



# WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

September 26, 2014

## DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on National Voter Registration Day

On Tuesday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement recognizing National Voter Registration Day:

"Fifty years ago, hundreds of young volunteers descended on Mississippi for Freedom Summer to register black Mississippians to vote. Despite being met with hatred and violence, the effort was an important milestone in the Civil Rights movement.

"Half a century after Freedom Summer, voter registration remains among the most effective methods by which to empower a community. Today, on National Voter Registration Day, and all days, we encourage every American to be sure they are able to exercise their right to vote.

"The Democratic Party believes that our nation and our democracy are stronger when more people participate. That is why our Voter Expansion Project is committed to more than just protecting the vote, but to expanding the vote as well. Registering new voters is one of the DNC's top priorities in 2014 and beyond, and we have used our data and technology advantage to develop tools that allow voter registration efforts to use their finite resources most efficiently.

"Unfortunately, Republicans have made the cynical calculation that their path to victory is a smaller electorate. Obstacles to registering to vote – such as elimination of same-day registration and refusal to adopt online registration – disproportionately affect young people, women, and communities of color. These are the same groups that are fueling the growth of the Democratic Party and the key to victory for Democratic candidates – and also comprise a majority of all Americans.

"The DNC is fighting to make sure that every eligible voter can register, every registered voter can vote, and every vote cast is counted. This National Voter Registration Day, everyone should take a few minutes to visit [IWillVote.com](http://IWillVote.com) or [VoyAVotar2014.com](http://VoyAVotar2014.com) to find out how to register to vote if they haven't already. And if you are registered to vote, sign the pledge to vote this November at [Commit2Vote.com](http://Commit2Vote.com)."

## Memo: Early Voting and Voter Expansion Efforts

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Pratt Wiley, DNC Director of Voter Expansion

**DATE:** September 25, 2014

**RE:** Day 1 of Early Voting 2014

Today is Election Day. At least in Iowa which has a full 40 days of early voting – one of the most in the country.

In the coming days and weeks millions of Americans will cast their ballots– in person or by mail – in the 33 states and the District of Columbia that have some form of in-person early voting or absentee voting. We've seen more people cast their ballot early in recent cycles – and we expect the same to happen this year. In 2012 a third of voters cast a ballot prior to Election Day, that's twice the rate as in 2000. All told, in 2012 over 18 million voters cast an early in-person ballot.

Starting today, we're moving past the time to discuss predictions. While we still have to wait 40 days to tally all the votes, across the country voters are making their voices heard – and they're voting for Democrats.



In Iowa and North Carolina, two states with the earliest reports on turnout, Democrats are flexing their organizational muscle and getting key voters to the polls. In Iowa, election officials have received nearly twice as many requests from Democrats than Republicans for absentee ballots – 58,000 to 31,000. [And the DSCC's models show](#) that 73% of the 23,000 unaffiliated voters who have requested ballots are likely to support Bruce Braley for Senate.

Additionally, 92 percent of Republican ballots requested this cycle went to party supporters who voted in 2010, compared with 64 percent of those who requested Democratic ballots this cycle. Simply put: Democrats who are more likely to be 'drop off voters' are in fact, bucking conventional wisdom and voting. In North Carolina, the latest from the U.S. Elections Project shows Democrats leading in absentee ballots returned by a strong 45%-36%.

To be sure, it's early and a lot is going to happen in the next 40 days, but we all know that some of these races could be decided by just a few votes. And as voting starts, Democrats are organized, mobilized and turning out voters.

Meanwhile, today RNC Chairman Reince Priebus, in a stunning display of hypocrisy will visit Iowa where he'll encourage Republicans there to vote early. But what Priebus won't say is that Republicans across the country – including in his home state of Wisconsin – have systematically worked to reduce early voting and taken other steps to make voting harder. Encouraging early vote on one day while supporting laws that make it harder is nothing short of cynical.

### **Democrats Make Voting Easier**

Democrats have long championed early voting. Allowing voters more time and flexibility when casting their votes is one of the easiest things we can do to increase turnout and broaden the base of those who choose to participate in our elections.

As Democrats, we support many measures that make voting easier for all eligible citizens because we believe our democracy is stronger when more people participate in the process. As President Clinton said when he launched the DNC's Voter Expansion Project, "We've never solved one single problem with less democracy. We've never moved forward with less participation." But there's another reason Democrats will continue to fight every day to make sure it is as easy as possible for every eligible citizen to cast their vote. When more people vote, Democrats win.

Why? Because more Americans agree with us on the issues — on equal pay, on immigration reform, on raising the minimum wage, on investing in infrastructure and technology, and on building a country where every American has the same opportunities to succeed.

### **Republicans Make Voting More Difficult**

While Democrats are committed to making voting easier, Republican governors and legislatures have worked doggedly to systematically make voting harder – including rolling back early voting opportunities. In 2013, [nine states](#)—all led by Republicans – introduced or passed laws reducing early voting.

- In Ohio, Governor Kasich tried to roll back early voting opportunities.
- In [Wisconsin](#), (RNC Chairman Reince Priebus' home state) Governor Scott Walker and the GOP have reduced and limited early voting period, including eliminating weekend voting.
- In [North Carolina](#), the Republican Governor and legislature have reduced early voting period from 17 to 10 days.
- In Georgia, a GOP legislator lamented a county's move to expand early voting, saying he would "[prefer more educated voters](#)" over black early voters.

The choice for voters in October and November couldn't be more clear: Democrats stand for opportunity for all, while Republicans stand for opportunity for a select few. When it comes to voting rights, the choice couldn't be clearer: Democrats believe voting should be easy and convenient for every eligible voter regardless of who they are or where they live. Republicans want to win elections, no matter how many households they exclude from the process.

### **DNC Launches Get Out The Vote Spanish Ad Campaign**

The Democratic National Committee today launched national and state Spanish language radio ads, the second round of ads in a seven figure national paid media campaign. The first ad, 'No pierda la oportunidad de votar' or 'Don't miss the opportunity to vote' will air on Spanish radio stations nationally and key stations in Colorado, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada.

"This Spanish ad buy is just one part of our outreach to Latinos and Hispanics across the country. Democrats are committed to expanding the vote and we want to ensure that this November Latinos come out to vote and make their voices heard," said DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz. "There's a lot at stake in these midterm elections, and these ads highlight many of the issues Democrats are fighting for – affordable higher education, an increase in the minimum wage, and protecting Medicare.

Additional waves of ads will launch in the coming weeks.

**Listen to the ad, [HERE](#)**

### **President Obama at the UN**



Watch the President's full address [here](#).

On Wednesday, President Obama addressed the United Nations General Assembly, calling on the world to "choose hope instead of fear." Speaking about topics such as the crisis in Ukraine, the turmoil in the Middle East, and the growing threat of the Ebola virus, the President reemphasized the need for a strong and cooperative international community.

"This speaks to a central question of our global age: whether we will solve our problems together, in a spirit of mutual interests and mutual respect, or whether we descend into the destructive rivalries of the past."

"We see the future not as something out of our control, but as something we can shape for the better through concerted and collective effort," the President continued. "We reject fatalism or cynicism when it comes to human affairs; we choose to work for the world as it should be, as our children deserve it to be."

The President admitted that the United States has not always lived up to these ideals, pointing to the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, but asserted that America will always work to make progress on these and other issues.

"We welcome the scrutiny of the world -- because what you see in America is a country that has steadily worked to address our problems, to make our union more perfect, to bridge the divides that existed at the founding of this nation. America is not the same as it was 100 years ago, or 50 years ago, or even a decade ago."

Despite these struggles, the President expressed his hope for the future of the nation and the international community.

"I often tell young people in the United States that despite the headlines, this is the best time in human history to be born, for you are more likely than ever before to be literate, to be healthy, to be free to pursue your dreams."

### Jeb Bush's 'Anti-Everything' Fundraiser

Last year, Jeb Bush delivered a speech at CPAC where he implored his party to stop being “anti-everything.” Bush said, in part, “Way too many people believe Republicans are anti-immigrant, anti-woman, anti-science, anti-gay, anti-worker, and the list goes on and on and on. Many voters are simply unwilling to choose our candidates even though they share our core beliefs, because those voters feel unloved, unwanted and unwelcome in our party.”

But today, Bush is dipping his toes in the 2014 waters by hosting a fundraiser for GOP senate candidates Cory Gardner, Joni Ernst, Monica Wehby and Tom Cotton. This group of Republicans that Bush is lending his name – and credibility – to today are the poster children of the “anti-everything” GOP that Bush said he opposes. Here’s a brief rundown of where Gardner, Ernst, Wehby and Cotton stand on some key issues:

- **Cory Gardner** has supported Personhood legislation, which could ban forms of birth control.
- **Tom Cotton** voted against the Farm Bill, the Violence Against Women Act and supported last year’s government shutdown that cost our economy \$24 billion.
- **Monica Wehby** opposes legislation to ensure women receive equal pay, opposes raising the minimum wage and even opposes the federal government setting a minimum wage at all.
- **Joni Ernst** is a far-right ideologue who has said impeaching President Obama should be on the table and advocated for the fringe legal notion that states can ‘nullify’ federal laws. But not only that, Ernst supports privatizing Social Security, ending Medicare as we know it, denying reproductive choices even in cases of rape and incest, and eliminating the federal minimum wage.

In throwing his support behind such a group of far-right Republicans, Jeb Bush isn’t part of the solution; he’s another example of what’s wrong with the GOP.

### DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz’s Statement on Rosh Hashanah

On Wednesday DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement concerning the beginning of Rosh Hashanah:

“Tonight marks the beginning of the celebration of Rosh Hashanah. In recognition of that occasion, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

“With Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, approaching, we take time to reflect on the year that has ended, seek forgiveness, and look forward to the promise of renewal in the year ahead.

“As our world faces uncertain and challenging times, we strengthen our resolve to come together with family and friends in the spirit of prayer, fellowship, and understanding. The principles of teshuvah, tefillah, and tzedakah can guide us all to take account of our actions and strive to do more for one another.

“While we’ve seen important progress over the last year, I am hopeful that 5775 will be a year in which we can work together to tackle our nation’s most pressing challenges and continue working every day to improve the lives of the people we represent.

“As I celebrate today with my own family, I hope everyone celebrating has the opportunity to share this holiday in health and happiness with those they love. I wish you and your loved ones L’Shana tovah u’metuka – a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year.”

### **DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on Eric Holder's Resignation**

On Thursday, President Obama accepted the resignation of Attorney General Eric Holder. DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"On behalf of the Democratic Party, I would like to thank and congratulate Eric Holder for his service as our 82nd Attorney General. General Holder will leave office as one of the longest-serving Attorneys General in our nation's history, and his contributions have been invaluable to President Obama's administration and the country.

"Attorney General Holder has fought fiercely to protect the human and civil constitutional rights of all Americans. Among his accomplishments at the Department of Justice, of particular note, is his emphasis on ensuring that all Americans can exercise their right to vote. Despite opposition from the Supreme Court and Congressional Republicans, Attorney General Holder and DOJ have been stalwart defenders of voting rights threatened by state legislative action.

"I have full confidence President Obama's choice for our nation's next Attorney General will continue the important and immeasurable civil rights work being done at the Department of Justice under Attorney General Holder and that Senate Republicans will be responsible and not recklessly obstruct the process of confirming a replacement."

### **In the States**

- On Tuesday the California Democratic Party unveiled a new online voter registration portal, allowing Californians to register to vote from anywhere with an internet connection. "Democrats are advocates for expanding the electorate and increasing voter participation," said Shawnda Westly, Executive Director of the California Democratic Party. "This online registration portal will provide yet another outreach tool for activists and campaigns to bring more Californians into the political process." The release of the program coincided with national voter registration day. Read more about the new program [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court upheld an earlier decision declaring John Husted's efforts to cut early voting an unconstitutional violation of the Voting Rights Act. Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern issued a statement about the ruling saying, "Jon Husted's tenure as Secretary of State has been one partisan, unconstitutional scheme after another to make it harder for Ohioans to vote that has cost taxpayers over \$400,000 in taxpayer money to defend. With early voting beginning in just six days, it's time for Jon Husted to drop any further appeals, as he has caused enough voter confusion already." You can read the full statement [here](#).
- On Monday, the Maine Democratic Party issued a statement concerning Governor LePage's threats to skip all six debates with Mike Michaud. "This is just more evidence that Gov. LePage is unfit to be governor," said Ben Grant, chairman of the Maine Democratic Party. "Gov. LePage's petulant behavior has cost him the respect of people all across Maine, and it has cost Maine a chance at economic recovery. The simple fact is that Gov. LePage will do anything to avoid taking responsibility for his failed record and embarrassing gaffes, especially his out-of-touch remark that social security is welfare." Read the full statement [here](#).
- In response to the August Jobs Report, Florida Democratic Party Chair Allison Tant released the following statement: "Today's jobs report confirms what middle class Floridians already know — when Rick Scott says 'It's Working,' he's talking about those at the top, not the hard working Floridians still struggling to make ends meet. Rick Scott's empty reelection rhetoric just doesn't match the reality Floridians face every day. Front pages around the state this week have detailed exactly how Rick Scott has failed over the last four years to build an economy that grows from the middle out, not the top down." The full release is [here](#).
- On Wednesday the Oregon Democratic Party issued a press release applauding the creation of a \$2.6 million grant to help low income students in Oregon prepare for College through the GEAR UP program. Congressman Peter DeFazio said of the program, "Over the years, I've met many students involved in the GEAR UP program and I can tell you first-hand this program makes a difference. The students I met prove that given the opportunity, every child in Oregon has the potential to get a college degree and contribute to our increasingly sophisticated and knowledge-based economy. The GEAR UP program is not only good for Oregon families but also for our country's economic future." You can read the full statement [here](#).