

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

May 18, 2012

On Monday, the President addressed the graduating class of Barnard College in New York and encouraged the all-female class to fight for a seat at the head of the table. This week is National Women's Health Week and the White House highlighted the savings President Obama's health care reform will have on women's wallets. On Wednesday, President Obama paid tribute to fallen police officers who lost their lives this past year, and he also visited a local small business eatery and stressed the need for Congress to act on his "To Do List" and provide tax breaks to small businesses that hire new workers. On Wednesday and Thursday, Vice President Biden traveled to Ohio to discuss the President's efforts to strengthen the American manufacturing and auto industries and bolster the middle class.

On Monday, Obama for America announced a new online [video](#), [television ad](#), and [website](#) that examines Mitt Romney's business philosophy and what it would mean for the American economy. OFA released a six-minute video about a Kansas City plant, GST Steel, that was purchased by Bain Capital and then shuttered—this after 100 years of business. Ahead of Mitt Romney's Lake Forest fundraiser Tuesday night, the DNC held a press conference call with Congressman Danny Davis and President of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308 Robert Kelly to highlight the economic philosophy Mitt Romney gained as a corporate buyout specialist and the disastrous effect these lessons and values would have on the American worker and the American economy. On Thursday, former Iowa Governor Chet Culver, former United Steelworkers Local 13 President Steve Morrow, and Jeff Jones, a former GST Steel employee, held a press conference outside the closed gates of GST Steel exposing Mitt Romney's history shipping jobs out of Kansas City. On Friday, the DNC released a video titled, "The Bane of Romney's Existence."

President Obama Addresses Barnard College Graduates

On Monday, President Obama traveled to New York, New York to address the graduates of Barnard College. In his address the President imparted his advice on the women graduates, stressing the need for women to pursue leadership positions. The President said:

"After decades of slow, steady, extraordinary progress, you are now poised to make this the century where women shape not only their own destiny but the destiny of this nation and of this world.



"But how far your leadership takes this country, how far it takes this world -- well, that will be up to you. You've got to want it. It will not be handed to you. And as someone who wants that future -- that better future -- for you, and for Malia and Sasha, as somebody who's had the good fortune of being the husband and the father and the son of some strong, remarkable women, allow me to offer just a few pieces of advice. That's obligatory. Bear with me.

“My first piece of advice is this: Don’t just get involved. Fight for your seat at the table. Better yet, fight for a seat at the head of the table.

Read the entire remarks [here](#).

[The White House Recognizes National Women’s Health Week](#)

This week was National Women’s Health Week. During this time the White House highlighted the cost-savings President Obama’s Affordable Care Act will have on women’s wallets. For instance, women who purchase health insurance pay \$1 billion more than men solely because they are women. Starting in 2014, the Affordable Care Act will prevent against this discrimination—it also requires insurers to provide coverage for preventative services like mammograms, pap smears, and well-woman visits at no additional cost.

[President Obama Pays Tribute to Fallen Police Officers](#)

On Wednesday, President Obama paid tribute to police officers killed this past year in the line of duty during an event at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. This service was part of the annual Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week. The President also thanked the police officers who serve the country every day for their bravery. The President said:



“Every American who wears the badge knows the burdens that come with it -- the long hours and the stress; the knowledge that just about any moment could be a matter of life or death. You carry these burdens so the rest of us don’t have to. And this shared sense of purpose brings you

together, and it brings you to our nation’s capital today. You come from different states and different backgrounds and different walks of life, but I know that you come here as a community: one family, united by a quiet strength and a willingness to sacrifice on behalf of others.

“The rest of us can never fully understand what you go through. But please know that we hold you in our hearts -- not just today, but always. We are forever in your debt. And it is on behalf of all of us, the entire American people, that I offer my thoughts, my prayers, and my thanks.”

Read the President’s entire remarks [here](#).

President Obama Visits Local Eatery and Highlights “To-Do List” to Benefit Small Businesses

On Wednesday, President Obama visited Taylor Gourmet to highlight the benefits of his “To-Do List” for Congress—including provisions that would help small businesses and workers.

During his visit with the restaurant owners, President Obama stated:

“One of the items on that “To-Do” list would be to provide tax breaks for companies like these that are hiring new employees or raising the wages and salaries of their existing employees. Either way, what that does is it gives them an incentive as they’re expanding to say, maybe we hire an extra two people. Maybe we hire an extra three people. Maybe we hire an extra ten people.”



Under the small business hiring income tax credit [President Obama is](#)

[calling on Congress to pass](#), almost [two](#) million companies would benefit. It would also encourage more than \$200 billion in new hiring and pay raises—doing so by providing a 10 percent income tax credit on wages added in 2012. By claiming the credit on a quarterly basis, businesses would be able to receive tax relief sooner after making new hires.

The Small Business Hiring Credit would grow the economy, create jobs, and strengthen the recovery. It would provide targeted tax relief to the businesses that are growing and expanding their workforce. The Congressional Budget Office recently found that this type of targeted credit is the [single most effective business tax option](#) for boosting hiring and spurring economic growth.

Read the President’s entire remarks [here](#).

Vice President Biden Travels to Ohio to Talk About President Obama’s Efforts to Strengthen Manufacturing and American Auto Industry, Improve Economic Security for Middle Class

Vice President Biden traveled to Ohio Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the President efforts to strengthen the American manufacturing and auto industries and bolster the middle class. The Vice President visited a car dealership helped by the President’s auto rescue and talked about the President’s belief in building an economy built to last, where hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone plays by the same set of rules. On the other hand, Romney is committed to returning to the same policies that created the economic crisis and put the economic security of the middle class at risk.

Vice President Biden also said:

“We want to make it easier for American companies to stay in America, come back to America, invest in America, create jobs in America. That’s why we’re prepared to lower the corporate tax rate by 20

percent. That's why we want to end -- and end now -- the practice of companies getting tax breaks for dismantling a factory and shipping it abroad. We want tax credits for companies that dismantle factories abroad and bring them home.

"What does Governor Romney want? He wants a new tax system that says American companies that move factories overseas don't have to pay any U.S. taxes on those factories. That's a huge incentive to move offshore. That's Romney Economics.

"What does Governor Romney believe? When China dumped all these cheap tires here, and we fought back and we won, Romney called it 'protectionism.' Said by standing up to China, we would somehow hurt American workers. That's Romney Economics."

Holding Republicans Accountable

On Monday, Obama for America announced a new online [video](#), [television ad](#), and [website](#) that examine Mitt Romney's business philosophy and what it would mean for the American economy. OFA released a six-minute video about a Kansas City plant, GST Steel, that was purchased by Bain Capital and then shuttered—this after 100 years of business. The story is yet another example of Romney Economics, where his firm would buy a company, load some with debt, close the business and walk away with a profit while its employees could lose jobs, health care, and pensions. Though Romney uses his business experience as the chief reason he should be President, these stories show the real story—that he learned the wrong lessons, and instead of investing in workers and creating an economy built to last, his pattern was to reap quick profits for himself and his investors at the expense of workers and their communities, by shipping jobs overseas, or cutting wages and benefits.

This is a stark contrast to President Obama's economic vision, where we need to build an economy built to last, where hard work pays off, responsibility is reward, and everyone has a fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same set of rules.

The website can be found here: RomneyEconomics.com and also features the video. Please click [here](#) to watch "Steel" – OFA's aired in Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Virginia.

Last week, Mitt Romney tried to take credit for the auto rescue plan, stating that it was his idea. The DNC responded with a video of GM CEO Dan Akerson who said Mitt Romney's position on the auto bailout is "very short-sighted." Watch the video [here](#).

Ahead of Mitt Romney's Lake Forest fundraiser Tuesday night, the DNC held a press conference call with Congressman Danny Davis and President of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308 Robert Kelly to highlight the economic philosophy Mitt Romney gained as a corporate buyout specialist and the disastrous effect these lessons and values would have on the American worker and the American economy.

For months, Mitt Romney has repeatedly claimed that his time as a businessman qualifies him to be President. Romney claims the economic philosophy he gained as a corporate buyout specialist to boost the economy, create jobs, and reduce the deficit. But Americans should examine for themselves the real story behind Romney's economic record and determine whether the lessons and values learned from that experience are the policies Americans want to see coming out of the White House.

Congressman Danny Davis (IL-D7) said:

"Put simply: the economic lessons Romney learned from his time in the private sector are the wrong lessons to be applied to our economy. Putting profits before people at any cost is the exact same formula that caused the economic crises we're still recovering from today. It is critical that we restore middle-class security and create an economy that's built to last, but Romney's economic values would do further damage to the middle class."

President of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308 Robert Kelly said:

"I am out in the field today talking with my members exactly about this issue, the ones that we face today, the problems that we have and what we must do – and I mean must do – come this November. We, as middle class citizens, cannot afford to now turn the clock back and go backwards. We must fight "Romney Economics" and keep the progress that we have going forward."

On Thursday, former Iowa Governor Chet Culver, former United Steelworkers Local 13 President Steve Morrow, and Jeff Jones, a former GST Steel employee, held a press conference outside the closed gates of GST Steel exposing Mitt Romney's history of shipping jobs out of Kansas City. Governor Culver, Morrow, and Jones highlighted Mitt Romney's history of buying companies, saddling them with debt, bankrupting them, and walking away with millions.



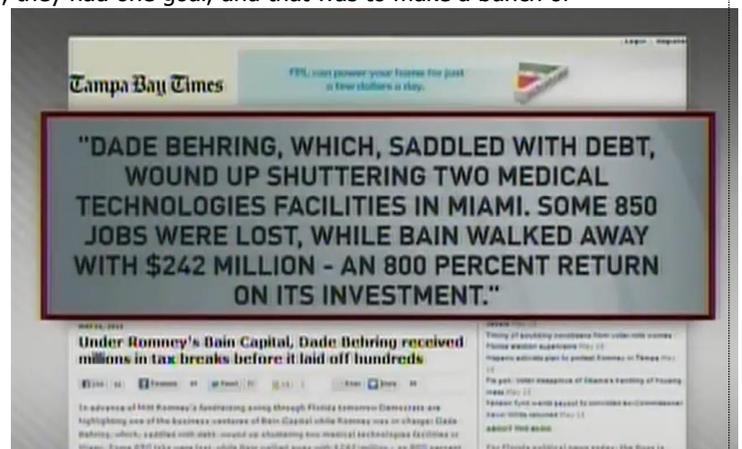
"With Romney running on his business record, it's legitimate to question the values Romney lived by in business and promises to live by as President," said former Governor Chet Culver. "Romney economics aren't a prescription for a stronger economy and they aren't a prescription for a stronger country. We don't want an economy where workers are left behind, and even when a company fails, the financial engineers do well while the people who put their lives into the company are left holding the bag."

Steve Morrow, the former president of United Steelworkers Local 13, and Jeff Jones, a former GST Steel employee joined Governor Culver to explain how the shutdown of GST Steel hurt their lives and hurt Kansas City.

"I remember what it was like watching my former colleagues struggle to find jobs after Mitt Romney and Bain Capital shut GST down, and watching Mitt Romney run around the country talking about his experience creating jobs makes me sick," said Steve Morrow. "We measure prosperity not just by how many billionaires we have, but how well the typical family is doing -- whether we can get a good paying job, provide for our family, and put our kids through college.

"When Mitt Romney and his partners took over GST, they had one goal, and that was to make a bunch of money for themselves no matter who they hurt along the way," said Jeff Jones. "He's continued running around the country talking about how that same experience qualifies him to be President, but it is not the type of leadership this country needs right now. I don't think Mitt Romney knows how to create jobs for me or anyone else besides himself, and it isn't the type of economic leadership I want in my President."

This week, the Democratic National Committee released a two-minute video with clips of press coverage about the fight over Bain Capital titled "[Bane of Romney's Existence](#)."



Key Issues in the News and Background

VOTING: GottaVote.org Will Help Americans Understand Their Voting Rights and How to Exercise Them in Their State

Key Point: Today, Obama for America is launching GottaVote.org, the campaign's bilingual, cutting-edge resource to help Americans understand their rights to vote, and know how to exercise it in their state. The President's campaign is about inclusiveness and moving forward, not backward. That's why we're trying to get as many Americans involved as possible. That's the true spirit of our elections and our country.

- After controversies of the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections, most Americans expected that we would fix our election problems, not make them worse. Unfortunately, many Republican-controlled state legislatures have been taking us backward, not forward, when it comes to voting rights – sometimes changing voter registration rules in the middle of a campaign.
 - In 2011, more than 30 states introduced legislation or passed laws making it harder to vote, not easier.
 - They closed early-voting windows, election-day registration, and made it more difficult for poll workers to do their jobs.
- As a country, we're better off when more citizens can access the polls. Voting is a fundamental right, and we all have a vested interest in making sure that as many Americans as possible vote on Election Day.
- That's why GottaVote.org is so important and is part of the campaign's aggressive voter-protection program. GottaVote.org answers common questions voters in any state might have, including:
 - When do I have to register by?
 - What do I need to bring to the polls?
 - Can I vote early?
 - Where is my polling place?
- GottaVote.org is a one-stop shop for getting the facts on voting, reminders for key dates and deadlines, and alerts on the status of voting rights in state. It's available in both English and Spanish because different languages shouldn't keep Americans from voting.
 - Spanish language website can be found here: VotemosTodos.org
- While we'll have fully armed voter protection teams in precincts across the country on Election Day, protecting the right to vote starts long before November. That's why on May 19 and 20 the campaign will hold a national GottaVote Weekend of Action to educate voters about state election laws and register new voters to grow the electorate.
- We'll connect with new voters and help them understand their rights. We'll bring new people into our strong network of volunteers – training them and our staff on current state election laws.
- We're doing all this for a simple reason: We've never solved anything in America with less democracy. And we won't now. The President believes in an America where everybody can make their voices heard, regardless of who they are or what party they vote for.
- He believes voting should be easy and accessible. In 2012, we should be taking down roadblocks to voting, not putting up new ones. That's what GottaVote.org is all about. That's what our country is all about.

ROMNEY ECONOMICS: Mitt Romney Would Run the Country as He Ran Bain Capital, and the Middle Class Would Suffer

Key Point: As a businessman, Mitt Romney didn't care about strengthening companies or creating jobs – he cared most about getting a high return on his investment no matter the cost to workers, companies or communities. The values and lessons Romney learned as a corporate-buyout specialist aren't the ones we want in the Oval Office.

- Today the campaign released a new part of RomneyEconomics.com, an interactive map that highlights where Mitt Romney's economic philosophy left companies bankrupt and Americans without jobs.

- Please see the map at www.RomneyEconomics.com/states.
 - Please see [this new DNC video](#) highlighting the coverage Romney economics is getting, titled "The Bane of Romney's Existence."
- As CEO of a financial buyout firm, Romney didn't care about growing companies and creating jobs. He and his partners cared most about making money for themselves and their investors no matter the cost. They loaded companies up with debt, put thousands out of work and bankrupted companies all so a handful of investors could make a fortune.
 - We aren't questioning Romney's right to run his business as he wanted, or the private equity industry as a whole. This is about Romney's values as a businessman, and what they would mean for the economic security of the middle class.
 - Romney specialized in buying companies, borrowing money to load them up with debt, and extracting millions in profit for himself and his partners.
 - To cut costs, he laid off longtime loyal workers and shipped jobs overseas.
 - Those who kept their jobs too often saw paychecks, benefits and pensions cut.
 - When the debt became too much, Romney and his partners drove several companies into bankruptcy and walked away with millions.
 - Romney's business values shaped the troubling economic policies he promises today. It's the same Bush-era formula that benefitted a few, but crashed our economy and undermined security for the middle class and those trying to join it:
 - More budget-busting tax cuts weighted to the wealthiest and paid for by the middle class.
 - No investing in our nation's long-term strength through education, decent health care, consumer protections, or our roads and bridges.
 - Letting Wall Street and corporations write their own rules again.
 - We can't afford to go back to the same failed policies and wrong values that caused the economic crisis in the first place. Romney economics would hurt the middle class instead of helping it grow.
 - President Obama is moving America forward, fighting for an economy built to last, where hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone has a fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same rules.

DEBT: Romney Economics Piled Debt on Companies and Massachusetts Taxpayers – and Would Do the Same to the Entire Country

Key Point: Mitt Romney has no credibility on controlling debt given his \$5 trillion tax plan that would blow a hole in the budget, his private-sector record of piling debt on companies and his public sector record of running up debt on constituents.

- **Hypocrisy:** Romney is in New Hampshire attacking the President on spending and debt. He's the last person who should lecture Americans about debt and reckless spending.
 - **Businessman:** Romney economics loaded companies up with debt before bankrupting some and made millions of dollars for Romney and his partners while thousands of middle-class workers lost their jobs.
 - **Governor:** Romney economics loaded Massachusetts taxpayers up with debt before he left his successor with a \$1 billion deficit and taxpayers with the most per-capita debt in the country. State spending went up by 6.5 percent a year.
 - **As President:** Romney economics promise to do the same thing. He'll give \$5 trillion in tax breaks weighted to millionaires and billionaires without saying how he'll pay for it – because he knows that no matter what, the middle class will be stuck with the bill.
- Romney is attacking debt created by two unfunded wars started before the President took office. The President responsibly ended the Iraq war and he's drawing down our combat mission in Afghanistan. Romney wants to keep fighting those wars with no end in sight.

- According to nonpartisan scorekeepers like the Congressional Budget Office, federal spending, taxes and deficits are all lower today than when the President took office.
 - Please see [this graph](#) on the subject.
- We need to make smart, responsible investments to grow our economy for everyone and create an economy built to last. The President's balanced plan will reduce our debt by \$4 trillion, and he's already signed into law a commitment to cut more than \$2 trillion.

VETERANS: Obama Campaign Launches Veterans and Military Families for Obama

Key Point: The Obama campaign launched Veterans and Military Families for Obama, highlighting the President's strong commitment to honoring our sacred trust with those who serve and protect our nation. It's a commitment that begins at when they take their oath, and it must never end.

- The Obama campaign launched Veterans and Military Families for Obama with events in Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Nevada, Colorado, Ohio and more. Veterans and military families across the country share the President's vision for moving America forward.
- As millions of our servicemen and women return home from war, now more than ever we must continue fulfilling our duty to them and their families for their service. We owe all our veterans and their families the care they were promised and the benefits they earned.
- **President Obama** is committed to helping veterans find work when they return home, get the health care and benefits they've earned, and be able to get a college education:
 - Jobs: He's helping returning veterans find good jobs by giving businesses tax credits for hiring unemployed veterans and wounded warriors.
 - Health Care: He secured the largest increase in VA funding in decades to ensure our veterans get the care and benefits they earned, like treatment for PTSD and traumatic brain injury. He believes we must keep improving health care for all veterans, no matter where or when they served.
 - Education: He expanded and improved the Post-9/11 GI Bill so those who serve and their spouses can get help paying for college.
- **President Obama** continues to keep his promises to our veterans and their families:
 - He brought the Iraq war to a responsible end.
 - He took the fight to al-Qaeda and authorized the mission that killed Bin Laden.
 - He's drawing down our combat mission in Afghanistan.
 - He banned torture, restored our reputation abroad and ended "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," so we live up to the values we fight for and represent.
- **Mitt Romney** doesn't seem to care about honoring the sacred trust we have with vets and their families. Judging from his record, policies and promises, he would break that trust.
 - In Massachusetts, he slashed veterans' programs his first month in office, and now supports the Romney-Ryan budget that would slash veterans' spending by nearly 20 percent a year.
 - He wants to replace the VA's high quality, guaranteed health care with vouchers, leaving many veterans unable to pay for the care they earned and need.
 - He left veterans out of his 59-point plan for jobs and economic growth, his major foreign policy speech, and his 44-page foreign policy white paper.
 - He lacks the foreign policy judgment and vision to be President. He recklessly touts his plans to send troops into wars but offers no plans to bring them home.

OHIO: Vice President Biden Highlights Manufacturing and the Auto Rescue and Warns Voters about Romney Economics That Hurt the Middle Class

Key Point: Vice President Biden was in Ohio Wednesday and Thursday, highlighting the President's successful auto rescue and the resurgence in American manufacturing that are restoring economic security for Ohio's workers. He's

also warning voters about Romney economics, which destroyed good American jobs while Romney and his partners made millions.

- The Vice President visited a car dealership saved by the President's auto rescue today and reminding voters why we need Obama economics, not Romney economics:
 - Obama economics rewards hard work and responsibility. It values workers in the success of a business, and the middle class in the success of the economy. The President believes everyone deserves a fair shot and a fair shake, and everybody should play by the same rules.
 - Romney economics rewards people like Mitt Romney at the expense of the middle class. Romney believes that as long as the government helps those at the very top do well, everyone else should be on their own.

- Mitt Romney says he should be President because he was a businessman who made millions while middle-class families suffered. But, as a businessman, Romney made millions too often at the expense of middle-class families. The values and lessons Romney learned as a corporate-buyout specialist aren't the ones we want in the Oval Office.

- **Romney Economics:** As a businessman, Romney didn't care about growing companies and creating jobs. He cared most about making money for himself and his partners.
 - To cut costs and increase his profits, he laid off longtime loyal workers and shipped jobs overseas.
 - Those who kept their jobs too often saw paychecks, benefits and pensions cut.
 - He loaded companies up with debt, often to extract millions for himself.
 - When the debt became too much, Romney and his partners drove several companies into bankruptcy, destroying jobs and leaving workers without pensions and benefits. Romney and his partners always walked away with a big return on their investment.
 - *For more information, go to www.RomneyEconomics.com.*

- **Auto Rescue:** When the auto industry was on the brink, President Obama boldly decided to rescue it – saving more than a million jobs up and down the supply chain.
 - Obama economics has since helped the American auto industry emerge stronger and more competitive, creating more than 230,000 new jobs since June 2009.
 - Romney economics would've let the auto industry go bankrupt, putting an industry that supports one in eight Ohio jobs at risk.

- **Manufacturing:** President Obama has sparked a resurgence of American manufacturing, with the industry expanding for 33 straight months.
 - Obama economics is helping American manufacturers create jobs for the first time in almost 15 years, adding 489,000 new jobs since early 2010 – 40,000 in Ohio.
 - Romney economics let Massachusetts lose manufacturing jobs at twice the national average – the third-worst record in the country.

- President Obama rescued the auto industry to save jobs, not to make money. That's very different from Romney economics. Romney and his partners put their own profits ahead of everything else, destroying good middle-class jobs while walking away with millions.