



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Reality check for our Republican friends

We've heard a lot of talk from Republicans and conservative commentators lately about national poll numbers. And today, the RNC is ending the week of their "[new push](#)" by shining a light on some polls in an attempt to prove they are well positioned heading into 2014.

But even a quick scan of recent polling paints a very different picture.

The Republican brand is underwater, their candidates are struggling, and the American people disagree with the GOP on the central issues our country faces.

1. Americans do not have a favorable view of the Republican Party as a whole

According to an [AP-GfK survey](#), 62% of Americans hold an unfavorable view of the Republican Party -- the Democratic Party has a 12 point advantage on favorability. And an [NBC/WSJ poll](#), shows the GOP is in a weaker position than it was in either the 2010 or 2012 elections -- with just 29% of voters holding a positive view of the GOP. The same poll shows Americans are more favorable to President Obama than to the Republican Party by a 12-point margin, and more favorable to the Democratic Party than to the Republican Party by a margin of 9 points.

When asked [which party do you trust](#) to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces, Democrats show a 6 point lead, as well as a 14 point lead among women, a 9 point lead among young people and a 14 point lead among Latino voters.

According to a June [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#), those polled are more likely to vote for a Democratic candidate over a Republican candidate on a generic ballot for the US House Of Representatives, and they trust President Obama to do a better job handling the problems of the nation over the next few years over Republicans in Congress.

When asked about Republicans in Congress, the numbers are even worse. [73%](#) of voters disapprove of the job Republicans in Congress are doing, and an [NPR poll](#) of twelve states with competitive Senate races this fall, shows only 25% of likely voters in these states think Republicans in Congress are handling their job in the House well.

This is what voters think of the GOP with just over 100 days until Election Day. And when it comes to the GOP's candidates, the polling out in the states is no better.

2. Republican candidates are struggling in key races.

Take a look at just a few recent polls from some of this year's competitive races.

- [In North Carolina](#), Thom Tillis is down 5 points to Senator Kay Hagan, while Hagan is up 10 points among women.
- [In Georgia](#), Democratic challenger Jason Carter has a 7 point lead over Republican incumbent Gov. Nathan Deal. And in the Senate race, Michelle Nunn [is leading](#) both Jack Kingston and David Perdue.
- [In New Hampshire](#), Sen. Jeanne Shaheen is up 12 points against her likely challenger Scott Brown.
- [In Kentucky](#), many recent polls have shown Grimes tied or ahead of Mitch McConnell. Grimes also leads among independents 56% to McConnell's 30%.
- [In Iowa](#), Bruce Braley leads Republican state Sen. Joni Ernst 44% -- 40%. Braley also has an 11 point lead against Ernst among women.
- [In Virginia](#), Sen. Mark Warner has a large lead over Republican challenger Ed Gillespie at 53% -- 36%.
- [In Michigan](#), Rep. Gary Peters, is ahead of Republican Terri Lynn Land by 9 points.
- [And even in Kansas](#), Governor Brownback is trailing his Democratic opponent Paul Davis by 6 points.

But while their brand and candidates are struggling in the polls, today's GOP has an even bigger problem.

3. The American people disagree with the GOP on the major issues facing our country.

On immigration reform, the American people have been clear where they stand with **53% of voters saying they would be less willing to vote for a candidate who opposes immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship**. Not to mention that in a survey of likely voters the [86% of Republicans and 79% of Independents](#) who believe Congress should act to fix the immigration system. In fact, 71% of Republicans would rather vote for a presidential candidate that is from a party that supports immigration reform.

Republicans will not act on equal pay legislation despite the fact that [90% of voters support](#) it. [A Majority of Americans](#), including [68% of women](#) voters, do not believe that employers should be able to choose what forms of contraceptives their health plans provide based on their religious beliefs, yet just this week Republicans in Congress blocked legislation that would combat the Supreme Court's misguided decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*.

Republicans will not vote on raising the minimum wage, even though [73% of Americans support](#) raising it to \$10.10 and they spoke out adamantly against the new EPA regulations on carbon dioxide emissions that [67%](#) of Americans support.

It's clear they are on the wrong side of the issues, which is probably why voters give Democrats the advantage on a [number of issues like](#):

- Handling health care +8 for Democrats
- Handling immigration +6 for Democrats
- Handling laws regarding same-sex marriage +18 for Democrats
- Handling laws regarding abortion +9 for Democrats
- Handling gender inequality +21 for Democrats

So, the GOP might want to rethink their fixation on polling data to make their case for 2014 and try something else. It's clear that the American people are not impressed with their party, their candidates or their issues.

When voters cast their ballots in the fall, they will have a clear choice. Democrats who are fighting to create jobs, expand opportunity and invest in the future and Republicans who will stop at nothing to obstruct progress and take our country backwards.

Not so friendly fire . . .

This week, we have seen Republican infighting gearing up, leaving the GOP's potential 2016ers battling it out and on the defense more than two years before the election. At this rate, the GOP is going to self-destruct before Democrats even have to lift a finger:

- [Rick Perry on Rand Paul](#) – "This represents a real threat to our national security — to which Paul seems curiously blind..."
- [Rand Paul on Rick Perry](#) – Headline: "Rick Perry Is Dead Wrong" – "Perry seems entirely comfortable repeating the history, the rhetoric and presumably, the mistakes."
- [Dick Cheney on Rand Paul](#) – "Former Vice President Dick Cheney offered harsh words for Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's foreign policy ideas Monday, calling them isolationist and saying they offer a false sense of security."
- [Bobby Jindal on Chris Christie](#) – "TIME asked Jindal about the stylistic differences between him and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who made news over the weekend by [dodging national policy questions](#)... 'The next big elections can't be ones about personalities or just about slogans,' Jindal continued, in an apparent reference to Christie's persona."
- [Perry Ally on Chris Christie](#) – "New Hampshire strategist Michael Dennehy, who is already aligned with Texas Gov. Rick Perry, said he was surprised by Christie's silence, especially considering his national role as chair of the RGA."
- [Conservative Judicial Group on Chris Christie](#) – "A conservative judicial group is planning to run \$75,000 in digital ads during New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's trip to Iowa later this week, bracketing him at a time when he's reemerging from the 'Bridgegate' scandal."

In the States

- On Thursday, DNC Vice Chair R.T. Rybak and former Iowa Lt. Governor Patty Judge hosted a press conference in Iowa in response to the joint-fundraising effort taking place throughout the Hawkeye State between Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. The press conference highlighted some concerning similarities between the two Republican governors. Vice Chair Rybak noted, "it's fitting that when you practice New Jersey-style politics in Iowa you might as well invite a New Jersey pol right here into the state itself." Read more about the press conference [here](#).
- On Thursday, Florida Democratic Party Chair Allison Tant, speaking on behalf of the entire Florida Democratic Party, voiced her support for a district court ruling that overturned a ban on same-sex marriage. The ruling, issued by Judge Luis Garcia, maintained that a 2008 ban on marriage equality in Monroe County was in violation of the 14th Amendment. Although the decision will only apply to Monroe County, Chair Tant remained optimistic as she stated how, "time and time again over the last few months, when marriage equality bans are challenged in the courts, love wins (...) and we look forward to soon celebrating full marriage equality across the state." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Monday, the Louisiana Democratic Party issued a press release highlighting just how extreme the policies of Republican Congressman Bill Cassidy are when it comes to providing benefits for seniors. While even Rob Maness, his Tea Party opponent, has opposed raising the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, Representative Cassidy has failed to make the same commitment. Stephen Handwerck, Executive Director of the Louisiana Democratic Party, observed how this makes Cassidy "the only candidate in this race who wants to raise the Social Security and Medicare retirement ages and drastically increase costs for Louisiana seniors by ending the guaranteed benefits they have worked their lifetimes to receive." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party's coordinated campaign, "Granite State Forward," launched its voter outreach initiative, hosting an event with DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The event, dubbed by Granite State Forward as "Coffee and Calls," was a grassroots phone bank that focused specifically on reaching out to women voters. Learn more about this event and the statewide canvassing push that Granite State Forward has begun [here](#).
- On Friday, DNC Chair Rep. Wasserman Schultz joined the Connecticut Democratic Party, along with Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, and New Haven Mayor Toni Harp to kick off the "Weekend of Action." According to Connecticut Democratic Party spokesperson Devon Puglia, the weekend initiative is dedicated to "contacting, registering, engaging and turning out voters, and (...) expanding the vote for people in Connecticut and across the country." Prior to the launch, Rep. Wasserman Schultz, along with Lt. Governor Wyman, Rep. DeLauro, and Mayor Harp, participated in a roundtable discussion that addressed the key issues affecting women and families. Read how Rep. Wasserman Schultz and Connecticut Democrats are committed to re-electing Democrats in order to solve these issues [here](#).

[GOP Governors Not Getting the Coverage they Wanted](#)

Whiplash for Walker

On Wednesday, Congressman Mark Pocan joined DNC Vice Chair Ray Buckley to discuss Scott Walker's comments that the Republican Party is not fighting marriage equality, just days after he formally appealed a ruling from a judge that struck down Wisconsin's gay marriage ban. Here are highlights from the call:

[Dems call on Scott Walker to drop same-sex marriage case; Mark Pocan slams governor's comments](#)

Wisconsin State Journal // Mary Spicuzza

On Wednesday, Pocan said Walker is going to "have to go to the doctor for whiplash" because of his various comments about gay marriage. Pocan noted that Walker's weekend comments came just a few days after Wisconsin formally appealing a ruling from a judge that struck down Wisconsin's gay marriage ban.

[Governor's Race Update: Democrats Criticize Walker On Gay Marriage](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio // Shawn Johnson

In a conference call organized by the Democratic National Committee, U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison), who is gay, said Walker was talking out of both sides of his mouth on this issue. "At the end of the day, we know Scott Walker's actions, not his remarks, are what fair-minded Wisconsinites and Americans will judge him by," said Pocan. "And right now, saying the Republican Party is not fighting gay marriage is both disingenuous and false."

Rick Perry Rejects Bill to Address Border Crisis

On Sunday, Governor Rick Perry made clear that he does not support, and will not encourage the Texas delegation to support the additional resources requested by President Obama to address the immediate crisis at the border. Despite the fact that Perry has recently requested similar resources and asked the President to further secure the border.

This is just the latest example proving that Republicans would rather point fingers and try to score cheap political points than work together to address the challenges our country faces. The GOP continues to falsely blame the President for the current crisis while refusing to take action to actually tackle the problem, including their continued opposition to the bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill that would have done exactly what they are now claiming is their number one priority – providing additional boots on the ground to secure the border. Republicans aren't offering *any* solutions- they are part of the problem.

Watch [here](#).



Why is Chris Christie so unpopular in key states?

As Chris Christie visited the key early caucus state on Thursday, a new NBC/Marist poll showed [1 in 3 Republicans in Iowa dislike Christie](#). Christie is almost twice as unpopular as any other potential 2016 Republican presidential contender there, and the numbers aren't much better in New Hampshire. In the home of the first in the nation primary, [nearly a third of Republicans also dislike Christie](#). These numbers certainly don't gel with [Christie's comment to Diane Sawyer](#) in March that "they love me in Iowa."

But why don't they love him?

Well, it seems that his Bridgewater scandal hurt him with Iowa voters. A [Des Moines Register poll](#) in March showed that nearly six in 10 Iowa adults disapproved of the way Christie handled Bridgewater – including almost half of Iowa Republicans. But it isn't just his scandal that won't sit well with Iowans.

Christie's economic failures in New Jersey are beginning to follow him across the country, as [reported today by the Wall Street Journal](#). New Jersey's bond rating is among the worst in the nation. Job growth lags behind neighboring states, and New Jersey ranks 49th in the nation in private-sector job growth since 2010. Under Christie, New Jersey's credit rating has been downgraded a record six times, and the state's property taxes remain among the highest in the nation.

To make things worse for Christie, conservatives are taking aim at him – even [going online in Iowa with ads attacking his record](#). And Rick Santorum, the winner of the 2012 Republican caucuses in Iowa, [had this to say](#) about Christie today: "To see a record as abysmal as Gov. Christie's record in the state of New Jersey, I guarantee you that will be a red flag for most voters in the state of Iowa, but also most voters in the Republican primary."

With his unfavorables climbing in key states, his dismal economic record coming to light, and key conservatives slamming Christie, it's clear Chris Christie's troubles are anything but behind him.

[President Obama Talks Infrastructure in Delaware](#)

On Tuesday, President Obama traveled to the Port of Wilmington to talk about the importance of strengthening country by investing in our infrastructure.

President Obama discussed the need to invest in our country to help create jobs, and ensure that the United States stays competitive in a global job market. He also noted that Republicans in Congress are standing in the way of job creation when they refuse to fund jobs and infrastructure bills.

He said, "We know that in the 21st century economy, businesses are going to set up shop wherever they find the best roads, the best bridges, the fastest Internet connection, the fastest rail lines, the smartest airports, the best power grid. First-class infrastructure attracts investment and it creates first-class jobs. Unfortunately, right now, our investment in transportation lags behind a lot of other countries. China is doing more. Germany is doing more. They're putting money back into building the infrastructure we need to grow over the long term."

"And if Washington were working the way it was supposed to, Congress would be creating jobs right now ... jobs like these guys in the hard hats are doing right now rebuilding bridges and roads and airports and ports all across the country. It helps us now and it helps us create jobs tomorrow. That's what we should be doing."

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

