



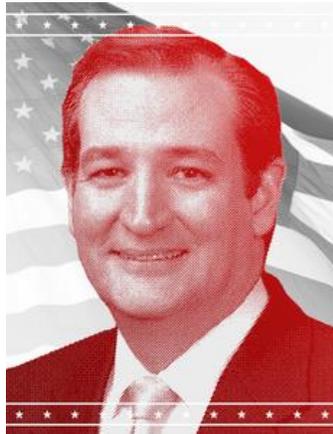
WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 27, 2015

5 Things You Need to Know about Ted Cruz – in His Own Words

"Fitting that Ted Cruz would be one of the first to jump into the Republican primary. He led his party's efforts to shut down the government in a personal crusade to take away quality health care from millions and to give control back to the insurance companies, and has been the embodiment of the Republican Party's backwards policies that put millionaires and corporations first and the middle class last. Seniors need to know that Ted Cruz thinks Social Security is a 'Ponzi scheme'. Women need to know that Ted Cruz thinks the Paycheck Fairness Act is 'for show'.



YOU ONLY NEED TO REMEMBER
ONE NUMBER WHEN IT COMES TO
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

TED CRUZ

\$24 BILLION

(THE AMOUNT HIS GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN COST THE ECONOMY)

Everyone needs to know that Cruz supported a 23% national sales tax, which would shift the tax burden to the middle class, while slashing taxes for corporations. On issue after issue, Ted Cruz and his Republican colleagues are wrong for the middle class, wrong for women, wrong for seniors and wrong for America." – *Holly Shulman, DNC national press secretary*

1. Cruz led a **government shutdown** that cost \$24 billion – all because he wanted to take away quality health care from millions of Americans and give control back to the insurance companies.

And then he said that it was "absolutely" worth it.
Watch it [here](#).

2. Cruz's **priorities are completely backwards.**

Ted Cruz wants to "[slash the corporate tax rate](#)", while [proposing](#) a 23% nationwide sales tax on just about everything – which would increase the burden on the middle class.

3. Cruz on **Social Security** being a Ponzi scheme: "There's no doubt that's what it is."
Watch it [here](#).

4. Cruz's agenda: **shut it down.**

"There are a number of federal agencies that I think should be eliminated: the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy..."
Read it [here](#).

5. Cruz on the **Paycheck Fairness Act**: "A show vote"
Watch it [here](#).

The Affordable Care Act by the Numbers

- **More than 16 million:** the number of previously uninsured Americans who have gained access to quality health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.
- **Almost 6 million:** the number of young adults under the age of 26 who have gained coverage since 2010, including the **2.3 million** who were able to stay on their parents plans thanks to the Affordable Care Act.
- **35 percent:** the reduction in the uninsured rate since the first open enrollment in October 2013.
- **Up to 129 million:** the number of people with pre-existing conditions who can no longer be denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition.
- **9.4 million:** the number of seniors and people with disabilities on Medicare who have saved over \$15 billion on prescription drugs, an average of \$1,598 per beneficiary.

And let's not forget...

- **About 12 million:** the number of private sector jobs that have been added to the American economy since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in March 2010.
- **60:** the number of consecutive months of private sector job growth, the longest streak on record.

It's been five years since President Obama signed this act into law and now more Americans have health insurance than ever before – many for the first time. The uninsured rate has dropped dramatically – the largest drop in four decades – and everyday more and more Americans are benefitting from the law.

Democrats remain committed to making sure that affordable health coverage is within reach for every American and will continue to fight to improve the lives of working Americans all over the country. The Affordable Care Act is working across the nation, and it is here to stay.

[DNC VIDEO: His own man?](#)



Watch the video [here](#).

"His own man? I think not. The Bush economy favors the richest over the middle class, and on that core agenda there is absolutely no daylight between Jeb Bush and his brother.

A Jeb Bush presidency would be about looking out for himself and people like him over the middle class. Sound familiar? Not only has that been Jeb Bush's record as governor, but we know what to expect from a Bush presidency because we've seen it before: policies that wreck the economy and give massive breaks to the wealthy and corporations at everyone else's expense." – **Holly Shulman, DNC National Press Secretary**

[DNC Vice Chair Statement on Governor Mike Pence Signing SB 101](#)

In response to Indiana Governor Mike Pence signing SB 101, a bill that could allow Indiana businesses to deny services to customers based on sexual orientation, DNC Vice Chair, President of the Association of State Democratic Chairs, New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair, and Member of the DNC's LGBT Caucus Ray Buckley released the following statement:

"In the face of opposition from Indiana's LGBT community, Indiana's business community, and the majority of Americans who believe a business should not be able to refuse services to individuals because they are gay or lesbian, Governor Mike Pence and the Republican Party decided to move forward with a damaging bill that turns back the clock on the progress we have made for LGBT equality.

"By signing this blatantly discriminatory bill that will only drive business out of his state, Pence reminds every Hoosier and every American that the Republican Party is more focused on its ideological social agenda than it is on expanding opportunity for the middle class and growing our economy.

"And the fact is, Republican presidential hopeful Mike Pence is far from alone on this issue. Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio have all voiced support for similar legislation and policies that would give businesses the right to refuse services to LGBT people. Just imagine if these politicians had the chance to bring this dangerous and divisive agenda to the White House.

"So while Republicans applaud Mike Pence for allowing Indiana businesses to discriminate against the LGBT community, Democrats will continue to stand with our community and fight for a more inclusive society in Indiana and across the country."

[Chris Christie is Not One to Talk](#)

Last Saturday at a reception for donors to the Republican National Committee, Gov. Chris Christie [criticized](#) Republicans who have swayed on their issues in order to pander to wings of the Republican party. Chris Christie however is not one to talk as he has flip flopped on issues all across the board from immigration to family planning, to just yesterday, flipping yet again on state gun laws.

Let's take a look at a few of his U-turns:

On family planning:

- *Flip:* When Chris Christie first entered politics, he was not only pro-choice but he also [personally donated](#) to Planned Parenthood.
- *Flop:* As governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie has vetoed funding for family planning clinics five times and uses his anti-abortion stance to [boost his social](#) conservative credentials.

On Common Core:

- *Flip:* Chris Christie has previously called Republican opposition to Common Core a ["knee-jerk reaction"](#) and said he had ["every intention"](#) of continuing to push for Common Core standards.
- *Flop:* This year, Christie said that he had ["grave concerns"](#) about Common Core and its ties to federal grant funding, despite the fact that his own administration [requested](#) those grants.

On immigration:

- *Flip:* In 2008, Christie [said](#) that it was not a crime to be in the United States without proper documentation.
- *Flop:* Chris Christie's stance on immigration is that he is open to deportation of undocumented immigrants ["if practical"](#) and to be ["very clear that \[he's\] not somebody who's for amnesty."](#)

And yesterday, on state gun laws:

- *Flip:* In his early years, Christie was a proponent of New Jersey's assault weapons bans and he [actually stated](#) that an attempt by Republican legislators to repeal the state's ban on assault weapons motivated him to run for office.
- *Flop:* At a town hall yesterday, Christie ["said he would consider rolling back...gun laws"](#), after saying he supports ["strictly enforcing"](#) the states laws. As governor, Chris Christie has bowed to anti-gun safety special interests, stating ["I think we have enough gun laws now."](#) He has [refused to defend](#) state gun laws in court and has vetoed bills supporting limits [on gun magazines](#).

We know that Christie puts his political ambitions above all else – and that means rampant political pandering to the far right, as quickly as possible. Christie consistently puts the interests of his allies and himself ahead of what's best for his state and working families, and blatant panders won't conceal that very clear record.

In the States

- On Tuesday, Mayor Alvin Brown finished first in Jacksonville, Florida's mayoral race. Taking nearly 43 percent of the vote, Brown now heads into a runoff to be held this May. Florida Democratic Party Chair Allison Tant released the following statement in response to Mayor Brown's win: "I congratulate Mayor Brown on his first-place finish in tonight's election. Across Jacksonville, people voted for Alvin Brown's strong leadership, bringing people together to grow the economy, protecting taxpayers dollars, and keeping our communities safe. Alvin's campaign came in first tonight because he has always kept his promises, from creating jobs to holding the line on taxes. Meanwhile, his opponents are more divided than ever, resorting to negative attacks and fighting among each other." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, news came from Ted Cruz that he is planning to sign up for and receive insurance through a federal exchange made possible by the Affordable Care Act. The Texas Democratic Party took the opportunity to highlight Cruz's contradiction that he was enrolling in the exact program he has vowed to repeal completely time and time again. Just this week, in his presidential campaign announcement speech, Cruz told his crowd to "Imagine in 2017 a new president signing legislation repealing every word of Obamacare," yet only one day later, he announced the legislation he is so adamantly opposed to will now provide he and his family with healthcare. Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, following the passage of a Republican school takeover plan in the Georgia House, Democratic Party of Georgia Chair DuBose Porter released the following statement: "After severely cutting resources Georgia's public education system so desperately needs, Georgia Republicans now want to use smoke and mirrors to implement an empty measure that is not a long-term solution. Fixing Georgia's school system begins with fully funding public education. It's been said time and again that budgets reflect our priorities. If Georgia legislators want to find a solution that empowers students and teachers to succeed, then invest in our future and give them the resources they deserve—don't pull the rug out from under them." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, Lizette Delgado-Polanco, Vice Chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, criticized Governor Chris Christie's move to join other Republicans in an attempt through the courts to block President Barack Obama's immigration reform efforts. Delgado-Polanco had the following to say: "Chris Christie's decision to join with other Republican governors in undermining President Obama's much-needed immigration reforms is a deeply irresponsible, partisan act. New Jersey has a rich cultural heritage and relies on the work of immigrants to bolster our state and local economy. That Christie -- who has thus far refused to stake a coherent position on immigration -- would now seek to condemn hundreds of thousands of undocumented New Jersey residents to society's shadows is just the latest example of him trying to score political points with right-wing ideologues at the expense of New Jersey families and our common values. It's shameful to think that last year his second inaugural celebration was scheduled to be on Ellis Island." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, Senator Ron Johnson made a series of ridiculous comments in regards to college affordability, claiming students are taking longer to graduate due to laziness and that students can't afford to pay their loans because they are choosing the wrong degrees. The Democratic Party of Wisconsin pointed out some truths for Senator Johnson, though, such as the fact that while tuition has doubled in the past 12 years, Wisconsin incomes have failed to rise and the state has seen the worst decline in median family income than any other in the nation. Democratic Party of Wisconsin Communications Director Melissa Baldauff released the following statement in response to Johnson's comments: "Only an out of touch millionaire like Ron Johnson, whose career has been bought and paid for by his in-laws, would think college kids are just too lazy to finish school or that middle class families would prefer to be crippled by student loan debt. Johnson has no idea what reality is like for middle class families in Wisconsin who, despite working harder than ever, have seen the worst drop in income of any state in the country. You shouldn't have to be a millionaire like Ron Johnson to be able to help your kids go to college." Read the full press release [here](#).