



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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[GOP Governors Enveloped in Scandal](#)

Bruce Springsteen may have just wrapped his summer tour, but a fellow Jersey native is kicking off his own this week.

In the coming months, RGA Chair Chris Christie will crisscross the country to campaign for his fellow scandal-plagued Republican governors.

We're calling it The GOP's 2014 Summer Scandal Tour...

As Christie joins Susana Martinez or Terry Branstad or any number of other embattled Republican governors, voters will continually be reminded of the controversies piling up on their watch. These scandals have consequences that extend beyond just losing the public's trust. Christie and other GOP governors have become bogged down in scandal, while failing to deliver for middle class families – from lagging state economies, to mounting budget crises, to broken promises to create jobs.



So as they campaign together in the coming months, Chris Christie and his allies will face double trouble: questions of ethical scandals and policies that have failed the middle class in their states.

Watch the video [here](#).

The GOP's scandal-plagued Governors also did some travel together this week:

On day two of Rick Perry's campaign trip in Iowa, he's chose to spend it with a Governor facing ethic violations of his own, Iowa's own Terry Branstad.

But the real victims of the scandals facing both Terry Branstad and Rick Perry aren't the Governors, it's their constituents.

While Terry Branstad faces allegations that his administration [fired several merit-based state employees](#) and spent over a half a million dollars on settlement deals, meanwhile, he is [failing to create the 200,000 jobs he promised](#) to create by the end of his first term. In fact, Governor Branstad touted **misleading jobs numbers to pad his weak number while doing little to help families struggling throughout Iowa**. And according to a PPP poll from earlier this year, [67% of Iowans](#) believe his method of counting 'gross jobs' is dishonest.

And then you have Rick Perry, who is traveling around the country trying to escape a Grand Jury investigation into whether he tried to coerce a public official by abusing his power, all while he is letting down middle class families in Texas. **Perry not only opposes raising the minimum wage** – which would lift many Texas families out of poverty – he doesn't think there should be one. **Perry also refused to expand Medicaid in Texas**, which would help more than a million Texans gain access to affordable coverage.

So as each of these Governor's try to paint a rosy picture in their states, the scandals that surround them show the real picture: their inability to lead and the middle class families they're letting down.

Republicans Head to New Orleans for Republican Leadership Conference

Last year, Governor Bobby Jindal famously (or infamously) proclaimed that the GOP should, “stop being the stupid party.”

On Thursday, Governor Jindal helped kick off the Republican Leadership Conference’s annual gathering of party leaders, conspiracy theorists and past and future presidential candidates.

Speaking alongside Jindal included RNC Chairman Reince Priebus who has overseen [the party’s failed rebrand effort](#) and Duck Dynasty star Phil Robertson (the GOP’s cause celebre that came after [Joe the Plummer](#) and before [Cliven Bundy](#)).

And not to be outdone on their first 24 hours – in the coming days, the conference is slated to hear from the likes of Donald Trump, Allen West, Rick Santorum, Rick Perry, Ted Cruz, Dinesh D’Souza and [many more](#). This is a group of GOP leaders that are famous for things like shutting down the government, believing that employers should be able to limit health care options for women and question where the President was born.

In short – the RLC is a massive gathering of ‘the stupid party.’

But the problem with this gathering isn’t just the speakers, it’s the policies that they’re fighting for that are hurting the economic well-being of Americans.

Just look at Bobby Jindal’s record. Here are a few of the low-lights from Governor Jindal’s time in office:

- [Forbes](#) ranks Louisiana 40th in the list of the best states to do business, 48th in quality of life and 46th in growth prospects.
- The state lags [near the bottom](#) for high school graduation rates.
- According to [the Census Bureau](#), Louisiana has the second highest poverty rate in the nation.

And while Jindal’s speaking at the conference, his state’s legislature is nearing the end of their legislative session without a budget for next year.

Republicans like Jindal may not want to be seen as the ‘stupid party’ – but that won’t change as long as their out-of-touch rhetoric matches their out-of-touch policies.

In the States

- On Tuesday, Congressman Paul Ryan was in Mt. Pleasant Michigan fundraising for the 4th District Republican Committee. But as he visited the Wolverine State, Ryan continued to stand by his budget that is in complete opposition to what Michigan families need. Read the DNC’s evaluation of everything he conveniently left out of his remarks in regards to middle class families [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Texas Democratic Party celebrated with the City of Houston after the city’s City Council passed the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) that extends the city’s ban on discrimination to include protections for gay, lesbian, and transgendered citizens in housing and employment situations. Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa said, “Today, I am so proud of the City of Houston for reaffirming what all Texas Democrats believe: that every person deserves to be treated equally. By passing the HERO, the Houston City Council has invested in the local economy, diversified the workforce, and ensured every Houstonian, no matter their gender identity, sexual preference, or color of their skin, will be protected from discrimination. Congratulations to the City of Houston for helping fulfill the Texas Promise by allowing all Houstonians to live their American dream.” Read the statement [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Iowa Democratic Party put out a statement on the final GOP Senate debate, showing even further how out of touch the GOP’s candidates are from Iowans. Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Scott Brennan said, “No matter who emerges from this Tea Party primary on Tuesday, tonight’s final debate solidified that the Republican candidate will be out-of-step with the values and concerns of Iowa’s families. In their frantic race to the right over the course of the primary, Joni Ernst, Mark Jacobs and their fellow Republicans have consistently left Iowans far behind as they eagerly embrace an anti-Iowa, special interest agenda. With the debates now over, Iowa’s middle class families are still left wondering what their Republican choices have to offer them.” Read the party’s full release [here](#).

[GOP Leadership Fails of the Week](#)

This week, the DNC criticized members of the GOP leadership for their lack of leadership and false statements. View some of our posts from the [Factivists](#) website below:

[Cantor and Boehner's Song and Dance on Immigration Reform](#)

John Boehner and Eric Cantor continue to play a political song and dance with immigration reform. On the one hand Boehner and Cantor have tried to claim they are advocates for immigration reform, with Boehner even telling donors he's "[hellbent on getting this done this year](#)", while on the other hand Boehner and Cantor purposely block it.

Don't take our word for it, just look at the [mailer that Cantor's campaign sent out](#) bragging about how the Majority Leader is blocking "amnesty."

Boehner expects us to believe that "[there's nobody more interested in fixing this problem](#)" than he is. Well, it's been over 300 days since the Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill and there is still no indication that they plan to move anything on immigration.

Democrats in the House introduced a bipartisan immigration bill, filed a discharge petition and have repeatedly tried to bring up immigration reform for a vote, but Boehner and Cantor are full of excuses and won't allow it.

Actions speak louder than words, and so far all we've gotten is lip service. It's crystal clear that Republicans are talking out of both sides of their mouths –reaping the financial benefits of 'supporting' reform, while continuing to block reform.

If Boehner and Cantor are really interested in fixing immigration reform, then it's time to prove it.

[Fact Check on Cantor's Foreign Policy Diatribe](#)

Today the President delivered a speech focused on defining what comes next in America's foreign policy following a more than a decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Following the President's speech, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor published a lengthy diatribe on ABC.com critical of the President's foreign policy accomplishments and goals.

Below please find a fact check on the top five erroneous claims from Cantor's ABC piece:

On Iran...

Cantor's Rhetoric: "President Obama may be serious in saying all options are on the table, but the problem is neither Iran nor others in the region believe such a threat is credible."

Reality: The Obama Administration implemented the toughest sanctions in Iran's history that first brought Iran to its knees and then to the negotiating table.

On Syria...

Cantor's Rhetoric: "Yet, the President's retreat on Syria and subsequent inaction has made this terrorist threat both worse and harder to solve."

Reality: Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu begs to differ. Just last week, Netanyahu called the President's deal last year to remove chemical weapons from Syria, "[the one ray of light in a very dark region.](#)"

On Russia...

Cantor's Rhetoric: "Invading Ukraine wasn't Russia's first act of aggression."

Reality: Cantor actually isn't wrong here, he's just a hypocrite. Russia's first real act of aggression in recent years was under George W. Bush when Russia invaded Georgia. Republicans didn't criticize Bush then but blame President Obama now.

Read the full post on the Factivists website [here](#).

President Obama Announces Additional Steps to End the War in Afghanistan

On Tuesday, President Obama announced additional steps to bring 22,000 troops home from Afghanistan by the end of the year. That will leave fewer than 10,000 troops in the region.

President Obama said, "The United States did not seek this fight. We went into Afghanistan out of necessity, after our nation was attacked by al Qaeda on September 11th, 2001. We went to war against al Qaeda and its extremist allies with the strong support of the American people and their representatives in Congress; with the international community and our NATO allies; and with the Afghan people, who welcomed the opportunity of a life free from the dark tyranny of extremism.



"We have now been in Afghanistan longer than many Americans expected. But make no mistake -- thanks to the skill and sacrifice of our troops, diplomats, and intelligence professionals, we have struck significant blows against al Qaeda's leadership, we have eliminated Osama bin Laden, and we have prevented Afghanistan from being used to launch attacks against our homeland. We have also supported the Afghan people as they continue the hard work of building a democracy. We've extended more opportunities to their people, including women and girls. And we've helped train and equip their own security forces.

"Now we're finishing the job we started."

President Obama also reaffirmed his commitment to supporting our veterans coming home from this long war.

"This 9/11 Generation is part of an unbroken line of heroes who give up the comfort of the familiar to serve a half a world away -- to protect their families and communities back home, and to give people they never thought they'd meet the chance to live a better life. It's an extraordinary sacrifice for them and for their families. But we shouldn't be surprised that they're willing to make it. That's who we are as Americans. That's what we do," President Obama said.

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

DNC Chair on the Passing of Dr. Maya Angelou

"I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Maya Angelou.

"Earlier this year, as I watched Dr. Angelou recite some of her greatest works, it was clear that though her voice was weak, her keen insight and wit were stronger than ever. She exuded the strength of character that has enabled her words and example to buoy the spirit of others in difficult times.

"It was Dr. Angelou who said, 'The first time someone shows you who they are, believe them.' For decades, Dr. Angelou showed us who she was through literature, teaching, performing arts and activism. Her selflessness and kindness came through in her willingness to share her story and to tell the story of others.

"I know that I express the sentiment of many when I say that Dr. Maya Angelou's voice and spirit will be greatly missed, but I am grateful that her words will live on for generations to come."