



TUE AM Update -- 28 Oct. 2014

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From WisPolitics.com ...

-- President Barack Obama will be in the state later today for a rally with Dem gov candidate Mary Burke at Milwaukee's North Division High School.

The visit follows an appearance in Milwaukee by former President Bill Clinton last week, but Burke yesterday downplayed her campaign's emphasis on the state's largest city.

"I'm talking to voters across the state about the same things," Burke told reporters after delivering pizzas to volunteers at the campaign's downtown Madison office.

"It's our lagging economy right now ... and education, and that ties into our economy."

She also rejected criticism from Gov. Scott Walker that she's attempting to drive up Dem turnout rather than court independent voters.

"I think the evidence shows otherwise," Burke said, noting she was in La Crosse earlier in the day.

-- Walker knocked Burke's emphasis on campaigning in Milwaukee while softening some comments he made earlier in the day that national observers took as critical of the RGA's efforts to help him.

At a stop in Pewaukee, Walker declared, "Ours is a statewide campaign.

"My opponent's really shrunk in the past week to a Madison and Milwaukee campaign. If you thought you could compete with truly undecided voters, you'd be in the Fox Valley," Walker said. "They could have had a rally at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. They chose to be in Milwaukee because I think they're concerned that their base isn't going to turn out."

At a stop in Mayville yesterday morning, Walker told reporters outside spending on his behalf paled in comparison to what Dem groups were putting up and downplayed an upcoming visit from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, saying he was coming because "he asked if he could come and we weren't going to say no." The two are considered potential rivals for the GOP presidential nomination in 2016, and some have questioned the effort on Walker's behalf by the Republican Governors Association, which Christie

heads.

But Walker referred to Christie as a friend during his stop in Pewaukee.

"I don't need people from outside of this state," Walker told reporters in the afternoon, referring to recent visits on behalf of Burke by the Obamas and Clinton. "This is about me and the people of the state of Wisconsin. It's not about bringing in surrogates from Washington like my opponent's doing.

"I'm going to campaign later this week with Chris Christie," said Walker, adding, "That's because he's a friend and he asked if he could come to this state and campaign."

Asked if it would help him if the RGA would provide a last-minute advertising push, Walker replied the group had helped him in 2010 and in 2012 and said of the current campaign, "We've been outspent -- that 's not a reflection on the RGA, it's just a reflection on the fact that I've been (Dem groups') No. 1 target for the past two years."

-- Burke and Walker also disagreed over the \$4.6 million she put into her campaign over the past three months.

Walker's campaign finance report shows he raised \$10.4 million for the pre-election period, spent \$14.5 million and had just under \$3 million in the bank on Oct. 20.

Burke's campaign said initially yesterday that she raised \$10.2 million in the period. But her campaign finance report since filed with the GAB shows \$9.3 million in receipts for the period. She spent almost \$8.2 million and had just under \$2.9 million in the bank.

In addition to the \$4.6 million loan, Burke listed \$195,979 in obligations.

Burke, whose loan upped her personal commitment to the race to \$5 million, said the new infusion of cash was necessary to compete with Walker in the campaign's final weeks.

For the campaign overall, Burke has raised almost \$15.5 million since announcing a little more than a year ago that she planned to run. That includes donations she's reported to the GAB since the close of the pre-election reporting period. Walker has pulled in nearly \$30 million since July 1, 2012.

"Basically, that's what was needed to make sure I could get my message out compared to obscene amounts of money that Gov. Walker has raised," Burke said, characterizing those donations as coming from "special interest group, deep-pocketed donors -- mostly from out of state."

-- Walker suggested Burke was trying to buy the race.

"I, like most people in this state, don't have \$5 million around to dump in the race for governor," Walker said. "I started out with humble roots. I flipped burgers in high school. I've had to work hard all throughout my life. I don't have that kind of money. I think in the end, when people look at this, they're not going to allow somebody to buy (the election), either with their own millions, or with money from Washington."

Walker's late contribution report included a \$450,000 donation from the state GOP on Oct. 23, the same day that Las Vegas casino magnate Sheldon Adelson gave the party \$650,000.

Walker traveled to Vegas in March to meet with Adelson and to speak at a Republican Jewish Coalition conference. Asked if he had approached Adelson for donations, Walker said, "no" but added that "in the past, I talked about my gubernatorial election, pointing out that we were going to face a serious race because I've been targeted by the national big government special interests."