



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

May 9, 2014

When in doubt, #Benghazi

After nearly two years, 13 hearings, 50 briefings, 25,000 pages of documents and [millions of taxpayer dollars](#) spent analyzing what happened during the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, and how to prevent another— House Republicans voted Thursday to form yet another committee to investigate.

For months, Republicans focused on nothing else but firing up their base by attacking Obamacare. The big problem? The Affordable Care Act is helping millions of Americans, and its potency as an attack is dropping with even those who describe themselves as conservatives.

So as Obamacare is working, unemployment is at the lowest point in years, jobless claims are on the decline, and the deficit is shrinking - what's the GOP left with? #Benghazi.

This political stunt to feed the GOP's base and bolster their campaign coffers is at the expense of the American people, and those who are looking to Congress to spend their time fixing immigration reform, raising the minimum wage, or making sure we have equal pay for women.



Watch the DNC's new video, "[When in doubt, #Benghazi](#)," on the GOP's latest political stunt to drive up their base and ignore their real responsibilities.

Press Coverage of the GOP's Benghazi Ploy

Here's what people are saying about it:

"They won't pass a serious jobs bill, or raise the minimum wage, or reform immigration, but House Republicans think they can earn their pay for the rest of the year by exposing nonexistent malfeasance on the part of the Obama administration. . . . Little nuisances like constitutional rights or basic facts can't be allowed to stand in the way when House **Republicans need to whip up their party's fury.**" – Editorial Board, The New York Times [5/8/14](#)

"Our view: House Republicans plot yet another investigation related to 2012 attack and its aftermath in **strictly partisan** effort to please their political base" – Editorial Board, The Baltimore Sun [5/5/14](#)

"Asked by MSNBC's Joe Scarborough about the possibility that his panel's work would continue into the 2016 election campaign, Gowdy replied that 'if an administration is slow-walking document production, I can't end a trial simply because the defense won't cooperate.' A trial? And the Obama administration is the defense? **So much for that 'serious investigation'** House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) promised; his new chairman intends to play prosecutor, proving the administration's guilt to the jury — in this case, the public." – Dana Milbank, Washington Post [5/7/14](#)

"But the Republican accusations of a cover-up have proved to be **baseless**, and the recent emails from deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes are **alarming only to the demagogues from Fox News Channel**." – Editorial Board, The Star-Ledger [5/8/14](#)

"Still, it's hard to see this new investigation as anything other than **a political move** to weaken Democrats heading into the midterm elections and undermine Hillary Rodham Clinton's potential presidential bid in 2016, especially when Republicans immediately started using the existence of the select committee for fundraising purposes." – Editorial Board, Concord Monitor [5/8/14](#)

"Republicans in the House and Senate may not want to see the latest Benghazi investigation for what it is, but **let's hope voters go to the polls with their eyes wide open**." – Editorial Board, Concord Monitor [5/8/14](#)

"How this Select Committee will learn more than previous investigations is unknown at the moment." – Editorial Board, Anniston Star [5/8/14](#)

"In a less fevered political atmosphere, the focus would be on correcting the mistakes, not on seeking to prove wild charges that the CIA, in concert with the White House, "cooked the books" on Benghazi. That would seem to be the foregone conclusion of Chairman Gowdy as we move toward mid-term elections and perhaps toward a Hillary Clinton presidential campaign." – Editorial Board, The Houston Chronicle [5/7/14](#)

"John Boehner's select committee is nothing short of an in kind expenditure on behalf of the Republican National Committee, hoping to weaken Democrat's electoral chances." – **Ari Rabin-Havt, USA Today** [5/5/14](#)

"The real story here may be that GOP investigators are not 'getting the job done' because thus far, it is not clear that there *is* any job to get done. Of course, if the real goal is keeping the base enraged for six more months, right through election day, then the new select committee will probably get it done just fine." – **Greg Sargent, The Washington Post**, [5/6/14](#)

"In fact, Republicans may be going on something of a mission improbable to yield new information and turn up new clues in a wide-ranging probe that has already spanned 13 hearings, 25,000 pages of documents and 50 briefings." – **John Bresnahan, Lauren French, and Jake Sherman, Politico**, [5/4/14](#)

"If Republicans had anything better to work with to show America that Barack Obama really is the pulsing heart of evil at the center of an administration riven with criminal wrongdoing from top to bottom, they wouldn't be crying wolf at every new Benghazi email they get their hands on." – **Paul Waldman, The Washington Post** [5/1/14](#)

"What happened in Benghazi, Libya, was a tragedy — not a scandal. And no amount of Republican witch hunting or wishful thinking will make it otherwise." – **Sally Kohn, CNN Opinion** [5/6/14](#)

Legislative Hearings begin in NJ Bridge Investigation

In March, Chris Christie released a report that he commissioned clearing himself of any wrongdoing in Bridgegate. His attorneys [said they had "gotten it right,"](#) and [Christie has repeatedly defended the report](#) and its heavily-criticized findings. This week testimonies began in the New Jersey Legislature's independent investigation and a few big news stories surfaced saying otherwise.

On Tuesday, a former Christie aide told her side of the story.

In testimony under oath Christina Renna – the former Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Governor Christie – [said the Mastro report contained "inaccuracies,"](#) including critical details from her interview. She referred to the Mastro report's characterization of her interview as **"alarming"** and that **it contained "aggressive language...not language that I would have used."**

At the same time, a majority of New Jerseyans also [believe the Mastro report is a whitewash](#). Watch the clip [here](#).



Later, Renna challenged Chris Christie insistence that [there's no culture of intimidation](#) within his Administration. Saying, "The answer is I was scared of overstepping over Bridget . . . If I ended up being wrong, I thought I would lose my job. . . . I was fearful."

Watch Renna talk about the intimidation in Christie's Administration [here](#).

In the States

- On Tuesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz addressed state and local Democrats at a breakfast with the Oklahoma Democratic Party. She discussed the Democratic Party's strategy on moving the state and country forward. Read about the event by clicking on this headline - [DNC chairwoman visits Oklahoma Democrats](#)
- On Wednesday, Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, Chair of the Democratic Governors Association, and Maine Senate President Justin Alfond held a press conference call to discuss RGA Chair Chris Christie's campaign visit to Maine for Governor Paul LePage. The pair discussed Christie and LePage's scandals and absurd antics given that both governors have proven to be embarrassments to the people of their states. Gov. Shumlin said, "LePage and Christie are free to campaign together all they want up in Maine, it's merely a reminder to Mainers of the embarrassments of the LePage years and why Maine needs to turn the page on LePage." Read more about the call and listen to the audio [here](#).
- On Wednesday, Representative Lori Berman and middle class Floridians protested Rick Scott's campaign event and highlighted the wrong priorities and missed opportunities of Governor Scott's legislative session. Rep. Berman said, "Rick Scott is here to talk about his campaign, and this is his post-session 'victory tour.' But in reality, this not a victory for most Floridians. We have 800,000 Floridians who didn't get healthcare this session – it's not working for them. We have teachers who didn't get pay raises – it's not working for our teachers." Read more about the event [here](#).
- On Monday, the Texas Democratic Party celebrated Cinco de Mayo with the launch of its second Loteria card: La Dama Leticia. The state party said the card is, "Inspired by the original Mexican Loteria card of 'La Dama (The Lady),' this special edition card showcases Senator Leticia Van de Putte personified as The Lady Lt. Governor, holding a gavel in her right hand and ready to take the dais on the floor of the Texas Senate." See the card [here](#).

White House Releases National Climate Assessment

On Tuesday, the White House released the third National Climate Assessment (NCA), a report that assesses how climate change is impacting specific regions and economies across the country.

The report completed by a team of more than 300 climate scientists and experts confirmed that climate change is indeed impacting Americans across the board.

The report is set to help business owners and community leaders gain a greater understanding of how to help slow down climate change in their communities.

In a video released by the White House on the same day, Dr. John Holdren, President Obama's Science Advisor, helped explain the assessment and action plan. Watch Dr. Holdren's analysis [here](#).



From the report, President Obama announced several new actions to help slow down and prevent long term environmental impacts.

President Obama is taking executive actions to:

- Build a skilled solar workforce;
- Provide innovative financing for deploying solar;
- Drive investment in energy upgrades to federal buildings;
- Improve appliance efficiency; and
- Strengthen building codes.

Click [here](#) to read the organization's Assessment. And click [here](#) to read more about the President's actions.

Reality check for Marco Rubio from his home state's papers

Tuesday night on CNN, Florida Republican Marco Rubio [claimed that it was an "enormous stretch"](#) to suggest weather incidents could be attributable to human activity – despite years of research and evidence. In the interview, Rubio slammed the door on 300 climate scientists and experts that concluded human activity is contributing to the rapidly changing climate. Watch [here](#).

But when the Floridians that Rubio represents woke up this morning, the facts – and the headlines – couldn't be more clear. The [U.S. National Climate Assessment](#) concluded that Florida is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather, accelerated and caused in part by human activity. Here are just a handful of the front pages today from across the Sunshine State.



So who is stretching the truth about climate change in Florida?

