

# THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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## President Obama Focuses Economic Tour on Middle Class

On Wednesday, President Obama traveled to Galesburg, Illinois to begin a series of speeches about his plans and vision for rebuilding the economy, focusing on the success of the middle class.



The President returned to Knox College, the same location where he laid out his economic vision for the country eight years ago as a U.S. Senator.

The President has consistently said that for the country to succeed, we must focus our efforts on lifting up the middle class. The country has made tremendous progress since the recession, but we have more to do for so many in the middle class who are still struggling to get by.

The President said:

"I'm here to tell you today that we're not there yet. We all know that. We're not there yet. We've got more work to do. Even though our businesses are creating new jobs and have broken record profits, nearly all the income gains of the past 10 years have continued to flow to the top 1 percent. The average CEO has gotten a raise of nearly 40 percent since 2009. The average American earns less than he or she did in 1999.

"Today, more students are earning their degree, but soaring costs saddle them with unsustainable debt. Health care costs are slowing down, but a lot of working families haven't seen any of those savings yet. The stock market rebound helped a lot of families get back much of what they had lost in their 401(k)s, but millions of Americans still have no idea how they're going to be able to retire . . .

"So let me give you a quick preview of what I'll be fighting for and why. The first cornerstone of a strong, growing middle class has to be, as I said before, an economy that generates more good jobs in durable, growing industries. That's how this area was built. That's how America prospered. Because anybody who was willing to work, they could go out there and they could find themselves a job, and they could build a life for themselves and their family."

President Obama continued his economic tour with stops in Warrensburg, Missouri and Jacksonville, FL.

Read more about the President's economic vision [here](#).

## [First Lady Michelle Obama Speaks at National Council of La Raza Annual Conference](#)

On Tuesday, First Lady Michelle Obama addressed the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Annual Conference.

Mrs. Obama discussed the issues of obesity and rising diabetes rates, and commended efforts to curb these rates.



NCLR, the largest national Hispanic and civil rights advocacy organization in the United States, has taken several steps in addressing these issues through initiatives such as *Comer Bien* (Eat Well), which provides access to nutritious food through federal food assistance programs and nutrition education to Latino families.

Mrs. Obama discussed her own experiences with food and keeping families connected:

"Food is love... it's how we pass on our culture and heritage as meals become family traditions and recipes are passed on from generation to generation."

She continued to explain that "while food might be love, the truth is that we are loving ourselves and our kids to death."

Mrs. Obama has been tirelessly working on Let's Move!, a comprehensive initiative that she launched to solve the problem of obesity. NCLR has been a supporter of the initiative, and helped to launch the MiPlato (MyPlate) initiative to teach families about healthy eating.

Of the work ahead, Mrs. Obama said:

"[W]e need to step up. We need to own this as a serious problem in our communities. We need to admit that what we're doing simply isn't working anymore. And we need to start questioning the behaviors and beliefs that are making our kids sick -- like that uncle, dear uncle who dismisses this issue, but keeps slipping our kids candy; the grandmother who insists that a chubby baby is a healthy baby; the overworked sister who gives your nieces and nephews the foods they want instead of the nutrition they need. Because times have changed, and the way we live and eat has to change, too."

Read the First Lady's full remarks from the conference [here](#).

## [President Obama Welcomes the 2013 NCAA men's basketball champions from the University of Louisville to the White House](#)

On Tuesday, President Obama congratulated the 2013 NCAA men's basketball champions from the University of Louisville at the White House.

In his remarks, President Obama commended the team's efforts. President Obama also joked that the team "stayed focused on one singular goal, and that is to bust my bracket."

In the finals, the Louisville Cardinals clinched an 82-76 victory, capturing their school's third national title, and their first since 1986.

President Obama also praised team members for acting as model student-athletes. The team collectively earned just shy of a 3.3 GPA, raised thousands of dollars for charity and overcame physical obstacles.



You can watch the President applaud the team's accomplishments [here](#).



## Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden Travel to India

This week, Vice President Joe Biden and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden traveled to India to reaffirm the strong relations of the United States and India.

On Wednesday, Vice President Biden [gave a speech](#) in Mumbai to discuss how America's partnership with India could improve the economies of both nations.



In his speech, Vice President Biden pointed out the similarities in India's and the United States' goals.

He said:

"India's top priority is to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty to join the middle class," he said.

While the Vice President discussed the economy, Dr. Biden focused on women's issues, education and health.

On Tuesday, Dr. Biden toured and visited with workers and volunteers from the nutrition and vaccine facilities through the USAID Health and Urban

Poor (HUP) Program in the Kachhpura settlement. During her visit, she was taught and administered an oral dose of the polio vaccine to an infant, which she described as "a simple but important medical step in continuing to eradicate this disease worldwide."

On Wednesday, she continued her trip by attending a roundtable discussion with Government of Maharashtra Officials, USAID, UNICEF, Indian civil society and private sector representatives to learn about their efforts to improve nutrition across the country and to make available other proven health interventions to prevent child deaths, such as immunizations, clean water, and treatment of pneumonia and diarrhea.

Dr. Biden said:

"As a mom, this is a personal issue for me as no parent wants to see her child go hungry or be sick. I am inspired by how the communities that I have visited have launched into action to tackle this problem."

On Thursday, Dr. Biden visited the Anjuman-i-Islam Saif Tyabji Girl's school, an all-girls Muslim school was founded in 1939 and serves 5,500 girls in grades K-12.

Dr. Biden said:

"India and the US both understand the important opportunities education can provide - no matter the gender of the student ... As a mother of a daughter I want girls to understand that they can do anything they put their mind to. I reminded the students that education will give them the tools they need to succeed on a lifelong path."



## President Obama Meets with President Truong Tan Sang of Vietnam

On Thursday, President Obama met with President Truong Tan Sang of Vietnam. It was the first bilateral meeting between the two leaders.



President Obama said that the mutual respect between the two nations and the trust we have established will allow cooperation on a large number of issues, from trade and commerce to military cooperation.

The leaders also discussed the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an effort to increase trade and commerce throughout the Asia Pacific region.

President Obama said:

“And we’re committed to the ambitious goal of completing this agreement before the end of the year because we know that this can create jobs and increase investment across the region and in both of our countries.”

“So I just want to say to President Sang how much I appreciate his visit. I think it signifies the maturing and the next stage of the development between the United States and Vietnam. As we increase consultation, increase cooperation, increase trade, and scientific and education exchanges, ultimately, that’s going to be good for the prosperity and opportunities of the people here in the United States, as well as good for the opportunities and prosperity of the people of Vietnam.”

Read the joint statement from President Obama and President Truong Tan Sang [here](#).

## Issues in the News

### **TALKING POINTS: A BETTER BARGAIN FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**

#### **#ABetterBargain**

##### **Topline:**

- The President's vision for the economy prioritizes the middle class and is built on the cornerstones of what it means to be middle class: a good job, a quality education, a home that's your own, a secure retirement, and affordable health care you can count on when you get sick.

##### **Points:**

- In the President's speech today, and over the next few months, he will discuss the progress we've made, the challenges that remain, and the strategy we need to follow over the long-term to restore middle class security.
- We must continue building on the progress we've made. Through the hard work and resilience of the American people and the policies the President put in place, we've come a long way since the worst days of the financial crisis. The auto industry is thriving, the housing market is coming back, exports are at record highs, our deficits are shrinking, and the private sector has created 7.2 million new jobs in the last 40 months.
- There's more to do. To keep the country moving forward, we need a strategy that makes investments where we need them most to restore the basic bargain that if you work hard, you can get ahead.
- President Obama was talking about how the economy works best when it grows from the middle out, not the top down well before he was a national figure. It's a core philosophy that has driven every decision he has made in office and is the foundation for his plan to move our country forward.
- The President vision focuses on the middle class and ensures that every American has the opportunity to achieve these five things"
  - A secure job that pays enough to support a middle class life
  - Access to a good education that equips one for the job market
  - A home that is not at risk of being taken away
  - A retirement free of financial anxiety
  - Secure health care with decent benefits
- The President is also making the case for why we need to rebuild ladders of opportunity for all those Americans striving for the middle class, including the idea that hard works leads to a decent living by raising the federal minimum wage.
- Some people inside the Beltway have lost focus on the issues that matter most to middle class families and are busy playing political games. But gridlock comes at a cost and it not only threatens the progress we've made, but it also stops us from dealing with some of the biggest challenges of our time like fixing our broken immigration system. This behavior is unacceptable, and the President believes it must stop.
- Over the next several weeks, President Obama will give a series of speeches that touch on each cornerstone of middle class life and outline a series of executive, legislative, and private sector actions that can be taken to help restore middle class security.