



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

June 20, 2014

Republican Leaders Flock to Faith and Freedom Conference

Ahead of this year's Faith and Freedom Coalition: Road to a Majority Conference 2014, DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithee released the following memo:

From: Mo Elleithee, DNC Communications Director
To: Interested Parties
Date: June 19, 2014
Re: [A Cattle Call, 'New' Leadership & The Definition of Insanity](#)

With this afternoon's House GOP leadership elections, as well as the kick-off of the GOP's latest 2016 cattle call at the circus known as the Faith and Freedom coalition meeting, it seems like a good a time as any to take stock of today's Republican Party.

Here's what we know:

- 1) People flat out don't like the Republican Party, and**
- 2) Republican leaders are doing everything they can to keep it that way.**

Just take a look at this week's [NBC-WSJ Poll](#):

- The GOP is in a far weaker position than it was in either the 2010 or 2012 elections. The public's view of the GOP has them underwater – just 29% of voters have a favorable view of the GOP while 45% have an unfavorable view (ouch). By comparison views of the Democratic Party are far better at 38% positive and 40% negative.
- And the Tea Party Republicans who unseated Eric Cantor last week and are calling the shots in today's GOP are doing even worse. Only 22% of Americans view the Tea Party favorably.
- Today, Democrats are leading in the generic ballot and hold a 50% – 38% lead with women.

Those numbers are the result of one thing: Republicans at every level from the State House to Presidential aspirants' have out-of-touch policies that hurt working Americans...and the voters know it.

In other words, more than a full year after the RNC's famous "autopsy report," the Republican Party has become even *less* popular than it was when it lost the 2012 election.

Seems like a good time for the GOP to change its ways, right?

Well, apparently not to today's Republican leaders. As we're about to see (*again*) over the next few days, the Republican Party has given up on even *trying* to change. They've given up on any attempt to rebrand or reach out to new voters. And in many cases, they have moved in the opposite direction.

House leadership elections

Eric Cantor was the head of the House obstructionist caucus. Yet he lost his primary seemingly for not being obstructionist or extremist *enough*. So does anybody really think the new House GOP leadership is going to be any better?

Well, we already know the answer to that. The leading candidates running in today's leadership election supported the government shutdown, support *more* hearings on Benghazi, and wasted so much time voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

We have no doubt that these leaders will team up with Speaker Boehner to continue to obstruct bipartisan measures that would actually grow the economy and the middle class like:

- Immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship that [62% of Americans support](#);
- Equal Pay legislation that [90% of Americans support](#);
- Raising the minimum wage that [73% of Americans support](#);
- Student loan reforms that [83% of Americans support](#); and so much more.

While Democrats will continue to reach across the aisle to pass these measures, the new crop of Republican leaders seem intent on continuing to poke the middle class in the eye in order to placate their extreme base.

Faith and Freedom Coalition

Speaking of their extreme base, this weekend it will be on full display right here in DC. And the parade of 2016 GOP presidential candidates are tripping over themselves trying to kiss up to them.

That's right. Ted Cruz, Chris Christie, Bobby Jindal, Rand Paul, Paul Ryan, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and others will be sharing the stage with everyone from Allen West to Steve King to Herman Cain and Phyllis Schlafly.

And we know what they're going to say. They're going to attack the President with each breath. (Any bets how long before the first impeachment reference is made?) We'll hear conspiracies about Benghazi and the IRS. They'll rail on about repealing the Affordable Care Act, the need to restrict women's health decisions, the dangers of gay marriage and the detrimental effects of single mothers on society.

What we won't hear is a single serious proposal to help grow the middle class.

And that's the Republican Party's problem.

The American people know well that [embracing a racist TV star](#) won't raise wages, [endorsing conversion therapy for gay Americans](#) won't move the country forward, [blocking immigration reform](#) won't create a job (actually, it'll do just the opposite), [divisive language about "traditional" populations](#) won't bridge the partisan divide, launching a politically motivated investigation won't educate another child, and continuing to [deny basic science](#) won't leave our kids a healthier planet.

The only people who *don't* seem to get it are Republican leaders. Their entire legislative and electoral strategy is to throw red meat to their far right base and hope their extreme agenda based on obstructionism and divisiveness will take them across the finish line.

You know what they say – the definition of "insanity" is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. Apparently, that's also the definition of "Republican leader."

GOP pivots to . . . impeachment

On a radio show Monday, [Republican Congressman Lou Barletta said](#) that he thinks a vote to impeach President Obama would “probably pass” the GOP-led House. Yep you read that right, impeachment.

So while Republicans are confident a political vote as outrageous and ill-founded as this could pass, let’s not forget all the commonsense initiatives they refuse to even bring up for a vote...

- **Commonsense immigration reform** – [62%](#) of Americans support a pathway to citizenship;
- **Raising the minimum wage**, which [73%](#) of Americans want;
- Or ensuring **equal pay for women**, backed by [90%](#) of American voters.

Republicans in the House are clearly committed to playing politics and relying on outrageous rhetoric instead of doing the job they were elected to do – standing up for the interests of the American people.

Scott Walker

Yesterday, newly released documents from the John Doe investigation showed that prosecutors are alleging Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was at the center of a "criminal scheme" to illegally coordinate with outside conservative groups. This included an incriminating email he sent to Karl Rove bragging about his campaign’s coordination.

Today, Walker offered no apology and in a [column](#), played the victim.

Apparently answering the questions on his involvement in illegal campaign coordination is too much to ask so he’s retreated to an old Republican staple of blaming the media for asking questions that make him uncomfortable.

What Scott Walker doesn’t understand is that he is not the victim, the people of Wisconsin—the people he serves—are the victims here. It is shameful that Scott Walker continues to dismiss such serious allegations and it’s time he starts to answer the questions that Wisconsinites are asking him.

Below are some of the front pages that Scott Walker woke up to this morning:



Cheney's Rhetoric Needs a Dose of Reality

In an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal, former Vice President Cheney and his daughter Liz Cheney attacked President Obama on foreign policy. Of the many fallacies that were included in the 993 word diatribe – this one caught our eye.

Cheney "Rarely has a U.S. president been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many."

Really?

How about the administration that Mr. Cheney served in that justified sending thousands of service members into harm's way in Iraq by claiming Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction when he actually had none?

How about an administration that exerted go it alone, cowboy diplomacy that hurt America's reputation and standing abroad – which had to be rebuilt by the current administration?

How about the Bush Administration's claims made by Mr. Cheney and others that American forces would be "greeted as liberators" – we were not. Or that the insurgency was in its "last throes" in 2005 – they were not.

Or on the home front....

How about an administration like the one the Cheney's served under that promoted failed economic and regulatory principles that harmed the economy and our middle class? Leaving President Obama to save our economy and pull it back from the brink of collapse.

Later in the opinion piece from the two Cheney's, they claim President Obama's "rhetoric has now come crashing into reality."

Think again. **The only rhetoric that needs a dose of reality is Mr. Cheney's.**

In the States

- On Wednesday, Executive Director of the Louisiana Democratic Party Stephen Handwerk pushed back on Congressman Bill Cassidy and his friends in Washington for their attacks on Senator Landrieu. Handwerk noted the hypocrisy of Cassidy's claim that Landrieu's decision to lead a committee vote on the Keystone Pipeline was mere political theater by pointing out that "Congressman Cassidy, the Republican National Committee (RNC), and the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) are all performing the charade. All of them have called for a vote on the bill throughout the last few months and now they are just attacking Senator Landrieu and playing politics." Read the party's updates on Cassidy [here](#).
- On Thursday, the New Hampshire and New Jersey Democratic Party Chairs hosted a joint press call to discuss Governor Christie's recent trip to New Hampshire in support GOP senatorial candidate CEO Walt Havenstein. During the call, the New Hampshire and New Jersey Democratic Party Chairs discussed Christie's and Havenstein's "similar records of failed leadership, disastrous economic strategies, and lack of job creation," determining that Christie's support of Havenstein amounts to nothing more than an endorsement of one failed Republican by another.
- On Monday, the New Mexico Democratic Party took a look back on Governor Martinez's and Secretary of State Duran's records in office. Listing the duo's disastrous effect on New Mexico, such as leading the state to score "1st in nation for child hunger," the New Mexico Democratic Party condemned Martinez and Duran for refusing to "take responsibility for driving New Mexico into the ground." As it gears up for the upcoming gubernatorial election, the New Mexico Democratic Party stresses how Democratic candidates Gary King and Maggie Toulos-Oliver offer the only chance to reverse the debacle of Martinez's and Duran's tenure. Read the full release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Wisconsin Democratic Party reported on recent statistics released by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages that placed the state "dead last in the Midwest and 35th in the country overall in job creation since Scott Walker took office." Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair Mike Tate notes how these numbers are just the latest in a trend of economic failures under Walker's leadership, concluding that "if Scott Walker had run for governor on a campaign to diminish Wisconsin's standards almost beyond recognition I'd say he's doing a great job." Read the full release [here](#).

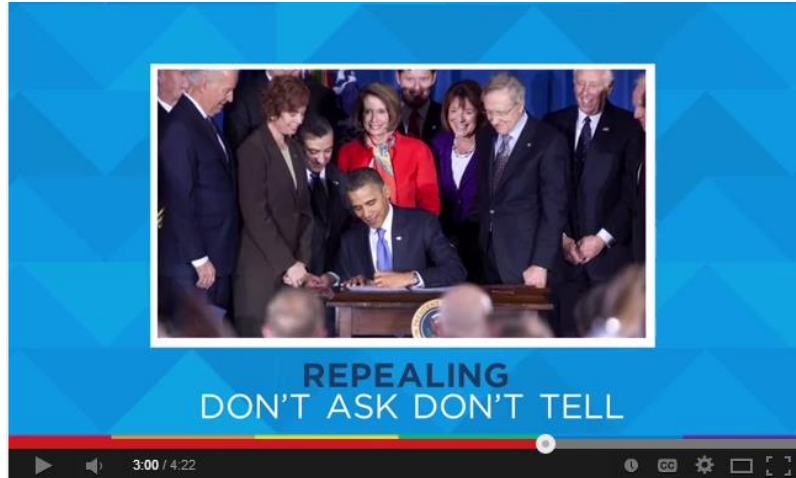
[President Obama Attends LGBT Gala](#)

On Tuesday, President Obama attended and addressed the DNC's annual LGBT gala in New York City.

President Obama spoke to the crowd a day after the White House confirmed he will sign an executive order barring federal contractors from discriminating based on sexual orientation.

In his remarks, President Obama discussed the different ways his Administration has taken to protect the LGBT community, including ending the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, refusing to defend the Defense of Marriage Act, and making it illegal for health care providers to discriminate based on gender identity.

President Obama also looked back in the changes in attitudes toward the LGBT community over the years. He said, "What's remarkable is the way Americans of all ages are increasingly embracing marriage equality. They understand love is love."



To celebrate the night, the DNC created a video on the "Fight for Equality" through the years that was shown at the event. Watch [here](#).

View some of the event's coverage below:

Washington Blade: [Obama stirs LGBT attendees at NYC gala](#)

"Obama received a prolonged standing ovation when he said he told his staff to prepare an executive order that would bar federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT workers." - Chris Johnson

National Journal: [On Gay Rights, Obama Has Built A Legacy](#)

"Indeed, he has become the president who has done more for gay people than any of his predecessors." – George E. Condon Jr.

Chicago Tribune: [At LGBT fundraiser in New York, Obama gets standing ovations](#)

"If some lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender Democrats had been dismayed with the president for his long wait before issuing the order, they were over it Tuesday." - Christi Parsons

Buzzfeed: Obama: [Keep Pressure On Congress To Pass ENDA](#)

"President Barack Obama said Tuesday during a fundraiser in New York City that even though his administration is moving forward with an executive order barring discrimination against LGBT employees of federal contractors, Congress should continue to be pressured to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)." - Tony Merevick

Wall Street Journal: [Obama Draws Cheers at Gay-Rights Gala](#)

"President Barack Obama drew a standing ovation Tuesday night when he told gay-rights supporters at a Democratic fundraiser that he will sign an executive order outlawing federal contractors from discriminating against employees based on their sexual orientation or gender identity." – Carol E. Lee

[Vice President Attend the World Cup, Cheers on USA](#)

On Monday, Vice President Joe Biden was one of tens of thousands of fans that attended the game to watch the United States defeat Ghana in its first World Cup match-up.

Afterwards, [Vice President Biden wrote a blog post](#) to share his experience attending the game, and having the opportunity to meet the team afterward.

He said, "Last night, I had the privilege of cheering on the U.S. men's soccer team as it defeated Ghana in its first game of the World Cup in Brazil. It was an incredible match from the first minute to the final ones as our guys made an entire country proud.

"It's palpable how consequential the World Cup is for people all around the world. It's the sports fan's combination of panic, exhilaration, and — depending on your team — agony or ecstasy. It's felt in villages and major cities. It's felt in every time zone, every hour, every day and night, and in homes, bars, offices, and stadiums where tens of thousands of people paint their faces, sing their anthems, and raise a banner.

"And last night, you could actually feel the energy in the air. You could feel the global jolt of electricity from the Arena das Dunas Stadium in Natal to the big screens in parks and bars across America where fans young and old waved the stars and stripes and chanted that uniquely American sentiment: "I believe."

"If you need evidence of how the World Cup brings the people together, just consider the U.S. men's team: With a German coach at the helm, a number of players who can claim dual citizenship, and numerous first- and second-generation Americans on the roster, this young team represents America's melting pot of extraordinary talent.

"Twenty-five million people in the United States play soccer; 80 percent of them are young people who will be players and fans for years to come; and our major league soccer teams are selling out stadiums. Our women's team is ranked number one in the world. And as our men's team showed last night, our grit, determination, and resolve is our defining characteristic as a team — and as a country.

"We face some big challenges around the globe right now. But the World Cup is a moment to be celebrated — an exciting time for Brazil, for the United States, and for all soccer fans all over the world. It was a thrill to be a part of it last night — and as I told the guys in the locker room after the game, they truly do represent one team, one nation united."

Watch a "Behind the Scenes" video of Biden's experience [here](#).

