



# WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## DNC VIDEO: Marco Rubio is short on new ideas...

Here we go – Marco Rubio has officially jumped into the race for President. Rubio likes to claim that he is a leader with fresh ideas, but his record clearly shows he's just following the same old tired Republican playbook:

Watch the new DNC video [here](#).



## Five Things Latinos Need to Know about Marco Rubio

As a presidential candidate, [Rubio's poll numbers with Latinos](#) are just as bad as the rest of the GOP field – if not worse – and after a look at his policies, it's easy to see why.

### **Rubio's Damaging Record for the Middle Class**

Marco Rubio opposes raising the minimum wage, calling it "[silly](#)" and "[a waste of time](#)." At the same time, [his tax plan](#) would lower taxes on the richest Americans and largest corporations and raises tax rates on working Latino families.

### **Rubio is Wrong on Immigration**

After [voting in favor](#) of the bipartisan immigration reform bill, Rubio then came out against the bill and called on party leaders to [ditch](#) comprehensive immigration reform. The Tampa Bay Times [criticized](#) Rubio for turning his back on Latinos, saying "he is more intent on shoring up his political future than in securing immigration reform." After that, Rubio [threatened to shut down part of the government](#) in protest of President Obama's immigration action to keep families together.

### **Rubio Opposes the Affordable Care Act**

The Affordable Care Act has benefited Latinos. Since October 2013, we have experienced a [12.3% reduction of the uninsured rate among Latinos](#), and millions of Latinos no longer have to worry about lifetime dollar limits on coverage. Marco Rubio would [repeal](#) the Affordable Care Act, which would take away quality insurance for millions of Latinos, throw low-income families off of Medicaid and force higher health costs on Latino families that would go unchecked.

### **Rubio Believes Social Security and Medicare Have "Weakened Us As a People"**

Marco Rubio's disdain for earned benefits like Social Security and Medicare is well known. He says these programs [have "weakened us as a people."](#) He has supported [privatizing](#) Social Security, would re-open the prescription drug "donut hole" costing seniors more, and supports [turning Medicare into a voucher system](#), which could increase out of pocket costs for seniors in his program.

### **Rubio's Record is Wrong for Women**

Marco Rubio [voted against](#) equal pay for women. He also [opposes](#) letting women make their own health care choices without the government getting involved. He also [voted against](#) reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, even though we have seen significant reductions in instances of domestic violence since its passage.

## [DNC Chair Statement on National Equal Pay Day](#)

DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz issued the following statement this week on National Equal Pay Day:

"As the party that puts the middle class first, Democrats are proud to fight for equal pay every single day. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the very first bill signed into law by President Obama, setting the tone for an administration that would recognize the contributions women make to our nation's economy. But we know that our work isn't finished.

"The Paycheck Fairness Act would help level the playing field for women, but unfortunately, Congressional Republicans and Republican candidates for president have opposed it at every turn.

"Not content to merely vote against the Paycheck Fairness Act in the Senate, Marco Rubio said it was "wasting time," Rand Paul compared it to the Soviet Union's Politburo and Ted Cruz derided it as a "show vote." Chris Christie and Rick Perry vetoed equal pay legislation in their states, and Scott Walker repealed equal pay enforcement in Wisconsin. But the most out-of-touch GOP hopeful may be Jeb Bush, who didn't even know what the Paycheck Fairness Act was.

"Unlike members of the Republican party, Democrats are proud to support policies that open the door to more opportunities for the middle class and help working families' paychecks go farther. Democrats and the American people understand that equal pay is a necessity to ensure that hardworking Americans can get ahead in a 21st century economy. We won't stop fighting for women and the middle class and we have one question for the GOP, 'Whose side are they on?'"

## [Here's Where GOP 2016ers Stand on Equal Pay](#)

The President and Democrats have been clear that equal pay is a top priority and the fact that women make only 78 cents to the dollar is not only wrong, it's harmful to our economy. As the party of inclusion, empowerment, and equal opportunity, Democrats continue to fight for equal compensation for women. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the first bill President Obama signed into law, and Democrats continue to fight for passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act that will help close the wage gap.

But here's where Republicans stand:

- **Jeb Bush** stated that [he did not know](#) what the Paycheck Fairness Act was when he was asked about it.
- **Chris Christie** [vetoed](#) equal pay legislation calling it "senseless bureaucracy."
- **Rick Perry** [vetoed an equal pay law](#) and said focusing on the issue was "[nonsense](#)."
- **Scott Walker** [repealed](#) an equal pay law saying it was a "bogus issue."
- **Marco Rubio** [said](#) the Paycheck Fairness Act was about "scoring political points," "[wasting time](#)," and a "show vote."
- **Rand Paul** [compared](#) the Paycheck Fairness Act to the Soviet Politburo.

"It's not surprising that these GOP presidential hopefuls oppose equal pay – they're standing by their backwards political agenda. On issue after issue, Democrats are pursuing progress, while Republicans want to turn back the clock for women and families." –Holly Shulman, DNC national press secretary

## 100 Days of GOP Congress

"It has been 100 days since the start of the Republican Congress and what have they done so far? Not much. While Democrats prioritize strengthening the middle class and moving the country forward, Republicans have obstructed progress and middle class policies every chance they get. Instead, Republicans are focused on undermining the president, attempting to score political points, turning back the clock for women, and repealing the policies that help the middle class. If this is any indication of what a Republican presidency would look like (spoiler alert: it is), that's not something Americans can afford." – **Holly Shulman, DNC National Press Secretary**

### **Republicans' 100 Days:**

- **On Day One, Republicans attempted to restrict the rights of women to make their own health care choices.**  
...Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Jeb Bush, Rick Perry and the others oppose a woman's right to choose.
- **Republicans threatened to shut down part of the government over the President's executive action that will keep immigrant families together.**  
...Ted Cruz was the shutdown ring-leader, and was supported by Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and others in this dangerous effort.
- **Republicans voted once again to repeal the Affordable Care Act – they have attempted to repeal or undermine it over 50 times.**  
....Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Scott Walker, Rick Perry and all the others support repealing the Affordable Care Act and returning control to the insurance companies.
- **Republicans set out to cripple the President's international negotiating ability with [their reckless letter to Iran](#).**  
...which was also signed by Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio, and Jeb Bush, Rick Perry and Bobby Jindal all sided with them.

**Rubio embodies American Dream, but would deny it to others**  
**CNN // MARIA CARDONA**

Marco Rubio has officially waded into the waters of the 2016 Republican nomination for the presidency.

The senator has the gift of oratory and a compelling family story that he tells so well. He seems to embody the quintessential American Dream and it is clear he hopes his story will speak to many Americans, who could be looking for a "wow" factor in their next presidential candidate. But voters are intelligent and can tell the difference between a beautiful speech and a policy stance that will adversely affect their families and their future.

The fact remains that while Rubio is attempting to portray himself as something "new," those paying attention can see his presidential ambitions seem to have little to do with wanting to offer Americans real solutions. In fact, he offers nothing more than the same old and failed ideas that majorities of Americans have rejected over and over again in previous presidential elections.

You only have to look at the last few weeks to know this is the case.

In March, Rubio released a draft of his tax plan in an attempt to set the far right agenda for the primary field. If Rubio's plan is any indication, the fight for the Republican nomination will feature failed trickle-down economic theory more than of any serious commitment to hard-working families.

Rubio's plan raises taxes on those struggling to get ahead while slashing them for those at the very top and wealthy corporations (sound familiar?). It does this while increasing the debt by trillions. In his first major policy announcement of the year, Rubio had a chance to side with hardworking Americans across the country, but instead he apparently chose to side with Mitt Romney's definition of people -- corporations. If he is supposed to be offering fresh ideas for the Republican Party, he has failed.

In the one area where Sen. Rubio showed early promise, he ultimately kowtowed to the Republican base. After the 2012 elections made clear that the American people demanded comprehensive immigration reform, he jumped on the issue. At the time, I and other progressives commended him wholeheartedly and had hopes that he could be a different kind of Republican. But alas, that effort fizzled quickly, like a comet across the sky, as Rubio bowed to the political pressure from the Tea Party and those who would rather score political points than make real progress on immigration reform.

Marco Rubio now supports ending the deportation relief for DREAMers that keeps families together and he opposes comprehensive immigration reform -- including the very bill he sponsored. He chose to play politics for his own ambitions rather than solve a pressing issue that affects millions of people. Inaction on immigration reform hurts American's economy and businesses every day.

His foreign policy positions haven't been any better. When Sen. Tom Cotton foolishly wrote an open letter to the Iranian government with the goal of undermining nuclear negotiations, Marco Rubio said where do I sign up? The letter was reckless effort that jeopardized delicate negotiations and threatened to undermine our nation's ability to broker a deal in good faith.

Since then, Rubio has sought to undermine the agreement negotiated with our allies and partners that represents the best chance of halting and significantly scaling back Iran's nuclear program.

Additionally, Rubio brazenly claimed that America's efforts to combat ISIS were not serious. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's subsequent dismantling of this embarrassing and irresponsible claim demonstrated a stark contrast between a serious, knowledgeable leader committed to protecting America's national security interests and an untested and overly ambitious politician trying to get some TV time and appeal to his hawkish political base.

Marco Rubio offers very little in the way of new ideas or new ways of getting things done in Washington.

So while some voters may initially find Rubio's words, family roots story and his speech delivery appealing, in the end most will see that the choices the junior senator from Florida has made up to now have not put them and their families first.

Voters will realize Rubio is following a tired Republican playbook that by design turns its back on hard working Americans in diverse communities all around the country. And many voters will then turn their backs on him.

## In the States

- On Monday, following Marco Rubio's announcement that he is running for president, Iowa Democratic Party 3rd Vice Chair Omar Padilla released the following statement: "Marco Rubio wants Iowans to think he's a candidate with a 'new vision', but he stands for the same failed Republican policies that Iowans and the American people have rejected. His vision involves a less inclusive Iowa where it's harder for Iowa Latinos, workers and families to get ahead. If Rubio was actually a new type of candidate, he wouldn't have run away from immigration reform just to appease his Tea Party base, or opposed relief from deportations that keeps Iowa families together. A new type of candidate wouldn't oppose a minimum wage increase that would benefit more than 300,000 Iowans, or believe that the programs that benefit approximately 600,000 Iowans on Social Security and over 500,000 Iowans on Medicare have 'weakened us as people.' And a new type of candidate wouldn't make it harder for students to refinance their student loans while making it easier for corporations to game the system. To put it simply, Iowans thirsty for trusted leadership will need to look far away from Marco Rubio." Read the full release [here](#).
- On Monday, after Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal delivered his final State of the State address, the Louisiana Democratic Party responded by pointing out a few key things about Jindal's leadership that went unaddressed in his speech, such as Louisiana's \$1.6 billion budget deficit and that the state currently has the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation. Executive Director of the Louisiana Democratic Party Stephen Handwerk released the following statement: "Governor Jindal has failed the leadership test. Instead of offering real solutions, he made a glancing reference to 'heartburn' in the legislature caused by the GOP budget disaster, and he disingenuously attempted to pin all the blame on falling oil prices. The truth is our state was already burdened with a \$1.2 billion shortfall due to his financial mismanagement prior to the shift in energy prices. And for Louisiana families and taxpayers concerned with balancing the budget, that is a source of heartbreak." Read the full release [here](#).
- On Monday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party demanded that Kelly Ayotte stand up for the middle class and tell Mitch McConnell to allow binding votes on amendments that have bipartisan support and focus on middle class priorities. New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair Ray Buckley issued the following statement: "If Kelly Ayotte actually supports these middle class bills, and isn't just interested in blatantly political posturing, she will immediately call on Mitch McConnell to allow binding votes on these critical middle class priorities. Implementing paid sick leave, ending discrimination against pregnant workers, ensuring equal access to benefits for same sex couples, and passing middle class tax cuts would have a real impact on New Hampshire's middle class families, and these policies deserve a binding vote." Read the full release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Florida Democratic Party responded to Marco Rubio's presidential candidacy announcement, pointing out how, on the issues, Marco Rubio fails to represent the interests of Hispanic Americans: he's against immigration reform, thinks raising the minimum wage is a waste of time, wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act. Here's what the Florida Democratic Party had to say: "Is this what America wants for their future? Latinos need a presidential candidate that will represent the true ideals of the Latino community and I'm sorry to say, 'You, Marco Rubio are not the solution.'" Read the full release [here](#).
- On Equal Pay Day, Vice Chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee Lizette Delgado-Polanco released the following statement on Governor Chris Christie's failure to support New Jersey's working women: "When Chris Christie had a chance to stand up and support working women in New Jersey by signing equal pay legislation, he vetoed it. Governor Christie cannot be trusted to do what is right because he's too preoccupied with towing the Republican Party line. Women in New Jersey and New Hampshire -- and every other place that our governor has been hiding from the problems he created -- need to be reminded of that. Working women neither need nor want another presidential candidate who refuses to take income equality seriously. Working women in New Jersey will continue to work hard to make ends meet despite Governor Christie's failed economic policies. However, it is time to focus on addressing this disparity, not make it larger." Read the full release [here](#).