



WEEKLY UPDATE

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MEMO: How “different” is Rand Paul?

FROM: Mo Elleithee, DNC Communications Director

Rand Paul says he is ‘different’ and that he’ll be the candidate that the Republican Party needs to expand its appeal to new groups.

But when you take a look at Rand Paul’s policies, you’ll find that he’s just the same as everyone else in his party who want to erase the progress we have made on issue after issue and turn back the clock for women, young people, LGBT Americans, African Americans, and others.

In fact, when compared to other Republicans, Rand Paul’s record matches up almost exactly with the Republican Party’s policy positions and interest groups – a [“top student” with a “4.0 GPA”](#).

- Club for Growth ranked Rand Paul #5 out of all senators, but he [topped the list](#) of the senators considering runs for president.
- Americans for Prosperity gave Rand Paul a perfect [100 percent](#) on its scorecard.
- According to CQ, Rand Paul has voted the Republican Party line more often than the average Senate Republican and has voted the party line increasingly so in recent years. In 2014, he voted with his party 96% of the time.

So what about expanding the tent? Well, Rand Paul’s tent is shrinking by the day and may in fact collapse on his campaign.

LGBT Americans? Rand Paul [doesn’t believe in the concept of gay rights](#), because “I don’t really believe in rights based on your behavior.” Meanwhile, the number of Americans supporting marriage equality continues to grow, hitting [59% in a recent poll](#).

Women? Rand Paul has warned that ensuring equal pay for women would [“give away freedom,”](#) even though [69%](#) of women think Congress should pass legislation that would help eliminate the pay gap. Rand also helped [delay](#) reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, and later joined the GOP fringe by [voting against](#) it. Rand says he would [defund Planned Parenthood](#), despite [56% of women](#) saying such a move would be “mostly or totally unacceptable.” On abortion, Rand has supported banning abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or the life of the mother.

African Americans? Rand Paul repeatedly suggests there is a [right to discriminate and said decisions in the private sector should go “unhindered,”](#) even if that includes discrimination, a concept that [61% of African Americans](#) disagree with. [Six out of ten Americans](#) support raising the federal minimum wage, but Rand still stands opposed, saying that the [“marketplace does a better job”](#) determining the minimum wage. And his tax plan would raise the burden on the middle class at a time when [58% of Americans](#) believe that they pay their fair share in taxes, and [55% think American corporations](#) pay less than their fair share.

Young people? The average college student graduates with [\\$29,400 in student loan debt](#), but Rand Paul voted against allowing students to refinance their loans, suggesting that refinancing would [threaten the “stability” of society](#). Rand wants to take quality health care coverage away from millions of young people who are now able to stay on their parents’ insurance. Rand opposes marriage equality and opposes taking action on climate change, despite [69% of millennials](#) saying that government should be more involved in addressing climate change.

If Rand Paul is at all “different” than his Republican colleagues, it’s because on some issues he has taken even more extreme positions than his colleagues. But any attempt he has to expand the Republican Party’s appeal to women, LGBT Americans, African Americans, Millennials, or otherwise will certainly be foiled by his horrible policies that are just more of the same.



*Rand Paul doesn't sound like a different kind of Republican...
Watch the video [here](#).*

DNC Chair Statement on Rand Paul's 2016 Announcement

In response to Senator Rand Paul's announcement that he is running for president in 2016, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"Rand Paul says he wants to unleash the American Dream but the only thing a Paul presidential candidacy unleashes is a massive lurch backwards to failed policies and narrow-minded extremism. He says he's something different, but when you take a look, he's the same as any other Republican presidential hopeful: good for the wealthiest few and bad for the middle class, and taking positions that are way outside the mainstream on issue after issue.

This is a classic example of a GOP presidential candidate thinking he can talk his way into our communities while turning his back on us when it comes to his policy prescriptions. Not only is Rand Paul not going to make the GOP's tent any bigger, the tent actually collapses under the weight of his harmful policies. How can Rand Paul seek to broaden Republicans' appeal when he has voiced opposition to the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, opposed comprehensive immigration reform, written a budget slashing Pell Grants, belittled LGBT rights, and introduced bills to take women's health care decisions out of their hands?

"On issue after issue his policies are the same as the rest of the GOP, but even more extreme, and will turn back the clock on the progress we have made. That sounds like the same old Republican Party to me and it will to voters as well, who want a president who will fight to help them climb the ladder of opportunity."

Why Rand Paul is wrong for America
CNN // GEORGIA DAVIS POWERS

When I was elected to the Kentucky State Senate in 1967, I became the first woman and the first person of color to serve in the body. Five decades later, I find it almost unfathomable that a politician from my own state is attempting to launch his presidential campaign on a record that includes questioning landmark voting rights and civil rights legislation.

But that is what Rand Paul, who Tuesday declared he's running for president of the United States, is doing. His campaign team told reporters last week that his campaign announcement message would be about "expanding the Republican Party" -- a message of inclusion. But those of us listening today who he is hoping to include, heard nothing more than hype. I'm not buying it.

Since coming to the U.S. Senate, Paul has tried to sell himself as a different type of Republican. He's tried to brand himself as the GOP's minority outreach candidate. The problem for Paul, and the GOP at large, is that they don't back up their words with their policies.

Yes, it's about time that Republicans started seriously considering the fact that black voters are an important piece of the electoral puzzle. But they can't actually appeal to the community unless they have a real commitment to the issues facing minority communities. A quick survey of Sen. Paul's positions makes clear that he does not.

Paul kicked off his announcement speech in Louisville by declaring "I have a message that is loud and clear: We have come to take our country back." I have no doubt that under Paul's leadership, he would indeed take our country back -- in the wrong direction -- way back to a time when we were debating the Civil Rights Act -- which Paul has done since landing on the national stage; when there was no Department of Education -- a department he thinks "should be done away with;" when women didn't have choices -- choices Paul seeks to limit in Washington; when DREAMers weren't protected from deportation -- protections Paul currently opposes.

In his inept speaking engagements at historically black colleges and universities, he has come across as condescending and lacking basic cultural competency. But Paul has also questioned the Civil Rights Act, and even claimed that private business owners have a right to discriminate. When asked about the need for a more robust Voting Rights Act following the Supreme Court's dismantling of the law, Paul dismissively remarked, "We have an African-American President."

When President Obama stood with John Lewis and other veterans of the civil rights movement in front of the Edmund Pettus Bridge last month to mark the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, he inspired us all by saying: "With effort, we can roll back poverty and the roadblocks to opportunity. ... With effort, we can protect the foundation stone of our democracy for which so many marched across this bridge -- and that is the right to vote."

America is better -- and we solve more problems -- with more democracy, not less. Unfortunately Rand Paul has demonstrated that he disagree with that basic principle. Paul tried once again from that stage in Louisville to fashion himself as the one member of his party courageous enough to try to broaden Republican appeal to constituencies they ignore year after year. But his record makes it very clear that his views are outdated, outside of the mainstream, and disqualifying for a man who wants to lead our country.

The American people deserve a leader who won't disrespect their intelligence, who won't pander to them when it's convenient, and who won't work to dismantle the progress we have made over the last five decades. What I heard today, didn't change the facts about Rand Paul's record. The American people deserve better than Rand Paul.

Jeb Bush isn't fooling anyone on Latino issues

Jeb Bush was right about one thing when he [said](#), "Don't think I've fooled anyone!"

On issue after issue that matter most to Latino Americans, Jeb's record and policies are just wrong, and he's [not going to fool anyone](#).

- Jeb Bush recently said citizenship for undocumented immigrants was an ["undeserving reward."](#)
- Jeb Bush [compared](#) the deferred action program that protects DREAMers from deportation to the actions of a Latin American dictator.
- Jeb Bush defended Arizona's controversial immigration law.
- As Governor, Jeb Bush slashed taxes by billions, which [largely benefited the wealthy](#) and corporations over the middle class and hardworking Hispanic families.
- Jeb Bush has opposed education programs that are vital to preserving the American dream: he has long attacked [classroom size reductions](#), and he [supported](#) a budget that would gut education funding – from early education to Pell Grants for college students.
- Jeb Bush: ["We must repeal Obamacare."](#)
- Jeb Bush [opposes raising the minimum wage](#) and said "we need to leave it to the private sector...this is one of those poll-driven deals."

"Jeb Bush is right – he's not fooling anyone, because he's completely out of step with the Latino community. Jeb Bush would not fight for Latinos, nor for the middle class as president. He would do what he's always done – put himself and people like him over hardworking Americans." – **Albert Morales, DNC Hispanic Outreach Director**

In the States

On Monday, a Quinnipiac University poll showed that among registered voters in Ohio, Senator Rob Portman is losing across the board. The poll showed Portman down 9 points and had his favorability rating at just 38 percent. Ohio Democratic Party Communications Director Meredith Tucker released the following statement: "The national media is finally waking up to what we've known in Ohio for years: Rob Portman is in deep trouble in Ohio, and that's why he is raising and spending gobs of money on cynical attacks. As a Washington insider for decades, Portman's priorities are with his special interest friends, not his Ohio constituents—which is why he is so unknown back at home. Senator Portman will struggle to change these numbers, given that his track record completely opposes the kind of job-creating leadership Ohioans are looking for." Read the full press release [here](#).

On Tuesday, the Texas House Business and Industry Committee heard legislation proposed by multiple Democratic Representatives aimed at raising the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10. Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa released the following statement: "When it comes to raising the minimum wage we need to only ask ourselves one question: do Texans deserve a fair wage for an honest day's work? If the answer is yes, then you must support raising the minimum wage. Texas leads the nation in the number of workers earning the minimum wage and too many folks are struggling to make ends meet. We urge Republicans in the Texas House to do what's right for our economy and for hardworking Texans and vote in favor of raising the minimum wage to \$10.10." Read the full press release [here](#).

On Tuesday, the Colorado Democratic Party highlighted the close ties between likely presidential candidate Jeb Bush and Rep. Mike Coffman. Bush donated to Coffman's campaign in 2014 under the name "John Bush," and this week they joined forces again for two campaign events. Colorado Democratic Party spokesman Andrew Zucker released the following statement: "Mike Coffman's a career politician who's spent 26 years running for office and John 'Jeb' Bush is one of his biggest campaign supporters, so it's only fitting Coffman would welcome Bush back to Colorado as he kicks off his presidential bid." Read the full press release [here](#).

On Thursday, as Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal took another taxpayer-funded trip out-of-state, the Louisiana Democratic Party pointed out a few issues that Jindal and his fellow Republicans are choosing to ignore, such as the \$1.6 billion budget hole created by Jindal that led to drastic cuts in health care and higher education. The Louisiana Democrat Party had the following to say about what kind of leadership is needed in their state: "We don't need leaders who seek approval from special interests like Grover Norquist before doing their jobs. We need elected officials who will put Louisiana first, who have the courage to raise the minimum wage, vote for equal pay for women, expand Medicaid and protect higher education. Democrats have been fighting for these core values and will continue to do so in the upcoming legislative session. But the GOP will just keep kicking the can down the road. To them, why change course? This year is just another one of false promises to get through the fall election." Read the full press release [here](#).

On Thursday, as Kelly Ayotte continued her refusal to answer whether she will support or block Lorretta Lynch's nomination to Attorney General, she campaigned in New Hampshire with Lindsey Graham, who himself said the delay of Lynch's nomination is a "sign of the dysfunction" in the Senate. New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair Ray Buckley released the following statement: "The number of times that Kelly Ayotte has put her own political interests before our national security and public safety is growing by the day. From holding homeland security funding hostage, to signing a reckless letter to the leaders of Iran undermining U.S. foreign policy, to playing politics with human trafficking victims and our nation's top law enforcement officer, it's clear that Ayotte will stop at nothing to try to appease her Tea Party base, whatever the cost." Read the full press release [here](#).