



# Fact Checking The DNC

*Team Obama Claims To Welcome Fact Checkers, But Tuesday's Speakers At The DNC Had Some Trouble With The Facts*

## DEMOCRATS TOUTED OBAMA'S ECONOMIC RECORD, MAKING A "DEBATABLE TALKING POINT...RIDICULOUS"

**THE CLAIM:** San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro: In The Last Four Years, "We've Seen 4.5 Million New Jobs." CASTRO: "Four years ago, America stood on the brink of a Depression. Despite incredible odds and united Republican opposition, our president took action. And now we've seen 4.5 million new jobs." (Julian Castro, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

**THE FACTS:** "Castro Takes A Debatable Talking Point From The Obama Campaign ... And Makes It Ridiculous." "Castro takes a debatable talking point from the Obama campaign—that 4.5 million private sector jobs have been created since February 2010 (a year after the president's stimulus bill was passed into law) – and makes it ridiculous." (Glenn Kessler, "Fact Checking The Opening Night Of The Democratic Convention," [The Washington Post](#), 9/5/12)

**"The Statement About Jobs Leaves Out Two Qualifiers: Castro Appears To Be Referring To Private-Sector Job Creation, Not Total Job Creation."** (Katy O'Donnell, Meghan McCarthy, and Sara Sorcher, "Fact-Checking The Democratic Speakers," [National Journal](#), 9/4/12)

**Castro's Number Referred To Jobs Created Since February 2010, Not When Obama Took Office In January 2009.** "He is also referring to the number of jobs created since Feb. 2010 when payrolls stopped shrinking – not to the total net job creation since President Obama took office in January 2009. Private-sector jobs grew about 4.5 million during that period, but that was partly offset by the loss of 543,000 government jobs, which meant net job creation for the economy as a whole was only about 4 million." (Katy O'Donnell, Meghan McCarthy, and Sara Sorcher, "Fact-Checking The Democratic Speakers," [National Journal](#), 9/4/12)

- **"There Are Still Fewer People Working Now Than When Obama Took Office At The Height Of The Recession."** "The figure of 4.5 million jobs is accurate if you look at the most favorable period and category for the administration. But overall, there are still fewer people working now than when Obama took office at the height of the recession." (CNN Wire Staff, "CNN Fact Check: About Those 4.5 Million Jobs..." [CNN](#), 9/5/12)

**Julian Castro Put A "Misleading Spin" On Jobs Data, As "Employment Is Still Below Where It Was When The President Took Office."** "Keynote speaker Castro also put a misleading spin on employment data. He claimed "we've seen 4.5 million new jobs" under President Obama. In fact, the nation has

regained 4.5 million jobs that had been lost, but employment is still below where it was when the president took office.” (“Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte,” [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)

- **“Moreover, If You Include All Jobs — Including The Hard-Hit Government Job Sector — There Remains A Net Decrease Of 316,000 Jobs Since The Start Of Obama’s Presidency.”** (“Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte,” [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)

**CNN’s Erin Burnett: “If You Actually Look At Other Jobs, Including Government Jobs, The Picture Is Actually Much Worse. In Terms Of Net Loss We Are Still 1.1 Million Jobs In The Hole Under This Administration.”** “The problem is, as we all know, there were many jobs lost. In fact, there were 5 million private sector jobs lost. So net jobs lost, private sector, 500,000. Now actually, again, private sector the crucial word, because if you actually look at other jobs, including government jobs, the picture is actually much worse. In terms of net loss we are still 1.1 million jobs in the hole under this administration.” (CNN’s America’s Choice: Democratic National Convention, 9/4/12)

- **CNN’s Tom Foreman: “We’re Looking At Selective Numbers To Begin With, But When You Look At The Jobs We Got Back, It’s Important To Remember, Some Of The Jobs That Were Gained In This First Administration, Or The First Term Here, Were Temporary Jobs.”** “Yeah, they’re not the same ones. We’re looking at selective numbers to begin with, but when you look at the jobs we got back, it’s important to remember, some of the jobs that were gained in this first administration, or the first term here, were temporary jobs. They were jobs that were spurred by stimulus money or maybe by census work, that sort of thing. They’re not jobs that lasted. They still counted as jobs. But more importantly, there have been surveys out there that have indicated that somewhere about 80% of the jobs that have been lost in this recession and afterward were middle- to high-wage jobs and about 60% of the jobs we’ve gained are low-wage jobs. So it’s not just that we lost jobs and got some jobs back, but the jobs we got back generally are not on par with the ones that we lost.” (CNN’s America’s Choice: Democratic National Convention, 9/4/12)

## DEMOCRATS’ MEDICARE CLAIMS EARNED TWO PINOCCHIOS

**THE CLAIM:** HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Claimed Paul Ryan’s Medicare Plan Would Cost Seniors \$6,400 A Year. SEBELIUS: “So, instead of the Medicare guarantee, Republicans would give seniors a voucher that limits what’s covered, costing seniors as much as \$6,400 more a year.” (Kathleen Sebelius, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS: The Associated Press Fact Check: “She Left Out Crucial Details In Describing The Romney-Ryan Medicare Plan.”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Tom Raum, “AP Fact Check: Some Obama Programs Embellished By Democrats,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

**The Washington Post’s Glenn Kessler: Sebelius’ Number Is An Estimate For An Old Version Of Ryan’s Plan.** “But there are some problems with that figure. First of all, it’s only an estimate. Second of all, it’s for the year 2022. But a bigger problem is that this dollar figure is an estimate for an earlier version of Ryan’s plan. He’s since changed it significantly to address some of the loudest complaints.” (Glenn Kessler, “Factcheck: Sebelius’ \$6,400 Number Has Issues,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/4/12)

- **Kessler: “That’s Two Pinocchios For The Democrats.”** (Glenn Kessler, “Factcheck: Sebelius’ \$6,400 Number Has Issues,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/4/12)

**Romney’s Plan “Doesn’t Eliminate Traditional Medicare As An Option, And The \$6,400 Figure Is An Estimate Of An Entirely Different Plan.”** “Could traditional Medicare become more expensive than the private plans? That’s certainly a possibility — the Medicare voucher seniors receive could fail to

cover the cost of purchasing the public option. And Romney does turn the plan from a defined-benefit to a defined-contribution, which substantially changes Medicare. But it doesn't eliminate traditional Medicare as an option, and the \$6,400 figure is an estimate of an entirely different plan." (Sarah Kliff, "No, Romney-Ryan Wouldn't Increase Medicare Costs By \$6,400," *The Washington Post's "WonkBlog,"* 9/4/12)

- **Their Plan Does "Not Apply To The Nearly 50 Million Current Medicare Recipients But To Future Retirees Who Would Join The Program Starting In 2023."** "It would not apply to the nearly 50 million current Medicare recipients but to future retirees who would join the program starting in 2023. Current beneficiaries could remain in the traditional program, while new retirees would get a fixed payment from the government that could be used either to purchase a private insurance plan or a new government program modeled on traditional Medicare." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Tom Raum, "AP Fact Check: Some Obama Programs Embellished By Democrats," *The Associated Press,* 9/5/12)

**Kathleen Sebelius And The SEIU's Mary Kay Henry Both Touted "Misrepresentations" Of The Romney-Ryan Medicare Plan.** "We once again heard misrepresentations of the Medicare plan that Romney and Paul Ryan have proposed. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and labor leader Mary Kay Henry both said the plan would cost seniors \$6,400, but that's a reference to an outdated Ryan plan, not the more generous one he, and Romney, now back." ("Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte," [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)

- **"Sebelius' Comment That Medicare Is 'Missing' From The Plan Is Also False."** "Sebelius' comment that Medicare is 'missing' from the plan is also false. Ryan's latest plan would keep traditional Medicare as an option even for younger Americans who won't turn 65 until 2023." ("Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte," [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)

**THE CLAIM: Tim Kaine Accused Republicans Of Wanting To Turn Medicare Into A Voucher System.** KAINE: "To pay for their plan, they'd slash middle-class tax breaks, raising taxes on the middle class. They'd turn Medicare into a voucher system. And rather than raise taxes on the wealthy by a single penny, they'd put thousands of defense jobs at risk. Let's be clear: That's not fiscally responsible. That's fiscally reckless." (Tim Kaine, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS: Ryan's Plan Is "Is Closer To A Premium-Support Plan, Since It Ties The Amount Of Money Seniors Will Get To Bids Offered By Health Insurance Plans."** "Using that definition, the latest Medicare plan from Republican vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan is closer to a premium-support plan, since it ties the amount of money seniors will get to bids offered by health insurance plans. The first Ryan Medicare proposal in 2011 would have tied how much seniors got for health care coverage to the consumer price index, making it more of a voucher plan. Democrats contend that under either plan, Medicare coverage will end up costing seniors more." (Katy O'Donnell, Meghan McCarthy, and Sara Sorcher, "Fact-Checking The Democratic Speakers," *National Journal,* 9/4/12)

## DEMOCRATS IGNORED THE FACTS ABOUT OBAMACARE

**THE CLAIM: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Claimed Insurance Companies Are Sending Rebate Checks To Employees.** SEBELIUS: "Instead of sending your checks to your insurance companies, your insurance companies are sending a check to you. ...If you already have health insurance you like, you can keep it." (Kathleen Sebelius, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS: "It's The Employer, Not The Worker, Who Gets The Check."** "Under the new health care law, insurers must issue rebates if they fail to spend at least 80 percent of premiums — Sebelius incorrectly said 50 percent — collected on medical care and quality improvement. But

mostly it's the employer, not the worker, who gets the check." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Tom Raum, "AP Fact Check: Some Obama Programs Embellished By Democrats," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

- **The Obama Administration Exaggerates The Number Of Families That Will Receive Rebate Checks.** "The Obama administration says that about 13 million people will benefit from health insurance rebates averaging \$151 per household. But the number of families actually getting a check will be much smaller, experts say." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Tom Raum, "AP Fact Check: Some Obama Programs Embellished By Democrats," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)
- **Employers Can Retain The Rebate Money Or Change Employees Health Care Plans Each Year.** "For one thing, employers can plow all the rebate money — including the worker's share — back into improving the company's health plan. For example, they could reduce the premium for the following year. Employers typically pay 82 percent of the premium for a worker, and 72 percent for a family plan. Most workers and their families are covered by job-based health insurance, and the new law does not stop employers from changing their plans from year to year, as they do now." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Tom Raum, "AP Fact Check: Some Obama Programs Embellished By Democrats," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

## DEMOCRATS DISTORTED ROMNEY'S RECORD AND POSITIONS

**THE CLAIM: Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick Claimed His State Was 47<sup>th</sup> In The Nation In Job Creation When Romney Left Office.** DEVAL: "In Massachusetts, we know Mitt Romney. By the time he left office, Massachusetts was 47th in the nation in job creation during better economic times, and household income in our state was declining. He cut education deeper than anywhere else in America. Roads and bridges were crumbling. Business taxes were up, and business confidence was down. Our clean energy potential was stalled, and we had a structural budget deficit. Mitt Romney talks a lot about all the things he's fixed. I can tell you Massachusetts was not one of them." (Gov. Deval Patrick, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS: Patrick's Characterization Of Romney's Economic Record Is "Especially Inaccurate."** "This is a common Obama campaign talking point, but Patrick's phrasing ('by the time he left office') makes it especially inaccurate. The 47th ranking is the average for Romney's entire term, when in fact Massachusetts started out at 50th place and ended up at 28th by the end of Romney term's [sic]." (Glenn Kessler, "Fact Checking The Opening Night Of The Democratic Convention," [The Washington Post](#), 9/5/12)

**THE CLAIM: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) Criticized Romney For Failing To Release His Tax Returns.** REID: "We can only imagine what new secrets would be revealed if he showed the American people a dozen years of tax returns like his father did.... Mitt Romney says we should take his word that he paid his fair share. His word? His word? Trust comes from transparency, and Mitt Romney comes up short on both." (Sen. Harry Reid, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS: Reid's Assertion That Romney Paid No Taxes Some Years Is "An Uncorroborated Claim That Romney Insists Is False."** "Reid has challenged Romney on his tax returns before, but this time Reid omitted an earlier charge that over the past decade, there were some years when Romney paid no taxes — an uncorroborated claim that Romney insists is false." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Tom Raum, "AP Fact Check: Some Obama Programs Embellished By Democrats," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

**THE CLAIM: Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland Accused Romney Of Investing In "Outsourcing Pioneers."** STRICKLAND: "Now, Mitt Romney, he lives by a different code. To him, American workers are just numbers on a spreadsheet. To him, all profits are created equal whether made on our shores or off.



That's why companies that Romney invested in were dubbed 'outsourcing pioneers.' Now, you know our nation was built by pioneers, pioneers who accepted untold risks in pursuit of freedom, not by pioneers seeking offshore profits at the expense of American workers here at home." (Ted Strickland, Remarks At Democrat National Convention, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS:** *The Washington Post*: "Ted Strickland Slams Mitt Romney For Outsourcing. But Obama Hasn't Fought Outsourcing, Either." (Dylan Matthews, "Ted Strickland Slams Mitt Romney For Outsourcing. But Obama Hasn't Fought Outsourcing, Either," [The Washington Post](#), 9/4/12)
- "Obama Hasn't Been Changing Multinationals' Practices Regarding Foreign Employment." "But it does indicate that Obama hasn't been changing multinationals' practices regarding foreign employment." (Dylan Matthews, "Ted Strickland Slams Mitt Romney For Outsourcing. But Obama Hasn't Fought Outsourcing, Either," [The Washington Post](#), 9/4/12)

**THE CLAIM:** Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn: Romney "Left His State 47th Out Of 50 In Job Growth, Added \$2.6 Billion In Debt And On His Watch, Government Jobs Grew Six Times Faster Than Private-Sector Jobs." QUINN: "Mitt Romney promised Massachusetts three things: more jobs, less debt and smaller government. Then he left his state 47th out of 50 in job growth, added \$2.6 billion in debt and on his watch, government jobs grew six times faster than private-sector jobs. What does Romney promise today? More jobs, less debt and smaller government. But he didn't do it then, and he won't do it now." (Gov. Pat Quinn, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS:** Quinn's Criticism's Of Romney's Massachusetts Record "Were A Stretch." "Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn went on the offensive, saying Romney had failed to deliver on campaign promises he made while running to become governor of Massachusetts. But some of Quinn's talking points were a stretch. We've covered some similar claims before. Let's start with the claim that Romney 'left his state 47th out of 50 in job growth.' That's a slightly different twist on a recurring Democratic attack line. It's true that over Romney's entire four years as governor, the state ranked 47th out of 50 states in percentage of job growth. But that's a four-year, cumulative number. The state's ranking actually improved while Romney was in office. In the 12 months before Romney took office, the state ranked 50th in job creation, and by his final year, the state ranked 28th. Quinn would have been more accurate to say Romney 'left his state' in 28th place, not 47th." ("Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte," [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)
- "A Democratic Governor Said Romney 'Left His State 47th Out Of 50 In Job Growth.' Actually, Massachusetts Went From 50th In Job Creation During Romney's First Year To 28th In His Final Year." ("Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte," [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)

## DEMOCRATS ENGAGED IN HISTORICAL REVISIONISM AND FACTUAL INACCURACIES

**THE CLAIM:** South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn Claimed Democrats "Created Social Security." CLYBURN: "When too many of our senior citizens were living their golden years in the darkness of economic insecurity, Franklin Roosevelt and Democrats created Social Security, lighting a candle while Republicans cursed the darkness." (Rep. James Clyburn, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS:** Rep. James Clyburn's Claims That "Democrats Created Social Security," Is "Exaggerated," As Congress Overwhelmingly Approved The Proposal With Bipartisan Support. "Rep. James Clyburn exaggerated when he said "Democrats created Social Security" without Republican support in 1935. The fact is, despite some early Republican opposition, Congress overwhelmingly approved the proposal with strong bipartisan support. And President

Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill into law within seven months of its introduction — in stark contrast to the protracted partisan battle over Obama’s health care law.” (“Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte,” [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)

- **“Rep. James Clyburn Engaged In Partisan Myth-Making...”** “Rep. James Clyburn engaged in partisan myth-making when he said ‘Democrats created Social Security’ while Republicans ‘cursed the darkness’ History records strong bipartisan support in both House and Senate for the measure President Roosevelt signed in 1935.” (“Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte,” [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)

## DEMOCRATS LEFT OUT CRUCIAL DETAILS ABOUT OBAMA’S EDUCATION POLICIES

**THE CLAIM:** North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue Praised Obama’s Education Programs And Said They Were Helping North Carolina’s Schools “Soar.” PERDUE: “This president’s education initiatives are helping North Carolina schools and schools across America soar. These investments are moving education reform and innovation and strengthening our nationally recognized early childhood education program.” (Gov. Bev Perdue, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS:** “Cuts In State Funding To Education Could Harm That Status.” “Perdue’s claim that the state has a ‘nationally recognized’ early-childhood program is true, but experts are warning that cuts in state funding to education could harm that status. The National Institute for Early Education Research found North Carolina was 19th in the nation when it comes to providing access to early-childhood education, but was one of the few programs that met all quality standards.” (Katy O’Donnell, Meghan McCarthy, and Sara Sorcher, “Fact-Checking The Democratic Speakers,” [National Journal](#), 9/4/12)

**THE CLAIM:** Castro Claimed Ryan Would Gut Pell Grants. CASTRO: “It’s a choice between a nation that slashes funding for our schools and guts Pell grants...Or a nation that invests more in education. It’s a choice between a politician who rewards companies that ship American jobs overseas...Or a leader who brings jobs back home.” (Mayor Julian Castro, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/4/12)

- **THE FACTS:** Castro’s Claim That Ryan’s Plan “Guts Pell Grants” For Students “Went Too Far.” “Castro could have said that Ryan’s plan would result in fewer students receiving Pell Grants, since the Wisconsin Republican does want to tighten eligibility requirements and limit the growth of the program. But Castro went too far in saying that the Republican plan ‘guts Pell Grants.’” (“Democratic Disinformation From Charlotte,” [FactCheck.Org](#), 9/5/12)