



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Rand Paul Has a Rough Trip to Iowa

This week, Senator Rand Paul traveled to Iowa for a swing around the state, fundraising for Steve King and laying the groundwork for a presidential bid. Paul's rhetoric throughout his time on the road focused on him being a "new" Republican who can reach out to diverse groups and people of different backgrounds – in short, the very groups who have been alienated by the GOP's rhetoric and agenda in recent years. But somehow, things went from bad to worse for Paul who saw a lot of negative coverage.

On Monday, Paul came out to fundraise for far-right wannabe Republican kingmaker Steve King. At the event, King said that he and Paul share similar views on impeaching the President. While sharing a stage with Rand, King also said the President couldn't pass a citizenship test. (That should go over well with the African American voters Rand is trying to court).

During his visit, Paul told Iowa Republicans, "[We can't be the party of hostility to people who don't look like us.](#)" But actions speak louder than words. On Monday, Paul awkwardly bolted mid-bite from his dinner to avoid talking to a DREAMer. Paul's Iowa "dine and ditch" quickly became a viral internet sensation. His exit wasn't just awkward; it showed that Paul isn't willing to face the people his policy positions would actually affect or do the type of face-to-face legwork with voters that is a hallmark of Iowa politics.

Just take a look at a few of the headlines his exit garnered:

- **New York Magazine:** [Rand Paul Flees in Terror From Mexican Immigrant](#)
- **The Courier-Journal:** [Rand Paul leaves immigration activists mid-bite](#)
- **The New Republic:** [Watch Rand Paul Run for His Life Before Steve King Insults an Immigrant in Iowa](#)

Then, things took another turn as Paul talked to reporters about his foreign policy positions. While answering questions on Monday, Paul denied that he ever opposed ending foreign aid to Israel. The problem is that as a Senator, Rand Paul proposed doing just that, and he repeatedly said he would end aid to Israel.

Here's what [he told CNN's Wolf Blitzer](#):

BLITZER: All right, so just to be precise, end all foreign aid including the foreign aid to Israel as well. Is that right?

PAUL: Yes.

Since Paul's twist backfired, he actually doubled-down on his previous position admitting he wanted to gut all aid. What is so dangerous about Paul's plan to end foreign aid is that it's a symptom of his larger worldview that would have America isolate itself and retreat from our responsibilities around the world. His foreign policy positions aren't new; they're a relic of a bygone era in America's history that is ill-equipped to face the challenges of the 21st century.

And the list goes on and on. Paul went on to offend:

- [Conservatives](#)
- [The Hispanic Community](#)
- [The LGBT Community](#)
- [Women](#)

This probably wasn't the news Paul was trying to make during his trip to Iowa.

A GOP Week in Review: Rand Paul. Chris Christie. Scott Walker.

Rand Paul, Chris Christie and Scott Walker are three Republicans that have been long-touted as the top tier of potential Republican presidential candidates.

This week is a week the trio may wish they could have done without.

Rand Paul traveled to Iowa this week continuing his foray into a potential 2016 presidential bid hoping to show Hawkeye State Republicans that he's a different type of Republican – but that's not exactly what happened. On issue after issue from [contraception](#), to [marriage equality](#) to [immigration reform](#) he proved once and for all that he's [not a new kind of Republican](#). He also found himself in hot water for his [support for ending aid to Israel](#) and all other countries.

Chris Christie is a Governor on the ropes. His office's conduct in the Bridgewater scandal is still the subject of multiple investigations. What's more – his failed economic record as Governor is going from bad to worse. Late last week Chris Christie traveled back to New Hampshire to campaign for the Republican gubernatorial candidate where he was dogged by questions about his [own state's failing economic record](#). Christie [can't run from the fact](#) that he has led New Jersey to six credit downgrades, to being 48th out of 50 in job growth, to having the highest property taxes in the country.

And **Scott Walker** is [feeling the effects](#) of his failure to meet his jobs promise, as Democratic challenger Mary Burke pulls ahead in the polls, Rothenberg Political report moves his race from lean Republicans to pure tossup, and even [WI Republicans disapprove](#) of Walker's negative campaign tactics.

These are the Republican leaders who have been touted as their party's best chance of winning the White House in 2016. If the past few days are any indication, the GOP is in trouble.

Burke showing momentum, Walker hits not sticking

It seems the Walker campaign has hit a serious speed bump: Mary Burke. Not only has Burke [taken the lead](#) in the latest poll, but even WI Republicans like Senator [Ron Johnson disapprove of Walker](#)'s negative campaign tactics. Wisconsin voters are seeing that they have an opportunity to move Wisconsin forward with Burke's business prowess compared to the fact that under Walker, the state ranks dead last among its neighbors in job growth and he's failing to keep his jobs promise – with the state actually losing jobs recently.

With Burke's numbers on the up and Walker's message falling flat, it seems Walker's chances of re-election just went from bad to worse.

First this:

[Mary Burke Leads Scott Walker among Likely Voters 47-46](#)

Source: Marquette Law School Poll

Then this:

[Politico: The woman who could beat Scott Walker](#)

"Walker is the first to acknowledge that his third statewide campaign in four years is no cakewalk."

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Politico calls Mary Burke 'The woman who could beat Scott Walker'](#)

"So could Democratic challenger Mary Burke unseat first-term Republican Scott Walker? ...The headline of the Politico article calls Burke 'the woman who could beat Scott Walker'..."

[Washington Post: This ad shows why Scott Walker should be worried](#)

"By running a different kind of race — one focused wholly (or close to it) on jobs — Burke plays both to her strengths as a businesswoman and to Walker's biggest vulnerability. Promises made but not kept are dangerous things in politics."

And this:

[Roll Call: Rating Change: Wisconsin Governor](#)

"We're changing [The Rothenberg Political Report](#)/Roll Call rating of the race from Leans Republican to [Pure Tossup](#)."

ICYMI: Steve King Discusses Impeachment on Fox

On Fox News Sunday, Representative Steve King brought up the specter of impeaching President Obama, saying "I think then we have to start, sit down and take a look at that."

Watch the exchange [HERE](#)



Transcript:

King: None of us want to do the thing that's left for us as an alternative, but if the President has decided that he simply is not going to enforce any immigration law or at least not against anybody except the felons which he has done already. This is broader group of people. I think Congress has to sit down and have a serious look at the rest of this Constitution and that includes that "I" word we don't want to say. And I only say that now on this program because I want to encourage the President please don't put America into a Constitutional crisis. Please don't do that. There's too much at stake in this country to be decided that you can take over the constitution and write it at will.

Wallace: But you're saying that if he were to do that then impeachment would be on the table?

King: I think then we have to start, sit down and take a look at that.

In the States

- On Wednesday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party pushed back as GOP gubernatorial candidate Walt Havenstein received an endorsement from Mitt Romney. As the Party's Deputy Communications Director Bryan Lesswing notes, "by touting the endorsement of failed Governor Chris Christie, whose state is currently tied for 48th in private-sector job creation, and job-outsourcer Mitt Romney, Walt Havenstein is only underscoring that his economic policies would hurt middle class families and take our state in the wrong direction." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Michigan Democratic Party held its annual statewide Democratic unity breakfast. In stark contrast to the disintegration of the Republican Party, the breakfast served as a testament to the continued strength and solidarity of the Democratic Party. Party Chair Lon Johnson channeled the enthusiasm of his party as he spoke to the packed room about their recent progress: "This cycle, Democrats have been working tirelessly to build the most effective grassroots operation this state has ever seen. We've been laser focused on opening offices, recruiting volunteers and engaging voters in our campaign to win all over this state." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Florida Democratic Party called out Governor Rick Scott for the hypocrisy of his environmental plan. While Rick Scott has tried to appear in favor of protecting the environment, the Florida Democratic Party quickly proved otherwise as it examined his track record on the matter. Recalling instances as recent as last year, when, "Rick Scott vetoed millions in environmental research funding," Democrats were left wondering, "why should Floridians trust him now?" Find out what else has been left unanswered by Governor Scott's empty promises and flimsy environmental policies [here](#).
- On Monday, the New Mexico Democratic Party echoed Senator Tom Udall's new campaign video as it applauded the positive impact the senator has had on New Mexico's economic development. Read the Party's statement and find out how Senator Udall is dedicated to preserving working class jobs [here](#).

DNC Convention Committee Visits

This week, the Democratic National Convention selection committee traveled to Columbus, OH to evaluate its qualifications to host the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Next week, the selection committee will travel the New York City and Philadelphia. Below is the front page story that appeared in The Columbus Dispatch on their visit:

The Horeshoe Pitch

The Columbus Dispatch // Joe Vardon

Yesterday, it was pedicabs and pep rallies. Today, it's the 'Shoe.

Columbus civic leaders, Ohio Democrats and Ohio State University have rolled out the *blue* carpet for the Democratic National Committee over two days with the hope of landing the party's 2016 presidential nominating convention.

The national party's site selectors were treated to pedicab rides into [a morning pep rally with about 1,000 people outside of Nationwide Arena](#) yesterday, followed by a tour of the arena, a luncheon and viewing of other sites around Columbus. Many in the crowd, which swelled in the minutes leading up to the rally, were wearing white T-shirts with a message on the back that said: "Bring your (a picture of a donkey) to Columbus in 2016."



The city is one of five vying to host the convention. Cleveland landed the 2016 Republican National Convention last month.

A major portion of Columbus' pitch will come today on one of the state's most iconic venues, with a tour of Ohio Stadium, where locals will try to sell Democrats on the idea of their presidential nominee — maybe Hillary Clinton, or maybe someone else — accepting the nomination in front of 100,000 people, just as Barack Obama accepted the party's nomination in 2008 at Mile High Stadium in Denver. The host committee is pulling no punches.

"I was going to go get (Buckeyes football coach) Urban Meyer, put him in my car, and have him spend 5 minutes with (site selectors) at the stadium," Ohio State University athletic director Gene Smith told *The Dispatch*.

Smith said Meyer was going to be a part of the Democrats' tour of Ohio Stadium, but as of now likely won't be because the time of the tour was switched from the morning to the afternoon, when Meyer's team will be practicing.

But if the time of the tour moves again, Smith said he would try to include Meyer — a nationally known figure not only because of his time at Ohio State, but also the two national championships he won at the University of Florida.

When Cleveland wooed Republican site selectors in June, the city's "wow" moment was a surprise visit during dinner by Cleveland Browns rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel, head coach Mike Pettine and other Browns rookies.

Following yesterday's rally and Nationwide Arena tour, Democrats had a sports-themed lunch. Guests included local sports legends Buster Douglas and Jimmy Jackson, as well as Ohio State's Smith.

"We're trying to show we have a championship culture," said Bruce Wimbish of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, who addressed members of the committee during the lunch. Mayor Michael B. Coleman is another among those playing a major role this week.

Columbus did not make an early cut of potential finalists to host the Republican convention, but leaders feel the city is qualified to host the Democrats.

Read the rest of the story [here](#).