



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

June 5, 2015

Seven things you need to know about Rick Perry

1. Rick Perry doesn't believe in the federal minimum wage, despite the fact that Texas has the largest number of minimum wage earners in the nation.

2. Rick Perry refused to expand Medicaid, despite Texas having the highest percentage of uninsured Americans in the country. When asked to defend this embarrassing decision, he said "that's what Texans wanted." (He's wrong.)



RICK PERRY'S TEXAS RECORD

HIGHEST UNINSURED RATE IN
THE U.S., BUT REFUSED TO
EXPAND MEDICAID

★
SLASHED BILLIONS FROM STATE
EDUCATION FUNDING

★
DOUBLED THE STATE'S DEBT

3. Rick Perry compared homosexuality to alcoholism, just days after the Texas Republican Party adopted a platform endorsing gay "reparative therapy."

4. Rick called Social Security a "monstrous lie," a "Ponzi scheme", and [proposed a privatization plan](#) similar to the one championed by George W. Bush.

5. Rick Perry vetoed equal pay legislation, calling it "nonsense," and sought to make a woman's right to choose "a [thing of the past](#)." And because of Perry, half of Texas women face barriers to their right to choose.

6. Rick Perry created a slush fund called the [Texas Enterprise Fund](#), which rewarded campaign contributors with taxpayer-funded grants. And under Perry, Texas' [debt swelled](#) to a whopping \$41 billion.

7. The 7th one? Let's see...we can't...sorry...oops.

DNC Chair Statement on Lincoln Chafee's 2016 Announcement

In response to Lincoln Chafee's announcement that he will run for president in 2016, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"With Lincoln Chafee making it official that he will seek the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2016, his entrance is a welcome addition to the race. His commitment to public service has led him to answer the call at every level of government – at the local, state, and national levels. Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated the conviction to do what he felt was best for the people he represents.



"As a former Republican, Lincoln Chafee can help make the case that his old party no longer represents the best interests of the American people. The Democratic Party is the natural home for those of us who share the values and priorities of middle class families. I look forward to Governor Chafee sharing the stage with Secretary Clinton, Senator Sanders, Governor O'Malley and each of the candidates who will help Democrats make that argument for the American people."

Statement by DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz on Revelations of Walker's Escalating Attacks

Scott Walker said he would back a [new 20-week abortion ban](#) in Wisconsin – without any exceptions for rape or incest. He [claimed](#) women are only "concerned" with those exceptions in the "initial months" of a pregnancy. And now, it's been revealed that the legislation he's backing would allow [men who feel wronged by a woman's health decision to sue for damages](#).

Statement by DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz on Revelations of Scott Walker's Escalating Attacks on Women's Health:

"Once again, Scott Walker has placed his own rigid, backward ideology ahead of the best interests of the people of his state.

"Already, this bill takes away a decision that should be between a woman and her doctor. Already, it doesn't allow for any exceptions even for survivors of rape or incest. And now, shocking new details show that Scott Walker wants to go even further to take away a woman's say in her own health. Rape survivors deserve more protections under the law, not less."

In celebration of Pride Month, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz published the below op-ed in the Washington Blade:

There's never been more to celebrate at Pride

WASHINGTON BLADE // DNC CHAIR REP. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

Two years after the Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional in *United States v. Windsor*, there has never been more to celebrate during Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month.

Marriage equality now exists in D.C. and 37 states, including my home state of Florida. I was honored to be joined at the president's State of the Union Address by one of the extraordinary newlywed couples, my constituents, who helped lead the fight to secure same-sex marriage in the Sunshine State. Later this month, it will be my distinct privilege to officiate my first wedding, and I am overjoyed to know that this same-sex couple can finally enjoy having their union recognized in the eyes of the law. To see the happiness of many more couples, or the beautiful children they've brought into the world or adopted, is a poignant reminder that love is love and that these fights make a real difference in people's lives.

Under President Obama, we have put an end to the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prevented gay and lesbian Americans from freely and openly serving their country. Congressional Democrats have added LGBT protections to the Violence Against Women Act. And President Obama has signed an executive order to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or identity for federal contractors, extended key benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees and banned discrimination in federal workplaces based on gender identity.

The American public's support for same-sex marriage now reaches 60 percent for the first time in history. And the referendum legalizing gay marriage in Ireland is a historic victory that should be celebrated all over the world.

Unfortunately, these fights are far from over. Recently, it was only after a strong national response that Indiana Gov. Mike Pence was forced to backtrack on his state's law that would have allowed businesses to discriminate against the LGBT community. Many of the Republicans seeking their party's presidential nomination sided with Gov. Pence instead of the LGBT community and the American people.

These Republican candidates want to take us backwards, undoing the progress we've fought so hard to secure. Jeb Bush has said that, "the institution of marriage is under attack in our society." Marco Rubio said one would need to have a "ridiculous and absurd reading of the U.S. Constitution" to think same-sex couples have the right to marry. Rand Paul, the candidate who supposedly wants to broaden the GOP's appeal and outreach to young voters, said that same-sex marriage "offends" him. Others, including Scott Walker, Chris Christie, Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum and Bobby Jindal, all oppose marriage equality.

There are many places around the world where people are still subjected to violence and discrimination based on who they are or who they love, particularly for the transgender community. Even here at home, we've failed to enact protections like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. In just a few weeks, the Supreme Court will issue a decision on whether same-sex couples have the right to marry nationwide.

This June, as we celebrate LGBT Pride Month, the LGBT community and its allies are proud to look back on the victories we've achieved, and rededicate ourselves to the fights still ahead.

In the States

- On Monday, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin released the following statement regarding Gov. Scott Walker's habit of breaking campaign promises: "Breaking campaign promises is nothing new for Scott Walker; he famously promised in 2010 to create 250,000 new private sector jobs in his first term in office, a "[Promise Broken](#)" according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's PolitiFact Wisconsin Walk-O-Meter. The most reliable federal jobs data, referred to by Walker as the "gold standard" when it comes to tracking job growth, shows that Walker created just 129,131 new jobs in his first term, or 51.7 percent of his promise." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Monday, the South Carolina Democratic Party released the following statement regarding Sen. Lindsey Graham's terrible record as he announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for President: "South Carolinians are all too familiar with Lindsey Graham and his disastrous policies. We know exactly what an America under Lindsey Graham would like because we've seen it here already: a George W. Bush economic agenda that props up the wealthy and corporations instead of expanding the middle class, a reckless foreign policy that endangers America and our allies, and a backward social agenda that divides Americans." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Democratic Party of Florida published the following release to highlight the scandal-prone Republican Presidential field that gathered at the behest of the state's "King of fraud and scandal," Gov. Rick Scott: "When Rick Scott is not busy failing to pass a budget or implementing socialist profit-sharing among Florida's hospitals, he can be found in Orlando hosting a self-aggrandizing pageant with some of the Republican Party's most scandal-plagued presidential candidates." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Democratic Party of Louisiana released the following statement applauding the Louisiana House's decision to vote down Gov. Bobby Jindal's hollow attempt to paper over the 1.2 billion dollar budget deficit his policies have created: "Today in the House Ways and Means Committee, the Louisiana Legislature finally stood up in the face of Gov. Bobby Jindal's obstinate demands and voted to kill SB284. The bill, accurately described in committee by Rep. Eddie Lambert (R) as "money laundering", would have created an elaborate shell game, twisting the semantics of the law into knots to satisfy Jindal's desperate pledge to Grover Norquist and the out-of-state interests he's begging for support on his vanity campaign." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Democratic Party of Texas issued 5 questions on the behalf of Texans and the American people in response to Gov. Rick Perry's announcement that he will seek the Republican nomination for President: "Today, former Texas Governor Rick Perry is set to announce his candidacy for the 2016 presidential nominee of the Republican Party. As Governor, Rick Perry created two different states in Texas – one for his wealthy and well-connected friends, and another for working and middle class Texans, who have to live with the consequences of his failed policies. He would do the same thing for the country if elected president. With Perry's destructive legacy and a felony indictment hanging over his head, can Americans really trust him? Here are five questions Americans -- and especially Texans -- deserve the answers to." Read the full press release [here](#).