

# DAPAC DISPATCH

## Democratic Advancement Political Action Committee

Grassroots Activism for Progressive Democrats  
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### New Candidate

#### **Domenic M. Recchia, NY-11**

We are endorsing former New York City Council Member Domenic M Recchia for Congress. Recchia hopes to unseat New York's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative Michael Grimm. Known for his threat to physically harm a reporter, Grimm also faces 20-count indictment for tax fraud. He supported both sequestration and last year's government shutdown. He also opposed the Affordable Care Act.

[www.recchiaforcongress.com](http://www.recchiaforcongress.com)

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### Global Climate Change and International Trade

By Tom Wallace Lyons and Tom Cramer

The consumption of fossil fuels, including gas, petroleum, and especially coal, is releasing carbon into the air, heating up the Earth, and changing our climate. Global climate change is already causing hurricanes, floods, and drought. If left unchecked, global climate change will leave hundreds of millions of people – maybe billions of people – around the world impoverished, starving, thirsty, and homeless.

President Obama has started implementing a plan to reduce carbon emissions in the United States, by reducing our use of coal for the generation of electricity. Since a very large portion of our carbon emissions do, in fact, come from burning coal, this will move us a great deal further on the path toward saving the planet.

But the United States only generates about one seventh of the world's total carbon emissions. China, with the largest population on Earth, emits almost twice as much carbon. While India is still behind us,

they are already in third place, and with the world's second-largest population, it is only a matter of time until they also surpass us. The same goes for many other developing countries.

Manufacturing is shifting away from the United States and toward countries with a lower cost of production. When we crack down on carbon emissions here, that shift becomes part of the problem, as the same goods



Photo of a coal-fired power plant in Shuozhou, Shanxi, China

are produced in countries that make it easier to emit carbon.

Our proposal: impose an import tax on goods, based on the carbon emitted as a result of their production. This import tax could have a powerful effect. Most developed countries – including Europe, Japan, and South Korea – have indicated willingness to follow America's lead. Along with the United States, these countries harbor the bulk of the world export market.

By itself this pan-nation import tax will not stop global warming. Nor will it repatriate all the salaries and jobs which have been absorbed by other countries. But the import tax could be a powerful step in the right direction. It would be a powerful incentive for Chinese exporters to reduce their carbon emissions, regardless of whether or when the Chinese government ever embraces the goal of halting climate change.

The issue of job exportation is complex. Sometimes it is justified. Sometimes not. The health of our planet is another issue. Hence DAPAC only supports leaders who will stand up to politicians who ignore the scientific evidence behind global warming. And DAPAC will only support leaders eager to take a strong stand for the rights of workers in face of ever increasing corporate power.

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## **The RFK Assassination and the Roberts Court: The Long-Term Consequences of Elections**

By Tom Wallace Lyons and Tom Cramer

Had Robert Kennedy not been assassinated, he might well have become president. And Robert Kennedy would never have nominated William Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. But Richard M. Nixon won the 1968 presidency. And Nixon nominated Rehnquist, who remained on the Supreme Court decades after Nixon resigned in disgrace. So Nixon enabled Rehnquist to cast one of the five votes that gave George W. Bush the presidency. The case was *Bush versus Gore*.

*The Rehnquist Choice*, by John W. Dean, tells of President Nixon's determination to nominate justices through whose opinions he could impose his conservative ideology. Dean quotes Nixon about potential nominees: "I don't give a God damn if the guy can read or write, just so he votes right." Dean also writes, "Only insiders would know that Rehnquist had never met a repressive law enforcement activity that he did not find legal."

Dean also discusses how Rehnquist apparently challenged black voters in Phoenix. Dean writes, "To read the testimony and affidavits, the conclusion is inescapable that Rehnquist's statement in 1971 flatly denying that he had challenged voters [in the elections from 1958-68] was false."

It is now forty years since Nixon resigned his presidency in disgrace. But, courtesy his Rehnquist nomination and its impact on *Bush versus Gore*, the Nixon legacy still dominates the Supreme Court.

The connection between the RFK assassination and the Rehnquist nomination is chilling commentary on a president's power to impose his legacy long after he leaves office. One writer described this power as the

gift that keeps on giving. Republicans get it. DAPAC wants to make sure Democrats get it.

DAPAC wants to support Democratic Senators who will fight for a judicial selection process that ensures, to the extent possible, non-ideological nominations. This process should preserve the separation of powers among the three branches of government.



R. Kennedy 26 February 1962

We live in dangerous times. The average age for Supreme Court Justices is 68. Four justices are over 75. A 2014 Republican Senate would probably block any Obama nomination to the Supreme Court.

A 2016 Republican senate and president could nominate one or more justices whose vote with the conservative Roberts block would probably lead us to an era of coat-hanger abortions, poisonous air and water, and new restrictions that would limit the ability of Democrats to win elections. So we must do all we can now, to prevent Republicans from hijacking the Supreme Court again.

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## **Ebola and Paul Ryan's Budget**

By Tom Wallace Lyons and Tom Cramer

Had sensible budget priorities been in place, the Ebola virus might have been stopped in its tracks. But they were not – House of Representatives budget leader Paul Ryan made sure of that. Ryan's austerity cuts, which reduced its budget by over \$500 million since 2008, have negatively impacted the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The outbreak of Ebola highlights the dangerous threat of epidemics brought about by ever increased travel. The good news is that it may be possible to contain



Biosafety level 4 hazmat suit: researcher is working with the Ebola virus

the Ebola virus. The bad news is that, had it not been for budget cuts, an Ebola vaccine might have become available.

NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, interviewed by the Huffington Post, said, “Frankly, if we had not gone through our 10-year slide in research support, we probably would have had a vaccine in time for this that would’ve gone through clinical trials and would have been ready.”

Progressive Democratic Senator Tom Harkin recently introduced a bill to restore funding to the NIH, but with Paul Ryan ready to block the funding in the House, it will probably go nowhere. This underscores the need to keep fighting to retain Democratic control of the Senate. Moreover, we must continue our efforts to fight the Republican gerrymandering that is preventing us from taking back the House, and ending Paul Ryan's reign of austerity.

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## **Equal Pay Equals Reproductive Freedom**

By Tom Wallace Lyons

No human being should ever be made to feel like a second class citizen because of his or her sex. This is why we should only support leaders who take absolute positions on equal pay for equal work and for reproductive freedom. We all need to promote leaders who see the close relation between these issues.

Reproductive freedom: A barrier to reproductive freedom is somewhat like rape. In both cases a woman is denied ownership of her body. This denial

of body ownership negatively impacts a woman’s effort to obtain pay parity.

Why? When a woman loses partial or total ownership of her body, she cannot prioritize her life in a manner that will enable her to maximize her opportunities. The inability to prioritize has to limit a woman’s ability to effectively assert her rights in the workplace.

This may leave more money in the coffers of corporate America given the widely reported estimate that women only make only 78% of what men make. Admittedly this estimate is controversial. And the pay gap may be diminished if men earn less.

Pay equity did not appear to bother Satya Nadella, the Microsoft CEO who suggested that woman not ask for pay parity. Nadella is quoted in *ReadWrite*(Selena Larson, Oct 9, 2014): “He seemed to suggest that “faith in the system” is akin to magic.” Larson quotes Nadella - “That might be one of the initial ‘super powers,’ that quite frankly, women (who) don’t ask for a raise have,” he told the straight-faced Klawe. “It’s good karma. It will come back.”

Nadella’s karmic, voodoo approach to business is completely in line with the TRICKLE DOWN theory of Reaganomics. Under Reaganomics, the rich got richer due to lower taxes. The poor got poorer. The country went into debt. Where is the rising tide that was supposed to lift everyone?

We just might get some TRICKLE UP if we raised the minimum which would definitely benefit women who tend to predominate in low paying jobs. Enhanced buying power brought on by fair pay for BOTH men and women might stimulate the economy. Rising tide anyone?

Nadella apologized for his remarks. But Julie Ann Horvath set a hopeful agenda. Horvath, a developer and designer at AndYet, is quoted by Selena Larson in *ReadWrite*(Oct 9, 2014): “We should be building platforms to amplify the voices of women in tech, not to cater to the egos of men -- Men who want to help need to get the hell out of our way, basically. Because we’re coming. And we don’t need support.”

Every woman is entitled to complete ownership of her body and to equal pay for equal work. No woman should be made to feel like a second class citizen because of her gender.

DAPAC DISPATCH is edited by Christopher Cramer

## What DAPAC Does

**DAPAC focuses on every facet of electoral politics.** We are involved in every aspect of the campaign, with special attention on building a strong grassroots base, and crafting a compelling progressive message. We don't believe in "one-size-fits-all" solutions. We match our advice and guidance to the candidate's district, not the other way around. It all comes down to getting out the vote, and that's where experience matters most.

**We target the most promising Congressional districts in the nation,** using the most up-to-date electoral, demographic and census data available.

**We recruit, train and advise candidates,** covering all campaign techniques from fund raising and messaging, to field operations.

**We provide contact information on potential donors to our endorsed candidates** to help them fund their campaigns.

**We provide hands on guidance,** helping candidates to craft their message and to hire the most talented staffers.

**We don't compromise on our values,** and neither will our candidates. If these are your values, please make a donation to DAPAC today.

### Who DAPAC Supports:

**DAPAC supports progressive Democratic Congressional candidates.** That's our mission. That's our passion. We interview dozens of candidates from around the country and talk to them not only about what kind of race they are going to run, but what kind of policies they favor. We screen every candidate to see where they stand on the issues that matter most. **We only endorse progressive candidates.** When you give to DAPAC you know that these are the kinds of men and women you are helping to elect to Congress.

### All our candidates:

- are 100% Pro-Choice.
- support stronger GBLT rights.
- support working family and union rights.
- support honest and Democratic markets and businesses.
- support publicly funded universal health care.
- support strong environmental protection.
- protecting Social Security and Medicare.
- oppose the Patriot Act.
- oppose Iraq and Afghanistan wars.
- oppose the Death Penalty.

**DAPAC is working to rebuild the Democratic Party from the ground up, to support strong candidates who will give voice to the issues that matter most.**

Paid for and authorized by the Democratic Advancement PAC (DAPAC). Contributions will be used in connection with federal elections and they are subject to the limits and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal law requires us to report the name, address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contribution aggregate in excess of \$200 is a calendar year. Corporate and non-permanent resident contributions are prohibited. Contributions are not tax deductible.