

6/25/12:

DAYS UNTIL ELECTION DAY: 134

What You May Have Missed...

[Los Angeles Times: McManus: Romney's arithmetic problem](#)

“Here's an issue that hasn't been debated much in the presidential campaign but ought to be: How much should we spend on defense? President Obama has proposed keeping the Pentagon budget essentially flat for the next 10 years. Mitt Romney, by contrast, wants to increase defense spending massively — by more than 50% over current levels, according to one estimate. That could mean almost \$2 trillion in additional military spending over 10 years. Romney hasn't actually proposed a defense budget or offered any specific numbers for his military strategy. But he says he wants core defense spending to reach at least 4% of the nation's gross domestic product — a big increase over the current level of about 3.2%. And he says the country needs about 100,000 more active-duty military personnel than the current 1.4 million, even though U.S. forces have left Iraq and have begun to withdraw from Afghanistan.”

[Politico: Mitt's no policy problem](#)

“Mitt Romney's aides suggested that when the Republican appeared before a Hispanic advocacy group on Thursday he'd address immigration. But when Romney spoke to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), he only reiterated what he had said earlier in the week about the citizenship status of children of illegal immigrants. “I will put in place my own long-term solution that will replace and supersede the president's temporary measure,” he told the group about President Barack Obama's hotly debated directive regarding the DREAM Act. But on the question of what exactly such a long-term solution would be, the GOP nominee isn't saying. Vague, general or downright evasive policy prescriptions on some of the most important issues facing the country are becoming the rule for Romney. Hoping to make the campaign strictly a referendum on the incumbent, the hyper-cautious challenger is open about his determination to not give any fodder to Obama aides hungry to make the race as much about Romney as the president.”

[National Journal: Pawlenty Admits Romney Tax Plan Lacks Specifics](#)

“Critics and supporters alike are increasingly calling for Mitt Romney’s policy specifics, and on Sunday another voice added to the chorus: Former Minnesota Gov. and potential running mate Tim Pawlenty. Speaking on CBS’ Face the Nation, Pawlenty asserted that Romney had put out a plan for tax reform, but admitted that the details remained murky. “He hasn’t put out a specific plan to eliminate any of the particular deductions within the tax code, but he has talked pretty specifically how he would reform, reduce, and slow down government spending overall, and that would help put the country on a pathway to a balanced budget,” he said.”

What You Shouldn’t Miss...

[Newsweek: President Obama Reflects on the Impact of Title IX, By President Obama](#)

“Coaching my daughter Sasha’s basketball team is one of those times when I just get to be “Dad.” I snag rebounds, run drills, and have a little fun. More importantly, I get to watch Sasha and her teammates improve together, start thinking like a team, and develop self-confidence. Any parent knows there are few things more fulfilling than watching your child discover a passion for something. And as a parent, you’ll do anything to make sure he or she grows up believing she can take that ambition as far as she wants; that your child will embrace that quintessentially American idea that she can go as far as her talents will take her. But it wasn’t so long ago that something like pursuing varsity sports was an unlikely dream for young women in America. Their teams often made do with second-rate facilities, hand-me-down uniforms, and next to no funding. What changed? Well, 40 years ago, committed women from around the country, driven by everyone who said they couldn’t do something, worked with Congress to ban gender discrimination in our public schools. Title IX was the result of their efforts, and this week, we celebrated its 40th anniversary—40 years of ensuring equal education, in and out of the classroom, regardless of gender.”

[Fayetteville Observer: Actress Angela Bassett visits Fayetteville to campaign for Obama](#)

“Actress and political activist Angela Bassett made a pit stop in downtown Fayetteville on

Saturday morning to rally the Sandhills Women for Obama chapter. Bassett, an Oscar nominee and Golden Globe winner, starred in such films as 'How Stella Got Her Groove Back' and 'What's Love Got to Do With It,' a film about singer Tina Turner's life. She spoke to more than 250 women at the Metropolitan Room on Green Street about how four more years for President Obama would benefit her own family, making references to her 6-year-old twins someday getting paid for equal work and her diabetic mother on Medicare. 'We have to protect the progress that we've made,' Bassett said. She also praised the Obama administration for fighting for affordable college tuition and accessible student loans and for protecting teachers' jobs. 'The fight is just getting started,' Bassett said. 'I think I speak for us when I say we're gonna take a stand. ... I'm doing it for my mom. I'm doing it for my kids. I'm doing it for each and every one of us here this afternoon. We cannot forget there is too much at stake.'"

[The Grio: Obama says he will fight for immigration reform](#)

"... President Barack Obama on Friday defended his decision to lift the threat of deportation for hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants, saying it gave them an overdue "sense of hope." He challenged Republicans in Congress to join him finally on a big, broad fix of the U.S. immigration laws. Obama tailored his re-election message of economic fairness and opportunity to his audience of Latino officials, addressing the group one day after Republican rival Mitt Romney did the same. Hispanic voters are a vital constituency in states that could swing the election, from Florida to Nevada to Virginia. The president said the nation needs ideas and policies that build up the middle class and "our current immigration system doesn't reflect those values." The system punishes immigrants who play by the rules and drives away entrepreneurs who can get an education in America but cannot stay here legally, he said. Obama spoke to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials near Orlando, his first speech to a Hispanic group since he decreed that many young illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children would be exempted from deportation and granted work permits valid for two years"