



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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[DNC Research Director Lauren Dillon on Medium: Why Chris Christie? The Gaping Holes in His Campaign Premise](#)

So, Chris Christie, we hear you're running for President.

You are running despite your [record low](#) approval ratings (more than [half](#) of New Jersey *Republicans* don't think you have the temperament to lead) and disastrous economic record (a historic [nine](#) credit downgrades, ranking [48th](#) in the nation for job growth).

So why you?

You say, "pick me because I tell it like it is."

Ha! You've proven you never tell it like it is. Allow me to remind you.

When asked about immigration reform, one of the most important issues we face today, this is [what you said](#): "There's no upside to me at this moment, to be candid, to discuss it."

When asked how you would handle our nation's foreign policy, this is how you responded, "I haven't given any deep thought to foreign policy." Asked about terrorist threats, "Is there something you don't understand about 'no questions?'"

Asked six times in two months for your opinion on the Supreme Court gutting the Voting Rights Act - which protected access to the ballot box for minorities, women, young people and seniors - all you could say was you were "tired of being asked."

You say, "pick me, I'm a straight shooter."

It must be your target that keeps moving.

While running for governor, you pandered to Latinos, suggesting that you were somehow their guy. But you've consistently shown you would leave them behind with your calls to gut Obamacare, your cuts to education funding, and your comments like this.

Most recently you [signed](#) onto Republican efforts to tear immigrant families apart. You even say that a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants is an "[extreme](#)" position that lacked thought.

You used to blame your [cuts](#) to women's health (which closed [six](#) clinics in New Jersey) on the state's financial troubles, but now that you're running for president, we see the truth—you've been playing politics with women's health. You loudly tell conservative primary voters outside of New Jersey that your cuts were really about shutting down Planned Parenthood—proudly announcing you "vetoed Planned Parenthood funding FIVE TIMES!"

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



[DNC Chair Statement on Chris Christie's 2016 Announcement](#)

With Chris Christie's announcement that he is running for president, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"Now that Chris Christie is a candidate for President, he should be prepared to handle some blunt, straight-talk he may not like: his failed leadership has driven New Jersey's economy off a cliff, leaving the middle class even further behind.

"As governor, Christie has led New Jersey to a record-setting nine credit downgrades, the third lowest private sector job growth in the country, and an unemployment rate among the highest in the region. The state has experienced significant budget shortfalls as Christie gave massive tax breaks to corporations and protected those at the very top while failing to meet his obligations to the middle class.

"Chris Christie spent 2014 and most of 2015 so far ignoring the problems he created at home while the state's economic and fiscal crises worsened.

"His bullying style created a culture that led to the infamous Bridgegate scandal, and he's done nothing to solve New Jersey's fiscal problems.

"Allow me to tell it like it is: Governor Christie doesn't have solutions for America's middle class, and he'd be a nightmare as President."



[Five Things You Need to Know About Chris Christie](#)

1. Under Chris Christie, New Jersey ranks **near last** in the nation in private sector job growth.
2. He has led New Jersey to a **record-breaking nine** credit downgrades. Yes, you read that right: nine credit downgrades.
3. His bullying style created a culture that brought about the now-infamous Bridgegate scandal.
4. He **strongly opposes** a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
5. He has made cuts to women's health because of his new pro-life attitude, even loudly telling conservative primary voters that he has "**vetoed Planned Parenthood funding FIVE TIMES!**" And he did it **again last night**.

[DNC Chair Statement on Jim Webb's 2016 Announcement](#)

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

"I welcome Jim Webb's bid to seek the Democratic nomination for President in 2016. Senator Webb has a long and distinguished record of service to his country, both in the Marines and in public office. His leadership on the Post-9/11 GI Bill is a sterling example of the Democratic commitment to ensuring the opportunities available for our veterans when they return home.

"As the field of 2016 candidates rounds into shape, a stark contrast is developing between the Democratic and Republican parties. Democrats are fighting for middle class families, and those still struggling to get there. Republicans are concerned only with those already at the very top. Over the coming months, the difference between the Democratic plan to move our nation forward and Republican efforts to bring back the failed policies of the past will only grow more clear."

[What people are noticing about Bush's tax returns...](#)

"Transparency":

"The staging and packaging of this document dump was a sleight of hand aiming to distract from the disclosures themselves — the fact that Bush is very much a one-percenter who has aggressively monetized his family connections to amass significant wealth amid a recession — and from several bad business dealings with questionable associates that have already been well-chronicled." — [Politico, 06/30/15](#)

"Bush's transparency has limits. He would not commit to releasing more details about some of his consulting clients or several limited liability corporations he had created but has since resigned from." — [Tampa Bay Times, 06/30/15](#)

"Bush excluded forms that would have disclosed the names of clients who paid him millions in consulting fees in the years since he left office. Victor Fleischer, a professor of tax law at the University of San Diego, said releasing only some tax information portrays a mixed message about how Bush earned his fortune." — [Washington Post, 06/30/15](#)

"Bush and his campaign wouldn't release a complete list of consulting clients, citing confidentiality agreements." — [Bloomberg, 06/30/15](#)

Offshore:

"Bush also owned funds run by Abbey Capital LP that resulted in him filing tax forms that include addresses in Malta, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda. Investment funds often set up addresses outside the U.S. to help foreign investors limit their U.S. tax liabilities." — [Bloomberg, 06/30/15](#)

"He also profited from investments in Abbey Capital Fund, which according to SEC forms is headquartered in the Cayman Islands and Malta, locales often used to avoid taxation." — [New York Post, 06/30/15](#)

His "Own Man"?

"Bush's financial successes coincided with two political events: his father's election as president in 1988 and his own departure from office as Florida's governor in 2007." — [AP, 07/01/15](#)

"But suddenly, in 1990, the second year of George H. W. Bush's presidency, Jeb's income balloons. Not only was that his first year making six figures, but his income of \$1.24 million also makes it his first seven-figure year. ...After he's back in the private sector in 2007, though, the real boom times begin. Now, Jeb's brother is president of the United States, and Jeb is viewed as a future presidential contender himself. His income soars so much in these years, particularly starting in 2011, that it dwarfs those of earlier decades, topping out at \$7.36 million in 2013, the most recent year available." — [Vox, 06/30/15](#)

[GOP 2016ers Protect the Right to Discriminate](#)

On Wednesday, Indiana Governor Mike Pence's Right to Discriminate law went into effect.

When Pence gave businesses the right to discriminate against members of the LGBT community, his approval ratings [plummeted nearly 20 points](#) in his home state and he was quickly disregarded as a serious presidential contender.

This comes as no surprise though. Across the country this past week, [Americans celebrated](#) the Supreme Court ruling to legalize same-sex marriage – and [most are opposed to Pence's bill](#).

And yet, even after the events of the last weeks and months – the 2016 GOP field are still standing against equality.

Here's what they have said:

- **Jeb Bush** on Hugh Hewitt: "Governor Pence has done the right thing." Listen [here](#).
- **Rand Paul** voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and suggested whether business should have the right to discriminate based on sexual orientation should be left up to the "marketplace."
- **Ted Cruz** sponsored legislation that would give organizations a license to discriminate against same-sex couples and believes that the government should not force anyone to serve same-sex couples if they say it goes against their religion.
- **Chris Christie**: "I know Mike Pence, and he's got nothing but love in his heart for people and I just do not believe that in any way Mike Pence would intend for anything that happen in his state on his watch to be discriminatory towards any person."
- **Marco Rubio** voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act because he thought it would provide "special protections" for gay people and he also believes businesses should be able to discriminate against the LGBT community.
- **Rick Perry**: "I stand with @GovPenceIN."
- **Scott Walker**: "'As a matter of principle, Gov. Walker believes in broad religious freedom and the right for Americans to exercise their religion and act on their conscience,' AshLee Strong, the press secretary for Walker's Our American Revival, said in a statement."

In the States

- On Tuesday, in response to Governor Chris Christie's 2016 announcement, New Jersey Democratic Chairman John Currie made the following statement: "We have had nine credit rating downgrades since he has been governor and that goes to bonding and interest rates...The economy has recovered throughout most of the rest of the country, but we have had a deep, deep recession...He's turned New Jersey into a failed state, and if he becomes president, he will turn the United States into a failed nation." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, following Maine Governor Paul LePage's endorsement of 2016 GOP presidential hopeful Chris Christie, Maine Democratic Party Chairman Phil Bartlett released the following statement: "Chris Christie must be desperate for media attention if he's seeking Paul LePage's endorsement. LePage has alienated state lawmakers, his constituents and members of his own Party as he faces growing calls for impeachment and investigations into his alleged blackmail of Good Will-Hinkley school." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, Senator Ted Cruz offered his support for Donald Trump's offensive comments towards Mexican immigrants. In response, Texas Democratic Party Spokesperson Javier Gamboa issued the following statement: "As a Mexican-immigrant, I am deeply offended by Trump's hateful and racist remarks. To add insult to injury, Senator Cruz is standing with Donald Trump. Texas' diversity makes us great. We appreciate the people, from all walks of life, that have built our state. Senator Cruz is out of touch and out of line. It is a shame that the Republican Party has embraced this kind of hateful and divisive rhetoric. If this is the GOP's Hispanic outreach efforts, they're in big trouble." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Iowa Democratic Party released the following statement in response to Rand Paul's habit of running away from important national issues, but decision to run towards extremists like Cliven Bundy: "As Rand Paul visits western Iowa and prepares to return to Okoboji tonight, a reminder that the last time he was in town he literally ran away from DREAMers who approached him... Since then, Iowans have gotten used to Paul running away from the main issues of the day... There's one person though who Rand Paul hasn't run away from: self-avowed expert on 'the negro' Cliven Bundy." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, Martha Laning, released the following statement in response to the budget deal unveiled by Republicans: "Investments in infrastructure, healthcare, and public education don't just build stronger communities all over the state; they drive economic growth and opportunity for all by making our state a more attractive place for businesses to invest. That's why Democrats have been fighting all session to fully fund our public schools...and create family-supporting jobs while improving our transportation infrastructure. This budget makes clear yet again that legislative Republicans either don't understand what it takes to strengthen the middle class or they simply don't care." Read the full press release [here](#).