



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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[*DNC VIDEO*: Meet the ReTRUMPlican Party](#)

Check out our new DNC video on how Donald Trump's comments on immigrants are simply echoing the rest of the 2016 Republican presidential field:



[Donald Trump is the monster the GOP created](#)

WASHINGTON POST // DANA MILIBANK

It has been amusing to watch the brands — the PGA, NBC, Macy's, NASCAR, Univision, Serta — flee Donald Trump after his xenophobic remarks. Who even knew The Donald had a line of mattresses featuring Cool Action Dual Effects Gel Memory Foam?

But there is one entity that can't dump Trump, no matter how hard it tries: the GOP. The Republican Party can't dump Trump because Trump *is* the Republican Party.

One big Republican donor this week floated to the Associated Press the idea of having candidates boycott debates if the tycoon is onstage. Jeb Bush, Lindsey Graham and other candidates have lined up to say, as Rick Perry put it, that "Donald Trump does not represent the Republican Party."

But Trump has merely held up a mirror to the GOP. The man, long experience has shown, believes in nothing other than himself. He has, conveniently, selected the precise basket of issues that Republicans want to hear about — or at least a significant proportion of Republican primary voters. He may be saying things more colorfully than others when he talks about Mexico sending rapists across the border, but his views show that, far from being an outlier, he is hitting all the erogenous zones of the GOP electorate.

Anti-immigrant? Against Common Core education standards? For repealing Obamacare? Against same-sex marriage? Antiabortion? Anti-tax? Anti-China? Virulent in questioning President Obama's legitimacy? Check, check, check, check, check, check, check and check.

Cutting ties with Trump: Who has dumped him and why

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The GOP presidential hopeful has faced an avalanche of criticism over his characterization of illegal immigrants.

Does anybody suppose Trump really cares about illegal immigration (which helps his construction interests, by suppressing wages) or about defending traditional marriage (he's had three)?

And we don't need to suppose: We can look back at what he did and said in 1999, when he was flirting with a run for the Reform Party presidential nomination and I accompanied him on a swing through Southern California.

I flew on his 727 with the winged "T" on the tail and the mirrored headboard on the bed, and I learned all about his prospective platform: progressive on social issues such as gays in the military, for campaign finance reform and universal health care, in favor of more regulation, opposed to investing Social Security money in the stock market. Most of all, he preached tolerance — contrasting himself with Pat Buchanan, his rival for the nomination, who had made statements considered anti-Semitic and anti-immigrant.

Buchanan at the time had been talking about a "railroad killer" and other criminals entering illegally from Mexico. He said other politicians were afraid that "if they speak out against illegal immigration and they speak out against the crimes that are being committed, suddenly they'll be considered insensitive, or they say, 'We might lose the Hispanic vote.'"

Trump back then issued a statement saying he hates intolerance because in New York, "a town with different races, religions and peoples, I have learned to work with my brother man." I accompanied him as he underscored the point by touring the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

"He seems to be a racist," Trump said of Buchanan.

Now [Trump is the one talking about](#) Mexico sending us drugs, crime and rapists. His shift is hardly surprising given his audience — and his competitors. Scott Walker talks about self-deportation, Graham talks about ending birthright citizenship, Ben Carson blames illegal immigrants in part for the measles outbreak, Rand Paul describes as lawbreakers those who were brought to the United States illegally as children, and even relatively moderate candidates such as Bush and Marco Rubio have hardened their immigration positions. Ted Cruz actually praised Trump.

Trump's position also closely follows those that came from Arizona in 2010 when then-Gov. Jan Brewer and other Republicans attempted an immigration crackdown. They spoke about illegal immigrants on the border as a source of beheadings, kidnappings and police killings.

The previously tolerant Trump may be a phony, but he's no dope: He recognized that, in the fragmented Republican field, his name recognition would take him far if he merely voiced, in his bombastic style, the positions GOP voters craved. The mogul's broader basket of issues is also in tune with those of a slate of candidates who have compared homosexuality to alcoholism (Perry), likened union protesters to the Islamic State (Walker) and proposed elections for Supreme Court justices (Cruz), and who virtually all oppose same-sex marriage and action on climate change.

It worked. Trump placed second in national polls by Fox News and CNN, virtually guaranteeing him a place in the first debate, on Aug. 6 — unless the GOP persuades Fox News, the host, to dump Trump.

That would be hard to justify. Trump may be a monster, but he's the monster Republicans created.

Jeb Bush in NH: Americans “need to work longer hours”

“You read that right. Jeb Bush, who wants to be president of the United States, thinks that to move our economy forward Americans ‘need to work longer hours.’ It is easily one of the most out-of-touch comments we’ve heard so far this cycle. Jeb Bush would not fight for the middle class as president. He would do what he’s always done – put himself and people like him over everyday Americans. Bet hardworking Americans are going to have something to say about this.” – ***DNC National Press Secretary Holly Shulman***



Jeb Bush: “My aspiration for the country and I believe we can achieve it is 4% growth as far as the eye can see. Which means we have to be a lot more productive. Workforce participation has to rise from its all-time modern lows. Means that people need to work longer hours and through their productivity gain more income for their families.”

On Thursday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on Jeb Bush’ latest comments on his out-of-touch remarks:

“If Jeb Bush thinks the answer to boosting our economy is that Americans need to work longer hours, then it’s clear he doesn’t even understand the problem. His economic policies are, and have always been, geared towards helping those already at the top, not the middle class.”

[Scott Walker's failed scheme to change Wisconsin's open-records law overshadows impending announcement](#)

This week should have been a victory lap for Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker in anticipation of his presidential run.

Instead, he's being criticized by both parties in Wisconsin, his constituents, and both state and national press for his attempt to weaken the state's open records law to shield his administration from scrutiny.

Here's how it's playing:

AP: [Gov. Walker and Wisconsin GOP retreat on open records limits](#)

"In a sudden reversal amid a stinging backlash, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and GOP legislative leaders said they agreed Saturday to completely remove a part of the proposed state budget that would severely roll back open records laws....The restrictions, which Republicans on the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee slipped into the proposed budget late Thursday, would shield nearly everything created by state and local government officials from Wisconsin's open records law, including drafts of legislation and staff communications."

The Cap Times / Madison.com: [Scott Fitzgerald: Scott Walker's office was involved with open records changes](#)

"Despite being introduced and passed at the start of a holiday weekend, the proposal sparked outrage among constituents, journalists and good government advocates. Opposition transcended party lines..."

The Daily Beast: [Scott Walker's Closed-Door Approach to Open Government](#)

"Questions about open government in Wisconsin have been growing at least since February when the liberal Center for Media and Democracy [reported that](#) Walker's budget proposal would change the mission statement of the University of Wisconsin system. Walker's team attributed the change to a 'drafting error.'"

MSNBC: [Scott Walker under fire for state open-records law proposal](#)

"In another case involving the open-records law, the Wisconsin State Journal reported that Walker's aides pushed for a taxpayer-backed loan through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. [to a business owned by a Walker campaign donor.](#)"

Huffington Post: [Scott Walker Tried To Quietly Gut Wisconsin's Sunshine Laws](#)

"The backlash threatens to put a damper on the governor's expected presidential announcement, which is scheduled to take place Monday in Waukesha... To make matters even more awkward, Walker's political action committee, Our American Revival, touted Wisconsin's "strong" open records law in attacks against Clinton."

In The States

- On Monday, Virginia Democrats issued a statement highlighting Virginia Republicans self-professed “primary focus”, discrimination: “Yes, the *primary* focus. Not creating jobs. Not improving transportation. Not insuring 400,000 Virginians without healthcare. Republicans in the General Assembly are so out-of-touch, they believe Virginians want one thing above all else: discrimination against LGBT people.” Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Democratic Party of Georgia Latino Caucus Chair released a statement denouncing the GOP’s inflammatory rhetoric regarding undocumented Immigrants: “the GOP would rather pander to the Donald Trump wing of their Party than do what’s right. They chose the path of fear, profiling Latinos and labeling us as a problem.” read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, Florida Democratic Party Executive Director Scott Arceneaux issued a release calling on Florida Republicans to set aside partisan motivations after being ordered by the Florida Supreme court to correct the blatantly gerrymandered Congressional map: “However, one thing is crystal clear: the highest court in Florida has found Tallahassee Republicans guilty of unconstitutionally subverting Florida’s democracy. This is the second time in two months that the Florida GOP will have to return to Tallahassee to clean up an unconstitutional mess of their own creation. I hope Republicans put aside their petty self-interest and — for once — respect the voice of Florida’s voters.” Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, as press attention continues to build around Donald Trump’s inaccurate and harmful comments regarding immigrants the Nashua Telegraph pointed out this rhetoric is nothing new for the 2016 GOP field: “If you didn’t know better, you might forget that the GOP has sought votes for years by stoking fear and anger toward Mexicans who enter this country illegally... It’s hypocritical and unfair to put all this on Trump. He only repeated what his party’s been saying all along.” Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Martha Laning criticized the “crap budget” passed by Wisconsin Republicans: “The first and only consideration for every one of the \$73 billion spent in this budget should be ‘How will this help people in Wisconsin and make our state a better place?’ Instead, this budget put Scott Walker’s presidential campaign and even a Republican legislator’s vacation to Mexico ahead of investing in Wisconsin’s middle class.” Read the full press release [here](#).