



# Obama's Show Council

## *Obama's Jobs Council Is Set To Expire This Week, But He Has Other Priorities*

**"Obama Has A Lot On His Legislative Wish List, And Democrats On Capitol Hill Do Not Want The White House To Get Distracted From The Top Issue On Voters' Minds: Jobs And The Economy."** "If President Obama does not reauthorize his job council this week, the move will likely spark criticism from Republicans and could disquiet some Democrats. Obama has a lot on his legislative wish list, and Democrats on Capitol Hill do not want the White House to get distracted from the top issue on voters' minds: jobs and the economy." (Niall Stanage and Amie Parnes, "Obama Faces Dilemma Over Jobs Council," [The Hill](#), 1/27/13)

### **OBAMA PROMISED HIS JOBS COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE A "SHOW COUNCIL"**

**SHOT:** Obama Boasted About "How Focused And How Hard-Working" His Jobs Council Was, Claiming That It Was Not A "Show Council." OBAMA: "One of the things that's been striking about this Jobs Council is how focused and how hard-working everybody has been around this table. This has not been a show council. This has been a work council. And because of the extraordinary commitments that each and every one of you have made, we have generated I think as good a set of proposals as we have seen coming out of the private sector to help to guide and steer our economic agenda and our approach to jobs and growth over the next couple of years." (President Barack Obama, [Opening And Closing Remarks By The President To The Council On Jobs And Competitiveness](#), Washington, DC, 1/17/12)

**CHASER:** Obama's Jobs Council Has Met Internally Only Four Times Since It Was Created Two Years Ago. ("Meetings Of The President's Council On Jobs And Competitiveness," [The White House](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

- **The Council Is Set To Expire This Thursday, January 31, Unless Obama Reauthorizes Its Mandate.** "Sec. 4. Termination. The PCJC shall terminate 2 years after the date of this order unless extended by the President." (Press Release, "Executive Order 13564 – The President's Council On Jobs And Competitiveness," [The White House](#), 1/31/11)

### **EVEN AFTER TWO YEARS OF SLUGGISH JOB GROWTH, IT IS CLEAR OBAMA CONSIDERS THE COUNCIL'S WORK COMPLETE**

**An Obama Aide Said The Jobs Council Was Originally Intended To Last Only Two Years.** "But doubt now hangs over the question of whether the council's original charter will be extended beyond its two-year term, with a White House aide telling The Hill that it 'was only intended' to last that long." (Niall Stanage and Amie Parnes, "Obama Faces Dilemma Over Jobs Council," [The Hill](#), 1/27/13)

- **“Obama Didn’t Have Anything To Say” In His Inaugural Address “About What His Reelection Campaign Said Was The Most Important Issue, Jobs.”** “Obama didn’t have anything to say Monday about what his reelection campaign said was the most important issue, jobs. Again, an inaugural address is not historically the place for that kind of programmatic detail. But, the economy is a key variable in the 10-year test — how will Obama’s speech be remembered a decade from now.” (John F. Harris and Alexander Burns, “Obama’s Big Risk: The Words He Didn’t Say,” [Politico](#), 1/23/13)

**Despite The Council’s Recommendation For Reduced Regulations, “Obama Is Expected To Pursue A Slew Of Mandates Via Regulations” In His Second Term.** “Among the council’s recommendations were to reduce government regulations. But in his second term, Obama is expected to pursue a slew of mandates via regulations, most notably on climate change. The council’s winding-down could be seen as emblematic of a shift in emphasis by the administration.” (Niall Stanage and Amie Parnes, “Obama Faces Dilemma Over Jobs Council,” [The Hill](#), 1/27/13)

- **Obama’s Pivot Away From Jobs To More Progressive Goals “Fuels Concerns Among Some Democrats That The White House Risks Looking As If It Has Taken Its Eye Off The Economic Ball...”** “While Obama fought his reelection campaign primarily on ‘kitchen table’ issues and a promise to strengthen the middle class, he has turned increasingly toward traditional progressive goals such as gun control, environmental protection and immigration reform in recent weeks. This, in turn, fuels concerns among some Democrats that the White House risks looking as if it has taken its eye off the economic ball in order to pursue more glittering liberal prizes.” (Niall Stanage and Amie Parnes, “Obama Faces Dilemma Over Jobs Council,” [The Hill](#), 1/27/13)

## **WHILE OBAMA PIVOTS AWAY FROM JOBS, AMERICA’S UNEMPLOYED LANGUISH**

**While Obama Stated That “An Economic Recovery Has Begun” In The Address, “Parts Of The Country Might Well Wonder If That’s True.”** “In the address, he declared, ‘An economic recovery has begun.’ Parts of the country might well wonder if that’s true. His ambitious goals — and the demographic and ideological dynamics that fueled his 2012 victory and make him so confident now — will be hobbled if the economy continues to limp in a second term as it did in the first. Words matter, as Obama knows well, but the way these words echo depends on some factors not fully within a president’s control.” (John F. Harris and Alexander Burns, “Obama’s Big Risk: The Words He Didn’t Say,” [Politico](#), 1/23/13)

**22.7 Million Americans Are Unemployed, Underemployed Or Have Given Up Looking For Work.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

- **The Number Of Unemployed Workers Is 12,206,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)
- **The Number Of Workers Working Part-Time For Economic Reasons Is 7,918,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)
- **There Are Currently 2,614,000 Unemployed Workers That Have Given Up Looking For Work.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**The Unemployment Rate In December Is Unchanged From That Of When Obama Took Office In January 2009, At 7.8 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

- **The Real Unemployment Rate, Including Those That Are Working Part-Time Due To Economic Reasons, Is 14.4 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**In December, The Number Of Unemployed Increased By 164,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

- **Since Obama Took Office, The Average Duration Of Unemployment Has Nearly Doubled From 19.8 Weeks To 38.1 Weeks.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**Since Obama Took Office, The Unemployment Rate For Women Has Increased From 6.9 Percent To 7.8 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

- **In December, The Unemployment Rate For Women Increased From 7.6 Percent To 7.8 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**Since Obama Took Office, The African American Unemployment Rate Has Increased From 12.7 Percent To 14.0 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

- **In December, The African American Unemployment Rate Increased From 13.2 Percent To 14.0 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of Workers Unemployed For 27 Weeks Or Longer Has Increased By 2,066,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of Discouraged Workers Has Increased By 334,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

- **In December, The Number Of Discouraged Workers Increased By 89,000.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**Since Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 994,000 Construction Jobs.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)

**Since Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 564,000 Manufacturing Jobs.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/28/13)