



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

July 25, 2014

Democrats Stand up for Rights at National Conventions

This week, Democrats addressed the NAACP National Convention and the Urban League National Convention, highlighting the stark differences between the policies the Democratic and Republican parties have to offer. As Democrats fight for policies to advance minority communities such as protecting voting rights, raising the minimum wage, strengthening our education system, and ensuring access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans, Republicans continue to focus on outreach with no policy to back them up.

At NAACP, Vice President Joe Biden discussed the importance of protecting and expanding the right to vote. The Vice President focused his remarks on the refusal to accept Republican-led efforts to restrict the right to vote, taking us back to a broken system.

The Vice President said, "And we had five decades, five decades of bipartisan action. Democrats, Republicans, governors, senators, congressman. Five decades of making it easier for Americans to vote. The 1965 Voting Rights Act; in 1971, the 26th Amendment expanding the voting rights of people 18-21. 1984, the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, which guaranteed access to federal elections for the disabled. 1990, a joint effort led by Republicans to see to it that we expanded the act further to guarantee that all elections were available. 1993, the Voting Right Registration Act, referred to as the Motor Voter Act, which gave us the right to register when we had our automobiles inspected. 2002, the Help America Act, which passed 357-48 in the House and 92-2 in the Senate after the debacle in Florida. But those days appear to be over. This is not your father's Republican Party."



Watch more clips of the Vice President's NAACP remarks [here](#).

At the Urban League National Conference, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz talked about the need to continue the 52 months of private sector job growth that we've seen under President Obama and Democratic leadership. She also discussed the need to strengthen programs that help Americans.

She said, "These priorities will help hardworking families and advance an urban agenda that will support the cities that are so important to our nation. They are the priorities of the African American community and the National Urban League. They are the same guideposts that have pointed the path forward for President Obama and the Democratic Party. Unfortunately, those priorities are in clear contrast with the priorities of Republicans."

In response to Senator Rand Paul speaking at the Urban League conference, DNC secretary and Mayor of Baltimore, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, published an op-ed in the Cincinnati Inquirer. She warned that blacks should not be fooled by Rand Paul's rhetoric while he continues to ignore the issues that impact minority communities the most.

She said, "Over the past few months, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., has been traveling across the country, speaking to African-Americans in urban communities, pitching himself and the GOP's ideas.

"He thinks the GOP's ideas are in our community's best interest, and today he's in Cincinnati to speak at the National Urban League Conference to try his spin out yet again.

"While I applaud anyone's efforts to reach out to the black community and share ideas that would improve our families' lives, Paul doesn't understand a very important piece of the puzzle: earning our trust.

"For Paul to claim to stand up for our values while opposing policy after policy that advances our community is not the way to do this.

"Paul's long and troubled history with civil rights issues is generally well known around Kentucky and in Washington, D.C., but for many Ohioans, it's time to take a closer look."

Read Rawlings-Blake's full op-ed [here](#).

In the States

- On Monday, the Louisiana Democratic Party released a video in response to Republican gubernatorial hopeful Sen. David Vitter's confession that he needs to study up on some of the most relevant state issues. The video raises concerns over the fact that Vitter openly admitted how he still needs to do his "homework" on issues including the state budget, Common Core, and the levee board lawsuit. Louisiana Democratic Party Chair Karen Carter Peterson points out how, "He'd much rather campaign than do the hard work of governing. In that regard, he's very much like his Republican friend and colleague, Bobby Jindal." Watch the video [here](#).
- On Thursday, Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Scott Brennan pushed back as Republicans in Congress continue their effort to block a federal minimum wage increase. In his statement, Chairman Brennan decries the fact that "Republican opponents remain coldly indifferent to the hundreds of thousands of Iowans who work full time and still struggle to put food on the table for their families." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Wisconsin Democratic Party highlighted the hypocrisy behind Governor Scott Walker's attack on a Wisconsin-based company for outsourcing jobs. The Party cites a slew of statistics included in a WKOW report that demonstrate Governor Walker's own ties to outsourcing businesses, including contributions of "\$68,500 over the last six months from at least 11 corporations that outsourced jobs to foreign countries," towards his own campaign. Mike Tate, the Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair, criticizes Governor Walker for having "the nerve to attack a successful Wisconsin-based company while his administration continues to defend its support of outsourcing jobs." Read the full release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, Georgia Democratic Party Chairman DuBose Porter issued a statement on the victory of Republican businessman and billionaire David Perdue in the GOP Senate primary runoff election. Reflecting on the fundamental differences between David Perdue and his Democratic opponent Michelle Nunn, Chairman Porter recalls Nunn's track record as "a leader who has spent the last 25 years leading volunteer organizations and lifting communities up," in comparison to Perdue's "career (of) enriching himself while often tearing companies and communities apart." Find out more reasons why Michelle Nunn is better equipped than her Republican opponent to represent the average Georgia citizen [here](#).

[Chris Christie Visits Colorado after Dissing Colorado's Way of Life](#)

After he campaigned Wednesday for Bob Beauprez, the Republican candidate for governor in Colorado, it's worth remembering just how fond Chris Christie is of Colorado. It says a lot about Both Ways Bob Beauprez that he'd be willing to welcome Christie with open arms...

[Christie once dissed Colorado's quality of life](#)

Asbury Park Press // John Schoonejongen

[Gov. Chris Christie is in Colorado today](#), campaigning for GOP gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez and attending fundraisers for the Republican Governors Association, which he chairs.

Now, we're sure he'll have a good time, but wasn't there something else about the governor and Colorado that we might be forgetting? We can't put our finger on it ... oh, yes! Christie said [the quality of life in Colorado stinks](#).

Let's take a look back at that April kerfuffle where the New Jersey governor said that Colorado's law legalizing marijuana was ruining the state.

"Go to Colorado and see if you want to live there," Christie said during an [April appearance on New Jersey 101.5 FM's "Ask the Governor program"](#). "See if you want to live in a major city in Colorado where there's headshops popping up on every corner and people flying in to your airport just to come and get high. To me, it's just not the quality of life that we want to have here in the state of New Jersey and there's no tax revenue that's worth that."

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, whom Beauprez hopes to unseat in November, fired back at Christie, and his office quoted a number of studies that showed Colorado ranking better than New Jersey in business, economic development and science and technology.

"A lot of people think Colorado is a great place to live, work and pay," [Colorado's ABC 7 quote Hickenlooper as saying](#). "Plus, we have a pretty awesome quality of life."

Colorado Democrats caught on to Christie's diss quickly, and put together this ad, featuring the audio from the 101.5 FM interview, plus a recap of recent administration scandals, such as the lane closures on the George Washington Bridge →

Perhaps Democrats should have recruited Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn to do the voice over. He once called Christie "[an ankle biter](#)" during a 2011 exchange.

This is the third time Christie has visited Colorado since he became governor.

Here's the video of Christie's April remarks: ↓



Another day, Another Example of Walker's Failed Leadership on Jobs

As a candidate, Scott Walker promised Wisconsin 250,000 new jobs by the end of his first term. But Politifact Wisconsin recently highlighted a state Department of Workforce Development report showed private-sector job growth in Wisconsin actually dipped by 1,200 jobs in June. Instead of working towards his promise of 250,000 jobs, Wisconsin is actually going backwards in terms of job creation.

Scott Walker tries to campaign on his record of job creation, but time after time we see nothing but failure.



Our tally shows more slippage in June Politifact Wisconsin | By James B. Nelson

Wisconsin private-sector employment dipped by 1,200 in June, the latest step in the wrong direction for Gov. Scott Walker's top campaign promise.

The [report, released July 17, 2014](#) by the state Department of Workforce Development, based on [data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), also revised down by 500 the May jobs tally.

Together, that's a step backward by 1,700 jobs.

But a Wall Street Journal piece published July 18, 2014 provided a much rosier — and it turns out very inaccurate — outlook for Walker. More on that in a moment.

The new numbers mean state employers have added 8,500 jobs in the first six months of this year, according to our calculations. That's in addition to the 91,678 jobs they added in the first three years of Walker's term.

So the total, according to our monthly calculation, is 100,313, or about 40 percent of the total Walker promised. That leaves 149,687 jobs to go before his term ends.

In order for Walker, who is up for re-election in November, to reach his goal, the state would have to add a total of 24,947 in *each remaining month* of the year. That's nearly what the state added in *each year* in the past three years. For our tally, we use the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which surveys nearly all state businesses, to get the most accurate picture for Walker's first three years in office.

We use the use the less accurate monthly survey data to provide the most-up-to-date look at where things stand so far in 2014.

The [Wall Street Journal opinion piece](#) published July 18, 2014 presented a very different, and very jumbled view. "Wisconsin has added 178,000 private-sector and 71,055 total jobs since the governor assumed office in January 2011," wrote Allysia Finley, assistant editor of [OpinionJournal.com](#).

"Yet its private economy has added 80,700 jobs in just the past five months. If the private job growth continues at this rate, Mr. Walker will have surpassed his goal by 40,000 jobs at the end of his first term."

When we asked the writer about her source for the data, she replied:

"I made an egregious error punching the numbers in from the (Bureau of Labor Statistics) BLS data, such that the numbers should be 8,700."

The piece was changed July 21, 2014 — but without any indication to the reader it had been corrected. It now reads:

"Wisconsin has added 112,000 private-sector and 71,055 total jobs since the governor assumed office in January 2011."

Finley said she used Bureau of Labor Statistics figures and also said the data was also available at the [Capital Times' website](#), which has a feature that follows progress on Walker's jobs promise.

There are several limitations with that feature.

First, the site uses a running total of the monthly jobs, not factoring in the more accurate annual reports. Its tally says the current total since Walker took office is 112,600 — the same figure the Journal is now using.

The Capital Times count also leaves out the first few weeks of Walker's time in office.

Instead of starting with the December 2010 numbers, the last before Walker took office, their tally starts with the January 2011 numbers. That approach misses the first few weeks of his term, and a couple thousand jobs. Had those weeks been included, the total would be 114,600.

As for our Walk-O-Meter rating, it stays at Stalled.

[President Obama Signs Executive Order on LGBT Workplace Equality](#)

On Monday, President Obama signed an Executive Order prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

At the signing he said, "It doesn't make much sense, but today in America, millions of our fellow citizens wake up and go to work with the awareness that they could lose their job, not because of anything they do or fail to do, but because of who they are -- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. And that's wrong. We're here to do what we can to make it right -- to bend that arc of justice just a little bit in a better direction.

"In a few moments, I will sign an executive order that does two things. First, the federal government already prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Once I sign this order, the same will be explicitly true for gender identity.

"And second, we're going to prohibit all companies that receive a contract from the federal government from discriminating against their LGBT employees. America's federal contracts should not subsidize discrimination against the American people.

"Now, this executive order is part of a long bipartisan tradition. President Roosevelt signed an order prohibiting racial discrimination in the national defense industry. President Eisenhower strengthened it. President Johnson expanded it. Today, I'm going to expand it again."

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

