



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

October 17, 2014

President Obama on the United States Response to the Ebola Outbreak

On Thursday, President Obama convened with Cabinet officials to discuss the recent developments in the fight against Ebola and to outline the steps necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

The President reassured the American people that the risk of the disease spreading was still “incredibly low”.

“If we continue to take the steps that we need to,” the President said, “then this will be contained.”



The Administration has already taken many necessary steps to combat Ebola including: implementing screening measures at airports receiving passengers from West Africa, tracking and monitoring those who have had contact with individuals showing symptoms, and dispatching a CDC team of 16 personnel to Dallas to train and assist the hospital in infection control procedures. In addition, the President appointed Ron Klain as his Ebola response coordinator to oversee the federal response to the threat of Ebola.

Along with these efforts, President Obama expressed the need to address the presence of Ebola in West Africa.

“Throughout this process I’ve been focused on making sure that we are dealing with this problem at the source,” the President said at a press conference Thursday. “The most important thing that I can do for keeping the American people safe is for us to be able to deal with Ebola at the source, where you’ve got a huge outbreak in West Africa.”

Issuing an Executive Order, President Obama has provided the Joint Staff and the Department of Defense the ability to identify Reserve Personnel to augment active-duty personnel already deployed to affected regions.

“We’ve seen some progress in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, but we haven’t seen enough. We’ve got more work to do,” said the President.

The President reiterated that there is no country better prepared to than the United States to confront the challenge Ebola poses, but expressed the need for continued support for those affected by the disease and those treating the affected patients.

“I want everybody to be thinking about and praying for the two health workers that have gotten sick,” President Obama said. “Those who also treated this patient with compassion and care, we just want to say thank you to them. And we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure that they’re properly cared for.”

The GOP's Hat Trick of Debate Blunders

The GOP achieved a rare feat this week – three debate blunders in one night. Between Rick Scott's fan-tantrum, moderators calling out Cory Gardner for his inability to tell the truth, and Paul LePage's ducking and weaving when asked about important issues to Maine families, many Americans got a close look at what the GOP is all about: misinformation, obstruction, and fear of small electronics that emit air.

Sounds like the GOP Comms College needs to re-do that course on debates.

Florida



Watch the moment [here](#).

Moderator: "Ladies and gentlemen we have an extremely peculiar situation right now..."

"Florida Governor Rick Scott our incumbent governor and the republican candidate for governor is also in the building. Governor Rick Scott? We have been told Governor Scott will not be participating in this debate...."

"I don't know, what can we say?"

Colorado



Watch the moment [here](#).

Moderator: "It would seem that a charitable interpretation would be that you have a difficult time admitting you're wrong. And a less charitable interpretation is that you're not telling us the truth. Which is it?..."

"What I'm asking you about here is what appears to be the willing suspension of the facts."

Maine



Watch the moment [here](#).

LePage unable to justify not extending access to health care to 70,000 Mainers

College Dems' New Video "Speak Up"

With less than 20 days until Election Day, the College Democrats of America released a new video, entitled "Speak Up." The video features young people delivering lines that Republicans have said to highlight just how out of touch the GOP is with today's millennials.

You can view the video [here](#).

In addition, Brexton Isaacs, Communications Director of the College Democrats of America, released the following quote:

With millennials continuing to reject them in election after election, Republicans are using any desperate tactic they can to convince young people to vote for them. After using wedding dresses to try to explain voting to young women and Shark Tank to explain why it's somehow better for students to pay high interest rates on their student loans, it seems all they have left are reductive cultural references. But reality TV won't hide the fact that their policies, words, and actions put them entirely out of touch with our generation. This video helps to highlight the wide gulf between Republican policies and millennial values in a way that doesn't insult young Americans' intelligence.

"Nobody Think Chris Christie Can Win"

"Voters are supposed to have a chance to get to know you before they decide to dislike you."- NYT

That's how the [New York Times](#) characterizes the challenge Chris Christie faces in Iowa, as a new Bloomberg Politics/DM Register poll shows that 45% of likely caucusgoers have an unfavorable view of Christie, "an unusually high figure at such an early phase in an election cycle."

Let that sink in. It's not even 2015 yet, and 45% of likely Iowa caucusgoers *already* don't like Chris Christie. (Only 39% had a favorable view.) Of 16 potential candidates in the survey, he is the most disliked — by 15 points.

Respondents cited his "brusque personality" and the GW bridge scandal. And that's before they even get to know him or his terrible [economic record](#).

It's not just Hawkeye State voters that are souring on Christie. A [Rutgers-Eagleton poll out today](#) found, "Trust in New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has continued to decline further after hitting an all-time low last March..." Just 22 percent of Garden State voters now say "trustworthy" describes Christie "very well." To say those numbers are a problem is the understatement of the day.

As his good friend Joe Scarborough pointed out yesterday, people who do know Christie don't have a better opinion of him and his leadership. Watch Scarborough's brutal assessment of Christie [HERE](#).

In the States

- On Wednesday, the Democratic Party of Virginia released a following Senator Rand Paul's attempts to boost the struggling campaign on Ed Gillespie. Both Senator Paul and Gillespie oppose raising the minimum wage, a move that would benefit more than 717,000 Virginia workers. "The minimum wage isn't just for kids with their first job," read the statement. "Of those who would benefit from an increase, fewer than 12 percent are under the age of 20 – it's what many Virginians and Americans survive on." Read the full release [here](#).
- The Connecticut Democratic Party on Tuesday, released a statement following New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's decision to cancel plans to campaign for Republican candidate Tom Foley. "The more Connecticut residents get to know Tom Foley, the less they like him. When they hear about fighter jets, yachts, and mansions—bought during a career of destroying the lives of middle class families—they realize he will reverse the progress Connecticut has made. Now, even his biggest out-of-state backers are tip-toeing around Tom Foley," said Ian Sams, a spokesperson for the Connecticut Democratic Party. "Tom Foley has offered voters plagiarized plans, no specifics, and no vision for the future. It's no surprise that his biggest boosters—Chris Christie and the RGA—are running away from him." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Thursday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party issued a statement calling on Scott Brown to immediately return campaign donations from those responsible for an ad featuring slain American James Foley. "This despicable ad is offensive to people of New Hampshire. James Foley should not be coldly used for political fodder," said New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley. "Scott Brown's silence speaks volumes. He should immediately and forcefully denounce this ad and return his \$10,000 donation from John Bolton—one of those responsible for this ad. Jim Foley's murder should in no way be used as a political football." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Ohio Democratic Party released a statement on Tuesday in response to an ad produced by the Kasich-Taylor campaign in which Dr. Alice Epitropoulos claimed that Governor Kasich's policies were good for women's health. What the Kasich campaign did not disclose in its ad was that, regardless of the stethoscope she is wearing, Dr. Epitropoulos is not a general practitioner, nor does she practice women's health. Instead, she is a registered Republican, a Kasich contributor, and an eye surgeon. "In just his first term, Governor Kasich packed the State Medical Board with anti-choice leaders, fought in federal court to block women from getting insurance coverage for contraceptive care, placed a gag order on rape crisis centers, blocked public hospitals from arranging required transfer agreements with women's health clinics, and made it harder for Planned Parenthood, the most successful organization that provides breast and cervical cancer screenings, from getting state funding," said Ohio Democratic Party Communications Director Meredith Tucker. "Regardless of Kasich's misleading ad, Ohioans are well aware that 100,000 women who now have access to health care in Ohio is due to President Obama's Affordable Care Act, a law that Governor Kasich adamantly opposed during his 2010 campaign." Read the full statement [here](#).
- This week, the Michigan Democratic Party issued a statement concerning women across the state including Senator Debbie Stabenow, State Senator Gretchen Whitmer, candidate for Lt. Governor Lisa Brown, and other leading Democrats joining together to oppose the GOPs anti-women agenda. "From Terri Lynn Land's opposition to the Paycheck Fairness Act, with her comments that women care more about flexibility than pay, to Gov. Snyder and the Republican-controlled Legislature's assault on women's health care and their refusal to support equal pay, to Attorney General Bill Schuette leading the charge to make sure employers have the right to decide birth control coverage for women, it is clear that Republican politicians in Michigan are doing everything they can to take women back to the 1950s," the statement said. Read the full statement [here](#).