



WEEKLY UPDATE

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DNC MEMO: On to 2016: What this weekend shows about the GOP's future for women

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To: Interested Parties

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MEMO: On to 2016: What this weekend shows about the GOP's future for women

What a weekend.

The aftermath of the first Republican primary debate has been dominated by the crude, misogynistic comments made by GOP frontrunner Donald Trump. Unsurprisingly, his comments were outrageous, including referring to women as pigs and slobs. And of course, we won't soon forget his sexist attacks on Megyn Kelly.

None of the Republican presidential candidates immediately spoke out against these comments, and their clumsy responses since have still failed to do so in any meaningful way. It's clear now that there can ultimately be just one takeaway from this opening salvo of the 2016 campaign: the GOP's future with women is pretty bleak.

Jeb Bush's response is typical of the field. He addressed Trump's comments by [saying](#) "Come on. Give me a break. Do we want to win? Do we want to insult 53% of all voters?" Instead of focusing on condemning the content of Trump's extreme remarks, Bush fretted over the potential harm it could do to his bid for the presidency. Nevermind the fact he already insulted those same voters himself last week when he made his agenda clear and doubted the importance of funding for women's health.

When will the Republican Party realize that it's not their message that's the problem, but it's their backwards policies?

What we saw this weekend is that the GOP is focused on policies that shame and blame women.

The Republican presidential candidates are representative of a party that continues to move farther away from the best interests of women and even further into the past. It's clear the GOP has learned nothing from 2012 when the party faced the largest gender gap in history. This time around, every major Republican running for president wants to take away a woman's right to choose. And one of their frontrunners, Marco Rubio, a candidate who claims to represent the future, is even [repeating language we heard from Todd Akin](#) (!) almost verbatim.

While Democrats are pushing forward-looking policies that respect women and will help them get ahead, Republicans' policies of the past would leave women behind. Here are just some of the troubling positions we've seen from the field since Thursday night's debate:

Leaving women behind: Exceptions and the right to choose

Republicans running for president are clinging to the view that there should be no exceptions to abortion bans, even for women who are survivors of rape, incest, or who face medical complications due to childbirth that could be life-threatening.

The day after the debate, Marco Rubio [clarified](#) his backwards agenda for women. We already knew of his support for legislation that lets an employer decide if a female employee can or cannot get coverage for contraception. But this weekend he made clear he would ban abortion without any exceptions for rape and incest survivors.

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

[Social Security turns 80 today, but Republicans just want to ruin the party](#)

Happy Birthday, Social Security! In your 80 years, you've helped countless Americans become better situated for life after retirement. The benefits you provide are a critical component of our country's promise to protect Americans in their later years.

While Democrats are celebrating your 80th by fighting to protect you, Republicans are just trying to ruin the party. Each Republican candidate has touted failed proposals that would dismantle Social Security as we know it. Here's what they've proposed:

Scott Walker: [would raise](#) the retirement age, proposes non-specific "reforms" for [workers his age](#) (47) and younger.

John Kasich: would [privatize](#) Social Security for future seniors and undermine Social Security for Baby Boomers who are close to retirement; proposed a new tax on Social Security for seniors in Ohio.

Jeb Bush: supported his brother's plan to privatize Social Security, wants to raise the retirement age, open to means testing.

Marco Rubio: said Social Security "weakened us as a people," campaigned on privatization, and wants to [raise](#) the retirement age.

Chris Christie: would [raise](#) the retirement age to 69, placing [disproportionate harm on low-income and blue-collar seniors](#), and costing the average retiree [\\$30,000](#) in Social Security income, and proposed [means testing](#).

Ted Cruz: would privatize Social Security using the [George W. Bush model](#), wants to raise the [retirement age](#), open to means testing.

Rand Paul: wants to [raise](#) the retirement age to 70 and called for [privatizing](#) Social Security as well as allowing young workers to "opt-out."

Carly Fiorina: is open to cutting Social Security for younger workers and raising the retirement age.

Rick Perry: called Social Security a "Ponzi Scheme" and proposed privatization and raising the retirement age.

Lindsey Graham: [backed](#) privatizing Social Security and [raising the retirement age](#) to 70.

Mike Huckabee: made [false claims](#) about Social Security, and suggested buying out people with 401K plans.

Bobby Jindal: supports privatizing Social Security, [supported](#) the failed George W Bush plan.

George Pataki: proposed raising the retirement age and proposed privatizing Social Security.

Rick Santorum: supports [increasing the retirement age](#) and [privatization](#), said that Social Security is a "flawed design" because of "[abortion culture](#)."

Below you'll also find a new DNC video that features the 2016 GOPers saying all the terrible things they'd do to Social Security if elected:



[The Reviews Are In On The Bush Doctrine](#)

What we heard Tuesday night was that if Jeb Bush is our next president, it is clear that our country would return to the same, failed policies of the past, and our diplomatic reputation around the world will be dismantled once again. And even while Jeb Bush didn't mention his brother by name, George W. Bush and his policy agenda were on full display in the (Jeb!) Bush Doctrine.

The reviews are in. [Watch](#) what folks are saying about the Bush Doctrine:



NBC's Today Show: *"Jeb Bush himself has really struggled to articulate his own policy."*

ABC's Good Morning America: *"Noticeably absent in that speech – no mention by Jeb Bush of his brother, former president George W. Bush, and his decision to go to war in Iraq in the first place"*

MSNBC: *"Now of course every time Jeb Bush and Iraq appear in a headline together or in media coverage together, a lot of people are going to ask the question, how are you talking about the end of the war, but not talking about the beginning of the war and the policies of your brother, former president George W. Bush, in promoting that war?"*

LA Times: [In Jeb Bush's foreign policy speech, George W. Bush goes missing](#)

The notable omissions in a speech meant to stake out his approach to world issues spoke to a difficulty at the heart of Jeb Bush's campaign: He can't really mention the role of his brother, whose foreign policy moves remain unpopular even as he has benefited, as all presidents do, from a certain post-presidency boost in popularity. And to dump on him would seem disloyal. But when George Bush goes missing, it only seems to highlight the past in bright neon and beg for some accounting of how the future under Jeb would be better.

MSNBC: [Jeb Bush sees disaster in Iraq, blames Obama and Clinton](#)

Team Jeb appears convinced that what Americans really want to see in the future is more of his brother's foreign policy from the past, and a spirited effort to blame Democrats for Republican failures. It's a risky proposition.

Slate: [Shallow Jeb](#)

His 40-minute speech, at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, was a hodgepodge of revisionist history, shallow analysis, and vague prescriptions. The history—his effort to hide the scar of his own family history—was where he placed most of his chips, and he lost them all.

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

Chris Christie Calls for Reexamination of Birthright Citizenship Again This Week

For the [2nd time this week](#), Chris Christie called for the review of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, commonly known as “birthright citizenship.” The 14th amendment states unequivocally that “All persons born or naturalized in the United States...are citizens of the United States.”

[WATCH HERE](#) and read below.

Greta: Recently you said in an interview with Laura Ingraham on radio that ... you'd want to take another look at the 14th Amendment that's been in effect since about 1868 that [states] if you're born here in the U.S., you're a citizen.

Christie: What I said was I think you need to take a look at all that in the context of immigration reform. If we're going to do complete immigration reform, then everything needs to be looked at, examined, through a 21st century lens; not through a 19th century lens. And that's all I was saying that day was to make sure we evaluate everything, based upon the economic conditions in our country and the law enforcement conditions in our country.

Greta: So you're not looking to repeal the part that if you're born here in the United States--if you're born here in the United States you're not going to be a citizen, under a President Christie?

Christie: I am not looking to repeal it, but what I want is a complete review of everything. Everything needs to be considered.

“Like the rest of the GOP presidential field, Chris Christie refuses to look at immigrants – or in this case, children born to immigrants in the United States – through a human lens, let alone a 21st century lens. Christie’s comments are just another shameful articulation of the GOP’s obsession with following Donald Trump’s mass deportation agenda.” – **Pablo Manriquez, DNC Hispanic Communications Director**

John Kasich’s “Plan”? Cut Social Security for Baby Boomers

This week we’ve seen a lot of recycled policies from Republicans running for president. Whether it’s taking talking points from [Todd Akin](#), to opposing [paid family leave](#), it feels like we’ve been living in the past.

The latest happened in New Hampshire on Tuesday night, when John Kasich revealed he wants to privatize Social Security for future seniors and undermine Social Security for baby boomers who are so close to retirement and counting on the support they earned over a lifetime of work.

Watch [HERE](#)

KASICH: "On entitlements, they all need to be—so let me give you my basic feeling on it. If you're on it, we don't want to take it away. The baby boomers are going to have to give some on it. Not sure what it's going to be yet, because I gotta go back and do all the numbers again. And for the younger people I still like the idea of giving them an opportunity to earn money through the strength of our American economy, with Social Security included in that."

While his position that baby boomers should give up some of their Social Security benefits while we privatize the system for future generations is a fairly new revelation from John Kasich in this campaign, it’s not surprising given his previous proposals to [cut Social Security](#) benefits. Kasich has been a supporter of privatizing Social Security since his days in Congress, and even introduced legislation that would implement a new retirement program that has been called “[stealth privatization](#).”

“Asking baby boomers to face cuts on the Social Security benefits they’ve earned over their entire lives is the exact opposite of what they need to hear from a White House contender. We need to be doing more to protect our seniors who are so close to retirement and counting on a system they’ve paid into. Instead of doing the time warp on Social Security, Republicans should join Democrats and fight to protect and preserve this promise to our seniors.” – **Holly Shulman, DNC National Press Secretary**

In The States

- On Monday, the Texas Democratic Party released the following statement regarding Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton: "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton should resign. This is what a growing number of editorial boards are saying across Texas about Ken Paxton -- an admitted lawbreaker and Texas' chief law enforcement official facing over 99 years in jail -- and his three felony counts. Paxton's indictment is a black eye on Texas and the Attorney General's office. His legal battle is set to be lengthy and costly. He has no credibility. It's time for Ken Paxton to resign and restore integrity to the AG's office." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, New Hampshire Democratic Party Communications Director Lizzy Price released the following statement in response to Rand Paul claiming that he's a "different kind of Republican:" ""Rand Paul must be kidding when he says he has a 'unique' approach. Just like all the other GOP presidential candidates and Kelly Ayotte, he would limit a woman's access to affordable health care by defunding Planned Parenthood. He's already proven he is willing to shut down the government to push his extreme views. Paul, like Jeb Bush, believes that income inequality has increased because some people should just 'work harder and sell more stuff' -- not because his out of touch economic policies prop up the wealthiest few over middle class families." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Communications Director of the Iowa Democratic Party, Sam Lau, released a memo to highlight the out-of-touch policies of the GOP candidates who will be attending the Iowa State Fair: "while Democrats will be at the State Fair talking about their work on the progressive issues and values that all Iowans share, including economic fairness, equality, and the importance of high quality education, the 2016 GOP field will be peddling positions that seem stuck in a time warp from the earliest days of the fair... From Jeb Bush to Donald Trump, and from Ben Carson to Scott Walker, nearly all of the Republican candidates remain committed to the policies of the past that undermine women and families, threaten retirement security, and favor the needs of big oil over a renewable energy future. And given that the Fair was where Mitt Romney famously told Iowans "corporations are people," expectations are high for this year's most out-of-touch comment from a Republican field that has shown a habit of making them." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Wisconsin Democratic Party released the following statement on Scott Walker's failure to come clean about being a target of the John Doe investigation: "It's been more than a week since previously sealed court documents revealed that law enforcement officials had probable cause to believe that Scott Walker committed felony misconduct in office, yet as the governor travels the country campaigning for president Wisconsinites still don't have any answers about his role in the investigation or his million dollar criminal defense." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, Dewita Soeharjono, Chair of the Democratic Party of Virginia's Asian-American Caucus, released the following statement, calling on John Whitbeck to denounce a party insider's racial slurs: "It is extremely disappointing to see such a delayed and lackluster response from the Republican Party of Virginia to the use of racial slurs by one of their party leaders. It is particularly disappointing that Chairman Whitbeck has been completely absent from the conversation, especially given his own troubled relationship with inappropriate remarks about minorities." Read the full press release [here](#).