



# WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## [DNC Launches Spanish Website VoyAVotar2014.com](#)

On Thursday, the Democratic National Committee launched the Spanish website [VoyAVotar2014.com](#) as part of our Voter Expansion Project and commitment to increasing access to the ballot box for all Americans. [VoyAVotar2014.com](#) is the Spanish companion site to [IWillVote.com](#), the DNC's one-stop site for all the information Americans need to cast their ballot. DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz announced the launch of [IWillVote.com](#) in June, and it serves as a voter education and registration site in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



For the launch of [VoyAVotar2014.com](#), DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said:

"In early June, the DNC launched [IWillVote.com](#) as part of our Voter Expansion Project. The goal was to make it easier and more convenient for Americans to participate in the electoral process, by empowering them with the information they would need to exercise their right to vote.

"Democrats are committed to inclusion and diversity. That is why we have launched a Spanish language version of [IWillVote.com](#), [VoyAVotar2014.com](#), so that language does not pose an unnecessary barrier to electoral participation for those voters who are more comfortable getting information in Spanish.

"The Hispanic population in the United States continues to grow and it's more important than ever to ensure that we can provide the information and resources for Hispanics to actively participate in our democracy and elect

leaders that share their community's priorities."

To keep up with the progress of the site, and DNC news you can follow the DNC's new Spanish Twitter account at [@DNC\\_Espanol](#).

Click [here](#) to read an article that appeared in a Spanish language outlet on the new initiative.

## **Democratic Leaders Discuss DNC's Commitment to Voting Rights**

On Thursday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Secretary and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Georgia Democratic Party Chair DuBose Porter held a press conference at the DNC Summer Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia to discuss the DNC's commitment to expanding the right to vote in 2014 and beyond.

In June, the DNC launched the Voter Expansion Project -- a permanent infrastructure within the Democratic Party that is focused on protecting and expanding the vote. The DNC's Voter Expansion Project's mission is to ensure that every eligible voter is registered, every registered voter is able to vote, and that every vote is accurately counted. Expanding the electorate is a priority for Democrats because we think our country is better off when more people participate unlike those on the other side of the aisle who know their best path to victory is if fewer people vote.

DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz focused on the work the DNC is doing to expand the vote through the organization's programs.



Wasserman Schultz said, "There is a reason that we are in Georgia. A year ago, in Arizona, I promised that Democrats were committed to planting our flag in every corner of the country. We are here because the DNC is expanding the map, spreading the Democratic message, and we plan to turn Georgia blue.

Today's Republican Party is so out of touch with the American people that they know their best path to victory is if fewer voices are heard, if fewer Americans exercise one of their most basic constitutional rights-- and at the DNC we will work tirelessly to prevent them from getting what they want.

"We believe it is easier and more convenient for a citizen to participate in the electoral process when she understands when to vote, where to vote, what to bring with her to vote. That's why we have provided all of the 'rules of the road' for all fifty states and the District of Columbia in one simple location at IWillVote.com. And this week, we launched the Spanish language version of the site, VoyAVotar2014.com

"We've also already hired state voter Expansion Directors in places like Ohio, Texas, Colorado, and Florida. And just this week, the DNC and Georgia Democratic Party are announcing the hire of Georgia's new Voter Expansion Director -- I'm thrilled that she'll be joining our team."

DNC Secretary and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake discussed the Democratic values behind the need to strengthen the country by expanding the right to vote.

Rawlings-Blake said, "This notion of getting more people involved in the process isn't just a program for us or a tactic -- it is one of the most fundamental values that we share as Democrats. It's not just about strengthening our Party. It's about strengthening our democracy.

"Our country is stronger when more voices are heard. The diversity of opinion is one of the things that make our country strong and vibrant and we will do everything in our power to make sure that no cynical partisan ploys can ever drown out any of these voices.

"Democrats are committed to expanding rights not taking them away -- we want to empower people, to break down barriers and to expand opportunity for all Americans."

Lastly, Georgia Democratic Party Chair DuBose Porter discussed how the DNC's programs will impact states like Georgia.

Porter said, "Make no mistake -- it's not just our Party that is diverse and growing -- our state is, too. It's up to us to us engage every single Georgian. As the Chairwoman said earlier, when more people are registered and vote, Democrats will win.

"While our Party has become more inclusive, the other side has been turning away folks left and right, including their own candidates at the ballot box. We have a governor who brags about fighting against the Voting Rights Act while he was in Congress. That is unacceptable. We've had Republicans in the legislature try to cutback early voting. That is unacceptable. We've seen attempts to intimidate voters by moving the polls to inside police stations. That is unacceptable.

"This culture of suppression has to stop. That is why the Voter Expansion Project is critical for the democracy in our state."

Read more about the press conference [here](#).

### **Why the Perry indictment matters**

On Monday, DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithee released the below memo on the implications of Governor Rick Perry's indictment:

*Hey Folks –*

*Late Friday, news of Rick Perry's two count indictment for abuse of official capacity and coercion of a public servant generated headlines across the country.*

*Rick Perry, his allies and the broader GOP quickly circled the wagons around their embattled governor and hit back. They quickly tried to spin that Perry's indictment was the result of partisan politics.*

*Nothing could be further from the truth – here are the top 3 reasons why you should take this seriously...*

#### **1. The Investigation into Perry's Conduct Was Not Partisan**

*Perry claims he's the victim of a partisan witch hunt. That's simply not true. A non-partisan, good-government group filed the original complaint against Perry for abusing the power of his office.*

*Officials from Travis County who are Democrats recused themselves from the case entirely. Billy Ray Stubblenfield, the presiding judge in the case, is a Republican and was appointed by Perry himself. Judge Stubblenfield picked a Republican judge and Bush appointee, Bert Richardson, to preside over the case. He in turn, selected the special prosecutor, Michael McCrum.*

*McCrum began his career as a federal prosecutor during George H.W. Bush's administration. In 2009 McCrum was recommended for the job of U.S. attorney by Texas' two Republican Senators.*

*The individuals who led the investigation into Perry's misconduct and those presiding over this case have strong Republican bonafides – hardly a partisan group intent on taking down a Republican Governor. And for the record, there's nothing partisan about those citizens who sit on a grand jury.*

#### **2. Perry Had Reasons to Derail the Public Integrity Unit's Work**

*Perry claims he wanted to gut funding to the Public Integrity Unit because of a DUI. If that's the case, why didn't Perry say anything when two Republican District Attorneys were arrested during his tenure. Nor did he demand the resignation of state legislators that found themselves in the same predicament.*

*The fact is that Perry could have had another motive for gutting the Public Integrity Unit. The PIU was investigating the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), a multi-billion dollar state funded institution with a record of misconduct and graft.*

*In 2012 two Nobel laureates resigned from the cancer institute, amid concerns about the integrity of the institution's grant procedures, suggesting politics were at play after funding was disbursed without review by the appropriate panel.*

*Last year, a former high ranking CPRIT official was indicted for improperly awarding an \$11 million grant to a company that happens to have large investor who is also a Republican donor – a donor to Perry.*

As [The New York Times](#) described it, the PIU happened to be "conducting a potentially damaging investigation into a medical research institute that has been one of Mr. Perry's favorite avenues for grants and jobs." This investigation was underway when the Governor called for the head of that investigative unit to resign.

Perry pushing Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg to resign was a win-win. Lehmberg either resigned and he appointed her successor or he vetoed the PIU's funding. Both would have the same effect: stopping the investigation into the CPRIT its tracks.

What's more, Perry's aides actually [offered](#) Lehmberg another government job if she just resigned from her post. If that sounds suspicious to you, you're not alone.

### **3. Perry's Threat Was More Than Hardball Politics**

No one disputes that Rick Perry – and all Texas Governors – have the power to line-item veto legislation. That's not what this case is about: it's about Rick Perry's overreach and abuse of power.

A Governor using a veto to affect the legislative process or policy is one thing; using a veto in attempt to force an elected official to resign and possibly stymie a politically damaging investigation, is another.

During Friday's press conference, Perry exclaimed, "We don't settle political differences with indictments." He's right – we don't, we settle political differences at the ballot box.

But that begs the question, why did he try to force out the Travis County District Attorney, a duly elected post instead of just waiting until the next Election Day to campaign for a new District Attorney? Why is he pushing her ouster when he made no resignation calls against other District Attorneys who found themselves in similar situations? Why did his aides offer her another job given his vitriolic rhetoric against her?

Perry's actions are much more than just hardball politics and there are many more questions to be answered. Was it illegal? Well a grand jury of Perry's peers thought so but we'll see.

Does it merit further investigation? Absolutely.

It's been nearly a century since a Texas governor has been indicted and this one will get his day in court. But until then, this deserves a serious look.

### **[DNC Chair Rep. Wasserman Schultz on GOP's New Shutdown Threat](#)**

DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the GOP's New Shutdown Threat after [Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell implied](#) that with a Republican Senate majority President Obama will have to, "[Accept bills reining in the administration's policies or risk a government shutdown](#)":

"We now have it confirmed – electing a Republican Senate majority would put us back on the road to another shutdown. It's been a year since Republicans shut down the government and brought us to the brink of default, costing our economy \$24 billion and Republican Leader Mitch McConnell has said the GOP is ready to do it all over again.

"Instead of joining with Democrats to expand opportunity for all Americans by fighting for equal pay and a raise for millions of Americans, investing in infrastructure and education, and creating jobs, Republicans have recommitted to digging in their heels and causing rampant dysfunction that hurts middle class families.

"That's the choice voters face in every race this November."

## In the States

- On Friday, Texas State Rep. Lon Burnam and New Hampshire State Rep. Kathi Rogers held a press conference call to discuss Texas Governor Rick Perry's indictment as he headed to New Hampshire later in the day. The pair discussed with members of the press that despite his indictment, New Hampshire Republicans are welcoming Perry with open arms as he seeks to curry favor ahead of a possible 2016 presidential bid. Read more about the call [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Colorado Democratic Party released a video showing Congressman Bob Beauprez putting politics before disaster relief after a September 2013 historic floods. The release says, "On October 4, 2013, exactly three weeks after Governor Hickenlooper declared a state of emergency in 14 Colorado counties and four days after Congressional Republicans shutdown the Federal Government holding up emergency funds to help Coloradans, Congressman Beauprez went on right-wing talk-radio and praised the GOP for shutting down the Government. Due to the government shutdown, Rocky Mountain National Park was closed, badly damaging the Estes Park economy and efforts to rebuild after the floods." Watch the video [here](#).
- On Friday, the Wisconsin Democratic Party pointed out the latest federal jobs data putting Governor Scott Walker's state in dead last out of Midwest states in job creation. Walker promised his jobs agency would create 250,000 jobs, and has failed to even come close. Read their full release on the chronology of Walker's failure [here](#).
- On Tuesday, Democratic Party of Georgia Chair DuBose Porter responded to comments from Republican National Committee Chair Reince Priebus hailing Governor Deal's leadership as both successful and beneficial to the state of Georgia. Chairman Porter said, "If Reince's comments weren't so delusional, they'd be laughable. Just this week, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics issued a report showing Georgia having the 50th worst unemployment rate in the country. On Deal's watch, our classrooms have lost 9,000 teachers. Georgia's hospitals are shutting down left and right due to lack of funding. Maybe instead of reading some of Nathan Deal's campaign literature on his ride in, Reince should have picked up a paper. The facts are out there and the verdict is in—Georgia is in an economic free fall and Nathan Deal and the Georgia GOP swapped our parachute with an elephant." Read the state party's full release [here](#).