



PROMISESMADE|PROMISESBROKEN

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO
CANDIDATE OBAMA'S DEBATE PROMISES

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES BROKEN

Obama's Broken Debate Promises

During the 2008 presidential debates, then-Senator Barack Obama promised the American people to solve the nation's problems, unite the country, and take us toward a better future.

These were not vague promises. He outlined a number of actions and policy positions he would take, and he vowed specific, tangible results.

Obama's promises addressed nearly every issue relevant to this election. They range from the everyday concerns of middle-class Americans like lowering the cost of health insurance to the national hope of changing the way Washington works.

Despite his lofty rhetoric, the president has not met the very standards he set for himself. And America's still waiting for hope and change.

Whatever the issue, Barack Obama has failed to keep his promises to the American people, and the nation has paid a heavy price.

[Broken Promises: Spending](#)

[Broken Promises: Changing Washington](#)

[Broken Promise: College Costs](#)

[Broken Promises: Energy](#)

[Broken Promises: Foreign Policy](#)

[Broken Promises: Health Care](#)

[Broken Promise: Housing](#)

[Broken Promise: Not Raising Taxes On The Middle Class](#)

Broken Promises: Spending

NET SPENDING CUT

PROMISE: Obama Repeatedly Promised A Net Spending Cut By Going “Line By Line” Through The Federal Budget, Eliminating Programs That Don’t Work

Obama Said That His Plan Was “Cutting More Than I’m Spending So That It Will Be A Net Spending Cut.” OBAMA: “And what I’ve proposed, you’ll hear Senator McCain say, well, he’s proposing a whole bunch of new spending, but actually I’m cutting more than I’m spending so that it will be a net spending cut.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

- **Obama: “Now, What I’ve Done Throughout This Campaign Is To Propose A Net Spending Cut.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)
- **Obama: “Every Dollar That I’ve Proposed, I’ve Proposed An Additional Cut So That It Matches.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

Obama Said That He Would “Eliminate A Whole Host Of Programs That Don’t Work.” OBAMA: “We need to eliminate a whole host of programs that don’t work. And I want to go through the federal budget line by line, page by page, programs that don’t work, we should cut. Programs that we need, we should make them work better.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

- **Obama: “We’ve Got To Eliminate Programs That Don’t Work, And We’ve Got To Make Sure That The Programs That We Do Have Are More Efficient And Cost Less.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

Obama Said As President “I Will Go Line By Line To Make Sure We Are Not Spending Money Unwisely.” OBAMA: “But let’s go back to the original point. John, nobody is denying that \$18 billion is important. And, absolutely, we need earmark reform. And when I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

- **Obama: “I Want To Go Line By Line Through Every Item In The Federal Budget And Eliminate Programs That Don’t Work And Make Sure That Those That Do Work, Work Better And Cheaper.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

BROKEN: Obama Has Racked Up Four Trillion Dollar Deficits And Increased Spending By 20 Percent

***The Washington Times*: “Far From Keeping His Promise, This Is The Largest Peacetime Increase Ever In Government Spending.”** (Editorial, “Obama’s Record Of Broken Promises,” [The Washington Times](#), 1/19/10)

Federal Outlays Have Increased By 20.4 Percent Since Obama Took Office. The federal government spent \$3.1 trillion in FY2008 in inflation adjusted dollars. Under Obama, in FY2012 the federal government spent \$3.8 trillion dollars. (“Table 1.3 – Summary Of Receipts, Outlays And Surpluses Or Deficits In Current Dollars, Constant (FY2005) Dollars, And As Percentages Of GDP: 1940-2016,” [Office Of Management And Budget](#), Accessed 4/12/12; “Budget Of The United States Government, Fiscal Year 2013,” [Office Of Management And Budget](#), 2/13/12)

- **Obama Proposed FY2013 Budget Calls For Increasing Government Spending Well Above Historical Norms.** From 1969 To 2008 The Federal Government Spent An Average Of 20.6 Percent Of GDP, Obama's Proposed FY2013 Budget Calls For Spending 22.8 Percent Of GDP By FY2022. ("Table 1.2 – Summary Of Receipts, Outlays And Surpluses Or Deficits As Percentages Of GDP: 1930-2016," [Office Of Management And Budget](#), Accessed 4/12/12; "Budget Of The United States Government, Fiscal Year 2013," [Office Of Management And Budget](#), 2/13/12)

"This Is The Fourth Straight Year That The Deficit Will Exceed One Trillion Dollars, All Under President Obama." (Erik Wasson, "CBO Says 2012 Deficit Has Reached \$1.17T," [The Hill](#), 9/10/12)

- **Obama Had Already Racked Up The Three Largest Deficits In U.S. History.** "The U.S budget deficit for fiscal year 2011 is \$1.299 trillion, the second largest shortfall in history. The nation only ran a larger deficit for the 2009 fiscal year, which included the dramatic collapse of financial markets and a huge bailout effort by the government." (Erik Wasson, "Treasury Announces 2011 Deficit Is Second Highest In History," [The Hill's "On The Money"](#), 10/14/11)

Congressional Budget Office: The Deficit So Far This Fiscal Year Has Reached \$1.17 Trillion. "CBO estimates in its Monthly Budget Review that the Treasury Department will report a deficit of \$1.17 trillion for the first 11 months of fiscal year 2012, almost \$70 billion less than the deficit at the same point last year." ("Monthly Budget Review," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/10/12)

- **FY2009: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.413 Trillion, The Highest In U.S. History.** ("Monthly Budget Review: November 2011," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2010: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.294 Trillion, The Third Highest In U.S. History.** ("Monthly Budget Review: November 2011," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2011: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.299 Trillion, The Second Highest In U.S. History.** ("Monthly Budget Review: November 2011," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2012: The OMB Predicts The Deficit Will Be \$1.211 Trillion, The Fourth Highest In U.S. History.** (Office Of Management & Budget, "Mid-Session Review: FY2013," [The White House](#), 7/27/12)

ENTITLEMENT REFORM

PROMISE: Obama Said That He Would Take On Entitlements In His First Term As President

Obama Said "We're Going To Have To Take On Entitlements ... I'd Like To Do In The First Term As President." OBAMA: "Well, Tom, we're going to have to take on entitlements and I think we've got to do it quickly. We're going to have a lot of work to do, so I can't guarantee that we're going to do it in the next two years, but I'd like to do in the my first term as president." (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

BROKEN: Treasury Secretary Geithner Admitted That The President Does Not Have A Plan To Reform Entitlements

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner Admitted The Administration Doesn't Have A Plan To Fix The Explosion Of The Federal Entitlement Programs. REP. PAUL RYAN:

“Because we got 10,000 people retiring every day, and healthcare costs going up...”
TREASURY SECRETARY TIMOTHY GEITHNER: “That’s right. We have millions of Americans retiring every day, and that will drive substantially the rate of growth of healthcare costs. You are right to say we’re not coming before you today to say we have a definitive solution to that long-term problem. What we do know is, we don’t like yours.” ([Committee On The Budget](#), U.S. House Of Representatives, 2/16/12)

MAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS

PROMISE: Obama Said That As President He Would Have To Make Tough Decision To Get Our Finances Into Balance

Obama: “And Because Of The Economy’s Slowing Down, I Think We Can Also Expect Less Tax Revenue So There’s No Doubt That As President I’m Go Doing Have To Make Some Tough Decision.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

BROKEN: Obama Has Avoided Tough Decisions On The Budget

President Obama “Has Been All-Too-Willing To Avoid Making Tough Decisions.” “One of President Obama’s political weaknesses in his first term has been that he’s all-too-willing to avoid making tough decisions, hesitant to expend political capital for potential long-term gain. Throughout his first term in office, he’s had a cautious governing style, and has avoided taking on some of his party’s core constituencies.” (Josh Kraushaar, “Obama Trying To Have It Both Ways,” [National Journal](#), 11/30/11)

- ***Los Angeles Times*: Obama “Offers No Real Solution To The United State’s Long-Term Fiscal Problems.”** “The day after the Greek Parliament approved another round of deep spending cuts in the face of violent protests, President Obama released a budget proposal for the coming fiscal year that offers no real solution to the United States’ long-term fiscal problems.” (Editorial, “What About The U.S. Debt?” [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/14/12)
- ***The Washington Post*: “The Final Budget Of His First Term Does Not Reflect The Leadership On Issues Of Debt And Deficit That Mr. Obama Once Vowed.”** (Editorial, “Obama’s Budget Falls Short, But It Beats Many Alternatives,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/13/12)

RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING

PROMISE: Obama Said That Washington Would Set An Example For The American People About How To Manage Their Budgets And Borrow Responsibly

Obama Said That The Government Could Set An Example By Not Running Up So Much Debt So That People Don’t Think “Well You Know What? There’s Easy Money Out There.” QUESTIONER: “How would you, as president, try to break those bad habits of too much debt and too much easy credit, specifically, across the board, for this country, not just at the federal level, but as a model for the rest of the country, as well?” OBAMA: “Well, I think it starts with Washington. We’ve got to show that we’ve got good habits, because if we’re running up trillion dollar debts that we’re passing on to the next generation, then a lot of people are going to think, ‘Well, you know what? There’s easy money out there.’” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

- **Obama Said That Everyone, Including The Government, Needed To “Embrace A Culture And An Ethic Of Responsibility” When It Comes To “Living Beyond [Our] Means.”** OBAMA: “But what is absolutely true is that, once we get through this economic crisis and some of the specific proposals to get us out of this slump, that we’re not going to be able to go back to our profligate ways. And we’re going to have to embrace a culture and an ethic of responsibility, all of us, corporations, the federal government, and individuals out there who may be living beyond their means.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)
- **Obama On His Spending: “I Pay For Every Dime Of It.”** OBAMA: “What I do is I close corporate loopholes, stop providing tax cuts to corporations that are shipping jobs overseas so that we’re giving tax breaks to companies that are investing here in the United States. I make sure that we have a health care system that allows for everyone to have basic coverage. I think those are pretty important priorities. And I pay for every dime of it.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

BROKEN: Obama Has Racked Up More Debt Than Any Other President

Politifact: Barack Obama Is “The Undisputed Debt King Of The Last Five Presidents.”

“So by this measurement -- potentially a more important one -- Obama is the undisputed debt king of the last five presidents, rather than the guy who added a piddling amount to the debt, as Pelosi’s chart suggested.” (“Nancy Pelosi Post Questionable Chart On Debt Accumulation By Barack Obama, Predecessors,” [Politifact](#), 5/19/11)

- **Obama Is Responsible For “The Most Rapid Increase In The Debt Under Any U.S. President.”** “The latest posting by the Treasury Department shows the national debt has now increased \$4 trillion on President Obama’s watch. The debt was \$10.626 trillion on the day Mr. Obama took office. The latest calculation from Treasury shows the debt has now hit \$14.639 trillion. It’s the most rapid increase in the debt under any U.S. president.” (Mark Knoller, “National Debt Has Increased \$4 Trillion Under Obama,” [CBS News](#), 8/22/11)

The National Debt Is Now \$16.0 Trillion Dollars. (US Department Of The Treasury, [TreasuryDirect.gov](#), Accessed 9/28/12)

- **Since President Obama Took Office, The National Debt Has Risen \$5.4 Trillion, An Increase Of Over 51 Percent.** (US Department Of The Treasury, [TreasuryDirect.gov](#), Accessed 9/28/12)

“This Is The Fourth Straight Year That The Deficit Will Exceed One Trillion Dollars, All Under President Obama.” (Erik Wasson, “CBO Says 2012 Deficit Has Reached \$1.17T,” [The Hill](#), 9/10/12)

- **Obama Had Already Racked Up The Three Largest Deficits In U.S. History.** “The U.S budget deficit for fiscal year 2011 is \$1.299 trillion, the second largest shortfall in history. The nation only ran a larger deficit for the 2009 fiscal year, which included the dramatic collapse of financial markets and a huge bailout effort by the government.” (Erik Wasson, “Treasury Announces 2011 Deficit Is Second Highest In History,” [The Hill’s “On The Money”](#), 10/14/11)

Congressional Budget Office: The Deficit So Far This Fiscal Year Has Reached \$1.17 Trillion. “CBO estimates in its Monthly Budget Review that the Treasury Department will

report a deficit of \$1.17 trillion for the first 11 months of fiscal year 2012, almost \$70 billion less than the deficit at the same point last year.” (“Monthly Budget Review,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/10/12)

- **FY2009: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.413 Trillion, The Highest In U.S. History.** (“Monthly Budget Review: November 2011,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2010: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.294 Trillion, The Third Highest In U.S. History.** (“Monthly Budget Review: November 2011,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2011: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.299 Trillion, The Second Highest In U.S. History.** (“Monthly Budget Review: November 2011,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2012: The OMB Predicts The Deficit Will Be \$1.211 Trillion, The Fourth Highest In U.S. History.** (Office Of Management & Budget, “Mid-Session Review: FY2013,” [The White House](#), 7/27/12)

Broken Promises: Changing Washington

CHANGING WASHINGTON

PROMISE: Obama Said He Would “Change The Culture Of Washington” And Put An End To Lobbyists And Special Interests Dictating Policy

Obama Said “We’ve Got To Put An End” To Lobbyists And Special Interests Dictating Policy. OBAMA: “The key is whether or not we’ve got priorities that are working for you as opposed to those who have been dictating the policy in Washington lately, and that’s mostly lobbyists and special interests. We’ve got to put an end to that.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

- **Obama Said That He Would “Change The Culture In Washington” So That Lobbyists And Special Interests Weren’t “Driving The Process.”** OBAMA: “But most importantly, we’re going to have to help ordinary families be able to stay in their homes, make sure that they can pay their bills, deal with critical issues like health care and energy, and we’re going to have to change the culture in Washington so that lobbyists and special interests aren’t driving the process and your voices aren’t being drowned out.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)
- **Obama Said He Would Think “About The Middle Class And Not Just Those Who Can Afford To Hire A Lobbyist.”** OBAMA: “You need somebody working for you and you’ve got to have somebody in Washington who is thinking about the middle class and not just those who can afford to hire lobbyists.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

BROKEN: Obama’s Admitted He’s Failed To Change Washington

Obama: “The most important lesson I’ve learned is that you can’t change Washington from the inside. You can only change it from the outside.” (President Barack Obama, [Univision Town Hall](#), Miami, FL, 9/20/12)

FactCheck.org: “[I]t’s Simply A Fact That The President Failed At ‘Bringing Democrats And Republicans Together.’” “To be sure, the president did sign the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law in 2010, but it wasn’t enacted by ‘bringing Democrats and Republicans together.’ The bill passed the Senate on Dec. 24, 2009, by a vote of 60-39, without any Republicans voting for it. And when the House passed its version of the bill almost three months later, by a vote of 219-212, it too garnered no support from Republicans. We won’t offer any opinion about whether one side is more to blame than the other for that, but it’s simply a fact that the president failed at ‘bringing Democrats and Republicans together.’” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [Fact Check.org](#), 1/4/12)

The Washington Post’s Dana Milbank: “The president came here to change Washington and Washington has changed him.” (CNN’s [“Anderson Cooper 360.”](#) 3/8/12)

Obama Has Been “Unable To Bridge A Political Divide That Had Only Grown Wider Since He Took Office With A Promise To Change The Ways Of Washington...” “A president who promised to bring the country together, who confidently presented himself

as the transformational figure able to make that happen, now had his chance. But, like earlier policy battles, the debt ceiling negotiations revealed a divided figure, a man who remained aloof from a Congress where he once served and that he now needed. He was caught between his own aspirations for historical significance and his inherent political caution. And he was unable to bridge a political divide that had only grown wider since he took office with a promise to change the ways of Washington, underscoring the gulf between the way he campaigned and the way he had governed." (Peter Wallsten, Lori Montgomery, and Scott Wilson, "Obama's Evolution: Behind The Failed 'Grand Bargain' On The Debt," [The Washington Post](#), 3/17/12)

The Washington Post's Dan Balz: "Obama Has Proven To Be A Divisive President."

"That the country is polarized is beyond question. Obama has proven to be a divisive president, despite his insistence that he is open to compromise and accommodation." (Dan Balz, "Roberts's Health-Care Ruling Sends A Message To Politicians," [The Washington Post](#), 6/30/12)

- **"And, Far From Breaking A Generation-Long Partisan Standoff In Washington, Obama's Presidency Has Been Almost Entirely Defined By It."** (John F. Harris and Jonathan Martin, "DNC 2012: Barack Obama, The Conventional President," [Politico](#), 9/3/12)

Obama's Failure To Transcend Washington Partisanship "Has Never Been More Glaringly Obvious." "Candidate Barack Obama promised to transcend Washington partisanship. President Obama plummeted into it. As the House returns Tuesday for the final session of his first term, Obama's failure to fulfill this central claim of his 2008 campaign has never been more glaringly obvious." (Carrie Budoff Brown and Jonathan Allen, "Partisan D.C.: Obama's Broken Promise," [Politico](#), 1/17/12)

BROKEN: Obama Has "Surrounded Himself With Lobbyists" And Records Show That Those With Personal Connections To The White House Enjoy The Easiest Access

"It's Well-Known That President Barack Obama Has Surrounded Himself With Lobbyists." (John Carney, "Obama's Lobbyist-Heavy Administration," [CNBC](#), 11/1/11)

Visitor Records Show That The Lobbying Industry Has Been "A Regular Presence" At The Obama White House. "The visitor logs for Jan. 17 — one of the most recent days available — show that the lobbying industry Obama has vowed to constrain is a regular presence at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave." (T.W. Farnam, "White House Visitor Logs Window Into Lobbying Industry," [The Washington Post](#), 5/20/12)

- **"The Records Also Suggest That Lobbyists With Personal Connections To The White House Enjoy The Easiest Access."** (T.W. Farnam, "White House Visitor Logs Window Into Lobbying Industry," [The Washington Post](#), 5/20/12)

President Obama Has Granted Numerous Exceptions To His Lobbyist Ban. "Yet in the past few days, a number of exceptions have been granted, with the administration conceding at least two waivers and that a handful of other appointees will recuse themselves from dealing with matters on which they lobbied within the two-year window." (Kenneth P. Vogel and Mike Allen, "Obama Finds Room For Lobbyists," [Politico](#), 1/30/09)

- **"Only In Today's Washington Could A President Circumvent His Own Ban On Hiring Lobbyists By Hiring The Head Of A Lobbying Firm."** (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, "Settling In To Washington's Ways," [The Washington Post](#), 3/6/12)

PolitiFact: “We Rate Obama’s ‘Revolving Door’ Policy For Former Lobbyists His Biggest Broken Promise.” (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Not So Fast On Obama Revolving Door Policy,” [PolitiFact](#), 1/23/09)

- **PolitiFact Rated Obama’s Promise To Bar Lobbyists From His Administration As “Broken.”** “We rated that one a Promise Broken because his policy has substantial loopholes that have allowed Obama to essentially decide when he wants to ignore the rule. He’s right that on his first day in office, he signed an executive order to bar lobbyists from his administration. But the order also included a loophole — a ‘waiver’ clause that allows former lobbyists to serve. Waivers are granted by the administration itself, so they are little more than the administration saying it’s okay for the lobbyist to work for the administration.” (“Obama Says Lobbyists Have Been Excluded From Policy-Making Jobs,” [PolitiFact](#), 10/7/11)

White House Officials Met “Hundreds Of Times” With Lobbyists At A Coffee Shop Across The Street From The White House. “Here at the Caribou on Pennsylvania Avenue, and a few other nearby coffee shops, White House officials have met hundreds of times over the last 18 months with prominent K Street lobbyists -- members of the same industry that President Obama has derided for what he calls its ‘outsized influence’ in the capital.” (Eric Lichtblau, “Across From White House, Coffee With Lobbyists,” [The New York Times](#), 6/24/10)

- **Administration Officials Also Meet With Lobbyists At “A Complex Just Off The White House Grounds.”** “Caught between their boss’s anti-lobbyist rhetoric and the reality of governing, President Barack Obama’s aides often steer meetings with lobbyists to a complex just off the White House grounds – and several of the lobbyists involved say they believe the choice of venue is no accident.” (Chris Frates, “Lobbyists: W.H. Hides Meetings Off-Site,” [Politico](#), 2/24/11)
- **The Meetings Are Being Held Off-Grounds So That The White House Visitor Logs Would Not Be “Released To The Public And Embarrass The President”** “Some lobbyists suspected they were being kept outside the gates for political, rather than logistical, reasons. ‘My understanding was they were holding the meeting there because it included several high-level business and trade association lobbyists,’ said a senior business lobbyist who attended the meeting. ‘This was an effort to not have to go through the security protocols at the White House which could lead to the visitor logs at some point being released to the public and embarrass the president.’” (Chris Frates, “Lobbyists: W.H. Hides Meetings Off-Site,” [Politico](#), 2/24/11)
- **Jeff Smith, White House Senior Adviser To The Director Of The Office Of Science And Technology Policy, Offered To Meet With Jim Kirkland Of GPS Industry Outside Of The White House To Avoid Appearing In Visitor Logs.** “Other emails released on Tuesday show Jeff Smith, a senior adviser to the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, offering to meet with Jim Kirkland, an executive from the GPS industry, off the White House grounds. LightSquared clashed with the GPS industry for years as it tried to get approval to use frequencies near those used by GPS. Republicans have alleged that contracts for LightSquared, which was backed by several major Democratic donors, had received preferential treatment from the White House.” (Jennifer Epstein, “GOP: W.H., Messina ‘Failed’ On Transparency,” [Politico](#), 7/31/12)

- **Smith: “You’d Appear On An Official WH Visitor List Which Is Maybe Not Want [Sic] You Want At This Stage...”** “‘Jim – coffee at Caribou Coffee – across the corner from the WH – would work at 11:30 a.m. on Friday...plus getting you through the new WH security rules these days almost takes an act of Congress almost (and you know how well that’s going these days),’ Smith wrote. ‘[P]lus you’d appear on an official WH Visitor List which is maybe not want [sic] you want at this stage ...’” (Jennifer Epstein, “GOP: W.H., Messina ‘Failed’ On Transparency,” [Politico](#), 7/31/12)

BROKEN: Obama Gives Access To Top Donors

University of Virginia Professor Larry Sabato: “Let’s Call It What It Is – Selling

Access.” (Kimberly Schwandt, “Obama’s Tricky Campaign Cash: Insider Fundraising Events And Wooing Wall Street,” [Fox News](#), 7/21/11)

Obama Awards Top Donors With “VIP Access To The White House.” “During his first nine months in office, President Obama has quietly rewarded scores of top Democratic donors with VIP access to the White House, private briefings with administration advisers and invitations to important speeches and town-hall meetings... High-dollar fundraisers have been promised access to senior White House officials in exchange for pledges to donate \$30,400 personally or to bundle \$300,000 in contributions ahead of the 2010 midterm elections, according to internal Democratic National Committee documents obtained by The Washington Times.” (Matthew Mosk, “EXCLUSIVE: Democratic Donors Rewarded With W.H. Perks,” [The Washington Times](#), 10/28/09)

Obama’s Biggest Donors Are “Far More Likely to Visit The White House Than Others.”

“More broadly, the review showed that those who donated the most to Mr. Obama and the Democratic Party since he started running for president were far more likely to visit the White House than others.” (Mike McIntire and Michael Luo, “White House Opens Door To Big Donors, And Lobbyists Slip In,” [The New York Times](#), 4/4/12)

- **Among Donors Who Gave \$30,000 Or Less To Obama, About 20 Percent Have Visited The White House.** “Among donors who gave \$30,000 or less, about 20 percent visited the White House, according to a New York Times analysis that matched names in the visitor logs with donor records.” (Mike McIntire and Michael Luo, “White House Opens Door To Big Donors, And Lobbyists Slip In,” [The New York Times](#), 4/4/12)
- **“But Among Those Who Donated \$100,000 Or More, The Figure Rises To About 75 Percent.”** (Mike McIntire and Michael Luo, “White House Opens Door To Big Donors, And Lobbyists Slip In,” [The New York Times](#), 4/4/12)
- **“Approximately Two-Thirds Of The President’s Top Fund-Raisers In The 2008 Campaign Visited The White House At Least Once, Some Of Them Numerous Times.”** (Mike McIntire and Michael Luo, “White House Opens Door To Big Donors, And Lobbyists Slip In,” [The New York Times](#), 4/4/12)

The Regular Appearance Of Big Donors “Underscores How Political Contributions Continue To Lubricate Many Of The Interactions Between Officials And Their Guests.”

“But the regular appearance of big donors inside the White House underscores how political contributions continue to lubricate many of the interactions between officials and their guests, if for no other reason than that donors view the money as useful for getting a

foot in the door.” (Mike McIntire and Michael Luo, “White House Opens Door To Big Donors, And Lobbyists Slip In,” [The New York Times](#), 4/4/12)

Obama’s Top Fundraisers Show “How Money Helps Win Influence And Access To Power In Washington.” “As President Barack Obama ramps up his campaign for a second term, many of his top fundraisers are showing how money helps win influence and access to power in Washington.” (Fred Schulte and Aaron Mehta, “Obama Rainmakers Enjoy White House Invites, Appointments And Contracts,” [iWatch News](#), 1/23/12)

Under Obama, “Big Bundlers” Are Replacing Big Donors As The Ones Who Get “Special Access And Influence.” “‘It used to be before we had contribution limits, that it was people who gave very large contributions who got special access and influence,’ said Fred Wertheimer, president of the group Democracy 21. ‘The big donors have been replaced by big bundlers.’” (Byron Tau and Ben Smith, “Many Bundlers Have Administration Business Ties,” [Politico](#), 7/21/11)

- **Bundling For Obama “Offers Executives Another Path To Top-Level Access.”** “Though Obama has refused to take contributions from lobbyists or political action committees, the rise of bundlers – the key players in contemporary fundraising – offers executives another path to top-level access.” (Byron Tau and Ben Smith, “Many Bundlers Have Administration Business Ties,” [Politico](#), 7/21/11)

“At Least 250 Of Obama’s Major Fundraisers And Donors Visited The White House At Least Once, Being Cleared For Events Like Dinners Or One-On-One Meetings With Senior Advisers.” “The AP’s review compared more than 470 of Obama’s most important financial supporters against logs of 2 million visitors to the White House since mid-2009. It found that at least 250 of Obama’s major fundraisers and donors visited the White House at least once, being cleared for events like dinners or one-on-one meetings with senior advisers.” (Jack Gillum, “Obama ‘Super’ PAC Donors Among White House Guests,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/26/12)

- **“More Than 60 Of Obama’s Biggest Campaign Donors Have Visited The White House More Than Once For Meetings With Top Advisors, Holiday Parties Or State Dinners.”** “President Barack Obama is using privileged access to one of America’s greatest landmarks to reward his most generous financial supporters in ways that Republicans Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum can’t match: More than 60 of Obama’s biggest campaign donors have visited the White House more than once for meetings with top advisers, holiday parties or state dinners, a review by The Associated Press has found.” (Jack Gillum, “Obama ‘Super’ PAC Donors Among White House Guests,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/26/12)
- **Even Top Donors To Obama’s Super PAC Have Made “Repeated Trips To The White House.”** “Top donors to the super PAC supporting Obama, like Chicago investment manager John W. Rogers Jr. and according to finance reports, while also making repeated trips to the White House.” (Jack Gillum, “Obama ‘Super’ PAC Donors Among White House Guests,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/26/12)

Broken Promise: College Costs

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

PROMISE: Obama Said He Would Make College More Affordable

Obama: “And One Of The Things I Think We Have To Do Is Make Sure That College Is Affordable For Every Young Person In America.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

- **Obama Decried The Amount Of Debt That College Students Needed To Take On To Get Through School.** OBAMA: “And I think it’s important for us to make college affordable. Right now, I meet young people all across the country who either have decided not to go to college or if they’re going to college, they are taking on \$20,000, \$30,000, \$50,000, \$60,000 worth of debt, and it’s very difficult for them to go into some fields, like basic research in science, for example, thinking to themselves that they’re going to have a mortgage before they even buy a house.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)
- **Obama Proposed A \$4,000 Tuition Credit In Exchange For Community Service.** OBAMA: “And that’s why I’ve proposed a \$4,000 tuition credit, every student, every year, in exchange for some form of community service, whether it’s military service, whether it’s Peace Corps, whether it’s working in a community.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

BROKEN: Obama Has Failed To Make College More Affordable And Students Now Graduate With More Debt Than Ever Before

The Cost Of College Is Currently At “An All Time High.” “Nationally, the cost of a full credit load has passed \$8,000, an all-time high. Throw in room and board, and the average list price for a state school now runs more than \$17,000 a year, according to the twin annual reports on college costs and student aid published Wednesday by the College Board.” (Justin Pope, “College Prices Up Again As States Slash Budgets,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/26/11)

In The Past Year, Tuition For In-State Public College Rose 8.3 Percent. “Published in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions average \$8,244 in 2011-12, \$631 (8.3%) higher than in 2010-11. Average total charges, including tuition and fees and room and board, are \$17,131, up 6.0% from 2010-11.” (“Trends In College Pricing 2011,” [College Board](#), 2011-12)

- **In The Past Year, Tuition For Public Two-Year Colleges Rose 8.7 Percent.** “Published tuition and fees at public two-year colleges average \$2,963, \$236 (8.7%) higher than in 2010-11.” (“Trends In College Pricing 2011,” [College Board](#), 2011-12)

The Cost Of College Has Increased “Faster Than The Rate Of Inflation” And If The Current Trend Continues, The Cost Of College “Will Have More Than Doubled In Just 15 Years.” “Nationally, state and local spending per college student, adjusted for inflation, reached a 25-year low this year, jeopardizing the long-held conviction that state-subsidized higher education is an affordable steppingstone for the lower and middle classes. All the while, the cost of tuition and fees has continued to increase faster than the rate of inflation, faster even than medical spending. If the trends continue through 2016, the average cost of

a public college will have more than doubled in just 15 years, according to the Department of Education.” (Andrew Martin and Andrew W. Lehren, “A Generation Hobbled By The Soaring Cost Of College,” [The New York Times](#), 5/12/12)

BROKEN: Under Obama, A Record Number Of U.S. Households Have Student Loan Debt

Student Debt Has Stretched To A Record Number Of U.S. Households - Nearly 1 In 5.”

“With college enrollment growing, student debt has stretched to a record number of U.S. households - nearly 1 in 5 - with the biggest burdens falling on the young and poor.” (Hope Yen, “Student Debt Stretches To Record 1 In 5 Households,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/27/12)

The Share Of Households With Student Loan Debt Has “Increased Sharply.” “Even as the nation’s households have reduced their total debt in recent years, the share that owes student loans has increased sharply, an analysis of the latest available Federal Reserve data shows.” (Mary Beth Marklein, “Report Shows Increase In Those With Student Debt, Loans,” [USA Today](#), 9/27/12)

- **“22.4 Million Households, Or 19 Percent, Had College Debt In 2010... Up From 15 Percent In 2007.”** “The analysis by the Pew Research Center found that 22.4 million households, or 19 percent, had college debt in 2010. That is double the share in 1989, and up from 15 percent in 2007, just prior to the recession - representing the biggest three-year increase in student debt in more than two decades.” (Hope Yen, “Student Debt Stretches To Record 1 In 5 Households,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/27/12)

“Across All Households, The Average Outstanding College Debt Increased From \$23,349 To \$26,682.” “Across all households, the average outstanding college debt increased from \$23,349 to \$26,682. For the poorest 20 percent of households, the average debt rose from \$19,018 to \$20,640.” (Hope Yen, “Student Debt Stretches To Record 1 In 5 Households,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/27/12)

A New Report By The Department Of Education And CFPB Reports Outstanding Student Loan Debt Totals More Than \$1 Trillion. “As in the housing market, securitization of student loans led to more aggressive underwriting for borrowers who could not possibly afford the debt they took on, according to a government report. The 131-page report was formally released by the Education Department and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Friday. It provides new estimates for total outstanding student loan debt: more than \$1 trillion in 2011, composed of \$864 billion in federal government loans and \$150 billion in private student loan debt. Cumulative defaults on private student loans exceeded \$8 billion, a sum from over 850,000 distinct loans.” (Catherine Rampell, “Report Details Woes Of Student Loan Debt,” [The New York Times](#), 7/20/12)

- **Student Loans Have “Surpassed Credit Card Debt As The Biggest Source Of Unsecured Debt For U.S. Consumers.”** “It has surpassed credit card debt as the biggest source of unsecured debt for U.S. consumers.” (Daniel Wagner, “Study: Student Loans Went To People Who Couldn’t Repay,” [The Associated Press](#), 7/20/12)

Broken Promises: Energy

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

PROMISE: Obama Promised To Free The Nation From Foreign Oil In 10 Years

Obama Said “Our Goal Should Be, In 10 Year’s Time, We Are Free Of Dependence On Middle Eastern Oil.” OBAMA: “So we’ve got to deal with that right away. That’s why I’ve called for an investment of \$15 billion a year over 10 years. Our goal should be, in 10 year’s time, we are free of dependence on Middle Eastern oil.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

- **Obama: “I Think That In Ten Years, We Can Reduce Our Dependence So That We No Longer Have To Import Oil From The Middle East Or Venezuela. I Think That’s About A Realistic Timeframe.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)
- **Obama Said Borrowing From China To Buy Foreign Oil Was “Mortgaging Our Children’s Future.”** OBAMA: “But nothing is more important than us no longer borrowing \$700 billion or more from China and sending it to Saudi Arabia. It’s mortgaging our children’s future.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

BROKEN: Obama Has Admitted That He Doesn’t Have An Energy Policy In Place That Can Free Us From Dependence On Foreign Oil

Obama In His Own Words: “We Still Don’t Have All The Energy Policies In Place That We Need To Free Ourselves From Dependence On Foreign Oil And Adequately Deal With Climate Change.” “We still don’t have all the energy policies in place that we need to free ourselves from dependence on foreign oil and adequately deal with climate change, despite the fact that we’ve doubled fuel economy standards on cars and made enormous progress on clean energy -- and that means that I’m going to need another term to finish the job.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), New York, NY, 11/30/11)

- **Obama In His Own Words: “We Haven’t Had An Energy Policy In This Country That Makes Sense And Frees Ourselves From Dependence On Foreign Oil.”** (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President On The American Jobs Act](#), Millers Creek, NC, 10/17/11)
- **FactCheck.org: “[T]he U.S. Is Still A Long Way From Being Free Of The ‘Tyranny Of Oil Once And For All,’ As Obama Said.”** (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](#), 1/4/12)

“The United States Is Increasing Its Dependence On Oil From Saudi Arabia, Raising Its Imports From The Kingdom By More Than 20 Percent This Year ...” “The United States is increasing its dependence on oil from Saudi Arabia, raising its imports from the kingdom by more than 20 percent this year, even as fears of military conflict in the tinderbox Persian Gulf region grow. The increase in Saudi oil exports to the United States began slowly last summer and has picked up pace this year. Until then, the United States had decreased its dependence on foreign oil and from the Gulf in particular.” (Clifford Krauss, “U.S. Reliance On Oil From Saudi Arabia Is Growing Again,” [The New York Times](#), 8/17/12)

5 MILLION NEW GREEN ENERGY JOBS

PROMISE: Obama Said His Investments In Green Energy Would Create Five Million New Jobs

Obama: “If We Create A New Energy Economy, We Can Create Five Million New Jobs, Easily, Here In The United States.” OBAMA: “And it is absolutely critical that we understand this is not just a challenge, it’s an opportunity, because if we create a new energy economy, we can create five million new jobs, easily, here in the United States.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

- **Obama Said That Those Five Million Jobs Would Be Created Retooling Plants To Make Fuel-Efficient Vehicles, Wind Turbines And Solar Panels.** OBAMA: “If we can get that right, then we can move in a direction not only of energy independence, but we can create 5 million new jobs all across America, including in the heartland where we can retool some of these plants to make these highly fuel-efficient cars and also to make wind turbines and solar panels, the kinds of clean energy approaches that should be the driver of our economy for the next century.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

BROKEN: Obama’s Green Energy Jobs Never Showed Up And Their Efforts To Count Them Have Provided Laughable Results

“The Green Economy Is Not Proving To Be The Job-Creation Engine That Many Politicians Envisioned.” “In the Bay Area as in much of the country, the green economy is not proving to be the job-creation engine that many politicians envisioned. President Obama once pledged to create five million green jobs over 10 years. Gov. Jerry Brown promised 500,000 clean-technology jobs statewide by the end of the decade. But the results so far suggest such numbers are a pipe dream.” (Aaron Glantz, “Number Of Green Jobs Fails To Live Up To Promises,” [The New York Times](#), 8/18/11)

- **“The Millions Of ‘Green Jobs’ Obama Promised Have Been Slow To Sprout...”** “But the millions of ‘green jobs’ Obama promised have been slow to sprout, disappointing many who had hoped that the \$90 billion earmarked for clean-energy efforts in the recession-fighting federal stimulus package would ease unemployment - still above 8 percent in March.” (Andy Sullivan, “Analysis: Obama’s ‘Green Jobs’ Have Been Slow To Sprout,” [Reuters](#), 4/13/12)

In The Utilities Industry, Electricity Generated By Renewable Energy Sources Accounted For Only 4,700 Private Sector Jobs: 2,200 In Wind, 1,100 In Biomass, 600 In Geothermal, And 400 In Solar. “The other electric power generation industry, which includes electricity generated from biomass, sunlight, wind, and other renewable sources, had 4,700 GGS private sector jobs. Within this industry, electricity generated from wind had the highest employment with 2,200 jobs, followed by biomass with 1,100 jobs, geothermal with 600 jobs, and solar with 400 jobs.” (“Employment In Green Goods And Services – 2010,” [Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), 3/22/12)

BLS Acting Commissioner John Galvin Confirmed That School Bus Drivers, Record Store Clerks, Bicycle Repair Shops, Garbage Men, Railroad Car Manufacturers, Antique Dealers And Even Oil Lobbyists Are Counted As Green Jobs. (Hearing Addressing

Concerns About The Integrity Of The U.S. Department Of Labor's Jobs Reporting, Washington D.C., [House Committee On Oversight And Government Reform](#), 6/6/12)

- [Watch The Video](#)

Broken Promises: Foreign Policy

RESTORING AMERICA'S STANDING IN THE WORLD

PROMISE: Obama Promised That "One Of The Things That I Intend To Do As President Is To Restore America's Standing In The World"

Obama Promised That "One Of The Things That I Intend To Do As President Is To Restore America's Standing In The World." OBAMA: "And one last point I want to make. It is important for us to understand that the way we are perceived in the world is going to make a difference, in terms of our capacity to get cooperation and root out terrorism. And one of the things that I intend to do as president is to restore America's standing in the world. We are less respected now than we were eight years ago or even four years ago." (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

BROKEN: Obama Has Not Restored America's Standing In The World

Obama Has "Not Managed To Radically Transform America's Standing In The World Through The Illuminating Force Of His Biography Or Personality." "When presidential candidate Barack Obama swept into Europe in 2008, television screens showed massive, adoring crowds. But the latest TV images from abroad are far more ominous: mobs in the Muslim world besieging U.S. embassies, torching American flags and even burning Obama himself in effigy. The two sets of images show a gap between aspirations and reality: A president who is popular overseas has not managed to radically transform America's standing in the world through the illuminating force of his biography or personality." (Josh Gerstein, "World's Obama Fever Cools," [Politico](#), 9/21/12)

Obama's International Popularity "Has Dimmed In Much Of The World," "As Obama prepares to stand for reelection, the surge in good feeling toward the U.S. that he ushered in has dimmed in much of the world. And evidence is scant that his popularity has advanced U.S. interests with America's allies or its adversaries in a tangible way." (Josh Gerstein, "World's Obama Fever Cools," [Politico](#), 9/21/12)

- **Global Opinion Of Obama's International Policies "Has Declined Dramatically Since 2009."** "Global opinion of President Barack Obama has declined dramatically since 2009, according to a new survey of the president and his policies in 21 countries. Approval of Obama's international policies has dropped from 78 percent to 63 percent in Europe; from 34 percent to 15 percent in Muslim Countries; from 40 percent to 22 percent in Russia; and from 57 percent to 27 percent in China, reports the Pew Global Attitudes Project." (Tim Mak, "World Poll: Chill On Obama Policies," [Politico](#), 6/13/12)
- **Only 20 Percent Of Adults In 12 Countries Across The Middle East And North Africa Approve Of Obama's Leadership.** "Approval of U.S. leadership in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region was already slipping before the recent wave of anti-U.S. protests across the region. An average of 20% of adults across 12 MENA countries Gallup surveyed between January and May 2012 approved of the job performance of the leadership of the U.S. This rating was down from 22% in 2011 and 25% during the first two years of President Barack Obama's term." (Jan Sonnenschein and Mohamed Younis, "U.S. Approval Eroding In MENA Before Film Controversy," [Gallup](#), 9/24/12)

Under Obama, “America’s Image Is Again In Decline, Especially In The Middle East.”

“But while polls show Obama remains personally popular in many parts of the world, America’s image is again in decline, especially in the Middle East, the focus of intense personal outreach at the start of the president’s term.” (Matt Spetalnick, “Obama Foreign Policy Bright Spot Now Looking Dimmer,” [Reuters](#), 9/23/12)

CHINESE CURRENCY MANIPULATION

PROMISE: Obama Said He Would Label China A Currency Manipulator

Obama: “In The Same Way That We Should Enforce Rules Against China Manipulating Its Currency To Make Our Exports More Expensive And Their Exports To Us Cheaper.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

BROKEN: Obama Said Labeling China A Currency Manipulator Would Have No Effect And That He Didn’t Want To “Embarrass” China

Asked About China’s Currency Manipulation And Unfair Trade Practices, Obama Said That He Did Not Want To “Embarrass” China. “President Barack Obama, addressing questions Wednesday about China’s alleged trade abuses and currency manipulation, said the United States must push back against unfair practices but not ‘go out of our way to embarrass’ the country. Doing so would risk ‘an all-out trade war,’ Obama told The Plain Dealer in an exclusive interview.” (Henry Gomez, “President Barack Obama Warns Against Embarrassing China On Trade Complaints: Plain Dealer Interview,” [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), 9/27/12)

Obama Claimed That Labeling China As A Currency Manipulator Would Have No Effect On Their Trade Practices. “Asked if the tag would present the embarrassment he is hoping to spare China, Obama suggested that the designation would accomplish little. ‘They’d have to push back, and there’s no automatic trigger that results from it,’ Obama said. ‘So the only thing that happens is we then have to go back and negotiate with them. The key here is just constant pressure, and that’s what we’ve applied in a much more aggressive way than the previous administration.’” (Henry Gomez, “President Barack Obama Warns Against Embarrassing China On Trade Complaints: Plain Dealer Interview,” [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), 9/27/12)

The Treasury Department Said That China “Did Not Meet The Definition Of A Currency Manipulator Under Its Standards.” “The Treasury Department on Friday once again declined to name China a currency manipulator despite bipartisan calls for action from Congress. Treasury noted that China’s currency has appreciated against the dollar since June 2010, and said it did not meet the definition of a currency manipulator under its standards.” (Julian Pecquet, “Treasury: China Not Manipulating Currency,” [The Hill](#), 5/25/12)

- **Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH): “Once Again, The U.S. Treasury Department Has Given China A Free Pass When It Comes To Its Currency Manipulation.”** “‘Once again, the U.S. Treasury Department has given China a free pass when it comes to its currency manipulation,’ Brown said. ‘While we’re seeing American manufacturing rebound, China is stepping up its efforts in a number of critical sectors, including clean and solar energy, advanced manufacturing, and auto parts. Addressing China’s currency manipulation is critical to our economic recovery and for job gains, and despite wide bipartisan support in the Senate for legislation that tackles this issue, the U.S. House has failed to act. Speaker Boehner should bring the Currency

Exchange and Oversight Reform Act to the floor as soon as possible.” (Press Release, “Treasury Giving China A ‘Free Pass’ On Currency Manipulation,” [Senator Sherrod Brown](#), 5/25/12)

- **Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY): “The Administration Continues To Let China Get Away With Flouting Trade Rules Just For The Sake Of Diplomacy.”** “Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who has been sponsored legislation that would punish Chinese imports for the undervalued currency, also criticized the administration’s report. ‘The administration continues to let China get away with flouting trade rules just for the sake of diplomacy. Calling out China as a manipulator may be awkward, but it is time to take off the kid glove,’ he said in a statement. ‘With the administration continuing to balk on this, it’s up to Congress to act. The Senate has passed bipartisan legislation to confront China and stand up for American workers, and Speaker Boehner needs to stop sitting on it and give it a vote.’” (Julian Pecquet, “Treasury: China Not Manipulating Currency,” [The Hill](#), 5/25/12)

Once In Office, Obama Retreated From His “Tough Talk” On The Campaign Trail And Decided Not To Label China A Currency Manipulator. “The Treasury Department on Wednesday declined to label China a currency manipulator, retreating from tough talk last year when a campaigning Barack Obama said Beijing had kept its currency’s exchange rate unfairly low.” (Glenn Somerville and Doug Palmer, “U.S. Again Declines To Brand China Currency Manipulator,” [Reuters](#), 4/25/09)

- **In May 2012, The Treasury Department Said That China “Did Not Meet The Definition Of A Currency Manipulator Under Its Standards.”** “The Treasury Department on Friday once again declined to name China a currency manipulator despite bipartisan calls for action from Congress. Treasury noted that China’s currency has appreciated against the dollar since June 2010, and said it did not meet the definition of a currency manipulator under its standards.” (Julian Pecquet, “Treasury: China Not Manipulating Currency,” [The Hill’s “Global Affairs” Blog](#), 5/25/12)

The Washington Post: “China’s Policy Has Probably Cost Americans Hundreds Of Thousands Of Jobs And Contributed To China’s Destabilizing Pile Of Trillions Of Dollars In Reserves.” “China’s undervalued renminbi is a long-standing, bipartisan concern, and it is not a phony one: In pursuit of growth led by exports, China has held the renminbi down in relation to the dollar, rendering its goods artificially cheap in the U.S. market. The renminbi would gain about 20 percent against the dollar if it were allowed to float freely like other currencies, according to the Peterson Institute for International Economics. China’s policy has probably cost Americans hundreds of thousands of jobs and contributed to China’s destabilizing pile of trillions of dollars in reserves.” (Editorial, “Breaking China? Last Thing Needed Is A Trade War,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/1/11)

- **Obama’s Failure To Confront China Cost The United States 450,000 Jobs From 2008 To 2010.** “American jobs have been shifting to low-wage countries for years, and the trend has continued during Obama’s presidency. From 2008 to 2010, U.S. trade with China alone cost about 450,000 American jobs because of the growth of Chinese exports, said Robert E. Scott, a pro-labor advocate at the liberal Economic Policy Institute. That figure was less than in previous years, but the decrease was probably tied to the U.S. economic slowdown, which crimped demand for imports. ‘I think he has walked away from the campaign commitments,’ said Scott, the institute’s director of trade and manufacturing policy research. ‘He has done far too

little to improve U.S. trade.’” (Tom Hamburger, Carol D. Leonnig and Zachary A. Goldfarb, “Obama’s Record On Outsourcing Draws Criticism From The Left,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/9/12)

Broken Promises: Health Care

LOWER HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS BY \$2,500

PROMISE: Obama Said His Health Care Overhaul Would Lower Premiums By \$2,500 A Year

Obama Said “We’re Going To Work With Your Employer To Lower The Cost Of Your Premiums By Up To \$2,500 A Year.” OBAMA: “So here’s what I would do. If you’ve got health care already, and probably the majority of you do, then you can keep your plan if you are satisfied with it. You can keep your choice of doctor. We’re going to work with your employer to lower the cost of your premiums by up to \$2,500 a year.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

BROKEN: ObamaCare Is Actually Making Health Care “Less Affordable”

Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Family Health Care Premiums Has Increased By \$3,065 From \$12,680 To \$15,745, A 24.2 Percent Increase. (“Employer Health Benefits, 2012 Annual Survey, Exhibit 6.4” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2012)

- **Under Obama, Families Pay An Average Of \$255 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** (“Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; “Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12)
- **Under Obama, Americans Pay An Average Of \$76 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** (“Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; “Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey,” [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12)

FactCheck.org: Obama Care “Falls Short Of Making Health Care ‘Affordable And Available To Every Single American,’ As Promised.” “Furthermore, the law falls short of making health care ‘affordable and available to every single American,’ as promised. The law provides subsidies to help some Americans buy insurance, expands Medicaid and doesn’t allow insurance companies to exclude persons with preexisting conditions. But still, the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected 23 million persons will remain uninsured — some because they can’t afford coverage.” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](#), 1/4/12)

FactCheck.org: Obama Care Is Actually Making Health Care “Less Affordable.” “At the moment, the new law is making health care slightly less affordable. Independent health care experts say the law has caused some insurance premiums to rise. As we wrote in October, the new law has caused about a 1 percent to 3 percent increase in health insurance premiums for employer-sponsored family plans because of requirements for increased benefits. Last year’s premium increases cast even more doubt on another promise the president has made — that the health care law would ‘lower premiums by up to \$2,500 for a typical family per year.’” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [Fact Check.org](#), 1/4/12)

IF YOU LIKE YOUR HEALTH CARE PLAN, YOU CAN KEEP IT

PROMISE: Obama Promised That If You Liked Your Health Care Plan, You Could Keep It

Obama Promised, That Under His Health Care Plan “If You’ve Got A Health Care Plan That You Like, You Can Keep It.” OBAMA: “Number one, let me just repeat, if you’ve got a health care plan that you like, you can keep it. All I’m going to do is help you to lower the premiums on it. You’ll still have choice of doctor. There’s no mandate involved.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

- **Obama Said You Could “Keep Your Health Insurance, Keep Your Choice Of Doctor, Keep Your Plan.”** OBAMA: “So here’s what my plan does. If you have health insurance, then you don’t have to do anything. If you’ve got health insurance through your employer, you can keep your health insurance, keep your choice of doctor, keep your plan.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)
- **Obama: “All I Want To Do, If You’ve Already Got Health Care, Is Lower Your Costs.”** OBAMA: “Very briefly. You all just heard my plan. If you’ve got an employer-based health care plan, you keep it. Now, under Senator McCain’s plan there is a strong risk that people would lose their employer-based health care. That’s the choice you’ll have is having your employer no longer provide you health care. And don’t take my word for it. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which generally doesn’t support a lot of Democrats, said that this plan could lead to the unraveling of the employer-based health care system. All I want to do, if you’ve already got health care, is lower your costs. That includes you, Joe.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)

BROKEN: The Congressional Budget Office Found That ObamaCare Could Cause As Many As 20 Million Americans To Lose Their Employer-Provided Health Care Plan

Americans Are Finding Out That Obama’s “Keep Your Plan” Promise Is Just Not True. “President Barack Obama promised over and over during the health care debate that ‘if you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan.’ It turns out that, for a lot of people, that isn’t true.” (David Nather, “4 Hard Truths Of Health Care Reform,” [Politico](#), 3/16/12)

- **Medicare Chief Actuary Richard Foster Said That It Was “Not True In All Cases” That People Would Be Able To Keep Their Coverage If They Wanted To.** “Foster was asked by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., for a simple true or false response on two of the main assertions made by supporters of the law: that it will bring down unsustainable medical costs and will let people keep their current health insurance if they like it. On the costs issue, ‘I would say false, more so than true,’ Foster responded. As for people getting to keep their coverage, ‘not true in all cases.’” (“Medicare Official Doubts Health Care Law Savings,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/26/11)
- **Congressional Budget Office Found That ObamaCare Could Cause As Many As 20 Million Americans To Lose Their Employer-Provided Health Care Plan.** “As many as 20 million Americans could lose their employer-provided healthcare because of President Obama’s healthcare reform law, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in a new report Thursday.” (Julian Pecquet, “CBO: Millions Of Americans Could Lose Their Employer Coverage,” [The Hill’s “Health Watch”](#), 3/15/12)

Broken Promise: Housing

HELPING HOMEOWNERS DURING FORECLOSURE CRISIS

PROMISE: Obama Cited Foreclosures As “The Root” Of The Financial Crisis And Promised To Help Struggling Homeowners

Obama Said That Foreclosures Were “The Root Problem” And That “We’ve Got To Make Sure That We’re Helping Homeowners.” OBAMA: “And, number four, we’ve got to make sure that we’re helping homeowners, because the root problem here has to do with the foreclosures that are taking place all across the country.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

BROKEN: Obama’s Housing Policies Have Failed To Stem The Tide Of Foreclosures Or Help Homeowners

Obama Has “Had Limited Success With The Promises That Would Have Provided The Biggest Help To Homeowners.” “But he’s had limited success with the promises that would have provided the biggest help to homeowners, according to five experts we interviewed. A temporary foreclosure moratorium happened in early 2009. It’s not clear, though, that it ultimately kept many people out of foreclosure” (Molly Moorhead, “President Barack Obama’s Efforts To Help Foreclosure Crisis Have Fallen Short,” [Politifact](#), 5/28/12)

“For Thus Far, This Administration’s Failures -- In Domestic Policy At Least -- Are More The Product Of Doing Too Little Too Late, Than Of Doing Too Much Too Soon. Nowhere Is That Failure Clearer Than In The Administration’s Inept Handling Of The Home Foreclosure Crisis.” (David Coates, “The Unfinished Business Of The Obama Administration: The Foreclosure Crisis,” [The Huffington Post](#), 7/10/12)

“Of Course, The White House Has Made Big Promises Before About Helping Homeowners, Only To See Them Disappoint Time And Again.” “The Obama administration recently unveiled a string of proposals to help struggling homeowners and get the housing market back on its feet — part of the administration’s ‘We Can’t Wait’ election year to-do list. Of course, the White House has made big promises before about helping homeowners, only to see them disappoint time and again.” (Cora Currier, “Obama Housing Plans Vs. Reality,” [ProPublica](#), 2/14/12)

“Some Economists And Political Allies Say The Cautious Response To The Housing Crisis Was The Administration’s Most Significant Mistake.” “The nation’s painfully slow pace of growth is now the primary threat to Mr. Obama’s bid for a second term, and some economists and political allies say the cautious response to the housing crisis was the administration’s most significant mistake.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Cautious Moves On Foreclosures Haunting Obama,” [The New York Times](#), 8/19/12)

As Of The Second Quarter Of 2012, 30.9 Percent – 15.3 Million - Of U.S. Homeowners With A Mortgage Are Underwater. “According to the second quarter Zillow Negative Equity Report, 30.9 percent of U.S. homeowners with a mortgage are underwater (see Figure 1) – 15.3 million people – in the second quarter of 2012.” (Stan Humphries, “Negative Equity Declines Slightly On The Back Of Modest Home Value Gains,” [Zillow](#), 8/22/12)

During Discussions About The Stimulus, Obama Said, “We Will Not Roll Out An Aggressive Housing Plan.” “What about the thousands of homeowners who owed more on their mortgages than their homes were worth? asked Durbin. ‘We will not roll out an aggressive housing plan,’ Obama said, and it would not be part of the stimulus bill.” (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 8)

- **“The Housing Problem Was Massive And Baffling, And None Of Them Had Solid Ideas For Fixing It.”** (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 8)

Former FDIC Chairwoman Sheila Bair Says Geithner And Summers “Created The Home Affordable Modification Program, Obama’s Main Plan To Aid Homeowners, More For Splash Than Substance.” “She said Geithner and Lawrence H. Summers, Obama’s former National Economic Council director, created the Home Affordable Modification Program, Obama’s main plan to aid homeowners, more for splash than substance.” (Zachary A. Goldfarb and Brady Dennis, “Sheila Bair, In New Book, Faults Obama And Bush Advisers During Financial Crisis,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/25/12)

- **Bair: “HAMP Was A Program Designed To Look Good In Press Release, Not To Fix The Housing Market.”** “HAMP was a program designed to look good in press release, not to fix the housing market. Larry and Tim didn’t seem to care about the political beating the president took on the hundreds of billions of dollars thrown at the big-bank bailouts and AIG bonuses, but when it came to home owners, it was a very different story. I don’t think helping home owners was ever a priority for them.” (Sheila Bair, *Bull By The Horns*, 2012, p. 153)

Broken Promise On Not Raising Middle Class Taxes

RAISING TAXES ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

PROMISE: President Obama Promised That Taxes On Those Making Less Than \$250,000 Would Not Be Increased A Single Dime

Obama Said “If You Make Less Than \$250,000 ... Then You Will Not See One Dime’s Worth Of Tax Increases.” OBAMA: “My definition -- here’s what I can tell the American people: 95 percent of you will get a tax cut. And if you make less than \$250,000, less than a quarter-million dollars a year, then you will not see one dime’s worth of tax increase.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The First Presidential Debate](#), Oxford, MS, 9/26/08)

- **Obama Reiterated That He Would Not Raise Any Type Of Tax On Those Making Less Than \$250,000.** OBAMA: “What I’ve said is I want to provide a tax cut for 95 percent of working Americans, 95 percent. If you make more -- if you make less than a quarter million dollars a year, then you will not see your income tax go up, your capital gains tax go up, your payroll tax. Not one dime.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Third Presidential Debate](#), Hempstead, NY, 10/15/08)
- **Obama: “If You Make Less Than A Quarter Of A Million Dollars A Year, You Will Not See A Single Dime Of Your Taxes Go Up. If You Make \$200,000 A Year Or Less, Your Taxes Will Go Down.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks During The Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

BROKEN: Obama Broke His Middle Class Tax Promise And In A Second Term May Hike Taxes Even More

PolitiFact Rates Obama’s Tax Pledge As “Promise Broken.” “We were willing to give President Barack Obama a Compromise rating on this promise when a new cigarette tax went into effect. But the latest health care bill includes more broad-based taxes that are pushing us toward Promise Broken.” (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Smokers, Tanning Aficionados, The Happily Uninsured: More Taxes Coming At Ya!,” [PolitiFact](#), 4/8/10)

***The Wall Street Journal*: “Obama Has Imposed The Largest Tax Increase In History On The Middle Class.”** “It is now undeniable that Mr. Obama has imposed the largest tax increase in history on the middle class. Individuals who don’t buy insurance will have to pay several hundred dollars, depending on income. The Congressional Budget Office says that 76% of those who pay the mandate tax will make less than 500% of the federal poverty level, estimated to be \$24,000 for a family of four in 2016. That means 76% of the payers will earn less than \$120,000 a year.” (Editorial, “It’s Up To The Voters Now,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/28/12)

“80 Percent Of Those Who’ll Face The Penalty Would Be Making Up To Or Less Than Five Times The Federal Poverty Level.” “And the budget office analysis found that nearly 80 percent of those who’ll face the penalty would be making up to or less than five times the federal poverty level. Currently that would work out to \$55,850 or less for an individual and \$115,250 or less for a family of four.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Tax Penalty To Hit Nearly 6M Uninsured People,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/20/12)

The Joint Committee On Taxation Report Found That The ObamaCare Tax Will Hit Middle-Class Americans. “There are a number of tax provisions in the health care bill that may directly increase taxes on some individuals and families earning less than \$200,000 and \$250,000 per year.” (Joint Committee On Taxation, [Letter To Senator Tom Coburn](#), 3/20/12)

Non-Partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO): “6 Million People Will Pay A Penalty Because They Are Uninsured In 2016.” “After accounting for those who will not be subject to the penalty tax, CBO and JCT now estimate that about 6 million people will pay a penalty because they are uninsured in 2016 (a figure that includes uninsured dependents who have the penalty paid on their behalf) and that total collections will be about \$7 billion in 2016 and average about \$8 billion per year over the 2017–2022 period.” (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)

- **“That’s 2 Million More Than A Previous Estimate Found, Or A 50 Percent Increase.”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Tax Penalty To Hit Nearly 6 Million Uninsured People,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/19/12)
- **“The Average Penalty Will Be Nearly \$1,200.”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Tax Penalty To Hit Nearly 6 Million Uninsured People,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/19/12)
- **Projected Tax Revenue From 2016-2022: \$55 Billion.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)

CBO: In 2016, 4.7 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Up To \$123,000 Annually Will Be Subjected To The Obamacare Tax. (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/12)

- **CBO: 600,000 Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Less Than The Federal Poverty Level Of \$24,600 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 1.2 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$24,600 And \$49,200 Annually Will Be Subjected To The Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 1.2 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$49,200 And \$73,800 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 1.1 Million Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$73,800 And \$98,400 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)
- **CBO: 600,000 Americans Who Live In Families That Earn Between \$98,400 And \$123,000 Annually Will Be Subjected To The ObamaCare Tax.** (“Payments Of Penalties For Being Uninsured Under The Affordable Care Act,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 9/19/12)