



# In Iowa, Obama's Magic "Has All But Faded"

## *Iowans Have Lost Faith In Obama*

While Campaigning In Dubuque, Iowa In 2007, Obama Said "We've Lost Faith" That Our Leaders "Can Or Will Do Anything" About Our Problems. OBAMA: "We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it." (Senator Barack Obama, [Remarks At The United Auto Workers Conference In Dubuque, Iowa](#), 11/13/07)

### IOWA HAS LOST FAITH IN OBAMANOMICS

**Increasing Unemployment:** Since Obama Took Office, Iowa Has Lost 11,000 Jobs. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 7/20/12)

- **Since The Stimulus Passed, Iowa Has Lost 2,800 Construction Jobs.** ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 7/20/12)
- **Iowa's Manufacturing Saw A 20 Percent Decline Over The Past Decade, With A Loss Of 51,000 Positions.** "Manufacturing, with the state's third-best-paying jobs at \$49,773, has eroded dramatically in Iowa. Jobs tumbled 20 percent over the past decade, a loss of 51,000 positions, based on annual averages." (Donnelle Eller, "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income," [Des Moines Register](#), 8/11/12)

**Tax Hikes:** Obama's Plan To Raise Taxes Would Cost Iowa 8,000 Jobs. (Drs. Robert Carroll and Gerald Prante, "Long-Run Macroeconomic Impact Of Increasing Tax Rates On High-Income Taxpayers In 2013," [Ernst & Young LLP](#), 7/12)

- **Obama's Plan To Raise Taxes Would Cost Iowa \$2 Billion In Lost Economic Output.** (Drs. Robert Carroll and Gerald Prante, "Long-Run Macroeconomic Impact Of Increasing Tax Rates On High-Income Taxpayers In 2013," [Ernst & Young LLP](#), 7/12)

**Shrinking Labor Force:** Since Obama Took Office, 34,920 People In Iowa Have Dropped Out Of The Labor Force. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/13/12)

**National Debt:** Since Obama Took Office, Iowans' Share Of The National Debt Has Increased By \$17,130.41. ([U.S. Treasury Department](#), Accessed 8/13/12; [U.S. Census Bureau](#), Accessed 8/13/12)

**Poverty:** Between 2008 To 2010, 35,588 More People In Iowa Fell Into Poverty. ("Poverty: 2007 And 2008,"

[U.S. Census Bureau](#), 10/11; "Poverty: 2009 And 2010," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 10/11)

**Food Stamps: Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of People In Iowa Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased By 44 Percent.** ("Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating," [Food Research And Action Center](#), Accessed 8/10/12; "Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating," [USDA Food And Nutrition Service](#), Accessed 8/10/12)

### *Four Years Later, Iowans Are Still "Working Harder For Less"*

**Median Household Income: Since 2008, Iowa's Median Income Has Fallen \$1,019.** ([U.S. Census Website](#), Accessed 10/17/11)

**Des Moines Register Headline: "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income."** (Donnelle Eller, "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income," [Des Moines Register](#), 8/11/12)

- **The Average Iowa Family Earned Less In 2010 Than It Did In 2000.** "Despite a decade of work, the average Iowa family earned less in 2010 than in 2000, based on state income data that have been adjusted for inflation." (Donnelle Eller, "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income," [Des Moines Register](#), 8/11/12)
- **Iowa's Median Annual Income Dropped From \$35,551 In 2000 To \$34,838 In 2010.** "Iowa's median annual income dropped 2 percent to \$34,838 in 2010 from \$35,551 in 2000, based on aggregated data from 1.3 million tax returns, provided by the Iowa Department of Revenue at the request of The Des Moines Register." (Donnelle Eller, "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income," [Des Moines Register](#), 8/11/12)
- **The Bottom 30 Percent Of Iowa's Low-Income Earners Median Income Fell 18 Percent Between 2000 And 2010.** "Iowa's low-income earners, the bottom 30 percent, saw their median income fall 18 percent to \$15,377 over the decade." (Donnelle Eller, "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income," [Des Moines Register](#), 8/11/12)
- **The Middle 40 Percent Of Iowa Earners Saw A 2.3 Percent Decline In Median Income.** "The middle 40 percent of Iowa earners, with a median income of \$38,499, experienced a 2.3 percent decline." (Donnelle Eller, "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income," [Des Moines Register](#), 8/11/12)

### *In 2007, Obama Said "We've Never Paid More" For College*

**College Debt: The Average Student Graduating From A Four-Year College Institution In Iowa Has \$29,598 In Debt.** ([Project On Student Debt](#), Accessed 8/13/12)

**Youth Unemployment: From 2009 To 2011, Iowa Unemployment For 20-24 Year Olds Increased From 10.7 Percent To 11.3 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/13/12; [Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/13/12)

### *Obama Also Said "We've Never Paid More For Health Care"*

**ObamaCare: The Heritage Foundation Estimates From 2014 To 2020, ObamaCare Will Cost Iowa An Additional \$120 Million.** (Edmund Haislmaier and Brian Blasé, "Obamacare: Impact On States," [The Heritage Foundation](#), 7/1/10)

**Steve Morency, Owner Of M.A. Ford Manufacturing: ObamaCare "Is Such A Mess" And The Uncertainty Of The Law Leads To A "Tremendous Apprehension To Push Forward."** "Morency said he is concerned about what he sees is a lack of direction, pointing to taxes and health care costs as big hurdles facing manufacturing companies. 'This health care plan is such a mess and we don't have a clue of what that will cost us,' he said. 'There is a tremendous apprehension to push forward.'" (Kurt Allemeier, "Quad-City Area Business Leaders Offer Their Advice To President Barack Obama," [Quad-City Times](#), 6/28/11)

**Craig Kinzer, President And General Manager Of Seaberg Industries: "Seaberg Insurance Costs**

Paid for by the Republican National Committee.  
310 First Street SE - Washington, D.C. 20003 - (202) 863-8500 - [www.gop.com](http://www.gop.com)  
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

**Have Increased Nearly 15 Percent Annually For The Past Several Years.”** (Kurt Allemeier, “Quad-City Area Business Leaders Offer Their Advice To President Barack Obama,” [Quad-City Times](#), 6/28/11)

- **Kinzer Expects Increased Costs And Reduced Coverage Due To ObamaCare.** “We expect to see more cost increase resulting from the new health care requirements,’ he said. Kinzer would like to see the scope of mandated coverage reduced or see the federal government work with small business in bearing the burden.” (Kurt Allemeier, “Quad-City Area Business Leaders Offer Their Advice To President Barack Obama,” [Quad-City Times](#), 6/28/11)

**Vermeer Corp. Said ObamaCare Will Cause The Company To Pay 15 To 20 Percent More For Health Care Costs.** “Federal health care legislation will cost Vermeer Corp. in Pella an extra 15 percent to 20 percent for health care, said Mary Andringa, the company’s CEO.” (Jennifer Jacobs and Adam Belz, “President Touts Jobs, Knocks Cynicism,” [Des Moines Register](#), 6/28/11)

## IOWANS HAVE LOST FAITH IN OBAMA’S ABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

### *“Obama’s Luster Has Dimmed In Iowa”*

**National Public Radio: “Obama’s Luster Has Dimmed In Iowa” After A National Recession And Divisive Health Care Battle.** “Five years, a national recession and a divisive health-care battle later, Obama’s luster has dimmed in Iowa. He’s now locked in a dead-heat battle with a candidate never fully embraced by state Republicans: GOP presidential nominee-in-waiting Mitt Romney.” (Liz Halloran, “Iowa, Key To Obama’s 2008 Win, Now Divided,” [NPR](#), 8/9/12)

**National Journal: In Iowa, “Obama Has Been Forced To Play Defense.”** “But in a clear sign of how the president’s fortunes have changed, Obama has been forced to play defense. A new NBC-Marist poll shows him tied with Romney, 44 to 44 percent, with one out of 10 voters undecided. No wonder Obama visited last week for the third time this year, and the Associated Press recently reported the campaign has already spent \$2.6 million in the state. (Advertising dollars go a lot further in Iowa than in more expensive states like Florida and Ohio.)” (Beth Reinhard, “Iowa At Center Stage, Again,” [National Journal](#), 5/31/12)

**The Associated Press: “The Iowa Magic That Launched Barack Obama To The Presidency Four Years Ago Has All But Faded.”** (Ken Thomas, “Obama’s 2008 Magic Past, Iowa All-Out Battleground,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/24/12)

- **Obama Has A “Vulnerability With Working-Class Voters.”** “Obama’s visit on Thursday to blue-collar Newton, Iowa, underscores his vulnerability with working-class voters, and the role that Iowa’s six electoral votes could play in what is expected to be a close election.” (Ken Thomas, “Obama’s 2008 Magic Past, Iowa All-Out Battleground,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/24/12)

**Obama’s Popularity In Iowa Has “Slipped Considerably.”** “Although Obama, a Democrat, won Iowa by more than 9 points in the general election four years ago, his popularity here has slipped considerably.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Romney At 46 Percent In Iowa, Obama 44 Percent, Rasmussen Poll Finds,” [Des Moines Register](#), 8/10/12)

**In Iowa, “County Leaders Agree, The Shaky State Of The National Economy Is Obama’s Biggest Vulnerability.”** “The unemployment rate in Iowa’s 12 hottest swing counties ranges from 3.7 percent (Carroll) to 7.5 percent (Hamilton). Across the board, county leaders agree, the shaky state of the national economy is Obama’s biggest vulnerability.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Campaigns Battle Over 12 Iowa Swing Counties,” [Des Moines Register](#), 8/5/12)

**Iowans Who Voted For Obama In 2008 Are Experiencing “Buyer’s Remorse.”** “Some of the once-euphoric Iowans who inspired the nation to embrace Barack Obama in 2008 are experiencing a deep-seated buyer’s remorse over their role in delivering the White House to a candidate they think has let them down.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Battling For Every Iowa Vote,” [Des Moines Register](#), 7/9/12)

- **“It’s A Discomfiting Hurdle For Obama.”** “It’s a discomfiting hurdle for Obama in a state he professes to have strong emotional ties with, that he won by a landslide four years ago, and that could prove pivotal this year for him or for Romney.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Battling For Every Iowa Vote,” *Des Moines Register*, 7/9/12)
- **Small Business Owner Debbie Smith: “I Wish To Have My Vote Back.”** “Take longtime Democrat Debbie Smith. Four years ago, she wore the Obama T-shirts, went to his rallies, made her first campaign contribution and caucused for the first time. ‘I wish to have my vote back,’ said Smith, 51, a small business owner from Clive. ‘I feel completely responsible, and I feel like I need to tell people this.’” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Battling For Every Iowa Vote,” *Des Moines Register*, 7/9/12)

**University Of Iowa Professor Tim Hagle: Democrats Support Obama “With Markedly Less Enthusiasm Than 2008.”** “‘Times have certainly changed,’ said University of Iowa political scientist Tim Hagle. Democrats still support Obama, ‘but with markedly less enthusiasm than 2008.’” (James Lynch, “Changing Iowa Political Landscape Challenges Obama Re-Election Efforts,” *The Gazette*, 7/10/12)

- **Iowans Lack Of Enthusiasm For Obama Is Because Of The High Unemployment.** “One explanation for their dearth of enthusiasm can be summed up by the news on the first Friday morning of each month: the unemployment report. Each lackluster economic report, like the one two days ago that pinpointed the jobless rate unchanged at 8.2 percent, reinforces the sense among Iowans that the country is on the wrong track.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Battling For Every Iowa Vote,” *Des Moines Register*, 7/9/12)