



These Fundraisers Won't Be Awkward

Obama Fundraises With A Vehement Opponent Of The Keystone Pipeline And Near The Site Of His Infamous "Bitter" And "Cling To Guns Or Religion" Remarks

Obama: "I Actually Just Want To Govern – At Least For A Couple Years." OBAMA: "Can we sustain and maintain the sense of citizenship that arose during the course of the campaign outside of a campaign structure, outside of the immediate, okay, we're trying to win this many votes in this many states, but can, instead, we activate people around an agenda. I think here in Washington, this idea has been viewed with puzzle -- some both suspicion and people have been puzzled about what it is that we're trying to do. Because the usual idea is, well, this must just be a mechanism to try to win the next election in 2014. And what we've tried to explain to people is, is that, no, I actually just want to govern -- at least for a couple of years." (President Barack Obama, Remarks At Organizing For Action Event, [Washington, DC](#), 3/13/13)

LESS THAN THREE MONTHS INTO HIS SECOND TERM, OBAMA IS GOING TO BILLIONAIRES ROW TO HEADLINE HIS FIRST BATCH OF FUNDRAISERS

Today, Obama Will Head To San Francisco's "Billionaires Row" To Attend A DCCC Fundraiser Hosted By Gordon And Ann Getty. "Among the four fundraisers President Obama is scheduled to attend in California next week is a dinner at the Getty mansion in San Francisco's famed Billionaires Row, according to a Democrat briefed on the plans. Gordon Getty is a stalwart Obama supporter, ponying up \$35,800 for his reelection last year, but this time, the fundraiser he is hosting with his wife, Anne, will benefit the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. It won't be Obama's first time at the mansion -- the Gettys also hosted him in 2008 for a fundraiser for his first presidential campaign." (Donovan Slack, "Obama To Hit Billionaires Row For DCCC," [Politico](#), 3/26/13)

- **"On The Same Day As The Getty Dinner, April 3, The President Will Also Attend A DCCC Reception At The Home Of Billionaire Democratic Fundraiser And Clean-Energy Advocate Tom Steyer."** (Donovan Slack, "Obama To Hit Billionaires Row For DCCC," [Politico](#), 3/26/13)
- **"Steyer And His Wife, Kat Taylor, Will Host The \$5,000-Per-Person Cocktail Reception Before A \$32,500-Per-Person Dinner To Be Hosted By Fellow Billionaires Ann And Gordon Getty At Their Home Nearby."** (Juliet Eilperin, "Awkward! Keystone Opponent To Host Obama Fundraiser In SF Next Week," [The Washington Post](#), 3/26/13)

“The Following Day, Obama Will Headline Two Fundraisers For The DNC, One At The Home Of Mark Heising And Liz Simons And The Other At The Home Of Marcia And John Goldman.” (Donovan Slack, “Obama To Hit Billionaires Row For DCCC,” [Politico](#), 3/26/13)

- **30 People Will Pay \$32,400 For The One Fundraiser, While Ticket Prices For The Second Range From \$1,000 To Get In To \$20,000 For A “Co-Chair Clutch Reception.”** (Evan Morris-Santoro, “President Obama Returns To California Next Month,” [BuzzFeed](#), 3/14/13)

Democrat Officials Call Obama’s Second Term Fundraising “Aggressive” Compared To Previous Presidents

Obama Has Committed To Headlining At Least 14 Fundraisers For Democrats In 2013, A Schedule That Party Officials Say Is A “Significant Step Up” And “Aggressive” Compared To Fundraising Efforts By Previous Presidents. “Obama has committed to hosting at least 14 fundraisers for congressional Democrats this year, party officials said. The plan was described as a ‘significant step up’ from previous fundraising efforts by second-term presidents and ‘aggressive,’ coming nearly two years before the midterm elections.” (Devin Dwyer, “Obama To Hit Money Trail For Democrats,” [ABC News](#), 2/7/13)

- **Obama Will Travel For 10 Of The Scheduled 14 Events And Host Four In Washington.** “The president, who is very popular in Democratic enclaves and able to draw big crowds, will travel outside Washington for 10 of the events, with five benefiting the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and five the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, officials said. Four events will be held in Washington, with two separate events to benefit each individual committee and two joint events.” (Devin Dwyer, “Obama To Hit Money Trail For Democrats,” [ABC News](#), 2/7/13)
- **“‘This Is Particularly A Big Shot In The Arm For House Democrats,’ Said One Official Familiar With The Effort, Asking To Speak Anonymously So He Could Speak Freely.”** (Devin Dwyer, “Obama To Hit Money Trail For Democrats,” [ABC News](#), 2/7/13)

OBAMA’S FUNDRAISER WITH GREEN ENERGY ADVOCATE TOM STEYER PLACES HIM IN AN AWKWARD POSTION

DCCC Fundraiser Host Tom Steyer Is Vehemently Opposed To The Keystone XL Pipeline, While The Majority Of Americans Support It

Tom Steyer Has “Made No Secret Of His Opposition To The Keystone XL Pipeline, A Project President Obama Is Considering Approving This Year.” “San Francisco billionaire Tom Steyer has made no secret of his opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline, a project President Obama is considering approving this year. But the fact that Obama may sign off on a pipeline that would ship heavy crude from Alberta’s oil sands to Gulf Coast refineries isn’t stopping Steyer from hosting the president at his Pacific Heights home April 3, in an event to raise money for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.” (Juliet Eilperin, “Awkward! Keystone Opponent To Host Obama Fundraiser In SF Next Week,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/26/13)

- **“To Make The Evening A Little More Awkward,” Climate Activists Will Be Hosting An Anti-Keystone Rally Outside Of Another Obama Fundraiser.** “To make the whole evening a little more entertaining, between 1,000 and 2000 climate activists from 350.org plan to stage a rally outside the Gettys’ home to highlight the administration’s upcoming Keystone decision.” (Juliet Eilperin, “Awkward! Keystone Opponent To Host Obama Fundraiser In SF Next Week,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/26/13)

66 Percent Of Americans Favor The Keystone XL Pipeline, While Just 23 Percent Oppose It. “As the Obama administration approaches a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, a national survey finds broad public support for the project. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) favor building the pipeline, which would transport oil from Canada’s oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas. Just 23% oppose construction of the pipeline.” (“Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Broad Support,” [Pew Research Center](#), 4/2/13)

- **“Support For The Pipeline Spans Most Demographic And Partisan Groups. Substantial Majorities Of Republicans (82%) And Independents (70%) Favor Building The Keystone XL Pipeline, As Do 54% Of Democrats.”** (“Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Broad Support,” [Pew Research Center](#), 4/2/13)

Steyer Is Calling For Obama To Reject The Keystone XL Pipeline

In February, Steyer Spoke Against Keystone At A Protest With Crowds Estimated At 35,000 People.

“Thousands of protesters gathered on the Washington's National Mall on Sunday calling on President Barack Obama to reject the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline proposal and honor his inaugural pledge to act on climate change. Organizers of the ‘Forward on Climate’ event estimated that 35,000 people from 30 states turned out in cold, blustery conditions for what they said was the biggest climate rally in U.S. history. Police did not verify the crowd size. Protesters also marched around the nearby White House, chanting ‘Keystone pipeline? Shut it down.’ Among the celebrities on hand were actresses Rosario Dawson and Evangeline Lilly, and hedge fund manager and environmentalist Tom Steyer.” (Valerie Volcovici, “Thousands At Climate Rally In Washington Call On Obama To Reject Keystone Pipeline,” [Reuters](#), 2/17/13)

- **Steyer: “We Have To Ask Ourselves, Does This Pipeline Help Us Or Does It Help A Few Narrow Interests?”** (Tom Steyer, [Remarks At Anti-Keystone Rally](#), 2/17/13)
- **Steyer: “We Can’t Afford 40 More Years Of Dirty Energy.”** STEYER: “I get the argument for the Keystone pipeline. The argument for the Keystone pipeline is business as usual. We use fossil fuels. We continue to use fossil fuels and we need to transport them. But the time for business as usual has passed. We can't afford 40 more years of dirty energy. We can't afford the droughts, the storms, the disasters. And most of all, we can't afford not to build a cleaner, cheaper, more secure energy system.” (Tom Steyer, [Remarks At Anti-Keystone Rally](#), 2/17/13)
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In An Op-Ed Expressing Opposition To The Keystone XL Pipeline, Tom Steyer Said The Pipeline Propagates “Dirty Energy.” “The political calculus is easy to explain: Yes, the tar sands are vast, and hold especially dirty oil -- but we use a lot of oil, and some of it comes from hostile countries, so reducing those imports might be worth some of the negative environmental effects of tar sands. America would get several thousand construction jobs out of the deal. It seems like a straightforward decision to make North America more energy independent and build out our energy infrastructure. Not so fast. The world has changed. We need to re-define what we mean by the term ‘energy independence.’ If we're going to get serious about addressing climate change, we need to be independent of dirty energy. And I believe we need American leadership to solve this urgent global problem.” (Tom Steyer, Op-Ed, “Re-Defining ‘Energy Independence,’” [The Huffington Post](#), 2/19/13)

- **Tom Steyer Warned That The Pipeline “Will Open Up Some Of The Dirtiest Oil On The Planet.”** “These stark facts need to be held up against the potential benefits of the Keystone pipeline, or, indeed, any other energy project. Against this present danger, it is preposterous to

allow a pipeline that will open up some of the dirtiest oil on the planet.” (Tom Steyer, Op-Ed, “Re-Defining ‘Energy Independence,’” [The Huffington Post](#), 2/19/13)

- **Steyer: “But We Cannot Lead The World If We Are Unwilling To Address The Problem Of Dirty Energy At Home. The President Has The Authority To Act, But Let’s All Recognize That The Supporters Of Dirty Energy Will Use Every Tool At Their Disposal To Stop Him.”** (Tom Steyer, Op-Ed, “Re-Defining ‘Energy Independence,’” [The Huffington Post](#), 2/19/13)

Steyer Has Promised To Fund A Super PAC Against Massachusetts Senate Democrat Candidate Stephen Lynch If He Does Not Oppose The Keystone XL Pipeline

Steyer And Other Environmental Activists Sent A Letter To Massachusetts Senate Democrat Candidate Stephen Lynch, Threatening To Form A Super PAC Against Him If He Did Not Oppose The Keystone XL Pipeline. “A group of climate-minded activists and a philanthropist have sent a letter to Massachusetts Senate hopeful Stephen Lynch, warning the Democratic congressman that they’ll form a super PAC to target him unless he opposes the Keystone pipeline. The move takes place amid an anti-super PAC pledge signed by both Lynch and the favorite in the Democratic primary, Rep. Ed Markey, to discourage outside groups from airing ads and sending out direct mail.” (Maggie Haberman, “Enviros Threaten Stephen Lynch On Keystone Pipeline,” [Politico](#), 3/18/13)

- **If Lynch Refused To Meet Their Demands By March 22, They Threatened To “Immediately Launch An Aggressive Public Education Campaign” Against Him.** “If Lynch does not comply, the signers warn they ‘will then immediately launch an aggressive public education campaign, including: investigative reports about your record, public events targeting interested Democratic voters, a college-based get-out-the-vote effort, community-to-community activity in cities and towns with the worst childhood asthma rates, and a robust social media effort to help voters understand that their climate interest is on the ballot.’ It concludes, ‘What say you, Congressman Lynch?’ A Lynch spokesman described it as ‘something out of a James Bond film — billionaires issuing ultimatums.’ He added that he would not respond to threats.” (Maggie Haberman, “Enviros Threaten Stephen Lynch On Keystone Pipeline,” [Politico](#), 3/18/13)
- **Lynch Responded To Steyer’s Letter In An Op-Ed, Reiterating His Support For The Keystone XL Pipeline And Noting That He Won’t Be “Shoved” By “Out-Of-State Billionaires.”** “There’s a point in the movie ‘High Noon’ when Gary Cooper says to his deputy, ‘Don’t shove me, Harv. I’m tired of being shoved.’ I was reminded of that line this week when I received a letter from a radical hedge fund billionaire threatening to launch an attack on me if I didn’t accede to his demands by ‘high noon on Friday.’ Tom Steyer of California is demanding that I either repudiate my support for the Keystone XL oil pipeline, or secure a commitment from TransCanada that all the oil in the pipeline be kept in the United States — a violation of US treaty obligations. While most people in Massachusetts are worried about whether they can pay their rent or their student loans next month, out-of-state billionaires like Steyer spend tens of millions — more than most working people will earn in their entire lifetime — telling them how to vote. I think most Americans are tired of being shoved.” (Stephen F. Lynch, Op-Ed, “High Noon? I Won’t Be Shoved,” [The Boston Globe](#), 3/22/13)

THIS WON’T BE THE FIRST AWKWARD SITUATION FOR OBAMA WHILE FUNDRAISING ON BILLIONAIRES ROW

At A 2008 Fundraiser On Billionaires Row, Obama Made His Infamous “Guns Or Religion”**Remarks.** (“Besides Barack Obama And Mayhill Fowler, Who Is Responsible For His Elitist-Remark Leak,” [SFist.com](#), 4/15/08)

- **Obama Said People From Small Towns “Get Bitter” And “Cling To Guns Or Religion.”** OBAMA: “You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them. And they fell through the Clinton administration, and the Bush administration, and each successive administration has said that somehow these communities are gonna regenerate and they have not. And it's not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy toward people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations.” (Ben Smith, “Obama On Small-Town Pa.: Clinging To Religion, Guns, Xenophobia,” [Politico](#), 4/11/08)
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