



# WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

December 5, 2014

## DNC Chair Rep. Wasserman Schultz's Statement on the November Jobs Report

After the release of the November jobs report, which showed that 321,000 jobs were added last month, the highest single month of job creation in nearly three years, and the unemployment rate held at 5.8 percent – a six year low, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"This is what progress looks like. Our economy has added nearly 11 million private-sector jobs over 57 months of straight job growth. That's the longest streak on record and it didn't happen by accident. We've added 2.65 million jobs in the past 11 months alone, putting 2014 on pace to be the strongest year for job growth since 1999. It happened because of the hard work and determination of the American people and the President's policies over the last six years that have gotten our economy moving again.

"As a nation, we still have a lot of work to do. While Democrats continue to fight for common sense proposals that would help grow our economy over the long-term like fixing our broken immigration system, investing in infrastructure and raising the minimum wage; Republicans continue to fight progress every step along the way. Instead of using their influence to obstruct growth, sue the President and continually raise the specter of shutting down the government, Republicans should join with Democrats to help ensure that every working American has the ability to support his or her family."

THIS IS WHAT **PROGRESS** LOOKS LIKE:

THE US ECONOMY ADDED

**321,000**

**JOBS IN NOVEMBER**

(THAT'S THE MOST IN ALMOST 3 YEARS!)

**Watch the President's statement on the November jobs report here:**



### **President Responds to the Non-Indictment Decision in the Case of Eric Garner**

While speaking at the White House Tribal Nations Conference Thursday evening, President Obama delivered a statement on the recent Grand Jury decision to not indict police officers involved in the tragic death of New York resident Eric Garner.

"This speaks to the larger issues that we've been speaking to for the last week, the last month, the last year, and unfortunately for decades," said the President, "and that is the concern on the part of too many minority communities that law enforcement is not working with them and dealing with them in a fair way."

To address the issues surrounding the decision, as well as recent tensions in Ferguson, Missouri, President Obama announced the creation of a task force to make specific recommendations about ways to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and minority communities. By taking steps to improve training and working with state and local governments, bonds can be rebuilt between law enforcement and the communities they police to ensure that impartiality and accountability are preserved in America's legal system.

"I'm interested in action," the President stated. "And I am absolutely committed as President of the United States to making sure that we have a country in which everybody believes in the core principle that we are all equal under the law." President Obama pledged to use his authority to work both with federal authorities as well as state and local governments to find a solution to the tensions around the country. "This is an American problem. When anybody in this country is not being treated equally under the law, that's a problem. And it's my job as President to help solve it."

Read the full statements by President Obama and Attorney General Holder [here](#).

### **DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz Announces Democratic Victory Task Force Members**

This week, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced that she has appointed the members of the DNC's Democratic Victory Task Force, an initiative that Wasserman Schultz announced in the days after the 2014 Midterm Election. The appointed members of the Democratic Victory Task Force are Naomi Aberly, Governor Steve Beshear (KY), Donna Brazile, Maria Cardona, Marc Elias, Teddy Goff, Maneesh Goyal, Colorado Democratic Party Chair Rick Palacio, Lee Saunders and Eric Schmidt.

The Democratic Victory Task Force will conduct a thorough review and assessment of key components of the Democratic Party's – and related organizations - role in recent elections and identify places where the Party can strengthen and improve operations to better serve candidates and constituents in future elections. It will cast a wide net that will examine a range of issues that ultimately will produce recommendations on steps both the national and state parties must take to improve their performance including, but not limited to, future midterm elections.

"We are proud to announce the members of the Democratic Victory Task Force, and are eager to work with them to build on what we've done that works, identify and prioritize challenges and ultimately improve our party's performance in future elections," said Wasserman Schultz. "This diverse group of Democratic Party officials, strategists and advocates will each bring with them expertise from their fields to collaborate on a holistic review of the Party's past performance and present actionable areas for improvement moving forward."

Task Force members will solicit input from a wide array of stake holders - from activists to outside experts to Party Leadership that will guide the assessment and its findings.

Preliminary findings of the Democratic Victory Task Force will be presented at the DNC's Winter Meeting in February 2015. The task force will produce final recommendations by mid-2015.

Donna Brazile, a DNC Vice Chair and Task Force Member said, "We all have a lot to learn from what we've done in the past - both successes and shortcomings. As a member of the Task Force and a Democrat I applaud Chair Wasserman Schultz and the DNC for launching this initiative. Our goal is to help strengthen the Party as a whole and provide a blueprint for State Parties, candidates, activists, supporters and other decision makers as we move forward. We're excited to get to work."

Read the full statement and bios [here](#).

### [The GOP's Latest Show Hearing](#)

More than 100 immigration scholars and professors [penned a letter](#) last week expressing their unanimous conclusion that President Obama's recent action on immigration was **both constitutional and within his administrative powers**. That is in addition to the Supreme Court's previous ruling that the Executive Branch has **"broad discretion" in setting deportation policy**.

Legal experts have spoken.

And yet how will the Republican House be spending their time this week? Conducting a hearing on ["President Obama's Executive Overreach on Immigration"](#)

Let's be clear, this is not a hearing to discuss solutions to our nation's broken immigration system or a meeting where alternative proposals will be floated. House Republicans are holding a hearing just to continue to push their debunked claims of presidential overreach.

**If the GOP was really concerned about executive actions there is something very simple they could do right away to replace those actions — skip the hearing and spend that time voting to pass the bipartisan immigration bill that is sitting on Speaker Boehner's desk.**

### [President Obama's Proclamation on World AIDs Day](#)



*"On this day, let us rededicate ourselves to continuing our work until we reach the day we know is possible -- when no child has to know the pain of HIV/AIDS and no life is limited by this virus."*

View the President's message on World AIDs Day [here](#).

## In the States

- On Monday, the Democratic Party of Oregon released a statement following the release of Governor Kitzhaber's balanced budget for 2015-2017. The budget, which focuses on investing in children and families, creating good jobs, and building statewide prosperity, fulfills the Administration's commitment to provide free full-day kindergarten for every Oregon child. "By the 2021-23 biennium, Oregon will have attained— for the first time — a budget surplus. This allows us to use strategic investments to align state resources with the goal that by 2025 every Oregon student has a diploma and the skills they need to find a rewarding job, ensuring that prosperity reaches every corner of the state" the Governor said. Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party released a statement on the crisis occurred in the state's Republican Party. "I hope that Representative Shawn Jasper will not forget that he needed Democratic support to become Speaker, and that he will work with Governor Hassan to solve problems and move New Hampshire's economy forward" said State Party Chair Ray Buckley. "While the first day of the House Republicans' new majority resulted in total chaos, it is now time to build on the bipartisan spirit that prevented another O'Brien speakership and work across party lines to get results for New Hampshire's people, businesses, and economy." Read the full statement [here](#).
- Texas Democratic Party Executive Director, Will Hailer released a statement on Wednesday following Attorney General Greg Abbott's filing of his 31<sup>st</sup> law suit against President Obama. In response to Abbott's claim that the "president overstepped his power by attempting to rewrite immigration laws," Hailer said, "it didn't take long for Greg Abbott to get back to his old tricks. As Abbott prepares to transition out of the Attorney General's office, he will leave behind a shameful legacy. Abbott has spent more time attacking the President than protecting Texas families... My hope for the future Governor of Texas is that he stops these irresponsible attacks on the President and redirects his energy to building a better future for all Texans." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party put out a statement about the state's billion dollar surplus on Thursday. Congratulating the Administration and Party leaders, DFL Chair Ken Martin said, "Thanks to Gov. Mark Dayton and DFL leaders' commitment to improving the economy, creating jobs and investing in education, it's no surprise that Minnesota has more than a \$1 billion budget surplus. I applaud Gov. Dayton and DFL legislators for getting results for the citizens of Minnesota." He goes on to highlight the change in the state's fortunes under Democratic leadership. "With the lowest unemployment rate in eight years and ranked as one of the top 10 'States for Business 2014' by Forbes Magazine, Minnesota is recovering from years of Republicans' shifts, slashes and shutdown and is now on the right track for success." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, Louisiana Democrats released a statement after Dr. Gilda Werner Reed, a faculty member at the University of New Orleans, filed an ethics complaint against Republican Congressman Bill Cassidy. The statement details the complaint which asks the Office of Congressional Ethics to investigate whether he violated House rules and federal law by "filing inaccurate personal financial disclosures and misreporting the nature of his outside earned income." "These recent reports have shown that not only did Congressman Cassidy charge taxpayers more than \$100,000 for work he did not do, he may have also lied to the U.S. House of Representatives to cover up a legal and ethical breach," Dr. Reed said. Read the full statement [here](#).