



WEEKLY UPDATE

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DNC New Same Old Party Website and Report for GOP Autopsy Anniversary

On Tuesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz held a press conference to release a new DNC [report](#) and [website](#) on the RNC's failed Autopsy Report titled, "One Year Later, Same Old Party."

One year ago, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus spoke at the National Press Club and [laid out a plan to rebrand the Republican Party](#), and reach out to constituencies that rejected the GOP in droves during the 2012 election. DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz stood in the same building and helped explain how the party's effort has failed at every level. The DNC's report details the failure of the rebrand in all 50 states and a new interactive website www.SameOldParty.com serves as a resource on Republicans in every state saying and doing things that continue to alienate large swaths of the electorate.

The DNC's report finds that hiring "outreach staff" and working on how Republican candidates speak to constituencies, does not change the GOP's offensive policies toward the very groups the Republican Party is courting, including women, people of color, young people and the LGBT community. As the DNC's report says, "The biggest problem for the Republican Party has never been its primary calendar, its campaign tactics, or a lack of trainings. Their biggest problem is who they are, what they believe, what they say, and how they govern."

At the conference announcing the report and website, DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz said, "What changes we have seen from the Republican Party are superficial and tactical but do little to address their core problem – that they have an out of touch agenda that prioritizes opportunity for some instead of opportunity for all...The GOP has failed to change their actions or tone from the party that in 2012 told immigrants they should 'self deport' and women that they had the ability to 'shut that whole thing down' when raped."

"In the past year, we've heard Republican leaders and operatives call a female candidate an 'empty dress,' talk about women's libidos, and – once again – try to downplay abuse."

"We've heard them use derogatory terms to describe Latino immigrants who are looking to make a life for themselves in America; use insulting stereotypes for African-Americans and our President that are better left in the dustbins of history; and support outright discrimination against LGBT Americans at all levels."

"Sadly, this type of rhetoric is only the beginning of their problems – their policies are simply out of step with the majority of American voters."

The DNC report goes through the Republican Party's progress with six of the demographic groups the Autopsy highlighted, and shows how a year later, the GOP is just a year older, but nothing around its policies has changed. These groups include: the middle class, women, Latinos, African Americans, the LGBT community, and young Americans.



A glimpse at the DNC's new website, [SameOldParty.com](http://www.SameOldParty.com)

Here are just a few examples that the report covers:

- Senate Minority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#) of Kentucky opposes any level of increase to the minimum wage.
- Iowa US Senate candidate [Mark Jacobs](#) said of reaching women voters, "I think you have to connect with women on an emotional level."
- "My father had a ranch; we used to hire 50 to 60 *wetbacks* to pick tomatoes." – Alaska Congressman [Don Young](#).
- "We have got this tailspin of culture, in our inner cities in particular, of men not working and just generations of men not even thinking about working or learning the value and the culture of work, and so there is a real culture problem here that has to be dealt with" – Wisconsin Congressman [Paul Ryan](#).
- "I think a much better analogy would have been brother and sister, don't you?" – Pennsylvania Gov. [Tom Corbett](#) said of same-sex marriage.
- "I'm all for not allowing a 12-year-old to work 40 hours... But a 12-year-old working eight to 10 hours a week or a 14-year-old working 12 to 15 hours a week is not bad." -- Maine Gov. [Paul LePage](#).

Read the DNC's new report "One Year Later, Same Old Party" [here](#).

View the DNC's new website on the GOP's failed rebrand, [here](#).

[And They're Still Not Done...](#)

And just a day after the DNC released the autopsy on the GOP autopsy report, Republicans continued to prove the DNC's point that the disconnect between Republicans and Americans is just as relevant as a year ago:

Republicans said that the GOP doesn't support equal pay legislation because "[women are busy](#)," that instead of fighting for equal pay women should become "[better negotiators](#)," and insisting on bills for equal pay and sick leave make women look like "[whiners](#)."

And today, Mitch McConnell will hold a fundraiser with someone who said that wives have an "[obligation](#)" to sleep with their husbands.

Not exactly the "*forward-leaning vision for voting Republican that appeals to women*," that the GOP Autopsy suggested. A year later, it's the same old party.

President Obama Awards the Medal of Honor to 24 Army Veterans

On Tuesday afternoon, President Obama awarded 24 Army veterans with the Medal of Honor in recognition of their valor during major combat operations in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The Medal of Honor, the second highest military honor was withheld from 19 of these veterans in the past due to their racial or ethnic background.

The President said the following regarding those honored during the medal ceremony:

"No nation is perfect. But here in America, we confront our imperfections and face a sometimes painful past, including the truth that some of these soldiers fought and died for a country that did not always see them as equal."



Of the 24 veterans honored Tuesday only 3 were still living to receive the honor in person while 21 have passed away.

Watch the ceremony [here](#).

President Obama Fills out his NCAA Basketball bracket with an ACA support twist

Wednesday, President Obama shared his NCAA bracket for Men's Basketball for the 6th year in a row with ESPN's Andy Katz.

The President has Louisville, Michigan State, Florida, and Arizona headed to the Final Four.

Obama has chosen the Michigan State Spartans as this year's champions.

"Tom Izzo is a great tournament coach," Obama said. "I've got Michigan State going all the way. ... He knows how to motivate folks and he knows how to coach. My pick: Michigan State. Bring it home for me. It's been a while since I've won my pool."



With just a few days left in the open enrollment period, the White House put a riff on everyone filling out NCAA brackets with an Affordable Care Act bracket of their own. The White House bracket features "the 16 'sweetest' reasons to get covered" under the health care law. Click [here](#), view the bracket, and vote on what you think is the best reason to get covered.

In the States

- On Wednesday, the Michigan Democratic Party criticized U.S. Senate candidate Terri Lynn Land for fundraising with scandal plagued New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. Events included a fundraiser that Lon Johnson, Michigan Democratic Party Chair, said should have been cancelled. "It is outrageous that on a week when we are supposed to be focused on transparency in government, Ms. Land refuses to hold campaign events where voters or members of the press can ask her questions, but has no problem raking in cash with scandal-plagued Chris Christie. Ms. Land should cancel this shameful fundraiser immediately," Johnson said. Click on each of these headlines to read more of the coverage Terri Lynn Land received: [Oakland Press: Democrats target Land, Christie at Bloomfield Township fundraiser](#) | [Protesters march outside fundraiser for Land featuring Gov. Christie](#) | [Michigan Democrats protest Christie fundraiser](#).
- This week the Iowa Democratic Party asked for the truth from Governor Terry Branstad on a scandal involving former employees that were fired because of their ties to the Democratic Party. Iowa Democratic Party Executive Director said, "The Governor continues to participate in a game of hide and seek that insults our long tradition of fair and open government. It is time for him to come clean with Iowans." [Here's](#) the link to the Iowa Dem's call on Branstad for transparency in the case.
- On Saturday, as Sam Stein from [Huffington Post](#) puts it, "[Scott Brown Awkwardly Finds Out That Obamacare Is Also Helping Republicans](#)." When attending the home of a Republican state representative, Brown began to criticize the "monstrosity" that is the Affordable Care Act. Unbeknownst to Brown, the state representative chimed in that Obamacare had been a "financial lifesaver" for him and his wife, lowering their payments to \$136 a month for healthcare for the couple. Read about the full exchange [here](#).
- On Thursday, after new federal jobs data revealed Iowa as being ranked 9 out of 10 midwestern economies, the Wisconsin Democratic Party pushed back on Governor Scott Walker's claims that "We're still doing much better than we were doing previously." Wisconsin is ranked 35th in the nation for job creation compared to 11th when Walker took office. In a [statement](#), Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair, Mike Tate said, "Scott Walker is so out of touch with reality that he might actually believe 35th in the nation in job growth is 'dramatically better.' But middle class families know that's just not good enough."