

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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This week, President Obama unveiled his budget for fiscal year 2013, which is focused on fulfilling the President's vision of building an economy that's built to last and aims to keep the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home and have some savings when you retire. He traveled to Wisconsin to tour a local company that has begun bringing jobs back to America – or "insourcing" – and discussed the importance of boosting American manufacturing. At the end of the week, the President visited a Boeing facility in Seattle to talk about the resurgence of America's manufacturing industry. And after a renewed push from President Obama earlier in the week for Congress to take action on extending the payroll tax cut and critical unemployment insurance for Americans looking for new work, Congress passed these extensions and prevented taxes from going up on 160 million hardworking Americans.

Additionally, Democrats across the country continued their efforts to hold Mitt Romney and the rest of the GOP field accountable for their failed policies – contrasting them with the President's hard work that is getting our economy back on track. In particular, Democrats honed in on Romney's out-of-touch positions, record of flip-flopping and hypocrisy, and failure to propose a single new idea that will help America's working and middle-class families.

President Obama Unveils 2013 Budget, Focused on Fulfilling Vision for an Economy Built to Last

On Monday, the President traveled to Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale to unveil his budget for fiscal year 2013. He also announced a new \$8 billion Community College to Career Fund that will help forge new partnerships between community colleges and businesses to train two million workers for good-paying jobs in high-growth and high-demand industries. This year's budget reflects President Obama's firm belief that our country has always done best when everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules. It aims to keep the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home and have some savings when you retire. During his remarks about the budget, the President said:

"So an economy built to last demands that we keep doing everything we can to help students learn

the skills that businesses are looking for. It means we have to keep strengthening American manufacturing. It means we've got to keep investing in American energy. We've got to double down on the clean energy that's creating jobs. But it also means we've got to renew the American values of fair play and shared responsibility.



"The budget that we're releasing today is a reflection of shared responsibility. It says that if we're serious about investing in our future and investing in community colleges, and investing in new energy technology, and investing in basic research, well, we've got to pay for it. And that means we've got to make some choices."

You can watch President Obama's remarks [here](#).

In Wisconsin, the President Tours Master Lock Company and Discusses Insourcing of American Jobs

President Obama on Wednesday toured Master Lock Company in Wisconsin, where he continued to discuss his blueprint for an economy built to last based on boosting American manufacturing and "insourcing" – bringing jobs back to America. During his remarks at Master Lock, President Obama highlighted the company's success in saving money by keeping production facilities in the United States and insourcing, saying:



"And that's what's happening right here at Master Lock -- because of you. Over the last few years, it's become more expensive to do business in countries like China. Meanwhile, American workers, we've become even more productive. So when John Heppner was at the White House in January, he told me how it makes more

business sense for Master Lock to bring jobs back home here to Milwaukee. And today, for the first time in 15 years, this plant is running at full capacity. And that's an example of what happens when unions and employers work together to create good jobs. Today, you're selling products directly to customers in China stamped with those words: Made In America.

"And the good news is this is starting to happen around the country. For the first time since 1990, American manufacturers are creating new jobs. That's good for the companies, but it's also good up and down the supply chain, because if you're making this stuff here, that means that there are producers and suppliers in and around the area who have a better chance of selling stuff here. It means the restaurant close by suddenly has more customers. Everybody benefits when manufacturing is going strong."

Watch the President's speech [here](#).

President Obama Highlights Resurgence of U.S. Manufacturing During Visit to Boeing Facility in Seattle

On Friday, the President visited a Boeing facility in Seattle to talk about the resurgence of America's manufacturing industry. During the visit, he highlighted Boeing's new 787 Dreamliner, which was built in two states with parts made around the world – an important and high-flying symbol of the return of U.S. manufacturing, a part of the President's vision for an economy built to last. During the President's remarks, he noted that our economy has now seen 23 consecutive months of private sector job growth for a total of 3.7 million jobs, and he praised Boeing as an example of the growth of American manufacturing, saying:

"This company is a great example of what American manufacturing can do in the way nobody else in the world can do. Every Dreamliner that rolls off the assembly line here in Everett supports thousands of jobs in different industries all across the country."

Congress Passes Extension of Payroll Tax Cut and Unemployment Insurance, Following a Renewed Push by the President

At the end of the week, Congress passed an extension of both the payroll tax cut for the middle class and unemployment insurance that provides a vital lifeline for millions of Americans who are looking for new work to support their families. As a result, the typical family will continue to see an additional \$40 of savings in every paycheck, keeping roughly \$1,000 of their hard-earned money in their pockets this year.

Earlier this week, the President held an event where he spoke about the need for Congress to take action and prevent taxes from going up on 160 million hardworking Americans. During the event, where he was joined by everyday Americans who had shared their story about what \$40 a paycheck means to them, President Obama said:



"And the last thing we need, the last thing we can afford to do, is to go back to the same policies that got us in this mess in the first place. The last thing we need is for Washington to stand in the way of America's comeback.

"First and foremost, that means Washington shouldn't hike taxes on working Americans right now. That's the wrong thing to do. But that's exactly what's going to happen at the end of this month -- in a couple of weeks -- if Congress doesn't do something about it. The payroll tax cut we put in place last year will expire. The typical American family will shell out nearly a thousand dollars more in taxes this year. You'll lose about \$40 out of every paycheck if Congress does not act.

"And that can't happen. Not now. And it doesn't have to. Congress needs to extend that tax cut -- along with vital insurance lifelines for folks who've lost their jobs during this recession -- and they need to do it now, without drama and without delay. No ideological sideshows to gum up the works. No self-inflicted wounds. Just pass this middle-class tax cut. Pass the extension of unemployment insurance. Do it before it's too late. And I will sign it right away."

You can watch the President's remarks [here](#).

Holding Republicans Accountable

On Monday, the Democratic National Committee teamed up with Obama for America and state parties across the country to launch a new nationwide effort to hold Republicans accountable: Truth Teams. The goal of the Truth Teams is to engage and equip grassroots supporters who will communicate a positive message about the President's

record and fight back against false attacks on the President by the Republican presidential candidates, as well as set the record straight on the GOP candidates' distortions of their own failed records and policies.

On Tuesday, former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and Congressmen John Dingell and Sander Levin held a press conference call to respond to a dishonest op-ed Mitt Romney wrote in the *Detroit News*, in which he tried to rewrite history and claim partial credit for the successful rescue of the American auto industry by President Obama. In reality, Romney opposed the President's bold decision and suggested that we should "let Detroit go bankrupt."

In a press conference call on Wednesday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced the nomination of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa as Permanent Chair of the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. Chair Wasserman Schultz praised Mayor Villaraigosa for his leadership, noting that he has "dedicated his career to civic engagement and empowering people at the grass-roots," and also saying, "We're excited to have his energy and his voice."

On Thursday, Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern, Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald and former NBA player and Warrensville Heights Mayor Brad Sellers held a press conference to discuss Mitt Romney's out-of-touch approach to the housing foreclosure crisis, which would hurt Northeast Ohio families and do nothing to help Ohioans stay in their homes. In Michigan, Oakland County Democrats held a rally to welcome Mitt Romney back to the state and remind Romney that Michiganders won't forget how he turned his back on them in their hour of need by suggesting that we "let Detroit go bankrupt."

Amplifying this message, the DNC also released a web video titled, "Here's the lesson Mr. Romney: Don't bet against America." You can watch it [here](#).

On Friday, Democrats across the country held press conference calls highlighting manufacturing growth and job creation as a result of President Obama's policies. During these calls, Democrats nationwide emphasized that manufacturing companies are creating jobs for the first time since the 1990s – in the past 30 months, they have added nearly 400,000 jobs.

Finally, the DNC released a web video, "Olympic Bailout," which highlights the fact that while Mitt Romney consistently rails against taxpayer bailouts on the campaign trail, he made the 2002 Winter Olympics the most expensive Olympics in American history – costing taxpayers \$1.3 billion. You can watch it [here](#).

Key Issues in the News and Background

Talking Points: OFA Launches the Truth Team to Promote the President's Achievements and Hold Republicans Accountable (2/13/12)

Key Point: OFA's Truth Team will promote the President's achievements, respond to attacks on his record and hold the eventual Republican nominee accountable.

- Obama for America announced today [the launch of the Truth Team](#), a new national effort by President Obama's supporters online and on the ground to promote the President's achievements, respond to attacks on his record and hold the eventual Republican nominee accountable.
- More than a million people joined the Fight the Smears initiative during the 2008 campaign; with the Truth Team we hope to double that number, reaching two million grassroots supporters who will communicate the President's record and fight back against attacks before the Democratic National Convention this fall.
- Beginning today with events across the country and continuing through the election, the Truth Team will engage grassroots supporters to spread the truth about the President's record and respond to Republican attacks.
- The program will be housed at [BarackObama.com/TruthTeam](#), with individual websites – [KeepingHisWord.com](#), [KeepingGOPHonest.com](#), and [AttackWatch.com](#) – serving as quick, comprehensive resources to help set the record straight.

- Designed to put responsibility for spreading the truth in the hands of the President's supporters, the websites contain videos and information on the President's record, and fact checks on Republican claims about the President and themselves.
- The sites also have tools for sharing materials via Facebook, Twitter and email, and they empower supporters to volunteer, write letters to the editor, send postcards to undecided voters with information about the President's record, and more. When Republicans attack President Obama's record, grassroots supporters can take ownership of the campaign and share the facts with the undecided voters in their lives.
- The Republican candidates are spending a huge amount of time attacking President Obama, which is no surprise. But instead of basing their attacks on our differences of opinion, they've chosen to run on false claims about his record.
 - We've had 23 consecutive months of job growth under the President's watch, but Mitt Romney says he's made the recession "worse."
 - Rick Santorum says that the President's health reform, which was based on Republican proposals and expands access only to private insurance, is a government takeover of health care.
- And they're not acting alone: with the newfound power of outside groups, these lies can be instantly amplified with millions of dollars in special-interest ad spending. Republican Super PACs have committed to spend a half billion dollars on negative ads to defeat the President.
- But from the start, the Obama for America campaign has relied on grassroots supporters to spread the truth, and today's announcement builds on and expands our effort to make sure that when voters go to the polls in November, they know the truth.

###

Romney Misleads Michigan Voters, Attacks President's Successful Auto Rescue (2/14/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney is misleading Michigan voters, attacking President Obama for successfully rescuing the auto industry and saving more than 1.4 million jobs.

- When the auto industry was about to collapse, Mitt Romney said we should "let Detroit go bankrupt." Now that Romney has to win votes in Michigan, he's trying to rewrite history and attack President Obama for successfully saving the auto industry. Once again Romney is saying anything to get elected.
 - Romney opposed the rescue package for automakers – a stance that would have led to liquidation and the loss of 1.4 million jobs.
 - *Please see [Romney's op-ed in The Detroit News](#) on the subject.*
- Romney is misleading voters about the President's bold and decisive rescue of the auto industry. But voters deserve the truth.
 - In exchange for emergency rescue loans, President Obama demanded tough concessions and shared sacrifice from both labor and management. And in return, America's carmakers retooled to create the energy efficient cars of the future.
 - Rescuing the auto industry saved more than 1.4 million jobs up and down the supply chain.
 - According to the same Detroit newspaper that ran Romney's op-ed, automakers couldn't have survived bankruptcy on their own. The President's rescue loans helped the auto industry "survive the darkest hour of its history and return to thriving operations today."

- Now the President's tough and decisive action is paying off. Detroit is building cars of the future and America's carmakers are creating jobs.
 - GM and Chrysler repaid their outstanding loans years ahead of schedule.
 - GM is once again the world's top carmaker.
 - The auto industry added more than 200,000 jobs in the last two and a half years, and 2011 was the strongest year of industry job growth since 1994.
 - Demand for their cars is going up, so GM, Ford and Chrysler are starting to run three production shifts a day. Added shifts and new facilities mean jobs for thousands more workers in Michigan and Ohio.
- No matter what Romney says to Michigan voters, they don't trust him. Michigan's primary is less than two weeks away, and polls show Romney losing his former home state by up to [15 percent](#).

###

President Obama's 2013 Budget Illustrates His Blueprint for an Economy Built to Last (2/14/12)

Key Point: In his State of the Union address, President Obama outlined a blueprint for an economy built to last. His 2013 budget fulfills that vision.

- In his State of the Union address, President Obama outlined a blueprint for an economy built to last. His 2013 budget fulfills that vision.
 - It's built on American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers, and a renewal of American values.
 - It reflects the President's firm belief that we all succeed when everyone has a fair shot, everyone does their fair share and everyone plays by the same rules.
- As the President has said, we're at a make-or-break moment for the middle class and those trying to reach it. This budget aims to keep the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home and have some savings when you retire.
- To boost job creation that will speed up our economic recovery and get more Americans back to work, the President's budget would:
 - Extend the payroll tax cut to prevent a \$1,000 tax hike on middle-class families.
 - Create thousands of quality jobs to rebuild roads, rails and runways.
 - Keep letting businesses fully write off new investments.
 - Modernize at least 35,000 schools and help states and communities keep teachers in classrooms while hiring more teachers, firefighters, paramedics and police officers.
 - Cut taxes for small businesses that add jobs and raise salaries.
- To create true middle-class security, we can't just cut our way to prosperity. We have to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the world. That's why the President's budget invests in:
 - Giving our students and workers the education and training they need for jobs of the future by making college more affordable and creating job training for long-term unemployed and low-income adults.
 - American innovation in clean energy and manufacturing so we create more good jobs and products stamped "Made in America."
 - A 21st century infrastructure, using the savings from ending our wars abroad to expand passenger rail and create a next-generation wireless broadband network.

- The President's budget helps ensure an economy built to last over the long term, not one based on outsourcing, loopholes and risky financial deals that jeopardize the middle class. It reduces the deficit in a balanced way that asks all Americans to pay their fair share.
 - It simplifies the tax code, eliminating unfair and inefficient tax breaks that stack the deck against the middle class.
 - It saves billions by making Medicare, Medicaid and other health programs more effective and efficient.
 - It includes the Buffett Rule that makes sure billionaires like Warren Buffett don't pay lower tax rates than their secretaries, or other middle-class workers. Buffett himself supports it.
 - It cuts wasteful government spending and implements the new defense strategy that ensures we're prepared for future challenges with a leaner, smarter and faster military.

- The budget reduces the deficit by more than \$4 trillion over the next ten years.
 - This reflects the President's agreement with both parties in Congress to reduce spending by \$1 trillion over 10 years.
 - Including last year's deficit reductions, the budget cuts spending by \$2.50 for every tax dollar from those with incomes over \$250,000 and from closing corporate loopholes.

- Mitt Romney calls his cuts to Social Security and Medicare "common sense." But his proposals to end Medicare as we know it and gut Social Security to fund massive tax cuts for millionaires, billionaires and large corporations won't sound like "common sense" to most Americans.
 - Romney endorsed a plan that would turn Medicare into a voucher program that would cost the typical 65-year old \$6,000 a year.
 - Romney's plan for Social Security mirrors a proposal that would cut Social Security up to 40 percent for workers now in their 20s. An average worker would see a cut of 30 percent and \$400 a month.
 - While the President has outlined a balanced approach that would reduce the deficit while promoting job growth and investing in programs essential to the middle class, Romney would tip the scales against them while doubling down on the same policies that got us into the economic crisis.

###

Talking Points: L.A. Mayor Villaraigosa to Chair the Democratic National Convention (2/15/12)

Key Point: Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will be nominated to chair this year's Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

- The Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) announced today that Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz will nominate Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Permanent Chair of the 2012 Democratic National Convention. DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz's nomination of Mayor Villaraigosa will be presented to the Convention Rules Committee and then voted on by the delegates to the 2012 Convention at the opening session.

- The Permanent Chair presides over the convention proceedings, ensuring order, decorum and efficiency as the party nominates its presidential and vice presidential candidates, adopts the national platform, and conducts other important business. The Permanent Chair also acts as another national spokesperson for the convention.

- Mayor Villaraigosa has dedicated his career to civic engagement and empowering people at the grassroots. And that's exactly what we need to be successful at this convention – input and engagement from Americans across the country.
 - As a high school student, he volunteered with the farm workers movement, led student walkouts and organized an African-American student union.
 - Before he was elected to public office he worked as a union organizer.
- Our success depends on the involvement of Americans at the grassroots level all across the country and enlisting them to continue to work for change. From format to funding, we want to increase the influence of the grassroots and empower more Americans to become involved in the political process.
- Mayor Villaraigosa is asking people to share their ideas with convention planners by going to demconvention.com and tell us how we can make this the most open and accessible convention in history.
- We're already making changes to include more people. The DNCC announced in late January changes in format and venue that will allow tens of thousands more people to be engaged in the convention.
 - Convention week will open with a family-friendly Labor Day event at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Monday, September 3, that will be open to people from across the region and around the country.
 - Delegates will vote on Mayor Villaraigosa's nomination at the convention's opening session and he will preside over convention proceedings at Time Warner Cable Arena, on Tuesday, September 4, and Wednesday, September 5.
 - And on Thursday September 6, President Obama will accept the nomination at Bank of America Stadium, where once again the public will be invited to attend.
- President Obama began his journey five years ago with a conversation – friends reaching out to neighbors, families talking around the dinner table. At this convention we want to engage Americans in a conversation about how we can strengthen the country in a way that creates more opportunity for all.

###

Romney Flipped on China Trade Enforcement After Divesting \$1.5 Million From China (2/16/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney flipped on trade enforcement against China after withdrawing his significant investments there.

- Mitt Romney will say and stand for anything to get elected. Two years ago he criticized President Obama for enforcing trade laws against China. Now, after withdrawing his significant investments there, Romney says he would enforce those very same rules.
 - Please see [Romney's op-ed in The Wall Street Journal](#) on the subject.
- Romney used to oppose enforcing trade laws against China, but now he's saying the exact opposite. This comes only after he withdrew his investments in China worth approximately \$1.5 million.
 - When President Obama defended American tire companies two years ago from China's unfair trade practices, Romney wrote in his 2010 book *No Apology* that the President's actions to enforce trade laws against China was "bad for the nation and our workers"
 - Now, he's changing his tune. Last fall, in advance of his economic speech, Romney's advisors shed his \$1.5 million investments in China. A month later, Romney released a new economic plan calling for stronger enforcement toward China.

- Romney can't have it both ways on China. A Commander-in-Chief only gets one chance to get it right. But Romney's flip-flops on crucial foreign policy issues extend beyond China trade enforcement. He's also flipped on ending the Iraq war, winding down in Afghanistan, and ending Qaddafi's reign of terror in Libya.
- While Romney has gone back and forth on China trade enforcement, President Obama has a strong and consistent record. He's standing up for American workers, pressuring China on its unfair trade practices and undervalued currency. He's also publically called on China to crack down on intellectual property violators and increase market access for American goods.

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Latest Romney Flip-Flop Hypocrisy: Taxpayer Bailouts and the 2002 Winter Olympics (2/17/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney rails against taxpayer bailouts, but he lobbied for and won unprecedented amounts of taxpayer dollars to bail out the 2002 Winter Olympics.

- Mitt Romney will say anything to get elected. As head of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Romney lobbied aggressively for taxpayer dollars to bail out the Games. But now that he's running for office, Romney is hypocritically railing against taxpayer bailouts.
 - Please see [this Washington Post article](#) on the subject.
- When Romney speaks in Salt Lake City tomorrow for the 10th anniversary of the 2002 Olympics, he won't say how he aggressively lobbied for a taxpayer bailout. Instead he's claiming that "the American people have said enough with the bailouts."
- Romney went to Salt Lake City after the organizing committee was tainted by an international bribery scandal and a huge budget deficit. The former chairman of the 2002 Games said "it was fairly obvious" that Romney wanted to exploit the games for political purposes.
- Romney sought and received more taxpayer bailout money for the 2002 Winter Olympics than all other previous Olympic Games combined. And his Olympic earmarks didn't just pay for security as he claims. They included:
 - \$30 million for parking lots.
 - \$2 million for sewer systems.
 - \$33,000 for an Olympic horse adoption program.
- Romney made the 2002 Winter Olympics the most expensive Olympics in American history. It cost taxpayers \$1.3 billion. That's:
 - 996 percent more than the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.
 - 5,582 percent more than the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.
 - Please see [this DNC video](#) on the subject.

###

President Obama Highlights Resurgence of American Manufacturing Industry (2/17/12)

Key Point: President Obama helped spark the resurgence of American manufacturing, part of his vision for an economy built to last.

- President Obama is visiting Boeing in Seattle today to talk about the resurgence of our manufacturing industry. He's highlighting Boeing's new 787 Dreamliner, which was built in two states with parts made

around the world. It's an important and high-flying symbol of the return of American manufacturing, a part of the President's vision for an economy built to last.

- Three years ago this week, the President signed the Recovery Act to help our economy get out of the recession he inherited. Slowly but surely, things have been getting better. In every single one of the last 23 months, American companies have added jobs, totaling 3.7 million and counting.
- The decisions President Obama made also invested in the future, laying a foundation for an economy built on sustainable growth and a strong middle class. That starts with American manufacturing – and it can't happen without it.
- The American manufacturing industry has expanded for 30 straight months. We're creating manufacturing jobs again for the first time since the late 1990s. In the past two years alone American manufacturers have created nearly 400,000 jobs across the country.
- The American auto industry is also coming back. In the last two and a half years, the auto industry has added more than 200,000 jobs.
 - That wasn't an accident. When others said we should abandon the auto industry, President Obama stood up for America's auto workers, the communities they live in and the companies where many have spent their entire careers.
 - GM is once again the No. 1 car company in the world, and it recently announced its largest annual profits in history.
- President Obama knows you don't bet against the United States and its workers. And because of his leadership, more and more consumers around the world are now buying products stamped with three proud words: "Made in America."
- Increasing American manufacturing is a key to the President's vision for an economy built to last, where everyone gets a fair shot at the American Dream. It's part of how we're restoring economic security for the middle class, by out-building, out educating and out-innovating the rest of the world.

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