



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

February 14, 2014

[DNC Chair Announces President Obama to Address DNC Winter Meeting](#)

On Thursday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz sent the following email to supporters announcing that President Barack Obama will address the General Session of the 2014 DNC Winter Meeting in Washington, DC.

The Chair also announced that as part of the meeting, the DNC will fly one grassroots supporter and a friend to DC to attend the meeting, watch the President speak, and have the opportunity to greet him in person.



I just got some exciting news.

Later this month, we're flying in a supporter to join us in D.C. for our Winter Meeting -- where we'll talk through the plan for 2014 and the future of the Democratic Party. ([There's still time left for you to throw your name in the hat.](#)) But you knew that already!

Here's the big update: President Obama has RSVPed as well!

[So chip in \\$10 or whatever you can, and we'll make sure you and a guest will be automatically entered for a chance to meet President Obama later this month.](#)

We'll cover airfare, hotel, and meeting credentials for the winner and a guest of your choice -- and now you'll also get to hear the President lay out his priorities for the Democrats, for the rest of his time in office and beyond. Oh, and you'll also get a chance to greet him in person.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this -- donate \$10 or whatever you can to automatically enter now:

<https://my.democrats.org/Meet-President-Obama>

Thanks, and good luck!

Debbie

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Chair - Democratic National Committee

FREE TRIP
TO DC
TO MEET
*President
Obama*
ENTER TO WIN

DNC Holds Chicago Press Conference around Chris Christie Fundraiser

On Tuesday, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie headed to Chicago to campaign for the Republican Governors Association, and former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and Illinois Senate President John Cullerton held a DNC press conference nearby to discuss Christie's ongoing Bridgewater scandal. Christie's two-hour long press conference was more than a month ago – and he still hasn't been able to fully explain why his office and allies closed lanes to the George Washington Bridge.

The press conference garnered significant media attention, and made its way into Christie coverage from the fundraisers. View some of the DNC's coverage in the new clips from the event below:

As Christie hits Chicago, Dems follow and GOP candidates stay away

The Star-Ledger// Matt Friedman

When Gov. Chris Christie visits the Windy City today for a chat with the Economic Club of Chicago and for a series of private fundraisers for the Republican Governors Association, he'll have some unwelcome company. Not far from the hotel where Christie is to hold a question-and-answer session about the economy, former Democratic Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland will conduct a press conference about the topic that has dogged the New Jersey governor for more than a month: the George Washington Bridge scandal. And when Christie later goes to the fundraisers, it's unclear whether any of the state's four GOP gubernatorial candidates will join him.

Bridgewater follows Gov. Christie to Chicago

Chicago Tribune// Kim Geiger

But Democrats are not satisfied with Christie's response to the bridge revelations, which could threaten his chances at a presidential bid in 2016. Intent on keeping the scandal in the national spotlight, they blasted Christie at a news conference in Chicago before the luncheon. Christie is either "lying, or he's the most inept, incompetent chief executive imaginable," said former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, who was joined by John Cullerton, president of the Illinois Senate. "I was the governor of a large state," Strickland said. "I was surrounded by top staff. In my judgment, it is impossible for these kinds of things to have happened in Chris Christie's office without his knowledge or his consent."

Strickland brackets Christie

Columbus Dispatch// Joe Vardon

Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland has resurfaced, going on the offensive on behalf of the Democratic National Committee against possible 2016 GOP presidential candidate and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. The former Democratic governor is "bracketing" Christie in Chicago today -- Christie is in Illinois raising money as chairman of the Republican Governors Association. And on Monday night, Strickland appeared on MSNBC's "All In with Chris Hayes" to say that "Republican candidates are avoiding Christie like I would avoid someone who had the swine flu." The idea is to highlight the controversy surrounding Christie in his home state -- aides close to him apparently orchestrated the closing of the George Washington Bridge as payback against a Christie political opponent, and Democrats are saying that Republican governors up for re-election are trying to distance themselves for Christie.

Former Gov. Strickland says Christie either lying or incompetent on GWB lane closure

The Record// Melissa Hayes and Matthew McGrath

The Democratic National Committee isn't letting Governor Christie's trip to Chicago Tuesday go without mention of the George Washington Bridge lane closure controversy. . . . But former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, who headlines the Democratic National Committee's news conference ahead of Christie's luncheon address, questioned whether Christie is leadership material. "If the Republican candidates for governor are proud to have this guy as their role model then I think they are making a rather unwise decision here," he said. Strickland described Christie as a "political bully" and questioned how he could not know that Bridget Kelly, the deputy chief of staff he fired, and his appointees at the Port Authority carried out the lane closures. "Either he knew and he's lying about or he did not know and he's the most incompetent chief executive because he didn't know," Strickland said. "He didn't know what his staff was doing? His closest staff?"

[Support for Minimum Wage Increase Across the Country](#)

It has been seven years since Congress last acted to increase the minimum wage. In a letter released by the Economic Policy Institute, [600 economists agree that it's time to raise the minimum wage to \\$10.10](#) and state that a minimum wage increase could help stimulate the economy by putting more money in the pockets of workers who are more likely to spend it. Despite this and the fact that [73% of Americans](#) support raising the minimum wage, Republicans at the federal and state level continue to oppose this effort that could give families across the country the opportunity to climb into the middle class.

States have taken matters into their own hands and several have introduced bills to raise their state's minimum wage. In [New Mexico](#) a proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$8.30 an hour next year is moving its way through the legislature. In [California](#), State Senator Mark Leno introduced a bill that would make California the state with the highest minimum wage – starting with an increase to \$11 per hour in 2015. [In Kentucky, 61% of voters favor raising the minimum wage to \\$10.10](#), and a bill that would do that over a three year period [moved to the state Senate](#) last week. In [Florida, 73% of voters favor raising the minimum wage](#) and [two bills](#) to increase the minimum wage in the state to \$10.10 were introduced to the Florida legislature in January.

Now, support for the measure has hit editorial pages across the country. Here are some of the recent op-eds and editorials:

Kansas

[Give American workers a reasonable raise](#)
Kansas City Star // Editorial

Michigan

[To reward work, increase the minimum wage](#)
Holland Sentinel // Editorial

California

[Raise the minimum wage](#)
LA Times // Editorial

New Mexico

[Minimum wage hike good for NM](#)
Albuquerque Journal // Editorial

Nebraska

[Minimum wage](#)
Star Herald // Editorial

Connecticut

[Move now to improve minimum wage](#)
New Haven Register // Editorial

Pennsylvania

[Support for a living wage](#)
York Dispatch // Editorial

Massachusetts

[Editorial: The case for higher wages](#)
The Metro West Daily News// Editorial Board

Florida

[Minimum wage hike aids economy](#)
Florida Today // Rhonda Abrahams

Idaho

[The Value of Increasing the Minimum Wage](#)
Times-News// Melinda Henneberger

Alaska

[Raising Alaska's minimum wage is a common sense decision](#)
Alaska Dispatch // Carey Restino

Colorado

[Higher pay helps the economy](#)
Denver Post // Don Marostica OpEd

Washington

[College graduates need the minimum wage to rise](#)
The Seattle Times // Sandi Halimuddin OpEd

Ohio

[U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown: Minimum-wage hike will help economy](#)
Cincinnati Enquirer // Sen. Sherrod Brown OpEd

Iowa

[Minimum wage no longer fair](#)
The Gazette // Rep. Bruce Braley OpEd

Wisconsin

[The need to increase the minimum wage is pressing](#)
Racine Journal Times // State Rep. Cory Mason OpEd

Minnesota

[Times Writers Group: Raise minimum wage, work in justice](#)
SC Times // Times Writers Group OpEd

Texas

[Higher minimum wage would help economy, workers](#)
The Daily Toreador // Jakob Reynolds OpEd

[President Obama Signs Executive Order Raising Minimum Wage for New Federal Contractors](#)

On Wednesday, as promised in his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama signed an Executive Order raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 for new federal contracts.

The move is part of the President's goal to make 2014 a year of action. While an across the board federal minimum wage raise by Congress would help lift millions of Americans and their families out of poverty, the President is leading the way by lifting the wages for those workers he can.

In his remarks President Obama said, "So I'm going to keep doing whatever I can to raise working Americans' wages. And I would ask any business leader out there, any

governor, any mayor, any local leader listening, do what you can to raise your employees' wages; to work to raise the wages of citizens in your jurisdiction. They'll support these efforts. A majority of Americans -- not just Democrats, not just independents, but Republicans, too -- support raising the minimum wage. It's the right thing to do. So that's something Congress should keep in mind this year."

Click [here](#) to watch the President deliver remarks and sign the Executive Order.



[DNC Shares GOP Valentine's Day Cards](#)

On Friday, the DNC released the Valentine's Day cards that the GOP would send out to voters if they told the truth behind their policies.

The cards hit the GOP for being anti-equality, wanting to bring back a broken health care system, trying to impede voting rights, being offensive towards women, and refusing to raise the minimum wage and help hardworking families.

Click [here](#) to see the rest of the cards on the Democrats' Twitter feed.

