

DAPAC DISPATCH

Democratic Advancement Political Action Committee

Grassroots Activism for Progressive Democrats
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New Candidates

Ted Lieu CA-33

A member of the California State Legislature since 2005, Ted Lieu has been a workhorse. Among others, he has authored and passed laws to protect homeowners from foreclosure, to protect children from cyberbullying, to protect beachgoers from sewage spills, and to ban the practice of sexual orientation conversion therapy.

www.tedlieu.com

Pete Aguilar CA-31

Mayor of Redlands, California, since 2010, Pete Aguilar has always been focused on solving problems. He has invested in infrastructure and started a loan program for business start-ups to create jobs in his city, supported a gun buyback program and a climate action plan to reduce air pollution.

www.peteaguilar.com

Michael McKenna FL-10

Michael McKenna, a Navy veteran, has been running an aggressive, grass-roots campaign. He has knocked on over 50,000 doors to get the message out about his campaign for Congress. He is running against incumbent Rep. Daniel Webster.

www.mckennaforcongress.com

Spotlight on Iowa

As the election in November approaches, the fate of the Senate is up in the air. Democrats currently control the Senate with a 55 to 45 seat majority. A number of seats currently held by retiring Democrats in heavily Republican states, including Montana, South Dakota, West Virginia, leave Republicans with a three-seat margin to take control of the chamber.



*Rep. Bruce Braley,
candidate for Senate in
Iowa*

One of the races that political forecasters are focusing on is Iowa, where Democratic senator Tom Harkin is retiring, and we have endorsed Rep. Bruce Braley to succeed him. Leading experts in election results, Nate Silver, Charles Cook, Stuart Rothenberg, and Lara Sabato, have each indicated that this race could go either way. Recent polling has given Rep. Braley a slight edge, but with two months to go, nobody feels terribly confident about the ultimate result.

Rep. Braley has been a champion for the middle class in Congress. He founded the Populist Caucus in the House, which promotes fair wages, secure retirement, and quality education. He has been a tireless advocate of a higher minimum wage, and a fierce opponent of Republican cuts to basic government services that everyday Americans rely on. And he has a solid record on reproductive choice, gay rights, and environmental protection.

By contrast, his opponent, state senator Joni Ernst, is a Tea Party extremist. She advocates the elimination of Environmental Protection Agency

rules on air pollution, the repeal of the Clean Water Act. Ernst said she supported a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. She claims that states have the power to nullify federal laws, and that President Obama should be impeached. His opponent has voted to prevent state funding for abortion and sponsored a “personhood” amendment in the Iowa Senate.

The race in Iowa is perhaps the most important one in the country right now. We are doing everything we can to make sure we win this one.

PA Environmental Protection: Protecting Polluters

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Republican Governor Tom Corbett might as well be renamed to the Department of Pollution Protection. Recently Corbett was forced to release information on dozens of cases in 22 counties where fracking had contaminated local water supplies. The release came after years of lawsuits by news organizations and stonewalling by the Corbett administration.



A fracking operation in the Marcellus Shale

One of Corbett's cronies, who served as head of the Department and now works as a lawyer for fracking companies, testified to the state legislature that, “terrible chemicals are getting into the groundwater is a completely myth.” That he could say such a thing with a straight face,

given the numerous documented cases of Pennsylvanians getting sick from unregulated fracking chemicals, is hard to believe. But now Corbett has been forced to stop denying reality.

Or has he? The Department just approved a non-competitive grant for \$150,000 to study fracking. The grant was awarded to an organization founded and funded by the fracking industry. The study will focus on “a life cycle analysis of waste challenges”, which we take to mean the challenges that ensue when Pennsylvanians complain that they've been poisoned.

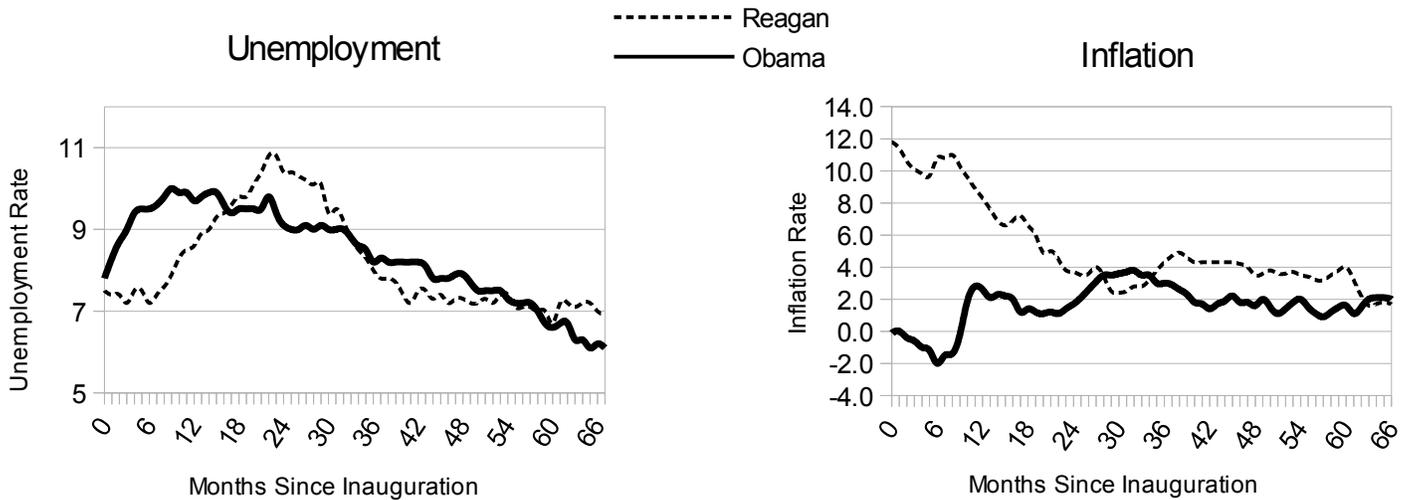
One more reason to kick Corbett out of the governor's office.

Reagan vs. Obama

Ask a Republican about the greatest modern president, and they are likely to tell you it was Ronald Reagan. Indeed, there is a sort of mythology surrounding him, and his miraculous effect on the economy. And if you ask a Republican about the worst modern president, you are likely to hear that it is Barack Obama. He has been terrible for the economy, or so they say. In fact, Obama's supposed economic policies are the entire rhetorical foundation for the Tea Party movement.

But what is the truth? The truth is that, while the economy has not been stellar under President Obama, neither was it so great under President Reagan. Let's start with the metric most important for everyday people, which determines how hard it is to find a job and keep it: the unemployment rate.

Most Republicans will tell you that President Reagan ushered in an era where anyone could get work, fueled by lower taxes that supercharged the economy. They will also tell you that Obama has destroyed the economy through high spending, crowding out private job creation.



Note: Data from Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014)

Looking at the chart of actual unemployment rates, we can see that President Obama started with an economy that was already crashing. By contrast, the economy under President Reagan didn't start to tank until well into his administration. The peak of unemployment was significantly higher under the Reagan Administration. While there was a period of about two years where employment prospects were slightly better under President Reagan than under President Obama, at this point they are slightly better under Obama. Overall, it's hard to say that one was significantly worse than the other. Both presidencies had years-long periods of terribly high unemployment levels.

But, if you ask a Republican, they will surely claim that President Reagan had to fight off severe inflation that he inherited from his predecessor. Meanwhile, Republicans believe President Obama has done just the opposite, through heavy government spending increases that have let loose a torrent of hyperinflation. This is not true.

Looking at the chart, there is a little bit of truth to this: President Reagan did have to fight off very high inflation. But the fight was basically over by the third year of his administration. And inflation did go up under President Obama – from deflation, which we haven't seen since the 1930s. Still, under President Obama, inflation only went up to 2%, which is hardly hyperinflation territory. In fact, by this point in the Reagan Administration, inflation was the same.

So overall, contrary to what a Republican might tell you, Ronald Reagan was no economic savior. He had a good record on inflation, but so does Barack Obama. Ronald Reagan had a mediocre record on jobs, similar to Barack Obama's.

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.