



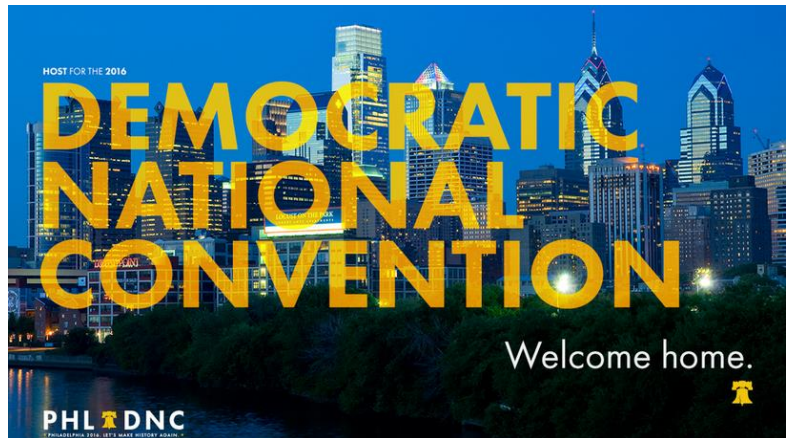
WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

February 13, 2015

[DNC Chair Announces Philadelphia to Host the 2016 Democratic National Convention](#)

DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced Philadelphia will host the 2016 Democratic National Convention the week of July 25, 2016. The DNC signed the final contract with Philadelphia this morning. "I am thrilled to announce that Philadelphia will host the convention where we will nominate the 45th President of the United States," Wasserman Schultz said. "In addition to their commitment to a seamless and safe convention, Philadelphia's deep rooted place in American history provides a perfect setting for this special gathering. I cannot wait to join Democrats across the country to celebrate our shared values, lay out a Democratic vision for the future, and support our nominee."



The DNC's Technical Advisory Group evaluated cities across the country, looking at factors such as hotel capacity, transportation, security, financing and logistics.

"The City of Philadelphia is excited and honored to be selected as the host city for the 2016 Democratic National Convention," Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter said. "We believe that it was our proven track record of hosting big events safely and efficiently with a dynamic team of top-tier professionals to organize and manage a conference of this magnitude, paired with our City's tremendous amenities, its accessible location and historical significance, which made Philadelphia the ideal choice for the 2016 DNC. I want to thank our great team at PHL DNC 2016, Governor Rendell and Governor Wolf, Senator Casey, Congressman Brady, Congressman Fattah, and former Congresswoman Schwartz. I especially want to acknowledge our great partners in the Labor unions, business and political communities, clergy and our citizens, who are eager to see Philadelphia on the national stage as the host city. We're all delighted to make history again, here in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection."

Additional details on the convention structure, host committee, and staff, will be made available in the coming weeks.



Watch the Democrats' new video [here](#).

[On foreign trip, Scott Walker doesn't want to talk about much](#)

As part of his week-long UK visit, Scott Walker held a Q&A session this week at the Chatham House. The only problem was the session was more question than it was answer. When Walker wasn't dodging question after question, he was trying to explain his budget's devastating cuts to the University of Wisconsin, and his administration's decision to remove key language from the Wisconsin Idea.

Don't just take our word for it, follow along as Walker dodges questions five separate times:

Take one:

[Walker dodges economic question in London](#)

Take two:

[Walker refused to lay out any idea of what a Scott Walker foreign policy would look like](#)

Take three:

[Walker tells Apollo 13 story to dodge question about who he gets advice from on foreign policy in London](#)

Take four:

[Walker admits not wanting to discuss foreign policy while in London](#)

Take five:

[Walker on evolution: "I'm going to punt on that one as well."](#)

Let's look back at how other 2016 GOP hopefuls have done abroad so far.

Much of Chris Christie's turbulent UK trip was spent [ducking questions](#) from reporters. When the Governor wasn't avoiding questions from reporters, he was [giving a wink and a nod to the anti-vaxxer movement](#) and basking in [the luxuries of another trip abroad](#). At the same time, New Jersey's economy sits in terrible shape. Sky high property taxes, lagging job growth, and high foreclosure rates are just a few of the many economic problems Christie chose to leave behind during his trip.

Bobby Jindal had a particularly [confusing trip abroad](#). The Governor chose to travel thousands of miles away from Louisiana to deliver a political speech attacking US diplomacy. Meanwhile, like New Jersey, Jindal's Louisiana is in a dire economic situation. Jindal's massive cuts to education, budget mismanagement, and frequent attempts to put his partisan ideals over what's best for Louisiana has done nothing but show his economic incompetence.

These unimpressive governors can travel across the ocean in hopes of changing the conversation, but no matter where they are the truth remains the same – they've led their states to economic crisis and left their constituents behind as they turn their attention towards presidential runs.

[Can't make it up — Rand Paul's HELP Committee holds hearing on 'Reemergence of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases'](#)

This week, the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee [held a hearing](#) on "**The Reemergence of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Exploring the Public Health Successes and Challenges.**" It's a timely hearing, with bipartisan support, for discussing the current outbreak of measles and how to prevent other diseases through vaccination. But we're left with one big question:

What will the fifth-most senior Republican on the committee, Rand Paul, have to say?

Last week, Rand Paul suggested that vaccinations may cause ["profound mental disorders"](#) which drew widespread [rebuttal from medical experts](#). In the midst of the blowback, Paul pulled a trick from his playbook and [denied](#) that he ever said what we had all seen him say on TV. So what will he say today? Will he show up to the hearing? Or will he skip it altogether?

Watch the hearing [here](#), and keep an eye out for whether Paul doubles down on his fringe comments pandering to the anti-vaxxer movement or – as he did with Israel aid, civil rights and the government shutdown – again gives us whiplash with his misdirection.

[What you won't see on Jeb Bush's new website or read in his e-book](#)

What's actually included in Jeb Bush's new e-book and on his new website reveals less about what another Bush presidency would look like than what it omits. Bush [is pushing](#) such bold platitudes as our need to "protect our shores" and be "a force of good not bad." But he's leaving out his real record of leadership as governor, which more closely resembles the backward policy goals of Mitt Romney than a bold reformer willing to move our country forward.

Fighting for the wealthy's 'right to rise' – Jeb Bush consistently cut taxes for the [wealthiest](#) Floridians and [big business](#), including the wealth tax on financial instruments, like stocks, bonds and mutual funds, and estate taxes. He supported his brother's [Bush tax cuts](#), which largely benefited the wealthy and Wall Street investors, and he continues to [support](#) eliminating the capital gains tax – which [has been called](#) one of the top five tax breaks for the rich.

Income inequality – In Florida, it got worse under Jeb Bush's governorship, with the average income of the richest 5 percent of Florida families [increasing by more than 22 percent](#), while the average income of the poorest fifth of Florida families barely changed.

Education – Jeb Bush supported a change to school funding formula that [slashed millions](#) from large urban school districts, consistently [proposed hiking](#) college tuition, [oversaw](#) a nearly 50 percent rise in average in-state tuition for the state university system that amounted to more than \$1,000 per student, and [proposed](#) millions of dollars in cuts to university funding.

Health care – Jeb Bush directed the legislature to overhaul the state's children's health insurance program, which eliminated health care coverage for [thousands of Florida children](#), and Bush supports the Ryan budget which would end Medicare as we know it and increase out-of-pocket health care costs for seniors.

Below is a statement from DNC spokesperson Ian Sams on Jeb Bush's website and e-book:

"Jeb Bush's record as Florida's governor reads like the track listing on the greatest hits of failed Republican ideas that line the pockets of the wealthy and big corporations at the expense of working families. Jeb's attempt to rebrand himself as a champion for middle class opportunity is as laughable as the idea of Mitt Romney as an anti-poverty crusader. Bush has spent his entire career fighting for a right to rise for the select few at the top, like himself, while gutting the priorities of the middle class. No new website or e-book can change that fact."

[Jindal's right about one thing](#)

This week, Governor Bobby Jindal delivered a speech this morning on education and critiqued the education records of some of the GOP field – namely Governor Jeb Bush. And given Bush's record, we have to agree with him.

Bush supports the Ryan budget that would yield draconian cuts to Pell Grants that low-income and middle class families depend upon and make sweeping reductions in Title I funding that provides resources for K-12 education. It's nothing new from Bush's take on education as governor. In Florida, he supported a change to a school funding formula that [slashed millions](#) from large urban school districts and even oversaw a [50% rise](#) in in-state tuition for the Florida State University system after proposing millions in cuts. For a guy claiming that everyone has a "right to rise," Bush has spent his entire political career letting one thing rise – the cost of a decent college education for working and middle class families.

But here's what the Louisiana governor got wrong: he's not the solution.

Jindal's Louisiana ranks near the bottom of key measures of educational achievement. Instead of attacking this unfortunate reality head on, Governor Jindal has had the wrong priorities and [sacrificed critical higher education funding with some of the highest cuts in the nation](#). The result has been fewer opportunities for Louisiana families facing higher tuition. Under Jindal, higher education faculty and staff at LSU are facing [furloughs and layoffs](#) and they are considering eliminating classes and shutting down academic programs.

For two folks pretending to be so at odds over education policy, when it comes to the effects of their administration, there's not all that much of a difference. Both of their irresponsible education policies hurt children and families in Florida and Louisiana who are looking to get the tools they need to succeed in a 21st century economy.

In the States

- On Tuesday, in response to Jeb Bush's education summit, Florida Democratic Party Chair Allison Tant released the following statement: "Jeb Bush's so-called 'education summit' is nothing more than a cheerleading session with right wing politicians and wealthy special interests looking to turn a profit on our children's education. Giving billions of taxpayer dollars to private, for-profit corporations has done nothing to improve schools for millions of Florida children. No amount of gimmicky summits can undo the damage Jeb Bush did to Florida's education system. Florida's parents, students, and teachers remember all too well the slashes in school funding, the dramatic increases of college tuition, and the radical overemphasis on high-stakes testing that Bush brought to Florida." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Louisiana Democratic Party announced that more than 148,000 state citizens have enrolled in and are receiving insurance from the Affordable Care Act. The Party noted that nearly 9 in 10 Louisianans are benefitting from President Barack Obama's health care law and that the average monthly premium is just \$108. Louisiana Democratic Party Chair Karen Carter Peterson released the following statement: "This is huge news for the people of Louisiana, who are now able to go online, compare health insurance plans and choose the one that's right for their family...Unfortunately, Louisiana Republicans like David Vitter and Bill Cassidy are fighting to take away affordable coverage from nearly 150,000 hard-working Louisianans by repealing the Affordable Care Act...In addition, Bobby Jindal is blocking coverage for more than 240,000 Louisianans by refusing federal Medicaid expansion dollars. We've already seen one hospital emergency room close because of Jindal's political ambitions — how many more will we see shutter this year?" Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lon Johnson released the following statement in response to Governor Rick Snyder's budget proposal: "Snyder is once again calling for more sacrifice from middle class families, seniors and kids while corporations and those at the top continue to enjoy tax break after tax break and his political allies get no-bid contracts. This Republican approach has kept us lurching from budget crisis to budget crisis. It is long past time we focused our attention on building a state where everyone can stay and succeed by strengthening the middle class and investing in our people." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Texas Democrats responded to former Governor Rick Perry's ridiculous comments that citizens of Texans wanted to be uninsured. Texas Democratic Party Spokesperson Javier Gamboa released the following statement: "Rick Perry should be ashamed of himself for saying that the people of Texas did not want increased coverage and expanded access to healthcare. More than one million hardworking Texans are living without affordable care because of his failure to partner with the legislature to find a Texas solution to closing the coverage gap. This lame excuse won't work for him in Texas, New Hampshire or the rest of the nation as he runs for president." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Wisconsin Democratic Party filed a complaint with the Government Accountability Board in regards to Governor Scott Walker's use of taxpayer dollars to fund his presidential campaign, including his trip to the United Kingdom this week. Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Mike Tate released the following statement: "As someone who loves Wisconsin, it's upsetting for me to see how Scott Walker has completely abandoned our state, and the mess he's created here, to run for president. Ultimately, though, it's a free country and Scott Walker is certainly welcome to run for president if he wants to, but Wisconsin taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill for his campaign — his political ambitions have cost us enough already. It's clear that Scott Walker believes the rules are for other people." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair Ray Buckley released the following statement in regards to Governor Maggie Hassan's budget address: "Today, Governor Hassan presented a fiscally responsible plan that will lay the foundation of a new generation of economic growth, proving once again that Granite Staters are in good hands under the Governor's strong bipartisan leadership...While Republicans for years have used budgeting gimmicks to mislead the public about what they are actually funding, Governor Hassan's budget is balanced honestly and responsibly." Read the full press release [here](#).