

President Obama's Accomplishments



2009-2012

Prepared by Obama for America Team San Rafael

V. 6

5/12/2012

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This compilation of the Obama administration's accomplishments was prepared by the Obama for America San Rafael Neighborhood Team using the following principal sources: www.whitehouse.gov and www.my.barackobama.com. The team keeps the document up to date, adding new results as they occur. The purpose is to serve the demand among our volunteers and other constituencies for specific examples of the record.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AMERICAN FAMILIES: PROTECTION and SUPPORT

HOMES & COMMUNITIES

- * [Making Home Affordable Act](#), a home refinancing plan
- * [Helping Families Save Their Homes Act](#) expands Making Home Affordable Act \$2.2 billion to avoid preventable foreclosures, combat homelessness and stabilize the housing market
- * [White House Rural Council](#) focus on needs in rural communities
 - works across executive departments, agencies, and offices to coordinate development of policy recommendations to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural America

FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY

- * [Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act](#): investigate lending & financial systems fraud
 - Formed bipartisan [Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission](#) to investigate financial practices
- * [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#) makes financial products and services work for Americans, such as applying for a mortgage, choosing among credit cards or other financial products
- * [Middle class tax cuts](#):
 - Reduced taxes for 95% of working families Worked to prevent a middle class tax increase
- * [Extended unemployment benefits](#)
- * Significant victory to [extend payroll tax cuts for the middle class](#) until 2/12 (12/11)

WALL STREET REFORM

[Wall Street Reform](#)

- * Stopped predatory lending practices
- * Brought shadowy Wall Street trades into the light
- * Ended taxpayer-funded bailouts and "too-big-to-fail"
- * Gave shareholders more power over executive compensation
- * [Richard Cordray Appointed Head of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#)
 - President Obama used his recess appointments powers to make this appointment (1/12).

CREDIT CARD REFORM

- * Stopped unfair credit card practices
- * [Credit Card Act](#): protects against excessive credit card fees
- * Banned retroactive rate hikes
- * Implemented new protections for students and young people
- * Required Credit card companies to use plain language

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMY REBUILDING and JOBS

“I won’t be satisfied until every American who wants a job can find one, and until workers are getting paychecks that actually pay the bills until families don’t have to choose between buying groceries and buying medicine, between sending their kids to college and being able to retire in some dignity and some respect.” President Barack Obama

JOBS - RECOVERY

The American Jobs Act

President's legislative proposal for creating jobs in an economy that is built to last.

The [Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011](#) extends the current 4.2% payroll tax rate for employees, extends temporary extension of the unemployment provisions and health provisions for two months to February 29, 2012.

*[American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) responsible for adding 3 million Jobs

*[Tiger Act](#) Put Construction Workers Back To Work By Presidential Directive 11/2/11:

-Competitive grants of \$527 Million to rebuild infrastructure & innovative projects

[TIFIA Funding 1012](#) provides 1/3 of financing for large-scale transportation & infrastructure funding By Presidential Directive 11/2/11:

-Shorten application process to put workers back on the job more quickly

*Infrastructure – 10/11 the largest Investment since President Eisenhower

*Revitalized the backbone of manufacturing by investing to rebuild American Auto Industry,

*[Transportation Rapid Response Team](#) By Presidential Directive 11/2/11:

-Expedite environmental review & permit decisions of transportation projects

-Workers back on the job more quickly

-Leverage additional private sector funding

*Increased access to credit, preventing foreclosures and increasing consumer protection

* [Trade Adjustment Assistance Act](#): Provide benefits and retrain workers whose jobs have gone overseas.

BUSINESS

*[Small Business Jobs Act](#) provides tax breaks & better access to credit for small businesses

*Launched a \$35 billion plan to boost lending to small business

*[HIRE Act](#) payroll tax credit for companies that hire people who have been looking for work for 60+ days.

*[Startup America Act](#) to celebrate, inspire and accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMY REBUILDING and JOBS, cont'd

EXPORTS AND TRADE AGREEMENTS

***National Export Initiative:** help small businesses compete in global marketplace; double our exports by 2015

***New Trade Agreements**

President Obama signed trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama to level the playing field for American businesses and workers. Together the agreements are estimated to increase exports by over \$11 billion and support over 70,000 US Jobs

***Insourcing Jobs – New Initiatives**

The President has put forward new tax proposals to reward companies that choose to invest or bring back jobs to the United States and to eliminate tax advantages for companies moving jobs overseas.

***Maximizing the Effectiveness of Federal Programs and Functions Supporting Trade and Investment** By Presidential Memorandum (2/12)

- consolidate new department promoting competitiveness, exports & US Businesses
- integrate and streamline trade negotiation, financing, promotion and enforcement
- create **BusinessUSA** a web service to enable exporters to access information about export-related Government programs, resources and services.
- promote exports to foreign countries
- promote foreign investment in the United States
- consider the effectiveness of commercial diplomacy

TRAVEL & COMPETITIVENESS

***Improve visa & foreign visitor processing and travel promotion** by Executive Order (1/12)

- increase the US share of worldwide travel
- obtain greater share of long-haul travel from Brazil, China & India
- create jobs
- spur economic growth
- while continuing to protect our national security

*Promote visits to US public lands, waters, shores, monuments and other American iconic destinations

*Promote travel and expand tourism in rural communities

*Expand visa waiver program and travel by nationals of Visa Waiver Program

*Expand reciprocal recognition programs for expedited travel such as the Global Entry program

*Establish website that provides statistics and reports on tourism markets.

STREAMLINE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION INITIATIVE By Presidential Memorandum 10/11

***Business USA:** Streamline Access to full range of information about federal programs regardless of where information is located; For businesses to begin or increase exports.

* Implement a “**No Wrong Door**” policy for small businesses and exporters by using technology to quickly connect businesses to the services and information relevant to them, regardless of where the information is located or which agency’s website, call center, or office they go to for help

*Integrate related state and local government and private sector services

*Initially aimed at small businesses & exporters to Help Businesses Grow & Hire

*Decrease time for small business to receive payment when they are in a contract with the Federal Govt.

***Accelerate Products from Science Lab to Marketplace** - By Presidential Memorandum 10/11

*Partner Research and Industry

*Streamline & accelerate process for

Private-public research partnerships

- support growth of regional innovation clusters
- share laboratory facilities with local businesses
- provide grants for business research and development

*University start-up collaborations.

*5 year plan to measure progress vs. goals & keep track of how many patents each lab generates

Applies to: All federal agencies with research facilities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TAXES and SPENDING

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2012 (passed and signed 2/22/12)

- *Reduce Employee social security payroll tax reduction from 6.2% to 4.2% through 2012
- *Extend Self-employed social security payroll tax reduction from 12.4% to 10.4% through 2/12
- *Extend Federal unemployment benefits programs and additional 13 to 20 weeks
- *Reform Unemployment Compensation to promote work and job creation
 - consistent job search requirements
 - state flexibility to promote the reemployment of unemployed workers
 - date exchange standardization for improved interoperability
 - temporary financing of short-term compensation agreements
 - grants for short-time compensation programs

PROMOTING EFFICIENT FEDERAL SPENDING FEDERAL COST REDUCTION Presidential Order 11/2/11

- *Reduce Spending on Travel and Conferences:
 - Whenever possible:
 - Use teleconferencing or videoconferencing technology to replace meetings previously requiring travel
 - Host or sponsor conferences in conference space controlled by federal government
 - Have senior level officer responsible for reducing travel costs
- *Cut Duplicate Information Technology Devices:
 - Limit unneeded cell phones, smartphones, laptops, tablet personal computers
- *End Unnecessary Printing and Put It online
- *Limit Motor Vehicles and Chauffeurs
- *Stop Government Promotional Handouts
- *Get rid of unneeded properties
 - public buildings
 - federal vehicles
 - various goods & services throughout government

ENERGY and ENVIRONMENT

CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

- * Clean Energy - the largest Investment ever
 - Approved offshore wind project that produces clean electricity power for 200,000+ homes
- * New emissions standards and doubled fuel efficiency
 - mandates fuel economy to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025
 - Estimated to save families \$8,200 in fuel costs over the life of a vehicle
- * Investments in clean-energy technologies
 - Approved 13 commercial solar facilities on public lands
 - To power 1.5 million homes
 - Create 8,600 jobs
- * Oversaw wilderness protections
- * EPA declared greenhouse gasses a threat to human health
- * Established new safety regulations for offshore drilling projects
- * New US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules setting National standards for mercury, emissions and other dangerous chemicals from coal & oil fired power plants (12/11)
- * Vetoed the Keystone XL Tar Sands pipeline (12/11)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ENERGY and ENVIRONMENT con'td.

*Driving Innovation and Creating Jobs in Rural America through Biobased and Sustainable Product Procurement by Presidential Memorandum (2/21/12)

*Increase Federal procurement of biobased products to:

- promote rural economic development
- create new jobs
- provide new markets for farm commodities
- increase energy security and independence

*Ensure that 95% of applicable new Federal contract actions for products and services advance sustainable acquisition, including biobased acquisition

*Increase number of biobased products designated and individual products eligible for Federal preferred purchasing by 50% within one year.

*Improve ability of small businesses to sell biobased products and services by providing training and assistance to (mostly small businesses) to make these companies aware of the Federal BioPreferred program and opportunities to sell biobased products to Federal, State and Local government agencies.

*Disseminate that training to Small Business Development Centers and feature it on the SBA website.

EDUCATION

* Education - the largest Investment since President Johnson

* Doubled funding for Pell Grants to 9 billion in 2011

* \$2,500 [American Opportunity](#) tax credit for tuition expenses

* [Student Loan Reform](#): saves taxpayers roughly \$68 Billion over next 10 years

* [Race to the Top](#) - Educate to Innovate Partner with States Programs helping schools with resources

* [Recovery act](#) saved or created nearly 300,000 education jobs, prevented 161,000 layoffs

* [Pay as You Earn Student Loans](#) By Presidential Memorandum 10/11

* Pay no greater than 10% of discretionary income for student loan payments each month
Law signed by President, 2010. 10% cap on loan payments beginning 2012

* Consolidate federal student loans - make one payment, get a discount

* Debt forgiven after 20 rather than 25 years

* Debt forgiven after 10 years for teachers, nurses, armed forces and other public service employees

* Some loans interest rate reduction of up to 5% January 2012

* [Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Educational Opportunities and strengthening Tribal, Colleges and Universities](#) By Executive Order 12/2/11

Expand educational opportunities and improve educational outcomes for all AI/AN students, including opportunities to

- learn their Native languages
- cultures & histories
- receive competitive education that prepare them for college, careers and productive lives
- pathway for drop outs to reenter educational or training programs and acquire degrees, certificates, or industry recognized credentials

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HEALTHCARE

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- * Provides stability & security for Americans who have health insurance
- * Provides affordable options for Americans who do not have insurance
- * Lowers costs for Families, Businesses and America as a whole
- * Small Business tax credit to help pay for their health care premiums. Credit increase to 50% by 2014.
- * Middle class tax cuts for health care, the largest in history
- * Ends worst Insurance company abuses
 - bans coverage lifetime limits
 - eliminates pre-existing condition exclusion

PREVENTATIVE CARE By Presidential Memorandum 10/11

- * RE: HIV screenings, contraception, domestic violence screening
 - Must be available under all new insurance plans
 - Not subject to co-payment or deductible

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

- * [SCHIP State Children's Health Insurance Program](#);
- * extends coverage to an additional 4 million low-income children:
- * Increases number of children covered to 11+ million
- * 4.9 million children with pre-existing conditions now able to get health insurance

WOMEN'S HEALTH INSURANCE Currently women pay up to 150% more for health care.

- * Prevents insurance companies from discriminating against women
- * Covers Well Woman visits and tests
- * Access to FDA-approved birth control

REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG SHORTAGES By Presidential Memorandum 10/11

- * Prevents or mitigates drug shortages
- * Expedites review of regulatory submissions (FDA)
 - Adopts flexible approach to
 - Drug manufacturing
 - Importation regulations
 - Drug manufacturers
- * Provide advance notice of drugs that are being discontinued
 - Applies to drugs that are life supporting, life sustaining, prevent debilitating disease
- * Take action against manufacturers stockpiling or selling these drugs at exorbitant prices (DOJ)

HEALTH RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2012

- * Prevent 27.4% cuto in medicare physician payment rates
- * Extend existing rates through 2012
- * Extend ambulance add-on payments through 2012
- * Extend the Medicare QI program which provides federal reimbursement for states to cover Part B premiums for seniors with incomes between 120 and 135 percent of poverty through 2012
- * Extend Temporary Medical Assistance through 2-12 for low income families transitioning into employment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HUMAN RIGHTS

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

- * [The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#) - Helps women challenge unequal pay practices

ENDED INHUMANE BUSH-ERA POLICIES

- * Ended illegal Bush-era torture policies
- * Ordered closure of CIA detention facilities
- * Reversed Bush by seeking a seat on the UN Human Rights Council

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

- * Gives new tools to prosecute those who commit hate crimes
- * The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act

PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN FEDERAL WORKFORCE 8/11

- * Diversity and inclusion to be key component of Govt.'s human resources strategies
- * Improve effectiveness of each agency's effort to:
 - Recruit, hire, promote, retain, develop, and train workforce
 - Consistent with merit system and applicable law.

LGBT PROTECTIONS

- * Repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"
 - Strengthens national security
 - Ends discrimination against Gays in the military
- * Provides hospital visitation rights to same-sex couples
- * Declared "Defense of Marriage Act" unconstitutional

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- * Revised [Americans with Disabilities Act](#)
 - Newly designed, built or renovated public facilities are accessible to all
- * Signed [Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act](#) into law. Improves lives of Americans living with paralysis

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY

[*Promote women's participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace building, transitional and decision making in conflict-affected environments](#)

by Executive order (12/11)

- * Invest in women's and girls' health, education and economic well being
- * Respond to distinct needs of women and children in conflict affected disasters and crisis, including providing safe, equitable access to humanitarian assistance.
- * Prevent & protect women and children from harm, exploitation, discrimination and abuse, including sexual & gender based violence & trafficking in persons and hold perpetrators accountable in conflict-affected environments.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL and THEIR FAMILIES

TAX CREDITS FOR BUSINESSES THAT HIRE VETERANS Signed into law 11/11

*\$5,600 tax credit for businesses hiring veterans unemployed for six months or more

*\$9,600 tax credit for businesses hiring veterans with service-connected disability

*UPDATED GI BILL

Makes college more affordable for veterans and returning service members

Allows education benefits to be transferred to family members

* VETERANS JOBS INITIATIVES - JOINING FORCES TEAM

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden are leading this effort.

President Obama challenged the private sector to hire 100,000 veterans or spouses by the end of 2013

* American Logistics Assoc. + 270 affiliates plan to hire 25,000 veterans & their spouses by 2013

VETERANS HIRING CHALLENGE - COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS - Presidential Memorandum 10/11

* Community Health Centers to hire Veterans with Medical Training

8,000 vets, one for every health center site, over next 3 years.

TRAIN VETERANS AS PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS By Presidential Memorandum 10/11

* Prioritize P.A. grants to colleges & universities to train veterans with medical backgrounds as Physician Assistants

*Expedite track for Veterans

VETERAN GOLD CARD By Presidential Initiative 11/7/11

* Improve resources for veterans to translate their military job skills to civilian workforce

* For unemployed Post-9/11 veterans

* Enhancing Services, including

Six months personalized case management

Assessments

Counseling

MY NEXT MOVE FOR VETERANS By Presidential Initiative 11/7/11

* Improve resources for veterans to translate their military job skills to civilian workforce

* New tool to aid job search

* Online Resource

Match military occupation code to civilian occupations for which they are qualified

Information about other programs

Salaries

Apprenticeships

Educational & Training programs

VETERANS JOB BANK at National Resource Directory - By Presidential Initiative 11/7/11

* Improve resources for veterans to translate their military job skills to civilian workforce

* New tool to aid job search

* Find job postings from companies looking to hire

* Companies' postings on their own websites become part of Veterans Job Bank

Now searches over half a million jobs postings and is growing

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NATIONAL SECURITY

ENDING COMBAT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

- * Removed nearly 100,000 troops
- * Withdrew **ALL 39,500 troops from IRAQ by the end of 2011**

AL-QAEDA

- * Took the fight to al Qaeda.
 - Authorized a surgical strike by Navy Seals that eliminated Osama Bin Laden
- * Afghanistan and Pakistan
 - Went on the offensive in Afghanistan, Pakistan and worldwide to prevent safe havens for terrorists
- * Al-Qaeda's senior leaders
 - More Senior Leaders captured or killed in last three years, that at any time since 9/11 attacks

INTEGRATED STRATEGIC COUNTERTERRORISM COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE Presidential Initiative

- * Reinforce, Integrate and complement public communications efforts across Executive Branch
 - Countering actions and ideology of al Qaeda and international terrorists organizations
 - Directed to audiences outside the US.
- * (CCSO) Counterterrorism Communications Support Office
 - Research audience characteristics
 - Develop highly focused social media campaigns

SECURITY OF CLASSIFIED NETWORKS - By Presidential Directive 10/11

- * Ensure responsible sharing and safeguarding of classified information on computer networks
- * Implement insider threat detection and prevention program

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- * **SALT** Arms control agreement with Russia -
- * **START Treaty** with Russia
 - *Reduce our nuclear arsenals
 - *Put inspectors in Russia
- * Rallied the world behind a plan to secure all nuclear materials from terrorists within four years
- *Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act of **2012**
- *Provides for equipment and technology to detect and track illicit use of ultralight aircraft for across border smuggling
- ***Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (1/12)**
- *Established First Responder Network Authority to enhance public safety communications
- *Reallocated the 700MHzD block radio spectrum for use by public safety entities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOREIGN POLICY

RESTORED CREDIBILITY & RESPECT FOR AMERICA

LEAD ROLE IN G-20 SUMMIT producing \$1.1 trillion deal to combat global financial crisis

SECURE ALL NUCLEAR MATERIALS

Rallied the world behind a plan to secure nuclear materials from terrorists within four years

IRAN

* Requires the President to impose sanctions on persons who made certain investments in Iran's energy sector.

* Built a broad coalition to pressure Iran to abandon its nuclear program

* **Blocking Property of the Government of Iran and Iranian Financial Institutions**

By Executive Order (2/12)

* Block all property and interests in property of the Government of Iran, any Iranian financial institution including the Central Bank of Iran that are in the US or hereafter come into the possession of any US person, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported or otherwise dealt in.

* Prohibit donations, contributions or provision of funds, goods, or services by, or to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked

CUBA

* **Continuation of Emergency Authority Regulating Anchorage and Movement of Vessels**

By Presidential Memorandum (2/22/12)

* Extend & expand denial of monetary & material support to Cuban Government

* Prohibit unauthorized entry of any US registered vessel into Cuban territorial waters

LIBYA: OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN

* In cooperation with Libyan rebels and a United Nations multi-state coalition for military intervention in Libya:

- Stopped a massacre of Libyans and ensured safety for the Libyan people.

- Contributed Tomahawk cruise missiles and with no boots on the ground,

* Fighting in Libya resulted in the removal of Muammar Gaddafi who had terrorized his people for over forty years.

* Military action ended on October 31, 2011.

* Extend National Emergency With Respect to Libya for one year

by Presidential Memorandum (2/25/12)

HAITI

* Mounted a swift, aggressive and coordinated response to the Haitian Earthquake Disaster, one of the largest relief efforts in US history.

JAPAN

* In the wake of the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami:

- Sent search and rescue teams, disaster assistance and response teams, along with the US military to lend aggressive support to our Japanese ally

- Reassured Americans harmful levels of radiation would not reach our shores

- Directed our Nuclear Regulatory Commission to do a comprehensive review of the safety of our domestic nuclear plants.

ASIA PACIFIC

* Refocused American foreign policy on the Asia Pacific, the world's fastest growing region

* Completed free-trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama which will support U.S. jobs

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

* Led the international response to the global economic crisis while pursuing trade that delivers for the American worker.

