



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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President Obama Speaks at the Early Education Summit

On Wednesday, President Obama convened the White House Summit on Early Education to bring together policymakers, school superintendents, and both corporate and community leaders to discuss the importance of high-quality early childhood education.

At the summit, the President said, "What makes America exceptional isn't just the size of our economy or our influence around the globe. [It's] the promise we make to our children; the idea that no matter who they are, what they look like, where they start, how much their parents earn, they can make it if they try. It's the essential promise of America -- that where you start should not and will not determine how far you can go."



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

In this year's State of the Union address, the President promised to "pull together a coalition of elected officials, business leaders, and philanthropists willing to help more kids access the high quality pre-K they need." Fulfilling that promise, the President has formed the new "Invest in Us" campaign and announced large new investments in the pre-K education system.

President Obama stated "I am pleased to announce that my administration will award \$750 million of new investment in our youngest Americans...In addition to what we're going to be doing at the federal level, organizations here today are making more than \$330 million in new commitments."

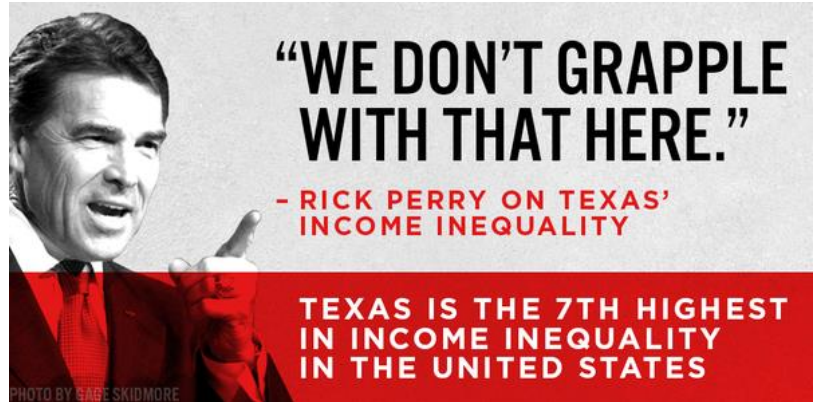
The "Invest in Us" campaign is the brainchild of the nonprofit organization, Five Years Fund, and will be run in partnership with many of the philanthropic leaders that attended the event. Detailing his Administration's investment, the President said that "Secretary Duncan is awarding \$250 million in new Preschool Development Grant to 18 states...and, Secretary Burwell is announcing the winners of a \$500 million competition that will bring early care and education to more than 30,000 infants and toddlers next year."

President Obama's speech also touched on the core values upon which commitment to pre-K investment is based upon: "Study after study shows that children who get a high-quality early education earn more over their lifetimes than peers who don't. They're more likely to finish school. They're less likely to go to prison. They're more likely to hold a job. They're more likely to start a stable family of their own -- which means that you have a generational transmission of the early starts that kids can get. Early education is one of the best investments we can make not just in a child's future, but in our country. It's one of the best investments we can make."

"We don't grapple with that here"

As Rick Perry readies his 2016 presidential campaign, he is hell-bent on convincing Americans that he is a new-and-improved candidate this time around – and rewriting Texas's history under his tenure.

In a [Washington Post story](#) out earlier this week, Perry did acknowledge that the richest residents of the Lone Star State have experienced the largest earnings growth, but denied that income inequality is an issue for millions of people living there. As the Post reports:



Last week, Perry studied income inequality and economic mobility with experts Scott Winship, Erin Currier and Aparna Mathur. In the Post interview, he was asked about the growing gap between rich and poor in Texas, which has had strong job growth over the past decade but also has lagged in services for the underprivileged... Perry acknowledged that the richest Texans have experienced the greatest amount of earnings growth, but dismissed the notion that income inequality is a problem in the state, saying, "We don't grapple with that here."

Really?

The facts paint a different picture. Under Perry, Texas has seen a [significant rise in income inequality](#):

- The top one percent in Texas [earned 26.3 times more](#) than the bottom 99 percent
- A study found that Texas [ranks seventh-worst in the country](#) in the gap between rich and poor
- Four of Texas's major metro areas – San Antonio, Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth and Austin – are in the top 10 [nationwide for large metro areas most segregated by income](#).

The reality is Rick Perry has created a different Texas for different people. The system works for those with the most, and is paid for by those with the least while everyone in the middle gets the squeeze.

Rand Paul Threatens Gov't Shutdown Over President's Executive Action on Immigration

In 2013, Rand Paul joined Ted Cruz and congressional Republicans to shut down the government over a failed plan to "defund" the Affordable Care Act. One year later, the GOP can't even think of a different brand name for their shutdown push. Today on Laura Ingraham's radio show, Rand Paul pledged to vote against any bill to keep the government open that did not include specific language to [defund](#) President Obama's executive action to help fix our broken immigration system.

Sound familiar?

It should. But this time, Paul — the GOP's self-proclaimed outreach guru — is promising that he would rather shut down the government than ensure that immigrant families can stay together in America. In simpler terms: he's promising to shut down the government unless our broken immigration system remains dysfunctional.

Read the rest of the Factivist post and a statement from the DNC's Director of Hispanic Media Pili Tobar on Paul's comments on Laura Ingraham's show [here](#).

[Jeb Bush confirms what we already knew](#)

Throughout his career, Jeb Bush has always done what benefits himself and people like him.

This week's extensive [Bloomberg report](#) on Jeb Bush's desire to cash in with a career as a "budding private equity mogul" is just another example of Bush doing what's in his best interest at the expense of everyone else.

According to [Bloomberg](#):

- **Bush created multi-million dollar funds in tax havens:** *"In November the fund incorporated in the United Kingdom and Wales—a structure, several independent finance lawyers say, that operates like a tax haven by allowing overseas investors to avoid U.S. taxes and regulations."*
- **Bush is leveraging his family name to reap profits for himself...in places like China:** *"For Jeb Bush, the family name has been a more propitious credential in China... In turn, Bush and his partners get a chance to profit from China's insatiable appetite for energy."*
- **Bush has a long track record of problematic business practices and associations.**

Read Bloomberg's full report on Bush's private equity experience [here](#).

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

[They're Still Not Scientists](#)

This week, [the Florida Times-Union](#) reported that "About 75 square miles of Northeast Florida real estate could be inundated by rising seas within 25 years."

Meanwhile, Republican Governor Rick Scott claimed "I'm not a scientist," when asked about man-made climate change on the campaign trail.

And he's not alone.

In a [Fox Business interview](#), Jeb Bush stated:

"It is not unanimous among scientists that it is disproportionately manmade. What I get a little tired of on the left is this idea that somehow science has decided all this so you can't have a view."

On [ABC's This Week](#), Marco Rubio stated:

"I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it."

While [97% of climate scientists agree](#) that global warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities, these climate science deniers still refuse to do what's best for the people of Florida by ignoring scientific facts and rejecting efforts to mitigate climate change.

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

While you were watching the CRomnibus this week...Chris Christie's problems were piling up

A new poll finds him in deep trouble...

A Quinnipiac poll finds, as this aptly titled Washington Post story reports, that "New Jersey doesn't think Chris Christie has handled things very well as governor." His approval rating "continues to hover around its lowest point in the state in three years," and Christie remains deeply underwater on key issues:

- 41 – 51 percent for handling the economy and jobs;
- 42 – 48 percent for handling the state budget;
- 39 – 50 percent for handling education.

And his "pension mess" is getting worse...

The Wall Street Journal reports this morning that the Republican that Christie himself hired to fix New Jersey's \$90 billion underfunded pension system blamed Christie for exacerbating the state's fiscal problems, saying his decision to forego payments into the pension system was "one reason it's getting worse." Even a Wall Street Journal editorial writer (usually not the most hostile to prospective GOP presidential candidates like Christie) quickly penned a blog post assailing "Chris Christie's Pension Mess," posing the harsh question, "The pension reforms were at one time Mr. Christie's crowning achievement and the reason many Republicans encouraged him to challenge President Obama in 2012. On what now will he hang his White House campaign?" Maybe dysfunctional, bullying government and a disastrous economic record?

Making it easy to believe that New Jersey is one of the "worst run states in nation"...

NJ.com reports that a Wall Street industry website rated Christie's New Jersey "the eighth-worst run state in the country" and the worst in the region. The report pointed to the multiple state credit downgrades under Christie and the tenth-highest unemployment rate in the nation.

And that New Jersey businesses are souring on Chris Christie...

According to a survey by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, "New Jersey employers' approval [of Christie] dropped by 18 percentage points in a year," citing a worsened outlook for the state's economy under Christie.

So as Chris Christie prepares for a 2016 presidential campaign, his economic and fiscal record in New Jersey continue to drag him down. And while these problems are mounting, his administration remains under federal and state investigation, and questions persist on whether he told the truth about Bridgegate. Looks like solid footing for Chris Christie as he heads into 2015...

In the States

- On Tuesday, the Florida Democratic Party released a statement following a front page article in the Florida Times Union detailing the danger posed by rising sea-levels to communities in the north-east of the state. In response to the article's revelation that "about 75 square miles of Northeast Florida real estate could be inundated by rising seas within 25 years" the statement calls attention the lack of action by the Republican Governor. "Rick still refuses to tell Floridians whether he believes climate change is real, and how he plans to combat this crisis." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Colorado Democratic Party on behalf of State Party Chair Rick Palacio's appointment to the Democratic National Committee's Victory Task Force. "I'm honored to be chosen and will passionately work to see how the party's role in key areas such as infrastructure, messaging and paid media worked and didn't in 2014," he said. "The Colorado Democratic Party has already reached out to Democrats around the state to gather key perspectives on how our elections were run. There's no better way to sure up the process than engaging with our grassroots Democrats." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Texas Democratic Party released a statement following a city-wide equal rights ordinance passed by the Plano City Council. The Dallas Morning News is quoted to have said, "The amendment to the city's 1989 anti-discrimination policy extends protections from housing, employment and public accommodation discrimination to include sexual orientation, gender identity and other categories." In response, State Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said, "I am so proud of the Plano City Council for affirming that all Texans deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. I am encouraged by the significance of this vote and the implications for the future of Texas." "Texas Democrats believe in a brighter future for all Texans no matter the color of their skin, their gender identity, or who they love. We will continue fighting for equality for all." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Friday, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin releases a statement in opposition to Governor Scott Walker's proposed \$750 million tax hike. Quoting the Wisconsin Economic Scorecard, it highlights the revelation that more than three-fifths or 61 percent oppose the move. "Not only is Scott Walker trying to pass one of the biggest tax increases -- \$750 million -- in Wisconsin history, he wants to pile on by allowing local governments to raise taxes and fees on the very same services," said State Party Chair Mike Tate. "More than 61 percent of Wisconsinites oppose this tax hike that puts the burden of fixing Scott Walker's budget mess on middle-class families, and my guess is that number only continues to grow. Because it looks like there's no end in sight for Walker's tax-and-spend spree." Read the full statement [here](#).
- Iowa Democratic Party Chair Scott Brennan released a statement following the announcement of Governor Chris Christie's planned trip to the state. "One would hope that Republicans would be running in the other direction from Steve King's stamp of approval, considering his tone about our nation's immigrants is full of hostility and resentment. Instead Chris Christie is fawning over Steve King and his dark money allies — which shouldn't be surprising, considering the two embrace a bully-like style of governing that is taking hold of the Republican Party. At the start of the presidential nominating season, it's becoming clear that there is no daylight between Chris Christie and Steve King." Read the full statement [here](#).