

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

January 28, 2011

This week, President Obama delivered his second State of the Union address, talking about the steps America needs to take today to win the future. Also this week, President Obama traveled to Wisconsin, where he toured a renewable energy technology company and spoke with workers about the steps this Administration is taking to boost American innovation. In addition, President Obama on Monday announced new efforts this Administration is making to support American service members and their families.

What's Happening?

Winning the Future in the State of the Union Address: On Tuesday, President Obama delivered his second State of the Union address, calling on Congress to support American education, innovation, infrastructure, and government reform and responsibility in order to guarantee that our country can out-compete nations around the world and win the future. In his State of the Union address, the President said:



"At stake right now is not who wins the next election — after all, we just had an election. At stake is whether new jobs and industries take root in this country, or somewhere else. It's whether the hard work and industry of our people is rewarded. It's whether we sustain the leadership that has made America not just a place on a map, but the light to the world.

"We are poised for progress. Two years after the worst recession most of us have ever known, the stock market has come roaring back. Corporate profits are up. The economy is growing again.

"But we have never measured progress by these yardsticks alone. We measure progress by the success of our people. By the jobs they can find and the quality of life those jobs offer. By the prospects of a small business owner who dreams of turning a good idea into a thriving enterprise. By the opportunities for a better life that we pass on to our children. That's the project the American people want us to work on...

"The future is ours to win. But to get there, we can't just stand still. As Robert Kennedy told us, 'The future is not a gift. It is an achievement.' Sustaining the American Dream has never been about standing pat. It has required each generation to sacrifice, and struggle, and meet the demands of a new age.

"And now it's our turn. We know what it takes to compete for the jobs and industries of our time. We need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world. We have to make America the best place on Earth to do business. We need to take responsibility for our deficit and reform our government. That's how our people will prosper. That's how we'll win the future."

White House to Main Street: On Wednesday, President Obama traveled to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, where he toured Orion Energy Systems, a cutting-edge company that designs and manufactures renewable energy technology. President Obama toured the Orion Energy facilities and met with workers before delivering remarks highlighting the importance of supporting American manufacturing and American workers. In his remarks, he said:



"In this new and challenging time, when America is facing tougher competition from countries around the world than ever before, we've got to up our game. We're going to need to go all in. We're going to need to get serious about winning the future..."

"And that means making sure that all of our kids are getting the best education possible -- not only because we need to give every child a chance to fulfill her God-given potential, but because we need to make sure American workers can go to head-to-head with workers in any country on Earth. We've got to be more productive, more capable, more skilled than any workers on Earth.

"It means making sure our infrastructure can meet the demands of the 21st century, rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges, connecting America and the American people with high-speed rail and Internet.

"It means doing what we try to do in our own lives -- by taking responsibility for our deficits, by cutting wasteful, excessive spending wherever we find it. And it means reforming the way our government does business so it's efficient and responsive to the needs of Americans instead of being responsive to the needs of lobbyists.

"Now, as important as these urgent priorities are, we've also got to make sure that the breakthroughs, the technological breakthroughs, that come to define the 21st century, that they take root right here in America. We've got to lead the world in innovation...That's how we're going to build the industries of the future, because we make smarter products using better technology than anybody else. That's how we'll win the future in the 21st century."

Strengthening Our Military Families: This week, President Obama gathered with Cabinet Members and military families to talk about this Administration's ongoing commitment to America's service members, veterans, and their families. In remarks at that event, President Obama said:

"Last month I was in Afghanistan to visit our troops and to thank them for their service... I asked them. I said, 'What do you need from me? What can I do to support you better?' And without missing a beat, they looked me in the eye and they gave me their answer. It wasn't about more equipment. It wasn't about more resources on the battlefield. In fact, it wasn't about them. They said -- to a man -- 'Sir, take care of our families. Take care of our families. If we know our families are all right back home, then we can do our jobs.'



"So we are here today because nearly a decade of war has been taking place, and our Armed Forces -- you and your families -- have done everything you've been asked to do. You've been everything we could ask you to be. You have done your duty. And as a grateful nation, we must do ours. We have to make sure that America is serving you as well as you have served us...

"As Commander-in-Chief, I am determined to do everything in my power to make sure that we are fulfilling that request from our troops, that we are taking care of their families. And that's why, over the past two years, we've made major investments: more military housing, more childcare, new schools for our military kids; more counseling and career support for spouses; more help for those tireless caregivers; dramatic increases in veterans health care, and helping hundreds of thousands of veterans and family members pursue their education through the Post-9/11 GI Bill...

"And today, I'm proud to announce that for the first time ever, supporting the well-being of our military families will be a priority not just for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, but all across the federal government. That's why all these Cabinet folks are here today. Sixteen members of my Cabinet have committed their departments and agencies to making military families one of their highest priorities."

Activism Across America



Winning the Future: On Tuesday, Democratic activists and Organizing for America supporters gathered at watch parties across the country to hear President Obama address the nation in his second State of the Union speech. Together, they listened as President Obama outlined what America needs to do today to win the future. Following the State of the Union address, President Obama sent an email to

Democratic supporters and activists across the country, asking for their help in pursuing his agenda for America's future. In that email, he said:

"Tonight I addressed the American people on the future we face together. Though at times it may seem uncertain, it is a future that is ours to decide, ours to define, and ours to win.

"I know we will. Because, after the worst recession in decades, we see an economy growing again. Because, after two years of job losses, we've added private-sector jobs for 12 straight months -- more than 1 million in all. Because, time after time, when our resolve has been tested, we, as a nation, have always prevailed.

"Overcoming the challenges we face today requires a new vision for tomorrow. We will move forward together, or not at all -- for the challenges we face are bigger than party, and bigger than politics. Yet the story of America is this: We do big things.

"Just as the progress of the past two years would not have been possible without your hard work, we will not realize the agenda I described tonight without you. So as we continue this great mission together, and we set out the plans for how far we can go, I need to know that you are ready to work side by side with me once more.

"Will you stand with me as we strive to win the future?"

To join the President in winning the future, you can visit <http://my.barackobama.com/WintheFuture>.

Key Issues in the News and Background

Talking Points: State of the Union Address

- The most important contest America faces today is not one between Democrats and Republicans. It's the contest with global competitors for 21st century jobs and industries.
- That contest is about winning the future.
- This week, the President talked directly to the American people about what our country has to do to win that contest and ensure prosperity for ourselves and our children.
- There is no question that America's economy today is stronger than the one President Obama inherited -- where our economy was shrinking, it is now growing; and where American employers were cutting jobs, more than a million private sector jobs were added last year.
- But President Obama knows that there's still more work to be done for the millions of Americans who are still looking for work or who are struggling to make ends meet with shrinking paychecks. And he knows there's still more work to be done to guarantee that America and the American people can compete and win in the 21st century.
- That's why the primary focus of President Obama's State of the Union address was what we need to do to tackle our shared challenges and rebuild our economy so that it's competitive, expanding, and working for all Americans.
- President Obama set out a plan to win the future by out-innovating, out-educating, and out-building our competitors around the world. He also talked about taking responsibility for America's deficits by investing in those things that strengthen our country and support middle class families and cutting those things that don't, as well as by reforming our government so that it's leaner and smarter for the 21st century.
 - **INNOVATE:** America needs to create the jobs and industries of the future by doing what our country does best -- investing in the creativity and imagination of the American people.
 - President Obama set a goal of drawing 80 percent of America's electricity from renewable sources by 2035;

- President Obama challenged American scientists and engineers to invent and develop new technologies that will help us meet America's energy challenges;
 - And President Obama urged Congress to eliminate billions of dollars in oil subsidies in order to invest in 21st century energy technologies.
- **EDUCATE:** New jobs will require highly educated workers. To win the future for the current generation and the next, we have got to win the race to educate our children.
 - President Obama urged improvements to No Child Left Behind, calling for higher standards, rewarding success, and providing flexibility that will enable schools and states to innovate and improve;
 - President Obama called for training another 100,000 science and math teachers to provide America's students with the skills they need to do the jobs of the future;
 - President Obama pledged to make college more accessible and affordable by revitalizing America's community colleges and permanently extending the American Opportunity Tax Credit;
 - And President Obama vowed to reform immigration laws in a comprehensive way, and to stop expelling talented and responsible graduates.
 - **BUILD:** Build a 21st century infrastructure to help American businesses win the future by selling American goods, products, and ideas all around the world.
 - President Obama suggested new efforts to get Americans working at repairing and rebuilding our country's crumbling roads and bridges by leveraging private resources;
 - President Obama set a goal to connect 80 percent of America with high-speed rail in the next 25 years;
 - And President Obama proposed a National Wireless Initiative to offer 98 percent of the country coverage for high-speed internet access and create a nationwide public safety network.
 - **REFORM:** Winning the future means reforming government so it's leaner, transparent, and ready for this century.
 - President Obama called for corporate tax code reform that would eliminate special interest loopholes and use the savings to lower the corporate tax rate;
 - President Obama called for the review of all existing regulations in order to take down barriers to growth while still maintaining the safety of the American people;
 - President Obama vowed to veto special interest earmarks in all bills;
 - And President Obama urged Congress to follow the lead of the White House in disclosing lobbyist meetings.
 - **RESPONSIBILITY:** Winning the future means guaranteeing that the future isn't built on a pile of debt. We have a shared responsibility to make difficult cuts so that there's room for investments that speed economic growth.
 - President Obama suggested freezing domestic spending for the next five years, cutting the deficit by \$400 billion over a decade and bringing non-security discretionary spending to the smallest share of the economy since President Eisenhower.
- America is facing tremendous challenges, and overcoming those challenges will require hard work and sacrifice from everyone – Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike. But if all parties are willing to come together to find common ground solutions, then we can win the future. We can lay the foundation for 21st century American competitiveness and ensure that future Americans know the same great country and the same great opportunities that our parents and grandparents bequeathed to us.

Talking Points: State of the Union Address – America's National Security

- Just as we have to step up our game to renew America's economic leadership, we must also reassert America's leadership around the world. This week, President Obama reviewed this Administration's efforts to keep America safe; make our alliances stronger; and restore our standing in the world.
- In Iraq, President Obama has kept his commitment by ending America's combat mission and drawing troops down by 100,000 since he took office. This year, America will complete the drawdown of American troops. As President Obama said, the Iraq war is ending.
- In Afghanistan, America has made progress in taking Taliban strongholds and training Afghan Security Forces. There is hard fighting ahead, but we are ready to begin transitioning to an Afghan lead. And President Obama reiterated that this July, American troops will start coming home.
- Around the world, America has taken the fight to al Qaeda. Al Qaeda's leadership is under greater pressure than ever in Pakistan. This Administration is securing America's skies and cities. And President Obama is continuing American efforts to defeat al Qaeda around the world.
- President Obama reviewed his bold agenda to protect America from the threat of nuclear weapons, including the finalization of the new START Treaty, America's work to secure all nuclear materials, and America's success in imposing strong sanctions on Iran and North Korea.
- Advancing an export agenda is also a part of President Obama's foreign policy – through job-creating agreements with countries like China and India; as well as through trade agreements like the Korea FTA, which will support 70,000 U.S. jobs and which President Obama urged Congress to approve as quickly as possible.
- In his State of the Union address, President Obama announced that he is going to travel to Brazil, Chile, and El Salvador in March – his first trip to South America. That trip will be an important chance to strengthen the United States' partnership in the Americas and will help to enhance our security and prosperity.
- President Obama also talked about what sets America apart, especially our country's commitment to the values of freedom and democracy. Those values are evident in America's support for a peaceful vote for independence in South Sudan. And in a strong statement of support for the people of Tunisia.
- President Obama also reiterated America's unwavering support for the men and women who serve our country in uniform, as well as for their families. The President is committed to ensuring they have the equipment they depend on when they're in harm's way; the care and benefits they've earned when they return home; and the opportunities that will empower American veterans to help rebuild our country.
- In keeping with President Obama's pledge one year ago to bring an end to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," gay servicemen and servicewomen will be permitted to serve openly this year. As such, President Obama called on colleges to allow military recruiters and the ROTC back on campus. It's time to leave the divisive issues of the past behind and move forward together as one nation.