



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 14, 2014

[President Obama Appears on "Between Two Ferns" to Promote ACA](#)

On Tuesday, President Barack Obama appeared on the webcast, "Between Two Ferns," to talk about the Affordable Care Act with actor Zach Galifianakis. President Obama put in his "plug" and encouraged young people to go to Healthcare.gov and sign up for health care before the open enrollment period ends on March 31st. On the day the show released the video, HealthCare.gov experienced a 40% increase in visits, compared to the previous day, equaling 890,000 visits to the site.

Click on the video below to watch the President's appearance on the show. Then visit Healthcare.gov and enroll!



[University Outlets Highlight DNC's New Voter Expansion Project](#)

On Tuesday, DNC officials held a press conference call with college and university reporters in key states to discuss the DNC's new Voter Expansion Project. The initiative, [introduced by former President Bill Clinton](#) two weeks ago, will take the DNC beyond simply protecting the right to vote, to being the leader in expanding the vote by building and maintaining a new permanent infrastructure for the Democratic Party and its candidates. One aspect of the initiative will help ensure all students can register and have their vote counted.

Below you'll find news clips from Tuesday's press call, and how the initiative will impact these campuses:

[DNC announces plan to expand voter rights](#)

The News Record // Bryan Shupe

The Democratic National Committee is moving forward with a project officials say is aimed at making voting more accessible to college students and young Americans. The Voter Expansion Project, announced by former President Bill Clinton Feb. 27, is intended to combat voting laws the DNC considers "overly burdensome to students." The project would make it easier to create more voters, regardless of their political affiliation, said Pratt Wiley, DNC director of voter expansion, during a conference call with college media. "We measure our success by making sure that everyone can vote," Wiley said.

[Democrats launch national voter expansion project](#)

The Badger Herald // Alia Carlton-Tahiri

With the state Supreme Court's recent hearing arguments in cases regarding voter ID late last month and Gov. Scott Walker's recent announcement regarding the possibility of a special legislative session this summer to review state

voter ID laws, the Democratic National Committee plans to launch a national effort to expand voting. With the help of former President Bill Clinton, the DNC has proposed a voter expansion project in response to barriers the committee believes make it difficult to vote. DNC Director of Voter Expansion Pratt Wiley said many obstacles have prevented voters, especially college students, from reaching the polls.

[DNC launches project to increase college voter registration](#)

The Daily Michigan//Allana Akhtar

As Democratic strategists begin gearing up for midterm elections in the fall, they are again planning to make young voters a key component of their strategy. The Democratic National Committee held a conference call Tuesday for student newspaper reporters at colleges and universities to highlight its new Voter Expansion Project — an initiative aimed at increasing student voter turnout. The project was initiated by former President Bill Clinton last month. In a video message to DNC supporters, he explained how the project would work to counter voter identification laws and other provisions that restrict voting and voter registration.

[DNC aims to increase registration, accuracy](#)

The Daily Lobo//Chloe Henson

The Democratic National Committee has launched a new initiative that aims to increase the number of voters nationwide. During a press conference call Tuesday, DNC Director of Voter Expansion Pratt Wiley said the Voter Expansion Project aims to make sure that every eligible U.S. citizen can register to vote, that every registered voter can vote and that votes are accurately counted. Former President Bill Clinton announced the start of the project on Feb. 27. The project will target groups that the DNC believes face major obstacles to voting, such as college students.

[Voter Expansion Project reignites political struggle](#)

The Post// Lucas Daprile

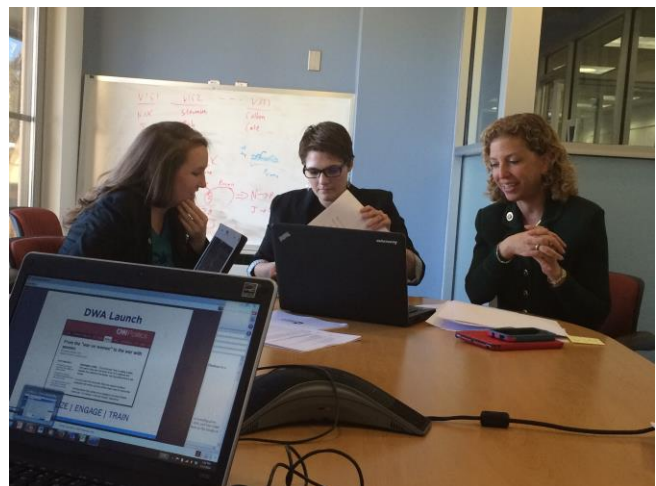
As former President Bill Clinton launches a campaign to change requirements to vote, another political battle between the Democrats and Republicans has ignited yet again. Clinton's "Voter Expansion Project" has the support of the left, which says lessening restrictions will enable more Americans to vote. "Why are Republicans selecting the forms of ID that don't cover most people in their state?" Pratt Wiley, the Democratic National Committee's director of the program, asked on a conference call Tuesday afternoon. "Why is a student ID not acceptable?" In June, a controversial, Republican-added amendment that tied in-state tuition rates to a public university's decision to give out-of-state students a letter proving residency so they can vote in Ohio was struck out of the Ohio budget. It would have cost public universities in Ohio a combined total of about \$370 million in tuition fees with Ohio University losing about \$12 million, officials estimated.

[DNC Chair Holds Webinar on Women's Outreach](#)

On Thursday, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz held a *Train to Win* webinar on Women's outreach in the Democratic Party, in partnership with the Association of State Democratic Chairs and the Democratic Women's Alliance. The webinar served as one session, in a series of trainings, of best practices and tools individuals can utilize at home and in local communities to engage more women in the political process.

The Chair went through the great things that the Democratic Party is doing to protect women's rights, but that we must not think the job is done. She said, "[W]e also know that if our vices don't remain strong and vigilant, we will be drowned out . . . We can't continue to let this happen which is why working hard inside the Democratic Party structure, to mobilize, engage and develop skills through training is so important. I am committed to ensuring that women's values are made clear between each election and DNC meeting. Because it isn't that our voices will only matter in 2014 or 2016, it's that our voices —women's voices— always matter."

This webinar had more signups and participants than any previous webinar, and the organization looks forward to having Rep. Wasserman Schultz on again.



[President Obama Delivers Weekly Address Calling on Congress to Raise the Minimum Wage](#)

On Saturday, President Barack Obama delivered his weekly address, again calling on Congress to follow the best interest of the country and raise the minimum wage to \$10.10. Companies across the country are proactively raising the wage to offer their employees a fair chance to get out of poverty.



“A clear majority of Americans support raising the minimum wage, because we believe that nobody who works full-time should have to live in poverty. About half of all Republicans support raising the minimum wage, too. It’s just too bad they don’t serve in Congress. Because the Republicans who do serve in Congress don’t want to vote on the minimum wage at all. Some even want to get rid of it completely. Seriously. That’s why what business leaders and everyday Americans are doing to raise wages is so important,” President Obama said.

Watch the President’s full address [here](#).

[In the States](#)

- On Thursday, the Democratic Party of New Mexico pushed back on Governor Susana Martinez for cutting \$15.2 million earmarked for improving educational outcomes for at-risk and poverty level student from the \$6.15 billion state budget. She also vetoed a \$2,000 increase in minimum salary level for teachers. Democratic Party of New Mexico Chairman Sam Bregman said, “New Mexico’s at risk kids and their teachers need every resource we can give them. Legislative Democrats gave her those resources in the state budget that she agreed upon.” Read the party’s full release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin released a memo on Scott Walker’s falling poll numbers and criticized the Governor for dodging questions on his criminal corruption probe. The memo says, “At this point it’s unknown whether Walker’s numbers have slipped based solely on his abysmal track record on jobs and the economy or if what little is known about his involvement in criminal activity that sent four of his top aides to jail has moved the dial for Wisconsin voters.” Read the full memo and a list of “Unanswered Questions” [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Nebraska Democratic Party criticized all four Republican Senate candidates for supporting the elimination of the minimum wage. In the news release Nebraska Democratic Party Chair Vince Powers, said “the four Republican candidates have proven, with their extreme views on the minimum wage, that they are out of touch with Nebraskans.” Read the full release [here](#).

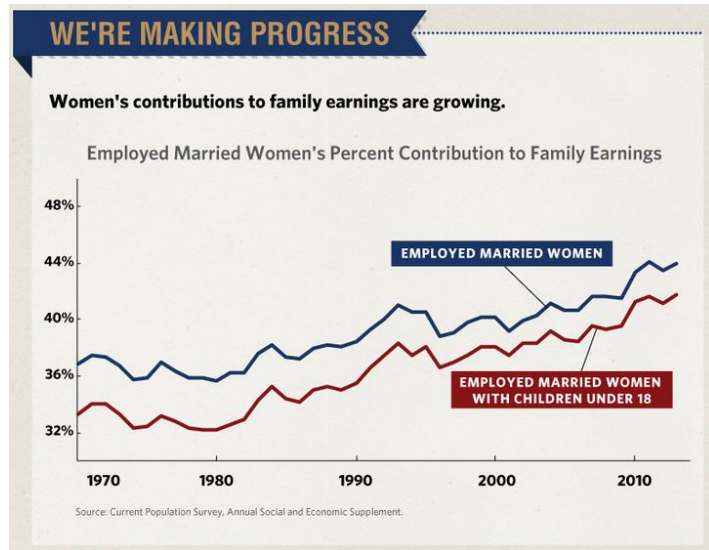
President Obama Hosts Meeting to Discuss 2014 Women's Agenda

On Wednesday, President Obama hosted a meeting with female members of Congress to discuss the 2014 women's economic agenda. The group also discussed expanding economic opportunity for all individuals through equal pay, education, and raising the federal minimum wage.

In his remarks at the beginning of the meeting, President Obama said, "Now, recently, my economic team did a report that delivered some good news. It turns out that women are succeeding in colleges and graduate education like never before. They are more represented in professions and occupations that previously they were restricted from participating in. And what we've seen in our own families and our own lives is that there are doors that have been opened to women that previously were closed.

"And yet, despite that progress, despite that good news, what we also know is women are still making 77 cents on the dollar, including when they enter into these high-paying professions, they're making less money. We know that women continue to be disproportionately represented in low-wage professions, which means that something like an increase in the federal minimum wage is going to have a disproportionate impact on them."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi also spoke at the meeting saying, "You mentioned that women earn 77 cents on the dollar. If you put that another way, women work for free until April Fool's Day -- and then we get our first check. And that is an economic issue to women in America and one that we're going to be addressing in the Senate very soon along with raising the minimum wage, which affects two-thirds of the people on minimum wage, as working women."



The groups spent part of their time going through a White House Presentation on Women in the Workforce. View some of the slides and graphics from that presentation [here](#).