



# WEEKLY UPDATE

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September 19, 2014

## DNC's Women's Leadership Forum Holds 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in Washington, DC

On Thursday and Friday the DNC held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Women's Leadership Forum issues conference presented by the Democratic Women's Alliance in Washington, D.C.

The Women's Leadership Forum, founded in 1993 by Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore, engages women in Democratic politics by bringing together women leaders and supporters from across the country for regional and national events providing them with information, contacts, and support for further involvement in the Democratic Party.

On Thursday, First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Jill Biden, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke spoke at a welcome reception. On Friday, President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Hillary Rodham Clinton, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and DNC CEO Amy Dacey all addressed the conference.



In her remarks, DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz started the conference by discussing the historical importance of WLF, and how important it has become.

She said, "Since then, the WLF has worked to eliminate gender disparity in politics. Together, we've recruited and engaged women to get involved in the political process - raising millions of dollars each cycle and recruiting women to run for public office. And we've developed a network of Democratic women who are leaders in their community at the grassroots level. We have phenomenal women leaders at the DNC - Vice Chairs Donna Brazile, Congresswomen Tulsi Gabbard, Maria Elana Duiazo, and Secretary Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake.

She then discussed the choice coming up in November and how Democratic policies are better for the country than the Republican alternatives.

Former Secretary of State and First Lady, Hillary Clinton took her time at WLF to discuss similar concepts, touching on the importance of electing Democrats in the upcoming midterms.

She said, "We are here because there is a movement stirring in America. You can see it in the parents in California who demanded paid sick leave so they did not have to choose between their jobs and their kids. You can see it in the moms demanding equal pay for equal work. And the dad's demanding access to quality, affordable childcare. You can see it in the fast food and domestic workers all across our country who ask for nothing more than a living wage and a fair shot. This is a movement that is not waiting for Washington with its gridlock and grandstanding. This movement won't wait, and neither can we. And that is why we are here today. We are also here because the mid-terms really matter. Now, I know they may not be as glamorous as presidential elections, but these upcoming midterm elections are crucial for our countries future, for our jobs, our schools, our health care, our families.

In his remarks, President Obama addressed the conference talking about what Democrats have accomplished over the past 6 years, and how much more there is to do after the midterms. He highlighted that while many say gridlock in Washington will stop anything from happening over the next two years, that is not the case.

President Obama simply said, "Cynicism is a choice. Hope is a better choice."

## [New DNC Video: Rand Paul takes on his toughest 2016 challenger: Rand Paul](#)

It's been a big week for Rand Paul. His shifting views on issue after issue [have come under scrutiny](#). His aides [continue to walk back](#) his unpopular or ill-conceived positions. And Paul himself [refuses to even acknowledge](#) whether he has changed his mind or if he is simply trying to maintain contradictory positions on multiple issues.

Then he took to the Senate floor [to give a big speech](#) on his views on the Middle East, and after that he [heads to a major libertarian conference](#) to stoke up the base that helped him rise to prominence. It's clear: Rand Paul is firing up the presidential campaign machine.

And to welcome him to the 2016 field, the DNC previewed the big showdown in the first GOP presidential primary debate: **Senator Rand Paul vs. Senator Rand Paul**.

Watch the new DNC video 'The First GOP Debate' [Here](#)



You can read about the announcement of the video in Business Insider [here](#).

## [In the States](#)

- On Monday, the Florida Democratic Party issued a statement highlighting the scandals and broken promises of Governor Rick Scott. Over the weekend about allegations of court stacking and failures in energy policy caused by his administration. "Just 50 days from Election Day, these are not the headlines that Rick Scott was hoping for coming out of his 'victory' dinner." You can read more [here](#).
- The Iowa Democratic Party released a statement Monday about Representative Paul Ryan's upcoming trip to the state. "It's fitting that Paul Ryan will be in Iowa to embrace state Sen. Joni Ernst's candidacy, given that she has embraced his radical ideas to end the Medicare guarantee, increase health care costs for seniors and reopen the prescription drug donut hole," said Iowa Democratic Party Chair Scott Brenna. Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Virginia Democratic Party issued a press release concerning Medicaid expansion and efforts by state Republican leadership to deny affordable healthcare for hard-working Virginians. "Republicans need to stop using Virginians as political pawns and propose real legislation to close the coverage gap for 400,000 uninsured citizens," the statement said. "Each day of inaction means Republicans throw money away as Virginians wait for the health care they need." You can read the full release [here](#).
- The Maine Democratic Party issued a statement Monday calling on Senator Susan Collins to break from Washington Republicans and vote in favor of the paycheck fairness act. "Susan Collins has a habit of siding with Washington Republicans over Maine women, workers and families," said Grant. "It's time Collins falls out of line with her Republican colleagues and fight for economic opportunity for all Maine women." You can read the full release [here](#).

### **Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on the GOP's Latest Effort to Block Paycheck Fairness Act**

On Monday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the GOP's latest effort to block the Paycheck Fairness Act:

"Today, for the fourth time in recent years, Republicans in the Senate voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act – commonsense legislation that would move us closer to equal pay for women. Once again, Republicans refused to join with Democrats to ensure that women are paid fairly and that they have the legal tools they need to fight pay discrimination when it occurs. Some GOP Senators have even gone beyond opposing the legislation to belittling the very idea of voting on Paycheck Fairness, calling it a waste of time, and a show vote. Sadly, it doesn't come as a surprise that Republicans continue to put rigid partisanship before what's best for the people that elected them.

"Ensuring that women earn fair and equal pay is a top priority for Democrats not only because it is the right thing to do for American women but because it improves the economic security of our families and the growth of our economy as a whole. Women constitute nearly half of the nation's work force, and in 40% of U.S. households with children women are their family's primary breadwinner.

"Today's vote is just the latest evidence of a Republican Party that is vastly out of touch with the American people, especially women. This November, 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."

### **By the Numbers: Equal Pay and Paycheck Fairness**

**77 cents** – the average amount women earn for every dollar earned by a man

**64 cents** – the amount African American women earn for every dollar earned by a white man

**56 cents** – the amount Latina women earn for every dollar earned by a white man

**40%** – the number of American households with children where women are the primary or sole breadwinner

**\$431,000** – the average amount in wages a woman will lose over a working lifetime due to the wage gap

**90%** – the percentage of American voters who favor policies that would help women get equal pay

**0 – the number of time Speaker Boehner has allowed a vote in the House on Paycheck Fairness**

**4 – the number of times Senate Republicans have blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act**

**0 – the number of Republican Senators who voted to move us closer to equal pay for women today**

## **Memo: Brown and Havenstein Want to Bring Christie's Failed Leadership to New Hampshire**

**From:** DNC Regional Press Secretary Ian Sams and NHDP Communications Director Julie McClain

**To:** Interested Parties

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Re:** Brown and Havenstein Want to Bring Christie's Failed Leadership to New Hampshire

Today, Republican candidates in New Hampshire are welcoming failed New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to the Granite State. As Maryland's Walt Havenstein and Massachusetts's Scott Brown campaign with New Jersey's Christie, one thing is abundantly clear – all three of these Republicans stand at odds with New Hampshire's values and priorities.

Granite Staters want leaders who support equal pay for women, would push for raising the minimum wage and stand up for middle class families over special interests – including Wall Street and the Koch brothers. On all three counts, Republicans strike out. And what's worse perhaps is that Brown and Havenstein are seeking to emulate Chris Christie's disastrous economic record if they're elected.

### ***The Disastrous Christie Economic Agenda***

Chris Christie has become the GOP's poster child for failed economic leadership and complete budget mismanagement. Just take a look at the numbers:

- **8** – Christie has overseen [a record eight state credit downgrades](#) for New Jersey, with ratings agencies threatening further downgrades. The latest downgrade even specifically cited Christie's pension cuts, overly rosy revenue projections and band-aid budget measures as part of why they downgraded New Jersey.
- **48th** – Under Christie, New Jersey ranks 48th in private sector job growth and significantly [lags in job recovery](#), having returned just 47 percent of the jobs lost during the recession while the country has recovered more than 100 percent.
- **20 percent** – Net property taxes for lower- and middle-income residents have [gone up by more than 20 percent](#) under Christie.
- **1.5 billion** – Thanks to Christie's overly rosy revenue projections, New Jersey [had a \\$1.5 billion budget shortfall this year](#).
- **4 billion** – Under Christie, New Jersey has [significantly increased corporate tax breaks](#) – handing out more than three times the amount given in the ten years before – but his \$4 billion give away has been ["largely unsuccessful"](#) in creating jobs.

Christie's failures to lead a "New Jersey Comeback" in the Garden State hasn't kept desperate Republicans in New Hampshire from welcoming him to the Granite State. And that's no surprise – Walt Havenstein and Scott Brown would emulate Christie's failed leadership if they're elected.

***Walt Havenstein and Chris Christie Have a Lot in Common*** - Walt Havenstein's past gives us good insight into how he'd run New Hampshire as governor – and it looks a lot like Chris Christie's New Jersey. Under Christie's watch, New Jersey's credit rating has been downgraded eight times, while during Havenstein's tenure as CEO of defense contractor SAIC, the company lost millions of dollars in revenue and its stock value plummeted. On jobs – New Jersey has regained less than half the jobs it lost in the recession, while SAIC shed thousands of jobs during Havenstein's disastrous time as CEO. This is the record Chris Christie brought to New Jersey and that Walt Havenstein would bring to Concord – and it's one that would drive the Granite State's economy into the ground.

***Chris Christie & Scott Brown – Big Money's Favorite Footsoldiers*** - Not only is Christie here to campaign with Havenstein and Brown, but he's here to lay the groundwork for his potential presidential bid – trying to boost his optics for the same kind of big-money, out-of-state donor network that is bankrolling Scott Brown's campaign. As Christie endorses Brown, it's worth noting that Big Oil, Wall Street and other special interests are spending millions to try to buy New Hampshire's Senate seat for their reliable footsoldier Scott Brown. Christie knows a thing or two about putting the interests of big money and big corporations ahead of creating jobs or helping working families. As we pointed out above, New Jersey has significantly increased corporate tax breaks under Christie, but his \$4 billion giveaway has been unsuccessful in creating jobs. And on issues from equal pay to raising the minimum wage, Christie and Brown stand at odds with working women and families. Like Christie, if Scott Brown is elected, he would be a reliable voice for special interests and Big Money – not for New Hampshire's middle class families.

**The Bottom Line** - On issue after issue, the leadership offered by Chris Christie, Walt Havenstein and Scott Brown would further hurt the economy, wreck budgets, and leave working families out to dry. New Hampshire deserves leaders like Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan who put the interests of the middle class first – from pushing to raise the minimum wage to ensuring equal pay to easing the financial burden on students. Whether it's Governor Hassan expanding Medicaid or Senator Shaheen supporting our veterans and voting for paycheck fairness, they bring commonsense leadership to work for Granite Staters every day and will continue to do so long after November.

### Walker's jobs plan: just plain politics

Over the weekend, Scott Walker released a 62 page political document disguised as a solution to improve the poor economic climate Walker created in Wisconsin. Below please find a response from DNC Midwest Press Secretary Jason Pitt:

*"It's clear Scott Walker will do anything to try and save his place in the Governor's mansion. Today's trick comes in the form of a 62 page political document designed to win votes but will actually do nothing to undo the damage Walker already did to Wisconsin's economy in his first term. Regardless of how many glossy documents Walker releases, voters will judge him on his inability to create jobs and get Wisconsin back to work. For that reason alone, voters will replace him in November with a Governor that has the job creating credentials the state needs and deserves."*

Here are some lowlights of Walker's political document:

WALKER: "Let's not bring back the days of... multi-billion dollar budget deficits"

Walker is ballooning the state's structural deficit, ultimately forcing the next generation of Wisconsinites to inherit. Editorial boards across Wisconsin are calling him out on it.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: If there's a budget mess this time, it belongs to Gov. Scott Walker: *"No one likes taxes, but government services cost money. And **there is little evidence that tax cuts at the state level help juice a state's economy.** A study in 2013 by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found deep cuts in income taxes to be 'an approach that has not worked particularly well in the past and is not supported by the preponderance of the relevant academic literature.'"*

Post-Crescent: Yes, structural deficit does matter: *"In his first budget address, in 2011, he addressed it, saying, 'Wisconsin faces a \$3.6 billion deficit. Too many politicians have failed to tell the truth about our financial crisis. They left Wisconsinites in the dark about the extent of our fiscal problems. The facts are clear: Wisconsin is broke and it's time to start paying our bills today — so our kids are not stuck with even bigger bills tomorrow.' **The number today is not as big — so maybe we're 'half-broke'? — but it's still too big.**"*

WALKER: "Remove barriers to starting a new company and expanding a small business."

Under Walker, Wisconsin dropped more than 25 places in private-sector job growth – from 11th to 37th. And under Scott Walker, Wisconsin is 46th in entrepreneurship and 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. It's easy to make more promises about job creation, but the reality is Walker has failed in terms of job creation.

WALKER: "Fight Obamacare, which is raising health insurance premiums for many in Wisconsin."

Even on the heels of a Commonwealth Fund survey that showed overall 73% of those who bought health care plans are somewhat or very satisfied with their new coverage, Walker still wants to campaign against the ACA. In fact, even 74% of newly insured Republicans like their Obamacare plans.

Walker also chose to not to accept federal Medicaid expansion money which would have saved Wisconsin taxpayers \$206 million over two years. In addition to saving state funds, the full expansion would have served an estimated 84,000 more Wisconsinites who could have had coverage. His political unwillingness to expand Medicaid is costing the state money and leaving Wisconsinites without affordable health care coverage. Again, Wisconsin editorial boards agree:

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Gov. Scott Walker's Medicaid decision costs Wisconsin taxpayers: "Walker was wrong about Obamacare then, and he's wrong to defend his actions now. Look no further than this latest Legislative Fiscal Bureau report for the proof.