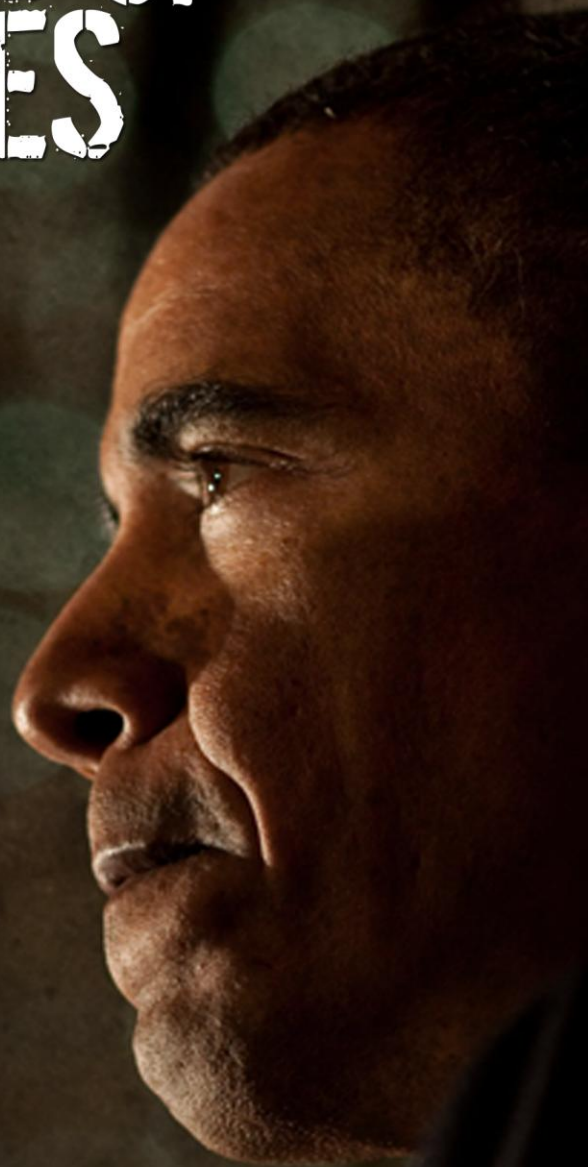


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# OBAMA'S RECORD OF BROKEN PROMISES



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 27, 2012

## FOREWORD

*During the 2008 presidential campaign and in the early years of his presidency, Barack Obama promised the American people he would solve the nation's problems, unite the country, and take us toward a better future.*

*These were not vague promises. He outlined a number of actions and policy positions he would take and vowed specific, tangible results.*

*Obama's promises addressed nearly every issue relevant to this election. They range from the everyday concerns of middle-class Americans like lowering the cost of health insurance to the national hope of changing the way Washington works.*

*Despite his lofty rhetoric, the president has not met the very standards he set for himself. And America's still waiting for hope and change. Whatever the issue, Barack Obama has failed to keep his promises to the American people.*

# **PROMISES MADE, PROMISES BROKEN**

## **Obama's Record Of Broken Promises**

### **\$833 Billion Stimulus**

Stimulus Will Keep Unemployment Low

Stimulus Would "Jolt Our Economy Back To Life"

Stimulus Would Lift Millions Out Of Poverty

### **Taxes**

No Middle-Class Tax Increases

### **Budget & Spending**

Cut The Deficit In Half

Net Spending Cut

Budget Gimmicks

### **Jobs**

Five Million New Jobs

Green Energy Investments = 5 Million New Jobs

### **Housing**

Prevent Foreclosures, Help Homeowners

### **Hope And Change**

"Fundamentally Change How Washington Works"

Greater Bipartisanship

No Lobbyists In Administration

End The Revolving Door Between Government And Business

### **Transparency**

Secret Meetings With Lobbyists

"Unprecedented Level Of Openness"

[Health Care Negotiations Will Be Televised](#)

[Not Use Signing Statements To Circumvent Congress](#)

[Wait 5 Days Before Signing Legislation](#)

## **Health Care**

[ObamaCare Will Reduce Premiums](#)

["If You Like Your Plan, You Can Keep Your Plan"](#)

[ObamaCare Will Cost \\$900 Billion](#)

["Protect Medicare"](#)

## **Energy**

[Make Energy A Leading Priority, No "More Broken Promises" On Energy](#)

[One Million Plug-In Hybrid Cars](#)

[Double Renewable Energy](#)

## **College Costs**

[Make College More Affordable](#)

## **Foreign Policy**

["Restore America's Standing In The World"](#)

[Label China A Currency Manipulator](#)

[Tougher Sanctions Against Iran](#)

[Re-Evaluate Relationship With "Resurgent And Very Aggressive Russia"](#)

[Cannot Return To A "Cold War Posture" With Russia](#)

# OBAMA'S \$833 BILLION STIMULUS

## Stimulus Will Keep Unemployment Low

**PROMISE: Obama And His Economic Advisors Predicted Unemployment Would Not Rise Above 8 Percent If The Stimulus Was Passed.** (Christina Romer and Jared Bernstein, "[The Job Impact Of The American Recovery And Reinvestment Plan](#)," 1/9/09)

- **Obama Said Stimulus Would Create Or Save 3.5 Million Jobs By The End Of 2010.** OBAMA: "Now, what makes this recovery plan so important is not just that it will create or save 3.5 million jobs over the next two years, including 60,000-plus here in Colorado. It's that we're putting Americans to work doing the work that America needs done in critical areas that have been neglected for too long; work that will bring real and lasting change for generations to come. (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Signing Of The American Recovery And Reinvestment Act, [The White House](#), 2/17/09; "Estimates of Job Creation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," [White House Council Of Economic Advisors](#), 5/09)
- **Obama Released Graph So "The American People Can See Exactly What This Plan Will Mean For Their Families, Their Communities, And Our Economy."** OBAMA: "I asked my nominee for Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Dr. Christina Romer, and the Vice President-Elect's Chief Economic Adviser, Dr. Jared Bernstein, to conduct a rigorous analysis of this plan and come up with projections of how many jobs it will create – and what kind of jobs they will be. Today, I am releasing a report of their findings so that the American people can see exactly what this plan will mean for their families, their communities, and our economy." (President-Elect Barack Obama, [The President Elect's Radio Address](#), 1/10/09)

**BROKEN: Since Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 61,000 Jobs And The Unemployment Rate Has Been At Or Above 7.8 Percent (The Rate That It Was At When Obama Took Office) For 45 Straight Months.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/5/12)

- **Under Obama, The Unemployment Rate Remained Above 8 Percent For A Record 43 Straight Months.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/5/12)

**ProPublica's Michael Grabell: "The Stimulus Ultimately Failed To Bring About A Strong, Sustainable Recovery."** "But the stimulus ultimately failed to bring about a strong, sustainable recovery. Money was spread far and wide rather than dedicated to programs with the most bang for the buck. 'Shovel-ready' projects, those that would put people to work right away, took too long to break ground. Investments in worthwhile long-term projects, on the other hand, were often rushed to meet arbitrary deadlines, and the resulting shoddy outcomes tarnished the projects' image." (Michael Grabell, Op-Ed, "How Not To Revive An Economy," [The New York Times](#), 2/11/12)

- **The Associated Press Headline: "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II."** (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/15/12)
- **"The Recession That Ended Three Years Ago This Summer Has Been Followed By The Feeblest Economic Recovery Since The Great Depression."** (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/15/12)



- ***The Associated Press: “The President Can’t Tell Voters About A Grand Economic Comeback Story Because There Isn’t One To Tell.”*** (Ken Thomas, “Obama Doesn’t Emphasize Issues He Fought Hard For,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/12/12)

### **Stimulus Would “Jolt Our Economy Back To Life”**

**PROMISE: Obama Said In February 2009 That Stimulus Would “Jolt Our Economy Back To Life.”** “Obama defended the role of government in the recovery process, saying that ‘with the private sector so weakened by this recession, the federal government is the only entity left with the resources to jolt our economy back to life.’” (Anne E. Komblut and Michael Fletcher, “Obama Says Economic Crisis Comes First,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/10/09)

- **Obama In 2009: “The Federal Government Is The Only Entity Left With The Resources To Jolt Our Economy Back Into Life.”** “It is absolutely true that we can’t depend on Government alone to create jobs or economic growth. That is and must be the role of the private sector. But at this particular moment, with the private sector so weakened by this recession, the Federal Government is the only entity left with the resources to jolt our economy back into life.” (President Barack Obama, [The President’s News Conference](#), Washington, D.C., 2/9/09)
- **Obama Promised Stimulus Money “Will Get Out The Door Immediately And Go Directly To Job-Creation.”** OBAMA: “And that is why I hope to sign an American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan into law in the next few weeks. Most of the money we’re investing as part of this plan will get out the door immediately and go directly to job-creation, generating or saving three to four million new jobs.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks On The Economy](#), Washington, D.C., 1/28/09)
- **Biden Said In February 2009 The Stimulus “Literally Drop-Kicks Us Out Of This Recession.”** “This is a monumental project, but I think it’s doable. But I just think we got to stay on top (inaudible) and we got to stay on top of that on a weekly basis. Because this is about getting this out and spent in 18 months to create 3.5 million jobs and do -- to set -- tee this up so the rest of the good work that’s being done here literally drop-kicks us out of this recession and we begin to grow again and begin to employ people again.” (Vice President Joe Biden, [Remarks At Recovery Plan Implementation Meeting, The White House](#), 2/25/09)

**BROKEN: ProPublica’s Michael Grabbell: “The Stimulus Ultimately Failed To Bring About A Strong, Sustainable Recovery.”** “But the stimulus ultimately failed to bring about a strong, sustainable recovery. Money was spread far and wide rather than dedicated to programs with the most bang for the buck. ‘Shovel-ready’ projects, those that would put people to work right away, took too long to break ground. Investments in worthwhile long-term projects, on the other hand, were often rushed to meet arbitrary deadlines, and the resulting shoddy outcomes tarnished the projects’ image.” (Michael Grabbell, Op-Ed, “How Not To Revive An Economy,” [The New York Times](#), 2/11/12)

- ***The Associated Press Headline: “Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II.”*** (Paul Wiseman, “Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/15/12)

- **“The Recession That Ended Three Years Ago This Summer Has Been Followed By The Feeblest Economic Recovery Since The Great Depression.”** (Paul Wiseman, “Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/15/12)

**CBS News' Scott Pelley: “This Is The Worst Economic Recovery America Has Ever Had.”** PELLEY: “This is worst economic recovery America has ever had. We've been looking for hopeful signs, but today the chairman of the Federal Reserve threw a cold splash of reality on those hopes. Ben Bernanke said any improvement in unemployment will 'likely be frustratingly slow.' Well, yes, to say the least.” ([CBS Evening News With Scott Pelley](#), 7/17/12)

- **“Never In The Last 60 Years Has The Length Of Joblessness Been As Long As It Has Been Recently.”** “Nearly four million people, almost a third of the unemployed, have been out of work more than a year. They've been severed from the workforce.” (CBS’ [“60 Minutes”](#), 8/12/12)

**CNBC's Brian Sullivan: “Since 1970, This Is Statistically The Worst Recovery Out Of A Recession In A Developed Nation.”** SULLIVAN: “I'm a business guy. I like pretty-colored lines, right, so there's a chart and this is basically a look at how economies in Japan and Finland and the U.S. and other places have done coming out of deep recessions. Right? And if you look at this chart, you will notice the U.S. is, since 1970, this is statistically the worst recovery out of a recession in a developed nation. So in other words, in over 40 years, this is officially the slowest recovery when compared to other countries. So Miles, there's a report out recently that Canada, right, is now wealthier on a per capita basis in terms of net worth per household than the United States. So I would ask you: how do we fix that? Right? What can America do better?” (MSNBC's [“Morning Joe”](#), 8/1/12)

**Bloomberg 's Mike McKee: If This Were The Olympics We Would Be Performing Very Poorly. ... This Is The Worst Recovery Since The Mid 70's And You Can Probably Go Back To The 40s.”** MCKEE: “If this were the Olympics we would be performing very poorly. Three years now on got the GDP report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. We're three years into the recovery. Look how we're doing. This is the worst recovery since the mid 70's and you can probably go back to the 40s. According to Mike Feroli at JP Morgan, this recovery has been truly awful. It lags all of the rest. And not only that - we hold up Japan as the poster boy for bad recoveries, their lost decade. Well this far into the recovery for Japan we are performing even worse than they did. We are lower than Japan. Mike says we are not Japan, but one can always hope.” (Bloomberg's [“Surveillance”](#), 8/1/12)

**Obama “Cracked Wise” About The Jobs His “Shovel-Ready” Stimulus Was Supposed To Create.** “While meeting with his Jobs and Competitiveness Council today in Durham, N.C., President Obama cracked wise about one of his administration's early catchphrases. Remember ‘shovel-ready projects.’ Those were construction projects in the 2009 stimulus bill that were supposed to get moving right away -- but jobs council members told Obama today that some got held up because of elaborate government regulations and permitting procedures.” (David Jackson, “Obama Jokes About ‘Shovel-Ready Projects,” [USA Today](#), 6/13/11)

- **Obama: “Shovel-Ready Was Not As Shovel-Ready As We Expected.”** (President Barack Obama, [Remarks In Durham, N.C.](#), 6/13/11)

- **“Obama Aides Sometime Joke About The Three Big Lies: The Check Is In The Mail, I’ll Respect You In The Morning, And My Project Is Shovel-Ready.”** “Obama aides sometime joke about the three big lies: The check is in the mail, I’ll respect you in the morning, and my project is shovel-ready. ‘Shovel-ready,’ the president later mused, ‘was not as shovel-ready as we expected.’ Unfortunately, the killjoy economists had been right. Infrastructure work was tough to get started, even a routine bridge repair that seemed to have all its jackhammers in a row.” (Michael Grunwald, *The New New Deal: The Hidden Story Of Change In The Obama Era*, 2012, p. 254)

**FactCheck.org: “It’s Accurate To Say The Stimulus Has Failed To Live Up To Initial Expectations.”** “CBO’s high estimate is still short of the 3.5 million jobs that Obama had said would be created by the end of 2010, so it’s accurate to say the stimulus has failed to live up to initial expectations. White House advisers wrongly estimated that the stimulus would bring the unemployment rate down to 7 percent — though they also thought the rate without the stimulus would be lower than it actually is, and they made clear that ‘substantial uncertainty’ surrounded those estimates.” (Lori Robertson, “Dueling Economic Ads,” [Fact Check](#), 6/30/11)

**Real GDP For The Second Quarter Was Revised Down From 1.7 Percent To 1.3 Percent.** “Real gross domestic product -- the output of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States -- increased at an annual rate of 1.3 percent in the second quarter of 2012 (that is, from the first quarter to the second quarter), according to the ‘third’ estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. ...The GDP estimate released today is based on more complete source data than were available for the “second” estimate issued last month. In the second estimate, the increase in real GDP was 1.7percent (see ‘Revisions’ on page 3).” (Press Release, “National Income And Product Accounts – Gross Domestic Product: Second Quarter 2012 (Third Estimate); Corporate Profits: Second Quarter 2012 (Revised Estimate),” [Bureau Of Economic Analysis](#), 9/27/12)

- **GDP Was Revised Down Due To Less Consumer Spending And Business Investment Than Previously Estimated.** “The government cut its calculation of U.S. growth in the second quarter to 1.3% from 1.7% in its third and final review, citing less consumer spending and business investment than previously estimated.” (Jeffrey Bartash, “Second-Quarter U.S. GDP Revised Down To 1.3%,” [MarketWatch](#), 9/27/12)
- **“Growth Is Still Frustratingly Slow, And Economists Often Say The Economy Needs To Expand At Least 3% A Year To Bring The Unemployment Rate Down Significantly.”** (Annalyn Censky, “GDP Report: Economic Growth Revised Lower,” [CNNMoney](#), 9/27/12)

**“There Was Nowhere To Hide In A Report That Painted A Picture Of An Anemic Economic Recovery...”** “There was nowhere to hide in a report that painted a picture of an anemic economic recovery that seems unable to take flight and ease the lingering concern among voters that a president they still like personally has nonetheless failed in his main task of boosting growth and jobs.” (Ben White, “Jobs Report Challenges Obama’s Economic Message,” [Politico](#), 9/7/12)

### **Stimulus Would Lift Millions Out Of Poverty**



**PROMISE: In February 2009, Obama Said That The Stimulus Bill Would Lift Two Million Americans Out Of Poverty.** “And it's a plan that rewards responsibility, lifting 2 million Americans from poverty by ensuring that anyone who works hard does not have to raise a child below the poverty line. So as a whole, this plan will help poor and working Americans pull themselves into the middle class in a way we haven't seen in nearly 50 years.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks on Signing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#), Denver, CO, 2/17/09)

**BROKEN: In 2011, 46.2 Million Americans Lived In Poverty, As The Official Poverty Rate Was 15 Percent.** “In 2011, the official poverty rate was 15.0 percent. There were 46.2 million people in poverty (Figure 4 and Table 3).” (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, “Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12)

- **Since Obama Took Office, About 28 Percent Of The Population Had At Least One Spell Of Poverty Lasting 2 Months Or More.** “During the 2-year period from 2009 to 2010, approximately 28.0 percent of the population had at least one spell of poverty lasting 2 or more months.” (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, “Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12)

**“In 2010, The Share Of Americans Whose Families Made Less Than Half Of The Poverty Line Hit A Record: 6.7 Percent Of The Population, Or 1 In 15 Americans.”** “The number of families in deep poverty grew sharply during the recent recession and its aftermath, and in 2010, the share of Americans whose families made less than half of the poverty line hit a record: 6.7 percent of the population, or 1 in 15 Americans.” (Paul Tough, “Obama Vs. Poverty,” [The New York Times](#), 8/15/12)

**“There Are Now Seven Million American Children Whose Families Earn Below 50 Percent Of The Poverty Line.”** (Paul Tough, “What Does Obama Really Believe In?” [The New York Times](#), 8/15/12)

**“In 2010, 1 In Every 10 American Children Lived In Deep Poverty.”** “The numbers are even higher for children, disturbingly so. In 2010, 1 in every 10 American children lived in deep poverty.” (Paul Tough, “What Does Obama Really Believe In?” [The New York Times](#), 8/15/12)

**Under Obama, 6.4 Million More Americans Have Fallen Into Poverty.** (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, “Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12; Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, “Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2008,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/09)

## TAXES

### No Middle-Class Tax Increases

**PROMISE: Candidate Obama Promised No Tax Increases—Of Any Kind—On The Middle Class.** OBAMA: “I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.” (Senator Barack Obama, [Remarks In Dover, NH](#), 8/12/08)

- **As President, Obama Repeated His Pledge That Those Making Less Than \$250,000 A Year Would Not See Their Taxes Raised “A Single Dime.”** OBAMA: “If your family earns less than \$250,000 a year, a quarter million dollars a year, you will not see your taxes increased a single dime. I repeat: Not one single dime.” (President Obama, [Address to Joint Session of Congress](#), 2/24/09)

**BROKEN: PolitiFact Rates Obama’s Tax Pledge As “Promise Broken.”** “We were willing to give President Barack Obama a Compromise rating on this promise when a new cigarette tax went into effect. But the latest health care bill includes more broad-based taxes that are pushing us toward Promise Broken.” (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Smokers, Tanning Aficionados, The Happily Uninsured: More Taxes Coming At Ya!,” [PolitiFact](#), 4/8/10)

- **Less Than Three Months Into His Presidency, White House Spokesman Reid H. Cherlin Added A Caveat To The President’s “Not Any Of Your Taxes” Pledge.** “The president’s position throughout the campaign was that he would not raise income or payroll taxes on families making less than \$250,000, and that’s a promise he has kept.” (Calvin Woodward, “Promises, Promises: Obama Tax Pledge Up In Smoke,” *The Associated Press*, 4/1/09)

***The Wall Street Journal*: “Obama Has Imposed The Largest Tax Increase In History On The Middle Class.”** “It is now undeniable that Mr. Obama has imposed the largest tax increase in history on the middle class. Individuals who don’t buy insurance will have to pay several hundred dollars, depending on income. The Congressional Budget Office says that 76% of those who pay the mandate tax will make less than 500% of the federal poverty level, estimated to be \$24,000 for a family of four in 2016. That means 76% of the payers will earn less than \$120,000 a year.” (Editorial, “It’s Up To The Voters Now,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/28/12)

**The Joint Committee On Taxation Report Found That The ObamaCare Tax Will Hit Middle-Class Americans.** “There are a number of tax provisions in the health care bill that may directly increase taxes on some individuals and families earning less than \$200,000 and \$250,000 per year.” (Joint Committee On Taxation, [Letter To Senator Tom Coburn](#), 3/20/12)

**Non-Partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO): “6 Million People Will Pay A Penalty Because They Are Uninsured In 2016.”** “After accounting for those who will not be subject to the penalty tax, CBO and JCT now estimate that about 6 million people will pay a penalty because they are uninsured in 2016 (a figure that includes uninsured dependents who have the penalty paid on their behalf) and that total collections will be about \$7 billion in 2016 and average about \$8 billion per year over the 2017–2022 period.” (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)

- **“That’s 2 Million More Than A Previous Estimate Found, Or A 50 Percent Increase.”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Tax Penalty To Hit Nearly 6 Million Uninsured People,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/19/12)
- **“The Average Penalty Will Be Nearly \$1,200.”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Tax Penalty To Hit Nearly 6 Million Uninsured People,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/19/12)

**CBO: In 2016, 4.7 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Up To \$123,000 Annually Will Be Subjected To The Obamacare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/12)

- **CBO: 600,000 Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Less Than The Federal Poverty Level Of \$24,600 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 1.2 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$24,600 And \$49,200 Annually Will Be Subjected To The Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 1.2 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$49,200 And \$73,800 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 1.1 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$73,800 And \$98,400 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 600,000 Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$98,400 And \$123,000 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)

**Obama Pays For His Government Takeover Of Health Care With \$820.8 Billion In Job-Killing Taxes On Small Businesses, Investments And Innovation.** (“Updated Estimates For The Insurance Coverage Provisions Of The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 3/12; “Estimated Revenue Effects Of A Proposal To Repeal Certain Tax Provisions Contained In The ‘Affordable Care Act,’” [Joint Committee On Taxation](#), 6/15/12; “Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)

**Obama’s FY2013 Budget Would Raise Taxes On 27 Percent Of U.S. Households According To A Study By The Tax Policy Center.** “President Barack Obama’s 2013 budget plan would raise taxes for 27 percent of U.S. households in 2013, far more than the administration estimates, according to a nonpartisan study. The study released today comes from the Tax Policy Center, a research group in Washington that analyzes proposals from presidential candidates in both parties. Obama focuses the tax increases in his 2013 budget on corporations and the top 2 percent of individual taxpayers. The result in the center’s study stems from the fact that taxpayers in all income brackets own parts of corporations.” (Richard Rubin, “Obama Budget Raises Taxes For 27% Of Households, Report Says,” [Bloomberg](#), 3/21/12)

## BUDGET AND SPENDING

### Cut The Deficit In Half

**PROMISE: In February 2009, Obama Said That He Would “Cut The Deficit In Half By The End Of [His] First Term In Office.”** OBAMA: “Yesterday, I held a fiscal summit where I pledged to cut the deficit in half by the end of my first term in office.” (President Obama, [Address to Joint Session of Congress](#), 2/24/09)

- **Obama Said He Would Cut The Deficit In Half By The End Of His First Term In Office.** OBAMA: “And that's why today I'm pledging to cut the deficit we inherited in half by the end of my first term in office. This will not be easy. It will require us to make difficult decisions and face challenges we've long neglected. But I refuse to leave our children with a debt that they cannot repay -- and that means taking responsibility right now, in this administration, for getting our spending under control.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At Fiscal Responsibility Summit](#), Washington, D.C., 2/23/09)

**BROKEN: Obama Will Fall “Far Short Of His Goal To Halve The Deficit In Four Years.”** “President Obama's proposed 2013 budget will forecast a \$901 billion deficit for next year, falling far short of his goal to halve the deficit in four years.” (Richard Wolf, “Obama Budget To Miss Deficit Goal,” [USA Today's The Oval](#), 2/10/12)

**The Congressional Budget Office Estimated The FY 2012 Budget Deficit At \$1.1 Trillion, “The Fourth Straight Year Of Trillion Dollar Deficits On President Barack Obama’s Watch.”** “A new estimate puts the deficit for the just-completed 2012 budget year at \$1.1 trillion, the fourth straight year of trillion dollar deficits on President Barack Obama's watch. The result was a slight improvement from the 2011 deficit of \$1.3 trillion. The bleak figures from the Congressional Budget Office, while expected, add fodder for the heated presidential campaign, in which Obama's handling of the economy and the budget is a main topic.” (Andrew Taylor, “CBO Tallies 2012 Deficit At \$1.1T,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/5/12)

**Obama “Promised To Cut The Deficit In Half By The End Of His First Term, But Deficits Have Instead Remained At Eye-Popping Levels...”** “Obama inherited an economy in recession and a deficit in excess of \$1 trillion. He promised to cut the deficit in half by the end of his first term, but deficits have instead remained at eye-popping levels, including a record \$1.4 trillion deficit in 2009 and deficits of \$1.3 trillion in each of the past two years. The 2012 deficit was 7 percent of the size of the economy, an unsustainably high level.” (Andrew Taylor, “CBO Tallies 2012 Deficit At \$1.1T,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/5/12)

**“This Is The Fourth Straight Year That The Deficit Will Exceed One Trillion Dollars, All Under President Obama.”** (Erik Wasson, “CBO Says 2012 Deficit Has Reached \$1.17T,” [The Hill](#), 9/10/12)

- **Obama Had Already Racked Up The Three Largest Deficits In U.S. History.** “The U.S budget deficit for fiscal year 2011 is \$1.299 trillion, the second largest shortfall in history. The nation only ran a larger deficit for the 2009 fiscal year, which included the dramatic collapse of financial markets and a huge bailout effort by the government.” (Erik Wasson, “Treasury Announces 2011 Deficit Is Second Highest In History,” [The Hill's “On The Money”](#), 10/14/11)

**“Obama Has Long Since Stopped Talking Up His Old Goal Of Reducing Deficits In Half.”** (Tom Raum, “THE RACE: Deficits To Be Hot Topic In 1st Debate,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/1/12)

**The CBO Estimates That The Federal Budget Deficit Was About \$1.1 Trillion In Fiscal Year 2012.** (“Monthly Budget Review: Fiscal Year 2012,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 10/5/12)

- **FY2009: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.413 Trillion, The Highest In U.S. History.** (“Monthly Budget Review: November 2011,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2010: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.294 Trillion, The Third Highest In U.S. History.** (“Monthly Budget Review: November 2011,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2011: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.299 Trillion, The Second Highest In U.S. History.** (“Monthly Budget Review: November 2011,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2012: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.1 Trillion, The Fourth Highest In U.S. History.** (“Monthly Budget Review: Fiscal Year 2012,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 10/5/12)

### **Net Spending Cut**

**PROMISE: Obama Said That His Plan Was “Cutting More Than I’m Spending So That It Will Be A Net Spending Cut.”** OBAMA: “And what I’ve proposed, you’ll hear Senator McCain say, well, he’s proposing a whole bunch of new spending, but actually I’m cutting more than I’m spending so that it will be a net spending cut.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

- **Obama: “Now, What I’ve Done Throughout This Campaign Is To Propose A Net Spending Cut.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)
- **Obama: “Every Dollar That I’ve Proposed, I’ve Proposed An Additional Cut So That It Matches.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

**Obama Said That He Would “Eliminate A Whole Host Of Programs That Don’t Work.”** OBAMA: “We need to eliminate a whole host of programs that don’t work. And I want to go through the federal budget line by line, page by page, programs that don’t work, we should cut. Programs that we need, we should make them work better.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

- **Obama: “We’ve Got To Eliminate Programs That Don’t Work, And We’ve Got To Make Sure That The Programs That We Do Have Are More Efficient And Cost Less.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

**Obama Said As President “I Will Go Line By Line To Make Sure We Are Not Spending Money Unwisely.”** OBAMA: “But let’s go back to the original point. John, nobody is denying that \$18 billion is important. And, absolutely, we need earmark reform. And when I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

- **Obama: “I Want To Go Line By Line Through Every Item In The Federal Budget And Eliminate Programs That Don’t Work And Make Sure That Those That Do**



**Work, Work Better And Cheaper.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

**BROKEN: Federal Outlays Have Increased By 20.4 Percent Since Obama Took Office.**

The federal government spent \$3.1 trillion in FY2008 in inflation adjusted dollars. Under Obama, in FY2012 the federal government spent \$3.8 trillion dollars. (“Table 1.3 – Summary Of Receipts, Outlays And Surpluses Or Deficits In Current Dollars, Constant (FY2005) Dollars, And As Percentages Of GDP: 1940-2016,” [Office Of Management And Budget](#), Accessed 5/16/12; “Budget Of The United States Government, Fiscal Year 2013,” [Office Of Management And Budget](#), 2/13/12)

- **Obama Proposed FY2013 Budget Calls For Increasing Government Spending Well Above Historical Norms.** From 1969 To 2008 The Federal Government Spent An Average Of 20.6 Percent Of GDP, Obama’s Proposed FY2013 Budget Calls For Spending 22.8 Percent Of GDP By FY2022. (“Table 1.2 – Summary Of Receipts, Outlays And Surpluses Or Deficits As Percentages Of GDP: 1930-2016,” [Office Of Management And Budget](#), Accessed 5/16/12; “Budget Of The United States Government, Fiscal Year 2013,” [Office Of Management And Budget](#), 2/13/12)

**“Government Spending As A Share Of The Economy Has Hovered Around 24% During The Obama Administration...Elevated From The Historical Average Of 20.7% Over The Past 40 Years.”** “Government spending as a share of the economy has hovered around 24% during the Obama administration, several percentage points higher than under President Bush, according to Congressional Budget Office data. It's also elevated from the historical average of 20.7% over the past 40 years.” (Tami Luhby, “Did Obama Really Make Government Bigger?” [CNN Money](#), 1/25/12)

**The Washington Post’s Fact Checker: Obama’s Spending “Has Hit Highs Not Seen Since The End Of World War II — Completely The Opposite Of The Point Asserted By Carney.”** “In the post-war era, federal spending as a percentage of the U.S. economy has hovered around 20 percent, give or take a couple of percentage points. Under Obama, it has hit highs not seen since the end of World War II — completely the opposite of the point asserted by Carney. Part of this, of course, is a consequence of the recession, but it is also the result of a sustained higher level of spending.” (Glenn Kessler, “The Facts About The Growth Of Spending Under Obama,” [The Washington Post](#), 5/25/12)

- **Politifact: “As A Percentage Of Gross Domestic Product ... Discretionary Spending Under Obama Reached Its Highest Level In About Two Decades ...”** “As a percentage of gross domestic product -- which is a measure of the nation’s economy -- discretionary spending under Obama reached its highest level in about two decades, according to figures released by the White House’s Office of Management and Budget.” (Bill Wichert, “Cory Booker Claims Obama Has Overseen Nation’s ‘Lowest Discretionary Spending We’ve Had In Decades’,” [Politifact](#), 5/28/12)

**Budget Gimmicks**

**PROMISE: Obama Said He Would Tackle The Deficit “Not By Gimmicks, Not By Punting To Future Administrations The Tough Choices, But By Making Some Of Those Tough Choices While I’m In Office.”** OBAMA: “And so what I’ve said is, I’m going to be willing to make some very difficult choices in how we get a handle on this deficit. That’s what the American people are looking for. And, you know, what we intend to do this year, next year, and all the years that I’m in office is to demonstrate our seriousness, not by

gimmicks, not by punting to future administrations the tough choices, but by making some of those tough choices while I'm in office.” (President-Elect Barack Obama, [Informal Exchange With Reporters On The Economy And Budget](#), 1/6/09)

**BROKEN: Obama Gave Approval To Using Budget Gimmickry And “Fiddling With The Way It Presented Savings” From ObamaCare.** “In the December 20th memo, they resorted to gimmickry. In his first budget, Obama had prided himself on ‘honest budgeting,’ declining to employ the fanciful assumptions that the previous Administration had used to hide the costs of government. On disaster relief, for example, he had estimated that the government would need twenty billion dollars a year, a figure based on the statistical likelihood of major disasters requiring federal aid. Now Obama’s aides reminded him that Congress had ignored his “‘honest budgeting’ approach,” and perhaps they should, too. They proposed ‘\$5 billion per year for disaster costs.’ Obama drew another check mark. The White House could also save billions by fiddling with the way it presented savings from Obama’s health-care-reform bill. Check.” (Ryan Lizza, “The Obama Memos,” [The New Yorker](#), 1/30/12)

***The Washington Post: “The Administration’s Claim To Have Come Up With \$4 Trillion In Deficit Reduction Is Misleading. The More Accurate Amount Is Barely Half That ...”*** “The administration’s claim to have come up with \$4 trillion in deficit reduction is misleading. The more accurate amount is barely half that, including about \$1 trillion in domestic and security spending cuts already agreed to as part of the debt ceiling deal, and \$1.5 trillion in tax increases on the wealthy.” (Editorial, “In Debt Plan, Mr. Obama Goes ‘Medium’,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/19/11)

- **Maya MacGuinness, President Of The Bipartisan Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget Said That Obama’s Plan “Doesn’t Produce Any More In Realistic Savings Than The Plan They Offered In April.”** “The latest Obama plan ‘doesn’t produce any more in realistic savings than the plan they offered in April ... They’ve filled in details, repackaged it and replaced one gimmick with another. They don’t even stabilize the debt. This is just not enough.” (Lori Montgomery And Jia Lynn Yang, “Budget Analysts Say Obama Deficit Plan Is Likely To Miss Its Targets,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/19/11)

**“Obama’s Budget Is Replete With Magic Asterisks.”** “Obama’s budget is replete with magic asterisks, totaling more than \$600 billion. The administration proposes to permanently fix a persistent problem with doctors’ payments in Medicare, but only comes up with two years to pay for it, even though it is supposed to be a 10-year budget. The budget simply assumes the money for the next eight years--some \$300 billion--will be found, and thus will not add to the deficit. Similarly, the budget assumes that plans for highway spending will be fully funded--at a cost of \$328 billion over 10 years--but provides no way to pay for them. The budget simply asserts that some kind of unspecified ‘bipartisan’ funding mechanism will be enacted.” (Glenn Kessler, “A Guide To Gimmicks In The Fiscal 2012 Budget,” [The Washington Post’s “The Fact Checker.”](#) 2/21/11)

**Obama’s Budget Gimmicks Are “Thoroughly Familiar.”** “Some gimmicks in the Obama budget are thoroughly familiar. The administration assumes the economy will rebound faster than most other economists. But maybe these White House projections are more

optimistic, you say, because they account for the effects of the recently passed stimulus bill. No dice: When I asked an administration aide whether any forecasters had updated their economic outlook based on the stimulus bill, I was told that private-sector forecasts had already anticipated the stimulus's effects." (John Dickerson, "Gimmicks We Can Believe In," [Slate](#), 2/26/09)

**Obama's Budget Relied On Inflated Numbers.** "Obama claims that he's found \$2 trillion in savings over the next 10 years. To achieve some of that savings, he inflates what's known as the baseline—the metric against which the costs of policy changes are measured." (John Dickerson, "Gimmicks We Can Believe In," [Slate](#), 2/26/09)

- **Obama's Budget Avoided "Having To Make The Hard Choices Really Necessary To Tame The Budget."** "By tweaking the baseline, an administration gets credit for deficit reduction without having to make the hard choices really necessary to tame the budget—which Obama says is a key goal of his administration." (John Dickerson, "Gimmicks We Can Believe In," [Slate](#), 2/26/09)

**Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) Said Obama's Budget Was Filled With "Gimmicks."** "President Barack Obama's proposed deficit plan is filled with unacceptable 'gimmicks' and could actually add some \$1.9 trillion in debt, freshman Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., maintained Friday in a floor speech. Manchin said he is 'greatly concerned' about the recommendations for raising tax rates on small businesses in a recession. The Democratic lawmaker told his colleagues that budget 'gimmicks' such as saving \$1.1 trillion by not fighting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are worrisome." ("Manchin 'Greatly Concerned' About Obama Budget Plan," [The Register Herald](#), 9/24/11)

**Larry Summers' Solution To Obama's Attempts To Present A "Serious" Budget Addressing The Deficit And Jobs: "Let's Sort Of Just Gimmick It Up."** "Geithner, Orszag and Summers went to work on a strategy for the next year's presidential budget request, which was due to Congress in early February 2010. They had to produce something that would show Obama was equally serious about deficit reduction and job creation. Back and forth they went, debating, defining and calculating. It was dizzying. 'Let's sort of just gimmick it up,' Larry Summers said to Orszag at one point." (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 30)

# **JOBS**

## **Five Million New Jobs**

**PROMISE: Obama Promised To Create Five Million New Jobs.** OBAMA: “And then we can invest \$15 billion a year in renewable sources of energy, building wind turbines and solar panel, a new electricity grid, the next generation of biofuels, invest in clean coal technology, find ways that we can create five million new jobs, new energy jobs, all across it country, jobs that pay well, jobs that can't be outsourced.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), Cleveland, OH, 11/2/08)

**BROKEN: Since Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 61,000 Jobs And The Unemployment Rate Has Been Above Or At 7.8 Percent (What The Rate Was When Obama Took Office) for 45 Straight Months.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/5/12)

- **Under Obama, The Unemployment Rate Was Above 8 Percent For A Record 43 Straight Months.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/5/12)

## **Green Energy Investments = 5 Million New Jobs**

**PROMISE: In 2008, Obama Claimed His Investments In Green Energy Would Create 5 Million New Jobs.** OBAMA: “And I'll invest \$150 billion over the next decade in affordable, renewable sources of energy -- wind power, and solar power, and the next generation of biofuels -- an investment that will lead to new industries and 5 million new jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Acceptance Speech Remarks At The Democratic National Convention](#), Denver, CO, 8/28/08)

**BROKEN: “The Green Economy Is Not Proving To Be The Job-Creation Engine That Many Politicians Envisioned.”** “In the Bay Area as in much of the country, the green economy is not proving to be the job-creation engine that many politicians envisioned. President Obama once pledged to create five million green jobs over 10 years. Gov. Jerry Brown promised 500,000 clean-technology jobs statewide by the end of the decade. But the results so far suggest such numbers are a pipe dream.” (Aaron Glantz, “Number Of Green Jobs Fails To Live Up To Promises,” [The New York Times](#), 8/18/11)

**“The Millions Of ‘Green Jobs’ Obama Promised Have Been Slow To Sprout...”** “But the millions of ‘green jobs’ Obama promised have been slow to sprout, disappointing many who had hoped that the \$90 billion earmarked for clean-energy efforts in the recession-fighting federal stimulus package would ease unemployment - still above 8 percent in March.” (Andy Sullivan, “Analysis: Obama’s ‘Green Jobs’ Have Been Slow To Sprout,” [Reuters](#), 4/13/12)

**Green Technology Jobs Account For Just Two Percent Of Employment Nationwide.** “A study released in July by the non-partisan Brookings Institution found clean-technology jobs accounted for just 2 percent of employment nationwide and only slightly more — 2.2 percent — in Silicon Valley. Rather than adding jobs, the study found, the sector actually lost 492 positions from 2003 to 2010 in the South Bay, where the unemployment rate in June was 10.5 percent.” (Aaron Glantz, “Number Of Green Jobs Fails To Live Up To Promises,” [The New York Times](#), 8/18/11)

**The Failure Of Obama's Green Jobs Programs "Gets More Embarrassing By The Day."**

"The green jobs subsidy story gets more embarrassing by the day. Three years ago President Obama promised that by the end of the decade America would have five million green jobs, but so far some \$90 billion in government spending has delivered very few."

(Editorial, "Green Jobs Brown Out," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/11/11)

**Despite Soaring Promises From Obama And His Allies, Green Energy Has Barely Taken Flight And Has Failed To Create Jobs.**

"New clean-energy sources could address environmental, economic and national security problems all at once. In his 2008 convention speech, Barack Obama promised to create five million green economy jobs. The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimated in April 2009 that green jobs could account for 10 percent of new job growth over the next 30 years. Alas, it was not to be."

(David Brooks, Op-Ed, "Where The Jobs Aren't," [The New York Times](#), 9/5/11)

- **"There's A Wealth Of Other Evidence To Suggest That The Green Economy Will Not Be A Short-Term Jobs Machine. According To Investor's Business Daily, Executives At Johnson Controls Turned \$300 Million In Green Technology Grants Into 150 Jobs — That's \$2 Million Per Job."** (David Brooks, "Where The Jobs Aren't," [The New York Times](#), 9/5/11)

**"Federal And State Efforts To Stimulate Creation Of Green Jobs Have Largely Failed."**

"Federal and state efforts to stimulate creation of green jobs have largely failed, government records show. Two years after it was awarded \$186 million in federal stimulus money to weatherize drafty homes, California has spent only a little over half that sum and has so far created the equivalent of just 538 full-time jobs in the last quarter, according to the State Department of Community Services and Development."

(Aaron Glantz, "Number Of Green Jobs Fails To Live Up To Promises," [The New York Times](#), 8/18/11)



## HOUSING

### Prevent Foreclosures, Help Homeowners

**PROMISE: Obama Promised That His Housing Program Would Prevent 7 To 9 Million Families From Foreclosure.** OBAMA: “And we will pursue the housing plan I’m outlining today. And through this plan, we will help between 7 and 9 million families restructure or refinance their mortgages so they can afford—avoid foreclosure.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks On The Home Mortgage Industry](#), Mesa, AZ, 2/18/09]

- **Obama Said That Foreclosures Were “The Root Problem” And That “We’ve Got To Make Sure That We’re Helping Homeowners.”** OBAMA: “And, number four, we’ve got to make sure that we’re helping homeowners, because the root problem here has to do with the foreclosures that are taking place all across the country.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

**BROKEN: Obama Has “Had Limited Success With The Promises That Would Have Provided The Biggest Help To Homeowners.”** “But he’s had limited success with the promises that would have provided the biggest help to homeowners, according to five experts we interviewed. A temporary foreclosure moratorium happened in early 2009. It’s not clear, though, that it ultimately kept many people out of foreclosure” (Molly Moorhead, “President Barack Obama’s Efforts To Help Foreclosure Crisis Have Fallen Short,” [Politifact](#), 5/28/12)

**“For Thus Far, This Administration’s Failures -- In Domestic Policy At Least -- Are More The Product Of Doing Too Little Too Late, Than Of Doing Too Much Too Soon. Nowhere Is That Failure Clearer Than In The Administration’s Inept Handling Of The Home Foreclosure Crisis.”** (David Coates, “The Unfinished Business Of The Obama Administration: The Foreclosure Crisis,” [The Huffington Post](#), 7/10/12)

**“Of Course, The White House Has Made Big Promises Before About Helping Homeowners, Only To See Them Disappoint Time And Again.”** “The Obama administration recently unveiled a string of proposals to help struggling homeowners and get the housing market back on its feet — part of the administration’s ‘We Can’t Wait’ election year to-do list. Of course, the White House has made big promises before about helping homeowners, only to see them disappoint time and again.” (Cora Currier, “Obama Housing Plans Vs. Reality,” [ProPublica](#), 2/14/12)

**“Some Economists And Political Allies Say The Cautious Response To The Housing Crisis Was The Administration’s Most Significant Mistake.”** “The nation’s painfully slow pace of growth is now the primary threat to Mr. Obama’s bid for a second term, and some economists and political allies say the cautious response to the housing crisis was the administration’s most significant mistake.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Cautious Moves On Foreclosures Haunting Obama,” [The New York Times](#), 8/19/12)

**As Of The Second Quarter Of 2012, 30.9 Percent – 15.3 Million - Of U.S. Homeowners With A Mortgage Are Underwater.** “According to the second quarter Zillow Negative Equity Report, 30.9 percent of U.S. homeowners with a mortgage are underwater (see Figure 1) – 15.3 million people – in the second quarter of 2012.” (Stan Humphries, “Negative Equity Declines Slightly On The Back Of Modest Home Value Gains,” [Zillow](#), 8/22/12)

**During Discussions About The Stimulus, Obama Said, “We Will Not Roll Out An Aggressive Housing Plan.”** “What about the thousands of homeowners who owed more on their mortgages than their homes were worth? asked Durbin. ‘We will not roll out an aggressive housing plan,’ Obama said, and it would not be part of the stimulus bill.” (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 8)

- **“The Housing Problem Was Massive And Baffling, And None Of Them Had Solid Ideas For Fixing It.”** (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 8)

**Former FDIC Chairwoman Sheila Bair Says Geithner And Summers “Created The Home Affordable Modification Program, Obama’s Main Plan To Aid Homeowners, More For Splash Than Substance.”** “She said Geithner and Lawrence H. Summers, Obama’s former National Economic Council director, created the Home Affordable Modification Program, Obama’s main plan to aid homeowners, more for splash than substance.” (Zachary A. Goldfarb and Brady Dennis, “Sheila Bair, In New Book, Faults Obama And Bush Advisers During Financial Crisis,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/25/12)

- **Bair: “HAMP Was A Program Designed To Look Good In Press Release, Not To Fix The Housing Market.”** “HAMP was a program designed to look good in press release, not to fix the housing market. Larry and Tim didn’t seem to care about the political beating the president took on the hundreds of billions of dollars thrown at the big-bank bailouts and AIG bonuses, but when it came to home owners, it was a very different story. I don’t think helping home owners was ever a priority for them.” (Sheila Bair, *Bull By The Horns*, 2012, p. 153)

**Obama Promised His Foreclosure Prevention Program Would Help 9 Million Homeowners, But It Has Only Assisted About Two Million Homeowners.** “The foreclosure prevention fund was the heart of his promise. Obama originally pledged \$10 billion but ended up setting aside \$75 billion, using TARP funds. He predicted the money would assist 9 million homeowners. But after three years, only about 2 million people have won permanent mortgage help, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.” (Molly Moorhead, “President Barack Obama’s Efforts To Help Foreclosure Crisis Have Fallen Short,” [Politifact](#), 5/28/12)

**Currently 5.64 Million Residential Mortgages Are Either 30 Days Delinquent Or In Foreclosure.** (Press Release, “LPS ‘First Look’ Mortgage Report: September Month-End Data Shows Significant Rise In Delinquencies; Foreclosures Drop,” [Lender Processing Services](#), 10/22/12)

**Obama’s Administration Offered Aid To “Fewer Than Half Of Those Facing Foreclosure.”** “Mr. Obama insisted the government should help only ‘responsible borrowers,’ and his administration offered aid to fewer than half of those facing foreclosure, excluding landlords, owners of big-ticket homes and those judged to have excessive debts.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Cautious Moves On Foreclosures Haunting Obama,” [The New York Times](#), 8/19/12)

**“Meanwhile, 2.5 Million Homes Have Been Lost To Foreclosure Since 2009 ...”** “Meanwhile, 2.5 million homes have been lost to foreclosure since 2009, an additional 4 million are in the foreclosure process or seriously delinquent, and home prices are still falling in much of the U.S., shrinking household wealth for millions of Americans.” (Julie Schmit, “What Went Wrong With Foreclosure Aid Programs,” [USA Today](#), 12/12/11)

## HOPE AND CHANGE

### **“Fundamentally Change How Washington Works”**

**PROMISE: Obama: “Washington Is Broken. My Whole Campaign Has Been Premised From The Start On The Idea That We Have To Fundamentally Change How Washington Works.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks At ServiceNation Summit](#), New York, NY, 9/11/08)

**BROKEN: Obama Said “The Most Important Lesson I’ve Learned Is That You Can’t Change Washington From The Inside.”** OBAMA: “You know what—obviously, the fact that we haven’t been able to change the tone in Washington is disappointing. We know now that as soon as I came into office you already had meetings among some of our Republican colleagues saying, ‘How do we figure out how to beat the president?’ And I think that I’ve learned some lessons over the last four years, and the most important lesson I’ve learned is that you can’t change Washington from the inside. You can only change it from the outside.” (President Barack Obama, [Univision Town Hall](#), Miami, FL, 9/20/12)

**Obama Has “Missed Or Passed Up Opportunities To Show His Willingness To Challenge The Status Quo.”** “He also missed or passed up opportunities to show his willingness to challenge the status quo. And there is not much evidence that, as things turned sour, there was a fallback strategy for how to change the climate.” (Dan Balz, “Obama Did Not Change Washington, Was There A Way Around United Republican Opposition?” [The Washington Post](#), 9/1/12)

**The Washington Post’s Dana Milbank:** “The president came here to change Washington and Washington has changed him.” (CNN’s [“Anderson Cooper 360.”](#) 3/8/12)

**Obama Admitted Washington Is Stuck With “More Of The Same,” And “Maybe A Little Worse.”** CNN’s WOLF BLITZER: “When we spoke here end of 2008, ‘hope and change.’ You know what I see in Washington still to this day? OBAMA: “More of the same.” BLITZER: “The same old same old.” OBAMA: “Yeah.” BLITZER: “A lot of bickering, backstabbing.” OBAMA: “Maybe a little worse.” (CNN’s [“The Situation Room.”](#) 8/16/11)

**Obama Has Made A Series Of “Calculated, Overtly Political Gestures That Are Far More Transactional Than Transformational.”** “But what’s transpired over the past several weeks isn’t debatable: He’s made a series of calculated, overtly political gestures that are far more transactional than transformational.” (Jim VandeHei, “The Political Transformation,” [Politico](#), 2/9/12)

**“So Much For The High Road: Victory Is More Important Than Purity.”** (Jim VandeHei, “The Political Transformation,” [Politico](#), 2/9/12)

**FactCheck.org: “[I]t’s Simply A Fact That The President Failed At ‘Bringing Democrats And Republicans Together.’”** “To be sure, the president did sign the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law in 2010, but it wasn’t enacted by ‘bringing Democrats and Republicans together.’ The bill passed the Senate on Dec. 24, 2009, by a vote of 60-39, without any Republicans voting for it. And when the House passed its version of the bill almost three months later, by a vote of 219-212, it too garnered no support from Republicans. We won’t offer any opinion about whether one side is more to blame than the

other for that, but it's simply a fact that the president failed at 'bringing Democrats and Republicans together.'" (D'Angelo Gore, "Promises, Promises," [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), 1/4/12)

**The Washington Post's Dan Balz:** "That the country is polarized is beyond question. Obama has proven to be a divisive president, despite his insistence that he is open to compromise and accommodation." (Dan Balz, "Roberts's Health-Care Ruling Sends A Message To Politicians," [The Washington Post](http://TheWashingtonPost), 6/30/12)

**Obama's Failure To Transcend Washington Partisanship "Has Never Been More Glaringly Obvious."** "Candidate Barack Obama promised to transcend Washington partisanship. President Obama plummeted into it. As the House returns Tuesday for the final session of his first term, Obama's failure to fulfill this central claim of his 2008 campaign has never been more glaringly obvious." (Carrie Budoff Brown and Jonathan Allen, "Partisan D.C.: Obama's Broken Promise," [Politico](http://Politico), 1/17/12)

**Polarization Is "As Deep As It Has Been In Modern Times."** "Today Obama's words sound quaint, even naive. Instead of bipartisanship, there is polarization as deep as it has been in modern times." (Dan Balz, "Obama Did Not Change Washington, Was There A Way Around United Republican Opposition?" [The Washington Post](http://TheWashingtonPost), 9/1/12)

**"And, Far From Breaking A Generation-Long Partisan Standoff In Washington, Obama's Presidency Has Been Almost Entirely Defined By It."** (John F. Harris and Jonathan Martin, "DNC 2012: Barack Obama, The Conventional President," [Politico](http://Politico), 9/3/12)

**Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin Says Obama's "Tenure Is Viewed Through The Prism Of His Failure To Transcend The Deep Divisions In Washington."** "Doris Kearns Goodwin, who has written several presidential histories and has come to know Obama personally, said the 44th president's policies — such as a stimulus package that may have averted another Depression and an overhaul of health care policy — most likely will be seen as profoundly far-reaching. But in contrast to the soaring expectations Obama himself helped set, Goodwin said his tenure is viewed through the prism of his failure to transcend the deep divisions in Washington." (John F. Harris and Jonathan Martin, "DNC 2012: Barack Obama, The Conventional President," [Politico](http://Politico), 9/3/12)

**Obama Has Been "Unable To Bridge A Political Divide That Had Only Grown Wider Since He Took Office With A Promise To Change The Ways Of Washington..."** "A president who promised to bring the country together, who confidently presented himself as the transformational figure able to make that happen, now had his chance. But, like earlier policy battles, the debt ceiling negotiations revealed a divided figure, a man who remained aloof from a Congress where he once served and that he now needed. He was caught between his own aspirations for historical significance and his inherent political caution. And he was unable to bridge a political divide that had only grown wider since he took office with a promise to change the ways of Washington, underscoring the gulf between the way he campaigned and the way he had governed." (Peter Wallsten, Lori Montgomery, and Scott Wilson, "Obama's Evolution: Behind The Failed 'Grand Bargain' On The Debt," [The Washington Post](http://TheWashingtonPost), 3/17/12)

## Greater Bipartisanship

**PROMISE: Obama: “I Will Continue To Seek Common Ground In The Weeks Ahead. If You Come To Me With A Serious Set Of Proposals, I Will Be There To Listen. My Door Is Always Open.”** (President Barack Obama, [Remarks To A Joint Session Of Congress On Health Care](#), Washington, DC, 9/9/09)

- **PROMISE: Obama Pledged To “Turn The Page On The Ugly Partisanship In Washington So We Can Bring Democrats And Republicans Together To Pass An Agenda That Works For The American People.”** OBAMA: “After decades -- after decades of steady work across the aisle, I know he'll be able to help me turn the page on the ugly partisanship in Washington so we can bring Democrats and Republicans together to pass an agenda that works for the American people.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), Springfield, IL, 8/23/08)

**BROKEN: FactCheck.org: “[I]t’s Simply A Fact That The President Failed At ‘Bringing Democrats And Republicans Together.’”** “To be sure, the president did sign the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law in 2010, but it wasn’t enacted by ‘bringing Democrats and Republicans together.’ The bill passed the Senate on Dec. 24, 2009, by a vote of 60-39, without any Republicans voting for it. And when the House passed its version of the bill almost three months later, by a vote of 219-212, it too garnered no support from Republicans. We won’t offer any opinion about whether one side is more to blame than the other for that, but it’s simply a fact that the president failed at ‘bringing Democrats and Republicans together.’” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [Fact Check.org](#), 1/4/12)

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**“The Hard Truth Is That Washington Next Year Will Look Indistinguishable From The One Obama Warned Against During His Election-Night Victory Speech...”** “The hard truth is that Washington next year will look indistinguishable from the one Obama warned against during his election-night victory speech, when he called on Republicans and Democrats to ‘resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long.’” (Carrie Budoff Brown and Jonathan Allen, “Partisan D.C.: Obama’s Broken Promise,” [Politico](#), 1/17/12)

**Gallup: “Obama Ratings Historically Polarized.”** (Jeffrey M. Jones, “Obama Ratings Historically Polarized,” [Gallup](#), 1/27/12)

- **Gallup: Obama Ran On “Bringing Americans Together, But That Has Not Been The Case In Practice To Date” Leaving Obama’s Ratings “Consistently Among**



**The Most Polarized For A President In The Last 60 Years.** “Obama ran his successful 2008 presidential campaign partly on bringing Americans together, but that has not been the case in practice to date. Republicans rarely say they approve of the job he is doing, while Democrats rarely say they disapprove. Thus, Obama's ratings have been consistently among the most polarized for a president in the last 60 years.” (Jeffrey M. Jones, “Obama Ratings Historically Polarized,” [Gallup](#), 1/27/12)

**“Obama: The Most Polarizing President. Ever.”** (Chris Cillizza and Aaron Blake, “Obama: The Most Polarizing President. Ever.,” [The Washington Post's The Fix](#), 1/30/12)

- **Obama Ran On “Idea Of Uniting The Country” But “Each Of His First Three Years In Office” Have Been Marked With “Historic Highs In Political Polarization...”** “President Obama ran — and won — in 2008 on the idea of uniting the country. But, each of his first three years in office have marked historic highs in political polarization, with Democrats largely approving of him and Republicans deeply disapproving.” (Chris Cillizza and Aaron Blake, “Obama: The Most Polarizing President. Ever.,” [The Washington Post's The Fix](#), 1/30/12)
- **“Put Simply: That The Country Is Hardening Along More And More Strict Partisan Lines.”** (Chris Cillizza and Aaron Blake, “Obama: The Most Polarizing President. Ever.,” [The Washington Post's The Fix](#), 1/30/12)

**Obama’s Relationship With Republicans Is “Broken” As A Result Of “Hardball Political Tactics, Irreconcilable Policy Differences And Perceived Personal Snubs.”**

“His relationship with Republican lawmakers is broken, the victim of grand expectations and hardball political tactics, irreconcilable policy differences and perceived personal snubs.” (Carrie Budoff Brown and Jonathan Allen, “Partisan D.C.: Obama's Broken Promise,” [Politico](#), 1/17/12)

**Once In The White House, Obama Focused On “A Legislative Strategy Reliant On Getting Overwhelming Support From Democrats, At The Expense Of Building Bipartisan Coalitions.”** “Once in the White House, faced with a towering heap of problems, cosseted by a Democratic majority and confronted by a hostile Republican crowd, Obama cast his lot with a legislative strategy reliant on getting overwhelming support from Democrats, at the expense of building bipartisan coalitions and forming solid relationships with the opposition.” (Mark Halperin, “Can Obama Rebuild Bipartisan Trust?” [Time](#), 2/16/10)

- **During Stimulus Negotiations, Obama Told Republicans That In Terms Of Ideological Differences “I Won. So I Think On That One, I Trump You.”** “As the president, he had told Kyl after the Arizonan raised objections to the notion of a tax credit for people who don't pay income taxes, Obama told Cantor this morning that ‘on some of these issues we're just going to have ideological differences.’ The president added, ‘I won. So I think on that one, I trump you.’” (Jake Tapper and Huma Khan, “‘I Won.’ President Obama Works to Be Bipartisan But Shows There Are Clear Limits,” ABC News’ [Political Punch](#), 1/23/09)

### **No Lobbyists In Administration**

**PROMISE: Obama Promised That Lobbyists Would Not “Find A Job In [His] White House.”** “President Obama promised during his campaign that lobbyists ‘won't find a job in my White House.’ ... Formalized in a recent presidential executive order, it forbids

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executive branch employees from working in an agency, or on a program, for which they have lobbied in the last two years.” (Kenneth P. Vogel & Mike Allen, “Obama Finds Room For Lobbyists,” [Politico](#), 1/30/09)

- **Obama: “[Lobbyists] Will Not Run My White House, And They Will Not Drown Out The Voices Of The American People When I’m President.”** OBAMA: “I won’t take money from PACs, won’t take money from federal registered lobbyists. (Applause.) They have not funded my campaign, they will not run my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I’m president.” (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Ault Park Pavilion, Cincinnati, OH, 10/9/08)
- **Obama: “[Lobbyists] Won’t Find A Job In My White House.”** OBAMA: “One year from now, we have the chance to tell all those corporate lobbyists that the days of them setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more to take on lobbyists than any other candidate in this race - and I’ve won. I don’t take a dime of their money, and when I am President, they won’t find a job in my White House.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks At A Campaign Event](#), Spartanburg, SC, 11/3/07)

**BROKEN: Obama Has Granted Numerous Exceptions To His Lobbyist Ban.** “Yet in the past few days, a number of exceptions have been granted, with the administration conceding at least two waivers and that a handful of other appointees will recuse themselves from dealing with matters on which they lobbied within the two-year window.” (Kenneth P. Vogel and Mike Allen, “Obama Finds Room For Lobbyists,” [Politico](#), 1/30/09)

**“It’s Well-Known That President Barack Obama Has Surrounded Himself With Lobbyists.”** (John Carney, “Obama’s Lobbyist-Heavy Administration,” [CNBC](#), 11/1/11)

**Obama: “I Have Done More To Take On Lobbyists Than Any Other Candidate In This Race - And I’ve Won. I Don’t Take A Dime Of Their Money, And When I Am President, They Won’t Find A Job In My White House.”** (Senator Barack Obama, [Remarks](#), Spartanburg, SC, 11/3/07)

**Thomas Hale Boggs, Chairman Of Major Washington Lobbying Firm Patton Boggs, “There Are Lots Of Lobbyists Working For The Administration.”** BOGGS: “Now they’ve greatly changed that [last year, the Obama re-election campaign hired former lobbyist Broderick Johnson, and in March, Joe Biden tapped former lobbyist Steve Ricchetti as an adviser], there are lots of lobbyists working for the administration, which is probably going to make it work better in the second term.” (Catherine Ho, “Lobbying Icon Boggs Predicts Obama Win, Weighs In On Election’s Impact On K Street,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/7/12)

**PolitiFact: “We Rate Obama’s ‘Revolving Door’ Policy For Former Lobbyists His Biggest Broken Promise.”** (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Not So Fast On Obama Revolving Door Policy,” [PolitiFact](#), 1/23/09)

- **PolitiFact Rated Obama’s Promise To Bar Lobbyists From His Administration As “Broken.”** “We rated that one a Promise Broken because his policy has substantial loopholes that have allowed Obama to essentially decide when he wants to ignore the rule. He’s right that on his first day in office, he signed an executive order to bar lobbyists from his administration. But the order also included a loophole — a ‘waiver’ clause that allows former lobbyists to serve. Waivers are granted by the administration itself, so they are little more than the administration

saying it's okay for the lobbyist to work for the administration." ("Obama Says Lobbyists Have Been Excluded From Policy-Making Jobs," [PolitiFact](#), 10/7/11)

- **PolitiFact: "Another Provision Allows Lobbyists To Serve If They Agree To Recuse Themselves From Discussions Related To Their Former Jobs."** ("Obama Says Lobbyists Have Been Excluded From Policy-Making Jobs," [PolitiFact](#), 10/7/11)

**The Center For Responsive Politics Finds Over 350 Individuals In The Obama Administration Who Have Been Through The Revolving Door, With Over 100 Individuals Who Are Current Or Formerly Registered Lobbyists.** (Center For Responsive Politics, [Open Secrets](#), Accessed 8/23/12)

- **Lobbyists Have "Little Trouble Making Themselves Heard" In The Obama White House.** "Although Mr. Obama has made a point of not accepting contributions from registered lobbyists, a review of campaign donations and White House visitor logs shows that special interests have had little trouble making themselves heard." (Mike McIntire and Michael Luo, "White House Opens Door To Big Donors, And Lobbyists Slip In," [The New York Times](#), 4/14/12)

### **End The Revolving Door Between Government And Business**

**PROMISE: Obama "Boasted" That His Pledge Would Close "The Revolving Door" That Lets Public Employees Use "Their Time In Public Service" To "Promote Their Own Interests."** "And we need to close the revolving door that lets lobbyists come into government freely, and lets them use their time in public service as a way to promote their own interests over the interests of the American people when they leave." (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President In Welcoming Senior Staff And Cabinet Secretaries To The White House](#), Washington, DC, 1/21/09)

**BROKEN: Politifact: "We Rate Obama's 'Revolving Door' Policy For Former Lobbyists His Biggest Broken Promise."** (Angie Drobnic Holan, "Not So Fast On Obama Revolving Door Policy," [Politifact](#), 1/23/09)

- **Politifact: "Obama Was Very Clear With His Promise. He Said No Lobbyists Would 'Work On Regulations Or Contracts Directly And Substantially Related To Their Prior Employer For Two Years.' No Means None. Promise Broken."** (Angie Drobnic Holan, "Former Lobbyist In The White House? It's Okay If They Say It's Okay," [Politifact](#), 3/17/09)

**Despite Obama's Pledge To Stop The Revolving Door, Nothing Has Changed In Washington.** "But with his administration at its midpoint, a traditional time for personnel turnover, it's clear that despite Obama's avowals, a longtime truism of Washington life — that a prestigious-sounding administration post can be a lucrative career enhancer — remains unchanged." (Kenneth P. Vogel, "Obama Administration's Revolving Door," [Politico](#), 1/18/11)

- **Officials From The White House Have Left For Lucrative Jobs On K Street, Wall Street.** "In recent months, officials have quietly left the White House, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Highway Administration and the Departments of the Treasury, Commerce and Homeland Security for high-paying gigs on K Street and Wall Street, for top PR firms including the Glover Park Group and VOX Global and to work or lobby for powerful media and telecom companies including Facebook, Comcast, Bloomberg L.P., DirecTV, Sprint Nextel and T-Mobile." (Kenneth P. Vogel, "Obama Administration's Revolving Door," [Politico](#), 1/18/11)

# TRANSPARENCY

## Secret Meetings With Lobbyists

**PROMISE: Obama: "Because You Deserve To Know When Your Elected Officials Are Meeting With Lobbyists, I Ask Congress To Do What The White House Has Already Done -- Put That Information Online."** (President Barack Obama, State Of The Union Address, [Washington, DC](#), 1/25/11)

**BROKEN: White House Officials Met "Hundreds Of Times" With Lobbyists At A Coffee Shop Across The Street From The White House.** "Here at the Caribou on Pennsylvania Avenue, and a few other nearby coffee shops, White House officials have met hundreds of times over the last 18 months with prominent K Street lobbyists -- members of the same industry that President Obama has derided for what he calls its 'outsized influence' in the capital." (Eric Lichtblau, "Across From White House, Coffee With Lobbyists," [The New York Times](#), 6/24/10)

- **Administration Officials Also Meet With Lobbyists At "A Complex Just Off The White House Grounds."** "Caught between their boss's anti-lobbyist rhetoric and the reality of governing, President Barack Obama's aides often steer meetings with lobbyists to a complex just off the White House grounds -- and several of the lobbyists involved say they believe the choice of venue is no accident." (Chris Frates, "Lobbyists: W.H. Hides Meetings Off-Site," [Politico](#), 2/24/11)
- **The Meetings Are Being Held Off-Grounds So That The White House Visitor Logs Would Not Be "Released To The Public And Embarrass The President"** "Some lobbyists suspected they were being kept outside the gates for political, rather than logistical, reasons. 'My understanding was they were holding the meeting there because it included several high-level business and trade association lobbyists,' said a senior business lobbyist who attended the meeting. 'This was an effort to not have to go through the security protocols at the White House which could lead to the visitor logs at some point being released to the public and embarrass the president.'" (Chris Frates, "Lobbyists: W.H. Hides Meetings Off-Site," [Politico](#), 2/24/11)
- **Jeff Smith, White House Senior Adviser To The Director Of The Office Of Science And Technology Policy, Offered To Meet With Jim Kirkland Of GPS Industry Outside Of The White House To Avoid Appearing In Visitor Logs.** "Other emails released on Tuesday show Jeff Smith, a senior adviser to the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, offering to meet with Jim Kirkland, an executive from the GPS industry, off the White House grounds. LightSquared clashed with the GPS industry for years as it tried to get approval to use frequencies near those used by GPS. Republicans have alleged that contracts for LightSquared, which was backed by several major Democratic donors, had received preferential treatment from the White House." (Jennifer Epstein, "GOP: W.H., Messina 'Failed' On Transparency," [Politico](#), 7/31/12)
- **Smith: "You'd Appear On An Official WH Visitor List Which Is Maybe Not Want [Sic] You Want At This Stage..."** "Jim -- coffee at Caribou Coffee -- across the corner from the WH -- would work at 11:30 a.m. on Friday...plus getting you through the

new WH security rules these days almost takes an act of Congress almost (and you know how well that's going these days),' Smith wrote. '[P]lus you'd appear on an official WH Visitor List which is maybe not want [sic] you want at this stage ...'" (Jennifer Epstein, "GOP: W.H., Messina 'Failed' On Transparency," [Politico](#), 7/31/12)

### **"Unprecedented Level Of Openness"**

**PROMISE: Obama: "My Administration Is Committed To Creating An Unprecedented Level Of Openness In Government."** (President Barack Obama, "Memorandum For The Heads Of Executive Departments And Agencies: Transparency and Open Government," [Press Release](#), 1/21/09)

- **President Obama: "Let Me Say It As Simply As I Can: Transparency And The Rule Of Law Will Be The Touchstones Of This Presidency."** (President Barack Obama, ["Remarks By The President In Welcoming Senior Staff And Cabinet Secretaries To The White House."](#) Washington, DC, 1/21/09)

**BROKEN: For Some Of Obama's Transparency Promises, He Has "Succumbed The Gravitational Pull Of Washington To Conduct Business Behind Closed Doors."** "But in other areas, he has succumbed to the gravitational pull of Washington to conduct business behind closed doors. He broke a promise to televise meetings about health care on C-SPAN, he failed to keep his 'sunlight before signing' pledge to wait five days before signing legislation and he hasn't created a 'contracts and influence' database to disclose how much federal contractors spend on lobbying." (J.B. Wogan, "Obama's Transparency Record: Lots Of Data, Not As Much Sunlight," [PolitiFact](#), 7/16/12)

**PolitiFact: Obama Has Only Kept 4 Of His 14 Core Transparency Promises.** "PolitiFact has tracked his transparency promises on the Obameter and found mixed success. Of his 14 core promises, PolitiFact rated four Kept, five Compromise, and five Broken." (J.B. Wogan, "Obama's Transparency Record: Lots Of Data, Not As Much Sunlight," [PolitiFact](#), 7/16/12)

**PolitiFact: One Of Obama's "Most Celebrated Transparency Promises Was A Pledge To Open His Meetings About Health Care Reform...But It Was Business As Usual."** "Despite his progress at posting data, Obama hasn't lived up to his rhetoric about opening meetings and disclosing White House communications. One of his most celebrated transparency promises was a pledge to open his meetings about health care reform: 'I'm going to have all the negotiations around a big table,' he vowed at a 2008 campaign event. 'We'll have doctors and nurses and hospital administrators. Insurance companies, drug companies -- they'll get a seat at the table, they just won't be able to buy every chair. But what we will do is, we'll have the negotiations televised on C-SPAN.' But it was business as usual." (J.B. Wogan, "Obama's Transparency Record: Lots Of Data, Not As Much Sunlight," [PolitiFact](#), 7/16/12)

**"The Discussions With Insurance Companies, Drug Companies And Other Special Interests Were Conducted Behind Closed Doors, Which Earned Obama A Promise Broken."** (J.B. Wogan, "Obama's Transparency Record: Lots Of Data, Not As Much Sunlight," [PolitiFact](#), 7/16/12)

**Obama "Vowed Openness In Rulemaking And A More Effective Response On Freedom Of Information Act Requests. But Transparency Advocates Say He Fell Short On Both."** "He also vowed openness in rulemaking and a more effective response on Freedom of Information Act requests. But transparency advocates say he fell short on both." (J.B. Wogan, "Obama's Transparency Record: Lots Of Data, Not As Much Sunlight," [PolitiFact](#), 7/16/12)



**Obama “Said He Would Get Agency Heads To Make The Federal Rulemaking Process Open To The Public” But It “Remains Opaque.”** “He said he would get agency heads to make the federal rulemaking process open to the public, which earned a Compromise on our Obameter because new policies are in place, but the process remains opaque.” (J.B. Wogan, “Obama’s Transparency Record: Lots Of Data, Not As Much Sunlight,” [PolitiFact](#), 7/16/12)

**“Likewise, Pro-Transparency Groups Have Criticized The Administration’s Refusal To Release Some Records Through The Freedom Of Information Act -- Particularly On National Security Issues.”** (J.B. Wogan, “Obama’s Transparency Record: Lots Of Data, Not As Much Sunlight,” [PolitiFact](#), 7/16/12)

**Obama’s Lawyers Are “Aggressively Fighting FOIA Requests ... Sometimes On Obama’s Direct Orders” And Use Anti-Transparency Arguments “Even Bolder Than Those Asserted By The Bush Administration.”** “Administration lawyers are aggressively fighting FOIA requests at the agency level and in court — sometimes on Obama’s direct orders. They’ve also wielded anti-transparency arguments even bolder than those asserted by the Bush administration.” (Josh Gerstein, “Obama’s Muddy Transparency Record,” [Politico](#), 3/5/12)

**Obama Has “Embarked On An Unprecedented Wave Of Prosecutions Of Whistleblowers And Alleged Leakers...”** “The administration has embarked on an unprecedented wave of prosecutions of whistleblowers and alleged leakers — an effort many journalists believe is aimed at blocking national security-related stories. ‘There just seems to be a disconnect here. You want aggressive journalism abroad; you just don’t want it in the United States,’ ABC News correspondent Jake Tapper told White House press secretary Jay Carney at a recent briefing for reporters.” (Josh Gerstein, “Obama’s Muddy Transparency Record,” [Politico](#), 3/5/12)

**Compliance For Transparency In Government “Has Been Spotty” With Some Federal Agencies Even “Throwing Up New Hurdles, Such As More Fees” To Acquire Records.** “Compliance with agencies’ open-government plans has been spotty, with confusing and inaccurate metrics sometimes used to assess progress. Some federal agencies are also throwing up new hurdles, such as more fees, in the path of those seeking records.” (Josh Gerstein, “Obama’s Muddy Transparency Record,” [Politico](#), 3/5/12)

### **Health Care Negotiations Will Be Televised**

**PROMISE: Obama Promised To Hold Health Care Negotiations On C-SPAN.** OBAMA: “I’m going to have all the negotiations around a big table. We’ll have doctors and nurses and hospital administrators. Insurance companies, drug companies -- they’ll get a seat at the table, they just won’t be able to buy every chair. But what we will do is, we’ll have the negotiations televised on C-SPAN, so that people can see who is making arguments on behalf of their constituents, and who are making arguments on behalf of the drug companies or the insurance companies. And so, that approach, I think is what is going to allow people to stay involved in this process.” (Barack Obama, Remarks At A Town Hall Meeting, Chester, VA, 8/21/08)

**BROKEN: PolitiFact Rates This Promise “Broken.”** “Obama promised — repeatedly — an end to closed-door negotiations and complete openness for the health care talks. But he hasn’t delivered. Instead of open talks of C-SPAN, we’ve gotten more of the same — talks

behind closed doors at the White House and Congress. We might revisit this promise if there's a dramatic change, but we see nothing to indicate anything has changed. We rate this Promise Broken." (Angie Drobnic Holan, "Obama Said He'd Televisify Health Reform Negotiations On C-SPAN," [PolitiFact](#), 7/10/09)

- **The Two Biggest Deals In ObamaCare Were Reached In Secret.** "He'd describe how televised deliberations would take place around a big table, with seats filled by doctors, nurses, insurers and other interested parties. As president, he'd joke, he'd get the biggest chair. 'Not negotiating behind closed doors, but bringing all parties together and broadcasting those negotiations on C-SPAN,' Obama explained in a Democratic debate in Los Angeles in January 2008, in language similar to many of his campaign stops. However, the two biggest deals so far — industry agreements to cut drug and hospital costs — were reached in secret. 'They were private, yes,' said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., a key participant in the process." (David Lightman and Margaret Talev, "Obama Campaign Vow Of Public Debate On Health Care Fading," [McClatchy](#), 7/9/09)

### **Not Use Signing Statements To Circumvent Congress**

**PROMISE: In 2007, Obama Said He Would "Not Use Signing Statements To Nullify Or Undermine Congressional Instructions."** "It is a clear abuse of power to use such statements as a license to evade laws that the president does not like or as an end-run around provisions designed to foster accountability. I will not use signing statements to nullify or undermine congressional instructions as enacted into law." (Charlie Savage, "Barack Obama's Q&A," [The Boston Globe](#), 12/20/07)

**In 2008, Obama Promised He Would Not Use Signing Statements "As A Way Of Doing An End Run Around Congress."** QUESTION: "When Congress offers you a bill, do you promise not to use presidential signage to get your way?" OBAMA: "Yes. Let me just explain for those who are unfamiliar with this issue. You know, we've got a government designed by the founders so that there'd be checks and balances. You don't want a President who's too powerful or a Congress who's too powerful or courts that are too powerful. Everybody's got their own role. Congress' job is to pass legislation. The President can veto it, or he can sign it. But what George Bush has been trying to do is part of his effort to accumulate more power in the Presidency, is, he's been saying, 'Well, I can basically change what Congress passed by attaching a letter sayin' 'I don't agree with this part' or 'I don't agree with that part.' I'm going to choose to interpret it this way or that way." Uh, that's not part of his power. But this is part of the whole theory of George Bush that he can make laws as he's going along. I disagree with that. I taught the Constitution for ten years, I believe in the Constitution, and I will obey the Constitution of the United States. We're not going to use signing statements as a way of doing an end run around Congress." (Sen. Barack Obama, [Campaign Event At Billings West High School](#), Billings, MT, 5/19/08)

**BROKEN: Obama Has Used Signing Statements – The Same Tactic He Criticized Bush For Using – More Than 20 Times.** "But as the president now seeking reelection in 2012, on at least 20 occasions Obama has embraced the same tactic he criticized George W. Bush for using, raising allegations of double-dealing in Congress and questions of

constitutionality from the American Bar Association.” (Eli Lake, “Obama Embraces Signing Statements After Knocking Bush for Using Them,” [The Daily Beast/Newsweek](#), 1/4/12)

**Obama Has Issued At Least 29 Signing Statements Since 2009.** “Obama, a Democrat, has issued 29 signing statements since he entered the White House in 2009, versus 172 during the eight-year presidency of the Republican Bush, according to Kelley.” (Susan Cornwell, “Like Bush, Obama Asserts Prerogatives When Signing Laws,” [Reuters](#), 1/6/12)

**Obama’s Use Of Signing Statements “Sort Of Thing That Obama Promised He Would Not Do Back When He Was A Candidate For The White House.”** “And although Obama signed it into law, he also issued a lengthy, at times indignant, ‘signing statement’ listing the many ways he disagreed with the measure, and suggesting he may even ignore parts of it. This was the sort of thing that Obama promised he would not do back when he was a candidate for the White House. He told the Boston Globe in 2007 that he would not use presidential signing statements to ‘nullify or undermine’ instructions from Congress enacted into law, declaring that his predecessor George W. Bush had gone too far down that path.” (Susan Cornwell, “Like Bush, Obama Asserts Prerogatives When Signing Laws,” [Reuters](#), 1/6/12)

**Miami University Of Ohio Professor Christopher Kelley: “I Would Say That His Most Recent Signing Statements Are Of The Variety Common To The Bush Presidency.”** “‘I would say that his most recent signing statements are of the variety common to the Bush presidency, where the president makes some strong constitutional claims’ but is vague on what he would do about them, said Christopher Kelley, a professor at Miami University of Ohio who has researched presidential signing statements.” (Susan Cornwell, “Like Bush, Obama Asserts Prerogatives When Signing Laws,” [Reuters](#), 1/6/12)

- **“Obama Seems To Be Saying That He Would Abide By The Law Until He Was No Longer Able To Abide By The Law. That Is A Hard Thing To Quantify,’ Kelley Said.”** (Susan Cornwell, “Like Bush, Obama Asserts Prerogatives When Signing Laws,” [Reuters](#), 1/6/12)

**Georgetown University Professor Anthony Clark Arend: “Signing Something And Saying You Are Not Going To Follow Portions Of It Is Problematic.”** “‘Signing something and saying you are not going to follow portions of it is problematic,’ said Anthony Clark Arend, a professor of government at Georgetown University. ‘I believe that the framers of the Constitution would have felt that’s exactly the kind of legislation you need to veto.’” (Susan Cornwell, “Like Bush, Obama Asserts Prerogatives When Signing Laws,” [Reuters](#), 1/6/12)

**In 2011, Obama Issued A Signing Statement In Which He “Simply Says He Will Not Abide By” Some Provisions In The Budget Bill He Signed.** “In a statement issued Friday night, President Obama took issue with some provisions in the budget bill – and in one case simply says he will not abide by it.” (Jake Tapper, “President Obama Issues ‘Signing Statement’ Indicating He Won’t Abide by Provision in Budget Bill,” ABC News’ [Political Punch](#), 4/15/11)

**Obama Issued Signing Statement On December 23, 2011.** “‘My Administration has repeatedly communicated my objections to these provisions, including my view that they could, under certain circumstances, violate constitutional separation of powers principles,’ Obama wrote in a signing statement today as he departed for his family vacation in Hawaii. ‘In approving this bill, I reiterate the objections my Administration has raised regarding these provisions, my intent to interpret and apply them in a manner that avoids

constitutional conflicts, and the promise that my Administration will continue to work towards their repeal.” (Steven T. Dennis, “Obama Bucks Congress On Guantánamo In Signing Statement,” [Roll Call](#), 12/23/11)

- [Click To Watch Report Of Obama Breaking His Promise On Signing Statements](#)

### **Wait 5 Days Before Signing Legislation**

**PROMISE: Obama: “When There Is A Bill That Ends Up On My Desk As President, You Will Have Five Days To Look Online And Find Out What's In It Before I Sign it.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Taking Our Government Back, Manchester, NH, 6/22/07)

**BROKEN: Despite Campaign Pledge, Obama “Has Almost Never” Waited Five Days Before Signing Legislation.** “During the presidential campaign, Barack Obama promised that once a bill was passed by Congress, the White House would post it online for five days before he signed it... Five months into his administration, Mr. Obama has signed two dozen bills, but he has almost never waited five days.” (Katharine Q. Seelye, “White House Changes The Terms Of A Campaign Pledge About Posting Bills Online,” [The New York Times](#), 6/22/09)

- **“Various Watchdog Groups Have Slapped Mr. Obama’s Wrist For Repeatedly Failing To Live Up To The Pledge. Politifact.Com, The Fact-Checking Arm Of The St. Petersburg Times, Has Branded It A ‘Promise Broken.’”** (Katharine Q. Seelye, “White House Changes The Terms Of A Campaign Pledge About Posting Bills Online,” [The New York Times](#), 6/22/09)
- **The First Bill Obama Signed Was Never Posted On The White House Website And Was Signed By The President Just One Day After Being Passed.** “In fact, the Congressional Record shows that the law was passed in the Senate on Jan. 22, 2009, passed in the House on Jan. 27, and signed by the president on Jan. 29. So only two days passed between the bill's final passage and the signing. The legislation was not posted to the White House Web site for comment in any way that we could find.” (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Obama Signs First Law Without Web Comment,” [PolitiFact](#), 1/29/09; “Bill Summary & Status; S.181 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act Of 2009,” [The Library Of Congress](#), Accessed 4/9/12)

## HEALTH CARE

### ObamaCare Will Reduce Premiums

**PROMISE: As A Candidate, Obama Promised That His Plan Would Save American Families \$2,500 By The End Of His First Term.** OBAMA: "If you are ready for change, then we can stop talking about the outrage of 47 million people without health insurance and start doing something about it. I've put forward a plan that says everybody will have the same health care if they want it that I have as a member of Congress, that you can't be excluded for pre-existing conditions, we'll negotiate with the drug companies for the cheapest available prices. If you're 25 or younger you can stay on your parents' health insurance. If you've got health insurance, we're going to work with you to lower your premiums by \$2500 per family per year. And we will not wait 20 years from now to do it or 10 years from now to do it. We will do it by the end of my first term as president of the United States of America." (Senator Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), Columbus, OH, 2/27/08)

- **As A Candidate, Obama Promised His Plan Would "Bring Down Premiums By \$2,500 For The Typical Family."** "And if you already have health insurance and you want to keep that health insurance, we will bring down premiums by \$2,500 for the typical family. And we will prevent insurance companies from discriminating against those who need care the most." (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Campaign Event, Raleigh, NC, 6/9/08)

**BROKEN: Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Family Health Care Premiums Has Increased By \$3,065 From \$12,680 To \$15,745, A 24.2 Percent Increase.** ("Employer Health Benefits, 2012 Annual Survey, Exhibit 6.4," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2012)

- **Under Obama, Families Pay An Average Of \$255 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** ("Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; "Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/24/08)
- **Under Obama, Americans Pay An Average Of \$76 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** ("Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; "Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/24/08)

**Under ObamaCare, Family Health Care Premiums Will Increase \$2,404 Annually.** (Douglas W. Elmendorf, CBO Director, [Letter To Senator Evan Bayh](#), 11/30/09; "Updated Estimates For The Insurance Coverage Provisions Of The Affordable Care Act Updated For The Recent Supreme Court Decision," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 7/24/12)

**Premiums Have Climbed At A Faster Rate Under Obama Than "The Previous Four Years Under President George Bush."** "During Obama's term, between 2009 to 2012, premiums have climbed \$2,370 for the average family with an employer-provided plan – a rate faster than the during the previous four years under President George W. Bush, according to Kaiser." (Jake Tapper, "Rising Health Costs Undermine Obama Pledge To Curb Trend," [ABC News](#), 9/25/12)

**"The Rise In Premiums Easily Outpaced Workers' Raises And Inflation."** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Premiums For Family Health Plans Hit \$15,745," [The Associated Press](#), 9/11/12)



**FactCheck.org: ObamaCare “Falls Short Of Making Health Care ‘Affordable And Available To Every Single American,’ As Promised.”** “Furthermore, the law falls short of making health care ‘affordable and available to every single American,’ as promised. The law provides subsidies to help some Americans buy insurance, expands Medicaid and doesn’t allow insurance companies to exclude persons with preexisting conditions. But still, the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected 23 million persons will remain uninsured — some because they can’t afford coverage.” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), 1/4/12)

- **FactCheck.org: ObamaCare Is Actually Making Health Care “Less Affordable.”** “At the moment, the new law is making health care slightly less affordable. Independent health care experts say the law has caused some insurance premiums to rise. As we wrote in October, the new law has caused about a 1 percent to 3 percent increase in health insurance premiums for employer-sponsored family plans because of requirements for increased benefits. Last year’s premium increases cast even more doubt on another promise the president has made — that the health care law would ‘lower premiums by up to \$2,500 for a typical family per year.’” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), 1/4/12)
- **The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker:** “Insurance premiums have gone up, in part because of new benefits mandated by the law.” (Glenn Kessler, “The Fine Print In Obama’s ‘Promises Kept’ Ad,” *The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker*, 1/6/12)

**The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker:** “But the bad news is that, on average, premiums almost certainly will go up — with some people really getting hit with increases.” (Glenn Kessler, “President Obama’s Claim That Insurance Premiums ‘Will Go Down,’” *The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker*, 8/10/12)

**The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker:** “The law’s provisions, especially the requirement for essential benefits, will almost certainly increase premiums, though tax subsidies will help mitigate the impact for a little over half of the people in the exchanges. But a lot of other people — such as a young male who currently has a plan that does not include all of the required benefits — are likely going to have sticker shock when they see what happens to their premiums starting in 2014.” (Glenn Kessler, “President Obama’s Claim That Insurance Premiums ‘Will Go Down,’” *The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker*, 8/10/12)

**Despite Obama’s Promises, Health Care Premiums Aren’t “Going To Go Down.”** “Giving families and businesses relief was a big part of Obama’s sales pitch for health care reform. ... But no matter what happens with the law, the line on that graph isn’t going to go down.” (David Nather, “Health Care Reform: 4 Inconvenient Truths,” *Politico*, 3/16/12)

### **“If You Like Your Plan, You Can Keep Your Plan”**

**PROMISE: Obama Promised That “If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You Will Be Able To Keep Your Health Care Plan. Period.”** OBAMA: “So let me begin by saying this: I know that there are millions of Americans who are content with their health care coverage - they like their plan and they value their relationship with their doctor. And that means that no matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period. If you like your health care plan, you will be able to

keep your health care plan. Period. No one will take it away. No matter what. My view is that health care reform should be guided by a simple principle: fix what's broken and build on what works.” (President Barack Obama, [Address To The American Medical Association](#), Chicago, IL, 6/15/09)

**BROKEN: Americans Are Finding Out That Obama’s “Keep Your Plan” Promise Is Just Not True.** “President Barack Obama promised over and over during the health care debate that ‘if you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan.’ It turns out that, for a lot of people, that isn’t true.” (David Nather, “4 Hard Truths Of Health Care Reform,” [Politico](#), 3/16/12)

**More Americans Will Lose Their Employer Health Care Coverage Than Before ObamaCare Was Enacted.** “For one thing, CBO says 11 million Americans won’t get employment-based health insurance they would have had before the law — so they will be forced out (technically by their employer, not by the president, but the context will be the changes brought about by the health law). Another 9 million would gain coverage — but everyone who loses it will see their lives disrupted, and it will be used as more evidence of broken Obama promises.” (David Nather, “4 Hard Truths Of Health Care Reform,” [Politico](#), 3/16/12)

**The Non-Partisan CBO Found That ObamaCare Could Cause As Many As 20 Million Americans To Lose Their Employer-Provided Health Care Plan.** “As many as 20 million Americans could lose their employer-provided health care because of President Obama's health care reform law, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in a new report Thursday.” (Julian Pecquet, “CBO: Millions Of Americans Could Lose Their Employer Coverage,” *The Hill's* [“Health Watch,”](#) 3/15/12)

- **Despite A “Tremendous Amount Of Uncertainty” Regarding Employer-Sponsored Health Care, The CBO Still Expects 3 To 5 Million Fewer Americans To Obtain Their Health Care Coverage With ObamaCare.** “The best estimate, subject to a ‘tremendous amount of uncertainty,’ is that about 3 million to 5 million fewer people will obtain coverage through their employer each year from 2019 through 2022.” (Julian Pecquet, “CBO: Millions Of Americans Could Lose Their Employer Coverage,” *The Hill's* [“Health Watch,”](#) 3/15/12)

### **ObamaCare Will Cost \$900 Billion**

**PROMISE: In 2009, Obama Promised That ObamaCare Would “Cost Roughly 900 Billion.”** OBAMA: “Now, what I've proposed is going to cost roughly \$900 billion, 800 to 900. That's a lot of money. Keep in mind it's over 10 years. So when you hear some of these figures thrown out there, this is not per year; this is over 10 years. So let's assume it's about \$80 billion a year. It turns out that about two-thirds of that could be paid for by eliminating waste in the existing system.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At A Town Hall Meeting](#), Grand Junction, CO, 8/15/09)

**BROKEN: Congressional Budget Office: ObamaCare’s Coverage Provisions To Cost \$1.68 Trillion By 2022, Nearly Double What Obama Said It Would Cost.** (“Updated Estimates For The Insurance Coverage Provisions Of The Affordable Care Act Updated For The Recent Supreme Court Decision,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 7/24/12)

**“According To An Analysis By House Budget Committee Republicans, The Health Care Law Will Cost The Nation \$2.6 Trillion When Fully Implemented, And Add \$701**

**Billion To The Deficit In Its First Ten Years.”** (“ObamaCare: A Budget-Busting, Job-Killing Health Care Law,” Office Of The Speaker Of The U.S. House Of Representatives, [Report](#), 1/6/11)

- **Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) Admits Budget Gimmick Hides True Cost Of Bill, Which Could Be As Much As \$2.5 Trillion.** BAUCUS: “Just for a second -- health care reform, whether you use a ten-year number or when you start in 2010 or start in 2014, wherever you start at, so it is still either \$1 trillion or it’s \$2.5 trillion, depending on where you start...” (Sen. Max Baucus, [Floor Remarks](#), 12/2/09)

**ObamaCare Costs Double Obama’s Estimates.** “You might have missed the news – it’s not the sort a lot of national outlets care to dwell on, for obvious reasons – but the Congressional Budget Office’s latest cost estimates for Obamacare are roughly double the estimates of previous years. The original forecast came in at \$940 million. The new estimate puts the cost at \$1.76 trillion. Shouldn’t people have seen this coming?” (Editorial, “Health Care: Up, Up And Away,” [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), 3/19/12)

### **“Protect Medicare”**

**PROMISE: Obama: “I Will Protect Medicare.”** OBAMA: “So don’t pay attention to those scary stories about how your benefits will be cut, especially since some of the same folks who are spreading these tall tales have fought against Medicare in the past and just this year supported a budget that would essentially have turned Medicare into a privatized voucher program. That will not happen on my watch. I will protect Medicare.” (President Obama, “Remarks To Joint Session Of Congress,” [The White House](#), 9/9/09)

**BROKEN: The Nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office: ObamaCare Cuts \$716 Billion From Medicare.** (Congressional Budget Office, [Letter To Speaker John Boehner](#), 7/24/12)

- **ObamaCare Already Cut Medicare By 6 Percent.** “If the debt committee hits a dead end, the agreement between President Barack Obama and congressional leaders decrees an automatic 2 percent cut to Medicare providers. That’s on top of a 6 percent cut already enacted to finance the president’s health care law, according to the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. And the earlier cut is still being phased in.” (Ricardo Alonson-Zaldivar, “Debt Ceiling Deal Paves Way For Medicare, Medicaid Budget Fight,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/2/11)

**Medicare Trustees Report Notes That Doing Nothing Now To Fix Medicare Will Result In Either An Immediate 26 Percent Cut In Medicare benefits Or A 47 Percent Increase In Taxes.** “Lawmakers could address the long-range financial imbalance in several different ways. In theory, they could immediately increase the standard 2.90-percent payroll tax by the amount of the actuarial deficit to 4.25 percent, or they could reduce expenditures by a corresponding amount. Note, however, that these changes would require an immediate 47-percent increase in the standard tax rate or an immediate 26-percent reduction in expenditures.” (“2012 Annual Report Of The Boards Of Trustees Of The Federal Hospital Insurance And Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds,” [Social Security & Medicare Trustees Report](#), 2012)

**Medicare Actuary Richard Foster Wrote That ObamaCare’s Cuts To Medicare “Will Not Be Viable In The Long Range.”** “Further, while the Affordable Care Act makes important changes to the Medicare program and substantially improves its financial

outlook, there is a strong likelihood that certain of these changes will not be viable in the long range. Specifically, the annual price updates for most categories of non-physician health services will be adjusted downward each year by the growth in economy-wide productivity. The best available evidence indicates that most health care providers cannot improve their productivity to this degree—or even approach such a level—as a result of the labor-intensive nature of these services.” (“2012 Annual Report Of The Boards Of Trustees Of The Federal Hospital Insurance And Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds,” [Social Security & Medicare Trustees Report](#), 2012)

**Medicare Actuary Richard Foster On ObamaCare’s Medicare Cuts: “It’s Pretty Hard To Imagine That They Could Be Sustainable.”** FOSTER: “And the figures you quoted were correct. And that assumes that again, the private health insurance can’t do something comparable to these mandated reductions in growth rates that are part of current law now for Medicare. In looking at those, it’s pretty hard to imagine that they could be sustainable, because when you think about it, the providers have to pay certain input cost increases. They have to pay somewhat more next year than they do this year. They have to pay higher energy costs. They have medical supplies. They have rent or leases that go up.” ([Testimony Before The House Committee On The Budget](#), U.S. House Of Representatives,, 7/13/11)

- **Foster: “There Is A Lot Of Evidence That Suggests Some Of These Payment Provisions Will Not Be Sustainable In The Long Range.”** FOSTER: “But there is a lot of evidence that suggests some of these payment provisions will not be sustainable in the long range.” ([Testimony Before The House Committee On The Budget](#), U.S. House Of Representatives, 7/13/11)
- **Foster: “The Productivity Adjustments Under The Affordable Care Act Could Well Lead To A Situation Where Medicare Payment Rates Are Just Inadequate So That They May Not Be Viable In The Long Range.”** FOSTER: “Also, as I testified before your committee in January, the productivity adjustments under the Affordable Care Act could well lead to a situation where Medicare payment rates are just inadequate so that they may not be viable in the long range. If, in fact, these features do not prove to be viable, then the actual cost for Medicare will be much higher than projected under current law.” ([Testimony Before The House Committee On The Budget](#), U.S. House Of Representatives, 7/13/11)

**CBO: Obama’s Medicare Payment Cuts To Physicians And Providers May “Be Difficult To Sustain” Over The Long Term.** “For Medicare, CBO assumed that three policies that would restrain cost growth might be difficult to sustain over a long period—ongoing reductions in payment updates for most providers in the fee-for-service program, the sustainable growth rate mechanism for payment rates for physicians, and the IPAB—would not continue.” (Congressional Budget Office, “[The Long-Term Budget Outlook](#),” June 2012, p. 57)

- **Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services: ObamaCare’s Physician Fee Reductions Are “Clearly Unworkable” And Barring Changes, Payment Rates “Would Become Inadequate In The Long Range.”** “The immediate physician fee reductions required under current law are clearly unworkable and are almost certain to be overridden by Congress. The productivity adjustments will affect other Medicare price levels much more gradually, but a strong likelihood exists that,

without very substantial and transformational changes in health care practices, payment rates would become inadequate in the long range. As a result, actual Medicare expenditures are likely to exceed the projections shown in the 2012 Trustees Report for current law, possibly by considerable amounts.” (John D. Shatto and M. Kent Clemens, “Projected Medicare Expenditures Under Illustrative Scenarios With Alternative Payment Updates To Medicare Providers,” [CMS](#) 5/18/12)



## ENERGY

### **Make Energy A Leading Priority, No “More Broken Promises” On Energy**

#### **PROMISE: In 2008, Obama Called Energy A Leading Priority Of His Presidency.**

OBAMA: “Looking ahead, I'm confident that we will be ready to begin the journey towards a new energy frontier on January 20th. This will be a leading priority of my presidency and a defining test of our time.” (President-Elect Barack Obama, Remarks in Chicago Announcing Energy And Environment Team, Chicago, IL, 12/15/08)

- **Obama: “We Can’t Afford Complacency Nor Accept More Broken Promises” On Energy.** We can't afford complacency nor accept more broken promises. We won't create a new energy economy overnight. We won't protect our environment overnight. But we can begin that work right now, if we think anew and if we act anew. Now we must have the will to act and to act boldly.” (President-Elect Barack Obama, Remarks in Chicago Announcing Energy And Environment Team, Chicago, IL, 12/15/08)
- **Obama In 2008: “As President, I Will Work To Solve This Energy Crisis Once And For All.”** OBAMA: “Everywhere I go in Indiana, and across this country, I'm talking to folks who are working harder and harder just to get by. At a time when our economy is in turmoil and wages are stagnant, hardworking families are struggling to pay rising costs, and few costs obviously are rising faster than the ones people pay at the pump. For the well-off in this country, high gas prices are mostly an annoyance, but to most Americans, they're a huge problem, bordering on a crisis. Here in Indiana, gas costs \$3.60 a gallon - and across the country, gas costs more than at any time in almost thirty years. ... And as President, I will work to solve this energy crisis once and for all. We'll invest \$150 billion over the next ten years in establishing a green energy sector that will create up to 5 million new jobs - and those are jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. We'll invest in clean energies like solar, wind, and biodiesel. And we'll help make sure that the fuel we're using is more efficient.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks On Energy Plan](#), Indianapolis, IN, 4/25/08)
- **Obama In 2008: “I want to invest that money in clean, affordable, renewable sources of energy like wind power, and solar power, and biofuels, so that we're not here talking about high gas prices next summer, and the summer after that, and five summers after that.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), Winston-Salem, NC, 4/29/08)

#### **BROKEN: Even Obama Has Said He’s Failed On Energy, Saying His Energy Policy Is Just A “Hodgepodge.”**

OBAMA: “Our energy policy still is just a hodgepodge, and for all the progress we've made, we're not where we need to be in making sure that this is an energy-efficient economy that is running on all cylinders.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President At A DNC Event](#), Miami, FL, 6/13/11)

**Obama In His Own Words: “We Still Don't Have All The Energy Policies In Place That We Need To Free Ourselves From Dependence On Foreign Oil And Adequately Deal With Climate Change.”** “We still don't have all the energy policies in place that we need to free ourselves from dependence on foreign oil and adequately deal with climate change, despite the fact that we've doubled fuel economy standards on cars and made enormous

progress on clean energy -- and that means that I'm going to need another term to finish the job." (President Barack Obama, Remarks At Campaign Event #2, [Speech](#), New York, NY, 11/30/11)

**Obama: "We Haven't Had An Energy Policy In This Country That Makes Sense And Frees Ourselves From Dependence On Foreign Oil."** (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President On The American Jobs Act](#), Millers Creek, NC, 10/17/11)

**NBC News' Chuck Todd Said There's "No Issue That Has Been ... A Bigger Bust For The President Than Energy Policy In General."** NBC's CHUCK TODD: "Very quickly, president's going down to Miami to give an energy speech. Nia, you've been with me, I feel like, on the front lines covering the president from the day he took office. There is no issue that has been a, I guess, a bigger bust for the president than energy policy in general. There's a lot of, we can come up with a lot of excuses as to why, but boy, it's just like you can't -- he's made no progress." *THE WASHINGTON POST*'s NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON: "No, he's made no progress. I remember covering him on the campaign and he would talk about, you know, turning these manufacturing plants into wind turbine plants and it seemed to work then, but, you know, in terms of the reality and on the ground actually success during his presidency, absolutely none." (MSNBC's ["The Daily Rundown."](#) 2/23/12)

**Former Obama Advisor Steven Rattner Said "We Have Absolutely No Energy Policy."** RATTNER: "It's a viable issue. But let's look at the facts. The U.S., in fact, notwithstanding the fact we have absolutely no energy policy and we all including myself believe we should have one, has not really been that much a part of the problem lately." (MSNBC's ["Morning Joe."](#) 3/9/12)

**BROKEN: When Obama Took Office, The Price For A Gallon Of Regular Gasoline Was \$1.847.** ([Energy Information Administration](#), Accessed 10/2/12)

- **For The Week Ending October 22, 2012, The Price For A Gallon Of Regular Gasoline Was \$3.687 Under Obama.** ([Energy Information Administration](#), Accessed 10/23/12)

### **One Million Plug-In Hybrid Cars**

**PROMISE: In 2008, Obama Promised As President To Put "One Million 150 Mile-Per-Gallon Plug-In Hybrid Cars On Our Roads Within Six Years."** OBAMA: "First, we'll commit ourselves to getting one million 150 mile-per-gallon plug-in hybrid cars on our roads within six years. And we'll make sure these cars are built not in Japan, not in China, but right here in the United States of America." (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks At A Town Hall](#), Youngstown, OH, 8/5/08)

**BROKEN: *The Washington Post*: "Evidence Is Mounting That President Obama Was Overly Optimistic To Pledge That There Would Be 1 Million EVs On The Road By 2015."** (Editorial, "Overcharged," [The Washington Post](#), 1/1/12)

**Despite The Commitment Of Millions Of Taxpayer Dollars, It Is Increasingly Clear That Obama's Paltry Campaign Promise To Get 1 Million All-Electric and Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles Will Not Hit 2015 Target.** "As a candidate for president in 2008, Barack Obama set a goal of getting 1 million all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles on the road by 2015. In February 2011, the Obama administration's Energy Department issued an analysis

purporting to show that, with the help of subsidies and tax credits, 'the goal is achievable.' This was a paltry claim in the first place, since 1 million cars amount to less than 1 percent of the total U.S. fleet. Yet it is increasingly clear that, despite the commitment of many millions of taxpayer dollars, the United States will not hit Mr. Obama's target by 2015."

(Editorial, "GM's Vaunted Volt Is On The Road To Nowhere Fast," [The Washington Post](#), 9/14/12)

- **"Analysis Suggest That We'll Be Lucky To Get A Third of The Way There."** "A recent CBS News analysis suggested that we'll be lucky to get a third of the way there. The Energy Department study assumed that General Motors would produce 120,000 plug-in hybrid Volts in 2012. GM never came close to that and recently suspended Volt production at its Hamtramck, Mich., plant, scene of a presidential photo-op. So far, GM has sold a little more than 21,000 Volts, even with the help of a \$7,500 tax credit, recent dealer discounting and U.S. government purchases. When you factor in the \$1.2 billion cost of developing the Volt, GM loses tens of thousands of dollars on each model." (Editorial, "GM's Vaunted Volt Is On The Road To Nowhere Fast," [The Washington Post](#), 9/14/12)
- **Electric Vehicles Account For Roughly Two-Tenths Of 1 Percent Of 2011 Domestic Auto Sales.** "Actual sales of those models this year stand at 16,800 — roughly two-tenths of 1 percent of 2011 domestic auto sales. The vast majority were Chevrolet Volts or Nissan Leafs, which were in development long before Obama took office." (Carol D. Leonnig, and Joe Stephens, "For Obama's Green-Car Revolution, Fits And Starts," [The Washington Post](#), 12/7/11)
- **"Electric Cars Are Generally Far More Expensive Than Gas Guzzlers."** "A key industry problem is that electric cars are generally far more expensive than gas guzzlers. That's true even with up to \$7,500 in stimulus tax credits offered for each vehicle. Obama announced the \$2.4 billion in advanced-battery grants at a recreational-vehicle assembly plant in Wakarusa, Ind., where Navistar said it planned to build the eStar, an electric truck for fleets. 'Just a few months ago, folks thought these factories might be closed for good, but now they're coming back to life,' Obama said that day. But a large Maryland truck dealership tried for a year to sell an eStar, then sold it back to Navistar. Sam Eitel, marketing manager for Beltway Cos., said customers liked the truck's sleek looks but were stopped cold by its \$150,000-plus list price." (Carol D. Leonnig, and Joe Stephens, "For Obama's Green-Car Revolution, Fits And Starts," [The Washington Post](#), 12/7/11)

**Obama Gave At Least \$4.8 Billion In Loans And Grants To Electric Car Producers Like Tesla Motors And Fisker Automotives.** "Nissan, Tesla Motors and Fisker Automotive received \$2.4 billion in loans to support building U.S. manufacturing plants for electric vehicles through an Energy Department program. In a stimulus push in August 2009, Obama announced \$2.4 billion in more than 40 grants to car industry firms, much of it to advanced-battery manufacturers." (Carol D. Leonnig, and Joe Stephens, "For Obama's Green-Car Revolution, Fits And Starts," [The Washington Post](#), 12/7/11)

- **Fisker Has Never Made A Profit.** "Fisker, which has never made a profit, received \$193 million of the federal loan to support the rollout of the \$102,000 plug-in hybrid sportscar. The \$336 million balance of the loan is intended to fund

development of a sedan known as the Nina that will be sold at a lower price.” (Edwin Chan, “Fisker Pins Hopes On Karma As It Seeks More Cash,” [Reuters](#), 2/14/12)

- **“Tesla Motors’ Financial Losses Jumped 79 Percent” Still Yet To Make A Profit.** Tesla Motors’ financial losses jumped 79 percent in this year’s second quarter, hitting \$105.6 million, as the Palo Alto company phased out sales of its first electric car model and started selling its second. The company’s quarterly loss equaled \$1 per share, Tesla reported Wednesday. In the second quarter of 2011, Tesla recorded a loss of \$58.9 million (60 cents per share). Tesla, whose all-electric Roadster sports car made the company a green-tech standard bearer, has yet to make a profit. (David Baker, “Tesla Motors’ Losses Jump 79 Percent,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 7/25/12)

**“Electric-Vehicle Sales Since 2011 Totaled Fewer Than 50,000 Through September, Just 5 Percent Of The President’s Target.”** “Whether the technology itself is a loser or consumers are merely slow to adapt to new things, car buyers so far haven’t embraced electric vehicles in numbers close to Obama’s goal. Electric-vehicle sales since 2011 totaled fewer than 50,000 through September, just 5 percent of the president’s target.” (Angela Greling Keane, “Obama’s \$5 Billion Slow To Charge Electric Car Purchases,” [Bloomberg](#), 10/16/12)

- **Brett Smith, Co-Director At The Center For Automotive Research: “The Reality Is: That Business Model Isn’t There Yet ...”** “‘The reality is: that business model isn’t there yet,’ said Brett Smith, co-director of manufacturing, engineering and technology at the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Michigan. ‘It isn’t there yet for volume. It isn’t there yet for reaching the mass consumer. And it probably isn’t going to be there for a while.’” (Angela Greling Keane, “Obama’s \$5 Billion Slow To Charge Electric Car Purchases,” [Bloomberg](#), 10/16/12)

### **Double Renewable Energy**

**PROMISE: Obama In 2009: “To Finally Spark The Creation Of A Clean-Energy Economy, We Will Double The Production Of Alternative Energy In The Next Three Years.”** (President-Elect Barack Obama, [Speech On The Economy](#), Fairfax, VA, 1/8/09)

**BROKEN: Obama’s Claim To Have Doubled Use Of Renewable Energy Is “Not True” And Increase Is “Not Impressive.”** “President Barack Obama has been claiming that the United States has ‘doubled our use of renewable energy.’ Not true. Wind and solar have doubled, but total renewable energy consumption is up by about one quarter from 2008 to 2011. Plus, since wind and solar started at such a low level, a doubling may not be as impressive to voters as it sounds.” (Lori Robertson, “Renewable Energy ‘Doubled?’” [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/14/12)

**PolitiFact Rates Obama’s Claim Of Doubling The Use Of Renewable Energy “Mostly False.”** “In his two speeches, Obama said, ‘We’ve doubled our use of renewable energy.’ But while the nation has made strides in expanding electricity generated by wind and solar -- the most high-profile part of the administration’s policies -- the increase for all kinds of energy, and for all types of renewables, was about 25 percent. That’s far short of doubling, so we rate the statement Mostly False.” (Louis Jacobson, “Barack Obama says, ‘We’ve Doubled Our Use Of Renewable Energy,’” [PolitiFact](#), 9/11/12)

# COLLEGE COSTS

## Make College More Affordable

**PROMISE: Obama: “And One Of The Things I Think We Have To Do Is Make Sure That College Is Affordable For Every Young Person In America.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

- **Obama Decried The Amount Of Debt That College Students Needed To Take On To Get Through School.** OBAMA: “And I think it’s important for us to make college affordable. Right now, I meet young people all across the country who either have decided not to go to college or if they’re going to college, they are taking on \$20,000, \$30,000, \$50,000, \$60,000 worth of debt, and it’s very difficult for them to go into some fields, like basic research in science, for example, thinking to themselves that they’re going to have a mortgage before they even buy a house.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

**BROKEN: The Cost Of College Is Currently At “An All Time High.”** “Nationally, the cost of a full credit load has passed \$8,000, an all-time high. Throw in room and board, and the average list price for a state school now runs more than \$17,000 a year, according to the twin annual reports on college costs and student aid published Wednesday by the College Board.” (Justin Pope, “College Prices Up Again As States Slash Budgets,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/26/11)

**In The Past Year, Average In-State Tuition For Four-Year Public Colleges Increased 4.8 Percent.** “Average published tuition and fees for in-state students at public four-year colleges and universities increased from \$8,256 in 2011-12 to \$8,655 in 2012-13. The 4.8% increase in tuition and fees was accompanied by a \$325 (3.7%) increase in room and board charges for students living on campus. At \$9,205, room and board charges account for more than half of the total charges for these students.” (“Trends In College Pricing 2012,” [College Board](#), 2012-13)

- **“Room-And-Board Charges Grew By A Comparable Amount, Raising The Full Cost For Students Living On Campus To \$17,860.”** (“Latest College Cost Hikes Modest, But Still Bite, College Board Figures Show,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/24/12)

**In The Past Year, Average Tuition For Public Two-Year Colleges Rose 5.8 Percent.** “Average published in-state tuition and fees at public two-year colleges increased by \$172 (5.8%), from \$2,959 in 2011-12 to \$3,131 in 2012-13.” (“Trends In College Pricing 2012,” [College Board](#), 2012-13)

**Sandy Baum, Senior Policy Analyst At The College Board: “The Burden On Students Is Rising.”** ““The burden on students is rising. The federal government cannot and will not continue their (subsidies) at the same rate,’ Baum said.” (Kathleen Kingsbury, “College Costs Stall As Borrowing Falls, Study Says,” [Reuters](#), 10/24/12)

**“Tuition Continues To Outpace Inflation And Growth In Family Income.”** “But the rapid growth of federal grant aid in recent years also appears to be leveling off, and tuition continues to outpace inflation and growth in family income.” (Mary Beth Marklein, “College Costs Going Up At Slower Rate,” [USA Today](#), 10/24/12)

***Student Debt Has “Stretched To A Record Number of U.S. Households”***

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**BROKEN: The Share Of Households With Student Loan Debt Has “Increased Sharply.”**

“Even as the nation's households have reduced their total debt in recent years, the share that owes student loans has increased sharply, an analysis of the latest available Federal Reserve data shows.” (Mary Beth Marklein, “Report Shows Increase In Those With Student Debt, Loans,” [USA Today](#), 9/27/12)

- **“Student Debt Has Stretched To A Record Number Of U.S. Households - Nearly 1 In 5.”** “With college enrollment growing, student debt has stretched to a record number of U.S. households - nearly 1 in 5 - with the biggest burdens falling on the young and poor.” (Hope Yen, “Student Debt Stretches To Record 1 In 5 Households,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/27/12)
- **“Among Households Headed By Someone Younger Than 35, A Record 40% Owe Student Debt, The Highest Share Among Any Age Group.”** “The Pew center's deeper dive into the data found, that among households headed by someone younger than 35, a record 40% owe student debt, the highest share among any age group. Among households earning less than \$21,000, outstanding debt represented 24% of household income.” (Mary Beth Marklein, “Report Shows Increase In Those With Student Debt, Loans,” [USA Today](#), 9/27/12)

**Two-Thirds Of Graduates From The Class Of 2011 Have Student Loan Debt, With An Average Of \$26,600, An Increase Of Five Percent From Last Year.** “We estimate that two-thirds (66%) of college seniors who graduated in 2011 had student loan debt, with an average of \$26,600 for those with loans. The five percent increase in average debt at the national level is similar to the average annual increase over the past few years. (“Student Debt And The Class Of 2011,” [The Institute For College & Success](#), October 2012)

- **“It’s The Latest Snapshot Of The Growing Burden Of Student Debt And It’s Another Discouraging One.”** It’s the latest snapshot of the growing burden of student debt and it’s another discouraging one: Two-thirds of the national college class of 2011 finished school with loan debt, and those who borrowed walked off the graduation stage owing on average \$26,600 — up about 5 percent from the class before.” (Justin Pope, “Average Debt Up Again For New College Grads,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/18/12)

**According To The Department Of Education And CFPB, Outstanding Student Loan Debt Totals More Than \$1 Trillion.** “As in the housing market, securitization of student loans led to more aggressive underwriting for borrowers who could not possibly afford the debt they took on, according to a government report. The 131-page report was formally released by the Education Department and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Friday. It provides new estimates for total outstanding student loan debt: more than \$1 trillion in 2011, composed of \$864 billion in federal government loans and \$150 billion in private student loan debt. Cumulative defaults on private student loans exceeded \$8 billion, a sum from over 850,000 distinct loans.” (Catherine Rampell, “Report Details Woes Of Student Loan Debt,” [The New York Times](#), 7/20/12)

- **Student Loans Have “Surpassed Credit Card Debt As The Biggest Source Of Unsecured Debt For U.S. Consumers.”** “It has surpassed credit card debt as the biggest source of unsecured debt for U.S. consumers.” (Daniel Wagner, “Study: Student Loans Went To People Who Couldn’t Repay,” [The Associated Press](#), 7/20/12)

## ***More Borrowers Are Defaulting On Student Loans***

**“Student Loan Defaults Have Risen For The Sixth Straight Year.”** “Student loan defaults have risen for the sixth straight year, as students from traditional non-profit universities have an increasingly difficult time paying off their college debt.” (Megan Hoyer, “More College Students Defaulting On Student Loans,” [USA Today](#), 9/30/12)

**Last Year, 13.4 Percent Of Borrowers Defaulted On Student Loans Within The First Three Years Of Payments.** “The percentage of borrowers who defaulted on federal education loans within the first three years of payments rose to an average of 13.4 percent last year — 22.7 percent for those who attended for-profit colleges — according to statistics released on Friday by the Department of Education.” (Tamar Lewin, “Education Department Report Shows More Borrowers Defaulting On Student Loans,” [The New York Times](#), 9/28/12)

- **“The Rate Of Students Defaulting On Federal Loans Within Two Years, Also Released On Friday, Increased To 9.1 Percent, The Highest Level In More Than A Decade.”** (Tamar Lewin, “Education Department Report Shows More Borrowers Defaulting On Student Loans,” [The New York Times](#), 9/28/12)

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **“Restore America’s Standing In The World”**

**PROMISE: Obama Promised That “One Of The Things That I Intend To Do As President Is To Restore America’s Standing In The World.”** OBAMA: “And one last point I want to make. It is important for us to understand that the way we are perceived in the world is going to make a difference, in terms of our capacity to get cooperation and root out terrorism. And one of the things that I intend to do as president is to restore America’s standing in the world. We are less respected now than we were eight years ago or even four years ago.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

**BROKEN: Obama Has “Not Managed To Radically Transform America’s Standing In The World Through The Illuminating Force Of His Biography Or Personality.”** “When presidential candidate Barack Obama swept into Europe in 2008, television screens showed massive, adoring crowds. But the latest TV images from abroad are far more ominous: mobs in the Muslim world besieging U.S. embassies, torching American flags and even burning Obama himself in effigy. The two sets of images show a gap between aspirations and reality: A president who is popular overseas has not managed to radically transform America’s standing in the world through the illuminating force of his biography or personality.” (Josh Gerstein, “World’s Obama Fever Cools,” [Politico](#), 9/21/12)

**Obama’s International Popularity “Has Dimmed In Much Of The World.”** “As Obama prepares to stand for reelection, the surge in good feeling toward the U.S. that he ushered in has dimmed in much of the world. And evidence is scant that his popularity has advanced U.S. interests with America’s allies or its adversaries in a tangible way.” (Josh Gerstein, “World’s Obama Fever Cools,” [Politico](#), 9/21/12)

**Under Obama, “America’s Image Is Again In Decline, Especially In The Middle East.”** “But while polls show Obama remains personally popular in many parts of the world, America’s image is again in decline, especially in the Middle East, the focus of intense personal outreach at the start of the president’s term.” (Matt Spetalnick, “Obama Foreign Policy Bright Spot Now Looking Dimmer,” [Reuters](#), 9/23/12)

- **Global Opinion Of Obama’s International Policies “Has Declined Dramatically Since 2009.”** “Global opinion of President Barack Obama has declined dramatically since 2009, according to a new survey of the president and his policies in 21 countries. Approval of Obama’s international policies has dropped from 78 percent to 63 percent in Europe; from 34 percent to 15 percent in Muslim Countries; from 40 percent to 22 percent in Russia; and from 57 percent to 27 percent in China, reports the Pew Global Attitudes Project.” (Tim Mak, “World Poll: Chill On Obama Policies,” [Politico](#), 6/13/12)
- **Only 20 Percent Of Adults In 12 Countries Across The Middle East And North Africa Approve Of Obama’s Leadership.** “Approval of U.S. leadership in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region was already slipping before the recent wave of anti-U.S. protests across the region. An average of 20% of adults across 12 MENA countries Gallup surveyed between January and May 2012 approved of the job

performance of the leadership of the U.S. This rating was down from 22% in 2011 and 25% during the first two years of President Barack Obama's term." (Jan Sonnenschein and Mohamed Younis, "U.S. Approval Eroding In MENA Before Film Controversy," [Gallup](#), 9/24/12)

### **Label China A Currency Manipulator**

**PROMISE: Obama: "In The Same Way That We Should Enforce Rules Against China Manipulating Its Currency To Make Our Exports More Expensive And Their Exports To Us Cheaper."** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

**BROKEN: Asked About China's Currency Manipulation And Unfair Trade Practices, Obama Said That He Did Not Want To "Embarrass" China.** "President Barack Obama, addressing questions Wednesday about China's alleged trade abuses and currency manipulation, said the United States must push back against unfair practices but not 'go out of our way to embarrass' the country. Doing so would risk 'an all-out trade war,' Obama told The Plain Dealer in an exclusive interview." (Henry Gomez, "President Barack Obama Warns Against Embarrassing China On Trade Complaints: Plain Dealer Interview," [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), 9/27/12)

**Obama Claimed That Labeling China As A Currency Manipulator Would Have No Effect On Their Trade Practices.** "Asked if the tag would present the embarrassment he is hoping to spare China, Obama suggested that the designation would accomplish little. 'They'd have to push back, and there's no automatic trigger that results from it,' Obama said. 'So the only thing that happens is we then have to go back and negotiate with them. The key here is just constant pressure, and that's what we've applied in a much more aggressive way than the previous administration.'" (Henry Gomez, "President Barack Obama Warns Against Embarrassing China On Trade Complaints: Plain Dealer Interview," [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), 9/27/12)

**Once In Office, Obama Retreated From His "Tough Talk" On The Campaign Trail And Decided Not To Label China A Currency Manipulator.** "The Treasury Department on Wednesday declined to label China a currency manipulator, retreating from tough talk last year when a campaigning Barack Obama said Beijing had kept its currency's exchange rate unfairly low." (Glenn Somerville and Doug Palmer, "U.S. Again Declines To Brand China Currency Manipulator," [Reuters](#), 4/25/09)

- **In May 2012, The Treasury Department Said That China "Did Not Meet The Definition Of A Currency Manipulator Under Its Standards."** "The Treasury Department on Friday once again declined to name China a currency manipulator despite bipartisan calls for action from Congress. Treasury noted that China's currency has appreciated against the dollar since June 2010, and said it did not meet the definition of a currency manipulator under its standards." (Julian Pecquet, "Treasury: China Not Manipulating Currency," [The Hill's "Global Affairs" Blog](#), 5/25/12)

**The Washington Post: "China's Policy Has Probably Cost Americans Hundreds Of Thousands Of Jobs And Contributed To China's Destabilizing Pile Of Trillions Of Dollars In Reserves."** "China's undervalued renminbi is a long-standing, bipartisan concern, and it is not a phony one: In pursuit of growth led by exports, China has held the renminbi down in relation to the dollar, rendering its goods artificially cheap in the U.S. market. The renminbi would gain about 20 percent against the dollar if it were allowed to float freely like other currencies, according to the Peterson Institute for International

Economics. China's policy has probably cost Americans hundreds of thousands of jobs and contributed to China's destabilizing pile of trillions of dollars in reserves." (Editorial, "Breaking China? Last Thing Needed Is A Trade War," *The Washington Post*, 9/1/11)

### **Tougher Sanctions Against Iran**

**PROMISE: Obama: "We Do Need Tougher Sanctions."** OBAMA: "Now here's what we need to do. We do need tougher sanctions. I do not agree with Senator McCain that we're going to be able to execute the kind of sanctions we need without some cooperation with some countries like Russia and China that are, I think Senator McCain would agree, not democracies, but have extensive trade with Iran but potentially have an interest in making sure Iran doesn't have a nuclear weapon." (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

**BROKEN: Iran Is "Ahead Of Schedule In Its Enrichment Work" According To Israeli And Western Intelligence Agencies.** "Iran's nuclear enrichment program is progressing faster than western intelligence had initially realized, raising the stakes in Tehran's showdown with the international community over the controversial program. The assessment that Iran was ahead of schedule in its enrichment work is based on new information gathered by Israel and several other western intelligence agencies, according to reports by Israeli newspaper Haaretz." (Carlo Munoz, "Report: Iran's Nuke Work Moving Ahead Of Schedule," [The Hill's DEFCON Hill](#), 8/7/12)

**"Iran's Nuclear Ambitions Have Far Exceeded Previous Assessments By The United States And Its Allies."** "Senior diplomats from the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Israel have reportedly agreed the new-found information proves Iran's nuclear ambitions have far exceeded previous assessments by the United States and its allies, according to the report. Citing sources with knowledge of western efforts to gain access to Tehran's nuclear facilities, signs of the advanced state of Iran's nuclear program began to emerge in February." (Carlo Munoz, "Report: Iran's Nuke Work Moving Ahead Of Schedule," [The Hill's DEFCON Hill](#), 8/7/12)

- **Iran Has Enough Enriched Uranium For Almost Five Nuclear Bombs.** "Iran now has amassed roughly 225 pounds of 20% uranium and 11,000 pounds of 3.5%, sufficient for almost five nuclear bombs. Rather than stand by its initial demands, however, the P5+1 is now seeking merely the cessation of Iran's 20% enrichment, the removal of its 20% stockpile, and the closure of the facility at Qom. Arguably, this would be the first stage in the phasing out of Iran's nuclear program. But Iran has rejected even this preliminary gesture." (Michael Oren, Op-Ed, "Time Is Short For Iran Diplomacy," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/6/12)

***The Wall Street Journal*: "The Current U.S. Approach To Sanctions ... Is Destined To Become Increasingly Ineffective Over Time. It Also Doesn't Help That The Administration Is Waging A Behind-The-Scenes Campaign To Water Down Existing Sanctions."** "All of this means that the current U.S. approach to sanctions, which depends on the ability and willingness of the Administration to go after individual Iranian or foreign companies, is destined to become increasingly ineffective over time. It also doesn't help that the Administration is waging a behind-the-scenes campaign to water down existing



sanctions by granting nearly every available waiver to countries that continue to buy Iranian oil.” (Editorial, “Iran Sanctions Test,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/31/12)

- **The Obama Administration Has Now Granted Waivers To “All Twenty Of Iran’s Major Trading Partners,” Including China, For Their Efforts To Reduce Iranian Oil Imports Ahead Of The Sanctions.** “Though economic sanctions still haven’t slowed or stopped Iran’s nuclear drive, the Obama Administration has decided to make them even weaker. The Iran sanctions regime is looking like the U.S. tax code—filled with loopholes. It’s so weak, in fact, that all 20 of Iran’s major trading partners are now exempt from them. We’ve arrived at a kind of voodoo version of sanctions. They look real, insofar as Congress forced them into a bill President Obama had to sign in December. The Administration has spoken incantations about their powers. But if you’re a big oil importer in China, India or 18 other major economies, the sanctions are mostly smoke.” (Editorial, “Obama’s Iran Loopholes,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/2/12)

**The Obama Administration Actively Worked “Behind The Scenes To Water Down Congressional Language That Would Impose Crippling Sanctions On The Central Bank Of Iran (CBI).”** “President Barack Obama’s administration is working behind the scenes to water down congressional language that would impose crippling sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). The Obama administration sent to Congress this week a list of requested changes to the sanctions language found in the Senate’s version of the defense authorization bill, which was passed last week. Those sanctions, which would punish any bank that does business with the CBI, were part of an amendment authored by Sens. Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) that passed the Senate over the administration’s objections by a vote of 100 to 0. ... The administration’s laundry list of requested changes to the bill was sent to leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. The administration wants to delay the implementation of sanctions not related to oil purchases from 60 to 180 days, and wants to water down the severity of sanctions measures if and when they are put into effect.” (Josh Rogin, “Administration Tries To Water Down Iran Sanctions Legislation,” [The Cable](#), 12/6/11)

- **Biden National Security Adviser Antony Blinken Said U.S. Policy In Iran Is Based On “Buying Time And Continuing To Move This Problem Into The Future.”** “U.S. policy on Iran is aimed at ‘buying time and continuing to move this problem into the future, and if you can do that - strange things can happen in the interim,’ Antony Blinken, National Security Adviser to Vice President Biden and Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, said on Monday. ‘You never know,’ Blinken added.” (Chemi Shalev, “U.S. Policy Aimed At ‘Buying Time’ With Iran, Says Senior Official,” [Haaretz](#), 2/28/12)

**Fearing Higher Oil Prices And “Political Trouble In An Election Year,” Obama Has Resisted Taking Strong Action Against Iran’s Nuclear Program.** “Officials fear that too powerful a blow to the world’s third-largest oil exporter could cause an oil price increase, damaging the global economic recovery, undermining international support for the sanctions campaign and creating political trouble in an election year.” (Paul Richter, “Obama Administration Takes Back Seat On Iran Sanctions,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/17/12)

- **Despite Obama Administration's "Vows To Cripple Iran," "It Is Leaders In Congress And Europe Who Have Seized The Lead In The West's Long-Running Campaign To Punish Tehran For Its Suspected Nuclear Weapons Program."**  
 "Despite the Obama administration's vows to cripple Iran with economic sanctions, it is leaders in Congress and Europe who have seized the lead in the West's long-running campaign to punish Tehran for its suspected nuclear weapons program. In recent months, the toughest moves to deter Iran from pursuing its presumed nuclear ambitions have come from a bipartisan group in Congress and European allies, especially Britain and France. The White House at first resisted these steps before embracing them as inevitable." (Paul Richter, "Obama Administration Takes Back Seat On Iran Sanctions," [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/17/12)
- ***The Washington Post*: Obama "Is Resisting Pressure From Allies Such As France And From Congress To Sanction The Iranian Central Bank," Sending "The Wrong Signals To Iran."** "Though Mr. Obama boasted Thursday that his administration has orchestrated 'the toughest sanctions that Iran has ever experienced,' he is resisting pressure from allies such as France and from Congress to sanction the Iranian central bank. Last week the Senate passed 100-0 an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would sanction foreign banks that conduct transactions with the Iranian central bank, with an option for a postponement if the White House determines that the effect on the oil market would be too severe. The administration opposed the measure and is trying to narrow its scope in a conference committee." (Editorial, "The Wrong Signals To Iran," [The Washington Post](#), 12/6/11)

### **Re-Evaluate Relationship With "Resurgent And Very Aggressive Russia"**

**PROMISE: Obama Said A "Resurgent And Very Aggressive Russia Is A Threat To Peace And Stability In The Region."** OBAMA: "Well, I think that, given what's happened over the last several weeks and months, our entire Russian approach has to be evaluated, because a resurgent and very aggressive Russia is a threat to the peace and stability of the region. Their actions in Georgia were unacceptable. They were unwarranted. And at this point, it is absolutely critical for the next president to make clear that we have to follow through on our six-party -- or the six-point cease-fire. They have to remove themselves from South Ossetia and Abkhazia." (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

**BROKEN: Russia Is "One Of The Biggest Obstacles For The Obama Administration" In The Effort To Unify The International Community Against Assad.** "One of the biggest obstacles for the Obama administration is Russia, which has supported the ceasefire but has also backed Assad and allegedly provided arms to the Syrian army. While Obama administration officials have frequently accused Russia of being complicit in the deaths of Syrians, they've also said they won't take stronger action without the international community's backing, something Russia remains opposed to allowing. Russia and China, who has joined the Russians vetoing more UN action, were invited to this week's Friends of Syria meeting, but the countries did not attend." (Jeremy Herb, "Obama Faces Tough Choices In Syria," [The Hill's DEFCON Hill](#), 4/21/12)

- **Russian Support For The Syrian Regime “Gives It ‘A Huge Role’ And Leverage Over The West.”** “Some political analysts said the Russians still had little incentive to turn against Mr. Assad. Peter Harling, project manager on Syria for International Crisis Group, said Russia’s support for Mr. Assad gives it ‘a huge role’ and leverage over the West. ‘If they turn against the regime more decisively, they will lose all leverage and soon be ignored by all, including the West,’ he said.” (Ellen Barry, “Russia Seems To Soften Its Support For Syria,” [The New York Times](#), 3/20/12)
- **Russia’s Ambassador To NATO Threatened “To Close The Transport Route Through Russia That The U.S. And Its Allies Use To Supply Troops In Afghanistan.”** “Moscow’s ambassador to NATO this week amplified this message by threatening to close the transport route through Russia that the U.S. and its allies use to supply troops in Afghanistan. This so-called northern corridor was another touted achievement of the ‘reset.’” (Editorial, “Our Friends The Russians,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 12/5/11)

**Russia Threatened To “Carry Out Pre-Emptive Strikes” If NATO Missile Defense Systems Are Built In Europe.** “Russia’s military chief of staff said on Thursday that Moscow could carry out pre-emptive strikes on future NATO missile defense installations in Europe to protect its security - a stark warning against a system the Kremlin sees as a threat.” (Adrian Croft and Steve Gutterman, “Russia Says It Could Pre-Emptively Strike Missile Shield,” [Reuters](#), 5/3/12)

- **Amid Growing Fears Of Iran’s Nuclear Capacity, Russian Officials Say They Are “Unlikely To Sign An Agreement On The Missile-Defense System” Because It Weakens Russia’s “Strategic Deterrent.”** “Russia’s talks over the planned U.S. and NATO missile shield in Europe aren’t past the ‘point of no return’ even as the issue remains an ‘irritant’ between the countries, Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said. Russia and the U.S. are unlikely to sign an agreement on the missile-defense system in May during the summits of the Group of Eight and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the U.S., Antonov reporters in Moscow today. The shield’s capabilities allow it to intercept Russia’s ballistic missiles, hurting its strategic deterrent, he said.” (Stepan Kravchenko, “Russia Says Agreement Over Missile ‘Irritant’ Unlikely At Summit,” [Bloomberg](#), 3/13/12)

### **Cannot Return To A “Cold War Posture” With Russia**

**PROMISE: Obama: “Now, We Also Can’t Return To A Cold War Posture With Respect To Russia. It’s Important That We Recognize There Are Going To Be Some Areas Of Common Interest.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

**BROKEN: U.S. Ambassador To Russia, Michael McFaul “Said It Felt Like He Was Back In The Cold War.”** “In February, McFaul said it felt like he was back in the Cold War when he moved into Spaso House, the Moscow residence of American ambassadors since 1933. ‘It has been surprising that there was so much anti-Americanism, because we thought we were building a different kind of relationship, and it makes some people nervous that it could so quickly and reflexively go back to - in terms of rhetoric - an era that we thought was behind us,’ said McFaul.” (James Brooke, “US Envoy Sees Closer Moscow Ties After Putin’s Election,” [Voice Of America](#), 3/23/12)

- **Vladimir Putin Stoked “Anti-Americanism” In His Election Campaign And Accused The U.S. Of “Political Engineering” In The Russian Election.** “Putin has helped stoke anti-Americanism as part of his election campaign emphasizing a strong Russia. He has warned the West not to interfere in Syria or Iran, and accused the United States of ‘political engineering’ around the world.” (Susan Cornwell, “U.S.-Russia Ties Strained During Putin Political Campaign,” [Reuters](#), 3/2/12)
- **Putin’s Participation In The Regional Security Summit In China “Stood In Stark Contrast To His Decision Not To Attend A Summit Meeting Hosted By President Obama Last Month.”** “Mr. Putin’s visit, during which he will participate in a summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a regional security organization that includes Russia, China and former Soviet republics in Central Asia, stood in stark contrast to his decision not to attend a summit meeting hosted by President Obama last month in the United States.” (Jane Perlez, “Putin Arrives In China For Regional Talks,” [The New York Times](#), 6/5/12)
- **Putin Rejected Obama’s Offer For “Landmark Bilateral Talks At The White House” Earlier This Month.** “Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this month rejected an offer from United States (US) President Barack Obama for landmark bilateral talks at the White House, the Kremlin revealed on Tuesday.” (“Putin Rejected Obama’s White House Talks Offer: Kremlin,” [AFP](#), 5/29/12)

**BROKEN: Russia’s Refusal To Renew The Nunn-Lugar Nuclear Weapons Agreement Is A “Potentially Grave Setback In The Already Fraying Relationship Between The Former Cold War Enemies.”** “The Russian government said Wednesday that it would not renew a hugely successful 20-year partnership with the United States to safeguard and dismantle nuclear and chemical weapons in the former Soviet Union when the program expires next spring, a potentially grave setback in the already fraying relationship between the former cold war enemies.” (David M. Herszenhorn, “Russia Won’t Renew Pact ON Weapons With U.S.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/10/12)

- **“The Plan To End The Nunn-Lugar Program Appears To Be The Latest Step By The Russian Government In An Expanding Effort To Curtail American-Led Initiatives.”** “The plan to end the Nunn-Lugar program appears to be the latest step by the Russian government in an expanding effort to curtail American-led initiatives, and especially the influence of American money, in various spheres of Russian public policy.” (David M. Herszenhorn, “Russia Won’t Renew Pact ON Weapons With U.S.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/10/12)
- **The Announcement Came Shortly After Russia Expelled USAID And As “The Kremlin Has Been Hewing To A Distinctly Anti-American Tone” In Its Domestic Politics.** “The move comes just a few weeks after Russia announced it was expelling the U.S. Agency for International Development, the American foreign-aid program. Earlier this week, UNICEF also announced that it will wind up its operations in Russia by the end of the year. On Wednesday evening, Interfax quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying there was no connection between the shutdown of the aid programs and the end of the weapons agreement. But the Kremlin has been hewing to a distinctly anti-American tone as it attempts to portray

its domestic opponents as agents of the United States.” (Will Englund, “Russia No Longer Wants U.S. Aid On Nuclear Arms Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/10/12)

- **Russia Is Forcing USAID Out Of The Country In The Midst Of Putin’s Crackdown On NGOs And Political Dissenters.** “The Kremlin has taken a number of actions in recent months to bring pressure on nongovernmental groups and clamp down on political dissent, including a new law requiring any organization receiving aid from abroad to register with the justice manager as ‘acting as a foreign agent.’ Russia also increased the penalties for libel and slander — a step that seemed intended to intimidate critics of government officials.” (David M. Herszenhorn and Ellen Barry “Russia Demands U.S. End Support Of Democracy Groups,” [The New York Times](#), 9/18/12)