



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

January 31, 2014

President Obama Delivers State of the Union Address

On Tuesday, President Obama gave his fifth State of the Union address. The President laid out a Democratic vision for the United States that is defined by opportunity, action and optimism.

In his speech, the President made clear that there are big issues ahead of us and that we owe it to the American people to move beyond rigid partisanship to solve problems and make progress. He not only laid out a vision for middle class security and opportunity for all, he made specific proposals that will help make that vision a reality through initiatives like raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, creating "myRA" a new starter savings account to help Americans save for retirement, and revamping programs to help the long term unemployed.



Immediately after the President's address, the Republicans gave at least five responses to the President's speech. While their speeches highlighted the divisions within the Republican Party, the DNC highlighted a couple of things the GOP didn't seem to have any interest in:

- Any interest in joining the [73%](#) of Americans who want to see an increase in the minimum wage for millions of Americans;
- Any interest in joining the [88%](#) of Americans who want commonsense immigration reform with a path to citizenship;
- Any interest in joining the [90%](#) of Americans who believe women should receive equal pay for equal work;
- Any interest in joining the [majority](#) of Americans who want to stand up and show support for voter participation and voting rights;
- Any interest in joining the [69%](#) of Americans who want to see an extension of unemployment insurance;
- Any interest in joining the [majority](#) of Americans who reject repeal of the Affordable Care Act;
- Any interest in joining the [majority](#) of Americans who agree the debate is over, climate change is real; and
- Any interest in joining the [92%](#) of Americans who want commonsense reform to reduce gun violence.

At this point, the only real news would be a GOP response that actually *supported* any of these commonsense positions. And that would be welcome news indeed.

[RNC Chair Defends Scott Walker's Dismal Jobs Record](#)

In an interview on Wednesday morning, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said Governor Scott Walker made “a few big promises” and followed through.

Reince is right about one thing. Scott Walker did make a big promise when he ran for office – to create 250,000 jobs. But he’s fallen woefully short of achieving that goal. Under Walker’s direction, Wisconsin has dropped more than 25 places in private-sector job growth – from 11th to 37th – and created far fewer jobs than promised.

Reince may be fuzzy on Walker’s record but Wisconsinites looking for work sure aren’t. Watch Priebus’s news clip [here](#), and read about Walker’s actual record, below.



The FACTS:

WALKER IS “FAR SHORT” OF HIS JOB CREATION PROMISE

Reuters: Progress On Job Creation In Wisconsin Was “Far Short” Of What Scott Walker Promised During His 2010 Election Campaign. “But the progress on jobs is far short of what Walker promised during his 2010 election campaign. Walker said he would create 250,000 jobs in his first term, but government data show only around 40,000 more people have jobs today than when he took office.” [Reuters, [1/26/14](#)]

- **Reuters: Only 40,000 More People In Wisconsin Had Jobs Today Than When Scott Walker Took Office, Far Short Of His 2010 Promise Of 250,000.** “Walker said he would create 250,000 jobs in his first term, but government data show only around 40,000 more people have jobs today than when he took office.” [Reuters, [1/26/14](#)]

UNDER WALKER, WISCONSIN DROPPED FROM 11TH IN THE NATION TO 37TH IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOB GROWTH

Wisconsin Ranks 37th Nationwide In Private-Sector Job Growth. “Wisconsin ranked 37th among the U.S. states in private-sector job creation in the year ending June 2013, the last period for which data are available.” [Reuters, [1/26/14](#)]

Before Walker Took Office, Wisconsin Ranked 11th Nationwide In Private-Sector Job Growth. “For example, Wisconsin ranked 11th among the 50 states in 2010 in private-sector job growth, outperforming the nation as a whole. But it dropped to 38th in 2011, Gov. Scott Walker’s first year in office.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/28/13](#)]

[DNC Chair Video Statement on the 5th Anniversary of Lilly Ledbetter Act Signing](#)

In recognition of the five year anniversary of President Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a video statement. Watch the video [here](#).



[The RNC's Meeting Reviews are in . . . and they aren't good.](#)

After the 3-day meeting in Washington, the takeaways on the RNC winter gathering have been the same – the party has changed little in a year since their rebrand. Even as they called again for their candidates and members to improve their “tone” they had Mike Huckabee delivering “awkward comments about contraception,” the [Iowa GOP posting a grossly offensive Facebook image on racism](#), and a Michigan RNC member who [refused to step down](#) for disparaging comments about LGBT or Muslim Americans.

But beyond their failure to change their tone is their failure to change their policies. New staff, a new calendar, or a new convention date won't alter the fundamental problem of the GOP – they have a divisive agenda that continues to alienate broad swaths of the electorate.

Click on the headlines below to read about some of the RNC meeting's negative coverage:

- [AP HEADLINE: “RNC SHOWCASED UPDATE, WHILE LOSING IMAGE REMAINS”](#)
- [Politico: 2014 or 2012? Deja vu for the GOP](#)
- [Reuters: Republican Strategy For 2014 Looks Similar To 2012](#)
- [AP: Huckabee's Comments on Birth Control Gift for Dems](#)
- [LA Times Opinion: Mike Huckabee mansplains women's libidos and contraception at RNC](#)
- [NPR: Eyes on 2016, GOP Revisits the Rebranding](#)
- [CNN: A year of success and setbacks for soul-searching RNC](#)
- [UPI: Priebus calls on GOP to improve tone, choice of words](#)

Major Home State Newspapers Call for Christie to Resign as RGA Chair

Most states are proud when their Governor takes on a major national leadership role, but that's not the case for Chris Christie and his role as Chair of the Republican Governors Association.

On Sunday, the New Jersey [Star-Ledger](#) called on Christie to resign as Chair of the Republican Governors Association and on Thursday, the [Asbury Park Press](#) followed suit. Read the editorial from the Asbury Park Press below:

Asbury Park Press Editorial: Christie has a job to do, right here

It's simple — Gov. Christie has no business heading the Republican Governors Association. Not now, not with all of the unsolved problems plaguing the state he runs in his day job, and not with the mounting scandals swirling around him.

He should resign the RGA post while he still seems to have a choice, instead of getting bounced in disgrace.

Christie's national ambitions have long been a cloud hanging over a potential second gubernatorial term. If he's running around the country raising money for the GOP and preparing for a possible presidential run, that leaves little time and energy for the state's myriad challenges.

It's not like the RGA role is a little side gig he can do from home before bed. When the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Reince Priebus, defended Christie against calls to step down as RGA chairman, he described Christie as a "powerhouse."

"His job is to raise a lot of money for the RGA, and he can do that and I'm sure the RGA is proud to have him," Priebus said.

That's not his job, actually, at least not the one about which New Jerseyans care.

All of those concerns existed before so much controversy started to swirl around the governor. First came the revelations about politically motivated lane closures at the George Washington Bridge tied to close Christie aides. Then came complaints from Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer that the administration threatened to withhold superstorm Sandy recovery aid without support for a development plan. Another report now says Christie may have rewarded a Democratic mayor in Belleville who endorsed Christie's re-election with a big chunk of Sandy aid in a town not particularly hard hit by the storm.

What the stories all have in common is that they appear to have been rooted in an administration's carefully orchestrated quest to secure Democratic support in targeted towns to enhance Christie's supposed crossover appeal — a key element in Christie's presidential aspirations.

That's a lot of fires burning, and we can be certain Christie and his people will be devoting plenty of attention to damage control. The governor can't do that, and pound the Republican drums across the country for political donations, and run the state, not in any remotely responsible way.

Christie may still be a national powerhouse; in fact, he may find a friendlier audience in the hinterlands, where the details of the administration's machinations here don't resonate in the same way — at least not yet. But the poll numbers show increasing problems for the governor, with fast-fading support of Democrats and women, and among his own Republicans.

For better or worse, New Jerseyans overwhelmingly re-elected Christie three months ago. They want him leading the state for another four years. They deserve something close to his full attention on providing that leadership.

Christie should leave the fundraising to someone else.