



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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DNC Response to GOP 2016ers on Right to Discriminate Bill

"Despite opposition from the business community nationwide and the majority of Americans who believe a business should not be able to refuse services to individuals because they are gay or lesbian, this week both Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio doubled down in support of this damaging law that seeks to undo the progress we have made for LGBT equality – and Scott Walker even suggested he was open to passing a similar law in Wisconsin.

These likely

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



SUPPORT A LAW *that could allow* DISCRIMINATION TOWARD LGBT INDIVIDUALS.

This just confirms what we already know about these three Republican presidential hopefuls, and is the most recent reminder that Republicans are focused on one thing – pursuing an out of touch agenda at the expense of everything and everyone else.

And it's not just Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker zeroing in on an extreme agenda. Rand Paul and Ted Cruz have also voiced support for similar policies that could give businesses the right to refuse services to LGBT people.

While Democrats are working to move the country forward and create an inclusive society, Republicans like Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Scott Walker, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz are stuck in the past and want to move the country backwards." – **Holly Shulman, DNC national press secretary**

Jeb Bush on Hugh Hewitt this week: "Governor Pence has done the right thing." Listen [here](#).

Marco Rubio on Fox News: "Should someone who provides a professional service be punished by the law because they refuse to provide that professional service to a ceremony that they believe is in violation of their faith?" Watch [here](#).

WisPolitics: "Gov. **Scott Walker** today was noncommittal on whether he believes Wisconsin should adopt something similar to Indiana's 'religious freedom' law, saying it's not something that's been debated at any length here 'but we'll see in the future.'" Read more [here](#).

DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz Announces Leah Daughtry CEO of Democratic National Convention Committee

This week, Democratic National Committee Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced the appointment of Reverend Leah D. Daughtry to be Chief Executive Officer of the Democratic National Convention Committee.

"We are thrilled to have Leah Daughtry return to lead our convention team. She will bring so much expertise, and enthusiasm to this important event," said Wasserman Schultz. "Our Convention will be a key opportunity to showcase our Democratic values, lay out our Democratic vision for the future and celebrate our nominee. I am delighted to have Leah on board to lead this effort and propel our nominee on to victory in November 2016."

For the past several years, Daughtry has been a Principal at BCT Consulting, which creates and produces high-profile, mission critical events. She previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the 2008 Democratic National Convention Committee, responsible for all aspects of planning and execution of the Democratic Party's quadrennial presidential nominating convention. She simultaneously served as Chief of Staff of the Democratic National Committee where she was responsible for the day-to-day management of the national Party's affairs. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Reverend Daughtry held various senior government posts, including Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (Acting) at the United States Department of Labor with oversight of the Department's management programs and a \$35 billion budget.

She is founder of Faith In Action, the Democratic Party's outreach initiative to communities of faith, and serves as Pastor of The House of the Lord Church in Washington, DC.

"I could not be more excited to lead the Democratic Convention team," said Leah Daughtry. "This is an exciting time to be a Democrat, and we have an important opportunity to build on the progress we have made over the last six years and to nominate and help elect the 45th President of the United States. The road to the White House will begin right here in Philadelphia!"

Additional details on the convention will be made available in the coming weeks.

Marco Rubio's 21st Century looks a lot like the past

Marco Rubio [said this week](#): "I believe that the Republican Party has an opportunity in 2016 to do something it hasn't been able to do in a long time, and that is make the argument that we're the party of the future, that we are the party that understands the 21st century and understands what it's going to take to make America great in the 21st century. And I believe that if I run for president I have a unique contribution to make to that debate."

21st Century? Let's take a look at what Marco Rubio's "21st century" would look like:

- No [legislation](#) to [address](#) equal pay.
- Minimum wage [stuck at same level](#) for the past [six years](#).
- Women's health care driven [back to the 1960's](#).
- Ignoring modern science – saying [97% of scientific studies are](#) wrong on climate change.
- [Going back](#) to when insurance companies could deny you coverage.

"Marco Rubio may say he's a new type of Republican, but all he's done is champion the same failed Republican policies that the public has already rejected. Marco Rubio is not a leader – he's a follower of the Republican playbook of the past. He wants to turn back the clock for women and families and he needs a time machine to find a suitable century for his outdated policy stances." – *Kristin Sosanie, DNC spokesperson.*

DNC Expands Communications Team for 2016 Cycle

The Democratic National Committee this week announced four top-notch operatives to new and expanded roles in its communications department.

"I am thrilled to announce these new members of our communications team," said DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithee. "With their wealth of communications experience, these new members will help us aggressively take the Democratic message to a wider audience as we work to help elect the 45th President of the United States and other Democrats all across the country in 2016."

Kaylie Hanson will serve as Regional Press Secretary for the Northeast. Hanson comes to the DNC from the office of Senator Chris Murphy from Connecticut where she most recently served as Deputy Communications Director after starting as Deputy Press Secretary on his campaign for the U.S. Senate in 2012. Prior to working for Senator Murphy, Kaylie spent two years in the office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan. [@KaylieEHanson](#)

Kristin Sosanie has been tapped as Regional Press Secretary for the South. She comes to the DNC from the South Carolina Democratic Party and Vincent Sheheen's campaign for Governor in South Carolina, where she served as the Communications Director. Before that, she was the Communications Director for the Obama campaign in Minnesota, after serving as the Communications Director for the Minnesota DFL. Originally from New Jersey, Kristin is returning to DC – she's spent time on the Hill, working for the House Agriculture Committee, and received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from The George Washington University. [@KSosanie](#)

Eric Walker will join the team as Regional Press Secretary for the West. Walker comes to the DNC from the office of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter where he served as the Communications Director for her official office and the House Rules Committee, after starting as the Communications Director for Congresswoman Slaughter's re-election campaign in 2012. Born and raised in New Jersey, Eric is a graduate of The George Washington University. [@EricMWalker](#)

Miryam Lipper has taken over as the new Deputy National Press Secretary and Director of Broadcast Media after serving in assistant press secretary and press assistant roles at the DNC. Miryam spent time in Georgia through the 2014 midterms helping to elect Democrats up and down the ticket. Miryam is a graduate of Indiana University. [@MiryamLipper](#)

The DNC recently named Holly Shulman as National Press Secretary, Michael Tyler as Director of African American Media, and Rob Flaherty as Director of Digital Media. Jason Pitt will continue in his role as the Regional Press Secretary for the Midwest.

In the States

On Monday, the Florida Democratic Party welcomed Rand Paul to their state for his campaign stop by pointing out some of the reasons that Paul might not fit in with Floridians. Florida Democratic Party Chair Allison Tate released the following statement: "Rand Paul's extreme conservative ideology may play well at a Tea Party convention or a College Libertarians club — but here in Florida he'll find out that folks don't believe Medicare is 'socialized medicine' or that Social Security is a 'Ponzi scheme'. Floridians are committed to honoring our nation's promise to our seniors, and Rand's record of proposing radical changes to Medicare and Social Security — including raising deductibles and raising the retirement age to 70 — could not be more out of step with the values our state holds dear." Read the full press release [here](#).

On Tuesday, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin highlighted Governor Scott Walker's history of pandering and flip-flopping on the issue of legalized discrimination. While this week Walker wouldn't clearly say whether or not he thinks Wisconsin should adopt a religious freedom law similar to that in Indiana, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin pointed out that during his 2013 campaign, Walker praised Wisconsin's LGBT non-discrimination protections. Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Mike Tate released the following statement: "Scott Walker's blatant pandering to far-right special interests not only threatens the economic security of the middle class but turns back the clock on the progress we've made in defending the rights of every American to be treated with fairness and dignity. It's up to legislative Republicans in Wisconsin to stand up to Scott Walker and refuse to introduce any kind of legislation that would legalize discrimination. Walker has already left his legislature holding the bag on his attacks on healthcare and public education. In 2016, Wisconsin voters will remember who stood for Scott Walker's presidential campaign and who stood for Wisconsin's working families." Read the full press release [here](#).

On Thursday, Indiana Democratic Party Chairman John Zody released the following statement in response to the amended Religious Freedom Restoration Act: "While this morning's proposal makes significant inclusions not currently in Indiana law, Indiana GOP leaders should have listened to Democratic amendments offered weeks ago that would have made greater strides to include all Hoosiers here in our state, but were instead resoundingly ignored. We are only seeing these proposed inclusions because of the unprecedented outcry from and efforts of so many in our state and nation. While this is just the beginning of the discussion, an all-out repeal with full inclusions in our state civil rights law are the only true solutions here. We should never forget that it is Mike Pence, Brian Bosma and David Long who created this mess in the first place. Their lack of vision shows how completely out of touch their brand of governing is in Indiana. We can do better." Read the full press release [here](#).

On Thursday, in response to news that Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal relocated two staff members to Iowa, the Louisiana Democratic Party released the following statement: "The dead-on-arrival campaign Jindal's former executive staffers have been dispatched to sell Iowa voters is yet another instance of the waste and delusional self-regard that have driven the Governor-in-absentia to treat the people of Louisiana and the voters that elected him as an afterthought, a stepping stone to higher office for which he is fundamentally unfit. And with the Louisiana State Police reporting a gross increase in travel expenses for Jindal's security team last year in pursuit of this vanity project, Louisiana tax payers can be certain we haven't seen the end of the exorbitant bills we'll continue to be stuck with. This level of fiscal irresponsibility and disdain for the taxpayers of Louisiana is yet one more wasteful project Louisiana families can ill afford." Read the full press release [here](#).

This week, the Michigan Democratic Party announced that their 2015 Jefferson-Jackson Dinner will honor Congressman John Dingell and Senator Carl Levin, and will feature DNC Chairwoman Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz as the event's special guest. Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lon Johnson released the following statement in regards to the announcement: "I'm thrilled to welcome Debbie Wasserman Schultz to Michigan to help us honor two giants in the Michigan Democratic Party. Congressman Dingell and Senator Levin were Michigan's lions in Washington for decades, and we couldn't be happier to dedicate this year's dinner to their unrivaled service on behalf of Michigan families." Read the full press release [here](#).