

OBAMA for AMERICA...Issues at a Glance & Talking Points

ENERGY: Providing short-term relief to American families for “Pain at the Pump,” tackling climate change, creating millions of “green” jobs and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

- Tax the large “Windfall” Profits being reaped by the big oil companies
- Use Windfall tax to provide a \$1,000 Emergency Energy Rebate to American Families
- Create a Global Energy Forum of the world’s largest polluters to focus on global energy and environmental issues
- Ensure 10 percent of Our Electricity Comes from Renewable Sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025
- Weatherize one million low income homes annually
- Increase fuel economy standards 4% annually
- Get 1 million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015
- Use it or Lose It” approach to existing oil and gas leases

ECONOMY: Bring economic prosperity to America by: jumpstarting the economy through tax rebates and relief to the middle class, improving America’s trade position, create jobs, supporting small business, reforming bankruptcy laws and addressing practices such as predatory lending and mortgage fraud.

- Tax relief for working families and small businesses
- Eliminate income taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000
- Pre-filled forms to simplify tax filing
- Pursue trade policy that opens up foreign markets to support American jobs
- Amend the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to favor American jobs
- Create an Advanced Manufacturing Fund to identify and invest in the most compelling advanced manufacturing strategies
- Establish a “Bill of Rights” for credit card consumers

FISCAL: Aimed at restoring fiscal discipline to Washington and making the tax system more fair and efficient.

- Enforcing pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budgeting rules

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- Reverse Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy
- Ensure that federal contracts over \$25,000 are competitively bid
- Stop the abuse of tax shelters and offshore tax havens
- Eliminate special-interest and corporate loopholes and deductions

IMMIGRATION: Create secure borders, improve our immigration system, remove incentives to enter the United States illegally, bring undocumented workers out of the shadows and work cooperatively with Mexico to increase prosperity across the border.

- Provide additional personnel, infrastructure and technology on the border and at our ports of entry
- Fix the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy
- Increase the number of legal immigrants
- Crack down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants
- Allow undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English and over time, establish citizenship
- Promote economic development in Mexico to decrease illegal immigration

POVERTY: Expanding access to jobs, ensuring that work "pays" for all Americans, strengthening families, increasing the supply of affordable housing and tackling "concentrated" poverty.

- Invest \$1 billion over five years in transitional jobs and career pathway programs
- Improve transportation access to jobs
- Raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation
- Guarantee workers seven paid sick days per year
- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Ensure community-based investment resources in urban communities

FOREIGN POLICY: Ending the war in Iraq, using diplomatic (as opposed to military) engagement with Iran, renewing American diplomacy, reducing the nuclear threat, working to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and addressing key issues in Africa.

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- Offer Iran incentives to abandon its nuclear program
- Expand our foreign service
- Rally NATO members to contribute troops to collective security operations
- Secure loose nuclear materials from terrorists
- Strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- Work to stop the genocide in Darfur

HEALTHCARE: Quality, affordable, and portable Coverage for all Americans, and also includes lowering costs by modernizing the U.S. health care system.

- Establish a National Health Plan with Guaranteed Eligibility for all
- Offer a national health insurance exchange (private insurance)
- Make coverage mandatory for children and young people up to age 25
- Employers will have to provide coverage for their employees or pay into the national health plan system
- Create a health tax credit for small businesses
- Expand eligibility for Medicaid and state health assistance

SENIORS AND SOCIAL SECURITY: We have an obligation to protect and honor our nation's seniors, by maintaining Social Security, strengthening retirement savings, and making health care affordable, and preventing age discrimination.

- Ensure that Social Security system is solvent, viable for next 50 years
- Eliminate Income Taxes for Seniors Making Less Than \$50,000 (provide immediate tax cut averaging \$1,400 for 7 million seniors)
- Provide Cheaper Prescription Drugs and close "doughnut hole" in Medicare Part D prescription drug program
- Strengthen Long-Term Care Options
- Require Full Disclosure of Company Pension Investment
- Create Automatic Workplace Pensions
- Expand Retirement Savings Incentives for Working Families (through a savings match for families earning less than \$75,000 per year)
- Strengthen Age Discrimination in Employment Act

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- Increase funding for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

EDUCATION: Strengthening the quality of K-12 education; recruit, prepare, retain, and reward America's teachers; increasing access to and quality of early childhood education; and improving access to higher education.

- Implement a "Zero-to-Five" Plan, emphasizing infant care/education; and encouraging states to provide voluntary universal pre-school
- Increase funding & improve quality of Early Head Start & Head Start
- Reform No Child Left Behind
- Make math and science education a national priority
- Fund intervention strategies to reduce dropout crisis
- Support college outreach programs
- Create new teacher service scholarships
- Create American Opportunity Tax Credit for college education

WOMEN & FAMILIES: Reclaim the American Dream for Women and Their Families includes fighting for pay equity; expanding flexible work arrangements; expanding high quality after-school opportunities and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit; protecting women against domestic violence and sexual assault, and preserving women's right to choose.

- Improve enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and fight job discrimination
- Improve child care options, and availability of family medical leave
- Require employers to provide 7 paid sick days per year
- Double federal funding for 21st Century Learning Centers after-school program, to serve more than 1 million children
- Make the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable, 50% credit for low-income families
- End health care disparities based on gender, health status
- Safeguard women's right to choose under *Roe v. Wade*, and oppose Constitutional Amendment to overturn *Roe v. Wade*

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- Pass legislation to provide job security for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and appoint a special advisor on issues related to violence against women

ETHICS: Barack Obama's Plan to Change Washington begins by shining the light on Washington lobbying, and on federal contracts, tax breaks and earmarks. He will open communication and bring the American people back into their government, and end special interest influence on the Executive Branch.

- Centralized Internet database with ethics and lobbying information
- Create "Contracts and Influence" Internet Database available to the public
- Support public financing of campaigns, campaign finance reform
- End No-Bid Contracts: Competitive awards for all Federal contracts >\$25,000
- Cabinet officials to hold broadband national town hall meetings (Fireside Chats)
- Release Presidential records in a timely fashion
- Reform political appointee process: every official must be qualified for position

CIVIL RIGHTS: Obama wants to strengthen civil rights enforcement

- By combating employment discrimination
- Expanding the Hate Crimes Statutes
- Ending deceptive voting practices
- Ending racial profiling.

FARMERS: Support rural communities and ensure economic opportunity for farmers.

- By regulating CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations).
- Establishing country of origin labeling.
- Encouraging organic and local agriculture.
- Making agriculture a more attractive profession for young people.
- Supporting rural economic development.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS: America has a sacred trust to its veterans

- Plans to create a modern Department of Veteran Affairs
- Improve the quality of health care for veterans
- Rebuild the Veteran's Administration's broken benefits system
- Combat homelessness among veterans

AMERICAN w/DISABILITIES: Obama wants an improved life for the disabled

- Provide educational opportunities they need to succeed
- End discrimination and promote equal opportunity.
- Increase the employment rate of workers with disabilities.
- Support independent, community-based living.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Encourage and enable all Americans to serve to meet the Nation's Challenges

- By integrating Service into learning.
- Investing in the non-profit sector.