



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

August 29, 2014

While Democrats celebrate Women's Equality Day, Republicans Continue to block progress

On Women's Equality Day, Americans across the country celebrated the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote, and reflected on all of the progress we've made towards full equality.

But they were also be reminded of all the work that remains to be done – and that Republicans are standing in the way of progress for American women.

Voting? Pass restrictions to make it harder for working women and women who have changed their name to vote.

Health care? Work to repeal ACA which has extended preventive care with no copay and continue a dogged attempt to put politicians in charge of women's health care.

Oh, and of course...

Equal pay? Downplay the importance of measures to help close the pay gap or worse, block efforts to move us closer to full equality.

- **Gov. Rick Perry** [vetoed an equal pay law](#) meant to prevent wage discrimination against Texas women. Perry also said equal pay is not a "substantive" issue and called the focus on equal pay "nonsense."
- **Gov. Chris Christie** has repeatedly [vetoed equal pay legislation](#) including bills that would have strengthened the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act for New Jersey women and required salary transparency for public contractors calling it "senseless bureaucracy."
- **Gov. Scott Walker** [repealed equal pay enforcement](#) in Wisconsin and called it a "bogus issue."
- **Sen. Rand Paul** not only voted several times against the Paycheck Fairness Act but suggested that the legislation would do more harm than good.
- **Sen. Marco Rubio** voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act and has derided equal pay legislation as "[about scoring political points](#)" and a boon for trial lawyers.
- **Sen. Ted Cruz** called the Senate vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act a "[show vote](#)."
- **Rep. Paul Ryan** has voted time and again [against equal pay legislation](#) and referred to it as, "some obscure vote."

Pay equity is not just a women's issue, it's a family issue and it's an economic issue. And as these Republican leaders gear up for 2016 presidential runs, voters across the country will remember that when given the choice between progress towards pay equity and the clearly discriminatory status quo – the GOP was, as usual, on the wrong side of the issue.

To mark Equal Pay Day, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"Today we celebrate Women's Equality Day, the 94th anniversary of the certification of the 19th amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Since our nation's founding, the struggle to form a more perfect union has moved America forward. The 19th amendment is among the steps our nation has taken towards greater equality by ensuring that more Americans are able to make their voice heard.

"Unfortunately, Republican actions at the state and federal level threaten to undo the progress our nation has made. Last year, the Supreme Court gutted a key component of the Voting Rights Act. Republican governors and state legislatures have moved to restrict early voting periods and enact policies like voter ID that make it harder to vote. These policies disproportionately affect women, as well as young people and people of color.

"The right to vote is fundamental for women to elect officials who share their priorities. I am proud that the Democratic Party is fighting for paycheck fairness and to defend a woman's right to make her own health care decisions. In light of Republican opposition to these policies, this anniversary is a reminder that the key to expanding opportunities for women is to empower women at the ballot box."

And while Democrats were celebrating the accomplishments of women over the past century, an internal Republican poll leaked to politico with some pretty revealing facts about how women see the Republican party:

Key Points:

- **Female voters view the party as "intolerant," "lacking in compassion" and "stuck in the past."**
- Democrats hold a 35-point advantage with female voters who care about jobs.
- Democrats hold a 26 percent advantage when asked which party is willing to compromise.
- Democrats hold a 40 percent advantage on who "looks out for the interests of women."

Read the full article here: [Exclusive: GOP poll of women: Party 'stuck in past'](#)

New DNC Video - Rick Perry: Courage

Rick Perry will be campaigning in South Carolina today, and while he's there we expect he will continue trying to spin two felony [charges as a positive](#). So here at the DNC we thought we'd help him out by making an indictment ad for him. Unfortunately for Perry, it seems the only thing the Governor really has going for him is that he's the first of the scandal laden GOP governors to actually be indicted by a grand jury of his peers – with a mug shot to boot!

The truth is that no theatrics from Governor Perry are going to change the facts. It's been nearly a century since a Texas governor has been indicted, Rick Perry will have his day in court and we look forward to hearing the evidence that led a jury of his peers to indict.

Watch "Rick Perry: Courage" [here](#).



DNC Chair Responds to Marco Rubio's Reckless Shutdown Threat

In recent days Sen. Marco Rubio has suggested another government shutdown if President Obama takes action on the immigration crisis. In response, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz wrote the following op-ed for Huffington Post:

Marco Rubio & the GOP's Reckless Shutdown Politics

Huffington Post Opinion// DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Last year, Marco Rubio and his allies like Ted Cruz and Rand Paul spent their summer ginning up support for a risky plan to gut Obamacare or cause a government shutdown.

As a result of their reckless gamesmanship, Republicans shut down the government for 16 days, costing the economy \$24 billion. What's more, Rubio and his allies voted to prolong the shutdown when they had an opportunity to end it.

Immediately after we reopened the government, Republicans recognized their recklessness and criticized their own shutdown plan. Many pledged to never do it again.

The lesson didn't last for long.

Last week, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell outlined to Politico what he would do if Republicans were to win the Senate in November: repeatedly threaten to shut down the government unless Republicans get exactly what they want.

It was perhaps the most candid moment for McConnell since he admitted his top priority was making President Obama a one-term president. And it confirmed what many of us have long suspected - the Tea Party is still calling the shots in the GOP.

McConnell made the choice voters face in November crystal clear: if Republicans win, they will put us back on the road to another shutdown, potentially over and over again.

And this week we learned that Florida's own Marco Rubio is following McConnell's lead, suggesting Republicans engage in political games with the federal budget, threatening to shut it down yet again.

In an interview with far-right Breitbart.com, Rubio said that if the President takes action to try to fix our broken immigration system, Republicans will use funding the government as leverage to try to stop the President.

That can only mean one thing: Rubio's willing to risk another government shutdown.

If Republicans in Congress can't come together to pass commonsense immigration reform, the President will do what's best for our country - and he won't be held hostage to Marco Rubio and the GOP's demands.

The health of our economy shouldn't be needlessly put at risk as a tactic to score political points. Here in Florida, Rubio's last shutdown meant that Head Start programs across the state were suspended; thousands of the Kennedy Space Center's employees were furloughed; half of the National Guard's federal employees were furloughed which risked hampering efforts to prepare for natural disasters during hurricane season and so much more.

That's what Rubio's blind-partisanship cost his own constituents and he's willing to do it all over again, all in the name of rebuilding his Tea Party street cred at the expense of our economy.

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 like Rubio 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.

Joint DNC/DGA Memo: Haley, Perry & the Ethically-Challenged Governors of 2014

From: DNC and DGA Communications

To: Interested Parties

Date: August 27, 2014

Re: Haley, Perry & the Ethically-Challenged Governors of 2014

Rick Perry and Nikki Haley have a lot in common – they’re both GOP governors from the South whose administrations have been plagued by ethics scandals. And they both eye higher office while struggling to execute their current jobs.

But while they campaign across the Palmetto State, they won’t be able to dodge questions about their ethical lapses.

Sure, Perry was recently indicted by a grand jury on two felony counts of abuse of official capacity and coercion of a public official but Haley has had enough scandals during her first term to make even the most ethically-challenged Republican Governor blush.

Haley has time and again put politics ahead of being Governor.

Her administration has been rocked by a scandal at the Department of Social Services that allowed children to suffer in unsafe and even deadly situations. Rather than take decisive action to address her administration’s inexcusable failures, Haley and her administration appear to be more focused on obstructing the investigation and [covering up](#) their failures.

And of course, that wasn’t the first time the Haley administration has tried to cover up her incompetence – millions of South Carolinians had their [personal financial information hacked](#) and children have been put at risk from a [tuberculosis outbreak](#) in public schools.

Haley has also misused taxpayer-funded resources for political and [campaign travel](#).

As Haley and Perry campaign around the state, Governor Perry’s indictment, serves as a reminder to voters of Haley’s scandals, coverups and incompetence. Governors Perry and Haley are just two of the many Republican Governors who find themselves under investigation or otherwise mired in scandal.

Below please find a rundown of the other GOP Governors scandals that have surfaced this cycle:

Branstad, Terry (Iowa): [The Branstad administration](#) is under investigation about whether administration officials were fired for political purposes.

Brownback, Sam (Kansas): The FBI is [currently investigating](#) potentially illegal lobbying of the Brownback Administration by former members of his inner circle.

Christie, Chris (New Jersey): Christie and his Administration are currently being investigated by no less than *four* separate local, state and federal agencies: the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New Jersey Legislative Select Committee on Investigation’s inquiry into Bridgegate and surrounding events.

Corbett, Tom (Pennsylvania): Gov. Corbett [continues to receive serious scrutiny](#) for taking thousands of dollars’ worth of gifts from corporations, lobbyists and other special interests who have received big state benefits, and a political action committee set up to help Corbett win re-election received a donation of nearly a million dollars that [potentially violated state law](#).

Deal, Nathan (Georgia): The [state of Georgia was forced](#) to pay nearly \$3 million to settle lawsuits with whistleblowers at the state ethics commission who were allegedly fired for investigating Deal’s 2010 campaign. It has now come to light that the state’s ethics commissioner director claims she was [threatened and pressured](#) by the Deal administration in the summer of 2012.

LePage, Paul (Maine): According to [reports](#), Governor LePage met with individuals affiliated with an organization categorized by the FBI as a domestic terrorist movement, and in those meetings, it appears LePage joked with the group about “hanging” Democratic legislators. This extreme, dangerous rhetoric has no place in politics.

Snyder, Rick (Michigan): The Snyder administration allegedly favored corporate benefactors and his family over Michigan citizens by not only shielding a state contract that benefited his cousin from budget cuts but even doubling it to \$41 million.

After Rick Snyder's administration eliminated a criminal background check program for home care workers, the state hired nearly 3,800 individuals with criminal histories to take care of disabled adults on Medicaid, including over 500 violent felons and 285 convicted of sex crimes.

Walker, Scott (Wisconsin): Walker has been engulfed in not one, but two massive investigations:

- **The first John Doe investigation** resulted in six of Walker's associates have been convicted of wrongdoing, four of whom have been sentenced to prison ranging from felony theft from charities intended to benefit wounded veterans and the families of fallen soldiers, to misconduct in public office, to doing official campaign work on county time.
- **The second John Doe investigation** is ongoing and is currently on appeal. In this case, prosecutors allege that Walker himself was at the center of a nationwide "criminal scheme" to illegally coordinate with outside conservative groups. Documents released last week show Walker personally solicited millions of dollars for a group that supported him during his recall election.

BONUS Massachusetts Republican Gubernatorial candidate – Baker, Charlie: Baker has been at the center of controversy over whether he violated federal and state pay-to-play laws when a venture capital firm where he is a partner received a multi-million dollar New Jersey pension contract only months after Baker contributed to Chris Christie's party committee.

DOUBLE BONUS Former Virginia Governor – McDonnell, Bob: Sure, he's a former governor now, but he was in the same class of governors hailed as reformers. He is now on trial over accusations that he accepted over \$170,000 in gifts and loans from a donor in exchange for using his office to promote the donor's business. McDonnell and his wife have been indicted on 14 counts of corruption, obstructing an investigation and accepting bribes.

President Obama and Vice President Biden Meet Nation's Oldest Living Female Veteran

On Tuesday, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden met Lucy Coffey, a 108 year old veteran of the Women's Army Corps in WWII. This makes her the United States' oldest living female veteran.

Watch the video [here](#), it will put a big smile on your face!

