

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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President Obama in Berlin



On Wednesday, President Obama spoke to the people of Berlin from the east side of the Brandenburg Gate. The speech came almost 50 years exactly to the date that President John F. Kennedy delivered his historic speech to the city, which was at the time divided by the Cold War.

President Obama said:

"While I am not the first American president to come to this gate, I am proud to stand on its Eastern side to pay tribute to the past."

"For throughout all of this history, the fate of this city came down to a simple question: Will we live free or in chains? Under governments that uphold our universal rights, or regimes that suppress them? In open societies that respect the sanctity of the individual and our free will, or in closed societies that suffocate the soul? And because courageous crowds climbed atop that wall, because corrupt dictatorships gave way to new democracies, because millions across this continent now breathe the fresh air of freedom, we can say, here in Berlin, here in Europe—our values won. Openness won. Tolerance won. And freedom won here in Berlin."

Read the President's full remarks [here](#).

President Obama at G8 Summit



On Tuesday, President Obama took part in the G-8 Summit in Northern Ireland. It was the fifth G-8 summit President Obama has participated in since taking office in 2009.

To mark the official start of the G-8 summit, President Obama took part in an arrival ceremony with other G-8 leaders. He also attended the first plenary session.

During the meeting, the leaders talked about the global economy and the continued partnerships between our nations.

President Obama participated in three additional plenary sessions

and a meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Holland, Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta, and Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan.

Read the G-8 Leaders' Statement on the Global Economy [here](#).

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on Final Massachusetts Senate Debate

On Tuesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the final Massachusetts Senate debate:

"Ed Markey proved once again tonight that he is the right leader for Massachusetts and will stand up for middle class families in the U.S. Senate. At the same time, tonight was Gabriel Gomez's final test: Would he give Massachusetts voters honest answers to the serious questions they have about his out-of-touch policy positions and his business experience? He failed that test.

"Gabriel Gomez has put his business experience front and center but refuses to provide answers to the questions Massachusetts voters have about that experience. He refuses to release the list of clients he worked for at Advent International. He refuses to answer simple questions about the role he played in creating jobs overseas. Massachusetts voters can't trust Gabriel Gomez because he refuses to answer these basic questions about the central premise of his candidacy.

"And try as he might, Gomez can't run from the national Republican Party or the fact that he would be a rubber stamp for their extreme agenda in Washington. He prefers two sets of rules for Americans when it comes to taxes – one for the wealthiest and corporations and one for the middle class. He would vote for Supreme Court justices who would overturn Roe v. Wade. And he opposes a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

"The choice is clear in this election. On the issues that are important to Massachusetts voters – tax fairness, women's health and reducing gun violence – Ed Markey is a proven leader Bay Staters can trust. He will represent their values and best interests in the United States Senate."

Vice President Biden: Fight to Reduce Gun Violence Far From Over

In a speech on Tuesday, Vice President Biden said he and President Obama have not abandoned the fight to reduce gun violence.

The Vice President said the President has “moved forward on what was within his power, what executive actions he could take,” saying:

“Today, I can report that he announced 23 executive actions; 21 of them have been completed or there has been major progress made toward the total completion and that we’re on track to finish the job. The progress that has been made includes strengthening the existing background check system so that dangerous people cannot get their hands on a gun, giving law enforcement officials more of the tools they require to prevent and respond to gun crime, making schools safer and ensuring they are prepared to respond to emergencies, encouraging responsible gun ownership, stopping the freeze on gun violence research, and improving access to mental health care.”

The Vice President said that work will continue in the weeks and months ahead to complete the remainder of the executive actions, but that Congress must act in order to bring about further progress on this critical issue.

Vice President Biden said:

“As proud as the President is, as proud as I am of the progress we’ve made, we need Congress to act. The American people are demanding it. As I’ve said before, we need to make sure the voices of those we lost are the loudest ones we hear in this fight. We need to make sure that everyone in the country know that this fight isn’t over—far from it.”

Click [here](#) to learn more about President Obama’s plan to reduce gun violence.

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz on GOP’s Latest Effort to Limit A Woman’s Right to Choose

On Tuesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the passage of H.R. 1797, the Republicans’ latest effort to infringe on a woman’s right to choose:

“The House GOP is once again attempting to force their extremist ideology on America’s women. Today, House Republicans passed the most extreme abortion legislation that Congress has passed in the last decade.

“Forty years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that women have the right to choose what is best for themselves and their bodies. In the long-term, Republicans are dead-set on overturning *Roe v. Wade* and for the time being are fixated on systematically chipping away at a woman’s right to choose at the federal and state level. Democrats refuse to let that happen – from the halls of Congress to state legislatures, we will fight to protect a woman’s right to make her own choices about her health care.

“Earlier this year, national Republicans pledged to be less extreme in order to expand their support among voters. Unfortunately for Republicans, actions speak louder than words, and today’s extremist and out of touch vote will not go unnoticed by America’s women.”

DNC Calls on Democrats to Elect Ed Markey to the United States Senate

The DNC is calling on all Democrats to help push Ed Markey over the finish line to be elected as the next Senator from Massachusetts. Election Day is this Tuesday. If you or someone you know is interested in traveling to Massachusetts to help with the campaign's Get Out The Vote operation, please click [here](#) or follow the link below and fill out your contact information and availability.

<http://ejm-campaign.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/out-of-state.html>

Onward to victory!