



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

September 12, 2014

Democrats Remember 9/11

On Thursday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the 13th anniversary of the September 11th:

"Five years ago, Congress designated today as the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance. Thus, one of the darkest days in our nation's history is instead an embrace of what is best about America.

"This is one of the defining characteristics of America and the American people. When faced with an enemy or challenge that attempts to tear us down, we come together and rebuild even better than before. And as the President laid out last night, we will continue to face our enemies head on, to secure our safety at home and the safety of our allies around the world. Though the process of rebuilding may be long and difficult, we emerge stronger. Earlier this year, speaking at the dedication of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, President Obama called on those gathered to 'reaffirm the true spirit of 9/11 -- love, compassion, sacrifice -- and to enshrine it forever in the heart of our nation.'

"As the Chair of the Democratic National Committee, I recognize that there will be disagreements between Democrats and Republicans that warrant a healthy debate. But when our nation is attacked, on American soil or abroad, those differences should be set aside. We remember those we've lost, seek justice against our enemies, and work to prevent future attacks.

"Thirteen years ago, an unthinkable tragedy reminded us that what binds us together is far greater than what draws us apart. We would be well served to keep that in mind as our nation faces the challenges before us."

On Thursday, President Barack Obama joined First Lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in observing a moment of silence on the White House lawn before attending a memorial service at the Pentagon memorial, where the President spoke to those who had lost loved ones in the attacks.

"As Americans, we draw strength from you. For your love is the ultimate rebuke to the hatred of those who attacked us that bright, blue morning. They sought to do more than bring down buildings or murder our people. They sought to break our spirit and to prove to the world that their power to destroy was greater than our power to persevere and to build. But you, and America, proved them wrong."



Watch the moment of silence [here](#).

DNC Reminds New Jersey of Chris Christie's Actions One Year After Lane Closings

On Monday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, NJDSC Chair John Currie and Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman will hold a press conference in Fort Lee, New Jersey, to mark the one-year anniversary of the lane closures that led to Chris Christie's Bridgegate scandal.

On September 9, 2013, aides and allies of Chris Christie shut down lanes onto the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee seemingly to exact political retribution on Democrats. The closures caused days of snarling traffic, delayed emergency responders and frustrated motorists heading to work or to take their kids to school. One year later, we still don't know why the lanes were closed, but the Bridgegate scandal has laid bare the deep-rooted culture of intimidation within Christie's administration. Despite campaigning as a bipartisan leader, Christie has only brought gridlock to New Jersey – from investigations into his ongoing scandals to his dismal economic and fiscal leadership for the state.

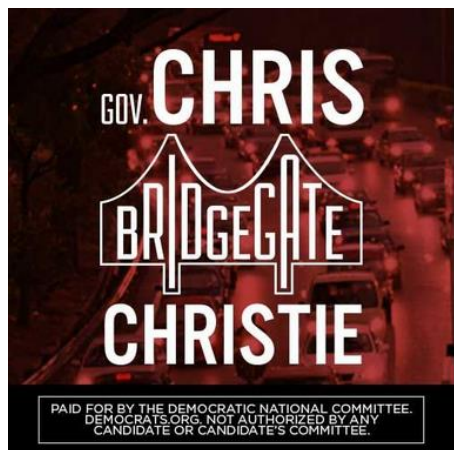
At the press conference Chair Wasserman Schultz said, "Right behind me, you see the epitome of Chris Christie's gridlock – the George Washington Bridge, the busiest bridge in the world – where one year ago, on the first day of school, Chris Christie's administration put thousands of people in harm's way in the gridlock of a massive traffic jam.



"And while we may be here today to commemorate one year since the Bridgegate saga began to take effect, Chris Christie's gridlock reaches much farther than right here in Fort Lee.

"What Bridgegate did was raise the curtain on his culture of intimidation, bullying and the incompetence that pervades the Christie administration.

"We learned that Christie rewards loyalists, that his aides follow his lead in bullying anyone who dares question them, that his allies will cause pain and suffering for average citizens seemingly just to make a petty political point."



The DNC also marked the anniversary with geofenced mobile and Pandora ads targeting commuters in Fort Lee, on the Bridge and in upper Manhattan.

The ads had a simple goal: to remind commuters about the gridlock Chris Christie's administration created one year ago by shutting down traffic on the GWB — and the consequences of Christie's policies have had on New Jersey's economy. The ads take advantage of new ad platforms and targeting opportunities, building on innovative techniques Democrats have utilized in recent years to reach voters where they get their information. The ads consist of a 15-second audio spot on the Pandora radio app and banner ads targeted to mobile phones, designed specifically to reach commuters.

The Numbers Don't Lie on Jindal and Deal Economic Failures

Louisiana governor and presidential hopeful Bobby Jindal was in Atlanta Wednesday to try to give embattled Georgia Governor Nathan Deal's campaign an extra hand. Jindal and Deal have a lot in common – they've both consistently failed to deliver for their states and improve the economic wellbeing of their constituents.

Just take a look at Jindal and Deal's records:

- After all, Jindal left \$16 billion of money for Louisiana on the table when he refused to expand Medicaid, affecting at least 240,000 Louisianans, [despite 1 in 5 people in his state lacking insurance](#). That gives Louisiana one of the highest percentages of uninsured in the country. Not to be outdone, Nathan Deal also refused to expand Medicaid, [which would have provided hundreds of thousands of low-income Georgians with coverage](#) and instead left folks just one emergency away from financial hardship.
- Georgia's unemployment rating is the [second-highest](#) in the nation! Its workforce is still significantly smaller than its all-time high in December 2007, even though the population has increased by nearly 300,000 people. In Louisiana, there are over 35,000 **more** unemployed people than when the recession started. Jindal's economy has [made Louisiana 46th in growth](#) prospects.
- More than [460,000 Louisiana workers could benefit](#) from an increase in the minimum wage, but Bobby Jindal has repeatedly attacked the idea. Minimum wage workers in Jindal's state earn more than 60 percent of their family's total income, and a raise would be critical to their quality of life. [Georgia workers earn less per hour](#) and per week than workers in most of the rest of the country. The Bureau of Labor Statistics puts Georgia 35th in hourly earnings and 32nd in weekly earnings. Louisianans and Georgians deserve a raise.

It's obvious that Nathan Deal and Bobby Jindal aren't interested in putting Georgia and Louisiana families first. Jason Carter is working to move Georgia forward and has proposed initiatives to expand benefits for small businesses to create jobs and opportunity for all. Democrats like Senator Carter – up and down the ballot– will be the clear choice for voters this fall, versus Republicans who remain beholden to special interests and an extreme Tea Party agenda.

Memo: Scott Walker's Failed Leadership on Jobs

From: Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin

To: Interested Parties

Date: September 10, 2014

Re: Scott Walker's Failed Leadership on Jobs

It's the issue on every Wisconsinite's mind ahead of the November elections: jobs.

In his first four years as Governor, Scott Walker had the opportunity to lead – to get Wisconsin back on its feet, creating jobs and a thriving economy. But instead, metric after metric has shown that Walker has failed and Wisconsin's economy is lagging.

He put politics before budgeting, upended the state, sparked off mass unrest, and claimed it was all in the name of fiscal responsibility. Three years later, we are left with huge cuts to education, large giveaways to out of state corporations and a massive, growing deficit.

As Walker discusses the state of Wisconsin's economy, here are three points he should address:

A 250,000 Jobs Promise

In 2010, Scott Walker made a promise to the people of Wisconsin to create 250,000 jobs by the end of his first term. He's failed. He's not even half way to reaching his goal. In fact, Wisconsin actually lost 1,900 private sector jobs in June and was one of only five states to lose jobs in May and June.

Should Wisconsinites hold Walker accountable for his failed jobs promise? Walker himself in 2010 said they "absolutely" should.

And RNC Chair Reince Priebus absolutely agrees. Last month at a Red State Convention in Fort Worth, Priebus said "we need people of their word who make a promise and then go govern like they campaigned."

And because Wisconsin voters know he failed and will hold him accountable for failing to meet the promise he made to them in 2010, Walker said he is not going to bother to make a second promise.

A \$1.8 Billion Deficit

This week, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau reported that under Scott Walker, Wisconsin faces a nearly \$1.8 billion structural deficit heading into the next budget cycle. This deficit is likely to get worse and does not count additional shortfalls in Wisconsin's transportation fund of nearly \$700 million that will also have to be addressed in the upcoming budget.

Scott Walker, like many Republican Governors, campaigned in 2010 as a fiscal hawk, ready to make tough decision to fix the states ballooning deficit. But in fact, the opposite happened. As other states have seen their economic fortunes rise, Wisconsin is getting worse.

Irresponsible tax cuts that mostly benefit the wealthy, misguided spending, and refusing federal funds to strengthen Medicaid clearly hasn't worked. This is just the latest example of Scott Walker's mismanagement of the state's finances.

Private-Sector Job Growth

Under Walker, Wisconsin dropped more than 25 places in private-sector job growth – from 11th to 37th. And under Scott Walker, Wisconsin is ranked dead last, 10 out of 10, among states in the Midwest on job growth during his time in office.

In addition, during Walker's time in office, Wisconsin has trailed the nation in annual private sector job growth averaging 1.35% compared to 2.2% nationally.

But perhaps the most staggering number that Scott Walker does not want to talk about is 50,000. At the end of Mary Burke's tenure as Commerce Secretary, approximately 50,000 more Wisconsin workers had jobs than under Walker.

There is no doubt about it, this election will be about jobs. And while being at the center of a "criminal scheme" probably doesn't help Walker, in the end, his failure to create an environment that fosters economic growth for the state will ultimately be the reason why Wisconsin voters replace him and elect a Governor with the job creating credentials the state needs and deserves.

DNC Statement on NJ's 8th Credit Downgrade Under Christie

"Now listen, I know that if we can do this in Trenton, New Jersey, maybe the folks in Washington, DC should tune in their TVs right now to see how it's done."

– **Chris Christie, Election Night 2013**

This week, [Standard and Poor's](#) downgraded New Jersey's credit rating yet again – citing the state's "structurally unbalanced budgets" and "large and growing unfunded pension liability."

The downgrade is the 8th credit downgrade of the Christie Administration, setting a record for **any** New Jersey governor.

Below please find a response from DNC Press Secretary Michael Czin:

"On Election Night 2013, Christie said his administration was a model for the nation. This year, Christie's administration is a national embarrassment."

"From his failed economic record to his Administration's gross misconduct during Bridgegate, Chris Christie has failed his state time and again. And now, it doesn't even look like he's trying anymore. Instead of working with Democrats to solve the state's long-term problems, Christie's busy crisscrossing the country campaigning for Republicans who apparently want to emulate his failed leadership."

Fact Check: The GOP's Latest Benghazi Claims

On Fox News Sunday, Mitt Romney became the latest Republican to spout off debunked conspiracy theories on the tragedy in Benghazi.

Below please find a fact check to Romney's comments:

Romney Rhetoric: *"I mean one, why did the administration talk to these people a long time ago, why were they out there with a story saying that the reason for what happened in Benghazi was because of a video, which these guys said was total baloney, they knew that from the beginning. How come the administration can't check into that?"*

Reality: Investigations over the last two years have shown that the video helped fuel – in part – the protests outside the consulate in Benghazi. Look no farther than the [New York Times' exhaustive report by David Kirkpatrick](#) which found that:

- "Dozens of people joined [the protest], some of them provoked by the video and others responding to fast-spreading false rumors that guards inside the American compound had shot Libyan protesters."
- "And contrary to claims by some members of Congress, it was fueled in large part by anger at an American-made video denigrating Islam."
- "There is no doubt that anger over the video motivated many attackers."

Romney Rhetoric: *"Number two, who was it that told these guys to stand down? Were they in contact with people higher up, particularly from the United States. What was the reason they were told to stand down when they were ready and able to go in and support the security of our people there in the Embassy annex?"*

Reality: Just this week, the New York Times, addressed the claims made in FOX's new Benghazi documentary, [saying](#): "The commandos' account — which fits with the publicly known facts and chronology — suggests that the base chief issued the 'stand down' orders on his own authority."

Romney Rhetoric: *"We've tried to understand why it is that this administration is unwilling to be transparent."*

Reality: There have already been seven investigations, 13 hearings, 50 briefings, and 25,000 pages of documents that have already been released. The tragedy has been thoroughly investigated – the facts just don't match the GOP's manufactured narrative.

President Obama's Address on ISIL



On Wednesday, President Obama addressed the nation about ISIL and his comprehensive strategy to defeat and destroy the terrorist group.

The President detailed the threat that ISIL poses to Iraq, Syria, and the Middle East, and said that, if left unchecked, "these terrorists could pose a growing threat beyond that region."

The President's plan has received support from both Democrats and Republicans, as well as from America's allies around the globe.

"Our endless blessings bestow an enduring burden. But as Americans, we welcome our responsibility to lead. From Europe to Asia, from the far reaches of Africa to war-torn capitals of the Middle East, we stand for freedom, for justice, for dignity. These are values that have guided our nation since its founding."

You can watch the President's full address [here](#).

In the States

- On Wednesday, the Florida Democratic Party released a statement showing that Florida Governor Rick Scott took \$25,000 in campaign funds from the Koch Brothers while a Koch owned company closed a small town's biggest factory, putting 400 Floridians out of work. As the Miami Herald reported, "The story of Hawthorne is not one Gov. Rick Scott talks about on his public relations roadshow as the state's 'jobs' governor. It is a tale of the tens of thousands of private sector jobs lost in Florida since Scott took office in January 2011." You can read more about it [here](#).
- On Monday, the Iowa Democratic Party released a statement debunking false claims made by State Senator Jodi Ernst about Congressman Bruce Braley support for the Medicare program. Two attacks from Senator Ernst in which she claimed Congressman Braley cut over \$700 billion from Medicare were rated as "false" by independent fact checkers. "It's embarrassing enough that Sen. Ernst and her allies used recycled false attacks that were debunked long ago, but to have them again rated false — twice — just shows the lengths the Ernst campaign is going to hide her risky plans to end Medicare's guaranteed benefits," said Iowa Democratic Party spokeswoman Christina Freundlich. Read the full release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Colorado Democratic Party released information about filing an ethics complaint against Representative Cory Gardner, concerning Rep. Gardner's use of taxpayer-funded resources for his political campaign. CDP Chairman Rick Palacio made the following statement, "Ethics rules play a critical role in ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't inappropriately used to aid the self-serving political aims of Members of both parties. Congressman Cory Gardner owes Coloradans an explanation for blatantly ignoring House ethics rules to aid his campaign." You can read more about the complaint [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party issued a statement regarding the Republican gubernatorial primary results, in which failed CEO Walt Havenstein secured the nomination. "In November, Granite Staters will have a clear choice between Governor Hassan's strong record of bipartisan problem-solving that's getting things done for New Hampshire's people, families and businesses, and failed CEO Walt Havenstein's anti-middle class Koch Brothers agenda that would run New Hampshire's economy into the ground just like he did to SAIC," said NHDP chair Ray Buckley. "Walt Havenstein has proven time and again that he puts his own interests first, no matter who gets hurt." Read the full statement [here](#).