

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

RICK PERRY



JOBS

- **Getting Americans Back to Work.** President Obama unveiled his jobs plan, which would encourage small businesses to grow, prevent up to 280,000 teacher layoffs and provide a \$1,500 tax cut for the average family.
- **Millions of Jobs Created.** President Obama’s economic recovery plan created 3.6 million jobs.
- **More than 300,000 Public Sector Jobs Saved.** President Obama preserved more than 300,000 state and local public sector jobs—preventing layoffs of police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers, teachers and other trusted public servants.

- **Low-Wage Jobs.** Texas has the highest percentage of low-wage jobs in the country. In 2009, Texas led the nation with 23 percent of residents living in poverty. In fact, a worker in Texas makes \$1.30 less than the national average.
- **Thousands of Teacher Layoffs.** Gov. Perry’s property tax cut caused a multibillion-dollar shortfall that led to budget cuts, including the layoffs of about 40,000 teachers.

WORKING FAMILIES

- **Tax Cuts for Working Families.** President Obama provided tax cuts to 95 percent of working families.
- **Unemployment Insurance for 2.5 Million Americans.** The president extended unemployment insurance—assisting 2.5 million Americans who lost their jobs in the recession.
- **Making College More Affordable.** President Obama expanded Pell Grants and revamped the student loan program by eliminating fees paid to private banks.

- **Income Drops While Poverty Rises.** The median household income in Texas fell 5.4 percent and more than 1.6 million households have incomes of less than \$20,000, \$2,000 less than the national poverty line level.
- **Largest Cuts to Public Education in Decades.** Perry cut \$4 billion in education funding, the largest cuts to public education since World War II. As thousands of teachers and school employees were laid off, Perry placed the blame on administrators and school boards, saying it was a “local decision.”
- **Tax System that Benefits the Wealthy.** The poorest 20 percent of Texans paid an average of 6 percent of their income in sales tax, while the top fifth—households with an income of more than \$126,000—paid just 1.3 percent their earnings.

WORKERS’ RIGHTS

- **Protecting American Workers.** President Obama called the efforts to curb collective bargaining in states an “assault on unions” and recognized public employees “make enormous contributions to our states and our citizens.”

- **Supporting Anti-Worker Agenda.** Perry supported curtailing collective bargaining rights for workers in Wisconsin, saying Republicans “aren’t going to back down from our support of Scott Walker and what he’s doing to make the tough decisions in his state to balance the budget.”

HEALTHCARE

- **32 Million Americans Covered.** President Obama’s historic healthcare reform law expanded healthcare coverage to an additional 32 million uninsured Americans.
- **Quality Coverage Regardless of Pre-Existing Conditions or Illness.** The law prevents people with pre-existing conditions from being denied quality insurance coverage and prohibits insurance companies from dropping people due to illness.
- **Coverage for Young Adults and Children.** Parents are allowed to keep their children on their health plans until age 26. President Obama gave 11 million children coverage under the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

- **Healthcare Reform Repeal.** Perry vowed to use an Executive Order to repeal the historic healthcare reform law, taking away coverage from millions of families and letting costs skyrocket.
- **Texas Worst in the Nation.** Texas ranks the worst in the nation for healthcare coverage; 26 percent are lacking health insurance and premiums are above the national average.
- **Abandon Medicaid that Helps Millions.** Perry tried to opt out of Medicaid even though a growing number of Texans rely on it for healthcare. The number of those qualified to receive Medicaid spiked from 2.1 million in 2001 to 3.5 million today—an 80 percent increase.
- **Highest Rate of Uninsured Children.** Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation, with one in every six children uninsured.

FINANCIAL REFORM

- **Reforms that Hold Wall Street Accountable.** President Obama enacted the most sweeping financial reform package since the Great Depression.
- **Better Protections for Consumers.** The President established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which increases regulation and oversight over big banks and mortgage companies.
- **Credit Card Rates and Fees Reined In.** President Obama also enacted the CARD Act, which reins in and reduces credit card rates and fees.

- **Banking Regulation and Consumer Protection are Unconstitutional.** In his campaign manifesto, Fed Up!, Perry wrote that banking regulation and consumer financial protection policies are unconstitutional.
- **Deregulated Financial Industry.** Perry wants to help corporations by enacting a six-month moratorium on regulations. “We need to be free in this country from overregulation,” Perry said.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

- **Protecting Social Security.** President Obama vowed to protect Social Security benefits and refused to increase the Medicare eligibility age.
- **Immediate Relief for Seniors.** The president’s economic recovery act provided immediate relief to retirees, giving beneficiaries a one-time payment of \$250.

- **Social Security is a “Ponzi Scheme.”** Perry criticized Social Security for being an example of the federal government’s overreach, calling the program a “monstrous lie” and a “Ponzi scheme.”
- **Putting Seniors at Risk.** Perry supports moving to a system of individual accounts; a move that would shift risk to seniors and increase the federal budget deficit.

IMMIGRATION

- **A Balanced, Comprehensive Approach.** President Obama supports comprehensive immigration reform, understanding that a balanced approach is the only solution to end illegal immigration.
- **Supports the DREAM Act.** The President is an ardent supporter of the DREAM Act, legislation that provides upstanding undocumented immigrants who were brought to America as children a pathway to citizenship.
- **Halted Noncriminal Deportations.** President Obama released a strong policy that halted deportation proceedings for noncriminal immigrants .

- **Opposes Federal DREAM Act.** In 2001, Gov. Perry signed a Texas version of the DREAM Act, allowing foreign-born children of undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition for college. However, Perry is opposed to the federal DREAM Act.
- **No Path to Citizenship.** Perry rescinded his support for providing undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship.