



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

August 7, 2015

What we learned from the Republican Debates

Last night, we watched the Republican debates and unsurprisingly there was no mention of a path to citizenship, raising the minimum wage to help middle-class Americans, or even the Voting Rights Act – despite the fact that yesterday was the 50th anniversary of the VRA and an important milestone in our nation’s history to recognize how far our country has come. Instead, the GOP candidates on stage decided to talk about outdated policies and plans that are out of touch with every day Americans.



I'm voting Democrat



Below please find a [statement](#) from DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz on the debates.

“During both debates today, we saw more of the out of date and out of touch policies that we’re used to seeing from these Republican candidates. Among the biggest losers of tonight’s debate were American women, who were attacked at every turn. We failed to hear any solutions for income inequality, and not even a mention of college affordability, equal pay, raising the minimum wage, or the Voting Rights Act on its fiftieth anniversary.

“Today’s Republican presidential candidates proved that the GOP is solely focused on taking us backwards with policies that cut taxes for the wealthy and leave the middle class behind.

“Tonight, Americans are going to ask themselves, which one of the candidates on that stage will look out for me? The answer is clear: not a single one of them.”

Democratic National Committee Announces Six Primary Debates

Yesterday, Democratic National Committee Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced details for the DNC's six presidential primary debates. This debate schedule reflects the Democratic Party's diversity and values and will best position Democrats to win the White House next November.

"We are thrilled to announce the schedule and locations for our Democratic primary debates," said DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz. "These six debates will not only give caucus goers and primary voters ample opportunity to hear from our candidates about their vision for our country's future, they will highlight the clear contrast between the values of the Democratic Party which is focused on strengthening the middle class versus Republicans who want to pursue out of touch and out of date policies."

- October 13 – CNN – Nevada
- November 14 – CBS/KCCI/Des Moines Register – Des Moines, IA
- December 19 – ABC/WMUR – Manchester, NH
- January 17 – NBC/Congressional Black Caucus Institute – Charleston, SC
- February or March – Univision/Washington Post – Miami, FL
- February or March – PBS – Wisconsin
- Each Democratic State Party will serve as a debate co-host in their own state.

Additional details about debate dates, locations and partnerships will be announced soon.

To learn more about the Democratic Primary debates, read DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Medium post [here](#).

Obama unveils historic climate plan, Republicans can't even admit a plan is needed

This past weekend, President Obama [unveiled](#) the most ambitious clean power plan in U.S. history to combat climate change. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions and invests in renewable energy, creating American jobs and saving American lives.

On the other side of the country, in a state which is being [ravaged](#) by the effects of climate change, Republicans were busy as well. They spent the weekend pitching their out of touch, stuck in the past policies to oil tycoons Charles and David Koch and continuing to deny the existence of climate change.

Here's where the GOP candidates stand on the issue. TL;DR: they disagree with the [vast majority of scientists](#), the [vast majority of Americans](#), [the UN](#), and [the Pope](#).

- [Jeb Bush](#) decried the "intellectual arrogance" of believers in man-made climate change.
- [Marco Rubio](#) said, "I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it." That was [rated False by PolitiFact](#), and a column in the Washington Post excoriated Rubio's position as "[not just cowardly but intellectually hollow](#)" and "[fails a basic test of leadership](#)."
- [Scott Walker](#) claimed there "[hasn't been a noticeable change](#)" in climate in the "last 15 to 20 years."
- [Rand Paul](#) is skeptical of climate change, saying "There is some question as to the validity of the science."
- [Ted Cruz](#) said that government researchers were "cooking the books" on climate change and "[data and facts don't support it](#)."
- Chris Christie [eliminated](#) the state's Office of Climate Change and cut funding for clean energy programs.
- [Bobby Jindal](#) questioned the role of humans in climate change "and what, if any, dangers that change presents for Americans."
- [Rick Perry](#) claimed scientists were doubting climate change and accused scientists "to be manipulating date."

[Here's what the Republican presidential candidates have to say about voting rights](#)

"While Republican presidential candidates jockey for access to the debate stage, they're going out of their way to make it harder for all Americans to access the ballot box." – **Michael Tyler, DNC spokesperson**

Scott Walker:

On signing into law Wisconsin's restrictive voter ID law, Scott Walker remarked, "[this one's obviously special.](#)" When later asked to document the number of voter fraud cases in Wisconsin, Walker admitted, "[I don't know the exact number, probably a handful.](#)"

Marco Rubio:

Marco Rubio on voter ID laws: "[What's the big deal?](#)"

Jeb Bush:

Jeb Bush limited early voting opportunities in Florida and claimed "very strong justifications" for enacting voter ID laws that disproportionately affect minorities, women, students and the elderly. [St. Petersburg Times, 6/21/05], [Jeb Bush, Immigration Wars, 3/5/13]

Rand Paul:

Rand Paul claimed that there [was no "objective evidence"](#) of Black disenfranchisement and dismissed the need for the Voting Rights Act because, we're "beyond that now" and adding that "[we have an African American president.](#)"

Rick Perry:

Rick Perry, who signed into law a restrictive voter ID law that endangers ballot access for an estimated 600,000 Texans, claimed on national television that "[I think we make it pretty easy in the state of Texas for people to vote.](#)" He also said that the Voting Rights Act was "[outdated and unnecessary.](#)"

Ted Cruz:

Ted Cruz said that "[the court rightly decided](#)" to gut keep provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

John Kasich:

Gov. Kasich, who signed into law two measures that curtail early and absentee voting in Ohio, called criticism of his efforts "[just silliness.](#)"

Donald Trump:

Donald Trump cited James O'Keefe while claiming that President Obama's stance against voter ID laws was "[wrong.](#)"

Chris Christie:

Gov. Christie suggested that the Democratic push to expand voting opportunities was "[an opportunity to commit greater acts of voter fraud across the country.](#)"

[Jeb Bush Is Sure About One Thing](#)

In case you weren't clear on how badly Jeb Bush wants to undermine women's health in the White House, here's a closer look.

Jeb Bush: "I'm not sure we need half a billion dollars for women's health issues."

[WATCH](#)

"Jeb Bush is sure about one thing - he wants to restrict access to affordable health care for women, which isn't surprising considering his '[shame and blame](#)' playbook. This backwards ideology isn't only the exact opposite of what women need from their next president – it could put the health of millions of women in jeopardy. Enough of this." -

Kaylie Hanson, DNC Director of Women's Media

DNC Launches JebSwagStore.com

On Monday, during the New Hampshire Voter First Forum, Jeb Bush talked up his "swag store." Well, we took a look at the products Jeb Bush is offering on his website, and they didn't accurately reflect the values of the Bush campaign, so we came up with a few of our own.

Visit www.JebSwagStore.com today to score some of the hottest Bush! gear!

Here's just a sampling of what you'll find. See even more great products at www.JebSwagStore.com:

Right to Rise Step Stool

Every American has the Right to Rise a little higher! For just \$2,016 (plus shipping and handling), we'll help you rise high enough to reach that pesky can of foie gras on the top shelf.



Bush for President Shirt

Jeb Bush is his own man! Any resemblance this t-shirt bears to a previous campaign's t-shirt is just a coincidence, just as any resemblance Jeb Bush's policies bear to a previous Bush's policies are even more coincidental.



Scarlet Letter for Single Moms

A must-wear for single mothers everywhere! And by must-wear, we mean it will literally be mandatory! Jeb Bush knows that the problem with single motherhood today is that there isn't enough shame associated with it, so take a page out of Bush's 1996 book (which he took out of Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1850 book) and iron this on your sweater so everyone can see that you deserve to be shamed.

View the rest of this post [here](#).

In The States

- On Monday, the Tennessee Democratic Party Chair Mary Mancini issued a statement affirming that voters will be unconvinced by Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio's "same old failed GOP policies": "GOP presidential candidates Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio are coming to our state because they believe that Tennesseans can be fooled by their rhetoric, but Tennessee voters see right through their talk to their failed policies. Bush and Rubio, like all of the GOP candidates running for President in 2016, are working from the same, old, tired Republican playbook." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Texas Democratic Party released a statement highlighting Rick Perry's failure to make it into the primetime Republican presidential debate: "Today, Fox News announced the participants of Thursday evening's primetime Republican presidential debate. Former Governor Rick Perry failed to make the cut. Perry can't even garner 3% of Republican primary support, keeping him out of the top 10 candidates. 'Bless his heart. At least Rick Perry won't have an opportunity to make another 'oops' moment." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Georgia Democrats preempted the GOP candidates' visit to Atlanta by summarizing each of their "tired, failed policies of yesteryear": "If anything, this gathering will prove that the GOP field is nothing more than a dozen or so charlatans willing to say anything to get elected. I'm not sure who will emerge as the 'victor' this weekend, but if any of these candidates end up closer than a mile from the White House, the middle class loses. Frankly, the individual candidates don't matter. They're all the same, they all live in the past, and what we really need is a Democrat to move our nation forward." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Friday, the Iowa Democratic Party Chair Dr. Andy McGuire issued a statement spotlighting the "outlandish" events of the GOP Debate and arguing that voters deserve more than the "GOP circus": "When Democrats get together, we talk about how we can strengthen the middle class and make the lives of Iowa's families better. After tonight's debate, it's clear that when Republicans get together, it's nothing more than a circus. A circus where every candidate races after Donald Trump to see who can make the most outlandish, divisive, and out-of-date policy statements that only move our country backward." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Friday, New Hampshire Democratic Chair Ray Buckley responded to the GOP's first official debate by holding the Republican candidates accountable for the harm that their policies stand to do to the middle class: "From repealing the Affordable Care Act to cutting funding for women's health, refusing to raise the minimum wage and shifting the tax burden to the middle class to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest few – those Republicans are wrong for middle class families and wrong for New Hampshire. If any of these Republican candidates win, the middle class loses – and no more was that clear than tonight. A few fireworks on stage didn't change anything." Read the full press release [here](#).