



# WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

October 31, 2014

## Elections

With less than a week until Election Day, results across the country show that the Democratic ground game is working. Democrats have the momentum in nine Senate races and eleven Governor's races that remain extremely competitive. Democrats are turning out voters who did not cast ballots in 2010 and expanding the midterm electorate, while Republicans are simply waiting for their base to vote early. Many incumbent Republican governors are poised to lose their seats, while Democratic candidates and policies are standing strong. Our successes on Election Night will be due to superior campaigns, superior candidates, and a superior message that speaks to the middle class – Republicans are peddling the politics of fear and obstruction, and Democrats are working to expand opportunity for all Americans.

From raising the minimum wage to ensuring equal pay and strengthening America's middle class, it is now more important than ever to ensure that every American has an equal opportunity to succeed. There is too much at stake and with less than a week until Election Day, it is up to every American to make their voice heard and vote for a better future.

View President Obama's message [here](#).



**YOU GET ONE VOTE  
EVERY TWO YEARS.**

View the new DNC video "Progress" [here](#).

## [DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz on MSNBC](#)

On Thursday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz spoke with MSNBC's Jose Diaz Balart to discuss the upcoming midterm elections. She outlined the clear choice this November between policies that will expand opportunity for the middle class and the obstructionist policies of the Republican Party.



Watch the Chair's full interview [here](#).

## [Morning Shows to Christie: Sit Down and Shut Up](#)

This week, Governor Chris Christie let his confrontational nature get him in trouble again. At a press conference on Wednesday, marking the second anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, Christie went off on a protester demanding he finish the job rebuilding the Jersey Shore. Irritated by the interference, Christie yelled at the man shouting at him to "sit down and shut up".

View a few clips of the media coverage below:

[Like Morning Joe...](#)

Scarborough: "I think that guy may need to talk to an anger management professional."

...or [CBS This Morning...](#)

Claude Brodeur-Akner: "Only about just shy of \$300 million in two years times has made it to those affected families, so if people are heckling, you can sort of understand why they might be."

...or [The Today Show...](#)

Lauer: "New Jersey's governor Chris Christie has been front-and-center in that controversy, and he finds himself in another on this morning. It's over the way he handled a heckler at an event marking the second anniversary of Superstorm Sandy."

Or [Good Morning America...](#)

Jonathan Karl: "Less clear is how that style will play in a Presidential campaign."

All of this because Christie lashed out at a man who has [been on the ground, helping to rebuild since the storm](#). Christie told him, "somebody like you doesn't know a damn thing about what you're talking," that he should "do something for the people of this state," and should "sit down and shut up." Based on the reaction he's getting, perhaps he'd do well to listen to his own advice.

## DNC MEMO: Youth State of the Race

**From:** Rob Flaherty, DNC Youth Media Director, A'Shanti Gholar, DNC Youth Engagement Director'  
**To:** Interested Parties  
**Subj:** Youth State of the Race  
**Date:** October 29, 2014

This morning, there's a new Harvard IOP millennial poll out that largely confirms many of the trends we've been seeing this election, but is generating buzz because it shows Republicans out-performing expectations in a few areas. It's a nice story for the GOP— that Republicans are roaring back from the millennial doldrums they've found themselves in after past elections. Here's the problem: it's not based in reality (or any of the other millennial polling we've seen this cycle).

This shouldn't be read as a "break up" with the values of the Democratic party: making sure everyone has a fair shot to succeed in America, and that everyone is treated with equality and respect. It should be read, instead, as a frustration with gridlock in Washington and a political system that seems rigged for the well-heeled and well off. Young people are looking for solutions, be they from inside or outside of government, but they approach this conversation from a core belief in the values that Democrats continue to stand for. You're seeing this play out this year— young voters are continuing to side with Democratic candidates by wide margins.

Take a look at the polling below:

### Pew Research Center

- "In short, not only are Millennials less likely than older generations to identify as Republicans, but even those who do express significantly less conservative values than do their elders."

### Fusion's Massive Millennial Poll

- "In the midterm elections, 47% of likely millennial voters say they'll choose Democrats, 32% say they will vote for Republicans, and 21% are undecided"
- "Only 15% of young black voters and 17% of young Hispanics are likely to support Republicans in the midterms"

### Reason's Millennial Poll:

- "71 percent favor raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour"
- "69 percent say it is the government's responsibility to guarantee everyone access to health care"
- "68 percent say government should ensure everyone makes a living wage"
- "66 percent say raising taxes on the wealthy would help the economy"
- "63 percent say spending more on job training would help the economy"
- "58 percent say the government should spend more on assistance to the poor even it means higher taxes"
- "57 percent favor spending more money on infrastructure"
- "54 percent want government to guarantee everyone a college education"

### ABC News/Washington Post (Among ages 18-39)

- 43% trust Democrats to do a better job handling the main problems our country faces, compared to 33% who think that of the GOP

Read the rest of the statement [here](#).

## Priebus: Immediate Action on Immigration 'Un-American'

In 2013, after Mitt Romney lost the Presidential Election, Reince Priebus and the RNC released their autopsy report – The GOP Growth and Opportunity Project. It said:

"If Hispanic Americans perceive that a GOP nominee or candidate does not want them in the United States (i.e. self-deportation), they will not pay attention to our next sentence.

"We are not a policy committee, but among the steps Republicans take in the Hispanic community and beyond, we must embrace and champion comprehensive immigration reform. If we do not, our Party's appeal will continue to shrink to its core constituencies only."

Then later in the cycle, Priebus touted the RNC's hiring of operatives to do outreach in the Hispanic community and said "[It doesn't matter what the message is,](#)" on immigration reform.

And now, Priebus has gone even further, saying he wasn't even ready to have a conversation on comprehensive immigration reform and assured a group of far-right, Tea Party activists that if Republicans win control of the Senate they will do everything they can to obstruct Democratic efforts to provide immigrants relief, calling such action "un-American." Here's what he had to say.

"It's unconstitutional, illegal, and we don't support it...We will do everything we can to make sure it doesn't happen: Defunding, going to court, injunction. You name it."

Republicans refuse to do anything on immigration and they've made it clear that if elected they'll do everything they can to stop the President from taking action.

"Un-American." "We will do everything we can to make sure it doesn't happen."

Chairman Priebus – the message does matter.

There should be no doubt that Republicans are not on the side of the Latino community and their intentions on immigration reform going forward are clear. They keep disregarding the needs of our country and the needs of the Latino and immigrant community.

Meanwhile Democrats have been fighting tirelessly to try to force Republicans to bring up immigration reform in the House, and President Obama said that if Republicans don't act before the end of the year that he will take executive action in order to give relief to some undocumented people in the United States.

Latinos will come out, vote and make their voices heard. There is too much at stake and too many Republicans who think they can get away with giving lip service to the community.

## In the States

- On Monday, the Ohio Democratic Party released a new web video, "Not Working For Us," on its website highlighting the history of Jon Husted's repeated ethical lapses and how he's abusing the office for his own self-promotion before the election. In launching the website, Ohio Democratic Party Deputy Communications Director Brian Hester issued the following statement: "Jon Husted's attacks on Senator Nina Turner aim to distract voters from learning about his history of ethical missteps and hypocrisy on campaigning to reform redistricting, while opposing multiple efforts for that reform. As we enter the final week of the campaign, the truth about Jon Husted is that he's a partisan politician who will continue to put his own interests ahead of what is right for Ohio—voters should not trust him." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The New Hampshire Democratic Party issued a statement Monday on the Koch brothers desperate attempt to distract from Marilinda Garcia's growing plagiarism scandal. "Instead of coming clean with Granite Staters, Marilinda Garcia is relying on her Koch Brother allies to desperately deflect attention from her ongoing plagiarism scandal," said New Hampshire Democratic Party Deputy Communications Director Bryan Lesswing. "While Garcia offered flimsy excuses for plagiarizing portions of an anti-marriage equality speech she gave on the House Floor, she still owes Granite Staters answers for why she plagiarized portions of remarks she gave during a GOP primary debate just earlier this year." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Tuesday, that Maine Democratic Party issued a release concerning Republican's attempts to dupe voters into reelecting Governor LePage by propping up a third place candidate. "The biggest special interest group propping up Eliot Cutler is the Republican Party," said Ben Grant, chairman of the Maine Democratic Party. "Gov. LePage's allies have always known he can't win without splitting the vote and they are doing whatever it takes to boost Eliot Cutler. Mainers shouldn't be fooled by this sneaky GOP tactic, and we believe the RGA's misleading propaganda to divide Mainers will backfire on Gov. LePage." Read the full statement [here](#).
- The Democratic Party of Virginia released a statement this week about Republican Barbara Comstock's efforts to dodge taxes, despite making them a campaign issue. "Given Comstock's reluctance to do the right thing when it comes to financial dealings, it's unsurprising that she'd jump from ignoring legislative conflicts of interest to skimping out on thousands of dollars in payroll taxes and Medicare and Social Security contributions," said Morgan Finkelstein, press secretary for the Democratic Party of Virginia. "We're seeing time and again that Comstock says one thing and does another. It is pretty ironic that Comstock tries to campaign on taxes when she clearly has her own tax issues at hand." Read the full statement [here](#).