



State Of Obama's Union: Then And Now

*One Year Later, Obama's State Of The Union Rhetoric Still Doesn't
Match Reality*

OBAMA HAS MADE "NO PROGRESS" ON MANY OF HIS 2013 STATE OF THE UNION PROPOSALS

CNN's Candy Crowley: Many Ideas In Obama's 2013 State Of The Union "Have Gone Nowhere."

CNN's CANDY CROWLEY: "With numbers like that, how can he have any more success this year than he had last year? I want to show you some of the proposals that were in the president's 2013 speech last year that have gone nowhere. Increasing the minimum wage. Expanding access to preschool. Immigration reform. Gun control legislation. None of that has happened because the year took control of the agenda, some of it, a lot of it from the outside. Why can the president get anything more done with less of an approval rating than he had at the beginning of 2013?" (CNN's "State Of The Union," 1/26/14)

Fox News Sunday's Chris Wallace: "No Progress" On Many Of Obama's 2013 State Of The Union Proposals. FOX NEWS' CHRIS WALLACE: "All right. I want to pick up on that. Because as we say, this is a familiar theme for the president. He talked about it a lot the last two years. Let's look at the Obama record, what he proposed and what happened to those ideas last year. The President proposed raising the minimum wage to \$9 an hour. No progress. Creating a network of 15 manufacturing hubs. No progress. Universal preschool. Nothing. Major tax reform. Nothing. Tell us about this memo that is in the papers today that you wrote, and the President has apparently accepted to basically work around congress more and through executive action." (Fox's "Fox News Sunday," 1/26/14)

After Starting 2013 With Many Ambitions, Obama's Year "Ended In A Long Trail Of Mistakes, International Embarrassments And Missed Legislative Opportunities." "Last year began with the fresh-start ambitions of his second inauguration but ended in a long trail of mistakes, international embarrassments and missed legislative opportunities that sapped Obama's credibility with the public." (Scott Wilson, "Obama's Rough 2013 Prompts A New Blueprint," [The Washington Post](#), 1/25/14)

**INSTEAD OF HONORING THE PROMISES HE MADE, OBAMA WAS AWARDED THE LIE
OF THE YEAR FOR HIS BROKEN OBAMACARE PROMISE IN 2013**

Obama In His 2013 State Of The Union: “Our Government Shouldn’t Make Promises We Cannot Keep -- But We Must Keep The Promises We’ve Already Made.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President In The State Of The Union Address](#), Washington, D.C., 2/12/13)

Obama’s Keep Your Plan Promise Was Declared The “Number One Lie Of The Year” Of 2013

Obama: “If You Like Your Plan, You Can Keep Your Plan. If You Like Your Doctor, You Can Keep Your Doctor.” OBAMA: “If you like your plan, you can keep your plan. If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. I can tell you, as the father of two young girls, I would not want any plan that interferes with the relationship between a family and their doctor.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks On Health Care Reform](#), Washington, D.C., 3/3/10)

CNN’s Jake Tapper On Obama’s Keep Your Plan Promise: “The Number One Lie Of The Year.” CNN’s JAKE TAPPER: “The lie of the year. Control room, can we get a drumroll? So here it is, by popular demand, the number one lie of the year, based on something the President first said in 2009, and updated in 2013. OBAMA: If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan.” (CNN’s [“The Lead With Jake Tapper,”](#) 12/12/13)

PolitiFact Headline: “Lie Of The Year: ‘If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You Can Keep It.’” (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Lie Of The Year: ‘If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You Can Keep It,’” [PolitiFact](#), 12/12/13)

- **Obama’s “Catchy Political Pitch” Was “Impossible To Keep.”** “It was a catchy political pitch and a chance to calm nerves about his dramatic and complicated plan to bring historic change to America’s health insurance system. ‘If you like your health care plan, you can keep it,’ President Barack Obama said -- many times -- of his landmark new law. But the promise was impossible to keep.” (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Lie Of The Year: ‘If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You Can Keep It,’” [PolitiFact](#), 12/12/13)

The Washington Post’s Fact Checker Gave Obama’s Promise That Americans Could Keep Their Health Care Plan Four Pinocchios. “The president’s promise apparently came with a very large caveat: ‘If you like your health care plan, you’ll be able to keep your health care plan — if we deem it to be adequate.’ Four Pinocchios.” (Glenn Kessler, “Obama’s Pledge That ‘No One Will Take Away’ Your Health Plan,” [The Washington Post’s Fact Checker](#), 10/30/13)

And In 2013, Americans Also Discovered Obama’s Promise Of Lower Premiums Under ObamaCare Won’t Come True

As A Candidate, Obama Promised That His Health Care Reform Would Save American Families \$2,500 By The End Of His First Term. OBAMA: “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)

For Many Americans, ObamaCare Is “Driving Their Premiums Way Up – In Some Cases Doubling Them, Or More.” “The few people who made it through the website are seeing their options for the first time, and some are not happy about what they’re seeing. Those with lower incomes are eligible for substantial subsidies, but middle income folks making 400 percent of poverty or more don’t get a thing, and the new insurance market rules are driving their premiums way up — in some cases doubling them, or more.” (Brett Norman and Jonathan Allen, “ObamaCare Headaches: More Than The Website,” [Politico](#), 10/28/13)

- **The Middle-Class Faces “Hefty Increases On Their Insurance Bills” Due To ObamaCare.** “These middle-class consumers are staring at hefty increases on their insurance bills as the overhaul remakes the health care market. Their rates are rising in large part to help offset the

higher costs of covering sicker, poorer people who have been shut out of the system for years.” (Chad Terhune, “Some Health Insurance Gets Pricier As ObamaCare Rolls Out,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/26/13)

Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Family Health Care Premiums Has Increased By \$3,671 From \$12,680 To \$16,351, A 29 Percent Increase. (“Employer Health Benefits; 2013 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 8/20/13)

- **“The Average Premium For Family Coverage Is \$1,363 Per Month Or \$16,351 Per Year.”** (“Employer Health Benefits; 2013 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 8/20/13)

Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Single Coverage Premiums Has Increased By \$1,180, From \$4,704 To \$5,884, A 25 Percent Increase. (“Employer Health Benefits; 2013 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 8/20/13)

- **“The Average Premium For Single Coverage In 2013 Is \$490 Per Month Or \$5,884 Per Year.”** (“Employer Health Benefits; 2013 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 8/20/13)

INSTEAD OF CUTTING RED TAPE AND APPROVING NEW PERMITS, OBAMA KEPT STALLING ON THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE IN 2013

Obama In His 2013 State Of The Union: “Now, In The Meantime, The Natural Gas Boom Has Led To Cleaner Power And Greater Energy Independence. We Need To Encourage That. And That’s Why My Administration Will Keep Cutting Red Tape And Speeding Up New Oil And Gas Permits. (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President In The State Of The Union Address](#), Washington, D.C., 2/12/13)

Obama Has Yet To Approve The Keystone XL Pipeline

The White House Has Failed “So Far To Approve The Keystone XL Pipeline From Alberta To Nebraska, Which Would Help Carry Crude From Canada To United States Refineries On The Gulf Coast.” “Officials say the White House’s failure so far to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline from Alberta to Nebraska, which would help carry crude from Canada to United States refineries on the Gulf coast, has dampened the faith of Prime Minister Stephen Harper in deeper North American integration: Canada is looking across the Pacific for oil markets.” (“Ready To Take Off Again?” *The Economist*, 1/4/14)

- **Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper: Obama Has “Punted” On Keystone.** “‘He’s punted,’ Harper said of Obama in an interview at an event today hosted by the Vancouver Board of Trade. ‘He said, ‘Maybe.’” (Andrew Mayeda And Christopher Donville, “Harper Says Obama Punting Won’t Stop Keystone XL,” [Bloomberg](#), 1/6/14)

The Associated Press Headline: “Kerry: No Rush To Decide On Keystone XL Pipeline” (Matthew Daly, “Kerry: No Rush To Decide On Keystone XL Pipeline,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/17/14)

ABC’s Jon Karl To White House Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest: Is Obama Trying To “Run Out The Clock” On Keystone And Use A “Pocket Veto” By Delaying Approval? “ABC’s JON KARL: “Josh, I wasn’t even going to ask about Keystone, but what’s taking so long for this decision?” JOSH EARNEST: “Well, I mean –” KARL: “I mean, this has been going on for years. Why are we still--” EARNEST: “It has. Well, there have been a couple of times where the process got upended because of concerns that were raised by the Republican governor of Nebraska and the route that had been proposed.” KARL: “Yes, that’s ancient history, too.” EARNEST: “Well, but you said it’s going on for years, and that’s one of the things that slowed down the process. So I think that demonstrates the commitment of the administration to get this right. It demonstrates that there are people in both parties who have a range of views on this topic. And what the State Department is doing is they’re reaching a determination of national interest.” KARL: “Is this a pocket veto? Is this basically like run out the clock?” EARNEST: “That’s not something that should

be taken lightly. It certainly isn't taken lightly by the President or his administration." KARL: "So you're not running out the clock? Because if you delay and then you don't make a decision, it doesn't get built, you know?" EARNEST: "That's not how I'd characterize the ongoing policy process." (White House [Press Briefing](#), Washington, DC, 12/11/13)

Former Obama National Security Advisor Tom Donilon: I Would Recommend That Obama Approve Keystone Pipeline. WALTER ISAACSON: "I know you're not in the administration anymore, so maybe you could answer. Would you recommend for the keystone pipeline if you were there?" TOM DONILON: "You know, I would." (Tom Donilon, [Remarks At Aspen Institute Forum](#), Washington, D.C., 1/7/14)

INSTEAD OF DELIVERING ON HIS OWN JOBS INITIATIVES, OBAMA'S PLANS ARE STILL BARELY OFF THE GROUND AFTER 2013

Obama In His 2013 State Of The Union: "Tonight, I'm Announcing The Launch Of Three More Of These Manufacturing Hubs ... A Network Of 15 Of These Hubs..." BARACK OBAMA: "So tonight, I'm announcing the launch of three more of these manufacturing hubs, where businesses will partner with the Department of Defense and Energy to turn regions left behind by globalization into global centers of high-tech jobs. And I ask this Congress to help create a network of 15 of these hubs and guarantee that the next revolution in manufacturing is made right here in America. We can get that done." (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President In The State Of The Union Address](#), Washington, D.C., 2/12/13)

In Obama's 2013 State Of The Union, He Promised To Partner With The 20 Hardest Hit Areas In America During 2013. "And this year, my administration will begin to partner with 20 of the hardest-hit towns in America to get these communities back on their feet. We'll work with local leaders to target resources at public safety, and education, and housing. We'll give new tax credits to businesses that hire and invest. And we'll work to strengthen families by removing the financial deterrents to marriage for low-income couples, and do more to encourage fatherhood -- because what makes you a man isn't the ability to conceive a child; it's having the courage to raise one." (President Barack Obama, "Remarks By The President In The State Of The Union Address," [The White House Office Of The Press Secretary](#), 2/12/13)

Obama's Initiatives Languished Throughout 2013 And Only Recently Have Begun To Get Off The Ground

Obama's 2014 Has Been Focused On "Rushing To Check Off Items" Left On His "To-Do List From Last Year's Address." "President Barack Obama, leading up to his State of the Union speech this week, has vowed to make 2014 a 'year of action.' His main actions so far: rushing to check off items on the to-do list from last year's address." (Michael C. Bender and Margaret Talev, "Obama Rushes To Keep Last Year's Promises Before Address," [Bloomberg](#), 1/26/14)

- **Obama Is Still "Wrapping Up Some Of His Pledges Just Days Before His 2014 State Of The Union Address."** "The president did better with his own to-do list, but even there the administration was still wrapping up some of his pledges just days before his 2014 State of the Union address. Indeed, when Obama delivers his speech Tuesday before a joint session of Congress, it might sound familiar. Heavy on economic themes, the address will again appeal for action on immigration and the minimum wage, and in the event Congress once again balks, he'll offer narrower programs that he could initiate on his own." (Jim Kuhnhenn, "State Of The Union: Of Pledges, Pleas And Setbacks," [The Associated Press](#), 1/22/14)

Obama Had Promised To Name His Manufacturing Hubs By The End Of 2013, But Waited Until 2014 To Make The First Announcement. "In the address, he also promised to create three

manufacturing hubs where businesses could work with government to create high-tech jobs, and highlighted the promise in a speech at an Asheville, North Carolina, truck plant the next day. The administration launched competitions to create the three new hubs in May, pledging \$200 million in funding from the Defense, Energy and Commerce departments, and matching funds from industry, and state and local sources. The winners were to be announced by the end of 2013 but have not yet been named.” (Roberta Rampton, “Obama To Take Action On Manufacturing Goal Next Week,” [Reuters](#), 1/11/14)

Obama Waited Until January 2014 To Name His Five “Promise Zone” Communities, Despite Unveiling The Program In His 2013 State Of The Union. “Obama also pledged to identify five communities that would be targeted for tax incentives and federal grants under a government ‘Promise Zone’ program. And it was only this month that the Obama administration named the five communities that qualified for ‘Promise Zone’ designation.” (Jim Kuhnhenh, “State Of The Union: Of Pledges, Pleas And Setbacks,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/22/14)

INSTEAD OF HOLDING THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE, OBAMA’S SYRIA POLICY IS “IN SHAMBLES” AFTER 2013

Obama In His 2013 State Of The Union: “We’ll Keep The Pressure On A Syrian Regime That Has Murdered Its Own People, And Support Opposition Leaders That Respect The Rights Of Every Syrian.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President In The State Of The Union Address](#), Washington, D.C., 2/12/13)

Obama’s Syrian Policy Has Fallen Apart And Is Currently “In Shambles”

CNN’s Elise Labott: Obama’s Syria Policy Is “In Shambles.” JAKE TAPPER: “I want to bring in our foreign affairs reporter, Elise Labott. Elise, specifically what kind of nonlethal aid are we talking about, how will it impact the rebels?” ELISE LABOTT: “Well, it’s nothing that’s really going to turn this conflict around. It was nonlethal aid, food, medical supplies, communications equipment, trucks. But what this meant, the fact the Islamists seized these warehouses that belonged to the moderates is really a wake-up call for the administration that their policy on Syria is really in shambles right now because Islamists are gaining a lot of influence in the country, not just battling Assad but battling their own moderates.” (CNN’s [“The Lead With Jake Tapper”](#), 12/12/13)

Politico Headline: “The Unraveling: How Obama’s Syria Policy Fell Apart” (Michael Weiss, “The Unraveling: How Obama’s Syria Policy Fell Apart,” [Politico](#), 1/2/14)

- **“It’s Hard To Pinpoint Just When, Exactly, Barack Obama’s Syria Policy Fell Apart...But Collapse It Has.”** “It’s hard to pinpoint just when, exactly, Barack Obama’s Syria policy fell apart. Was it in December, when Islamists humiliated U.S.-backed rebels by seizing what limited supplies America had given them? Was it back in September, when Obama telegraphed his reluctance to enforce his own ‘red line’ after the Syrian regime used chemical weapons on its own people? Was it in the months beforehand, when the administration quietly and mysteriously failed to make good on its pledge to directly arm the rebels? Or did it collapse in August 2011, when Obama called on Syrian dictator Bashar Assad to go, only to do almost nothing to make it happen? But collapse it has, and more than 130,000 deaths later, the White House is now pinning its hopes on a peace conference in Switzerland later this month that is being billed as the last, best hope for a negotiated solution to a conflict that has displaced a staggering 40 percent of Syria’s total population, some 23 million people, in what the United Nations says is fast becoming the worst and most expensive humanitarian catastrophe in modern history.” (Michael Weiss, “The Unraveling: How Obama’s Syria Policy Fell Apart,” [Politico](#), 1/2/14)

Obama's Handling Of The Syrian Crisis "Has Been One Of The More Stunning And Inexplicable Displays Of Presidential Incompetence" Ever Witnessed. "It has been one of the more stunning and inexplicable displays of presidential incompetence that I've ever witnessed. The failure cuts straight to the heart of a perpetual criticism of the Obama White House: that the President thinks he can do foreign policy all by his lonesome. This has been the most closely held American foreign-policy-making process since Nixon and Kissinger, only there's no Kissinger." (Joe Klein, "Obama And Syria: Stumbling Toward Damascus," [Time](#), 9/11/13)

INSTEAD OF CREATING A SMARTER GOVERNMENT, OBAMA PRESIDED OVER A BOTCHED OBAMACARE ROLLOUT IN 2013

Obama In His 2013 State Of The Union: "It Is Not A Bigger Government We Need, But A Smarter Government That Sets Priorities And Invests In Broad-Based Growth. That's What We Should Be Looking For." (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President In State Of The Union Address](#), Washington, D.C., 2/12/13)

A Year Later And Obama's Government Isn't Smarter Or Efficient

"Obama's Bumpy Graduate-Level Education In Management Theory" Is Typified In His Handling Of The ObamaCare Failure. "After the HealthCare.gov debacle first exploded three months ago, President Barack Obama pleaded for people to cut him a little slack: 'I wanted to go in and fix it myself, but I don't write code.' At his year-end news conference recently, he struck a different tone: 'Since I'm in charge, obviously, we screwed it up.' 'We screwed it up' is not exactly the same thing as 'I screwed it up.' Even so, those two quotes are mileposts on one of 2013's biggest stories: Obama's bumpy graduate-level education in management theory." (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, "Management Experts Knock Obama," [Politico](#), 12/31/13)

- **Management Experts Say The "Scant Executive Experience" Held By Obama And His Inner Circle Contributed To ObamaCare's Failed Launch.** "A glitchy website and a wave of canceled plans gave Obama the worst headlines of his presidency in 2013, but at year's end a range of management experts interviewed by POLITICO said a central question tended to get lost in the partisan firefight: To what extent do Obamacare's early problems reflect the limitations, in experience and intellectual interest, of its namesake? The heart of the issue, many of these people say, is that Obama and his inner circle had scant executive experience prior to arriving in the West Wing, and dim appreciation of the myriad ways the federal bureaucracy can frustrate an ambitious president." (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, "Management Experts Knock Obama," [Politico](#), 12/31/13)
- **"And Above All, They Had Little Apparent Interest In The Kind Of Organizational And Motivational Concepts That Typically Are The Preoccupation Of The Most Celebrated Modern Managers."** (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, "Management Experts Knock Obama," [Politico](#), 12/31/13)
- **"Obama Came To Office With Less Executive Experience — Precisely None — Than Any President Since Gerald Ford."** "The critiques from these experts also raise a broader issue: Historically, the presidency is a political office, or, at its best, what Franklin D. Roosevelt called 'a position of moral leadership.' Just two modern presidents came to the office identified primarily with large-scale organizational achievements: Dwight D. Eisenhower in World War II and Herbert Hoover for leading European famine relief after World War I. Hoover's failure, in particular, damaged the notion that effective managers necessarily make effective presidents. It is also a fact, however, that Obama came to office with less executive experience — precisely none — than any president since Gerald Ford." (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, "Management Experts Knock Obama," [Politico](#), 12/31/13)

55 Percent Of Registered Voters Say The Obama Administration Has Not Been Competent In Running The Government, While 43 Percent Say It Has. ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 1487 RV, MoE 2.5%, 1/4 – 7/14)

- **50 Percent Of Registered Voters Say Obama Has Not Been Paying Enough Attention To What His Administration Is Doing, While 45 Percent Say He Has.** ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 1487 RV, MoE 2.5%, 1/4 – 7/14)
- **51 Percent Of Registered Voters Say Obama Does Not Have Strong Leadership Qualities, While 46 Percent Say He Does.** ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 1487 RV, MoE 2.5%, 1/4 – 7/14)