



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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President Obama on U.S.-China Climate Change Agreement

On Tuesday, President Obama announced the signing of a climate change treaty between the United States and China. In a joint press conference with President Xi Jinping, President Obama celebrated the agreement as a major step forward in both diplomatic relations between the two countries and in the global fight against climate change. "This is a major milestone in the U.S.-China relationship, and shows what's possible when we work together on an urgent global challenge," the President said.



The deal, which includes China's first commitment to cap carbon dioxide emissions growth and a target to cut carbon pollution in the United States to 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, was announced during President Obama's attendance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Beijing. The President commended President Xi Jinping and the Chinese government for their pledge "...to slow, peak, and then reverse the course of China's carbon emissions," adding that "as the world's two largest economies, energy consumers and emitters of greenhouse gases, we have a special responsibility to lead the global effort against climate change."

President Obama also highlighted his wider geopolitical aspirations for the agreement and its significance in light of the upcoming international climate change talks in Paris. "By making this announcement today, together, we hope to encourage all major economies to be ambitious -- all countries, developing and developed -- to work across some of the old divides so we can conclude a strong global climate agreement next year."

In addition to the climate change agreement, the President also announced that the United States has reached deals with China on a range of issues from the military to international trade. The President and U.S. officials declared their hope that the agreements will bring Washington and Beijing closer together.

Meanwhile, the GOP took no time at all before voicing knee-jerk partisan reactions to the climate change agreement:

John Boehner said he will make it a priority to fight increased environmental regulations and calls them "harmful policies," and Mitch McConnell has already decided the international climate deal is "unrealistic." And let's not forget Senator Inhofe (one of the staunchest climate science deniers), whom Republicans will likely appoint to chair the Environment and Public Works Committee, is already calling the deal a "charade" and one that he will do everything in his power to fight against.

The Republican party has been clear about where they stand – they do not believe in manmade climate change despite the fact that [97% of climate scientists disagree with them](#). And even in the face of an historic international agreement that would make our planet cleaner, safer, and more prosperous, they are digging in their heels, ignoring the experts, and failing to do what's best for the people that elected them.

View the full Factivist post [here](#).

No Honeymoon for GOP Governors

Republican Governors had a big night last Tuesday, but the election didn't change the fact the Republican Governors are failing to deliver for their states. Just take a look at the issues facing them this week:

Under Walker, Wisconsin slides toward the distinction of being a low-wage state

"A recent study by Marc Levine at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development found that much of the state's job growth has been in jobs paying \$12.50 an hour or less... The study shows that several occupations that were considered middle-wage jobs in 2010 have now fallen into the low-wage category. Wages for the much-touted skilled labor jobs are going down. And evidence would suggest that the skills gap doesn't even exist...Levine's recent study released in October doesn't give us much hope that Wisconsin's transformation into a low-wage economy is going to change anytime soon." – [Editorial // LaCrosse Tribune](#)



In Indiana, Hoosiers overwhelming support pre-k as Pence refuses \$80 million to expand it

"New findings in the WISH-TV/Ball State Hoosier Survey show that state funding for pre-Kindergarten is a popular idea... 82 percent say it should be available to all children in Indiana. Just 15 percent are opposed. '90 percent of Democrats favor this,' said Ball State professor Joe Losco, 'but also 70 percent of Republicans favor it.' And the governor recently said no to an application for an \$80 million federal grant for pre-K funding. 'That obviously created a large media coverage,' said Ball State professor Ray Scheele, 'and a lot of people are disagreeing with the governor's decision on that.'" – [WISH TV](#)

New Jersey suffers as Christie ignores a host of issues plaguing the state

"New Jersey has been on Christie's backburner for months now. Throughout much of 2014, we've heard next to nothing from him on a host of issues plaguing the state, such as transportation funding, lackluster job growth and the decline and fall of Atlantic City.... It is a real danger moving forward that Christie will continue to govern with more of an eye toward campaign tactics than the good of New Jersey." – [Editorial // Asbury Park Press](#)

Kansas is facing a \$1 billion shortfall thanks to Brownback's agenda

"Kansas will collect \$1 billion less in revenue in 2015 and 2016 than its projected expenses following massive income tax cuts signed into law by Republican Gov. Sam Brownback... Both Moody's Investors Services and Standard & Poor's cut the state's bond rating, alerting investors that the state was positioned to eat away critical reserve funds partly because of the income tax cuts. Without additional budget cuts, the state would be holding no money in reserve under the budget scenarios laid out Monday." – [Kansas City Star](#)

In Louisiana, Jindal is under fire for mismanagement as the state faces a mid-year shortfall

"Governor Bobby Jindal is coming under fire these days for his management of state worker benefit programs and for deficit spending...'State Treasurer John Kennedy says the state's deficit was more than \$100 million last fiscal year. Jindal at first denied that, saying the state actually was more than \$200 million ahead. Later, the Jindal administration admitted to the deficit. Now we hear the state faces millions more in mid-year budget cuts by next summer.'" – [Clancy DuBos // WWL TV](#)

Republican Party leaders continue to tout their governors as models for the way their party should operate, and insist that their governors would be the GOP's strongest candidates for a 2016 presidential run...but their records tell a different story.

Republicans Can't be Trusted on Immigration Reform

After the 2012 Presidential Election, Republicans released an autopsy report where they pledged to change their ways by embracing and championing comprehensive immigration reform. The problem isn't what they promised – the problem is that they were lying and cannot be trusted on immigration reform. For over a year they tried to muddy the waters as they refused to vote on a bill that contained huge amounts of money for border security in order to try to fool Latinos.

- It would have doubled the number of agents on the border to 40,000
- Provided an extra \$38 billion dollars to increase border security.

Then the moment they get re-elected this is what we get, Republicans again moving the goal post and trying to minimize the importance of immigration reform for the Latino community.

In an interview with [Breitbart](#), **Reince Priebus** said:

"I just want to make sure that he doesn't use executive amnesty – which I believe is an illegal, false choice – in order to push some other type of amnesty that I don't believe is appropriate either..."

"My point would be on this executive amnesty, that number one we ought to stop it at all costs and not allow the president to do it at all costs, either legislatively or through the courts, but secondly, we not allow the president to use executive amnesty to bring us to the negotiation table, because I think it's inappropriate, and it's wrong, and it's illegal."

Also in an interview with [Breitbart](#), **Bobby Jindal** said:

"This would be an absurd travesty of our laws. Look, it's not complicated. Secure the border. We don't need this thousand-page bill. We don't need this comprehensive bill from the Senate. Just secure the border, and let's make the President actually obey the Constitution and obey the law."

View the full Factivist post [here](#).

DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on the Swearing in of Alma Adams

In advance of the swearing in of Alma Adams, the 100th woman to serve as a voting member of the current Congress, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"When Alma Adams is sworn in as a member of the House of Representatives today, she will become the 100th woman to serve as a voting member of the current Congress. A century ago, women were still fighting to be guaranteed the right to vote; today is a historic milestone in the progress we have made. As a woman, a mother, and a member of Congress, I am encouraged to see more women making their voices heard and taking their seat at the table.

"However, it is also a sobering reminder of how far we have yet to go. Women comprise more than fifty percent of our nation's population, but less than twenty percent of our elected officials in Congress. I am proud that the Democratic Party has made engaging more women in the political process a top priority, through programs like the Women's Leadership Forum and the Democratic Women's Alliance, but equal representation will require our continued focus and efforts. As a party, we will continue to press for that progress."

In the States

- This week, the Florida Democratic Party announced the creation of the LEAD (Leadership Expansion to Advance Democrats) Task Force, which will work to retool and strengthen the Party's brand, bolster candidate recruitment efforts, and improve field and outreach performance heading into the pivotal 2016 presidential election. Chaired by Senator Bill Nelson and Former Orlando Police Chief Val Demings, The LEAD Task Force will analyze the 2014 election results and deliver recommendations on steps Florida Democrats must take to compete in the 2016 presidential election and the 2018 gubernatorial race. The Task Force will host a series of in person and conference call meetings to discuss the 2014 election results, and will deliver its recommendations at the 2015 Leadership Blue weekend. Read about the Task Force [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the South Carolina Democratic Party issued a statement following the United States District Court decision to strike down the state's ban on same-sex marriage. "Forty-seven years ago in the landmark case, Loving v. Virginia, the Supreme Court held that states could not prohibit interracial marriages. Today, we take another step closer to true equality and living up to the words of the founding fathers that 'all men and women are created equal,'" said South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jamie Harrison. "We have a long history of fighting for civil rights in South Carolina, and with the legal precedent set and the state marriage ban now overturned we must continue to support the values of freedom and equality for all our families." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Monday, the Virginia Democratic Party released a statement addressing Republican threats to once again hold the state's budget hostage. Despite widespread bipartisan support for critical transportation funding, right-wing House Republicans are trying to sink the transportation budget deal -- and Speaker Howell is kowtowing to their demands. "It's frightening that Speaker Howell can't control the right wing extremists in his own party," said Morgan Finkelstein, press secretary for the Democratic Party of Virginia. "This latest outburst by the Tea Party faction threatens vital transportation funding that's already been agreed upon. It's just yet another example of Republican dysfunction standing in the way of moving the Commonwealth forward." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Tuesday, Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley released a statement applauding the major U.S.-China climate change agreement reached at the APEC summit this week. The agreement brokered by President Obama will result in significant reductions in carbon production by the two nations. "The economic security of American middle class families depends on tackling climate change, which is why today's announcement that the two largest economies in the world are committing together to cutting carbon pollution is so important," said Senator Merkley. "Climate change is a global problem, and it requires a global solution. We can't bury our heads in the tar sands any longer. Catastrophic climate change is already harming our economy, particularly industries such as our farming, fishing and forestry in Oregon. It's time for action, and this is an important step forward." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Democratic Party of Texas released a statement this week honoring Veterans Day to thank the men and women who protect our freedom. "Generation after generation, Americans have answered the call to serve our nation," said Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa. "On Veterans Day, we thank them. Beyond thanks, today we recommit ourselves to ensuring that Texas honors those who protect us. During the upcoming Texas State Legislative Session, we must expand educational and job opportunities for our veterans and their families, cover the Medicaid gap to ensure veterans and their families receive the care they have earned, fully fund veteran's mental health programs, and assist in the much needed reform of the VA. Our veterans risk their lives to defend us, we must honor their service." Read the full statement [here](#).