

RNC Research BRIEFING

The Unhelpful DNC

The DNC Starts 2014 At A Fundraising Disadvantage And With A Chair Who Can't Seem To Stay On Message

IN 2013, THE RNC EASILY OUTRAISED THE DNC AND ENDED THE YEAR DEBT-FREE

The RNC Raised Almost \$81 Million In 2013, Ended The Year Debt-Free And With \$9 Million In Hand. "The Republican National Committee said it raised almost \$81 million last year and has \$9 million in hand to keep working on a technology gap that, in part, cost it the last two presidential races. The RNC said it's debt-free." (Phillip Elliot, "Campaign Committees Raise Almost \$500M," [The Associated Press](#), 1/31/14)

- **"The RNC Outraised The Democratic National Committee, Which Took In — And Spent — About \$65 Million. The DNC Ended The Year Carrying \$15.6 Million In Debt."** (Phillip Elliot, "Campaign Committees Raise Almost \$500M," [The Associated Press](#), 1/31/14)

The DNC Is The "Democrats' Weak Point" And Is "Unlikely To Be Much Help To Down-Ballot Candidates During The 2014 Cycle." "The Democrats' weak point is the Democratic National Committee. With \$15.6 million in debt left from 2012, the party's flagship committee is unlikely to be much help to down-ballot candidates during the 2014 cycle." (Byron Tau and Tarini Parti, "The Democrats' Well-Oiled Money Machine," [Politico](#), 2/1/14)

DNC CHAIR REP. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL) HAS DAMAGED HER OWN PARTY'S MID-TERM EFFORTS

Last Week, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) Said "I'm Not Going To Confidently Predict That Democrats Will Take The House Back." "Even Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz hedged Wednesday when asked if her party would take the House, forecasting only that it would gain seats. 'I'm not going to confidently predict that Democrats will take the House back,' she said when asked about the midterm elections during POLITICO's post-State of the Union event." (Alex Isenstadt, "Democrats: Cede The House To Save The Senate," [Politico](#), 1/29/14)

Operatives Trying To Elect Democrats In 2014 Say Wasserman Schultz's Comment "Set Their Efforts Back." "Democratic operatives working to bolster their party's numbers in the House say Democratic National Committee chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz set their efforts back when she said "I'm not going to confidently predict that Democrats will take the House back" in an interview with

Politico last week.” (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Operatives Bristle As DNC Chair Downplays Chances Of Winning Back The House,” [BuzzFeed](#), 2/3/14)

- **Democratic Consultants Say Wasserman Schultz’s Remarks Are “Less Than Helpful.”** “But as a piece of political rhetoric, consultants trying to elect more House Democrats said Wasserman Schultz’ remarks are less than helpful to their cause.” (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Operatives Bristle As DNC Chair Downplays Chances Of Winning Back The House,” [BuzzFeed](#), 2/3/14)
- **Democratic Operative: Wasserman’s Comment Was “Indelicate, Inarticulate.”** “‘It was an indelicate, inarticulate way to say that,’ said another operative working to elect House Democrats. ‘It forces you to underscore to donors the potential that exists and the opportunity that exists. If you look at retirements, there are many more Democratic pickup opportunities than Republican pickup opportunities. It’s not a one-cycle deal.’” (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Operatives Bristle As DNC Chair Downplays Chances Of Winning Back The House,” [BuzzFeed](#), 2/3/14)

Wasserman Schultz’s Comments Echoed The Predictions Of Some Top Democrats And Pundits

Some Top Democrats Are “Moving To Do Something As Painful As It Is Coldblooded: Admit The House Can’t Be Won And Go All In To Save The Senate.” “With Democrats’ grasp on the Senate increasingly tenuous — and the House all but beyond reach — some top party donors and strategists are moving to do something in the midterm election as painful as it is coldblooded: Admit the House can’t be won and go all in to save the Senate.” (Alex Isenstadt, “Democrats: Cede The House To Save The Senate,” [Politico](#), 1/29/14)

- **“Even Some Of The People Who Have Invested The Most To Get House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi Back Into The Speaker’s Chair Are Moving In That Direction.”** (Alex Isenstadt, “Democrats: Cede The House To Save The Senate,” [Politico](#), 1/29/14)
- **Prominent San Francisco Donor And Friend To Pelosi Joe Cotchett: “There Is No Question That Democratic Donors Are Shifting Towards The Senate In 2014.”** “‘There is no question that Democratic donors are shifting towards the Senate in 2014. They will continue to support Nancy, but everyone agrees that the emphasis is going to be on the Senate,’ said Joe Cotchett, a prominent San Francisco trial attorney and friend of Pelosi’s who has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Democratic Party candidates and causes. ‘When you see people like [longtime California Democratic Rep.] George Miller announcing that they are not running again, you know where the money will be going.’” (Alex Isenstadt, “Democrats: Cede The House To Save The Senate,” [Politico](#), 1/29/14)

Pundits Place The Democrats’ Chances Of Winning Back The House As “Nonstarter.” “But with their party weighted down by an unpopular president and his even more unpopular health care law, many Democrats are worried about the election. And their anxiety is most pronounced about the Senate. One handicapper recently characterized the battle for that chamber — Republicans need to net six seats to win control — as a ‘coin flip.’ Making up their 17-seat deficit in the House, on the other hand, looks like a nonstarter for Democrats; it would not be surprising, some pundits say, for Republicans to expand their House majority.” (Alex Isenstadt, “Democrats: Cede The House To Save The Senate,” [Politico](#), 1/29/14)

THIS ISN’T THE FIRST TIME WASSERMAN SCHULTZ HAS RECEIVED CRITICISM FOR HER LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY

Last Year, Wasserman Schultz Angered Some Top Democrats For Putting Her Own Personal Ambitions Over Party. “It’s not the first time Wasserman Schultz has perhaps told it like it is only to get

in trouble with fellow Democrats. Last year, after she was open about her own political ambitions and her belief that leading the DNC can help her further her personal goals, top Democrats accused her of making the DNC job ‘all about her.’” (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Operatives Bristle As DNC Chair Downplays Chances Of Winning Back The House,” [BuzzFeed](#), 2/3/14)

In 2013, Top Democrats Were Angry With Wasserman Schultz For Saying She Plans To Use Her Position As DNC Chair To Further Her Career. “Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz angered many top leaders in the party she leads as Democratic National Committee chair when she went public with her plans to use the connections she’s made in her national job to position herself for a statewide run in Florida or even a bid to replace Nancy Pelosi as Democratic leader in the House.” (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Democratic Party Chief Angers Democrats,” [BuzzFeed](#), 8/2/13)

- **“‘This Is Unbelievable. So Much For Supporting The President Or Electing Democrats,’ Said A Top Democratic Political Adviser. ‘She Was Honest That This Is About Her.’”** (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Democratic Party Chief Angers Democrats,” [BuzzFeed](#), 8/2/13)
- **“‘One Senior Democratic Source Said The White House Was ‘Absolutely Outraged’ By Wasserman Schultz’s Comments In Politico.”** (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Democratic Party Chief Angers Democrats,” [BuzzFeed](#), 8/2/13)
- **“‘The New Comments Prompted Open Anger From Some Democratic Quarters. Wasserman Schultz Has Been Known To Have A Tenuous At Best Relationship With The Obama Team In The Past, Though.’”** (Evan McMorris-Santoro, “Democratic Party Chief Angers Democrats,” [BuzzFeed](#), 8/2/13)

Wasserman Schultz Described Her Fundraising Capacity As A “Leadership PAC On Steroids.” “‘I don’t really do anything halfway,’ Wasserman Schultz told POLITICO in an interview at DNC headquarters. ‘We thought with the higher profile I have at the DNC, and the donor relationships I’ve been able to build — and thankfully, a lot of people who want to help me be successful, because we share the same goals. We kind of put the leadership PAC on steroids. That’s the best way to describe it.’” (Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman, “DNC Chair Looks To Leverage Money Into Power,” [Politico](#), 8/2/13)