, which she used to buy gifts for donors." (Rebecca Shabad, "Reid To Reimburse More Campaign Funds For Gifts," [The Hill](#), 3/27/14)

### ***In A Room Full Of Trial Lawyers, Senate Candidate Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA) Mocked Farmers While Praising Lawyers***

**Video Surfaced Of Iowa Senate Candidate Bruce Braley Mocking Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) As "A Farmer From Iowa Who Never Went To Law School."** "Video shot at a private fundraiser for Bruce Braley caught the Iowa Democrat warning that 'a farmer from Iowa who never went to law school' might become the next judiciary committee chairman." (Jennifer Jacobs, "Video Captures Braley Criticizing Grassley As 'A Farmer From Iowa'," [Des Moines Register](#), 3/25/14)

- **Observers Are Already Predicting The Video Could Seriously Damage Braley's Chances In November.** "Braley is seen as the de facto Democratic nominee in the race to succeed retiring Sen. Tom Harkin, a Democrat who held his seat since 1985. His unchallenged primary is in stark contrast to the Republican race that has become one of the messiest in the country. Despite Iowa's centrist tendencies, Braley is heavily favored to win, and wasn't considered a major pickup opportunity for Republicans. That may change now, thanks to this video." (Matt Vasilogambros, "Iowa Democrat Dismisses Chuck Grassley As 'A Farmer From Iowa Who Never Went to Law School,'" [National Journal](#), 3/25/14)

**After Braley's Comment, Nate Silver Determined That "Iowa Is A More Plausible Option For Republicans."** "But Iowa is a more plausible option for Republicans than it was a week ago. Braley has made their path to a Senate majority a little more robust." (Nate Silver, "A Gaffe Can Matter When It Motivates The Base," [FiveThirtyEight](#), 4/1/14)

### ***Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR) Attacked His Opponent's Military Experience***

**In An Interview With NBC News, Pryor Attacked Senate Challenger Rep. Tom Cotton (R-AR), Saying He Had A "Sense Of Entitlement" Because He Had Served In The Military.** "The quick rise has won him an attack ad from Pryor, who says that Cotton has 'blind ambition' and a sense of entitlement that will turn voters off, even considering his military background. 'There's a lot of people in the Senate that didn't serve in the military,' Pryor told NBC News. 'Obviously in the Senate we have all types of different people, all kinds of different folks that have come from all types of different backgrounds—and I think that's part of that sense of entitlement that he gives off is that, almost like, I served my country, let me into the Senate. But that's not how it works in Arkansas.'" (Kasie Hunt and Ben Mayer, "Can A Democrat Still Get Elected In Arkansas?," [NBC News](#), 3/5/14)

- **Democrat-Gazette Editorial: "This Much Can Surely Be Said For Mark Pryor. He Has Made The Choice In This Race More Than Clear. In This One Statement Of His, He's Made It Undeniable."** (Editorial, "Arkansas' Choice For U.S. Senator," [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), 3/9/14)

## **DEMOCRATS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE FACING LEGAL TROUBLES**

### ***Charlotte Mayor Patrick Cannon (D-NC)***

**Charlotte's Democratic Mayor, Patrick Cannon, Was Arrested "On Federal Public Corruption Laws After A Four-Year Investigation."** "Charlotte Mayor Patrick Cannon was arrested Wednesday on federal public corruption laws after a four-year investigation, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Charlotte announced." (Mark Washburn, Jim Morrill And Mike Gordon, "Charlotte Mayor Patrick Cannon Arrested On Corruption Charges," [Charlotte Observer](#), 3/26/14)

- **According To The FBI, Cannon Solicited And Accepted Cash Bribes From Undercover FBI Agents Who Were Posing As Commercial Real Estate Developers And Investors.** "FBI agents, working on a tip that Cannon, 47, was potentially involved in illegal activities, started an investigation in August 2010, Tompkins said in a statement. Cannon – elected mayor five months ago after a long political career in Charlotte – solicited and accepted cash bribes and other items of value from undercover FBI agents, who were posing as commercial real estate developers and investors who wanted to do business in Charlotte, Tompkins said." (Mark Washburn, Jim Morrill And Mike Gordon, "Charlotte Mayor Patrick Cannon Arrested On Corruption Charges," [Charlotte Observer](#), 3/26/14)

### ***State Sen. Leland Yee (D-CA)***

**In California, Democrat State Sen. Leland Yee Was Arrested On Corruption Charges.** "State Sen. Leland Yee was escorted into San Francisco's Federal Building wearing handcuffs after he was arrested Wednesday morning during a series of raids in the Bay Area and Sacramento. NBC Bay Area was first to report that Yee, a Democrat, was detained by federal agents on charges that include public corruption." (Shawn Brouwer, "Sen. Leland Yee Arrested On Public Corruption Charges," [KCRA](#), 3/26/14)

- **"Yee, 65, Represents California's 8th Senate District, Which Covers About Half Of San Francisco. He Is Also A Candidate For California Secretary Of State."** (Shawn Brouwer, "Sen. Leland Yee Arrested On Public Corruption Charges," [KCRA](#), 3/26/14)

### ***Lt. Governor Candidate John Burkhalter (D-AR)***

**In Arkansas, Democratic Lt. Governor Candidate John Burkhalter Is Facing A Lawsuit From A Former Business Partner.** "Outside a Pulaski County courtroom, Democratic Lt. Governor candidate John Burkhalter downplayed the significance of a legal battle between him and a business partner over an apartment complex they built together in North Little Rock." (Drew Petrimoulx, "Lawsuit Contains Damming Allegations About Lt. Governor Candidate," [KARK-TV](#), 3/5/14)



- **“On One Occasion In March 2011, The Lawsuit Says Burkhalter And An ‘Entourage’ Entered His Partner’s Private Office, Looked Through Business Documents, Recklessly Handled Guns Kept In The Office And Even Pointed A Weapon At A Pregnant Employee.”** (Drew Petrimoulx, “Lawsuit Contains Damming Allegations About Lt. Governor Candidate,” [KARK-TV](#), 3/5/14)
- **“On Another Occasion, The Lawsuit Says Burkhalter Yelled At A Female Employee, Hammered His Fists On Her Desk And ‘Physically Came Over The Desk At Her.’”** (Drew Petrimoulx, “Lawsuit Contains Damming Allegations About Lt. Governor Candidate,” [KARK-TV](#), 3/5/14)

### ***State House Speaker Gordon Fox (D-RI)***

**Federal And State Officials Raided The Office And Home Of Rhode Island House Speaker Gordon Fox (D).** “On Friday, seemingly out of the blue, federal and state officers staged a daytime raid on the office and home of Gordon D. Fox, then the speaker. They carted out several boxes labeled ‘evidence’ without anyone ever explaining what was going on. On Saturday, Mr. Fox, a Democrat, announced his resignation as speaker, remaining silent on his reasons. Even now, no one has disclosed what the authorities were looking for or why Mr. Fox stepped down.” (Kathatine Q. Seelye, “Rhode Island House Elects A Speaker After An Abrupt Resignation,” [The New York Times](#), 3/25/14)

### ***Assemblyman William Scarborough (D-NY)***

**Federal Agents Raided The Office Of New York Democrat Assemblyman William Scarborough After Questions About Per Diem Reimbursements.** “Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation raided the Albany office of Assemblyman William Scarborough this morning, he confirmed to reporters. Scarborough, a Queens Democrat, said the F.B.I. asked questions about the per diem reimbursements that legislators collect for each day they spend in the Capitol. Agents took papers from his offices in Albany and Jamaica, and also accosted him in his hotel room this morning.” (Jimmy Vielkind, Laura Nahmias And Jessica Alaimo, “F.B.I. Raids Scarborough’s Office Over Per Diem Questions,” [Capital New York](#), 3/26/14)

- **“Scarborough Received \$59,085 In Per Diem Payments Between 2010 And 2011. He Submitted Voucher Payments Claiming \$825 For Five Nights In Albany From March 13th To March 17th 2011, While Public Records Showed He Attended A Town Meeting At York College In Jamaica Queens That Thursday.”** (Jimmy Vielkind, Laura Nahmias And Jessica Alaimo, “F.B.I. Raids Scarborough’s Office Over Per Diem Questions,” [Capital New York](#), 3/26/14)