



# Dark Clouds In Clintonland

*A Series Of Bad Headlines This Week Followed The Presidential Candidate-In-Waiting*

## ON MONDAY & TUESDAY, COURT DOCUMENTS LINKED CLINTON AIDE MINYON MOORE TO AN ILLEGAL SHADOW CAMPAIGN ON CLINTON'S BEHALF

According To Court Papers, In 2008, Longtime Clinton Adviser Minyon Moore “Personally Sought And Secured” \$608,750 From Embroiled D.C. Businessman Jeffrey Thompson As Funding For A Pro-Clinton Shadow Campaign In Four States And Puerto Rico. “A longtime adviser to Hillary Rodham Clinton personally sought and secured the funding for an illegal shadow operation to boost Clinton’s 2008 presidential bid, according to court papers released as part of a wide-reaching campaign finance scandal. Washington businessman Jeffrey Thompson, who pleaded guilty Monday on federal conspiracy charges in a case that has focused largely on District Mayor Vincent Gray’s 2010 election, told federal prosecutors that Clinton aide Minyon Moore asked him to fund pro-Clinton efforts in four states and Puerto Rico totaling \$608,750 during the hard-fought 2008 Democratic presidential primary campaign, the documents show.” (Matea Gold and Rosalin Helderan, “Hillary Clinton Adviser Minyon Moore Sought Funds For Illegal Campaign, Court Papers Allege,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/11/14)

- **Court Documents Suggest That Moore Played A “Far More Intimate Role In The Off-The-Books Campaign That Was Previously Known – Securing The Money And Helping Guide The Strategy By Feeding Internal Campaign Documents And Receiving Messages About The Media Coverage.”** “But Thompson, in his discussions with authorities, depicted Moore as playing a far more intimate role in the off-the-books campaign than was previously known — securing the money and helping guide the strategy by feeding internal campaign documents and receiving messages about the media coverage.” (Matea Gold and Rosalin Helderan, “Hillary Clinton Adviser Minyon Moore Sought Funds For Illegal Campaign, Court Papers Allege,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/11/14)
- **Clinton And Her Staff Have Been “Mum” On The Revelations About The 2008 Shadow Campaign On Her Behalf.** “Hillary Rodham Clinton and her team were mum Wednesday about the revelations of close ties between her 2008 presidential campaign and an illegal fundraising operation based in Washington, while a new poll showed erosion in her popularity.” (Dave Boyer, “Hillary Clinton Staying Mum On 2008 Cash Tied To D.C. Convict,” [The Washington Times](#), 3/12/14)

**The Washington Post’s Robert McCartney: “Heads Should Roll” In Clinton Camp For The Illegal Shadow Campaign.** MCCARTNEY: “But still that’s a lot of money to be spent on illegal funds for Hillary Clinton’s campaign and I think that she is going to have to come out and say something about this and I think they need to – personally – I’m a columnist – I get to say what I think. I think that she needs to

identify the people who did this. She needs to explain whether she knew anything about it. She should explain why she didn't know about it and you know, heads should roll." ([News Channel 8](#), 3/10/14)

## **ON TUESDAY, CLINTONLAND LEARNED THAT BILL CLINTON'S SUPPORT WASN'T ENOUGH TO BRING A FL-13 WIN FOR THE DEMOCRATS**

**On Tuesday, What Was Supposed To Be An "Ideal" Race For Democrats Was "Another Blow" With A Loss In FL-13.** "The Florida special election Tuesday was supposed to be an ideal chance for Democrats to show that 2014 isn't a lost year. Instead, they were dealt another body blow, further weakening their prospects for this year's midterms." (Alex Isenstadt, "Florida Loss Big Blow To Democrats' 2014 Hopes," [Politico](#), 3/11/14)

- **"Democrats Couldn't Have Asked For A More Golden Opportunity."** "Democrats couldn't have asked for a more golden opportunity. They had the right candidate matchup: Alex Sink, a respected former statewide official who nearly won the governorship in 2010, up against a former lobbyist, Republican David Jolly. They had the right district: A swing region of Florida that appeared poised to elect a Democrat after more than four decades of GOP representation. And they certainly had the money: In a year of staggering GOP spending, Sink far outraised her opponent and got nearly \$4 million in help from outside Democratic groups. In the end, it wasn't enough. Jolly won by 3,456 votes. And he did it by playing a hand Republicans across the country are expected to follow: Run as an opponent to the president's unpopular health care law and the Democrat as for it." (Alex Isenstadt, "Florida Loss Big Blow To Democrats' 2014 Hopes," [Politico](#), 3/11/14)
- **"'Dems Should Not Try To Spin This Loss,' Paul Begala, A Onetime Top Political Aide To Former President Bill Clinton, Wrote On Twitter. 'We Have To Redouble Our Efforts For 2014.'"** (Alex Isenstadt, "Florida Loss Big Blow To Democrats' 2014 Hopes," [Politico](#), 3/11/14)

**In The Days Before The Election, Bill Clinton Recorded A Robo Call On Behalf Of Sink.** "Bill Clinton has recorded this automated call going to out voters in Congressional District 13. Given Clinton's popularity, especially compared with the current occupant of the White House, this could be worth more than the average robo call. 'Hello this is Bill Clinton. On March the 11th, Pinellas County voters can send a proven leader to Congress, someone who will work across the aisle to get things done. That leader is Alex Sink.'" (Alex Leary, "Bill Clinton Jumps In For Sink," [Tampa Bay Times](#), 3/5/14)

- ***The Hill* Described Clinton As "Democrats' Florida Closer."** "Democrats' Florida closer: Bill Clinton" (Alexandra Jaffe, "Democrats' Florida Closer: Bill Clinton," [The Hill](#), 3/5/14)

## **IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, A CANDIDATE BACKED BY READY FOR HILLARY LOST**

**Leading Up To Election Day, Pro-Clinton Super PAC Ready For Hillary Touted Their Involvement In The New Hampshire Race For State Executive.** "In the lead up to Tuesday's special election in New Hampshire, Ready for Hillary, a super PAC urging Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016, touted their involvement in the race for the state's Executive Council. One problem: The Democrat lost." (Dan Merica, "Ready For Hillary Backed Candidate Loses Election," [CNN](#), 3/12/14)

- **"One Problem: The Democrat Lost."** (Dan Merica, "Ready For Hillary Backed Candidate Loses Election," [CNN](#), 3/12/14)

**Ready For Hillary's "Foray Into Local Politics Was An Early Investment That Could Have Later Paid Off" For Clinton In 2016 Presidential Bid.** "For Ready for Hillary, the foray into local politics was an early investment that could have later paid off in New Hampshire, which holds the first-in-the-nation presidential primary. The Executive Council is the executive body of New Hampshire that advises and

checks the power of the state's governor. Because of the outsized role the state plays in presidential elections, ties to the state's Executive Council are important for prospective candidates." (Dan Merica, "Ready For Hillary Backed Candidate Loses Election," [CNN](#), 3/12/14)

- **"The Super PAC Had 20 Volunteers Working For Democrats On Tuesday, But Was Admittedly Focused On The Executive Council Race."** (Dan Merica, "Ready For Hillary Backed Candidate Loses Election," [CNN](#), 3/12/14)

## CLINTON'S SUPER PAC IS ALREADY CREATING MIDTERM TENSIONS

**In The 2014 Midterms, Ready For Hillary And Clinton Are In A "Tenuous Position" And Until Clinton Announces Her 2016 Intentions, "Some Democrats Expect Ready For Hillary To Be The Player On Her Behalf."** "The question of how active Ready for Hillary is in the midterms puts the group, and Clinton herself, in a tenuous position: Until Clinton decides whether or not to run for president, some Democrats expect Ready for Hillary to be the player on her behalf." (Ruby Cramer, "Hillary Clinton Shadow Groups Grapple With Question Of Midterms," [BuzzFeed](#), 3/11/14)

- **"Officials With The PAC Have Indicated They Will Not Give Paid Staffers Or Money To Other Democratic Campaigns. But As They Spend More Time On The Ground In States This Year, The Topic Of Midterms, And How The Group Can Be Helpful, Isn't Going Away."** (Ruby Cramer, "Hillary Clinton Shadow Groups Grapple With Question Of Midterms," [BuzzFeed](#), 3/11/14)
- **Pro-Hillary Super PACs May "Hurt Clinton's Standing If They Are Unhelpful In A Year Democrats Risk Losing Control Of The Senate."** "The situation raises a more troubling prospect for Clinton: The advance work of groups like Ready for Hillary — and Priorities USA Action, the party's largest super PAC — might hurt Clinton's standing if they are seen as unhelpful in a year Democrats risk losing control of the Senate. Some view the PACs as an extension of Clinton herself — even if, by law, she has no involvement with the organizations or the operatives working for them." (Ruby Cramer, "Hillary Clinton Shadow Groups Grapple With Question Of Midterms," [BuzzFeed](#), 3/11/14)

**Obama Has "Fretted" About His Aides' Involvement In A 2016 Clinton Effort, Worrying That "The Early Organizing Might Distract From His Effort To Limit Losses In The Looming Midterm Election."** "Obama's advisers have had to reassure the President that the early embrace of Clinton by his far-flung team is a good thing. He has fretted to aides about the leadership role his campaign manager Jim Messina has taken on in another pro-Clinton super PAC, Priorities USA Action, and worried that the early organizing might distract from his effort to limit losses in the looming midterm election." (Mark Halperin, "The (Not Very) Quiet Campaign For Hillary Clinton," [Time](#), 3/12/14)

## A THURSDAY POLL SHOWED THAT AMERICANS REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF CLINTON'S HANDLING OF BENGHAZI

**The Washington Post Headline: "Poll: Most Americans Don't Believe Hillary Clinton On Benghazi Security"** (Aaron Blake, "Poll: Most Americans Don't Believe Hillary Clinton On Benghazi Security," [The Washington Post](#), 3/13/14)

**A New Bloomberg Poll Suggests Hillary Clinton Has A Credibility Issue When It Comes To Benghazi.** "But a new Bloomberg poll suggests Hillary Clinton has her own credibility issue -- when it comes to Benghazi. More specifically, 51 percent of voters say they don't believe Clinton when she says that she never saw requests for additional security before the attacks on the U.S. mission in that city in Libya in 2012." (Aaron Blake, "Poll: Most Americans Don't Believe Hillary Clinton On Benghazi Security," [The Washington Post](#), 3/13/14)

- **51 Percent Of Americans Say They Do Not Believe Clinton When She Says She Never Saw Requests For More Security In Benghazi, While 41 Percent Believe Her.** ([Bloomberg News National Poll](#), 1,001A, 3.1% Moe, 3/7-10/14)

## **AND CLINTON IS STILL FACING CRITICISM FOR HER SILENCE ON KEYSTONE**

**Clinton Has Declined To Answer On Keystone, Even Though It Was Under Review During Much Of Her Tenure As Secretary Of State.** "So far, Clinton has demurred on Keystone -- she declined to answer directly a question about it during a March 5 event in Vancouver -- even though it was under review by the State Department for much of her tenure as secretary." (Jonathan Allen, "Clinton Keystone Dodge Prompts Donors To Rethink Support," [Bloomberg](#), 3/11/14)

- **Clinton's Silence Has Caused Wealthy Democrats To Consider "Withholding Support For A 2016 Hillary Clinton Presidential Bid."** "Wealthy Democratic environmentalists are considering withholding support for a 2016 Hillary Clinton presidential bid unless she reassures them about their top priority: Killing the Keystone XL pipeline." (Jonathan Allen, "Clinton Keystone Dodge Prompts Donors To Rethink Support," [Bloomberg](#), 3/11/14)

**Last Week, Hillary Clinton Declined To Comment On Keystone While Attending An Event In Vancouver.** "Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declined to comment on the ongoing debate over the controversial Keystone XL pipeline at an event Wednesday night in Vancouver." (Dan Merica, "In Vancouver, Clinton Declines To Comment On Keystone Pipeline," [CNN](#), 3/6/14)

- **"She Immediately Deferred To Answer The Question On Keystone,' Said Iain Black, The President Of The Vancouver Board Of Trade."** (Mario Trujillo, "Report: Clinton Passes On Keystone Question," [The Hill](#), 3/6/14)