



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

February 7, 2014

The Democratic National Committee Recognizes Black History Month

Each day in February the Democratic National Committee is providing new graphics, videos, or blogs for individuals to share with social networks and family and friends to help recognize National Black History Month.

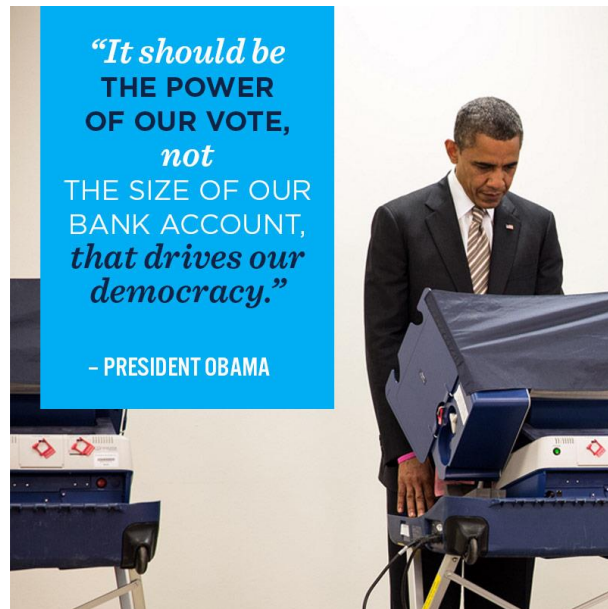
DNC Black Caucus Chair, Virgie Rollins, started off the month with a blog post titled, "Our Values, Our Voice, Our Vote," highlighting the Democratic Party's inclusive values and how we can help honor the month.

She said, "The Democratic Party believes that every American, regardless of where you were born or what you look like, deserves access to a quality education, affordable health care, to earn a living wage, to get a little help from your neighbors when you need it.

Democrats are committed to making sure all children regardless of income have the opportunity to get a first-rate education. That's why President Obama and Democrats support expanding programs like Head Start, since studies show early childhood education is critical to future success. And that's also why President Obama and Democrats have promoted initiatives like Race to the Top to reward schools for innovation and partnered with schools that need assistance to improve. . . .

So join us as we reflect on the many accomplishments and diversity of our party this month, and as we look to the important elections ahead of us this fall to keep moving the country forward."

Visit the DNC's blog [here](#) to view more of the posts, including the graphic above featuring President Obama and the video below where DNC National Director of Voter Protection, Pratt Wiley, discusses the importance of protecting the right to vote for all Americans.



[Christie Too Controversial for GOP Donors](#)

Thursday, Chris Christie took another big trip as the newly minted Chair of the Republican Governors Association. While Christie was in Texas, however, [the RGA's chosen gubernatorial candidate](#), Greg Abbott and the state's Republican Governor Rick Perry, were nowhere to be found.

According to the [Dallas Morning News'](#) Wayne Slater and The Asbury Park Press' [Bob Jordan](#), ***Abbott wouldn't be attending the events with Christie***. In fact, Abbott made sure to put [hundreds of miles](#) of distance between him and the embattled New Jersey Governor.

It's clear that Chris Christie's scandals aren't just a political liability for him, they're becoming a liability for the Republicans he's working to elect. Just ask Florida's Rick Scott who endured days of brutal local and national press when he attended closed-door fundraisers with Christie. That Florida trip was before the latest Bridagate revelations surfaced and two of the largest papers in New Jersey, [The Star-Ledger](#) and [The Asbury Park Press](#), called on Christie to resign from the RGA.

Christie's Texas trip was reported [three weeks ago](#) and was presumably on the books before that. Greg Abbott isn't just not standing by Christie, he's going out of his way to not be seen with him.

Texas Democratic Party Chair, Gilberto Hinojosa, held a press conference with local democrats to talk about Christie's visit and to "welcome" him to the state of Texas. In the press conference Hinojosa said, "When you see Greg Abbott not willing to stand next to Chris Christie or even greet him ... but at the same time be unwilling to condemn him, it shows you that even they recognize how much of a political liability he is."

Click on the headlines below to read the national and local coverage about some of the coverage of Christie's visit in Texas and Republicans running away from him:

- **[Asbury Park Press - Texas candidate keeping distance from Christie](#)**
- **[WNYC News/New Jersey Public Radio - Christie Escapes NJ, but Finds Little Love in TX](#)**
- **[Dallas News - Texas Democrats tie Christie visit to Dallas, criticism of Perry, Abbott](#)**
- **[Courier-Post - Lone-star governor: GOP candidate snubs Christie in Texas](#)**
- **[ABC News - Top Texas Republicans Avoid Chris Christie's Fundraising Events](#)**

Ahead of Christie's trip to Texas, *The New York Times* ran a story on the Democratic Party's coverage of Christie's actions. Read below for an excerpt of the article:

[Democratic Party](#) operatives have churned out 11 different videos depicting Gov. [Chris Christie](#) of New Jersey as a revenge-happy gridlock maker who cannot keep his story straight.

They are unleashing attacks on any Republican in the country who dares to defend him publicly, from a potential Senate candidate in New Hampshire to a New York congressman.

And they are coordinating strategy at the highest levels of the party with a new standing agenda item on conference calls: how to undermine Mr. Christie, a top Republican prospect for reclaiming the White House.

As much as Mr. Christie's current troubles are about the stumbling of a rising star in the [Republican Party](#), they are driven, too, by emboldened Democrats who rue their passivity four months ago as Mr. Christie scored a landslide re-election victory, startling the party by securing support from traditionally left-leaning voter blocs.

Now, sensing a chance to redefine Mr. Christie for a national audience, those Democrats are determined to transform him into a toxic figure, whose name is synonymous with the ugliest elements of politics: partisan bullying and backslapping cronyism.

That strategy will be on display Thursday in Texas, where Mr. Christie is scheduled to meet with Republican donors as the chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

In the kind of scene that Democrats said would play out wherever Mr. Christie traveled this year, Texas party activists will hold a news conference denouncing him and linking his woes to the state's leading Republican candidate for governor, Greg Abbott.

The message to Republicans thinking of appearing with Mr. Christie: His problems will become your problems.

"If Republican governors want to keep embracing him as their chair, as their model for the future, we're happy to help them out," said Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee.

The onslaught — some of it spontaneous, some coordinated — threatens to turn Mr. Christie's tenure into a distraction, rather than the low-risk steppingstone that aides had envisioned.

Click [here](#) to continue reading on the New York Times website.

[The GOP— Obstructing Progress and Ignoring the American People](#)

On Thursday, the 'new', 'improved' and 'rebranded' GOP continued to obstruct Congress and put politics before of the American people.

Republicans in the Senate scuttled an effort to extend unemployment benefits for 1.7 million long-term unemployed; Speaker Boehner had more excuses for not passing immigration reform; and the House Republicans are debating what they want to use to threaten the world's economy, holding raising the debt ceiling hostage, and risk not paying our nation's bills.

In reality, Republicans are refusing to act on these issues supported by the majority of the American people.

Immigration Reform: 88% of Americans support immigration reform with a path to citizenship. [[Gallup](#)]
Unemployment Insurance: 63% of voters think emergency unemployment benefits should be continued, including 57% of Independents [[PPP](#)]
Raising the Debt Ceiling: 56% of Americans said it would be a bad thing if the debt ceiling was not raised. [[CNN/ORC Poll](#)] and 64% oppose blocking an increase in the debt ceiling as a way to dismantle the health care law. [[Quinnipiac Poll](#)] If the debt ceiling isn't raised 54% say they would blame the GOP in Congress. [[CNN/ORC Poll](#)]

It's not too late. Republicans have a choice. They can side with the majority of the American people and work towards bipartisan solutions or they can side with a minority in their own party and continue their partisan stunts and unprecedented obstruction.

[DNC Launches Online Super Bowl Ad Targeting Christie](#)

As thousands of people headed to New Jersey for the Super Bowl, the DNC launched its own Super Bowl ad highlighting the fall from grace of one of the GOP's much-hyped prospects - Governor Chris Christie.



The ad doesn't have a talking bullfrog or a kid dressed as Vader like other Super Bowl ads but it does recap the precipitous decline of Christie's political standing since the scouts touted him after his November reelection.

Christie's Super Bowl weekend got off to a rocky start when new revelations called into question the story the governor has been peddling to the press and the public for months.

At the time of publication, the DNC's ad had over 26,000 views. Click on the headlines below to read about some of the DNC ad media coverage:

- [ABC: DNC Hits Christie in Superbowl Themed Online Ad](#)
- [Fox: DNC releases football-themed attack ad on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie](#)
- [TIME: Democrats Target Christie With Online Super Bowl Ad](#)

[DNC Chair and Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan Discuss Minimum Wage](#)

On Tuesday Democratic National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan and a local Akron resident held press conference call to discuss the importance of raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10, a move that would help the economy in Ohio, and across the country.

Here are some facts on minimum wage that the group discussed with Reporters on the call:

- It has been seven years since Congress last acted to increase the minimum wage
- [600 economists voiced their support in raising the minimum wage to \\$10.10](#)
- [73% of Americans](#) support raising the minimum wage,
- Republicans continue to oppose this effort that could ensure families across the country have a chance to climb into the middle class

Click on the links below to read a few of the stories from the call:

[Minimum Wage Debate Focuses On Ohio's Economy](#)

WBNS // Jim Heath

[Ryan Joins DNC Chair to Push Minimum Wage Hike](#)

Youngstown Business Journal // George Nelson

[Rep. Tim Ryan, other Democrats, push for minimum wage boost](#)

WKSU // M.L. Schultze