



DPCC SPECIAL REPORT: The Trump Textbook – Congressional Republicans Have a Ready-made Guide to Enact Donald Trump’s Policies

As the presumptive Republican nominee for President of the United States, Donald Trump has become the leader of the Republican Party. Once again he will be leading a group of eager apprentices – Congressional Republicans. Even though Donald Trump’s position as the head of the Republican Party is new, the record shows that Republicans have already undertaken years of training to achieve mastery of the Trump agenda.

America’s Full Faith and Credit

Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans have both demonstrated a dangerous disregard for the full faith and credit of the United States.

- **Donald Trump**, in response to a CNBC interview question whether the United States needed to pay its debts in full, or whether he could negotiate a partial repayment, Donald Trump stated “I would borrow, knowing that if the economy crashed, you could make a deal,” implying that he would renegotiate outstanding bonds issued by the Treasury for less than the contracted interest rate. [NYT, [5/6/16](#); WSJ, [5/9/16](#)]
 - Financial experts and the press were quick to comment on the disastrous effect this would have on the global financial markets and the stability of America’s financial system. [WSJ, [5/9/16](#); NYT, [5/6/16](#)]
 - Generally, the United States is able to borrow money at low interest rates because the Treasury is considered one of the safest borrowers in the world. Any policy that would compromise this would raise borrowing rates, ultimately costing American tax payers billions of dollars. [NYT, [5/6/16](#)]
- **Congressional Republicans** have regularly disregarded the need to raise the nation’s debt limit in order to pay the bills already incurred by Congress, instead treating the full faith and credit of the United States as a bargaining chip to push for partisan and special interest agendas. [The Hill, [10/21/15](#)]
 - In 2011, Republican brinkmanship caused the first credit rating downgrade for Treasury bills in U.S. history.

- Federal borrowing costs increased due to a rise in interest rates, as investors started to doubt the ability of the United States to repay its debt. This was caused by the refusal of Congressional Republicans to raise the debt ceiling, the federal government’s legal borrowing limit. [NYT, [5/6/16](#)]
- Congressional Republicans either ignored the catastrophic repercussions that a U.S. default would cause, or pushed for widely discredited policy gimmicks that they claimed would prevent a default. [Treasury, [1/21/11](#)]

Tax Cuts for Millionaires

Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans share tax proposals that aim to lower the tax rates on large corporations and high-income individuals, while simultaneously blowing a huge hole in the federal deficit. [WSJ, [5/9/16](#)]

- **Donald Trump’s** tax plan would lower rates for the highest-income households, reducing federal revenues by \$9.5 trillion over 10 years and potentially raising the federal deficit by almost 80 percent of GDP by 2036. [CNN, [5/9/16](#); Tax Policy Center, [12/22/16](#)]
- **Congressional Republicans** have similarly pushed a tax agenda that disproportionality benefits high earners and wealthy taxpayers, pushing for tax plans that would increase personal income tax burdens for working families, eliminate taxes completely on wealthy investors, and repeal the estate tax for millionaires and billionaires.
 - The Fiscal Year 2016 [House](#) and [Senate](#) Republican budgets both push for enormous tax breaks for the wealthy, while gutting critical social and economic investments that would benefit the middle class. These budgets follow in the footsteps of budgets repeatedly proposed by Speaker Ryan that would provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax cuts for millionaires while shifting the burden to seniors and working families. [House Committee on the Budget, [3/17/15](#); Senate Committee on the Budget, [3/18/15](#)]
 - Senators Mike Lee (R-UT) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced a tax reform plan that would create two tax brackets – a slashed tax rate for the wealthiest Americans and a new increased tax burden for America’s working families. [NYT, [2/16/16](#)]

Wall Street Reform

Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans have both called for the repeal of the Dodd-Frank law, which would gut consumer protections for every American and risk another financial crisis.

- **Donald Trump** called Dodd-Frank “terrible”, and has said he would “absolutely” repeal it. Trump described Wall Street reform as a ‘disaster’ and claims it has hindered economic growth without producing a shred of evidence. [The Hill, [10/14/15](#)]
- **Congressional Republicans** have routinely offered legislation to repeal Dodd-Frank and have attempted to stall the legislative process with riders and

amendments to repeal vital sections of the law. [Politico, [11/5/15](#); The Hill, [12/17/14](#); LA Times, [7/25/14](#)]

Overturing Women’s Constitutional Health Rights

Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans want to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

- **Donald Trump** said that, if he were to become president, he would nominate an anti-choice judge to the Supreme Court, hinting at the possibility of overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision that guaranteed women a constitutional right to make her own choices about her own body. Trump previously said there should be “some form of punishment” for women who had an abortion. [USA Today, [5/11/16](#); The Hill, [3/30/16](#)]
- **Senate Republicans** have consistently voted to restrict women’s constitutionally protected health care rights. In 2015 alone, Senate Republicans voted to:
 - Drastically cut funding for access to women’s health services by cutting funding to HHS’s Title X family planning centers and the Family Planning Prevention program. [Senate Appropriations Committee, [6/25/15](#); Guttmacher, [7/15](#)]
 - Expand federal restrictions on funding for abortion services to a private victim’s compensation fund for the first time. [USNews, [4/22/15](#); Vote No. [329](#), [3/17/15](#)]
 - Defund Planned Parenthood, which the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated would limit access to care for as many as 650,000 women. One in five women will use a Planned Parenthood clinic for primary healthcare at some point in their lifetime. [The Hill, [12/3/15](#); CBO, [9/16/15](#); Vote No. [262](#), [8/3/15](#)]
 - Enact an unconstitutional ban on all abortions at 20 weeks with extremely limited exceptions, in a clear attempt to challenge *Roe v. Wade*. [The Hill, [9/22/15](#); Vote No. 268, [268](#), [9/22/15](#)]

Repealing the Affordable Care Act

Just like Congressional Republicans, Donald Trump has vowed to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and block grant Medicaid, kicking millions of children, seniors and working-class Americans off of their insurance. [NYT, [4/8/16](#)]

- **Donald Trump’s** health care plan would “completely” repeal the ACA and block grant the Medicaid program. Repealing the ACA would cause 24 million Americans to become uninsured; raise costs for seniors for preventive care and prescription drugs and again permit insurance companies to use pre-existing conditions to deny Americans the care they need. Block granting the Medicaid program would kick another 14 million-to-20 million Americans off health insurance and cut payments to providers by 30 percent. [CBO, [6/9/15](#); CBPP, [3/17/15](#); CBO, [3/20/12](#); Urban Institute, [10/17/12](#)]
- **Congressional Republicans** have voted time and again to repeal the ACA, most recently through their budget reconciliation act of last year, which was vetoed by the President, and they still don’t have any replacement plan. Republicans have also voted multiple times in their annual budget proposals to block grant the Medicaid

program, most recently on their Fiscal Year 2016 budget plan. [Vote No. [171.5/5/15](#); Vote No. [329.12/3/15](#)]

Climate Change Denial

Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans have denied the existence of climate change.

- **Donald Trump** has made clear that he’s “not a big believer in man-made climate change” and that “the concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.” Donald Trump went even further, suggesting that “any and all weather events are used by the global warming hoaxsters to justify higher taxes to save our planet.” [Washington Post, [3/22/16](#)]
- **Senate Republicans** have voted repeatedly against amendments stating that climate change is real. [Vote No. [12.1/21/15](#); Vote No. [15.1/22/15](#); Vote No. [16.1/22/15](#); Vote No. [89.3/25/15](#)]
 - Senate Republicans also voted twice last November to dismantle the President’s Clean Power Plan, aimed at reducing dangerous carbon pollution from power plants and a pillar of U.S. efforts to combat climate change. [Vote No. [306.11/17/15](#)]