



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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President Obama on the Shootings in Canada

On Wednesday, President Obama spoke with Prime Minister Stephen Harper to express the American people's solidarity with Canada in the wake of the recent shootings in Quebec and Ottawa this week.

President Obama condemned these attacks and reaffirmed the close friendship and alliance between our two countries. He also emphasized the importance of ensuring safety from terrorist attacks both in the United States as well as abroad.

"We don't yet have all the information about what motivated the shooting. We don't yet have all the information about whether this was part of a broader network or plan, or whether this was an individual or series of individuals who decided to take these actions," the President stated. "But it emphasizes the degree to which we have to remain vigilant when it comes to dealing with these kinds of acts of senseless violence or terrorism."



The President made clear his commitment to the United States' and Canada's relationship to both Prime Minister Harper and the Canadian people.

"Not only is Canada one of our closest allies in the world but they're our neighbors and our friends," President Obama said, "and it's very important I think for us to recognize that when it comes to dealing with terrorist activity, that Canada and the United States have to be entirely in sync."

The President offered any assistance necessary to Canada in responding to these attacks, stating that the two countries are "coordinating very closely" to address the issue.

The President was also briefed on the incident by Lisa Monaco, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, and will continue to receive updates from his team.

"I had a chance to travel to the Parliament in Ottawa. I'm very familiar with that area and am reminded of how warmly I was received and how wonderful the people there were," said President Obama. "We're all shaken by it, but we're going to do everything we can to make sure that we're standing side by side with Canada during this difficult time."

Christie's Rhetoric Catches Up With Him...Again

This week, Governor Christie callously told a Chamber of Commerce crowd that, "*I'm tired of hearing about the minimum wage. I really am.*"

But Christie's not alone in his position on the minimum wage. Republicans across the country, from Congressional Republicans to Governors oppose raising the minimum wage. Here are a few examples:

- This year Senate Republicans refused to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10, a move that could lift nearly 5 million Americans out of poverty.
- In Florida, Governor [Rick Scott](#) said the thought of raising the minimum wage made him "cringe."
- In Illinois, candidate [Bruce Rauner](#) has said he favored eliminating Illinois' minimum wage altogether.
- In Wisconsin, Governor [Scott Walker](#) said that he doesn't "think it serves a purpose."
- In Connecticut candidate [Tom Foley](#) "distanced himself" from a reasonable minimum wage hike.
- In Kansas, a top adviser to Governor [Sam Brownback](#) referred to the federal minimum wage as the "black teenage unemployment act."

Below please find a roundup of coverage on Christie's minimum wage comments:

Chris Christie: "I'm tired of hearing about the minimum wage"

CBS NEWS // REBECCA KAPLAN

The Democratic National Committee was quick to pick up on the statement, mocking Christie for his words. "That's right. The 4th highest paid governor in America – at \$175,000 a year – said that," the group wrote in an email. They noted that in January 2013, Christie vetoed legislation passed by the Democrat-controlled state legislature that would have increased the minimum wage in New Jersey from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour. At the time, Christie argued it would "jeopardize the economic recovery we all seek."

In November, when New Jersey voters elected Christie for a second term, 60 percent also voted to approve a ballot measure to raise the minimum wage to \$8.25 an hour.

Why Chris Christie can't dodge discussion of the minimum wage

WASHINGTON POST // MAX EHRENFREUND

Christie repeated a common critique of the minimum wage — that is only earned by kids on summer or weekend jobs — but the truth is quite different. About half of workers earning minimum wage in this country are at least 25, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. About 4.5 million parents are raising children on a wage less than \$10.10 per hour (sometimes proposed as a new minimum), writes Ben Casselman.

In his remarks, Christie argued that what Americans want is economic growth — not an increase in the minimum wage. But, of course, the two aren't mutually exclusive. While raising the minimum wage may have a moderate impact on employment, it also puts money in the hands of people who are most likely to spend it.

Christie Hits Democrats on Minimum Wage

WALL STREET JOURNAL // REID J. EPSTEIN & HEATHER HADDON

Mr. Christie has spoken out against raising the minimum wage in the past, saying in May that he believes "making those type of extreme moves in one fell swoop is not good for the economy."

Last year, Mr. Christie vetoed a bill passed by the Democratic-controlled Legislature to increase the hourly minimum wage to \$8.50 from \$7.25 with annual adjustments for inflation.

Christie Offers Democrats A Killer Soundbite on Minimum Wage

TIME // ZEKE J. MILLER

The moment was not unlike Mitt Romney's 2012 line that "I like being able to fire people" when they do poor work—a tenet of the free market, but an statement that played into the insensitive rich guy narrative Democrats and his GOP primary opponents had already invested millions in developing.

Politico: Where to find President Obama this fall
By Edward-Isaac Dove



Politico released an article this week on how President Obama is helping support Democratic efforts to get out the vote all across the country for the upcoming elections. Here are a few excerpts from the article:

"If our people vote, if young people vote, if women vote, if people of color vote, if people who care about the environment vote, if people who care about LGBT rights vote, that's a majority. That's a majority!" Obama urged the crowd a week and a half ago at a San Francisco DNC fundraiser featuring a diverse and rowdily supportive crowd.

The most overt pitch is to African-Americans who still have approval ratings for the president in the high 90s and have concentrated populations in states like Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan and North Carolina.

There's nothing subtle about the DNC running for the final two weeks in African-American newspapers: 'GET HIS BACK,' in big, bold capital letters, one word per line. 'Republicans have made it clear that they want our President — Barack Obama — to fail,' the ad reads, next to a full profile shot of Obama. 'If you don't vote this November 4, they win.'

"The bottom line is, though, these are all folks who vote with me; they have supported my agenda in Congress,' Obama told Sharpton. "I said, 'You do what you need to do to win. I will be responsible for making sure that our voters turn out.'"

But working off Obama data that's been updated extensively since, Democrats are also drilling down much deeper, which will include women- and young voter-specific efforts online. "We're much more confident in our ability to reach out to individual voters who we can identify with support scores or turnout scores as opposed to trying to target some swath of the population or some ZIP Code," said Matt Compton, who shifted from the White House a year ago to oversee DNC midterm digital strategy.

...The DNC would only pin its own paid media effort on behalf of Obama to being seven figures without further elaboration. That includes more than \$1 million that's been put into an ad for black radio stations that features a clip of Obama speaking to an audience and a woman's voice over saying, "We have a responsibility to stand up for our community," as well as a Spanish-language ad without Obama's voice that repeats, "They voted against our" interests on education, Medicare and the minimum wage.

The African-American ad is only running on nationally syndicated black radio shows and the Spanish-language one is running nationally, along with state-specific versions running for Colorado, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada, according to a DNC official. The print ad will be running in Florida, Wisconsin, Colorado, North Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan and Georgia.

But the official said the DNC will also put hundreds of thousands of dollars into digital ads that target voters in a dozen states. "We'll be able to deliver volume so that each targeted voter will see the ads repeatedly, making them more likely to take the action,' the official said. 'We're testing a range of messages — to build support for our Commit to Vote program, to drive people to take advantage of early voting and to use our polling place look-up tool as we approach Election Day.'

Picking up the theme back in campaign mode on Sunday in Prince George's County, Maryland, Obama told the crowd to vote. "You've got to get your family to vote. You've got to get your friends to vote. You've got to get your coworkers to vote. You've got to get that cousin, Pookie, sitting at home on the couch."

Read the full article [here](#).

DNC Response to Rand Paul's Latest Foreign Policy Rebrand

Tonight Rand Paul is slated to deliver a 'major' foreign policy speech ahead of his presidential campaign.

According to the National Review, Paul will call himself a "conservative realist."

Previously Paul had described his worldview as the following:

"Constitutional Conservative"

"Libertarian Conservative"

"Originalist"

"Realist"

"Libertarian-ish"

"Moderate on the Foreign-Policy Spectrum"

"Non-Interventionist"

Rand Paul and his advisors can call his foreign policy whatever they want – a name change won't make it any more palatable to the American people.

Below please find a statement from DNC Press Secretary Michael Czin to Paul's foreign policy speech:

"For months, Rand Paul has been twisting in the wind, trying to explain his foreign policy vision. The fact is, a speech defending the indefensible won't make Paul's worldview any more palatable to the American people.

"Paul's been clear about his goal: he wants to see America retreat from our responsibilities around the world. That includes support for a fringe proposal to end our membership in the United Nations, ending all aid to our allies like Israel and slashing programs that help developing nations combat major public health crises.

"America needs strong, steady leadership that will keep America safe at home and live up to our commitments abroad. Rand Paul has proven time and again that he's not that leader."

What Mike Pence Won't Talk About At His Women's Conference

Governor Mike Pence is speaking today at the Indiana Governor's Conference for Women. While we haven't seen a copy of his speech, here's a few things we don't expect he'll be highlighting:

- His [repeated opposition to](#) equal pay legislation.
- He vowed to sign [any piece of anti-choice legislation](#) the legislature sends his way.
- His threat to [shut down the government](#) - yes really – to defund Planned Parenthood.
- His attempt to [cut funding for domestic violence](#) services as shelters are trying to deal with increased demand.
- His [support of Personhood](#), which could ban common forms of birth control.
- His [proud stand](#) against raising the minimum wage.
- His support of an unnecessary [ultrasound mandate](#).

Given the extreme positions he'll likely want to avoid, Lily Adams, Deputy Communications Director for the Democratic National Committee issued the following response:

"Mike Pence's extreme record on issues that matter to women is alarming, but not surprising, given the fact that he cut his teeth with the far-right obstructionist wing of his party in Congress. With the Governor speaking to a conference of women today, it's important to remember that Pence is in lock step with the radical agenda that blocks opportunity for women and families – an agenda they will reject at the ballot box this November. Equal pay and affordable health care aren't abstract – they are core economic issues that help women succeed, and Governor Pence has stood in opposition to them at every opportunity."

In the States

- The Colorado Democratic Party released a statement on Monday following Chris Christie's appearances on the campaign trail with Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez. It highlights the New Jersey Governor's poor economic record and the Garden State's recent financial woes, in comparison with the economic growth seen in Colorado under Democratic Governor John Hickenlooper. "Governor Beauprez's ultra-conservative policies would tank Colorado's economy and hurt working families across the state. Governor Christie should stop stumping for struggling gubernatorial campaigns and get back to work fixing New Jersey's economy," said Executive Director Jennifer Koch. Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Iowa Democratic Party released a statement following a press conference on women's health care held by Rand Paul and Republican candidate Joni Ernst. Commenting on Ernst's professed support for federal personhood legislation, Former State Party Chair Sue Dvorsky said, "It's this extreme, anti-choice position that stands at odds with millions of women who value the ability to make their own health decisions. The bottom line is that the radical positions of Rand Paul and Joni Ernst on women's health go too far." College Democrats President Carter Bell explained her opposition to the proposal, "Rand Paul and Joni Ernst believe we should outlaw abortion in all cases, ban common forms of birth control, and take a woman's health care decisions out of her own hands." Read full statement [here](#).
- In a statement released on Monday, the Indiana Democratic Party Chair John Zody called on Governor Mike Pence to cancel his upcoming campaign trip to New Hampshire and release documents about his decision not to apply for a federal pre-kindergarten grant. "If he's willing to take a pass on funding for early childhood education, he should spend all of his time at the Statehouse coming up with a solution that will help ensure more Hoosier children have a healthy and substantive start to their education," said Zody. The Chair also questioned the motives of Pence's decision to cut pre-K, "Hoosiers deserve to know if their governor is more beholden to the interests of the Tea Party, or the interests of the thousands of Hoosier children who will go without pre-school because of his political decision." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Wisconsin Democrats released the latest statement in a series explaining why voters shouldn't vote for Scott Walker following emails released by the Milwaukee County government on Tuesday. The emails detailed suspected coordination between Walker's gubernatorial campaign and county administration and revealed a campaign aide had approved a county government statement denying the charges of coordination between the two staffs. The statement goes on to point out that Walker failed to go one day without being investigated during his first term. You can read the 10 reasons to vote against Scott Walker [here](#).