



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

July 17, 2015

Six things you need to know about Scott Walker

Scott Walker compared American workers like teachers and firefighters to [brutal ISIS terrorists](#). (Dealing with Wisconsin workers standing up for their rights supposedly prepared him to “do the same across the world,” he says.)

Scott Walker has said he [doesn't think](#) the minimum wage “serves a purpose.”

Scott Walker [cut taxes](#) for the wealthy in Wisconsin while shifting the burden onto poor and middle class families.

Scott Walker's budget [deficit](#) was \$2 billion, and Wisconsin sits [at the bottom](#) among other Midwest states in terms of job growth.

Scott Walker repealed an equal pay law and called it a [“bogus issue.”](#)

Scott Walker [supports](#) banning abortions in cases of rape or incest and even when the life of the mother is in danger. Scott Walker defended mandatory invasive ultrasounds by saying ultrasounds are [“just a cool thing out there”](#) and said [“most people think ultrasounds are just fine.”](#)

In response to Scott Walker's announcement on Monday that he is running for president, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following [statement](#):

“With today's announcement, Scott Walker has indicated that he intends to bring his Wisconsin brand of politics to Washington, but the reality is that he's already brought the worst of Washington to Wisconsin.

“To promote adherence to his rigid partisan views and to please the special interests that have backed his campaigns, Walker has pit the people of Wisconsin against each other in contentious ideological fights. He's gutted education, refused investments in infrastructure and health care, and shuttered women's health clinics, while pushing tax policies that have overwhelmingly benefitted the wealthiest few.

“Walker promised to eliminate the deficit but his state was \$2.2 billion in the red, and Walker's Wisconsin sits at the bottom in his region for job growth, while his job-creation agency is mired in mismanagement and questions about tax credits that went to his political donors.

“It's that type of divisive, ineffective politics, and mismanagement that middle class Americans don't need any more of in Washington. Walker simply has the wrong priorities for America.”



WISCONSIN GOVERNOR
SCOTT WALKER
WANTS A PROMOTION

AT HIS CURRENT JOB, HE:

FACED A \$2 BILLION BUDGET DEFICIT
+
GUTTED EDUCATION AND
HEALTH CARE FUNDING
+
REFUSES TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

[Only Three Days In, and Walker Has Already Alienated Hardworking Americans, LGBT Americans and Women](#)

A brief timeline of Walker's first few days on the campaign trail:

Monday: Scott Walker announces he's running for president. Immediately after, he tells Sean Hannity that the minimum wage is "lame."

Washington Post: [Scott Walker calls minimum wage one of many 'lame idea' from Democrats](#)
The Hill: [Walker: Minimum wage hike among left's 'lame ideas'](#)

Tuesday: Scott Walker tells the conservative Independent Journal Review that he believes the Boy Scouts should continue excluding LGBT adults from leading or volunteering with troops, because the old policy "protected children."

MSNBC: [Walker wants Boy Scouts 'protected' from gay people](#)
La Crosse Tribune: [Scott Walker: Boy Scouts previous policy banning gay leaders was 'perfectly fine'](#)

Wednesday: Scott Walker goes on Laura Ingraham's radio show. She asks him, "You don't believe the final decision [on women's health] should be between a woman and her doctor?" Walker replies, unequivocally: "No."

The Capital Times: [Scott Walker tells Laura Ingraham he doesn't believe abortion should be between a woman and her doctor](#)

[Jeb Bush concedes that Obamacare, which he wants to repeal, is good for Uber drivers: "That may be true"](#)

Yesterday, the world watched with baited breath as Jeb Bush did what thousands of Americans do every day – took a ride in an Uber.

But here's something you don't see every day: a GOP presidential contender who has sworn to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which has provided millions of Americans with quality affordable health care, admitting that it actually works. Take a look at this exchange:

[VIDEO](#)

REPORTER: "Governor, the [Uber] CEO is on record saying that Obamacare has actually been good for his business model because his independent contractors can find insurance more easily on the, on the-"

BUSH: "Sure, sure. Let's just, I mean, that's a- That may be true."

Seems like he needs to rethink opposing something that he even admits is helping hardworking Americans.

"Jeb Bush can't embrace the innovation economy of today while trying to take us back to the health care system of yesterday. Jeb Bush's plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act would throw millions of Americans – including countless Uber drivers – off of their health insurance. Zero stars for Jeb Bush." – Eric Walker, DNC Spokesperson

Trump Builds One Brand and Damages Another
NEW YORK TIMES // CHARLES BLOW

Donald Trump is exactly what the Republican Party deserves.

The Republican Party has nurtured anti-immigrant, xenophobic nastiness for years, but it has tried to do so, at least at the national level, in language that disguised it as a simple issue of law and order.

Trump has blown all that to bits.

Trump is now leading in the polls as measured by support of likely Republican primary/caucus voters, according to a USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll released this week. Although, it should be noted, he leads with only 17 percentage points in the crowded field, just three points ahead of Jeb Bush, a gap that is still within the poll's margin of error.

But Trump leading in the polls is all the media needs to allow Trump to also lead the debate. There is nothing a television camera likes more than spectacle.

Let me be clear: Trump will not be the president of the United States. But I firmly believe that Trump not only knows that, he doesn't want to be president. Trump is brand-building. This is all free publicity for a salesman in the business of selling himself.

In the same USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll, Trump has a staggering unfavorable rating among all voters, including Democrats and independents. According to the newspaper: "In the poll, 61 percent have an unfavorable impression of him and 23 percent a favorable one." In comparison, "Bush's favorable-unfavorable rating is 35 percent-42 percent."

But Trump is milking his moment.

There is a cottage industry among some public people that is breathing new life into the adage "all press is good press." These people use ignobility as an elevator; they inflame their way to infamy. They get the country talking and their names trending, then they turn that cultural currency into hard currency.

Every minute Trump is on your television screens, it's good for Trump. Every time Trump's name is mentioned on social media, it's good for Trump. Every time someone writes about Trump, it's good for Trump. This column is good for Trump.

But Trump is an egotist. He is at the center of his own universe. He's not so much concerned about politics, or his party or the presidency. Trump is good for Trump.

But, what's good news for the Trump brand could prove disastrous news for the Republican brand.

Trump recently boasted, "I'm, like, a really smart person." I believe that's true — not necessarily in the erudite, intellectual sense, but rather in the instinctive, people-reading sense.

When Trump made his campaign announcement last month, he said:

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

Set aside the fact that he provided no evidence of the Mexican government's "sending" anyone to this country. Set aside the fact that, as The Washington Post put it, "data show that new immigrants — including illegal immigrants — are actually less likely to commit crime, not more."

Facts are not the point for Trump. He spouts so much unsubstantiated idiocy that trying to correct it all would drive any respectable fact-checker mad. Indeed, taking Trump seriously enough to attempt the appropriate fact checks, in a way, only serves to elevate his obvious provocations to serious rhetorical argumentation.

Some corporations distanced themselves from Trump in the wake of his comments, but Trump seems to be making the calculation, probably rightly so, that the business he loses by being in the news is worth less than the free airtime that doing so affords him.

The whole point of Trump's perfidy is provocation, which is itself a way of positioning him for more profits. Republicans get excited; Trump gets richer. Detractors get angry; Trump gets richer.

This is where his true gifts are on display, this form of emotional intelligence and business acumen, the ability to tap into and exploit other people's emotions, even those whose response to him is revulsion. This is the art and craft of the demagogue.

You have to see Trump's statement for what it was: A naked attempt at Willie Horton-izing Mexican immigrants, and thereby the exploiting of the image, substantiated or not, of the brown-bodied predator destroying our country and taking the virtue of our women.

It provides language for people to hide their racism and nativism inside the more honorable shell of civility and chivalry. It allows Trump to tap into anger and call it adulation.

Trump knows how to get a rise out of people, and he's doing it.

On Sunday, Senator Lindsey Graham, another of the gaggle of Republican presidential candidates, said of Trump on CNN:

"I think he's hijacked the debate. I think he's a wrecking ball for the future of the Republican Party with the Hispanic community and we need to push back."

But the Republican Party isn't innocent here. Trump isn't imposing a poisonous view of Hispanics; he's voicing it. And he's voicing it in precisely the blunt and noxious terms that a sizable portion of the party feels it and in which they want to hear it discussed.

While some Republicans have sought to distance themselves from Trump, if not completely condemn him, the terrain of those responses has been wobbly. This allows all the more weight to Hillary Clinton's charge that Republican candidates are "on a spectrum of hostility" when it comes to immigrants.

But there are also Republicans who outright applaud Trump. As Senator Ted Cruz, another Republican presidential candidate, put it:

"When it comes to Donald Trump, I like Donald Trump. I think he's terrific. I think he's brash. I think he speaks the truth."

As long as portions of the Republican Party laud the divisive, fact-challenged Trump as a terrific truth-teller, the party's brand will continue to sustain incalculable damage, particularly among the vital immigrant population.

There is no need for anyone to have one ounce of sympathy for the G.O.P. Its chicken has come home to roost.

In the States

- On Monday, following Scott Walker's announcement for president, Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Martha Laning released a statement criticizing his record of "corruption", "division", "extremism", and economic failure: "It's clear that Walker's vision for America is one that fights against the middle class so he can win for special interests and a select few millionaires and billionaires. This is the same kind of 'divide and conquer' strategy that has Wisconsin reeling because Scott Walker has put his political ambitions ahead of what's best for Wisconsin." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Monday, the Iowa Democratic Party held a press conference highlighting how Jeb Bush's "out-of-touch" comments that Americans need to work "longer hours" harm middle-class families while benefiting the wealthy: "Jeb Bush's economic plan is simple: demand more of the middle class, ask Iowans to work longer, all while tilting the playing field for those at the very top like himself. Iowans have already seen what a Bush presidency can do for our economy, and we don't need to see another." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Nevada State Democratic Party spokesperson Zach Hudson issued a statement criticizing Scott Walker's for choosing Jim Wheeler to run his Nevada Campaign: "It's an alarming sign about Scott Walker's agenda that he would pick someone who said he would bring back slavery if his constituents wanted it to run Walker's Nevada campaign. Scott Walker should be denouncing Jim Wheeler for his outrageous remarks, not rewarding him with a position on Walker's campaign." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, in response to Scott Walker's recent comments about the Boy Scouts of America, the New Hampshire Democratic Party released a list of Boy Scout Badges that Scott Walker failed to earn as governor of Wisconsin: "American Labor: The premise of this badge is that labor supports the rights of workers, but Scott Walker compared workers like teachers and firefighters to brutal ISIS terrorists. Just this week he called raising the minimum wage a 'lame idea.' No badge." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, Connecticut Democratic Party spokesman Leigh Appleby issued a statement highlighting the "rift" that Chris Christie's recent New Haven fundraiser stands to cause within the Connecticut GOP: "Another year, another mark of division within the Connecticut GOP ranks. Last year, it was a contest of which candidate could move furthest to the right. This year, the story is repeating itself in the GOP presidential primary. Let me be very clear: Every one of the Republican presidential candidates would favor the wealthiest individuals and corporations over the needs of working Connecticut families." Read the full press release [here](#).