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Obama's Terrible Year In Review

A look back at the worst year in
Obama's Presidency.

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Obama's Terrible Year In Review

***The Washington Post's* Chris Cillizza In Naming Obama As Having The Worst Year In Washington: "When Historians Write The Story Of Barack Obama's Presidency, 2013 Will Be His Lost Year."**

"When historians write the story of Barack Obama's presidency, 2013 will be his lost year. It opened with great promise and closed with equally great disappointment. In a year that could have been about building his legacy, the president was instead reduced to salvaging the signature accomplishment of his first term." (Chris Cillizza, Op-Ed, "Worst Year In Washington," [The Washington Post](#), 12/13/13)

- **Obama Wasted A Year "Torpedoing" His Legacy.** "But 2013 is almost gone and with it the president's best chance for a lasting legacy. The damage done to Obama's brand will linger well beyond this calendar year. There are no second chances in presidential tenures. Barack Obama, for wasting a year torpedoing your legacy, you had the worst year in Washington. Congrats, or something." (Chris Cillizza, Op-Ed, "Worst Year In Washington," [The Washington Post](#), 12/13/13)
- **MSNBC's Chris Matthews: Obama Is The Political Loser Of The Year.** SCARBOROUGH: "Let me ask you, losers, political losers of the year. Who--" MATTHEWS: "Terrible, terrible year for the president." SCARBOROUGH: "Can you go back a year, one year ago, the president was getting ready for his second inauguration, so much hope." MATTHEWS: "There's another piece of it, which is getting out. It's not just a bad year in terms of the rollout. There's an erosion in interest. It feels like a very long presidency now. It feels like the seventh or eighth year of a presidency. It doesn't feel like the fifth. There wasn't that rejuvenation that comes with re-election. Certainly there never was going to be a honeymoon from the other side, but, there was no sense of wow and I think that's hurt him a lot." (MSNBC's "[Morning Joe](#)," 12/20/13)

OBAMACARE

THE OBAMACARE ROLLOUT MADE HISTORY

***Politico's* Jim VandeHei: "This [Obamacare] Has Been One Of The Most Flawed Rollouts In The History Of Mankind."** (MSNBC's "[Morning Joe](#)," 12/19/13)

The ObamaCare Launch Was "Rocky" As The Federal And State-Based Exchange Websites Experienced Glitches. "ObamaCare is off to a rocky start. State-based insurance exchange web sites scheduled to launch this morning were riddled with glitches, rendering many unusable." (Kate Pickert, "ObamaCare Exchanges Riddled With Glitches," [Time](#), 10/1/13)

Consumers Faced Long Wait Times And "Problems With The Application Process." "Early issues that some people are seeing include long wait times for accessing the site, problems with the application process and long waits to chat with customer service representatives online." (Jason Millman, "HHS: 'Aware' Of HealthCare.gov Issues," [Politico](#), 10/1/13)

- **"The Myriad Errors Underscore" The Challenges Facing ObamaCare Exchanges.** "The myriad errors underscore the challenge for federal health officials in mounting the online marketplaces, which are meant to enroll millions of patients in the next six months." (Elise Viebeck, "Technical Problems Mar Launch Of ObamaCare Exchanges," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 10/1/13)

In ObamaCare's First 24 Hours, Only Six People Enrolled For Health Care. "The website launched on a Tuesday. Publicly, the government said there were 4.7 million unique visits in the first 24 hours. But at a meeting Wednesday morning, the war room notes say 'six enrollments have occurred so far.'" (Sharyl Attkisson, "ObamaCare Enrollment Numbers Very Small, Documents Show," [CBS News](#), 10/31/13)

- **In The First 48 Hours, Just 248 People Were Able To Sign Up On The ObamaCare Exchange Website.** “By Wednesday afternoon, enrollments were up to ‘approximately 100.’ By the end of Wednesday, the notes reflect ‘248 enrollments’ nationwide.” (Sharyl Attkisson, “ObamaCare Enrollment Numbers Very Small, Documents Show,” [CBS News](#), 10/31/13)

OBAMA EARNED THE PRIZED “LIE OF THE YEAR” AWARD FOR HIS PROMISE THAT AMERICANS WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP THEIR HEALTH CARE PLANS

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)

The Washington Post’s Fact Checker: Obama’s Pledge That Americans Who Like Their Healthcare Plans Can Keep Them Was “One Of The Most Memorable Of His Presidency” And “Possibly Foolish.” “The president’s pledge that ‘if you like your insurance, you will keep it’ is one of the most memorable of his presidency. It was also an extraordinarily bold — and possibly foolish — pledge, unless he thought he simply could dictate exactly how the insurance industry must work. At the time, some observers noted the problems with Obama’s promise.” (Glenn Kessler, “Obama’s Pledge That ‘No One Will Take Away’ Your Health Plan,” [The Washington Post’s Fact Checker](#), 10/30/13)

- **The Washington Post’s Fact Checker Gives Obama’s Pledge 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)

5 Million People That Purchased Insurance On The Individual Health Insurance Market Have Received Cancellation Notices. “They said the widespread cancellations in the individual health insurance market — roughly 5 million and counting – are in line with what was projected under regulations drawn up by the administration in 2010, requirements that both insurers and businesses objected to at the time.” (Lisa Myers, “Insurers, State Officials Say Cancellation Of Health care Policies Just As They Predicted,” [NBC News](#), 11/15/13)

- **Obama In June 2009: “And That Means That No Matter How We Reform Health Care, We Will Keep This Promise To The American People: If You Like Your Doctor, You Will Be Able To Keep Your Doctor, Period. If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You’ll Be Able To Keep Your Health Care Plan, Period.”** OBAMA: “So let me begin by saying this to you and to the American people: I know that there are millions of Americans who are content with their health care coverage; they like their plan and, most importantly, they value their relationship with their doctor. They trust you. And that means that no matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American people: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. If you like your health care plan, you’ll be able to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what. My view is that health care reform should be guided by a simple principle: Fix what’s broken and build on what works. And that’s what we intend to do.” (President Barack Obama, Remarks To The American Medical Association National Conference, Chicago, IL, 6/15/09)

AMERICANS ARE SEEING THEIR HEALTH CARE COSTS INCREASE

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)

- **The Losers Under ObamaCare Are “Relatively Healthy Middle-Income Small-Business Owners, Consultants, Lawyers And Other Self-Employed Workers Who Buy Their Own Insurance.”** “If the poor, sick and uninsured are the winners under the Affordable Care Act, the losers appear to include some relatively healthy middle-income small-business owners, consultants, lawyers and other self-employed workers who buy their own insurance. Many make too much to qualify for new federal subsidies provided by the law but not enough to absorb the rising costs without hardship. Some are too old to go without insurance because they have children or have minor health issues, but they are too young for Medicare.” (Ariana Eunjung Cha and Lena H. Sun, “For Consumers Whose Health Premiums Will Go Up Under New Law, Sticker Shock Leads To Anger,” [The Washington Post](#), 11/2/13)

“Workers Are Seeing A Larger Portion Of Their Paycheck Sliced Off” Due To Higher Health Care Premiums. “That means that in many cases workers are seeing a larger portion of their paycheck sliced off to cover health insurance.” (Tom Murphy, “Health Insurance Costs Outpace Wage Gains, Survey Says,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/20/13)

“Average Premiums Increased 5% For Single Coverage And 4% For Family Coverage In The Last Year.” (“Employer Health Benefits; 2013 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 8/20/13)

- **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)
- **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)

WITH ALL OF ITS FLAWS, ITS NOT PARTICULARLY SURPRISING THAT AMERICANS HAVEN’T SIGNED UP FOR OBAMACARE IN DROVES

The Obama Administration Has Been Trying To Run From The 7 Million People Enrolled Goal They Made For ObamaCare’s First Year Enrollments. “Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius once described 7 million new ObamaCare customers in the first year as what ‘success looks like.’ The White House is now trying to affix another label to the estimate: meaningless.” (Carrie Budoff Brown and Jason Millman, “7 Million ObamaCare Customers,” [Politico](#), 12/11/13)

- **“For Months, The Obama Administration Embraced The Projection ... And Its’s A Steep Climb To Register 7 Million People By The March Deadline.”** “It might be too late. For months, the Obama administration embraced the projection by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office as a way to explain enrollment goals, boosting their political significance. But the broken HealthCare.gov website caused the program to lag far behind on signing up customers, and it’s a steep climb to register 7 million people by the March deadline.” (Carrie Budoff Brown and Jason Millman, “7 Million ObamaCare Customers,” [Politico](#), 12/11/13)

“The Administration Report Found A Total Of 137,204 People Enrolled In The States Served By The Federal Website By The End Of November, Up From 26,794 In October.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “ObamaCare Signups Still Only A Third Of Official Projections,” [The Associated Press](#), 12/11/13)

- **But Obama “Officials Estimated That 494,620 People Would Sign Up ... By October 31.”** “In the memo, officials estimated that 494,620 people would sign up for health insurance under the program by Oct. 31. And that was portrayed as a slow start.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Obama Health Target: 500,000 Signups By Oct. 31,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/16/13)

- **“The Memo Projected Enrollment Would Reach 3.3 Million Nationally By Dec. 31.”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Obama Health Target: 500,000 Signups By Oct. 31,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/16/13)

November’s Enrollment Numbers Are “Far Off The Pace Needed To Reach 7 Million.” “It’s also far off the pace needed to reach the 7 million total that officials had predicted would be signed up via federal- or state-run insurance marketplaces by the March 31 enrollment deadline for nearly all Americans to have some kind of health coverage or face a tax penalty.” (Dan Mangan, “364,682 Enrolled In ObamaCare Exchanges, Far Shy Of Goal,” [CNBC](#), 12/11/13)

- **“The Figures Also Illustrate Some Serious Problems Ahead.”** “But the figures also illustrate some serious problems ahead: there’s a huge backlog of consumers who have applied for a plan but not yet picked one, and electronic errors on the computer system’s backend may have left tens of thousands of enrollments in limbo.” (Devin Dwyer, “ObamaCare Report Card: Progress, But Long Climb Ahead,” [ABC News](#), 12/11/13)

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY ISSUED A SERIES OF DELAYS AND EXEMPTIONS TO ITS SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENT, AND THERE MAY BE MORE TO COME IN 2014

Since ObamaCare Was Enacted, The Obama Administration Has Unveiled “A Long List Of Extensions, Delays And Punts.” “On Thursday, the Obama administration gave customers permission to pay their premiums as late as Dec. 31 for coverage that starts Jan. 1, and officially gave customers an extra week — until Dec. 23 — to sign up for January coverage. The move was just the latest in a long list of extensions, delays and punts that have plagued the health care law.” (David Nather and Joanne Kenen, “Obamacare: One Punt After Another,” [Politico](#), 12/12/13)

- **The Administration “Keeps Giving Itself Extensions On Smaller Parts Of The Law, Because There’s Always Some Piece That Isn’t Quite Ready.”** “But piece by piece, the Obama administration keeps giving itself extensions on smaller parts of the law, because there’s always some piece that isn’t quite ready. It’s an attempt to put out fires — but it’s also a painful admission that, yes, there are fires.” (David Nather and Joanne Kenen, “Obamacare: One Punt After Another,” [Politico](#), 12/12/13)

An Obama Administration Official Didn’t Rule Out Additional Tweaking Of ObamaCare If Small Businesses Face Higher Costs Prior To The 2014 Midterm Election. “Next year, though, many of those small businesses will have to upgrade to health plans that comply with the new Obamacare rules. Unlike the canceled health policies which largely hit this fall, those changes will be spread throughout the year. But there will be a cluster of December renewals, industry officials say, and those small businesses will get the first look at their new prices in October — right at the height of an election that’s increasingly being framed as a referendum on the impact of Obamacare. ... But an administration official said the Obama team will be watching the small business situation closely as the time for those renewals approaches. ‘I think that’s something we’re going to take a hard look at and see if there are things that can be tweaked’ if there is a lot of disruption, the official said.” (David Nather, “Next ObamaCare Crisis: Small-Business Costs,” [Politico](#), 12/17/13)

- **ObamaCare’s Small Business Rate Hikes Are “Another Political Time Bomb Lurking That Could Explode” Before The 2014 Midterm Election.** “Think the canceled health policies hurt the ObamaCare cause? There’s another political time bomb lurking that could explode not too long before next year’s elections: rate hikes for small businesses. Like the canceled individual health plans, it’s another example of a tradeoff that health care experts have long known about, as the new rules for health insurance prices create winners and losers. But most Americans won’t become aware of it until some small business employees learn that their premiums are going up because of a law called — oops — the Affordable Care Act.” (David Nather, “Next ObamaCare Crisis: Small-Business Costs,” [Politico](#), 12/17/13)

SCANDALS

IRS TARGETING OF CONSERVATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Starting In March 2010, The Cincinnati Office Of The IRS Began Targeting Conservative Organizations That Sought Tax-Exempt Status, According To An Inspector General Report Released In 2013. “The targeting of conservatives by the IRS started earlier and was more extensive than the IRS acknowledged last week, according to a draft IRS inspector general report obtained by ABC News. As we reported on ‘Good Morning America’ this morning, the IRS began targeting ‘Tea Party or similar organizations’ in March 2010. That was when the Cincinnati-based IRS unit responsible for overseeing the applications for tax exempt status starting using the phrases ‘Tea Party,’ ‘patriots’ and ‘9/12’ to search for applications warranting greater scrutiny.” (Jonathan Karl, “IRS IG Report: Targeting Conservatives Began In 2010,” [ABC News](#), 5/13/13)

- **Cincinnati IRS Employee Gary Muthert Said His Office Began Targeting Tea Party Groups After His Local Manager Told Him “Washington, D.C. Wanted Some Cases.”** “The interview transcripts suggest it began with a search for tea-party groups by name among applications from groups seeking tax-exempt status. The Cincinnati employee who conducted the search, Gary Muthert, said he started gathering applications in March 2010, at the request of an unidentified local manager, who allegedly told him that ‘Washington, D.C., wanted some cases,’ according to the transcripts. Mr. Muthert first heard of tea-party applications from another Cincinnati employee. The cases were handed off to Ms. Hofacre the following month, according to the interviews, which were conducted jointly by the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. Both Republican and Democratic investigators participated in the interviews.” (John McKinnon and Dionne Searcey, “IRS Staff Cite Washington Link,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/5/13)

In March Of 2012, Then-Commissioner Of The IRS Douglas Shulman Denied That Conservative Organizations Were Being Targeted, Saying “There Is Absolutely No Targeting” Of Tea Party Groups At The IRS. IRS COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS SHULMAN: “First of all, I think it is very important to emphasize that all of these organizations came in voluntarily. They did not need to engage the IRS in a back and forth. They could have held themselves out, filed a 990, and if we would have seen an issue, we would have engaged, but otherwise, we would not. The basic rules around 501(c)(4) organizations are they need to be primarily engaged in promoting the common good and general welfare of their community. They can be involved in political and campaign activity, but it cannot be their primary purpose. When people apply for 501(c)(4) status, what we do is engage them in a number of questions about making sure we understand their primary purpose around this and other sorts of engagement. What has been happening has been the normal back and forth that happens with the IRS. None of the alleged taxpayers, and obviously, I cannot talk about individual taxpayers, and I am not involved in these, are in an examination process. They are in an application process, which they moved into voluntarily. There is absolutely no targeting. This is the kind of back and forth that happens when people apply for 501(c)(4) status.” (Douglas Shulman, Committee On Ways And Means, U.S. House Of Representatives, [Testimony](#), 3/22/12)

In May 2013, Lois Lerner, The Head Of The Division Responsible For Overseeing Tax Exempt Organizations, Invoked The Fifth Amendment And Refused To Testify On What Went On At The IRS Under Her Watch. “A top IRS official in the division that reviews nonprofit groups will invoke the Fifth Amendment and refuse to answer questions before a House committee investigating the agency’s improper screening of conservative nonprofit groups. Lois Lerner, the head of the exempt organizations division of the IRS, won’t answer questions about what she knew about the improper screening – or why she didn’t reveal it to Congress, according to a letter from her defense lawyer, William W. Taylor 3rd. Lerner was scheduled to appear before the House Oversight committee Wednesday.” (Richard Simon and Joseph Tanfani, “Top IRS Official Will Invoke Fifth Amendment,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 5/21/13)

NSA SPYING ON FOREIGN LEADERS

An Internal Review Showed The NSA Monitored At Least 35 World Leaders. “The National Security Agency ended a program used to spy on German Chancellor Angela Merkel and a number of other world leaders after an internal Obama administration review started this summer revealed to the White House the existence of the operations, U.S. officials said. Officials said the internal review turned up NSA monitoring of some 35 world leaders, in the U.S. government’s first public acknowledgment that it tapped the phones of world leaders. European leaders have joined international outrage over revelations of U.S. surveillance of Ms. Merkel’s phone and of NSA’s monitoring of telephone call data in France.” (Siobhan Gorman And Adam Entous, “Obama Unaware As U.S. Spied On World Leaders: Officials,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 10/27/13)

- **Obama May Have Gone As Long As “Five Years Without Knowing His Own Spies Were Bugging The Phones Of World Leaders,” Including German Chancellor Angela Merkel.** “The White House cut off some monitoring programs after learning of them, including the one tracking Ms. Merkel and some other world leaders, a senior U.S. official said. Other programs have been slated for termination but haven’t been phased out completely yet, officials said. The account suggests President Barack Obama went nearly five years without knowing his own spies were bugging the phones of world leaders.” (Siobhan Gorman and Adam Entous, “Obama Unaware As U.S. Spied On World Leaders: Officials,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/28/13)

MSNBC’s Mika Brzezinski Said The Notion That Obama Didn’t Know About The Merkel Affair Is “Embarrassing And Concerning.” BRZEZINSKI: “If the president doesn’t know this is happening. That’s sort of embarrassing and concerning.” (MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” 10/28/13)

Politico’s Maggie Haberman Said That It’s “Alarming” If Obama Did Not Know About The Merkel Affair. HABERMAN: “I think Mica’s point – that this is something – what is worse? That the president knew this or didn’t know this. And the idea that he doesn’t know about these things over and over again - I imagine people around him think it’s a better explanation domestically than saying he did know. That’s very hard for me to see how it’s a positive and how that sounds good to say. If it is true that’s alarming.” (MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” 10/28/13)

The New York Times’ Peter Baker Said The Notion That Obama Did Not Know Is “Disturbing.” MSNBC’s ALEX WAGNER: “First to talk about the news of the day, which has been a rolling months long news cycle, the Snowden leaks. In your time covering the White House, which has been several years, do you think it’s possible the president did not know the NSA was monitoring the personal phone calls of 35 world leaders?” BAKER: “Is it possible, sure, it is possible. That’s a disturbing fact in itself. And the President is left in this awkward position where neither of the two main explanations is all that -- you know, all that appealing.” (MSNBC’s “NOW,” 10/28/13)

DOJ ISSUING SECRET SUBPOENAS TO NEWS ORGANIZATIONS

In May, Americans Learned That Obama’s Justice Department Used A “Secret Subpoena” To Obtain Phone Records For Associated Press Reporters And Editors “Without Notifying The News Organization.” “The Justice Department used a secret subpoena tonization, a senior department official tells NBC News, saying the step was necessary to avoid “a substantial threat to the integrity” of an ongoing leak investigation.” (Michael Isikoff, “‘Nixonian’? The Justice Department Secretly Collected AP Reporters’ Phone Records,” [NBC News](#), 5/13/13)

- **The Justice Department Seized Phone Records For Five Reporters’ Cellphones, Three Home Phones, And Two Fax Lines.** “The Justice Department’s secret subpoena for AP phone records included the seizure of records for five reporters’ cellphones and three home phones as well as two fax lines, a lawyer for the news organization tells NBC News.” (Michael Isikoff, “DOJ’s Secret Subpoena Of AP Phone Records Broader Than Initially Revealed,” [NBC News](#), 5/20/13)

- **The Justice Department Obtained Records For 21 Phone Lines In Five AP Offices.** “David Schulz, the chief lawyer for the AP, said the subpoenas also covered the records for 21 phone lines in five AP office lines -- including one for a dead phone line at office in Washington that had been shut down six years ago. The phone lines at four other offices – where 100 reporters worked — were also covered by the subpoenas, Schulz said.” (Michael Isikoff, “DOJ’s Secret Subpoena Of AP Phone Records Broader Than Initially Revealed,” [NBC News](#), 5/20/13)
- **NBC’s Chuck Todd: “It’s Chilling ... They Owe Us An Explanation.”** TODD: “It’s chilling and I guess they owe us an explanation, but it’s absolutely chilling because the broad scope of what they subpoenaed in going after phone records.” (MSNBC’s [“Morning Joe,”](#) 5/14/13)

OBAMA HAS RECEIVED AN ABUNDANCE OF CRITICISM FOR STANDING ON THE SIDELINES DURING THE 2013 SCANDALS

“Obama Is Briefed Each Day On A Wide Range Of Domestic And International Issues, Yet When It Comes To Major Controversies, His Administration’s Response Is Often The Same: The President Didn’t Know.” “President Barack Obama is briefed each day on a wide range of domestic and international issues, yet when it comes to major controversies, his administration’s response is often the same: the president didn’t know.” (Jennifer Epstein, “Obama’s In-The-Dark Defense,” [Politico](#), 10/28/13)

- **“The Bottom Line Explanation In All These Instances Is The Same: President Obama Didn’t Know Any More About The Scandal Than The Ordinary Person On The Street...”** “The bottom line explanation in all these instances is the same: President Obama didn’t know any more about the scandal than the ordinary person on the street, and certainly wasn’t involved in decision-making processes — at least, not until long after potential problems arose.” (Jennifer Epstein, “Obama’s In-The-Dark Defense,” [Politico](#), 10/28/13)

The Washington Post’s Dana Milbank: “For A Smart Man, President Obama Professes To Know Very Little About A Great Number Of Things Going On In His Administration.” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “What Did President Obama Know And When Did He Know It?,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/28/13)

MSNBC’s Chris Matthews: “Every Time Something Gets Screwed Up Out There There’s A Sense He Might Not Actually Be Involved. I Don’t Think That’s The Way It Ought To Be.” MATTHEWS: “What he doesn’t seem to want to have is a chief executive strategy and a chief executive structure. He’s not only the professor in charge, not only the visionary in charge, he’s not only the foreign policy grand vizier, he’s in fact the chief executive of the United States government responsible, yes for the IRS and all the agencies under him. Maybe you consider that conceptual but it’s real and every time something gets screwed up out there there’s a sense he might not actually be involved. I don’t think that’s the way it ought to be.” (MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” 10/29/13)

MSNBC’s Mika Brzezinski: Obama “Is Increasingly Facing Accusations From All Sides Of Being A Mere Onlooker In His Own White House.” BRZEZINSKI: “It’s still unclear what exactly the White House knew and when. The President is increasingly facing accusations from all sides of being a mere onlooker in his own White House.” (MSNBC’s [“Morning Joe,”](#) 10/29/13)

FOREIGN POLICY

OVER ONE YEAR AFTER THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS, THE SUSPECTS STILL REMAIN AT LARGE

U.S. Officials Say Efforts Have Stalled To Capture Suspects Charged In The 2012 Benghazi Attack. “U.S. officials say efforts have stalled to capture about a dozen people secretly charged in the 2012 attack on the American compound in Benghazi that claimed the lives of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens

and three other Americans.” (Adam Goldman And Sari Horwitz, “U.S. Efforts Stall In Capturing Suspects In 2012 Benghazi Attacks, Officials Say,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/5/13)

- **So Far, No Suspects Have Been Brought To Trial And The Lack Of Progress Has Frustrated Intelligence Officials.** “So far, none have been brought to trial and the lack of progress in capturing Khattala has frustrated U.S. intelligence officials and lawmakers who want to see him and the others prosecuted.” (Adam Goldman And Sari Horwitz, “U.S. Efforts Stall In Capturing Suspects In 2012 Benghazi Attacks, Officials Say,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/5/13)

One Of The Suspected Ringleaders Of The Attack, Ahmed Abu Khattala, “Continues To Operate In Eastern Libya With Impunity.” “The individuals have been charged in sealed criminal complaints filed in federal court by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia. They include one of the suspected ringleaders of the attack, Ahmed Abu Khattala, a militia leader with ties to al-Qaeda, said several U.S. officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case publicly...One official said that Khattala continues to operate in eastern Libya with impunity.” (Adam Goldman And Sari Horwitz, “U.S. Efforts Stall In Capturing Suspects In 2012 Benghazi Attacks, Officials Say,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/5/13)

- **U.S. Official: Khattala Is “As Free As A Bird.”** “‘He’s as free as a bird,’ the official said.” (Adam Goldman And Sari Horwitz, “U.S. Efforts Stall In Capturing Suspects In 2012 Benghazi Attacks, Officials Say,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/5/13)
- **“Law Enforcement Officials Said That The United States Might Have Missed Its Best Chance To Arrest Khattala Earlier This Year.”** (Adam Goldman And Sari Horwitz, “U.S. Efforts Stall In Capturing Suspects In 2012 Benghazi Attacks, Officials Say,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/5/13)
- **“The Khattala Mission Was Scrapped, And Now Any Plans To Remove Him From Libya Are On The Back Burner.”** (Adam Goldman And Sari Horwitz, “U.S. Efforts Stall In Capturing Suspects In 2012 Benghazi Attacks, Officials Say,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/5/13)

Military And Law Enforcement Officials Have Been Frustrated By The Obama Administration’s Slow Efforts To Capture The Benghazi Suspects

Military And Law Enforcement Have Been Frustrated By The White House’s Unwillingness To Pressure The Libyan Government Or Make Arrests Of Benghazi Suspects. “Some military and law enforcement officials have grown frustrated with what they believe is the White House’s unwillingness to pressure the Libyan government to make the arrests or allow American forces to do so, according to current and former senior government officials. Mr. Obama acknowledged last month at a news conference that the suspects had been charged but were still on the loose.” (Michael S. Schmidt And Eric Schmitt, “Libya Thwarts Arrests In Benghazi Attack,” [The New York Times](#), 9/9/13)

- **Senior F.B.I. Officials “Believe The White House Should Be Pressing Harder For Arrests.”** “Several senior F.B.I. officials and members of the F.B.I. team based in Tripoli, Libya, who have been building the investigation for the past year believe the White House should be pressing harder for arrests. Among the decisions that the new F.B.I. director, James B. Comey, will be confronted with in the coming weeks will be how hard to lobby the White House to exert more pressure on the Libyans.” (Michael S. Schmidt And Eric Schmitt, “Libya Thwarts Arrests In Benghazi Attack,” [The New York Times](#), 9/9/13)
- **Former Senior Official: “There’s A Huge Frustration On The Issue Among The Agents About Why Nothing Has Happened To These Guys Who Have Killed Americans.”** “‘Whether he likes it or not, he is going to have to deal with this issue,’ said a former senior American official, referring to Mr. Comey. ‘There’s a huge frustration on the issue among the agents about why nothing has happened to these guys who have killed Americans.’” (Michael S. Schmidt And Eric Schmitt, “Libya Thwarts Arrests In Benghazi Attack,” [The New York Times](#), 9/9/13)

OBAMA’S SYRIA STRATEGY WAS MET WITH OPPOSITION ON ALL SIDES

“Barack Obama’s Unsteady Handling Of The Syria Crisis Has Been An Avert-Your-Gaze Moment In The History Of The Modern Presidency...” “Barack Obama’s unsteady handling of the Syria crisis has been an avert-your-gaze moment in the history of the modern presidency — highlighting his unsettled views and unattractive options in a way that has caused his enemies to cackle and supporters to cringe.” (Alexander Burns and John F. Harris, “The United States Of Weakness,” [Politico](#), 9/19/13)

According To Current And Former Officials, The Obama Administration’s Syria Policy Has Suffered Because Of A “Deeply Ambivalent President.” “A close examination of how the Obama administration finds itself at this point — based on interviews with dozens of current and former members of the administration, foreign diplomats and Congressional officials — starts with a deeply ambivalent president who has presided over a far more contentious debate among his advisers than previously known. Those advisers reflected Mr. Obama’s own conflicting impulses on how to respond to the forces unleashed by the Arab Spring: whether to side with those battling authoritarian governments or to avoid the risk of becoming enmeshed in another messy war in the Middle East.” (Mark Mazzetti, Robert F. Worth, And Michael R. Gordon, “Obama’s Uncertain Path Amid Syria Bloodshed,” [The New York Times](#), 10/22/13)

- **“The Administration’s Paralysis Left It Unprepared For Foreseeable Events Like The Aug. 21 Gas Attack.”** “But others are far more critical, saying that the administration’s paralysis left it unprepared for foreseeable events like the Aug. 21 gas attack. Decisive action by Washington, they argue, could have bolstered moderate forces battling Mr. Assad’s troops for more than two years, and helped stem the rising toll of civilian dead, blunt the influence of radical Islamist groups among the rebels and perhaps even deter the Syria government from using chemical weapons.” (Mark Mazzetti, Robert F. Worth, And Michael R. Gordon, “Obama’s Uncertain Path Amid Syria Bloodshed,” [The New York Times](#), 10/22/13)
- **“Even As The Debate About Arming The Rebels Took On A New Urgency, Mr. Obama Rarely Voiced Strong Opinions During Senior Staff Meetings.”** (Mark Mazzetti, Robert F. Worth, And Michael R. Gordon, “Obama’s Uncertain Path Amid Syria Bloodshed,” [The New York Times](#), 10/22/13)
- **“But Current And Former Officials Said His Body Language Was Telling: He Often Appeared Impatient Or Disengaged While Listening To The Debate, Sometimes Scrolling Through Messages On His Blackberry Or Slouching And Chewing Gum.”** (Mark Mazzetti, Robert F. Worth, And Michael R. Gordon, “Obama’s Uncertain Path Amid Syria Bloodshed,” [The New York Times](#), 10/22/13)

The Obama Administration’s Former Point Man At The State Department For Syria Is Now A “Furious Administration Critic.” “Frederic Hof spent President Obama’s first term as the State Department’s point man on Syria. He is now a furious administration critic, and a symbol of the growing consensus in the professional foreign policy community that the Obama Administration — no matter how its last-minute detour through Congress turns out — has badly bungled its Syria policy through two years of popular uprising turned bloody civil war.” (Miriam Elder, “What’s The Point Of Obama’s Syria Policy?” [BuzzFeed](#), 9/2/13)

- **Obama’s Strategy Is “Constitutionally Sound, But Strategically Appalling.”** “‘The results of this mystifying lack of preparedness have been abysmal,’ he wrote, calling Obama’s decision to seek congressional approval for the strikes ‘constitutionally sound, but strategically appalling’ and suggesting the White House find ‘an objectives-based strategy.’” (Miriam Elder, “What’s The Point Of Obama’s Syria Policy?” [BuzzFeed](#), 9/2/13)

Council On Foreign Relations’ Leslie Gelb: The Obama Administration Does Not Have A Serious Mideast Policy Or Syria Strategy. GELB: “I’ll do my best to be brief. The start of any effort to make sense out of what we’re doing in Syria is to have a serious Mideast strategy. We don’t have it. I just talked to the leaders of the nations in the area, and you’ll see that they’re confused and dismayed and their willingness to help us on Syria, to follow our lead on Syria, will depend in good part about our getting our act together in terms of dealing with Iran, Iraq, Arab-Israeli negotiations. These things all fit together in the real world.” (Leslie Gelb, [Hearing Statements](#), 10/31/13)

- **Gelb: We Have No Strategy In Syria.** “As far as Syria itself is concerned, we do have no strategy. I think all of you touched on that point very well.” (Leslie Gelb, [Hearing Statements](#), 10/31/13)
- **Gelb: “We Drew Red Lines And Then Didn’t Do Anything About Them.”** We drew red lines and then didn’t do anything about them, walked away from them. And now we’re in a position where it seems we’re just going to let this war drag on with terrible consequences that Fred Hof described and you know full well the horrors of it.” (Leslie Gelb, [Hearing Statements](#), 10/31/13)

DERAILED AGENDA

OBAMA BEGAN HIS SECOND TERM IN A CLOUD OF SCANDALS THAT THREATENED HIS AGENDA

The Outburst Of Controversies At The Start Of His Second Term Put A Damper On Obama’s Agenda. “An outburst of controversies threatens to swamp President Barack Obama's second-term agenda, while giving Republicans new opportunities to galvanize their base ahead of the battle for control of Congress in the 2014 elections.” (Peter Nicholas and Janet Hook, “Controversies Threaten President’s Agenda,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 5/15/13)

During A “Critical Moment” Of His Second Term, Obama “Had To Make Real Progress On His Second-Term Agenda And Thus Forge His Legacy.” “This was the critical moment, the brief time between his inaugural and when the nation's collective focus turns to whom his successor will be, when President Obama had to make real progress on his second-term agenda and thus forge his legacy.” (Frank James, “Controversies Risk Starving Obama’s Agenda Of Air,” [NPR](#), 5/14/13)

- **Instead Of Moving His Agenda Forward, Obama Was Mired In Controversies.** “Instead, the president finds his administration, the public, Congress and the news media distracted by controversies over Benghazi, the Internal Revenue Service’s targeting of conservative groups and a leak investigation in which the Justice Department secretly obtained months of phone records of Associated Press journalists.” (Frank James, “Controversies Risk Starving Obama’s Agenda Of Air,” [NPR](#), 5/14/13)
- **“The Result? Precious Time White House Officials And Other Democrats Hoped To Spend On Pushing The President's Goals Is Instead Being Spent On Damage Control, And With Dubious Effect At That.”** (Frank James, “Controversies Risk Starving Obama’s Agenda Of Air,” [NPR](#), 5/14/13)

Obama’s Second Term Scandals Reinvigorated Rifts In The Democratic Party

“It’s No Secret That Many Democratic Lawmakers Have Never Been Enamored Of President Obama.” “It’s no secret that many Democratic lawmakers have never been enamored of President Obama. He lacks schmooze, an element crucial to building relationships on Capitol Hill. It’s something he’s moved to remedy in the last few months, wining and dining senators in both parties ahead of critical votes on his second term agenda.” (“The Edge: For Obama, Relationships Would Help,” [National Journal](#), 5/15/13)

- **In The Wake Of Obama’s “Scandal Trifecta,” Democrats Have Not Hesitated To Condemn The Administration.** “But this week's scandal trifecta has made it pretty clear the charm offensive was too little, too late. Democrats didn't hesitate to condemn the IRS's mishandled tea party probing and the Justice Department's secret search of Associated Press phone records, all on the heels of the House inquiries into Benghazi.” (“The Edge: For Obama, Relationships Would Help,” [National Journal](#), 5/15/13)
- **Top Democratic Official: “POTUS Really Doesn’t Have Any Sway With Red-State Dems.”** “He will most likely get nothing on guns despite his vow after Wednesday’s Senate defeat that ‘this effort is not over.’ He will most likely get nothing more on a grand bargain to lift the economy. He stands a decent chance of getting an immigration deal. But as one influential Democratic adviser

told us, that's only because the president has largely stayed on the sidelines. 'POTUS really doesn't have any sway with red-state Dems,' said a top Democratic official close to the White House." (Jim VandeHei and Mike Allen, "Behind The Curtain: Obama, Boxed In," [Politico](#), 4/18/13)

- **"Democratic Senators, The Official Added, 'Won In States That POTUS Lost — Some By Huge Margins. Also, Even In Blue States, Many Democrats Ran Ahead Of POTUS.'"** (Jim VandeHei and Mike Allen, "Behind The Curtain: Obama, Boxed In," [Politico](#), 4/18/13)

THE FAILED LAUNCH OF OBAMACARE MARKED A "CATASTROPHIC TURN" FOR OBAMA'S HOPES TO IMPLEMENT HIS AGENDA

Obama's Fifth Year In Office "Took A Catastrophic Turn This Fall, When The Failed Implementation Of The Affordable Care Act Altered Long-Term Perceptions Of Obama As A Competent, Powerful And Trustworthy Chief Executive." "As for Obama, his fifth year certainly wasn't looking good between the endless partisan pie-fight with Republicans over the budget, the scandals involving the NSA and IRS, and the administration's tortured deliberations over the Syria crisis. But the year took a catastrophic turn this fall, when the failed implementation of the Affordable Care Act altered long-term perceptions of Obama as a competent, powerful and trustworthy chief executive." (Glenn Thrush, "The Reboot," [Politico Magazine](#), 12/17/13)

- **If Obama Fails To Move Beyond The "ObamaCare Debacle... He Might Never Be Able To Regain Footing."** "The next six months could be decisive: If the president can't move past the Obamacare debacle to reset the agenda through executive action and targeted legislative campaigns on climate change, immigration and the minimum wage, he might never be able to regain his footing. The West Wing also hopes Podesta can help restore Obama's slipping reputation as a president who can be trusted to run his own government competently. 'You always come in with the perspective that the best way to do things is to be an outsider in Washington, but governing is something insiders do, and that's what John does best,' says former White House press secretary Mike McCurry, who worked with Podesta when he was chief of staff in President Bill Clinton's second term. 'They needed him.'" (Glenn Thrush, "The Reboot," [Politico Magazine](#), 12/17/13)

The Failure Of ObamaCare Has Further Divided The Democratic Party

"Anger Among Democrats Over The Rollout Of ObamaCare Is Deep." "Anger among Democrats over the rollout of ObamaCare is deep. The third aide, who works for a senator up for reelection in 2014, said the White House had 's---t the bed.' Now, the staffer said, the president's sinking approval ratings are an additional problem." (Amie Parnes, "WH-DSCC ObamaCare Powwow," [The Hill](#), 12/5/13)

- **ObamaCare's Disastrous Rollout Has Left Democrats "Frustrated, Bitter And Angry."** "They are letting it be known that House and Senate Democrats are increasingly frustrated, bitter and angry with the White House over ObamaCare's botched rollout, and that the president's mea culpa in a news conference last week failed to soothe any ill will." (Amie Parnes, "Obama Hits New Low With Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 11/20/13)
- **"President Barack Obama's Credibility May Have Taken A Big Hit With Voters, But He's Also In Serious Danger Of Permanently Losing The Trust Of Democrats In Congress."** (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)
- **Democrats In Swing Districts Are Likely To Avoid Obama At All Costs.** "The White House hasn't indicated just how much Obama will help campaign for those who are up for reelection next year. The president, who has been attending a string of fundraisers in recent days — including a West Coast check-collecting trip this weekend — is expected to help lawmakers and both campaign committees throughout 2014. But as the healthcare problems continue to persist, lawmakers in swing districts aren't sure that's the best idea, especially because, according to one

Democrat, 'systemically you have what is a long-term problem.'" (Amie Parnes, "Obama Hits New Low With Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 11/20/13)

- **Even Blue State Democrats Facing Reelection Next Year Have Joined Red State Democrats To Distance Themselves From The ObamaCare Rollout.** "It's not just red-state Democrats, like Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, distancing themselves from the law. It's blue-state senators like Oregon's Jeff Merkley and New Hampshire's Jeanne Shaheen -- and top blue-state recruits like Michigan's Gary Peters and Iowa's Bruce Braley, who voted for GOP legislation Friday that the White House said would 'gut' the law." (Josh Kraushaar, "Why ObamaCare Is On Life Support," [National Journal](#), 11/18/13)

POLLS

OBAMA ENDS THE FIFTH YEAR OF HIS PRESIDENCY ON A LOW NOTE

According To A CNN/ORC International Poll, Obama's Approval Ratings Fell 14 Percentage Points Over The Course Of The Year. "Fourteen points. That's how far President Barack Obama's poll numbers fell in CNN polling over the course of what's been an especially tough year. Obama's approval rating stands at 41% in a new CNN/ORC International survey released Friday, which matches the all-time low he fell to in CNN polling just last month. The President's disapproval rating remains unchanged at 56%, which is an all-time high in CNN surveys. In the afterglow of his 2012 re-election victory, Obama's rating stood at 55% in CNN polling in January. That number ranged from the upper 40s to the low 50s through May in CNN and most other national polling, but steadily declined in the following months as Obama dealt with one controversy after another, from NSA surveillance and IRS targeting of political groups to the disastrous startup of HealthCare.gov and the controversy over millions of Americans being told they would lose their current insurance plans because they didn't meet standards mandated by the new health care law." (Paul Steinhauser, "President Ends Year At All-Time CNN Polling Low," [CNN](#), 12/20/13)

According To A Washington Post-ABC News Poll, Obama Ends The Fifth Year Of His Presidency Matching The Worst Public Approval Ratings Of His Presidency. "President Obama is ending his fifth year in office matching the worst public approval ratings of his presidency, with record numbers of Americans saying they disapprove of his job performance and his once-hefty advantages over Republicans in Congress eroded in many areas, according to a new *Washington Post*-ABC News Poll." (Dan Balz and Scott Clement, "Obama Suffers Most From Year Of Turmoil, Poll Finds," [The Washington Post](#), 12/16/13)

- **Obama's Fifth Year Approval Rating Is Lower Than Almost All Other Recent Two-Term Presidents.** "Obama ends his fifth year in office with lower approval ratings than almost all other recent two-term presidents. At this point in 2005, for example, former president George W. Bush was at 47 percent positive, 52 percent negative." (Dan Balz and Scott Clement, "Obama Suffers Most From Year Of Turmoil, Poll Finds," [The Washington Post](#), 12/16/13)
- **55 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama's Job Performance, While Just 43 Approve.** ([The Washington Post-ABC Poll](#), 1,005 A, MoE 3.5%, 12/12-15/13)

AP-GfK Poll: "President Barack Obama's Approval Rating Was Negative: 58 Percent Disapprove Of The Job He's Doing As President, While 42 Percent Approve." (Charles Babington and Jennifer Agiesta, "AP-GfK Poll: Low Approval Of Congress, Obama," [The Associated Press](#), 12/11/13)

- **Just 14 Percent "Strongly" Approve, While 32 Percent "Strongly" Disapprove.** ([AP-GfK Poll](#), 1367A, MoE 3.5% 12/5-9/13)

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll: 54 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama's Job Performance - The Highest Proportion For The Poll - While Just 43 Percent Approve. "Both personally and professionally Americans have downgraded their assessments of Mr. Obama in ways that complicate his ability to push through his policies, the survey shows. Most conspicuous lately have been

the problems with the rollout of the new health care law, which compounded damage earlier from controversies over the National Security Agency surveillance programs and the Internal Revenue Service. The result: Mr. Obama's approval rating stands at just 43 percent, while 54 percent disapprove of his performance—the highest proportion of his presidency. Mr. Obama's standing, 52 percent in January following his Nov. 2012 re-election, has edged down all year.” (John Harwood, “Obama Suffered During First Year Of Second Term: Poll,” [CNBC](#), 12/11/13)

Quinnipiac University Poll: “Obama’s Job Approval Among Voters Has Dropped To A New Low, A Negative 38-57 Percent.” “President Barack Obama's job approval among American voters drops to a new low, a negative 38 - 57 percent, as the outlook for Democrats running for Congress and the U.S. Senate fades also, according to a national poll released today.” ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 2692 RV, MoE 1.9%, 12/3-9/13)

McClatchy-Marist Poll: “Obama’s Disapproval Rating Climbed To 53 Percent – The Worst In 29 Polls Since He Took Office In January 2009.” “Obama’s disapproval rating climbed to 53 percent – the worst in 29 polls since he took office in January 2009 – while 43 percent approved of his job performance. The disapproval number was up sharply from the 47 percent reading in September and tops the previous high of 52 percent in September 2011.” (David Lightman, “McClatchy-Marist Poll: Obama Gets Worst Ratings Of His Presidency,” [McClatchy News](#), 12/9/13)

- **52 Percent Of Americans Have An Unfavorable Impression Of Obama, The “Worst He’s Endured.”** “Obama’s personal ratings were also down. By 52 percent to 46 percent, people had an unfavorable impression of him, the first time since November 2011 the negative number was higher. The unfavorable number was also the worst he’s endured.” (David Lightman, “McClatchy-Marist Poll: Obama Gets Worst Ratings Of His Presidency,” [McClatchy News](#), 12/9/13)

OBAMA HAS LOST GROUND AMONG ONE OF HIS CORE CONSTITUENCIES

USA Today/Pew Research Center Poll: Based On His Approval Ratings, Obama “Appears To Have Nearly As Much Work To Do With Young People As He Does With Older Americans.” “Millennials have provided invaluable political support to President Obama over the course of his presidency, voting for him by a roughly 2-to-1 margin in his two successful campaigns against Mitt Romney and John McCain. But as Obama tries to climb out of a 2-month-long malaise that saw his popularity sink with the fumbled rollout of the federal health care exchange, the president appears to have nearly as much work to do with young people as he does with older Americans.” (Aamer Madhani And Jim Norman, “USA Today/Pew Poll: Obama Struggles With Millennials,” [USA Today](#), 12/15/13)

- **“Forty-Five Percent Of 18- To 29-Year-Old Americans Say They Approve Of The Way Obama Is Handling His Job; 46% Disapprove Of His Job Performance, According To A Year-End USA TODAY/Pew Research Center Poll.”** (Aamer Madhani And Jim Norman, “USA Today/Pew Poll: Obama Struggles With Millennials,” [USA Today](#), 12/15/13)

A Harvard Poll Shows That America’s Young People “Are Disillusioned With Obama’s Tenure” And Disapprove Of His Handling Of The Country’s Major Issues. “The wide-ranging poll of 18- to 29-year-olds, released Wednesday morning by Harvard’s Institute of Politics, found that America’s young people are disillusioned with Obama’s tenure in office and disapprove of his handling of the country’s major issues.” (Emily Schultheis, “Poll: Millennials Disillusioned With President Obama,” [Politico](#), 12/4/13)

- **“Young People Helped Elect President Obama In 2008 And 2012, But They’re Giving Him Low Marks Now.”** (Emily Schultheis, “Poll: Millennials Disillusioned With President Obama,” [Politico](#), 12/4/13)
- **“While 55 Percent Said They Voted For Obama In 2012, Only 46 Percent Said They Would Do So Again.”** (Ron Fournier, “Millennials Abandon Obama And Obamacare,” [National Journal](#), 12/4/13)
- **“Fifty-Four Percent Of Those Surveyed Disapprove Of Obama’s Job Performance, Compared With 41 Percent Who Approve.”** “Fifty-four percent of those surveyed disapprove of Obama’s

job performance, compared with 41 percent who approve. Those numbers are an 11-point drop from Harvard's survey in spring 2013, and almost the opposite of its fall 2009 poll, when 58 percent of young people approved and 39 percent disapproved." (Emily Schultheis, "Poll: Millennials Disillusioned With President Obama," [Politico](#), 12/4/13)

ABC News/The Washington Post Poll: Among Young Adults, Obama's Job Approval Rating Has Dropped 23 Points, "His Steepest Loss In Any Group." "At the same time, there's also one core support group in which Obama is hurting – young adults, a group he won by an historic margin in 2008, and strongly again in 2012. The president's overall approval rating has lost 23 points among adults age 18 to 29 since January, his steepest loss in any group." (Gary Langer, "Botched ACA Rollout Hammers Obama; Job Disapproval Reaches A Career High," [ABC News](#), 11/19/13)

OBAMA'S SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENT REMAINS A DRAG ON DEMOCRATS

The Washington Post/ABC Poll: A Majority Of Americans Don't Approve Of Obama's Handling Of ObamaCare's Implementation. "The White House has declared that the health-care Web site is working better now, but perceptions of it as a flawed system persist. More than six in 10 Americans say the Web site is not working as it should be and more than half say that is a sign of broader problems for the implementation of the program. Six in 10 say the problems are serious enough that the administration should delay the requirement that all Americans have health insurance." (Dan Balz and Scott Clement, "Obama Suffers Most From Year Of Turmoil, Poll Finds," [The Washington Post](#), 12/16/13)

- **A Majority Of Americans, 62 Percent, Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of His New Healthcare Law.** ([Washington Post-ABC Poll](#), 1,005 A, MoE 3.5%, 12/12-12/15)
- **Only 19 Percent Believe Healthcare In America Is Getting Better Due To ObamaCare While More Than Twice As Many, 47 Percent, Believe It Has Gotten Worse.** ([Washington Post-ABC Poll](#), 1,005 A, MoE 3.5%, 12/12-12/15)

AP-GfK Poll: 61 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of The Way Obama Is Handling Healthcare, While 39 Percent Approve. ([AP-GfK Poll](#), 1367 A, MoE 3.5%, 12/5-9/13)

Quinnipiac University Poll: 62 Percent Of Voters Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of Health Care, While 34 Percent Approve. ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 2692 RV, MoE 1.9%, 12/3-9/13)

NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll: Just 34 Percent Of Americans Believe ObamaCare Is A Good Idea, While 50 Percent Say It's A "Bad Idea" – The Highest Measure For The Poll. "Only 34 percent believe the health law is a good idea (down 3 points from late October), while 50 percent say it's a bad idea (the highest percentage on that measure since the NBC/WSJ poll began asking this question)." (Mark Murray, "NBC/WSJ Poll: Obama Ends Year On Low Note," [NBC News](#), 12/10/13)

Pew Research/USA Today Poll: 54 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of ObamaCare, While 41 Percent Approve. ([Pew Research/USA Today Poll](#), 2001A, MoE 2.6%, 12/3-8/13)

Pew Research/ USA Today Poll: 50 Percent Of Americans Say The Failure Of ObamaCare's Launch Shows "Fundamental Flaws In The Law" While 44 Percent Say The Problems Can Be Fixed. "The public is divided over whether the law's problems can be fixed: 44% say the health care law has faced short-term problems that can be resolved, while 50% say the problems show 'fundamental flaws in the law.'" ([Pew Research/USA Today Poll](#), 2001A, MoE 2.6%, 12/3-8/13)

- **Pew Research/USA Today Poll: 55 Percent Of Americans Say "Flaws In The Law Itself" Is A "Major Reason" For The ObamaCare Problems, While 27 Percent Say It Is A "Minor Reason" And Just 12 Percent Say It Is "Not A Reason."** ([Pew Research/USA Today Poll](#), 2001A, MoE 2.6%, 12/3-8/13)

- **Pew Research/*USA Today* Poll: 56 Percent Of Americans Say “Poor Management By The Obama Administration” Is A “Major Reason” For The ObamaCare Problems, While 26 Percent Say It Is A “Minor Reason” And Just 13 Percent Say It Is “Not A Reason.”** ([Pew Research/USA Today Poll](#), 2001A, MoE 2.6%, 12/3-8/13)

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