



WEEKLY UPDATE

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Speaker Boehner Quickly Loses Control of House GOP Caucus

On Thursday, Speaker John Boehner quickly lost control of the House GOP caucus, pulling a bill set to fund a stripped-down border plan to deport young children back to their home countries and back into danger. The GOP caucus was swayed by none other than Senator Ted Cruz because the bill was not harsh enough.

In response, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"Republicans can't sue the President one day, accusing him of executive overreach, and then the next day cynically request he take action where they've failed to do so. There should be no doubt that Republicans are concerned only with scoring political points and shifting blame for their failed do-nothing Republican Congress.

"By ceding control of the House agenda to "Speaker" Ted Cruz, the far-right Republicans have shown their true colors. If they truly cared about finding solutions to our broken immigration system, they could pass the bipartisan Senate bill or fund President Obama's border request. Instead, their priority is to round up and deport kids, hurt the immigrant community at all costs, and stand in the way of any progress on actual reform."

Friday morning, the House GOP woke up to headlines like these:

Politico: [GOP leaders stumble on Day One](#)

NYT: [Rebellion Inside G.O.P. Scuttles Vote on Border Bill](#)

LA Times: [Sen. Ted Cruz rallies GOP against border bill; House delays vacation](#)

And other Republicans, including a member of Congress, echoed DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz's sentiments about the hypocrisy of the GOP's actions:

GOP Admits It's Hypocritical To Sue Obama Yet Urge Him To Act Alone On Border Crisis **HUFFINGTON POST//Igor Bobic**

"Look, you can't say on the one hand that the president is overreaching by acting without legislative authority and direction and then refuse to give him legislative authority and direction in another area," Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), a frequent voice of moderation in the House GOP conference, said on MSNBC's The Daily Rundown.

...

Fox News contributor Charles Krauthammer lambasted House Republicans for the "ridiculous" move on Thursday night.

"It is ridiculous to sue the president on a Wednesday because he oversteps the law, as he has done a dozen times illegally and unconstitutionally," the conservative commentator said on Fox, "and then on a Thursday say that he should overstep the law, contradict the law that passed in 2008 and deal with this himself."

It's clear that Speaker Boehner has lost control of his caucus, and it's only going to get worse.

[DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on House GOP Lawsuit Vote](#)

On Wednesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement after Republicans in the House voted to spend taxpayer dollars to sue President Obama:

"Today's vote in the House of Representatives was a shameful display of political pandering and misplaced priorities. Rather than focus on economic policies that will create opportunity and ensure economic security for middle-class Americans, Republicans have chosen to sue the President for doing his job.

"There are pressing issues we should be acting on - including comprehensive immigration reform, raising the minimum wage, and renewing emergency unemployment insurance - which would be a far better use of taxpayers' time and money.

"Speaker Boehner is gravely mistaken if he thinks this will placate the swell of impeachment talk in his ranks. The far right of the Republican Party has not been swayed by rejection at the ballot box, scared by their fool's errand in shutting down the government, or chastened by jeopardizing the full faith and credit of the nation. This lawsuit will only serve to embolden Republicans' impeachment caucus, and emphasize the clear contrast in priorities between Democrats and Republicans for voters in November."

[Christie's Minor League NH Play](#)

As Chris Christie [heads to New Hampshire](#) (again) to catch a ballgame, we're highlighting just how minor league Christie's economic leadership has been in New Jersey.

From lagging job growth to high property taxes and multiple state credit downgrades, Christie has continually struck out in growing New Jersey's economy and creating middle class jobs. Despite his failures, GOP governors and gubernatorial candidates like Walt Havenstein in New Hampshire continue to hold Christie up as the model Republican governor.

While Christie again flirts with the Granite State in an attempt to lay the groundwork for a presidential campaign, folks in New Hampshire – and across the country – are beginning to see that Christie's failed economic record just isn't ready for the big leagues.



Reince's Rhetoric vs. Reality

On Wednesday, as Reince answered questions at the National Association of Black Journalists' conference in Boston, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus tried once again to make the case that the extremists in his Party's leadership and their out-of-touch positions are the best choice for African American families.

The reality is he couldn't be more wrong. From their obsession with repealing the Affordable Care Act to attempts to block the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act to suing the sitting President of the United States, Republicans have made it clear that they aren't interested in solutions to problems facing too many black communities – creating economic opportunity, increasing access to quality, affordable education, and growing the middle class.

Just take a look at a few of Priebus' recent claims on how the GOP is engaging communities of color and how they measure up with the facts.

Reince's Rhetoric

"I've said many times before that the policies and principles of our party are sound. However, as we look to grow the ranks of our party, **we must ALL be very conscious of the tone and choice of words we use to communicate those policies effectively.**" [Reince Priebus, Remarks At RNC Winter Meeting, [1/24/14](#)]

"But at the end of the day, expanding opportunity is always the focus. And that's what we stand for as Republicans. The issue of income inequality is best addressed by ensuring equal opportunity for all..." [Reince Priebus, Remarks At RNC Winter Meeting, [1/24/14](#)]

"That's why the RNC is in communities across this country, engaging with, listening to, and working to earn the trust of black voters. Since the release of last year's Growth and Opportunity Project, we have completely reshaped our engagement efforts to be more community based." [Reince Priebus, Remarks At National Urban League Conference, [7/24/14](#)]

"We want you to know that the Republican Party is listening and fighting for you." [Reince Priebus, Remarks At National Urban League Conference, [7/24/14](#)].

See the reality for each of these statements [here](#).

For GOP, Good Numbers Result in Dumb Votes

On Monday, DNC Communications Director released the following memo:

Here we go again.

Despite Republican rhetoric of doom and gloom, key economic indicators show that the US economy is on the rebound, putting more Americans back to work:

- Second quarter GDP numbers show the economy rebounding “heartily” at an annualized rate of 4 percent.
- June was the 52nd consecutive month of private sector job growth – the longest stretch on record.
- The economy has gained at least 200,000 jobs a month for the last 5 months.
- The unemployment rate last month was 6.1%, the lowest since September 2008.
- The unemployment rate dropped 1.4% over the past year – the best year-over-year decline in nearly three decades.
- 1.4 million jobs were added in the first half of the year – the most in any first half since 1999.
- Consumer confidence is at its highest point since 2007.
- In recent months, we’ve seen the stock market hit record highs, with stock gains up 142% under President Obama (as opposed to an 8.9% drop under President Bush).
- Millions of Americans now have new or better health care coverage thanks to the ACA.
- Health care costs are growing at the slowest level on record, helping to add years of solvency to the Medicare program.

While there is no way to argue with a straight face that the US economy is not improving, there’s still work to do to increase economic opportunity for Americans still recovering from the devastating Republican economic policies of the last administration.

Now that we’ve stopped the Republican economic decline, Americans are looking to Washington and asking two questions: 1) How do we expand this recovery? and 2) Who’s looking out for them?

The answers coming from the two parties could not be more different.

President Obama and Congressional Democrats have responded with an agenda designed to create more jobs and help grow our middle class:

- Investing in education
- Alleviating college debt
- Investing in infrastructure
- Measures to ensure Equal Pay
- Common-sense immigration reform
- Raising the minimum wage
- Extending unemployment benefits

That’s what we’re offering.

And how are Republicans answering these questions?

After opposing these commonsense measures to level the playing field, while fighting to keep tax loopholes for the wealthiest Americans...

After shutting down the government last year, costing our economy \$24 billion...

After bringing us to the brink of defaulting on our bills, resulting in our first ever credit rating downgrade...

After voting more than 50 times to repeal or undermine the ACA and give health care control back to the insurance industry...

After dishonoring the memories of those lost in Benghazi with a partisan witch hunt...

After failing by every single measure to do the job the American people elected them to do...

And on Wednesday, they voted to sue the President of the United States for doing his.

That's how Republicans believe they will expand the economic recovery and demonstrate that they are looking out for the middle class.

With unbelievably dumb moves like this, the only job in America they are making easier is mine.

President Obama talks American Dream in Kansas City

On Tuesday, President Barack Obama visited Kansas City, Missouri to meet with several individuals who had written him letters and give a speech about his plans to move the country and the economy forward.

The President spent part of his remarks pointing out that our economy would be even stronger if Republicans were only willing join forces and work together.

He noted that, "Republicans in Congress keep blocking or voting down just about every idea that would have some of the biggest impact on middle-class and working-class families.

"They've said no to raising the minimum wage. They've said no to fair pay, making sure that women have the ability to make sure that they're getting paid the same as men for doing the same job. They've said no for fixing our broken immigration system. Rather than investing in education, they actually voted to give another massive tax cut to the wealthiest Americans."

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



In the States

- On Thursday, the DNC and the Wisconsin Democratic Party welcomed a new member to their team when they announced the hiring of Lillian Cheesman as the Wisconsin Voter Expansion Project State Director. "As our voter expansion operation continues to grow, so does our ability to involve more Americans in the election process and help Democrats up and down the ballot win in November. We are happy to welcome Lillian to our team," said DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Cheesman joins a growing roster of Voter Expansion Project staff in key states as part of the DNC's ongoing commitment to increasing access to electoral participation. Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Mississippi Democratic Party pushed back as Governor Phil Bryant continued to avoid blame for the increasing number of Mississippi citizens who remain without health insurance. As Party Chairman Ricky Cole notes, "Phil Bryant's cowardly refusal to accept federal funding to support our community hospitals and provide coverage to 300,000 working Mississippians is causing needless suffering, unemployment and even death all around our state." Find out how Governor Bryant continues to blame Obama and put politics before the health and well-being of his constituents [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party objected to Governor Scott Brown's warm welcome of Rick Perry as the Texas Republican arrived in the Granite State. Given Governor Brown's poor track record when it comes to LGBT rights, it comes as no surprise that he readily embraces Rick Perry, who has his own history of offensive remarks and discriminatory policies towards the LGBT community. Recalling how Governor Perry once compared homosexuality to alcoholism, NHDP Chairman Ray Buckley stood up for New Hampshire's LGBT community as he affirmed that, "Rick Perry's brand of discrimination isn't welcome in New Hampshire. This is the latest in a string of embarrassing and disastrous decisions made by a badly flailing Brown campaign." Read the full statement and find out how New Hampshire Democrats hold their own governor accountable for his ignorance [here](#).