



OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

JOB CREATION

- **Putting Workers Back on the Job.** President Obama unveiled his jobs plan, which would encourage small businesses to grow, prevent up to 280,000 teacher layoffs and provide a \$1,500 tax cut for the average family.
- **Millions of Jobs Created.** President Obama's economic recovery plan created 3.6 million jobs.
- **More Than 300,000 Public Sector Jobs Saved.** President Obama preserved more than 300,000 state and local public sector jobs—preventing layoffs of police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers, teachers and other trusted public servants.

RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

- **Tax Cuts for Working Families.** President Obama provided tax cuts to 95 percent of working families.
- **Unemployment Insurance for 2.5 Million Americans.** The president extended unemployment insurance—assisting 2.5 million Americans who lost their jobs in the recession.
- **Making College More Affordable.** President Obama expanded Pell Grants and revamped the student loan program by eliminating fees paid to private banks.

PROTECTING AMERICAN WORKERS

- **Opposed to Assault on Unions.** President Obama called the efforts to curb collective bargaining in states an “assault on unions” and recognized public employees “make enormous contributions to our states and our citizens.”

EXPANDING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

- **32 Million Americans Covered.** President Obama's historic healthcare reform law expanded healthcare coverage to an additional 32 million uninsured Americans.
- **Quality Coverage Regardless of Pre-Existing Conditions or Illness.** The law prevents people with pre-existing conditions from being denied quality insurance coverage and prohibits insurance companies from dropping people due to illness.
- **Coverage for Young Adults and Children.** Parents are allowed to keep their children on their health plans until age 26. President Obama gave 11 million children coverage under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

HOLDING WALL STREET ACCOUNTABLE

- **Reforms that Hold Wall Street Accountable.** President Obama enacted the most sweeping financial reform package since the Great Depression.
- **Better Protections for Consumers.** The president established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which increases regulation and oversight over big banks and mortgage companies.
- **Credit Card Rates and Fees Reined In.** President Obama also enacted the CARD Act, which reins in and reduces credit card rates and fees.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

- **Protecting Social Security.** President Obama vowed to protect Social Security benefits and refused to increase the Medicare eligibility age.
- **Immediate Relief for Seniors.** The president's economic recovery act provided immediate relief to retirees, giving beneficiaries a one-time payment of \$250.

SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

- **A Balanced, Comprehensive Approach.** President Obama supports comprehensive immigration reform, understanding that a balanced approach is the only solution to end illegal immigration.
- **Supports the DREAM Act.** The president is an ardent supporter of the DREAM Act, legislation that provides upstanding undocumented immigrants who were brought to America as children a pathway to citizenship.
- **Halted Noncriminal Deportations.** President Obama released a strong policy that halted deportation proceedings for noncriminal immigrants.

GOP LEADERSHIP

TAX BREAKS FOR BILLIONAIRES

- **Opposed Job Creation, Tax Relief for the Middle Class.** Republican leadership opposed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which saved jobs and gave the middle class tax relief.
- **Tax Breaks for Billionaires and Corporations that Ship Jobs Overseas.** Leadership fought to protect tax breaks for corporations that ship American jobs overseas and even lowered the tax rate for those who make the most.

CORPORATE TAX BREAKS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

- **Jobless Burdened to Give Corporate Tax Breaks.** Republican leadership favored cuts to jobless benefits to avoid tax increases on businesses.
- **Education, Child Care Funding Slashed.** Rep. Paul Ryan's budget slashed Pell Grant funding in half and cut more than \$1 billion from the Head Start program and \$39 million from child care, affecting more than 360,000 children.
- **Fewer Job Training Programs.** In 2011, Speaker John Boehner attempted to cut \$2 billion in funding for job training programs.

ATTACK ON AMERICAN WORKERS

- **Supports Attack on Collective Bargaining Rights.** Speaker Boehner praised Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for his “courageous action” to curtail collective bargaining.

PROTECTING INSURANCE COMPANIES

- **No GOP Support for Healthcare Reform.** Not a single Republican voted for the Affordable Care Act, which gave an additional 32 million Americans quality healthcare.
- **Repealing Reform.** Speaker Boehner and the Republican-controlled House sided with insurance companies and the first major act was to repeal the law.
- **An End to Medicare and Medicaid.** Rep. Paul Ryan's budget proposal would essentially end Medicare and Medicaid—which would affect 48 million elderly and disabled Americans.
- **Insurance Industry Bankrolls GOP Campaigns.** The insurance industry bankrolls the campaigns of Republican leadership. Speaker Boehner received \$1.3 million while Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell received \$1.1 million from the industry.

PROTECTING BIG BUSINESS

- **Opposed Accountability Safeguards.** Republican leadership ardently opposed the financial reform bill and immediately began calling for its repeal.
- **Weakened Consumer Protections.** Republicans are trying to chip away at the power of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is spearheading the effort to block President Obama's choice to head the agency.
- **Wall Street's Money Influence.** Wall Street interests have infused leaders' campaign coffers—in 2010, Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader McConnell received more than \$6 million.

PUTTING SENIORS AT RISK

- **Social Security Privatization.** GOP leadership supports privatizing Social Security by setting up personal savings accounts, a move that would shift risk to seniors.
- **Benefits Slashed, Eligibility Age Raised.** Republicans tried to dramatically reduce retirement benefits—even proposing to increase the eligibility age to 70.

BUILDING A WALL

- **Roadblock to Comprehensive Reform.** GOP leadership has obstructed comprehensive reform at every turn. While Democrats built a framework for comprehensive reform, Republicans insisted a bill would not pass.
- **Opposed to DREAM Act.** Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell blocked the DREAM Act, stalling any hopes of implementing meaningful reform.
- **Defended Radical Anti-Immigration Laws.** Speaker Boehner defended Arizona's controversial immigration law and criticized Democrats for its opposition.

TEA PARTY LEADERSHIP

KILLING OUR JOBS

- **Firing Teachers.** The Tea Party opposed legislation to preserve more than 160,000 education jobs, arguing too many teachers have been hired and the number should be downsized.
- **Denying Benefits.** Tea Partiers fought to deny extending unemployment benefits. Sen. Rand Paul went so far as to call them “handouts.”

IRRESPONSIBLE BUDGET CUTS

- **Devastating Budget Cuts.** The Tea Party believes Republicans did not go far enough and introduced their own set of irresponsible budget cuts.
- **Eliminating the Education Department.** Michele Bachmann proposed cutting \$400 billion from the budget, including the elimination of the Department of Education.
- **Abolishing the Affordable Housing Program.** Sen. Rand Paul called for even more extreme cuts—\$500 billion worth—that would eliminate the Affordable Housing Program.

DENYING WORKERS THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

- **Eviscerate Workers' Rights.** Tea Party Rep. Tim Scott introduced a far-reaching bill to weaken workers' rights and protections against employer abuses.

EXPANDING ROLLS OF THE UNINSURED

- **Obstacle to Reform.** The Tea Party ardently opposes the healthcare reform bill and all voted in favor of its repeal in the House.
- **Defunding the System.** They want to cripple healthcare reform by completely defunding the law.
- **Expansion of Coverage Called Socialist.** Tea Party Leader Michele Bachmann called the reform law the “crown jewel of socialism” and said it was her “motivation in life” to make sure it is repealed.

GUTTING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- **Leads Fight to Repeal Consumer Protections.** Tea Party Leader Michele Bachmann is leading the fight to repeal Wall Street reform.
- **Accountability Measures Called a “Political Sham.”** Rep. Allen West went so far as to call the effort to rein in Wall Street a “political sham.”
- **Repealing Measures is “Practical.”** Rep. Nan Hayworth said efforts to gut Wall Street reform are “entirely practical, it is compassionate.”

THREAT TO SENIORS

- **Eliminating Social Security.** The Tea Party supports privatizing—or even eliminating—Social Security benefits.
- **A “Tremendous Fraud.”** Rep. Michele Bachmann, who supports using risky personal accounts, once called Social Security a “tremendous fraud.”

PUSHING EXTREMIST POLICIES

- **Mass Deportation.** The Tea Party supports the most radical, discriminatory policies and insists on a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants.
- **Deprivation of Citizenship Rights.** Tea Partiers want to reinterpret the 14th Amendment to deprive children of undocumented immigrants who are born in the country of their right to citizenship.
- **Racial Profiling.** Rep. Steve King defended racial profiling as “legitimate law enforcement.”

OUR VOICES
MAKING POLITICS WORK FOR WORKING FAMILIES IN 2012
OUR CHOICES