

# PROMISES KEPT



**PRESIDENT OBAMA'S**  
FIRST TWO YEARS IN OFFICE

“LET’S BE THE GENERATION THAT  
MAKES FUTURE GENERATIONS  
PROUD OF WHAT WE DID HERE.”

- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA -



THE CHALLENGES THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THIS  
ADMINISTRATION INHERITED WERE IMMENSE—TWO  
WARS, AN ECONOMY IN FREEFALL, RECORD DEFICITS,  
AND A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN CRISIS. ALTHOUGH  
THERE IS STILL MORE WORK TO DO, WE HAVE MADE AN  
INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF PROGRESS OVER THE PAST  
TWO YEARS. TOGETHER, WE HAVE BEGUN TO LAY A NEW  
FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH, BUILDING AN ECONOMY  
THAT WORKS FOR ALL AMERICANS.

# PROMISES KEPT

## THE FIRST TWO YEARS IN OFFICE

“We meet at a moment of great uncertainty for America. The economic crisis we face is the worst since the Great Depression. ... I know folks are worried. But I also know this—we can steer ourselves out of this crisis.”

– BARACK OBAMA  
OCTOBER 2008

## REBUILDING OUR ECONOMY

### RECOVERY ACT

The Recovery Act represented the largest infrastructure investment since President Eisenhower, the largest education investment since President Johnson, and the largest clean-energy bill ever. It has saved or created as many as 3.7 million jobs across America while creating a foundation for future growth.

### WALL STREET REFORM

Wall Street reform empowered consumers and investors, put a stop to predatory lending practices, brought shadowy Wall Street trades into the light, and ended taxpayer-funded bailouts.

### MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUTS

The Recovery Act reduced taxes for 95 percent of working families, putting more money in the pockets of Americans who need it most. President Obama also worked to prevent a middle-class tax increase, while extending vital unemployment benefits for Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

### CREDIT CARD REFORM

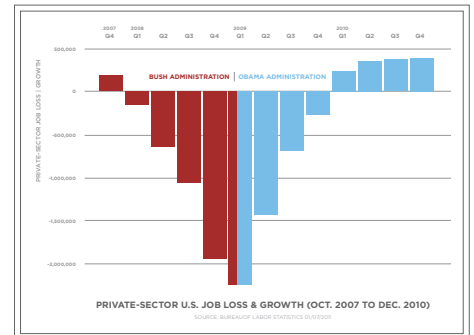
These reforms put a stop to unfair credit card practices. Reform banned retroactive rate hikes, implemented new protections for students and young people, and required credit card companies to explain their terms in plain language.

### BUILDING A CLEAN-ENERGY ECONOMY

New emissions and fuel efficiency standards for American cars and historic investments in clean-energy technologies are helping pave the way to a more sustainable future, creating new jobs and entire industries here in America.

### REBUILDING THE AMERICAN AUTO INDUSTRY

The Obama administration acted decisively to invest in America's auto industry, preventing hundreds of thousands of job losses across the country and revitalizing the backbone of America's manufacturing sector.



An economy that had been shrinking for nearly a year is now growing. After nearly two years of job loss, our economy added more than one million private sector jobs in 2010.

“The stimulus alone represents a strikingly progressive presidential legacy—rivaling the biggest reforms of the Clinton presidency.

And it passed on Obama's 24th day in office.”

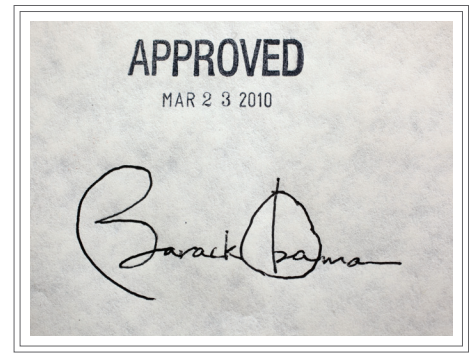
– TIM DICKINSON  
OCTOBER 2010

“The bailout of the auto industry protected against absolute devastation in the economies of the Midwest. ... And it is now turning out to be a huge financial boon for taxpayers.”

– NORM ORNSTEIN  
OCTOBER 2010

“Let’s be the generation that finally tackles our health care crisis. Let’s be the generation that says right here, right now, that we will have universal health care in America by the end of the next president’s first term.”

– BARACK OBAMA  
SEPTEMBER 2008



## HISTORIC HEALTH REFORM

### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Affordable Care Act provides stability and security to Americans who have insurance and provides affordable options for those who don't. It lowers costs for families, businesses, and America as a whole, provides the largest middle-class tax cut for health care in our history, and puts an end to the worst insurance industry abuses.

### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

The expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) extended coverage to another 4 million low-income children, increasing the total number of children covered by the program to more than 11 million.

“All progressives since Theodore Roosevelt wanted [health care reform], all Democrats since Harry Truman fought for it, and only Barack Obama got it. ... This is his huge accomplishment.”

– DOUGLAS BRINKLEY  
OCTOBER 2010

“I will end this war in Iraq responsibly, and finish the fight against al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. ...I will build new partnerships to defeat the threats of the 21st century: terrorism and nuclear proliferation; poverty and genocide; climate change and disease. And I will restore our moral standing, so that America is once again that last, best hope for all who are called to the cause of freedom, who long for lives of peace, and who yearn for a better future.”

– BARACK OBAMA  
AUGUST 28TH, 2008

## NATIONAL SECURITY

### ENDING COMBAT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

We have ended our combat mission in Iraq and removed nearly 100,000 troops so that we can focus on fighting al Qaeda and rebuilding our nation at home.

### TOWARD A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The President reached the most important arms control agreement with Russia in two decades. New START will reduce our nuclear arsenals, put inspectors on the ground in Russia, and renew America's leadership in pursuit of a world without nuclear weapons. President Obama also rallied the world behind a plan to secure all nuclear material from terrorists within four years, fulfilling a key campaign promise.

### A NEW STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The United States and our allies have gone on the offense in Afghanistan, in Pakistan, and around the world to ensure that al Qaeda and other terrorists do not have any safe place from which to plan future attacks on America.

“In foreign policy, [President Obama] has set the stage for engagement and multilateralism. He has reset relations with Russia, made overtures to the Muslim world in his Cairo speech, and provided a philosophic discussion of war, peace, and human rights in his Nobel speech.”

– DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN  
JANUARY 2010

“Now is the time to finally meet our moral obligation to provide every child a world-class education, because it will take nothing less to compete in the global economy. ... I will not settle for an America where some kids don’t have that chance.”

– BARACK OBAMA  
AUGUST 2008

## EDUCATION

### REFORMING STUDENT LENDING

President Obama signed into law student loan reform that makes college more affordable for students and families and will save American taxpayers roughly \$68 billion over the next 10 years.

“During his first two years in office, President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies in Congress compiled a substantial record of policy accomplishment—[including] major changes in student loan programs, among many others.”

### SPURRING INNOVATION

Programs like “Race to the Top” and “Educate to Innovate” are giving American schools and states the tools and resources they need to be successful.

### A NEW GI BILL

The implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill increased educational opportunities for veterans by making college more affordable for returning service members.

– WILLIAM GALSTON  
NOVEMBER 2010

“As president I’ll support the complete repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’”

– BARACK OBAMA  
OCTOBER 2008

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### REPEALING “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL”

President Obama signed legislation that will bring an end to “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” strengthening our national security and ending this discriminatory law.

“Less than halfway through his first term, Obama has compiled a remarkable track record. ... On the social front, he has improved pay parity for women and hate-crime protections for gays and lesbians.”

### PROTECTING AGAINST HATE CRIMES

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act gives law enforcement officials new tools to prosecute those who commit hate crimes.

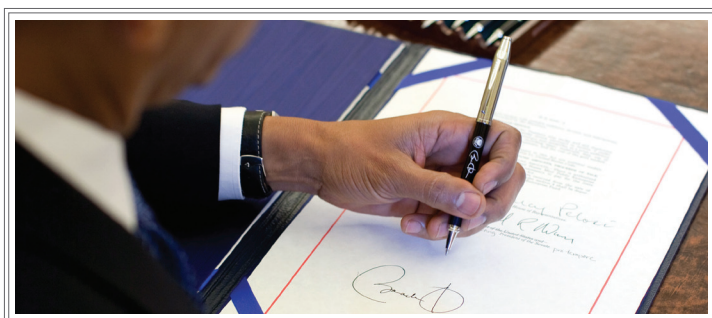
### FAIR PAY FOR WOMEN

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act makes it easier for women to challenge unequal pay practices, which helps all Americans earn a fair wage.

– TIM DICKINSON  
OCTOBER 2010

## AS WE APPROACH THE HALFWAY POINT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA’S FIRST TERM,

the list of accomplishments already dwarfs that of many of his predecessors. The actions taken by this administration and by Democrats in Congress have eased the burden on middle-class families, making it easier for working parents to meet their families’ daily needs while opening doors of opportunity for their children. Together, these accomplishments form a foundation for a new generation of prosperity, a new era of possibility, and a new century of American greatness.



“This president has delivered more sweeping, progressive change in 20 months than the previous two Democratic administrations did in 12 years.”

– TIM DICKINSON  
OCTOBER 2010



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