



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 7, 2014

DNC Responds to CPAC Speakers on new Factivists website

On Thursday, the DNC started utilizing Factivists, the new rapid response program [DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced](#) at the 2014 DNC Winter Meeting, to reach out to supporters.

The DNC has a long history of effectively holding Republicans accountable. The new expanded rapid response operation will also defend the Democratic brand, and engage our grassroots supporters to do so with an aggressive digital and social media presence. This will include shareable content fit for Facebook and Twitter.

The DNC used the Congressional Political Action Committee (CPAC) meeting to test out the new initiative. Click [here](#) to see the DNC's new website and some of the most recent pushback on Republicans. View examples of Factivists response below:

4,000,000
(And Counting)

PEOPLE HAVE ENROLLED IN PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE
THROUGH OBAMACARE EXCHANGES

Rick Perry's Economy – Not a Pretty Picture

Mar 7, 2014

Rick Perry spent a lot of his speech at CPAC discussing the so called success of conservative economic principles in red states.

Well let's take a look under the hood at Rick Perry's economic record in Texas:

- Under Perry, the unemployment rate in Texas has increased.
- Texas has the highest number of minimum-wage workers in the country.
- Perry opposes making health insurance more affordable and accessible to over one million of his own constituents.

In contrast, President Obama just led the nation to its 48th straight month of private sector job growth.

Republicans like Perry say that t
like the dysfunctional Congressi
Republicans like Perry failing to

Look in the mirror

Mar 6, 2014

At CPAC today, Marco Rubio attacked President Obama's handling of the economy.

That's an interesting claim considering President Obama has led the nation to [47 consecutive months](#) of private sector job growth. In contrast, Senator Rubio and his GOP colleagues in Congress have repeatedly blocked commonsense initiatives that would grow our economy and expand the middle class. Not to mention the Bush economic policies that got us into this mess in the first place.

- The GOP refuses to act on raising the minimum wage even though it could **lift nearly 5 million Americans out of poverty and** increase the GDP by roughly \$32.6 billion.
- Republicans refuse to extend unemployment insurance to millions of Americans **costing our economy 240,000 jobs this year alone.**
- And Marco Rubio was a leader in the GOP plan to shut down the government **costing our economy \$24 billion.**

If you're looking for someone to blame, it might be time to take a look in the mirror.

JOINT MEMO— CPAC: AN AGENDA SETTING MOMENT FOR THE GOP

On Wednesday morning, ahead of the start of CPAC, the Democratic Committees, the Democratic National Committee, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and the Democratic Governors Association, published a joint memo hitting Republicans. Read the memo below:

To: Interested Parties

From: DNC, DSCC, DCCC and DGA Communications

Re: CPAC: An Agenda Setting Moment for the GOP

This year, CPAC isn't just a meeting of conservatives, *it's an agenda setting moment* for Republicans heading into the midterms.

Over the next few days, Republican Party leaders, prospective presidential candidates, Members of Congress, top activists and conspiracy theorists will gather to plan and discuss the future of the conservative moment.

After the 2012 election, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus pledged to stop the GOP's 'traveling circus' seeming to blame the conservative cattle calls for their failure. With CPAC starting today, the traveling circus is back in town and the gathering is more divisive than ever. The CPAC crowd along with the Koch brothers and their network of special interest groups are the leaders of today's GOP.

Over the next few days, many of the potential Republican presidential candidates will speak including Chris Christie, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Paul Ryan, Rick Perry and Bobby Jindal.

Fringe GOP icons from Mike Huckabee to Sarah Palin and Donald Trump will share the stage with the party's current and future leaders.

On Saturday, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus will speak at the gathering – taking the stage as a ring leader in the 'traveling circus' he once derided.

Last week the DNC held its Winter Meeting in Washington, DC where Democrats heard from President Obama on ways to expand opportunity for all Americans. Meanwhile, here are a few things that participants will hear at CPAC:

- Healthcare After ObamaCare: A Practical Guide for Living When No One Has Insurance and America Runs Out of Doctors (Part 1) with Senator Barasso and Representative Price
- Why Conservatism is Right for Women: How Conservatives Should Talk About Life, Prosperity & National Security
- Social Media 3.0: The Next Revolution Will Start on Your Phone (Let's Hope Conservatives Don't Miss It)

This is how Republicans are talking about the issues facing America. Meanwhile, Democrats will continue focusing on increasing opportunity for everyone not just for a few.

The choice voters will face in November couldn't be clearer, between Democrats who are fighting for opportunity for everyone not just opportunity for a few, and Republicans who put courtship of the far-right above all.

8:17 pm • 5 March 2014

[DNC Winter Meeting Videos](#)

On Saturday, the DNC and ASDC concluded their 2014 Winter Meeting. The meeting was a success, and speeches from President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with productive caucus meetings.

Aside from President Obama, the General Session featured speeches from DNC Vice Chairs and DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz. In the Chair's speech she covered four new initiatives the DNC has rolled out over the past few weeks: the Voter Expansion Project, Factivists, Project Ivy, and continuing to invest in State Parties. To explain the initiatives, the meeting also featured four videos. Click below to watch a short video on each of the programs.

President Bill Clinton on the Voter Expansion Project



Voter Expansion: <http://youtu.be/CXAa0CYg-Cs>

Sign Up to be a Factivist Today!



Factivists: <http://youtu.be/Q1MvBuLpBkw>

Project Ivy



Project Ivy: <http://youtu.be/5B3f4zRCenU>

Investing in State Parties



ASDC: <http://youtu.be/DDHpJ5wAaWc>

President Obama Travels to CT to Promote Raising the Minimum Wage

President Obama visited Central Connecticut State University on Wednesday to promote his opportunity agenda including his plan to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10.

President Obama stated the importance of raising the minimum wage for all Americans by discussing the four parts of the agenda; create more new jobs, train Americans with the skills to fill those jobs, guarantee every young person access to a world-class education, and make sure hard work pays off.

He was joined by some notable New England leaders; Gov. Dannel Malloy of Connecticut; Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, Gov. Peter Shumlin of Vermont, Gov. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, and Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts as he told the crowd the benefits of raising the minimum wage for all Americans.



"Nobody who works full-time should ever have to raise a family in poverty. That violates a basic sense of who we are. And that's why it's time to give America a raise," said President Obama. "What every American wants is a paycheck that lets them support their families, know a little economic security, pass down some hope and optimism to their kids. And that's worth fighting for."

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

DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz Celebrates Women's History Month in Elle Magazine

On Thursday, DNC Chair, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz wrote an op-ed for Elle.com in honor of Women's History Month. Read the op-ed below, or click [here](#) to read it on their website.

When Women Fight for Progress

Elle Magazine// DNC Chair, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

In honor of Women's History Month, DNC Chair, Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz shares with ELLE.com her thoughts on where we've been and where we have to go.

Even before that intrepid group who fought for the right to vote met in Seneca Falls, women have always understood the importance of making our voices heard. Abigail Adams' famous words "remember the ladies" written to her husband, John Adams, at the very beginning of this country's founding were an important warning then, and resonate just as loudly today.

Women's History Month is not only an opportunity for us to acknowledge the women who have made this country more fair and equitable, but also a reminder that only through activism and engagement will our voices be heard. For years, women, including myself, have been told to just wait our turn. But we know some of the greatest advances have come when we don't listen to the naysayers. Unable to remain quiet, unwilling to stand down, women speak up, we fight, we break barriers.

Acutely aware of how underrepresented young women's voices were in the Florida state legislature, at the age of 25 I entered a six-way primary and went on to win the general election with 64 percent of the vote. I became the youngest woman ever elected to the Florida legislature and later the first Jewish woman elected to the U.S. Congress from Florida.

When women fight for progress, we achieve meaningful change on the national stage—from a constitutional amendment granting us the right to vote to a Supreme Court decision protecting a woman's right to make the medical decisions that are right for her and her family. But equally important is the crucial work women do every day in statehouses, town halls and community centers fighting for better education, health care, working conditions, social welfare and so much more.

Today, young girls are growing up in a world where women are leading in all areas of society. They are leading some of our nation's largest companies, directing cutting-edge scientific research, serving our country on the frontlines, leading the fight against poverty and holding some of the highest offices in government. As a mother of two daughters, I am grateful they have these pioneering women as role models. And what's truly remarkable is that young girls like my daughters see nothing out of the ordinary about it. Madeleine Albright tells the story of her seven-year-old granddaughter who asked, "What is the big deal about grandma being Secretary of State? Only girls are Secretary of State."

We've come a long way, but we must remain vigilant. Women are no longer barred from voting or owning property, but are still only paid 77 cents to every dollar a man makes. Laws like the Violence Against Women Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act are still debated as partisan issues instead of the commonsense measures they are. In 1966, the year I was born, there were only 11 women in the U.S. House of Representatives, the same number as there were when my mother was born in 1946. Today, we have seen progress with women holding 82 seats, but that still only represents about 18% of the House. We have so much more to do.

In order to make sure that our priorities remain at the forefront, women must be able to make their voices heard—and that starts at the ballot box. At the Democratic National Committee, one of our central priorities is expanding and protecting the right to vote. In recent months, we've seen new voting restrictions that disproportionately impact women. Some voter ID laws make it more difficult for women who have changed their names to have their votes counted, while other new laws restrict early voting, making it harder for working mothers to cast their ballots. These attempts to limit the franchise, a right that motivated thousands of women to March on Washington 101 years ago this month, is simply unacceptable.

Women bring an undeniably unique perspective to politics, and our democracy suffers when we are excluded from the dialogue. There was little that boosted the fight for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act more than the law's namesake explaining to legislators about the damage of the wage gap. The fight to expand health care in America wouldn't be complete, without women advocating an end to insurance discrimination and for full access to the services they need. And there are no stronger advocates for commonsense gun safety measures than the mothers who continue to implore lawmakers to keep their children safe.

This year in honor of Women's History Month, I urge all of us to pause to reflect on what we can do to build on the progress we've made: stay active, engaged and committed to the causes we care about. Run for office or encourage young women to do so, organize voter registration drives and never stop fighting for the issues that matter most.

It is our turn to be the shoulders the next generation will stand on. To achieve great things—whether it is elected office or the corner office—we must reach behind us and extend a hand to the next generation of women.

Our fight is far from over. I hope you'll join me in the work ahead as we keep breaking down barriers to progress and standing up for women everywhere.

In the States

- On Wednesday, the Montana Democratic Party criticized Republican Congressman Steve Daines for demanding and voting for a government shutdown that cost the country \$415 million in visitor spending because of closed national parks. The move hurt Montana's economy, which depends on the National parks that brought 4.5 million people and more than \$400 million in economic activity to the state in 2012. Andrea Marcoccio, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party said, "This is just further evidence that Congressman Daines' reckless agenda is wrong for Montana and our country. Montana's national parks are a critical part of our economy and Main Streets across Montana." Click [here](#) to read the party's full news release.
- On Monday, the Connecticut Democratic Party pushed back on the Connecticut Republican Party for issuing a fundraising email soliciting contributions to fight a minimum wage increase. In the release, Connecticut Democratic Party Executive Director Jonathan Harris said, "The Connecticut Republican Party isn't just against raising the minimum wage, now they want to cash in on Connecticut residents making less money. It's shameful that the Republicans are seeking to make money by blocking access to families' economic security opportunities." Click [here](#) to read Harris' full statement and to view the GOP's initial email.
- On Friday, Democrats from New Jersey to Atlanta previewed Chris Christie's trip to Atlanta to fundraise for the Republican Governors Association. Christie will be in Georgia as state and federal investigations focus on the role his administration played in what is now known as "Bridgegate," and as Gov. Nathan Deal and staff members have received subpoenas relating to an ongoing FBI investigation. Democratic Party of Georgia Chair DuBose Porter and New Jersey Democratic State Committee Chair John Currie held a press conference call and local officials held a press conference in Atlanta. Click here to read more about the Democratic pushback: [**Georgia Democrats welcomed New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie**](#)