



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

February 21, 2014

[Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker Takes a Page out of Chris Christie's Playbook](#)

On Wednesday, more than 27,000 pages of documents were unsealed from an investigation into Scott Walker's campaign for Wisconsin governor. The emails reveal Walker was tied to a secret email system that members of his staff used to coordinate his gubernatorial campaign while Walker was Milwaukee County executive.

The documents hint at the extent of illegal coordination between Scott Walker's office and his campaign. Just like in New Jersey, top aides used taxpayer resources to push a political agenda, and just like Chris Christie, Scott Walker has a lot of questions to answer.

Instead of admitting wrongdoing, Scott Walker is taking a page out of Chris Christie's playbook by playing the victim and attacking political opponents.

Wednesday morning, Walker attacked Democrats for discussing the investigation. According to the [AP](#):

Walker said that was an example of cynicism in politics.

*"These people are naysayers who want things bad to happen in Wisconsin so they are going to be circling again today," Walker said. **"It's exactly what's wrong with the political process that they're hoping for something bad to happen in Wisconsin. It's not. They're going to do what they've done in the past which is over-hype things. And politically they're going to be disappointed."***

Democrats didn't make Walker's staff break the law any more than Democrats ordered Christie's staff to shut the lanes to the George Washington Bridge.

The only cynicism is coming right out of Walker's own office.

"In the first investigation, six people, including aides and allies of Mr. Walker, were convicted of crimes."
[\(NYT\)](#)

The actions of Governor Walker and Chris Christie's offices have both violated the public's trust. The way to restore that trust is to answer questions and explain what happened, not attack opponents and play the victim.

Click on the headlines below to read some of the news coverage from the first day of Scott Walker's developing scandal:

[This Could Be the Start of Scott Walker's Bridgegate](#)

Slate//Emma Roller

[Walker asked for daily call between campaign and official aides, e-mails show](#)

Washington Post // Sean Sullivan and Rosalind Helderman

[An unpleasant day for Scott Walker](#)

MSNBC // Steve Benen

[John Doe transcript: Scott Walker must have known of private email, laptop system](#)

Wisconsin State Journal//Dee J. Hall

[Highly Racist Email Forward Found In Scott Walker Investigation Documents](#)

BuzzFeed // Evan McMorris-Santoro

In the States

- On Monday, the Kentucky Democratic Party criticized Rand Paul for hypocrisy as he joined Mitch McConnell and Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner to announce an agriculture program, while just a week ago Paul Proudly voted against a farm bill that would help countless Kentucky growers, agriculture producers, and consumers. KDP criticized Paul saying, “He [opposes farm subsidies](#) that benefit Kentucky farmers. [He would axe](#) nutrition assistance [for hundreds of thousands of Kentucky families](#). He [votes against boosting the same hemp industry](#) in Kentucky that he consistently touts. Paul continues to push his extreme ideological agenda ahead of what’s best for Kentucky.”
- On Tuesday, the Texas Democratic Party held a press conference call with State Representative Toni Rose, Annie’s List Executive Director Grace Garcia, Lone Star Project Executive Director Matt Angle, and TDP Communication Director Emmanuel Garcia to condemn Greg Abbott for campaigning with Ted Nugent. Click on these headlines to read more about the call and what Texas Democrats are doing to: [Greg Abbott Defends Appearance With Ted Nugent; Wendy Davis Calls Rocker 'Repulsive'](#)
- On Wednesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Mike Tate held a press conference call to discuss Governor Scott Walker’s failed jobs promise, opposition to raising the minimum wage, and ongoing ethics investigations. Click on these links to read more about what Democrats are saying about Walker: [Email release could prove embarrassing for Walker](#) | [Dem. Party spokesman says he’s a target in one of the emails](#) | [Poring over Walker aide emails](#)

President Obama Upholds Promise for Year of Action

This week, President Obama signed several Executive Actions as part of his goal to see 2014 as a Year of Action. The President wants to ensure that despite Republicans in Congress standing in the way, he is able to work with American businesses and leaders to help the American people. Read a little about each of the Executive Actions below:

Improving the Fuel Efficiency of American Trucks – Bolstering Energy Security, Cutting Carbon Pollution, and Supporting Manufacturing Innovation

On Tuesday, President Obama signed an Executive Action directing the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation to set higher fuel efficiency standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. This initiative is part of the President’s Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emission, and will save vehicle owners an estimated \$50 billion in fuel costs over the lifetimes of the vehicles.

Read about the full Executive Action [here](#).

Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America’s Businesses

On Wednesday, President Obama signed an Executive Order to cut processing and approval times for small businesses that export American-made goods and services. The order establishes the International Trade Data System (ITDS) that will allow businesses to complete electronic forms that can be sent to the necessary government and international agencies all on one screen and at one time. Global trade is an important part of the American economy, and this order will help American companies succeed.

Read the full Executive Order [here](#).

Strengthening Our Patent System and Fostering Innovation

On Thursday, President Obama initiated an Executive Action to protect innovators from frivolous litigation, and to improve the U.S. patent system. The Action will promote transparency in the US Patent and Trademark Office, make the patent process more clear, ensure innovators know their rights, and strengthen enforcement in protecting patents.

Read about the full Executive Action [here](#).

[White House Posts Blog on Congressional Budget Office](#)

Wednesday, the White House published a blog post on the Congressional Budget Office's minimum wage report.

Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 would give 16.5 million American workers a raise and expand the income for millions of middle-class families. A raise would directly benefit hard-working families, reduce poverty, and increase the overall wages going to lower-income households.

Read an excerpt from the White House blog post below:

Congressional Budget Office Report Finds Minimum Wage Lifts Wages for 16.5 Million Workers

The new Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report finds that 16.5 million workers would get a raise from increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour and this would help millions of hard-working families, reduce poverty, and increase the overall wages going to lower-income households.

On employment, CBO's central estimate is that raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour would lead to a 0.3 percent decrease in employment and CBO acknowledges that the employment impact could be essentially zero. But even these estimates do not reflect the overall consensus view of economists which is that raising the minimum wage has little or no negative effect on employment. For example, seven Nobel Prize winners and more than 600 other economists recently stated that: "In recent years there have been important developments in the academic literature on the effect of increases in the minimum wage on employment, with the weight of evidence now showing that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market."

The following are six key points from the latest CBO report. For more information, last week the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) released a [summary](#) of the economic case for raising the minimum wage.

- 1. CBO finds that raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour would directly benefit 16.5 million workers.** According to today's CBO report, 16.5 million people making less than \$10.10 per hour would get a raise if the minimum wage is increased. This figure does not include CBO's estimate of as many as 8.0 million workers who currently earn just above \$10.10 an hour but could also potentially see a raise due to the "ripple effect" of a shifting wage structure.
- 2. CBO finds that raising the minimum wage would increase income for millions of middle-class families, on net, even after accounting for its estimates of job losses.** Middle class families earning less than six times the poverty line (i.e., \$150,000 for a family of four in 2016) would see an aggregate increase of \$19 billion in additional wages, with more than 90 percent of that increase going to families earning less than three times the Federal poverty line (i.e., \$75,000 for a family of four in 2016). On net CBO estimates that national income would rise.

This finding is consistent with the fact that 62 percent of expert economists [polled](#) by the University of Chicago Booth School of Business agreed that the benefits of raising the minimum wage outweigh any potential costs, as compared to only 16 percent who disagreed.

Read the full blog post [here](#).

[Weekly Address: President Obama calls on Congress to Raise Minimum Wage](#)

In his weekly address President Obama highlighted the benefits of raising the minimum wage for the country.



He called on Congress to raise the federal minimum wage for all Americans noting an increased minimum wage would lift wages for 28 million hard-working Americans.

President Obama said, “The opportunity agenda I’ve laid out is built on more new jobs that pay good wages; better training for folks to fill those jobs; a smarter education for our kids; and making sure honest work is rewarded.”

To watch the video click [here](#).