



Time Flies

Five Years Ago This Week, Obama Proclaimed An End To “False Promises” But Americans Are Still Waiting For Action

Obama On His First Inauguration: “On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas that for far too long have strangled our politics.” (President Barack Obama, [Inaugural Address](#), Washington, D.C., 1/20/09)

DURING HIS 2009 INAUGURATION, OBAMA ANNOUNCED HE WOULD LOWER THE COST OF HEALTHCARE

Obama: “We’ll restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its cost.” (President Barack Obama, [Inaugural Address](#), Washington, D.C., 1/20/09)

Americans Are Spending More On Health Care

“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.” (“Health Insurance Costs Outpace Wage Gains, Survey Says,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/20/13)

- **For 2013, Employer-Sponsored Health Care Costs “Outpaced Worker Wage Increases.”** “An annual survey shows that the average cost for employer-sponsored health insurance rose modestly this year, but it still outpaced worker wage increases.” (“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)

- **“But This Year’s Increases Lap A 1.8 Percent Rise In Worker Wages Over The Same Period.”** (“Health Insurance Costs Outpace Wage Gains, Survey Says,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/20/13)

“The Average Premium For Family Coverage Is \$1,363 Per Month Or \$16,351 Per 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)

“The Average Premium For Single Coverage In 2013 Is \$490 Per Month Or \$5,884 Per Year.” (“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)

As A Candidate, Obama Promised That His Health Care Reform Would Save American Families

\$2,500 By The End Of His First Term. OBAMA: “If you’ve got health insurance, we’re going to work with you to lower your premiums by \$2500 per family per year. And we will not wait 20 years from now to do it or 10 years from now to do it. We will do it by the end of my first term as president of the United States of America.” (Senator Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), Columbus, OH, 2/27/08)

- **Many Americans Will Pay Higher Premiums Under ObamaCare.** “Many Illinoisans buying health coverage on their own next year will face a similar dilemma spurred by the health care overhaul: pay higher monthly insurance premiums or run the risk of having to shell out thousands more in deductibles for health care if they get sick.” (Peter Frost, “ObamaCare Deductibles A Dose Of Sticker Shock,” [Chicago Tribune](#), 10/13/13)
- **ObamaCare Will Increase Health Insurance Premiums By Nearly 3 Percent.** “Improved coverage for those who currently have individually purchased insurance is also expected to influence higher spending growth. On a per enrollee basis, growth in private health insurance premiums is expected to accelerate to 6.0 percent, up from 3.2 percent in 2013.” (Sean P. Keehan, et al, “National Health Expenditure Projections, 2012–22: Slow Growth Until Coverage Expands And Economy Improves,” [Health Affairs](#), no. (2013))

OBAMA DISMISSED THE DEBATE OVER TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL GOVERNMENT, AND ASKED FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS

Obama: “The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works – whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end.” (President Barack Obama, [Inaugural Address](#), Washington, D.C., 1/20/09)

Obama’s Signature Legislative Achievement Is A Classic Example Of A Poorly Managed Government

“Obama’s Bumpy Graduate-Level Education In Management Theory” Is Typified In His Handling Of The ObamaCare Failure. “After the HealthCare.gov debacle first exploded three months ago, President Barack Obama pleaded for people to cut him a little slack: ‘I wanted to go in and fix it myself, but I don’t write code.’ At his year-end news conference recently, he struck a different tone: ‘Since I’m in charge, obviously, we screwed it up.’ ‘We screwed it up’ is not exactly the same thing as ‘I screwed it up.’ Even so, those two quotes are mileposts on one of 2013’s biggest stories: Obama’s bumpy graduate-level education in management theory.” (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, “Management Experts Knock Obama,” [Politico](#), 12/31/13)

- **Management Experts Say The “Scant Executive Experience” Held By Obama And His Inner Circle Contributed To ObamaCare’s Failed Launch.** “A glitchy website and a wave of canceled plans gave Obama the worst headlines of his presidency in 2013, but at year’s end a range of management experts interviewed by POLITICO said a central question tended to get lost in the partisan firefight: To what extent do Obamacare’s early problems reflect the limitations, in experience and intellectual interest, of its namesake? The heart of the issue, many of these people

say, is that Obama and his inner circle had scant executive experience prior to arriving in the West Wing, and dim appreciation of the myriad ways the federal bureaucracy can frustrate an ambitious president.” (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, “Management Experts Knock Obama,” [Politico](#), 12/31/13)

- **“And Above All, They Had Little Apparent Interest In The Kind Of Organizational And Motivational Concepts That Typically Are The Preoccupation Of The Most Celebrated Modern Managers.”** (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, “Management Experts Knock Obama,” [Politico](#), 12/31/13)
- **“Obama Came To Office With Less Executive Experience — Precisely None — Than Any President Since Gerald Ford.”** “The critiques from these experts also raise a broader issue: Historically, the presidency is a political office, or, at its best, what Franklin D. Roosevelt called ‘a position of moral leadership.’ Just two modern presidents came to the office identified primarily with large-scale organizational achievements: Dwight D. Eisenhower in World War II and Herbert Hoover for leading European famine relief after World War I. Hoover’s failure, in particular, damaged the notion that effective managers necessarily make effective presidents. It is also a fact, however, that Obama came to office with less executive experience — precisely none — than any president since Gerald Ford.” (Elizabeth Titus and John F. Harris, “Management Experts Knock Obama,” [Politico](#), 12/31/13)

55 Percent Of Registered Voters Say The Obama Administration Has Not Been Competent In Running The Government, While 43 Percent Say It Has. ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 1487 RV, MoE 2.5%, 1/4 – 7/14)

- **50 Percent Of Registered Voters Say Obama Has Not Been Paying Enough Attention To What His Administration Is Doing, While 45 Percent Say He Has.** ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 1487 RV, MoE 2.5%, 1/4 – 7/14)
- **51 Percent Of Registered Voters Say Obama Does Not Have Strong Leadership Qualities, While 46 Percent Say He Does.** ([Quinnipiac University Poll](#), 1487 RV, MoE 2.5%, 1/4 – 7/14)

IN 2009, OBAMA BEMOANED THE DWINDLING HOPES OF THE NEXT GENERATION

Obama: “Less measurable, but no less profound, is a sapping of confidence across our land; a nagging fear that America’s decline is inevitable, that the next generation must lower its sights.” (President Barack Obama, [Inaugural Address](#), Washington, D.C., 1/20/09)

Five Years Later, Americans’ Confidence In The Economy Is Far From Restored

NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll: 63 Percent Of Americans Agree That America Is In A State Of Decline. ([NBC News/Wall Street Journal Survey](#), 800 A, MoE 3.46%, 10/25-28/13)

- **McClatchy-Marist Poll: 66 Percent Of Americans Believe The Country is Going In The Wrong Direction.** ([McClatchy-Marist Poll](#), 1,173 A, MoE 2.9%, 12/3-5/13)

Since President Obama Took Office, Median Household Income Has Declined By \$3,795 From \$55,958 In January 2009 To \$52,163 In November 2013. (Gordon Green and John Coder, “Household Income Trends Series: November 2013,” [Sentier Research](#), 12/31/13)

Per Capita Income Has Fallen By \$2,030 Since Obama Took Office, From \$29,349 In 2008 To \$27,319 In 2012. ([U.S. Census](#), Accessed 1/13/14)

The Poverty Rate Has Increased From 13.2 Percent The Year Before Obama Took Office To 15 Percent In 2012. ([U.S. Census](#), Accessed 1/13/14)

The Labor Force Participation Rate Has Declined From 65.7% When Obama Took Office To 62.8 Percent In December 2013 – A 36-Year Low. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/14/14)

The Average Weeks Unemployed Has Nearly Doubled Since Obama Became President – From 19.8 Weeks In January 2009 To 37.1 Weeks In December 2013. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 1/14/14)

OBAMA WAS READY TO “HARNESS THE SUN AND THE WINDS AND THE SOIL” TO PRODUCE AMERICA’S ENERGY

Obama: “We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories.”
(President Barack Obama, [Inaugural Address](#), Washington, D.C., 1/20/09)

Obama’s Strategy Of Picking Winners And Losers Has Not Been Effective

Obama’s Clean Energy Investments Are “A Case Study Of What Can Go Wrong When A Rigid Government Bureaucracy Tries To Play Venture Capitalist.” “The Obama administration’s vaunted initiative to catalyze the U.S. clean-energy industry — under attack for betting half a billion dollars on the solar-panel manufacturer Solyndra, which closed last month — has become a case study of what can go wrong when a rigid government bureaucracy tries to play venture capitalist and jump-start a nascent, fast-changing market.” (Steven Mufson And Carol D. Leonning, “Some Clean-Energy Firms Found US Loan-Guarantee Program A Bad Bet,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/26/11)

In A 2013 Report, The Government Accountability Office Questioned The Effectiveness Of Obama’s \$25 Billion Energy Loan Program That Will “Leave Two-Thirds Of The Money Unspent.” “A Department of Energy loan program, infused with \$25 billion to spur a wave of fuel-efficient vehicles, has not closed a loan in two years and is likely to leave two-thirds of the money unspent amid fallout over the Solyndra debacle and other factors. Those findings, revealed Friday in a U.S. Government Accountability Office report, rekindle questions over how effectively the Energy Department picks winners and losers for its lucrative green energy portfolio.” (Ronnie Greene, “Energy Department Auto Loan Program Sputters,” [The Center For Public Integrity](#), 3/15/13)

- **In 2011, The GAO Criticized The Energy Loan Program For “Lacking Clear Benchmarks To Ensure Taxpayer Dollars Were Properly Spent.”** “This is not the first time auditors have questioned the ATVM program. An earlier GAO audit, released in 2011, warned that the \$25 billion may never fully be spent in a program lacking clear benchmarks to ensure taxpayer dollars were properly spent.” (Ronnie Greene, “Energy Department Auto Loan Program Sputters,” [The Center For Public Integrity](#), 3/15/13)

The GAO Report Found That The Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program Spent \$8.4 Billion On Just Five Projects. “That program was pitched as part of a broader government campaign to spur innovative, clean technologies that would both rev up the economy and clean the environment. Under ATVM, the government would help bankroll electric cars and other fuel-saving initiatives; this seed money would, in turn, trigger a domino effect for industry and consumers. Yet the last loan closed in March 2011, and just \$8.4 billion has been spent so far in five projects.” (Ronnie Greene, “Energy Department Auto Loan Program Sputters,” [The Center For Public Integrity](#), 3/15/13)

- **Two Of DOE’s Vehicle Manufacturing Loans Went To “Politically Connected” Firms “Despite Questions From Analysts.”** “An investigation by The Center for Public Integrity and ABC News, published in October 2011, revealed that DOE made a \$1 billion bet on two politically connected California car companies – Tesla and Fisker – despite questions from analysts and others about how well their electric cars would fare in the market.” (Ronnie Greene, “Energy Department Auto Loan Program Sputters,” [The Center For Public Integrity](#), 3/15/13)

- **Solyndra Was The First Company To Receive A Loan Under DOE's Program, And Was Issued "Without All Due Diligence In Hand, Putting Taxpayers At Risk."** "Solyndra, the first green energy loan guarantee unveiled by the Obama administration, was announced with fanfare in early 2009. Yet the Center and ABC reported in May 2011 that DOE initially green-lighted the \$535 million loan without all due diligence in hand, putting taxpayers at risk. Later in 2011, Solyndra shuttered its California headquarters and filed for bankruptcy." (Ronnie Greene, "Energy Department Auto Loan Program Sputters," [The Center For Public Integrity](#), 3/15/13)

Meanwhile, Obama's Administration Continues To Keep The Keystone Pipeline On Ice

"As The State Department Drags Out The Approval Of The Keystone XL Pipeline, It Is More Likely President Barack Obama's Final Decision On The Project To Help Link Canada's Oil Sands To U.S. Refineries Will Slip Into 2014, Experts Said." (Timothy Gardner, "U.S. Decision On Keystone XL Pipeline Likely To Slip Into 2014," [Reuters](#), 9/10/13)

- **Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper: Obama Has "Punted" On Keystone.** "'He's punted,' Harper said of Obama in an interview at an event today hosted by the Vancouver Board of Trade. 'He said, 'Maybe.'" (Andrew Mayeda And Christopher Donville, "Harper Says Obama Punting Won't Stop Keystone XL," [Bloomberg](#), 1/6/14)

And His Policies Are Hurting The Already Reeling Coal Industry

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Long-Awaited Guidelines Are Expected To Make It More Difficult For New Coal-Fired Power Plants To Be Built." (Valerie Volcovici, "U.S. EPA Sets First-Ever Curbs On Power Plant Pollution," [Reuters](#), 9/20/13)

- **"EPA's Proposal Would Put The Squeeze On Coal."** "While it won't affect existing plants, EPA's proposal would put the squeeze on coal: Any coal-burning power plant built in the future would be limited to 1,100 pounds per megawatt hour of CO2 emissions, according to McCarthy's planned speech." (Erica Martinson, "Coal In President Obama's Climate Crosshairs," [Politico](#), 9/19/13)
- **The New Regulations Will Put "More Pressure On Kentucky's Reeling Coal Industry."** "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday unveiled a reworked set of regulations aimed at slashing pollution levels from new power plants — simultaneously putting more pressure on Kentucky's reeling coal industry." (James Bruggers, "EPA Unveils Tougher Pollution Limits For New Power Plants," [The \[Louisville, KY\] Courier-Journal](#), 9/20/13)