



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

May 16, 2014

[Marco Rubio Denies Climate Change Caused by Humans](#)

On Sunday, [Marco Rubio laid out his position on climate change](#) clearly saying, **"I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying."**

Rubio is ignoring [97% of scientists who disagree with him](#), just to cater to the tea party base, instead of his constituents. The Third National Climate Assessment, compiled by over 300 experts, reported that climate changes have the potential to make [Florida one of the most threatened](#) areas of the country.

On Wednesday, [Politifact gave Marco Rubio a 'False'](#) for his statements disputing the existence of man-made climate change.

Rubio has lost touch with the priorities of Florida just to pursue tea party base support and chase his 2016 GOP Presidential nominee aspirations.

Here is just some of the coverage of Rubio's comments so far:

MSNBC's Joe Scarborough: "[I don't associate myself with Marco's point](#)"

"I don't associate myself with Marco's point, but there are variations of that. You can believe there is climate change, as I do. And you can believe that human activity has played a significant role, as I do."

NY Times: [Rubio on a Presidential Bid, and Climate Change](#)

"With his comments, Mr. Rubio became the first of three prominent Florida Republicans, including another potential presidential candidate, former Gov. Jeb Bush, to comment publicly on climate change following the release of the report, which named Miami as one of the cities most vulnerable to severe damage as a result of rising sea levels."

CNN: [Rubio says humans aren't behind climate change](#)

"Sen. Marco Rubio says he doesn't believe humans are causing climate change and doesn't think any action can reverse course. This as a new White House report indicated that Rubio's home state of Florida is one of the most vulnerable to rising sea levels."

LA Times: [Marco Rubio says human activity isn't causing climate change](#)

"Rubio's denial that human activity is to blame for climate change could stand him in good stead with the conservatives who dominate some Republican nomination contests, although it puts him at odds with the views of most Americans."

Huffington Post: [Marco Rubio: I Don't Believe Humans Are Causing Climate Change](#)

"As the leader of the Florida House in 2008, Rubio helped pass a law directing the state Department of Environmental Protection to develop a carbon emissions capping system. He has since distanced himself from that vote, arguing that he never supported cap and trade, only the idea that the state should look into such a system. And when the system ultimately did not pass, he cheered its failure. . . . But those who worked on that bill in Florida have called him an opportunist and a flip-flopper on the topic."

Chris Christie: Lessons in Fiscal Irresponsibility

Ahead of Chris Christie's Travel to Washington, DC this week to address the Peter G. Peterson Foundation's 2014 Fiscal Summit, DNC National Press Secretary Michael Czin released the following memo on Christie's economic record:

From: Michael Czin, DNC Press Secretary
To: Interested Parties
Date: May 14, 2014
Re: Chris Christie: Lessons in Fiscal Irresponsibility

Today, Chris Christie will travel to Washington, DC where he will speak at the Peter G. Peterson Foundation's 2014 Fiscal Summit, "Our Economic Future."

Christie claims that under his leadership there's been a 'comeback' in New Jersey, and other Republican governors have elevated Christie by electing him the chair of the Republican Governors Association. The title of Christie's discussion is called, "Lessons From The Statehouse: Balancing Fiscal Reform With Pro-Growth Investments," but the fact is that the economic wellbeing of the state is in trouble as a result of his time in office.

"If the economy gets much worse in New Jersey, Gov. Christie may want to close another bridge." – Mark McKinnon, former George W. Bush strategist, to [Politico](#)

As a result of Christie's overly optimistic revenue projections, the state now faces a massive \$800 million budget shortfall. Christie hasn't yet filled in the public on how he plans to make up for the shortfall that he and his administration apparently didn't see coming ([despite warnings from the legislature's chief budget officer](#)) – but budget-watchers predict that Christie will need to make further draconian cuts to programs that New Jersey residents rely on just to fill his budget hole.

The fact is that the current budget shortfall is just the latest economic failure from Christie's tenure. Here are a few of the lowlights from Christie's economic record:

- Last night the credit rating agency Moody's downgraded New Jersey's credit rating. That is New Jersey's **SIXTH** credit downgrade during Christie's tenure – tying the state record for the most credit downgrades for a New Jersey governor. [Bergen Record, [4/13/14](#)]
- Under Christie, the state's credit has been downgraded a total of **SIX** times, incl
- New Jersey's private-sector growth rate ranked **46th out of 50** in the nation under Christie and New Jersey maintains the highest unemployment among its neighboring states. [Asbury Park Press, [1/6/14](#); Bureau of Labor and Statistics, 4/18/14]
- Under Christie's leadership, New Jersey has lagged in job recovery – regaining only half the jobs it lost during the recession, while neighboring New York has recovered all of them under Democratic leadership. [Bloomberg, [3/18/14](#)]

Christie's sure to address the Peterson Conference with his customary bluster and swagger – but he'll need a lot more than that to compensate for his failed economic record as Governor.

And later this week, the Mortgage Bankers Association announced that 8.12% of all mortgaged homes in New Jersey are in the process of foreclosure, and that it was the only state in the country to see an increase in foreclosures in the first quarter of 2014.

When was the last time Chris Christie got a good piece of news?

Read about the foreclosure rate increase [here](#).

[GOP ignores the facts on min. wage](#)

When it comes to raising the minimum wage, **the GOP is yet again ignoring the facts.**

On Wednesday, Paychex and IHS issued a report saying that small business are adding jobs in Washington state faster than any other state in the country. This report is just the latest evidence that a higher minimum wage is good for our economy, our workers, and our long-term growth.

[CNN reports](#), "In Washington state, small businesses are adding jobs faster than any other state in the country, according to a report from Paychex and IHS. It's also the state where minimum wage, at \$9.32 per hour, is the highest."

And on Thursday, [Washington state announced](#) that it has hit its lowest rate of unemployment since the Great Recession.

Raising the minimum wage nationally would benefit 28 million American workers and lift millions out of poverty. Not to mention that [73% of Americans](#) support raising the minimum wage.

But despite ample evidence that raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do for American workers and for the economy — **Republicans refuse to act.**

[President Obama Speaks at 9/11 Museum Dedication](#)

On Thursday, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama attended the dedication of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at Ground Zero.

The President spoke at the dedication to honor those that were lost, and reflect on the ability of a country to come together on its darkest days.

He said, "Here, at this memorial, this museum, we come together. We stand in the footprints of two mighty towers, graced by the rush of eternal waters. We look into the faces of nearly 3,000 innocent souls -- men and women and children of every race, every creed, and every corner of the world. We can touch their names and hear their voices and glimpse the small items that speak to the beauty of their lives. A wedding ring. A dusty helmet. A shining badge.

"Here we tell their story, so that generations yet unborn will never forget."



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

First Lady Makes First Ever Solo Weekly Address on Mother's Day to Discuss Nigerian Kidnappings

This week, First Lady Michelle Obama gave her first ever solo Weekly Address.

The First Lady started by honoring mothers, wishing them all a happy Mother's Day. The First Lady then discussed how as a mother of two young daughters, she is "outraged" over the terrorist kidnappings of more than 200 Nigerian schoolgirls from their school dormitory in the middle of the night.

Mrs. Obama said, "This unconscionable act was committed by a terrorist group determined to keep these girls from getting an education – grown men attempting to snuff out the aspirations of young girls.

"And I want you to know that Barack has directed our government to do everything possible to support the Nigerian government's efforts to find these girls and bring them home.



"In these girls, Barack and I see our own daughters. We see their hopes, their dreams – and we can only imagine the anguish their parents are feeling right now."

Watch First Lady Michelle Obama full address [here](#).

In the States

- On Wednesday, the Texas Democratic Party criticized Rick Perry's frequent out of state travel with an email titled, "2016 Trip Advisor: Rick and Rick Eat Shrimp in Florida." The release says that Perry has been away from Texas for 10 days promoting himself, even making it to Florida for private fundraisers with Florida's Republican Gov. Rick Scott. Texas Democratic Party Communications Director Emmanuel Garcia said, "Rick Perry, where's the fiscal conservative these days? Why pay \$13 for a shrimp platter at the Outrigger's Tiki Bar and Grille in Florida, when you can pay \$6.75 for the delicious Captain's Choice Shrimp Basket, served right here at the Capitol Grill in the State Capitol building. Our delicious Texas Gulf Coast Shrimp are second to none. We know it's been a bit gloomy for the Governor Perry in Texas, with his possible indictment charges for bribery, but there's no need to run and seek the light in the sunshine state." View the full email [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the South Carolina Democratic Party responded to a statement by South Carolina GOP Chairman Matt Moore saying that GOP leaders and elected officials in the state legislature regularly pass bills without looking at what's in them. SCDP Chairman Jaime Harrison released this statement saying, "The comments by the SCGOP Chairman today are stunning and highly concerning. Exactly which bills has the SCGOP's majority pushed through the House and Senate without knowing what's in them? How long has this abdication of duty been happening? And, is it all GOP members as Chairman Moore implies, or just a select few?" Read the Chairman's full statement [here](#).
- On Monday, Indiana Democratic Party Chairman John Zody issued a statement on Gov. Mike Pence's Trip to New York. He said, "It has become very clear over the last week that Governor Mike Pence continues his campaign for the 2016 Presidential Primary. What is less clear is who is paying for his out-of-state trips. Is it taxpayers like us? Today, his latest stop is in New York, where he is meeting with conservative columnists and Wall Street bankers, people he hopes will back him in his run. This morning, his office put out a two-sentence press release saying he was going on an economic development trip to the state. What does that mean?" Read Zody's full statement [here](#). To help track Pence's frequent trips, the Indiana Party started a new webpage, "Where is Mike Pence?" Follow the path [here](#).