

# THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

**April 6, 2012**

This week, President Obama discussed his blueprint for an economy built to last at the Associated Press luncheon. In sharp contrast to the extreme vision in the House Republican budget, the President reiterated his commitment to the middle class and those working to reach it. On Monday, the President hosted leaders from Mexico and Canada and discussed economic growth and job creation in all three countries. The President signed the STOCK Act, preventing members of Congress from using nonpublic information to gain an unfair advantage in the stock market, and the JOBS Act, a bipartisan bill that will help encourage startups and support our nation's small businesses. The First Lady announced Wednesday that American businesses have committed to creating more than 15,000 jobs for military spouses and veterans in the next few years. On Friday, the White House hosted a forum on women and the economy, where President Obama delivered remarks highlighting ways the Administration has helped restore economic security for women in this country.

The Republican presidential candidates continued their slog toward the GOP nomination – with contests in Wisconsin, Maryland and the District of Columbia. This week, Mitt Romney tried to Etch-A-Sketch away his extreme positions on immigration, but voters aren't buying it.

## 25 Straight Months of Job Creation

Today's employment report for the month of March shows that the economy has now seen 25 straight months of private sector job growth, for a total of 4.1 million jobs over that period. Private sector payrolls increased by 121,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate ticked down to 8.2%. These numbers are a clear sign that the President's policies are working, as we continue to create jobs on a consistent basis. But as the President has emphasized, there is still a lot to do. The President knows that the country's economic problems weren't created overnight and that they won't be solved overnight, either. We must do more to speed up America's economic recovery – that's why President Obama has laid out a blueprint for an economy that's built to last and focuses on American manufacturing, American energy, and skills for American workers.

## President Obama Delivers Remarks at the AP Luncheon

On Wednesday at the Associated Press Luncheon, President Obama discussed how his vision of America differs with the extreme vision laid out in the House Republican budget. The President reiterated that this is a make or break moment for the middle class and those working to reach it. He has put forward a blueprint for an economy built to last – one where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules. At the luncheon, the President said:



"This Congressional Republican budget, however, is something different altogether. It's a Trojan Horse. Disguised as deficit reduction plan, it's really an attempt to impose a radical vision on our country. It's nothing but thinly-veiled Social Darwinism. It's antithetical to our entire history as a land of opportunity and upward mobility for everyone who's willing to work for it – a place where prosperity doesn't trickle down from the top, but grows outward from the heart of the middle class."

Compare the President's budget with the GOP budget [here](#).

### **The President Hosts the Leaders of Mexico and Canada for a North American Leaders Summit**

On Monday, President Obama held a summit at the White House with President Felipe Calderon of Mexico and Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper. The leaders discussed economic growth and job creation in all three countries.

At a press conference in the Rose Garden – held in conjunction with the North American Leaders Summit – President Obama announced that the three countries would work together to reverse outdated regulations that stifle job creation. He said:

“Here in the United States, our efforts to cut red tape and ensure smart regulations will help achieve savings and benefits to businesses, consumers, and our country of more than \$100 billion. And we're already working to streamline and coordinate regulations with Canada and Mexico on a bilateral basis. So now our three nations are going to sit down together, go through the books and simplify and eliminate more regulations that will make our joint economies stronger.”



Last year, for the first time, U.S. trade with Mexico and Canada exceeded \$1 trillion. Monday's talks focused on ways to continue fostering these critical trade relationships and boosting exports – as well as issues pertaining to security, energy and efforts to combat drug cartels.

### **President Obama Signs STOCK Act**



On Wednesday, President Obama signed the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act into law in a ceremony at the White House. The President had called on Congress to pass the bill, which bans members of Congress from using nonpublic information to gain an unfair advantage in the stock market, during the State of the Union in January. After signing the bill into law, President Obama said:

“The STOCK Act creates new disclosure requirements and new measures of accountability and transparency for thousands of federal employees. That is a

good and necessary thing. We were sent here to serve the American people and look out for their interests -- not to look out for our own interests.”

Read the President's full remarks [here](#).

### **President Obama Signs the JOBS Act**

On Thursday, President Obama signed the Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act into law. The JOBS Act, a bipartisan bill that will help encourage startups and support our nation's small businesses, allows Americans to go online and invest in small businesses and entrepreneurs for the first time. This will help these startups and high-growth enterprises raise capital more efficiently, as well as allow newer, smaller firms to expand and hire faster. President Obama called the bill "a potential gamechanger" for America's entrepreneurs.

### **First Lady Michelle Obama Announces New Jobs for Military Families**

First Lady Michelle Obama announced Wednesday that American businesses have committed to creating more than 15,000 jobs for military spouses and veterans in the next few years. These jobs would largely be located near military bases. There will also be thousands of home-employment opportunities, which are especially valuable for military families because they move frequently from base to base across the country. They also provide flexible work hours, enable spouses who care for children or elderly parents to work from home, and give home-bound veterans with disabilities job opportunities.

These businesses and the jobs they create will be integrated into the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), which is a Department of Defense-led effort launched by Dr. Jill Biden last summer.

### **White House Forum on Women and the Economy**

On Friday, the White House Council on Women and Girls hosted a forum on women and the economy. President Obama delivered remarks at the Forum to highlight ways the Administration has helped create economic security for women, recognizing that women are key to economic growth and competitiveness.

### **Holding Republicans Accountable**

The Republican presidential candidates continued their slog to the GOP nomination in Wisconsin, Maryland and the District of Columbia. This week, Mitt Romney tried to Etch-A-Sketch away his extreme positions on immigration, but voters aren't buying it.

On Monday, the DNC hosted a press call with the former Chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, the Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party and the Chair of the D.C. Democratic Party that highlighted why Mitt Romney is bad for American families. Former Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Phil Johnson had this to say about Mitt Romney:

"His willingness to say anything to get elected and etch-a-sketch away the past, coupled with being beholden to the extreme agenda of the Tea Party spells disaster for our country. He'll say anything if he thinks it will improve his chances of winning office – we saw it in Massachusetts in 1994, 2002, 2008 and were seeing it again this year. But we have no interest in letting Romney shake away the extreme attacks he has made and so we are here today to hold Mitt Romney accountable not only for his past record but for the positions he has taken that are so extreme and so dangerous for the future of this country."

On Tuesday, DNC Senior Advisor for Hispanic Affairs Juan Sepulveda released a statement on Mitt Romney trying to "Etch-A-Sketch" his extreme immigration positions:

"Mitt Romney may try to Etch-a-Sketch his extreme positions on immigration, but he can't shake off the extreme policies he has adopted – anti-immigrant policies that Latino voters won't soon forget."

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement on the results of the primaries in Wisconsin, Maryland and the District of Columbia and the problems Mitt Romney continues to have with independents:

"In Wisconsin alone, Romney and his allies outspent Rick Santorum and his allies by more than 3.5-to-1, and even after all that money the Republican party is still unenthusiastic and having trouble coalescing around their presumptive nominee. Mitt Romney has pledged his allegiance to the Tea Party and because of this, he will continue to alienate critical general election voters as the Republicans continue their slog to the nomination—which is bad for the Republican Party come November."

On Wednesday, the DNC was active in Pennsylvania, Michigan and the Southwest – holding Mitt Romney and the GOP accountable for their out-of-touch positions. In Pennsylvania, State Senator Daylin Leach and Delaware County Democratic Chairman David Landau held a press conference "welcoming" Mitt Romney to Pennsylvania and asking him to explain his support for the radical Ryan budget plan that would end Medicare as we know it. In Michigan, Rep. John Dingell and the UAW teamed up to respond to positive news about the auto industry and discuss Mitt Romney saying we should let Detroit go bankrupt.

State Representatives Crisanta Duran (CO), Ruben Gallego (AZ) and Martinez Fischer (TX) held a press call to discuss Mitt Romney's disingenuous attempt to Etch-A-Sketch his extreme positions on immigration. The DNC also released a blog post titled "Romney's counting on short-term memories." It said:

"It's up to us to make sure every voter remembers that Romney said he'd end health care for millions of families, thought it simply 'marvelous' to cut taxes for the wealthy at the expense of the middle class, would 'get rid of' Planned Parenthood, and endorsed the most extreme immigration policies of our time. Good luck with your Etch A Sketch, Mitt. We'll be keeping you honest at every flip-flop along the way."



On Thursday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz was in Philadelphia for a press conference with Rep. Allyson Schwartz where they highlighted the GOP's "No Love for Women" agenda in Philadelphia's Love Park. When RNC Chairman Reince Priebus compared GOP attacks on women's health care to a fictional "war on caterpillars," the Chair was ready to respond:

"While it's no secret that Republicans on the campaign trail and in Congress have been advocating for and implementing policies that would take women backward, to have the head of the GOP say these attacks on women are as fictional as a 'war on caterpillars' is callous and dismissive of what matters to women and completely out of touch."

Finally, Obama for America Campaign Manager Jim Messina released a statement on this week's report by the *Washington Post* detailing Mitt Romney's lack of transparency concerning his personal finances and tax returns. It said:

"Mitt Romney has asked Americans to elect him President based on his experience as a corporate buyout specialist. Each week, new questions are raised about whether he took unusual steps to avoid paying his

fair share in taxes. Today's report suggests that Governor Romney is exploiting a loophole in order to shield his assets and investments from public review."

"Mitt Romney has put his personal financial assets in a black box and hid the key, attempting to play by a different set of rules than any candidate in recent history. In fact, Mitt Romney's own father released 12 years of tax returns when he ran for president. President Bush released his tax returns dating back to 1991. And President Obama released his returns dating back to 2000 when he ran for president."

### **Key Issues in the News and Background**

#### **President Obama Supports Repealing Needless \$4 Billion Oil and Gas Subsidies (4/2/12)**

**Key Point:** President Obama supports repealing billions of dollars in needless taxpayer subsidies to oil and gas companies that are making record profits.

- President Obama supports repealing \$4 billion in needless taxpayer subsidies to oil and gas companies that are making record profits. Last week the U.S. Senate voted on repealing billions of dollars in needless taxpayer subsidies to oil and gas companies that are posting record profits. Senate Republicans, despite President Obama's urging to do otherwise, chose Big Oil over the American people, and the vote failed to pass.
- Repealing subsidies for big oil and gas companies is an important part of President Obama's sustained, all-of-the-above energy strategy that's helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and helping families save at the pump. The President knows that rising gas prices are hitting families hard. As long as America has been dependent on foreign oil, consumers have been subjected to unpredictable price swings at the pump.
- President Obama knows we can't just drill our way to lower gas prices and we won't solve this problem overnight. That's why he's focused on developing all of America's natural resources – including domestic oil, gas, wind, solar and biofuels – and encouraging fuel efficiency so that we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil over time.
  - Please see [this web tool](#) for more information on the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy.
- While President Obama is helping families save money at the pump, Mitt Romney is advocating for the policies that will keep gas prices high.
  - As governor, Romney increased a tax on gas by 400 percent.
  - He has no plans to stop giving \$4 billion in taxpayer dollars to oil and gas companies that are making record profits.
  - He has criticized the fuel economy standards that are helping families save at the pump.
  - He also wants to repeal Wall Street reforms that will prevent corporations from manipulating the energy market to profit off of high prices at the pump.
- Romney has raised more than \$750,000 from oil and gas special interests in this election alone. His energy policy is full of empty rhetoric and bad ideas that would make his Big Oil donors even richer at the expense of the middle class.
  - Please see [this infographic](#) on Romney's alliance with Big Oil.

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#### **Mitt Romney Misleads Voters, Tries to Etch-A-Sketch Away His Failed Record (4/4/12)**

**Key Point:** Mitt Romney is misleading voters and trying to Etch-A-Sketch away his extreme and failed record.

- Mitt Romney gave a speech in Washington today that bore little resemblance to reality. Romney is trying to completely rewrite his record of more debt, more spending, fewer jobs and bigger government in

Massachusetts. He's also misleading voters about President Obama's record of promoting economic security for the middle class.

- Romney has been willfully vague about what policies he'd implement outside of the extreme Romney-Ryan plan that would add trillions to the deficit and end Medicare as we know it to help pay for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.
- President Obama, on the other hand, has put forward a plan to boost competitiveness and create jobs, and reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion by ensuring everyone does their fair share.
- Etch-A-Sketch or no Etch-A-Sketch, Mitt Romney cannot run from his record, nor can he hide the fact that his policies would be disastrous for middle-class and working families.

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### **President Obama Contrasts His Budget With The Romney-Ryan Budget (4/4/12)**

**Key Point:** While President Obama's budget would help create an economy built to last, where everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same rules, the Romney-Ryan budget would hurt the middle class at the expense of tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires.

- President Obama spoke yesterday at the Associated Press luncheon in Washington, where he contrasted his budget plan with the Romney-Ryan budget plan. While the President's budget would help create an economy built to last, where everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same rules, the Romney-Ryan budget would hurt the middle class at the expense of tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires.
- President Obama's budget is a balanced approach based on the blueprint for an economy built to last that he outlined in his State of the Union address.
  - 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. His 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.
- While the President's budget would help restore economic security for the middle class, the Romney-Ryan budget would return us to the same failed trickle-down policies of the past. It would hurt the middle class at the expense of tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires by:
  - Turning Medicare into a voucher program to help pay for massive tax cuts to the wealthiest.
  - Protecting tax loopholes that benefit oil companies and hedge fund managers.
  - Increasing health care costs to seniors by thousands of dollars.
  - Making arbitrary cuts to programs essential to middle-class families like education and clean energy.
- The Romney-Ryan budget also proposes large new tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, above and beyond the permanent extension of the Bush tax cuts. It would give \$150,000 back to an average millionaire instead of using it to help a senior save on prescription drugs, give a veteran proper medical care, fund research for a chronic disease, put a computer lab in a school, keep a firefighter or cop on the streets, and help students pay for college.
- We can no longer ask everything from the middle class and seniors while asking nothing from those at the top. That's why President Obama has proposed the Buffett Rule, which asks the wealthiest to pay their fair share, not a lower tax rate than middle-class families – but both Ryan and Romney oppose it.

- We can't do the same thing and expect a different result – and the Romney-Ryan budget would implement a carbon copy of the failed policies that created the economic crisis in the first place.

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### **Romney Tries To Etch-A-Sketch, But He Can't Shake His Extreme Immigration Record (4/4/12)**

**Key Point:** Mitt Romney can't Etch-A-Sketch away his immigration record, which would make him the most extreme nominee in recent history.

- Mitt Romney is trying to Etch-A-Sketch away his immigration record, but he can't shake his extreme positions. Romney would have the most extreme immigration platform of any presidential nominee in recent history. Romney has:
  - Campaigned with the nation's leading anti-immigrant voices.
  - Promised to veto the DREAM Act and called it a "handout."
  - Said the controversial Arizona law should be a "model" for the nation.
  - Encouraged all undocumented immigrants to "self-deport."
- President Obama has made significant progress in implementing immigration policies that reward hard work and demand responsibility. He is committed to passing comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act. These proposals would be law today if Republicans, who once supported these sensible solutions, weren't pandering to the far-right wing of their base.
- The choice between Mitt Romney and President Obama on immigration could not be clearer. President Obama supports commonsense solutions to fix our broken immigration system, and Mitt Romney is using this issue as a political wedge.

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### **New Obama Campaign Ad Highlights the President's Historic Energy Accomplishments (4/4/12)**

**Key Point:** President Obama is helping families save at the pump and creating an economy that's built to last by out-innovating and out-building our competitors around the world.

- The campaign released a new ad that highlights President Obama's historic energy accomplishments.
  - Please see [the new campaign ad](#) titled "Remember."
- President Obama is leading America toward a clean energy future by doubling renewable energy, helping domestic oil production reach an eight-year high and raising fuel economy standards so families can save at the pump. Yet oil executives continue to attack that progress, fighting to keep their tax breaks and diminish investments in clean energy.
- While those special interests try to stop the progress we've made, President Obama continues to make America more energy independent. While there are no silver bullets to the problem of gas prices, the President's plan is reducing our dependence on foreign oil, helping families save at the pump and creating an economy that's built to last by out-innovating and out-building our competitors around the world.
  - Please see [this web tool](#) for more information on the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy.
- While President Obama's plan will help families save money at the pump, Mitt Romney supports policies that would keep America dependent on foreign oil. His energy policy is full of empty rhetoric and bad ideas that would make his Big Oil donors even richer at the expense of the middle class.
  - Romney has raised more than \$750,000 from oil and gas special interests in this election alone.
  - He has no plans to stop giving \$4 billion in taxpayer dollars to oil and gas companies that are making record profits.
  - He has criticized the fuel economy standards that are helping families save at the pump.

- He wants to repeal Wall Street reforms that will prevent corporations from manipulating the energy market to profit off of high prices at the pump.

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### **Women Don't Trust Mitt Romney, Republicans Because of Their Extreme Policies (4/5/12)**

**Key Point:** Women don't trust Mitt Romney and the Republicans because of their extreme policies.

- Mitt Romney is campaigning in Pennsylvania today ahead of the Republican primary, and he's looking for support from women voters. But women don't trust Mitt Romney to stand up for them because of his extreme policies.
- Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus called women's distrust of the Republican frontrunner as fictional as a "war on caterpillars." In addition to showing complete disregard for recent Republican attacks on women's health, Priebus is ignoring Romney's extreme-right policies that are alienating women and losing their trust. In truth, Romney is losing among women by more than 19 percent.
  - Please see [this USA TODAY/Gallup poll](#) on the subject.
- Romney has pledged to "get rid of" Planned Parenthood, which is a vital health care provider for millions of American women and families. It gives women affordable access to life-saving services like breast and cervical cancer screenings – and Mitt Romney would take that access away.
- Romney also embraced the Senate Republican Blunt-Rubio Amendment, which would take women's health decisions out of women's hands and give it to their bosses. It would let employers severely restrict women's access to any kind of health coverage, including contraception, pre-natal care, mammograms and more.
- Romney even said he would have supported a so-called "Personhood amendment" in Massachusetts to define life as beginning at the moment of conception. Such an amendment could ban many common forms of birth control – including the pill – and take away a woman's right to choose even in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.

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### **Romney Etch-A-Sketches on His Policies That Would Hurt Our Energy Independence (4/5/12)**

**Key Point:** Mitt Romney is attacking President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy that's helping reduce our dependence on foreign oil while trying to Etch-A-Sketch away his policies that would do the opposite.

- Today Mitt Romney is attacking President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy that's helping reduce our dependence on foreign oil so families can save at the pump. Romney is trying to Etch-A-Sketch away the past year when he attacked the President's investments in clean energy. He's also advocated a backward-looking drilling and drilling alone strategy that wouldn't allow America to take control of our energy future.
- Here's the truth: President Obama is leading America toward a clean energy future by doubling renewable energy, helping domestic oil production reach an eight-year high and raising fuel economy standards so families can save at the pump. While there are no silver bullets to the problem of gas prices, the President's plan is reducing our dependence on foreign oil and creating an economy that's built to last by out-innovating the rest of the world.
  - Please see [this web tool](#) for more information on the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy.
- Mitt Romney can't Etch-A-Sketch away his policies that would keep America dependent on foreign oil. His energy policy is full of empty rhetoric and bad ideas that would make his Big Oil donors even richer at the expense of the middle class.
  - Romney has raised more than \$750,000 from oil and gas special interests in this election alone. He has no plans to stop giving \$4 billion in taxpayer dollars to oil and gas companies that are making record profits.



- He has criticized the fuel economy standards that are helping families save at the pump. He also wants to repeal Wall Street reforms that will prevent corporations from manipulating the energy market to profit off of high prices at the pump.

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### **Both Romney and His Policies are Out Of Touch and Bad for the Middle Class (4/5/12)**

**Key Point:** Mitt Romney himself isn't just out of touch; his policies are too, and they would hurt the middle class.

- Mitt Romney is hypocritically calling President Obama out of touch. In reality, Romney himself isn't just out of touch; his policies are too, and they would hurt the middle class.
- When Romney calls anyone but himself out of touch, he's being hypocritical. Romney himself has:
  - Said it was "humorous" when his father closed a factory in Michigan that resulted in thousands of layoffs.
  - Said he is "not concerned about the very poor."
  - Said he likes "being able to fire people."
  - Said he once feared getting a "pink slip" despite making a deal to not put his job or personal fortune at risk when starting Bain Capital. Romney never had to worry about getting a pink slip. Instead, he profited as he and his partners issued many of them to hardworking middle-class Americans.
- Romney needs more than just creative rhetoric; he needs policies to back it up. But Romney's policies are just as out of touch as he is. They would hurt the middle class by bringing back the same failed policies that created the economic crisis in the first place.
  - His tax plan would give the average millionaire a \$250,000 tax break while actually raising taxes on millions of hardworking families making less than \$40,000 a year.
  - The Romney-Ryan budget plan would end Medicare as we know it to help pay for tax cuts to the wealthiest and corporations.
  - Romney would let Wall Street write its own rules again and try to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class.

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