

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

August 2, 2013

President Obama Continues Economic Tour to Fight for the Middle Class

On Tuesday, President Obama traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee to talk about continuing to build the economy from the middle out.

President Obama said:

"We've started to lay a new foundation for a stronger, more durable America -- the kind of economic growth that's broad-based, the foundation required to make this century another American century. But as I said last week, and as any middle-class family will tell you, we're not there yet."



The President went to speak about his plan to create jobs and grow the economy from the middle out. He said:

"We should be doing everything we can as a country to create more good jobs that pay good wages So I'm going to try offering something that serious people in both parties should be able to support: a deal that simplifies the tax code for our businesses and creates good jobs with good wages for middle-class folks who work at those businesses."

President Obama's plan would close loopholes, end incentives to ship jobs overseas, lower the rate for businesses creating jobs right here in America, provide tax incentives for manufacturers that bring jobs home to the United States and simplify taxes for small business owners.

"If we're going to give businesses a better deal, then we're also going to have to give workers a better deal, too," President Obama said.

Prior to his speech to Amazon employees, the President sat down for a "Kindle Singles Interview," a new long-form interview series for Amazon's e-reader, with Kindle Singles editor David Blum.

The President explained how his past has informed his policies as President, in addition to his plans to increase growth for middle-class families. You can download the interview now at www.amazon.com/kindlesingles.

You can also read more about President Obama's plan to simplify the corporate tax code [here](#).

President Obama, civil rights leaders meet to create plan to protect the right to vote

On Monday, President Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of Labor Tom Perez met with civil rights leaders, along with state and local elected officials, at the White House to discuss how to protect all eligible Americans' right to vote in light of the recent Supreme Court decision on *Shelby County v. Holder*.

The Supreme Court's decision invalidated the formula in the Voting Rights Act used to determine which state and local governments must receive federal pre-approval before changing their voting laws. This practice, in place for the past 48 years, helped to ensure that voting was fair, especially in places where voting discrimination has been historically prevalent.

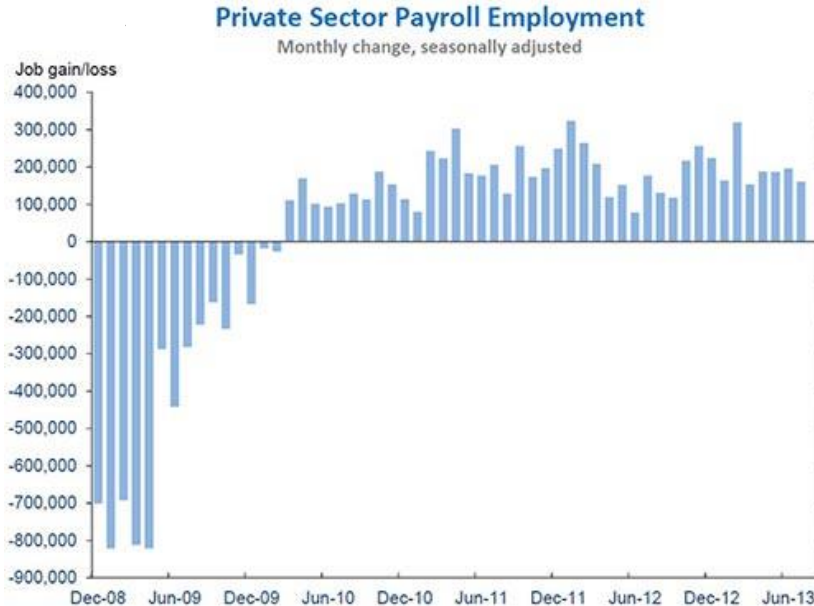
Although President Obama expressed disappointment in the Supreme Court's decision, he has encouraged Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls, and is taking action to ensure millions of citizens around the country are not denied the right to vote.



At Monday's meeting, he asked the leaders in the room for their ideas on how to strengthen voting rights. He also encouraged them to continue educating their communities on the Voting Rights Act and how to exercise their voting rights.

CEA Chairman's Statement on the Employment Situation in July

Alan B. Krueger, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, issued the following statement on today's Bureau of Labor Statistics' jobs report for July, which shows that the private sector added 161,000 jobs last month and unemployment rate declined to 7.4 percent – its lowest level since December 2008. July marks the 41st month in a row the private sector has added jobs for a total of nearly 7.3 million.



“With the recovery entering its fifth year, we need to build on the progress we have made so far and now is not the time for Washington to impose self-inflicted wounds. The across-the-board budget cuts known as the sequester continue to be a drag on the economy now and in the future. The Administration continues to urge Congress to replace the sequester with balanced deficit reduction, and promote the investments our economy needs to put more Americans back to work, such as by rebuilding our roads and bridges.

“According to the establishment survey, in July employment increased notably in retail trade (+46,800), bars and restaurants

(+38,400), professional and business services (+36,000), financial activities (+15,000). Construction lost 6,000 jobs due to declines in the nonresidential sector, but has grown in 11 of the last 14 months, adding 178,000 jobs in that period. Local governments added 6,000 jobs, and have now expanded for five months in a row, after losing 560,000 jobs in the previous 48 months. Manufacturing employment rose by 6,000 jobs, with motor vehicles and parts adding 9,100 jobs. Compared to last month when it gained 19,100 jobs, the amusements, gambling, and recreation industry lost 4,800 jobs.”

You can view the statement [HERE](#).

DNC National Director of Women's Outreach Releases Memo on GOP Failures to Help Women

With the GOP always promising but showing no action toward helping women, DNC National Director of Women's Outreach, Simone Ward, released the following statement highlighting their inaction:

From: Simone Ward, DNC National Director of Women's Outreach

To: Interested Parties

Re: GOP's Outreach to Women in the Month of July - Another Month, Same Old Party

August 1, 2013

Since their electoral defeats at the national and state level last November, the GOP has spent a lot of time talking about rebranding their party and expanding their base to constituencies like women, who fled their party in droves. However, a quick look at Republican statehouses nationwide and the GOP in Washington shows that is not what's happening on the ground—it's still the same old GOP.

Governors across the country are signing legislation that severely limits women's access to health care—and they are often doing it with no notice, late at night or hidden as part of larger unrelated bills. Why? Because these Governors and state legislatures know these types of restrictions that severely limit access to health care are not what the women in their states want.

Take a look at what the GOP has been doing in their attempt to reach out to women this July:

In Texas, Governor Rick Perry signed legislation that would close all but 5 of the 42 abortion clinics in the state requiring women to travel unreasonable distances making it almost impossible for some women to access these clinics. [Politico, [7/18/13](#)]

In North Carolina, Governor Pat McCrory signed legislation that seriously limits access to abortions by eliminating abortion insurance coverage for city and county employees and barring state residents from paying for the coverage through state health exchange, among other restrictions. [Washington Post, [7/29/13](#)]

In Ohio, John Kasich's abortion bill requires ultrasounds for anyone seeking an abortion, limits abortion providers' ability to get transfer agreements with public hospitals, and make it more difficult for family planning groups to get funding for preventative care. [Washington Post, [7/1/13](#)]

And in Wisconsin, Scott Walker's bill mandates that doctors performing abortions have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles and requires women seeking abortions to obtain an ultrasound. [Washington Post, [7/5/13](#)]

In Washington, the national Republican Party seems to be following the states' lead where there is discussion among party leaders in the Senate to follow the House's example in advancing one of the most restrictive pieces of abortion legislation in recent memory. [New York Times, [7/27/13](#)]

All you have to do is look at what Republicans did in the past month to see that all their talk of an autopsy and a GOP rebrand is just that, talk. Their actions make clear that it is the same old party with the same extreme agenda that harms women's access to health care and their economic security.

[DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz on the 48th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid](#)

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement 48 years after the signing of Medicare and Medicaid into law, recognizing the past accomplishments and the continuing need to grow our health care system:



“Medicare and Medicaid were signed into law well before my time in Congress, but I am honored to play a role in fighting for these vital programs and the people who benefit from their existence. While Republicans have repeatedly tried to end Medicare as it currently exists, Democrats have taken bold steps to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid. In 1997, President Clinton signed the State Children’s Health Insurance Program which provided 4.6 million children with health care by 2001, and increased the number of children covered by 70 percent in just two years. In 2010, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law which gives every American access to

quality affordable health care and improves care for many of those on Medicare and Medicaid.

“With President Obama’s reauthorization of CHIP in 2009, the program’s coverage expanded benefits to 11 million children. Under the Affordable Care Act, 34.1 million seniors have already received one or more free preventative care services, 3.1 million young adults remain covered by their parents’ health insurance through the age of 26 and insurance companies have returned more than \$1.5 billion to consumers to fulfill the ACA’s mandate that premiums be spent on health care, not administrative costs. Most importantly though, these are just the first of the benefits that consumers will see as full coverage begins in January and every American has access to quality affordable health care.

“When Republicans talk about making deep cuts to programs like these, I take it personally. I know how much my constituents rely on these programs and how painful it would be for them to see their benefits reduced. America’s seniors deserve to receive the basic benefits they have earned through a lifetime of work.

“Democrats will continue to fight to defend the important promise we made to those who rely on Medicare and Medicaid for quality health care. Take a look at this video showing how Democrats have helped to expand and protect this fundamental American value, and trust me when I say we, as Democrats, will continue the fight to protect these most vital programs.”

To recognize this momentous anniversary the DNC also released a [video](#) to show how Democrats have helped to expand and protect Medicare and Medicaid.

[President Obama Congratulates the UConn Huskies on their 2013 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship](#)

On Wednesday, President Obama honored the UConn Huskies, the 2013 NCAA Division I women's basketball champions.

This visit was not the team's first to the White House; the Huskies were invited after winning the tournament in both 2009 and 2010.



President Obama commented on the team's perseverance:

"Now, most years, I think for most teams, being a champion isn't about dominating the way that you did back then. It's about being at your best when the stakes are highest. And that's what made this team so special."

The President proceeded to congratulate Breanna Stewart, the first freshman in 25 years to be named most outstanding player in the Final Four, and Bria Hartley, Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis and Kelly Faris, who earned spots on the all-tournament team.

In addition to the team's athletic accomplishments, President Obama noted that team members are role models both academically and as individuals.

President Obama said:

"As any UConn fan will tell you, folks just love this team -- and it goes beyond what they do on the court. One fan came to the victory parade to take pictures for his daughter and he was quoted as saying, 'We come to as many games as we can because they are truly amazing. They're great role models.'"

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

[President Obama Welcomes World Series Champion San Francisco Giants to the White House](#)

On Monday, the San Francisco Giants visited the White House to celebrate winning the 2012 World Series championship. This was the team's second World Series win in three years.



President Obama praised the Giants on their hard work and dedication throughout the season.

In addition to congratulating the team on its World Series win, the President also highlighted a number of initiatives that the team worked on off the field.

President Obama also mentioned the team's efforts to encourage healthy eating, an initiative that First Lady Michelle Obama has been working on through Let's Move!

"I'm proud to announce that next season they're planning to turn the centerfield bleachers at AT&T Park into what's believed to be the first ever

edible garden in a major American sports facility. With rows of kale and strawberries and eggplant, the Giants are going to help encourage local youth to eat healthy -- even at the ballpark," President Obama said.

The President also acknowledged the team's work for the LGBT community:

"The Junior Giants program uses baseball to teach integrity and leadership and teamwork to more than 20,000 children. The team recently won a national award for their support of the LGBT community. Two years ago, the Giants became the first professional sports franchise to record an 'It Gets Better' video to help bullied youth."

Watch President Obama congratulate the San Francisco Giants on their championship [here](#).