



Obama Hits The Road

Obama Jets Out Of Town As His Approval Ratings And Policies Hit The Skids

Beginning Tomorrow, Obama Will Spend The Bulk Of His Next Two Weeks Vacationing In Martha's Vineyard. "President Obama's plans to spend two uninterrupted weeks vacationing on Martha's Vineyard have been interrupted — but the White House isn't saying why. The president, originally slated to stay in the Massachusetts enclave Aug. 9–24, will return to Washington on Sunday, Aug. 17, 'to attend meetings at the White House,' according to an aide. The president will remain in town until Tuesday, Aug. 19, when he's scheduled to travel back to Martha's Vineyard." (Justin Sink, "Obama To Interrupt Vacation," [The Hill](#), 8/6/14)

- **"While On Martha's Vineyard, The Obamas Are Expected To Stay At The 8,100-Square Foot Mansion Of Democratic Donor Joanne Hubschman..."** "While on Martha's Vineyard, the Obamas are expected to stay at the 8,100-square foot mansion of Democratic donor Joanne Hubschman, according to the Vineyard Gazette. The three-story compound features a pool, hot tub, indoor gym, and basketball and tennis courts." (Justin Sink, "Obama To Interrupt Vacation," [The Hill](#), 8/6/14)

During Obama's Typical Vineyard Vacations, "Very Little Official Business Is Conducted." "Typically when President Obama vacations on Martha's Vineyard, very little official business is conducted. He and his family take bike rides in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest or along Lobsterville Beach in Aquinnah; they grab lunch at Nancy's in Oak Bluffs; eat dinner at State Road or the Beach Plum Inn; go to informal gatherings hosted by friends/advisers such as Valerie Jarrett and Harvard Law professor Charles Ogletree; and, of course, there are the countless rounds of golf at Farm Neck Golf Club, Mink Meadows Golf Club, Edgartown Golf Club, or Vineyard Golf Club." (Mark Shanahan and Meredith Goldstein, "Obama's Vacation Includes Vineyard Fund-Raiser," [The Boston Globe](#), 7/27/14)

Obama Probably Needs A Vacation – His Approval Ratings Are "Hitting A New Low"

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll: Obama's Overall Approval Rating Is "Hitting A New Low." "The frustration carries over to the nation's political leaders, with President Barack Obama's overall approval rating hitting a new low at 40 percent, and a mere 14 percent of the public giving Congress a thumbs up." (Mark Murray, "America's Fed Up: Obama Approval Rating Hits All-Time Low, Poll Shows," [NBC News](#), 8/5/14)

- **54 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of The Job Obama Is Doing As President, While Only 40 Percent Approve.** ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll](#), 1000 A, MoE 3.1%, 7/30-8/3/14)

And According To A CBS News Poll, Only 41 Percent Approve Of The Job Obama Is Doing As President, While 50 Percent Disapprove. ([CBS News Poll](#), 1,344 A, MoE 3%, 7/29-8/4/14)

OBAMA'S ECONOMY IS LEAVING AMERICANS WITH WIDESPREAD "ANXIETY"

***The Wall Street Journal* Headline: “Poll Finds Widespread Economic Anxiety”** (Patrick O’Connor, “Poll Finds Widespread Economic Anxiety,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/5/14)

53 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama’s Handling Of The Economy, While Only 42 Percent Approve. ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll](#), 1000 A, MoE 3.1%, 7/30-8/3/14)

64 Percent Of Americans Are Dissatisfied With The State Of The U.S. Economy, While Only 35 Percent Are Satisfied. ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll](#), 1000 A, MoE 3.1%, 7/30-8/3/14)

- **64 Percent Of Americans Are Still Feeling Some Impact From The Recession Today.** ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll](#), 1000 A, MoE 3.1%, 7/30-8/3/14)

According To Gallup, Economic Confidence Dropped Two Points In July To -17 – “The Lowest Index Reading Since March.” “Gallup’s Economic Confidence Index fell two points in July to -17, which is the lowest index reading since March.” (Gallup’s Economic Confidence Index, [Gallup](#), 8/5/14)

Americans Are Still Struggling In The Obama Economy

According To A Federal Reserve Report, 68 Percent Of Households Believe Their Finances Are Worse Off Or The Same As The Start Of The Recovery, While Only 30 Percent Believe They Have Gotten Better. “When asked to compare their current financial situation to their financial situation five years prior, 34 percent reported doing somewhat or much worse financially, 34 percent reported doing about the same financially, and 30 percent reported that they were either somewhat or much better off (figure 1).” (“Report On The Economic Well-Being Of U.S. Households In 2013,” [Board Of Governors Of The Federal Reserve System](#), 7/14)

The Washington Post’s Wonk Blog: The Economy On The Whole Remains “Meh.” “In fact, inventories made up 1.66 of the 4 percentage points of growth this quarter. And that, unfortunately, won’t carry over into the future, since businesses won’t need to restock for awhile. In other words, once you account for inventories, the economy wasn’t really as weak as it seemed at the start of the year, and it’s not as strong as it does now. It’s just been the same the whole time: meh.” (Matt O’Brien, “GDP Growth Is The Same It’s Always Been. That’s The Good And Bad News,” [The Washington Post’s Wonkblog](#), 7/30/14)

Five Years Into The Recovery, There Are More Part-Time Workers Than During The Recessions Of The Early 2000s, 1990s, And 1980s. “Economists stress that the monthly number of part-time workers is a volatile statistic, subject to frequent swings. In March 2010, the number of involuntary part-time workers peaked at 9.2 million. It’s now 7.5 million, five years into the economic recovery that began in 2009. Still, even that lower amount is higher than it was during the recessions of the early 1980s, ’90s and 2000s.” (Patrick Gillespie, “Part-Time Workers Find Full-Time Jobs Elusive,” [McClatchy](#), 8/6/14)

- **The Number Of Unemployed Americans Is 24 Percent Higher Than It Was When The Recession Began While Involuntary Part-Time Workers Is 66 Percent Higher.** “Indeed, the number of unemployed people is 24 percent higher now than it was in December 2007 when the recession began. But the number of people like Alexander—known as involuntary part-time workers—is 66 percent higher, more than double what it was back then.” (Patrick Gillespie, “Part-Time Workers Find Full-Time Jobs Elusive,” [McClatchy](#), 8/6/14)

33% Of Unemployed Have Been Out Of Work For More Than Six Months, A Number Not Seen Since Before World War II. “The share of the unemployed who have been out of work for more than six months now stands at 33 percent, down from the unprecedented 45 percent it reached in 2010. That’s still a very high level, though: In previous recessions dating back to World War II, the share of long-term unemployed never exceeded 26 percent.” (Mohamed A. El-Erian, “The Long-Term Joblessness Battle Isn’t Over,” [Bloomberg](#), 7/23/14)

FROM THE MIDDLE EAST TO THE BORDER CRISIS, AMERICANS HAVE LOST FAITH IN OBAMA'S HANDLING OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Obama's Handling Of Foreign Policy Has Reached "A Record Low." "His handling of international affairs at a time of turmoil in the Middle East and elsewhere is his weakest suit: 36% approve of his handling of foreign policy, a record low." (Janet Hook, "5 Takeaways From The August WSJ/NBC Poll," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/5/14)

- **NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll: 60 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of Foreign Policy, While Only 36 Percent Approve.** ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll](#), 1000 A, MoE 3.1%, 7/30-8/3/14)
- **CBS News Poll: Only 38 Percent Of Americans Approve Of Obama's Handling Of Relations With Russia, While 44 Percent Disapprove.** ([CBS News Poll](#), 1,344 A, MoE 3%, 7/29-8/4/14)
- **CBS News Poll: Only 33 Percent Of Americans Approve Of Obama's Handling Of The Situation Between Israel And Palestine, While 50 Percent Disapprove.** ([CBS News Poll](#), 1,344 A, MoE 3%, 7/29-8/4/14)

Roll Call's Stuart Rothenberg: "It Looks Increasingly As If Foreign Policy — Particularly Problems In The Middle East And Relations With Russia — Will Add To The President's Woes." "I certainly didn't know foreign policy would be front and center in the final months before the midterm elections when I wrote in late April that these issues 'could have an indirect yet significant impact on the midterm elections.' But now, it looks increasingly as if foreign policy — particularly problems in the Middle East and relations with Russia — will add to the president's woes." (Stuart Rothenberg, "President George W. Obama Meets The Midterms," [Roll Call](#), 8/5/14)

Voters Are Noticing Obama Doesn't Know How To Handle An Increasingly Unstable World

"[Obama's] Approach To Foreign Policy Has Become More Of A Political Liability, The Subject Of Sharp Criticism From Republicans And Even Some Democrats." (Peter Baker, "Crises Cascade And Converge, Testing Obama," [The New York Times](#), 7/22/14)

Americans Have Noticed "The Disconnect" Between Obama's Foreign Policy Rhetoric And "The Daily Chaos Playing Out From Ukraine To The Middle East." "Every day, however, brings a split-screen contrast between the White House's confidence in its long-term strategy and the daily chaos playing out from Ukraine to the Middle East. The disconnect is reflected in the president's declining poll ratings. The Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released this week shows Americans' approval of his foreign-policy record at a new low of 36%." (Carol E. Lee, "Crises Undercut Support For Obama's Long Game In Foreign Policy," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/6/14)

Council On Foreign Relations President Richard Haass, On Obama's Foreign Policy Goals: "It's Not Clear In Many Cases What He Is Trying To Achieve." "Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, said Mr. Obama has contributed to the confusion about his goals. 'It's not clear in many cases what he is trying to achieve,' he said." (Carol E. Lee, "Crises Undercut Support For Obama's Long Game In Foreign Policy," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/6/14)

Obama's Handling Of Immigration And The Border Crisis Has Emerged As His "Worst Issue"

57 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of The Immigration Issue, While Only 31 Percent Approve. ([CBS News Poll](#), 1,344 A, MoE 3%, 7/29-8/4/14)

- **Obama's Immigration Ratings Represent "An All-Time Low For His Presidency."** "Forty percent of Americans approve and 54 percent disapprove of how Mr. Obama is handling the economy, only slightly better than the 36 percent who approve of his handling of foreign policy."

Just 31 percent of Americans approve of how he is handling immigration - an all-time low for his presidency.” (Sarah Dutton, et al., “Americans’ Views Of Obama, Congress, Political Parties: Gloomy,” [CBS News](#), 8/6/14)

64 Percent Of Americans Are Dissatisfied With Way The U.S. Is Handling The Immigration Problem On The Southern Border. ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll](#), 1000 A, MoE 3.1%, 7/30-8/3/14)

***The Washington Post* Headline: “Immigration Is Now President Obama’s Worst Issue”** (Aaron Blake, “Immigration Is Now President Obama’s Worst Issue,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/31/14)

- **“Immigration Has Emerged As Perhaps President Obama’s Worst Issue -- Definitely For Today, And Maybe Of His Entire Presidency -- When It Comes To Public Perception.”** (Aaron Blake, “Immigration Is Now President Obama’s Worst Issue,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/31/14)

AS OBAMA TAKES A VACATION, AMERICA’S OBAMACARE NIGHTMARE CONTINUES

Millions Of Americans Could Face Thousands Of Dollars In Higher Costs Due To ObamaCare’s Design

Americans Who Have Enrolled In An ObamaCare Plan Face Large Premium Hikes Or May Receive A Costly Bill From The IRS. “If you like your ObamaCare plan, you can keep it—but you might end up paying a whole lot more. People who decide to stick with the coverage they’ve already gotten through ObamaCare, rather than switching plans, are at risk for some of the biggest premium spikes anywhere in the system. And some people won’t even know their costs went up until they get a bill from the IRS.” (Sam Baker, “If You Like Your ObamaCare Plan, It’ll Cost You,” [National Journal](#), 8/5/14)

- **Consumers Will Find That They Have To Pay More Next Year Or Switch To Another Health Care Plan.** “But that’s only part of the reason inertia is so expensive for ObamaCare enrollees. The vast majority of enrollees don’t pay the full cost of their premiums—85 percent are getting financial help from the government. And many of those consumers will find that their subsidies don’t go as far next year, even for the same plans. The size of each person’s subsidy is tied to a ‘benchmark’ plan. Poorer consumers only have to spend a certain percentage of their income for that plan; the government pays the rest of the premium. If you choose a more expensive policy, you have to pay the difference on your own.” (Sam Baker, “If You Like Your ObamaCare Plan, It’ll Cost You,” [National Journal](#), 8/5/14)
- **3.4 Million Americans Could Face Higher Premiums.** “This year, about 3.4 million people picked the benchmark plan or went one option cheaper. But as those plans raise their rates and new options come to the market, they’ll often lose their benchmark status to cheaper competitors—and their customers will find themselves on the hook for a bigger share of their premiums.” (Sam Baker, “If You Like Your ObamaCare Plan, It’ll Cost You,” [National Journal](#), 8/5/14)

Even If An Insurance Company Decides Not To Raise Premiums, “Customers Could Still End Up Owning Thousands” Due To The Law. “In some cases, even if an insurance company doesn’t raise its rates at all, its customers could still end up owing thousands of dollars more for their premiums. It’s all a byproduct of complicated technical changes triggered, ironically enough, by the law’s success at bolstering competition among insurers.” (Sam Baker, “If You Like Your ObamaCare Plan, It’ll Cost You,” [National Journal](#), 8/5/14)

As More ObamaCare Premiums Are Released, Americans Are Stuck With The Tab

Floridians Buying Insurance Through ObamaCare’s Exchange “Will Face An Average Increase Of 13.2 Percent In Their Monthly Premiums.” “Floridians who buy health insurance on the individual market for next year will face an average increase of 13.2 percent in their monthly premiums, according

to rate proposals unveiled Monday by the state's Office of Insurance Regulation.” (Daniel Chang and Nick Madigan, “Proposed Prices For Health Plans In 2015 Unveiled,” [The Miami Herald](#), 8/4/14)

- **“Prices On Florida’s ObamaCare Insurance Exchange Will Rise By An Average Of 13.2 Percent Next Year, With At Least One Health Plan Increasing Rates By An Average Of 23 Percent.”** (Elise Viebeck, “Florida O-Care Premiums To Rise 13 Percent On Average,” [The Hill](#), 8/4/14)

In New York, “The Average Hike Sought By Insurers For Individual Plans Is 12%” But A Number Of Larger Firms Want To Raise Their “Premiums By Nearly 20%.” “The average hike sought by insurers for individual plans is 12 percent—but a number of firms serving large numbers of patients want to boost individual premiums by nearly 20 percent.” (Yoav Gonen, “Insurers Seeking Double-Digit ObamaCare Premium Hikes In NY,” [New York Post](#), 7/3/14)

- **“Eleven Insurers Asked For Raises ...”** “Eleven insurers asked for raises, while four asked for decreases, and one is dropping out of the public exchange altogether.” (Nidhi Prakash, “Behind New York’s 2015 Health Insurance Rates,” [Capital New York](#), 8/4/14)

Some New Yorkers Will See Their Health Insurance Increase By 19.7 Percent. “New Yorkers who purchased insurance from the state's much-touted health insurance exchange could see their premiums rise by as much as 19.7 percent or drop by as much as 12.9 percent in the coming year.” (Nidhi Prakash, “Behind New York’s 2015 Health Insurance Rates,” [Capital New York](#), 8/4/14)

OBAMA’S ROCK-BOTTOM SUMMER RATINGS ARE AN “OMINOUS SIGN FOR DEMOCRATS”

Obama’s Disapproval Is At 58 Percent In Battleground States. “Mr. Obama’s standing is even lower where it matters most this fall: In the states where crucial Senate election battles are being waged. Among respondents in the 12 states with the most competitive Senate elections, 58% of people disapprove of Mr. Obama’s performance.” (Janet Hook, “5 Takeaways From The August WSJ/NBC Poll,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/5/14)

Politico’s Manu Raju: Poll Numbers Are “Very Ominous Sign For Democrats.” RAJU: “I mean, very ominous sign for Democrats. You’re looking at, you know, anytime a President’s under water like this, his party suffers.” (CNN’s New Day, 8/6/14)

The Washington Post’s Dan Balz: For Republicans, “The Map Of Competitive Races Has Expanded.” “At the beginning of the year, those four states were considered the prime battlegrounds, with Republicans needing to win in three of them to take control. Now, the map of competitive races has expanded.” (Dan Balz, “Is The Race For The Senate Already Over?” [The Washington Post](#), 8/6/14)

National Journal Headline: “The Odds Of A GOP Wave Are Increasing.” (Josh Kraushaar, “The Odds Of A GOP Wave Are Increasing,” [National Journal](#), 7/22/14)

- **As A Result Of Obama’s Failures, 2014 Is Shaping Up To Be As Bad For Democrats As 2010 Was.** “If anything, this year's environment for Democrats is shaping up to be as bleak. Sizable majorities oppose the Obama administration's handling of nearly every issue, including the economy, health care, and foreign policy. The administration looks out of its element, lurching from foreign policy crises to domestic scandal over the past year.” (Josh Kraushaar, “The Odds Of A GOP Wave Are Increasing,” [National Journal](#), 7/22/14)

University Of Virginia’s Larry Sabato: “Even Without A Wave,” Republicans Are In Good Position To Retake The Senate. “Even without a wave, there’s a fair to good chance the GOP will end up with the six net seats they need for control—and little chance they’ll pick up fewer than four seats in any event.” (Larry Sabato, Kyle Kondik And Jeffrey Skelley, “Senate: 2014 A Year All On Its Own,” [Sabato’s Crystal Ball](#), 7/24/14)