



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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President Obama Uses Executive Action on Immigration

Last night, President Obama announced the executive actions he is taking to address the nation's broken immigration system. Following years of inaction and obstructionist policies by Republicans in Congress, the President is acting to fix what he can for the failed system and the more than 5 million undocumented immigrants currently in the country.

The President also announced steps to deal responsibly with the millions of undocumented immigrants who are already living in the United States. Immigrants who have been in America for more than five years, have children who are United States citizens, pass a series of tests and are willing to pay their fair share of taxes will be able to apply for temporary relief from the threat of deportation. The President will also make it easier and faster for high-skilled immigrants, graduates, and entrepreneurs to stay and contribute to our economy.



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

"All of us take offense to anyone who reaps the rewards of living in America without taking on the responsibilities of living in America. And undocumented immigrants who desperately want to embrace those responsibilities see little option but to remain in the shadows, or risk their families being torn apart," the President said. "If you meet the criteria, you can come out of the shadows and get right with the law."

Despite these changes, the best and most definitive way to fix the system is to pass comprehensive and common-sense immigration reform in Congress. Republicans in the House continue to block a bipartisan bill that would help secure the border and provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. While the President's executive action begins to fix the failed immigration system, permanent comprehensive reform requires an act from Congress.

"To those Members of Congress who question my authority to make our immigration system work better, or question the wisdom of me acting where Congress has failed, I have one answer: Pass a bill," the President said.

At the heart of the President's actions is a commitment to American values. Built by a nation of immigrants, America has always been a home for millions in search of a better life for themselves and their children, and the actions taken by President Obama reflect those values and commitments.

"We were strangers once, too. And whether our forebears were strangers who crossed the Atlantic, or the Pacific, or the Rio Grande, we are here only because this country welcomed them in," President Obama said. "What makes us Americans is our shared commitment to an ideal – that all of us are created equal, and all of us have the chance to make of our lives what we will."

A day after President Obama announced his efforts to help begin to fix our country's broken immigration system, the country woke up to some pretty uplifting front pages – in English and Spanish, and from all across the country. View a few of our favorites on our Factivist site [here](#).

[2016ers on EO: Let's Break the Gov't](#)

Before the President even announced his executive actions, the field of potential Republican 2016 presidential candidates responded.

Did this group of GOP leaders with aspirations of higher office offer serious and measured reactions?

Not exactly.

Instead, we saw knee jerk partisan reactions – **threats of another government shutdown, renewed threats to sue the President using taxpayer dollars (again) and a variety of suggestions for ways to further gridlock our government and prevent progress of any kind.**

Rand Paul said, “we should take him to court”

Ted Cruz suggested that Congress block all judicial and executive nominees in the 114th Congress.

Mike Pence hinted at another government shutdown saying Republicans should use the power of the purse and falsely claiming Americans didn't support reform.

Scott Walker called it a “power grab” and suggested “Republicans in Congress should take him to court”

Rick Perry said that Texas should sue the President.

Paul Ryan referred to the still unannounced action as a “partisan bomb”

John Kasich said it was a “mistake” that “poisons the well”

Bobby Jindal called on Republicans to do “whatever it takes” and suggested the President should be sued.

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

[ICYMI: College Dems Respond to Ted Cruz trying to #BreakTheInternet](#)

For a generation shaped by the internet, net neutrality is a vital protection that ensures everyone has a fair shot to get ahead. For those of us who don't want to pay more to use services like Netflix, or don't want big corporations to have an unfair advantage over new startups, we need net neutrality to make sure the internet remains a level playing field.

That's why it's bizarre that Ted Cruz and the GOP have jumped so quickly against it. Carlos Martinez, the President of the Texas College Democrats, expanded upon this in Today's Austin American-Statesman. [Click here](#) to read the full op-ed on their website.

[Martinez: Cruz, GOP are on the wrong side of net neutrality](#)

By Carlos Martinez – President of Texas College Democrats

“It should be disappointing, though not particularly surprising, that Ted Cruz and the Republican Party have come out against it. They've claimed they don't want Internet to work at the speed of government – which this wouldn't do – when really what they are advocating is for the internet to work at the mercy of your cable company. No thanks.”

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

Better at what exactly, Governor Christie?

Today, as Republican governors descended upon Boca Raton for an RGA meeting, Chris Christie had a simple message:

"We're better at it."

That was his answer when asked why he thinks the next president would be a Republican governor. It was chock full of Christie's customary bluster and bravado, but **it's stunningly divorced from the reality of failed Republican governance in state after state after state.**

Just take a look at some of the recent messes that GOP governors have made in their states:

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](#)

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

Rand Paul — Champion of Minority Rights...who Criticizes Civil Rights Programs

Rand Paul – the GOP's self-proclaimed tent-growing champion of outreach to communities of color – is at it again. This morning, [Salon reports](#) that Paul has once again declared, **"I don't think there has been anybody who has been a bigger defender of minority rights in the Congress than myself."**

Not only is he repeating this line that, on its face, is laughable (remember, he serves with the legendary *John Lewis*, among others) – and not only does Paul have a long history of being on the wrong side of issues important to the black community (see [objecting to the Civil Rights Act](#), [suggesting we no longer need a Voting Rights Act](#) and [supporting restrictive voter ID laws](#), to name a few) – but just last week Rand Paul was again taking to a microphone [to criticize a key program to reduce discrimination](#) in America.

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

In the States

- On Monday, Florida Democratic Party Chair Allison Tant released statements congratulating Arthenia Joyner and Mark Pafford for their election as the state's Senate and House Democratic Leaders. "Throughout her distinguished career, Arthenia has led the fight for civil rights, for working men and women, and for expanding opportunity in the Sunshine State," said Tant. "I am confident that under Mark's leadership the House Democratic Caucus will stand up for Florida's middle class. The people of Florida can count on House Democrats to stand strong for the values we all share – growing the middle class, strengthening our schools, and expanding opportunity for every Floridian." Read the statements [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Texas Democratic Party released a statement following President Obama's immigration announcement. Applauding the move, State Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said, "Through the President's Executive Actions, many undocumented people – Texans by any real definition, except on paper – will be able to come out of the shadows." "For decades, our broken immigration system has torn Texas families apart and tied the hands of our businesses. Granting relief to millions of immigrants strengthens our future and respects our commitment, as a nation, to our rich and diverse history." The statement, which opens with a condemnation of the divisive rhetoric of Texas Republicans Ted Cruz and Rick Perry, concludes with a call to Congress to pass permanent comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Virginia Democratic Party released a statement on Wednesday highlighting a recent Washington Post editorial on the Virginia Republicans' Tea Party Problem. Introducing the article, the statement read as follows: "Despite Spear Howell's self-proclaimed 'real legacy' of blocking Medicaid expansion for hundreds of thousands of Virginians and general opposition to anything resembling progress in the Commonwealth, it looks like right-wingers still aren't satisfied with his conservative credential." Read the full statement and editorial [here](#).
- This week, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin released a statement after statistics put out by Governor Scott Walker's Administration projected massive budget deficits going into the new biennium. State Party Chair Mike Tate described it as, "More bad news for Wisconsin taxpayers in the wake of Scott Walker's re-election – first a nearly \$1 billion tax hike and now reports of a staggering \$2.2 billion budget deficit." The statement goes on to detail the Republican Governor's poor economic record and the highlight the stark contrast between Wisconsin and the brighter picture economic picture in other states. "The buck absolutely has to stop with Scott Walker. His top-down approach has failed miserably and there is no, absolutely no one, to blame but him for this deficit. As Scott Walker campaigns for president talking about the deficit he inherited, honesty dictates it must be this one that he created." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Nevada State Democratic Party released a statement this week following Senator Harry Reid's re-election as Senate Democratic Leader. "On behalf of Nevada Democrats, I want to congratulate our very own Senator Harry Reid on winning re-election as Democratic Leader so he can continue to use his leadership position to deliver for Nevada families," State Party Chair Roberta Lange said. Highlighting some of his achievements she said, "From killing Yucca Mountain, to fostering a clean energy economy, to securing hundreds of millions of dollars in economic development and transportation funding, to protecting Lake Tahoe and our great outdoors, to bringing a new veterans hospital to Nevada, Nevadans could not have a stronger advocate for them in the Senate." "Senator Reid wakes up every day fighting for our veterans, seniors, and middle class families and Nevada is fortunate to have him continue to be able to deliver results for the next two years as Democratic Leader." Read the full statement [here](#).