

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

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ON THE ORIGIN OF TRUMP

Republicans Responsible
for His Rise

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT

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ON THE ORIGIN OF TRUMP: **HOUSE REPUBLICANS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS RISE**

After Ted Cruz's double-digit win over Donald Trump in Wisconsin last week, and heading into an expected win by Trump in New York, it's clear that the Republican Party has entered into a new level of uncertainty. But one thing is clear: down-ballot Republicans are once again face-to-face with the certain damage that the candidacy of Trump – or Cruz - will cause vulnerable House Republicans and candidates. An [NRCC poll](#) showed that “a plurality of respondents — 48 percent to 40 percent — would be less likely to vote for a Republican congressional candidate or incumbent if Trump were the nominee.” And let's remember one key point: the only individual proven to be more damaging to House Republicans in this poll was Ted Cruz.

Just as important as the harm that Trump will inflict on Republicans down the ballot is the fact that Congressional Republicans have no one to blame but themselves for his unexpected and meteoric rise. Speaker Ryan and the “Young Guns” helped fuel and encourage the Tea Party wave, ushering in a movement that fed off of the anger and hateful sentiments that have given rise to Trump. In turn, the Tea Party movement bred birther conspiracies, Muslim Xenophobia, anti-immigrant rhetoric, racism, misogyny and violent rhetoric, all of which have become central to Trump's rise and pose a massive liability to Republicans who share the ballot with him.

Before these were the hateful hallmarks of Donald Trump's campaign for President, these intolerable, divisive themes were first visible among the House Republican conference and Republican candidates. If the shocking, loathsome rhetoric from Trump seems normalized within the GOP, it is because of the dozens of House Republicans and candidates named in this report.

Following is a snapshot of just some of the Republicans who helped create the Frankenstein's monster they now face. Further, these examples highlight just how inseparable House Republicans truly are from Donald Trump. Half-hearted efforts to back away from Trump will not be credible to voters when taken in with the context of these and other specific examples of House Republicans staking out similarly hateful ground as the bombastic businessman.

Similarly, many vulnerable House Republicans and candidates have already pledged that they will support Trump if he becomes the nominee, despite his growing oeuvre of odious statements and positions. Actions speak louder than words, and like Speaker Ryan, House Republicans who pledge to support Trump as the nominee are giving their tacit support to the hate and fear that his candidacy promotes.

Birther Conspiracy

“An 'extremely credible source' has called my office and told me that @BarackObama's birth certificate is a fraud.” – Donald Trump, [8/6/12](#)

Flashback:

- **CO-06:** “I don't know whether Barack Obama was born in the United States of America. I don't know that,” Rep. Mike Coffman said. “But I do know this, that in his heart, he's not an American. He's just not an American.” [5/16/12](#).

- **AZ-01:** While serving as Secretary of State, Ken Bennett authorized an investigation into the authenticity of President Obama’s birth certificate and said it was possible Obama would be left off ballot. [5/19/12](#); [6/03/14](#).
- **MI-07:** Rep. Tim Walberg said he did not know if Obama was Muslim or a citizen, [9/24/10](#).
- **NY-01:** Rep. Lee Zeldin met with the Oath Keepers, a fringe right-wing group that believes in conspiracy theories and is a noted birther group whose founder compared Hillary Clinton to Hitler and called McCain a traitor who should be hanged, [6/19/15](#); [3/10](#).
- **NJ-05:** At a [town hall meeting in 2009](#), Rep. Scott Garrett said he agreed that President Obama should produce his birth certificate.

Muslim Xenophobia

“Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on.” – Donald Trump, calling for banning all Muslims from entering the U.S., [12/7/15](#)

Flashback:

- **CO-06, IL-10:** Reps. Mike Coffman & Bob Dold spoke in front of Act! For America, the “nation’s leading anti-Muslim hate group.” [10/06/15](#), [9/9/15](#).
- **NV-03:** Candidate Michele Fiore, asked why she did not sign onto a letter opposing the resettlement of refugees in Nevada said, “What, are you kidding me? I’m about to fly to Paris and shoot ‘em in the head myself [...] I am not OK with Syrian refugees. I’m not OK with terrorists. I’m OK with putting them down, blacking them out, just put a piece of brass in their ocular cavity and end their miserable life. I’m good with that,” [12/07/15](#).
- **CO-06:** Rep. Mike Coffman refused to denounce Trump’s plan to ban all Muslims. [12/29/15](#); [12/08/15](#).
- **IA-03:** Rep. David Young said Trump’s anti-Islamic comments are “tapping into a general frustration we all have,” [12/16/15](#).

Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric

“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.” – Donald Trump, [6/16/15](#)

Flashback:

- **CO-06:** Rep. Mike Coffman co-sponsored legislation to make English the official language of the United States, and said non-English speaking voters should “pull out a dictionary.” [2/16/12](#); [4/21/14](#)
- **IA-01:** Rep. Rod Blum said Donald Trump’s offensive comments about immigrants “tapp[ed] into a pride in the country, patriotism.” 5:00, [7/05/15](#).
- **IA-03:** Rep. David Young: Trump is talking about things people are thinking but not comfortable saying. [11/03/15](#); [11/03/15](#).

- **AZ-01:** Paul Babeu claimed “the Obama Administration is ACTIVELY enabling voting by #illegals.” [2/22/16](#)
- **AZ-01:** Paul Babeu agreed with Donald Trump that “criminal illegals” are murderers and rapists. [7/08/15](#)
- **VA-10:** Rep. Barbara Comstock said the U.S. should track immigrants like Fed-Ex packages, [9/25/14](#).
- **FL-07:** VIDEO: Rep. John Mica said undocumented immigrants “should not have any rights, any benefits,” [6/07/15](#).
- **CA-07:** Candidate Scott Jones said California’s large undocumented population meant a large population of undocumented criminals who commit “murders, sexual assaults, kidnaps, thefts, engage in violent gang activity, and murder police officers,” [11/18/14](#).
- **AK-AL:** Rep. Don Young referred to Latino immigrants as “wetbacks,” [4/01/13](#).
- **Droves** of Republican Members and candidates expressed support for anti-immigrant legislation like Arizona’s SB 1070:
 - **FL-07:** Rep. John Mica called for standing with Arizona over SB 1070, [6/25/12](#).
 - **FL-18:** Candidate Carl Domino supported enacting an Arizona style immigration law in Florida, [5/24/10](#).
 - **CA-25:** Rep. Steve Knight said he supports Arizona’s SB1070: “I don’t think it’s too harsh or extreme [...] If you’re here illegally, then you have proven you will go against our laws, so there’s a problem,” [4/23/10](#).
 - **CA-24:** Candidate Katcho Achadjian said, “I don’t support illegals and would ship them all out and make sure they can’t come back...” He also said he supported the concept behind SB1070, [11/3/11](#); [5/4/10](#).
 - **CA-36:** Candidate Jeff Stone denied that Arizona’s SB1070 could lead to racial profiling, [5/2010](#).
 - **NV-04:** Rep. Cresent Hardy sponsored two bills in the Nevada Legislature that were compared to Arizona’s SB1070, SB380, introduced [3/21/11](#); AB104, introduced [2/13/13](#).
 - **AZ-01:** Ken Bennett supported SB 1070, which allowed for racial profiling by police. [3/25/14](#).
 - Bennett supported using local police to stop illegal immigration, [7/21/14](#).
 - **AZ-01:** David Gowan touted the passage of SB 1070, which allowed for racial profiling by police, [3/15/16](#).
 - **AZ-01:** Paul Babeu’s Sheriff’s Office was ordered to pay a \$25,000 settlement over using SB 1070 as justification to detain a woman and transfer her to Border Patrol. [12/18/14](#)

Birthright Citizenship

“End birthright citizenship. This remains the biggest magnet for illegal immigration.” [Donald J. Trump for President, [8/16/15](#)]

Flashback:

- **AZ-02:** Rep. Martha McSally said today’s interpretation of the 14th Amendment was “embarrassing,” “absolutely ridiculous,” [4/12/12](#).
- **NJ-05, CO-06, MI-07, FL-07, MT-AL, VA-02:** Reps. Scott Garrett, Mike Coffman, Tim Walberg, John Mica, Ryan Zinke & Randy Forbes are now or have been cosponsors of the Birthright Citizenship Act. HR 140, [1/6/15](#); [1/3/13](#); [1/5/11](#).

- **CO-06:** “Two of our congressional representatives, Republicans Doug Lamborn and Mike Coffman, are co-sponsors of the Birthright Citizenship Act of 2011, which would run counter to the plain language of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.” [2/13/11](#).

Racism

“Maybe he should have been roughed up because it was absolutely disgusting what he was doing.” – Donald Trump, reacting to campaign rally attendees shoving, tackling, punching and kicking a Black Lives Matter activist, [11/22/15](#)

Flashback:

- **All:** House Republicans were forced to pull multiple bills last summer in wake of embarrassing defense of the display of the Confederate flag, [7/9/15](#); [7/21/15](#).
- **CA-25:** Rep. Steve Knight repeatedly voted to keep the Confederate flag on display, [7/10/15](#).
- **FL-07:** Rep. John Mica said President Obama would be better off holding gun violence town hall “with young thugs in homicide prone cities like Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, and New Orleans.” [1/07/16](#).
- **VA-02:** Rep. Randy Forbes voted to give special license plates to the Sons of Confederate Veterans group, [2/15/99](#).
- **FL-07:** Rep. John Mica compared providing food to families on welfare to feeding alligators, [3/24/95](#).
- **MI-07:** Rep. Tim Walberg called Black Lives Matter student protestors at University of Michigan “whiny snot-nosed people,” [11/12/15](#).
- **MN-02:** Candidate Jason Lewis said owning slaves is a personal choice – if you don’t want one, don’t own one, [2/28/16](#).
- **IA-01:** Rep. Rod Blum opposed Affirmative Action policies in higher education, 7/06/03.
- **IA-01:** Rep. Rod Blum called the illegitimacy rate among African Americans “astonishing,” 2/03/02.
- **IA-01:** Rep. Rod Blum said expecting racial incarceration rates to be proportional to the population was “ridiculous,” 7/06/03.
 - 2012: Blum said “I stand by every word I printed back then.” [5/03/12](#)
- **AZ-01:** Candidate Paul Babeu appeared on a self-proclaimed White Nationalist radio program and called the co-host a “great American,” [7/20/10](#).

Violent Rhetoric & Actions

“He deserved it. The next time we see him, we might have to kill him. We don’t know who he is. He might be with a terrorist organization.” – Trump rally attendee John McGraw, after sucker punching a protester, [3/10/16](#)

“And on Sunday, Trump told Chuck Todd on NBC’s Meet the Press that he’s ‘instructed (his) people to look into’ paying McGraw’s legal fees.” – Vox, [3/11/16](#)

Flashback:

- **CA-25:** Rep. Steve Knight threatened an immigration protestor: “If you touch me again, I’ll drop your ass,” [4/18/15](#).
- **WI-07:** Candidate Frank Lasee punched his divorce lawyer while in court, [7/21/07](#).
- **AZ-01:** Gary Kiehne advocated for more corporal punishment of children in public schools, lamenting how we’d stopped “whipping” them for getting out of line. [2/11/15](#)
- **AZ-01:** Paul Babeu bragged about abusive punishment methods used on troubled teens at a school where he was headmaster. [1/26/16](#)

Anti-Women

“Fox News’ Megyn Kelly called him out on his sexist behavior during the GOP debate on August 6, reminding him: ‘You have called women you don’t like ‘fat pigs’, ‘dogs’, ‘slobs’, and ‘disgusting animals.’ Trump laughed off the question, claiming he doesn’t ‘have the time for total political correctness.’ Later, Trump called Kelly a ‘bimbo’ and said that he ‘didn’t recognize’ the remarks she was referencing.” – Huffington Post, [8/19/15](#)

Flashback:

- **MN-02:** Candidate Jason Lewis faced strong criticism for calling young single women “ignorant,” [2/16/12](#).
- **MI-07:** Rep. Tim Walberg downplayed Trump’s anti-woman and anti-veteran remarks, called them “mistakes” that “all the candidates will make,” [8/11/15](#).
- **MT-AL:** Rep. Ryan Zinke said his opposition to allowing women in frontline combat positions “doesn’t mean that I hate women, I married one.” [1/28/13](#).
- **IN-02:** Rep. Jackie Walorski was called out for her record pushing to make abortion a crime punishable by jail time. “Coleman points to a bill Walorski co-authored in 2006 when she was a state lawmaker. The bill would have made performing abortions that weren’t meant to protect the life of the mother a class C felony. Coleman also cites an amendment Walorski proposed to a hate crime bill just a year later. The bill included punishing someone if their crimes targeted a victim based on their race, religion or sexual orientation.” [4/7/2016](#)

Legitimizing Trump as a Leader in the GOP

Flashback:

- **CA-10:** Rep. Jeff Denham posted a picture on Facebook of him with Donald Trump, said Trump is “tapping into an energy that is bringing more people out to vote,” and would support the nominee, [9/10/13](#); [2/27/16](#); [3/14/16](#).
- **MI-01:** Candidate Tom Casperson attended Trump Rally in Cadillac, Michigan, [3/09/16](#).
- **MI-08:** Rep. Mike Bishop said he would definitely vote for Trump, called him “just a raw candidate,” and said that his comments to a lot of people are “refreshing,” [2/22/16](#).
- **MI-07:** Rep. Tim Walberg praised Donald Trump, said presidential candidates can learn from him, [8/17/15](#).

- **NY-01:** Trump lent his voice to a [robocall](#) in support of Long Island Rep. Lee Zeldin when he ran for Congress in 2014.
- **NY-23:** Rep. Reed said “The will of the people must be respected. By far, more voters have indicated that Donald Trump is the Republican candidate that will bring leadership from outside to Washington,” said Reed. “It is essential that our party unites behind Donald Trump as the Republican nominee to bring that leadership from outside in order to prevent a continuation of the Obama agenda,” [4/9/16](#).
- **NV-04:** “Still, Hardy and many other Republicans have been careful to distance themselves from Trump while embracing the concerns of Trump’s supporters. ‘**His tone doesn’t bother me,**’ Hardy said, ‘because I believe that these are concerns people have. **He’s speaking the truth.** He’s touching base with so many people on their concerns,’” [12/22/15](#).
- **NY-22:** Tea Party champion Claudia Tenney [said](#) she will support the eventual Republican nominee – even if it’s Donald Trump.

In addition, **numerous House Republican members and candidates** have declared they would support Trump as their nominee, including but not limited to [Scott Jones](#) (CA-07), [David Valadao](#) (CA-21), [Elise Stefanik](#) (NY-21), [John Katko](#) (NY-24), [Crescent Hardy](#) (NV-04) and [Michele Fiore](#) (NV-03), [Darlene Miller](#), [Jason Lewis](#) and [John Howe](#) (MN-02), [Jackie Walorski](#) (IN-02), among others.