



# Obama Biden Watch



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[www.obamabidenwatch.org](http://www.obamabidenwatch.org)  
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## CBO v. ObamaCare

President Obama's frantic and politically dangerous push to pass a budget busting health care reform bill before the August recess hit yet another wall when the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office ("CBO") issued a devastating report on the cost of a key program favored by the White House.

Fiscally conservative Blue Dog Democrats and other lawmakers have preached caution before we write another trillion dollar check. In an effort to mollify these concerns, the White House is now touting a plan that would empower a health care panel to make cuts to government run health care plans like Medicare and Medicaid. Peter Orszag, the former CBO director and current director of the Office of Management and Budget at the White House, went so far as to say that the plan was "probably the most important piece that can be added" to the bill being proposed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Unfortunately for President Obama and his budget director, the current director of the Congressional Budget Office (and appointee of Speaker Pelosi) Doug Elmendorf sent a letter to the Democrat leadership stating that the proposed health care panel would save a mere \$2 billion - not nearly enough to attract votes from fiscal conservatives for the \$1 trillion plan.

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## Obama's Poll Positions

A cluster of recently released polls could spell trouble for President Obama's agenda. In the Commonwealth of Virginia for example, President Obama's approval rating has dipped to 48 percent. During the 2008 campaign, Virginia became a swing state and awarded its thirteen electoral votes to a Democrat for the first time since President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964.

According to Public Policy Polling, "Obama's reviews are highly polarized with 95% of Democrats but only 9% of Republicans giving him good marks. His overall numbers are weak due to poor numbers among independents - 52% of them say they disapprove of



Obama's performance with only 38% giving him favorable ones."

Six months into his administration, data is suggesting that voters are beginning to realize that President Obama is a lot more liberal than he let on during the campaign. Clearly, the President will be counting on places like Virginia again in 2012, but he has a lot of work in front of him to hold his coalition together.

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## The Obama Economy

Liberals are amazing. Instead of fixing the first stimulus package, many are already calling for a second stimulus package. Some have even said the unprecedented \$787 billion spending bill was too small! Meanwhile, President Obama appears to be one of the last Americans who believe the first stimulus bill is working. As unemployment races toward 10 percent, the President recently stated that his stimulus bill “has worked as intended.” This statement by Mr. Obama seems to be at odds with his very own chief economic adviser, Larry Summers, who is on the record saying, “I don’t think the worst is over ... It’s very likely that more jobs will be lost. It would not be surprising if GDP has not yet reached its low...”

One of the many problems with the Obama stimulus bill is that political considerations are influencing where the funds are being sent. According to *USA Today*, “Billions of dollars in federal aid delivered directly to the local level to help revive the economy have gone overwhelmingly to places that supported President Obama in last year’s presidential election... The reports show the 872 counties that supported Obama received about \$69 per person, on average. The 2,234 that supported McCain received about \$34.” President Obama would be the first to say that our economic situation is not just a red state problem or a blue state problem, but everyone’s problem. Unfortunately, the President’s political posturing seems to trump his non-partisan rhetoric at every turn.

Not only are stimulus funds being doled out as political pay-offs, but a recent analysis found that funds are also being sent to areas that don’t need the assistance! According to *The Associated Press*, “Under the Obama administration’s economic stimulus plan, needy communities were supposed to be a priority when doling out money to rebuild highways and jump-start the economy. It hasn’t worked out that way. The rules required that states give priority to counties considered ‘economically distressed.’ Yet less than half the federal highway money announced so far is directed toward those high-unemployment, low-income areas...53 percent of the money is going to counties that don’t meet the federal standard of economically distressed areas.”

Most agree that the Obama stimulus bill was not thought out properly before being signed into law. Since then, the execution of the bill has been even worse.

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This was all despite Obama's unprecedented decision to call Director Elmendorf to the White House to personally lobby for his bill. Although President Clinton and President Bush avoided meeting with the head of the CBO for fear of being perceived as trying to influence an impartial referee, President Obama seems to have suffered minimally from his questionable move. Of course, the media was more interested in the inflammatory Gates controversy in Boston and chose not to call the President out for misusing his power.

This meeting came after the CBO dealt its first blow to the ObamaCare plan when it stated what fiscal conservatives have known since the beginning: the Democrat sponsored bills being rushed through Congress would do little to slow the rising cost of health care and would simply add to already out of control federal budget deficit. To date, it remains unclear if this bill will ever become law.

**Notable Quotables**

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), Chairman, House Judiciary Committee: "I love these members, they get up and say, 'Read the bill'...What good is reading the bill if it's a thousand pages and you don't have two days and two lawyers to find out what it means after you read the bill?"

Rep. Dan Boren (D-OK): "It would be a lot nicer if we had someone who was in the middle...Bill Clinton won our district. A lot of people don't remember that, but he, in 1996, carried this district. I think if you have someone who governs from the middle, who's pragmatic, who works with both parties. President Obama talks a lot about bipartisanship. If you look at some of the legislation, he may have one or two Republicans."

**...Polls Continued from Pg. 1**

In Ohio, widely regarded as the holy grail of the presidential electoral map, more troubling signs are emerging. According to Quinnipiac, "President Barack Obama gets a lackluster 49 - 44 percent approval rating in Ohio...This is President Obama's lowest approval rating in any national or statewide Quinnipiac University poll since he was inaugurated and is down from 62 - 31 percent in a May 6 survey." The importance of Ohio in 2012 cannot be underestimated, as the Buckeye State has picked the winner of every presidential election since 1960!

The President's poll numbers are also showing significant signs of erosion on the national level. With the economy continuing to falter despite the can't miss "stimulus" package, unemployment skyrocketing, and a seemingly unlimited list of reckless spending proposals - despite deficits and debt as far as the eye can see - it appears many voters are having buyer's remorse.

*Politico* states: "Trust in President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies to identify the right solutions to problems facing the country has dropped off significantly since March, according to a new Public Strategies Inc./POLITICO poll. Just as Obama intensifies his efforts to fulfill a campaign promise and reach an agreement with Congress on health care reform, the number of Americans who say they trust the president has fallen from 66 percent to 54 percent. At the same time, the percentage of those who say they do not trust the president has jumped from 31 to 42."

President Obama has governed as an ultra-liberal partisan so far in his first term despite promising to be a bridge-building moderate. It's no wonder his poll numbers are suffering.

## Prime Time Setback

Everyone knows that Chris Matthews loves President Obama. Matthews is the “journalist” who said that he’s going to do everything in his power to help this President succeed. When Matthews called President Obama’s July 22 prime time press conference on health care reform a missed opportunity, it’s safe to say it was an absolute failure. And it was.

Let’s get one thing straight. No matter what the liberal media says, President Obama reading talking points from a teleprompter is not an effective health care policy, and it certainly doesn’t inspire confidence that the President has a firm grasp of the issue. If the President wants to get this bill signed into law, he needs to look the American people in the eye and ar-



ticulate why it is necessary under the current circumstances America is facing. The American people deserve to know why it’s the right time to spend more than a trillion dollars on a program when we are already saddled with an unprecedented national debt and federal budget deficit.

The reason this bill is failing is that no one - even the President - can explain what it does, how it’s going to do it, and for how much. If President Obama were to start communicating specifics about the plan, it would undoubtedly lose even more support. For example, accord-

ing to *The Associated Press*: “President Lyndon Johnson signed the Medicare law on July 30, 1965, and 11 months later seniors were receiving coverage.

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## Obama’s Rookie Mistake

President Obama made three mistakes when he answered the question about the arrest of Harvard Professor Skip Gates at his recent press conference on national television.

First of all, it’s never smart for the leader of the free world to wade into a local law enforcement matter, regardless of the subject matter. Americans want their President focused on big things, such as the economy and national security.

Secondly, it’s safe to say that Obama now realizes he never should have taken the question to begin with. Curiously, the answer he did give was contradictory. First, Mr. Obama said that he didn’t know all the facts, but then wound up saying that the police acted “stupidly.” How would he know the police

acted stupidly if he didn’t have all the facts? This is really bizarre behavior for a Harvard educated lawyer and a skilled politician.

Lastly, by answering this question, the President wandered way off message. That press conference was designed to rally the American people around his health care reform bill. By taking the Skip Gates question, Mr. Obama stepped all over his message and probably even lost ground in his efforts to advance his reckless health care agenda.

Interestingly, it almost seemed as though Mr. Obama wanted to answer the question about Professor Gates. He wanted to defend his friend. But by doing so, Mr. Obama made the situation much worse. He also severely damaged his standing among members of the law enforcement community. All in all, not a good night for the President.

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But if President Barack Obama gets to sign a health care overhaul this fall, the uninsured won't be covered until 2013 - after the next presidential election. In fact, a timeline of the 1,000-page health care bill crafted by House Democrats shows it would take the better part of a decade - from 2010-2018 - to get all the components of the far-reaching proposal up and running." How could the President's friends in the media not have asked a question about this startling report?

Remarkably, President Obama has shown little leadership on his central campaign promise of

reforming health care. He decided not to write his own bill, instead letting the House and Senate deal with it. President Obama has, once again, let politics trump everything else. The reality

is that President Obama is afraid to marry himself to one specific bill in case it ends up going down in flames. He always wants to have an out to blame the House and Senate for messing it up. It should also be noted that, once again, President Obama did not reach out to Republicans. That's not leadership. President Obama would have gained more respect had he written his own bill, fought for it, and let the chips fall where they may.

Now, because of this flawed strategy, the situation amongst Democrats on Capitol Hill is spiraling out of control. The Speaker Pelosi-led ultra liberals don't want to compromise with

the more moderate Democrats in the House and Senate. Pelosi wants to ram through a bill, regardless of cost and how it would affect the deficit. Sen. Evan Bayh, one of the moderates, is asking serious questions about affordability. Bayh recently told *The Hill*, "The devil is in the details, and we're now starting to get into some of those details...One of which is, how do we afford this? Because frankly the country is going broke. It's not something we like to recognize, but it's true." It's clear that President Obama hasn't been around long enough to be able to steer his own caucus - after all, these career politicians don't owe the President anything. In the coming months, as Barack Obama's popularity continues to plummet,

Democrats on the Hill will become even more difficult to work with.

During the press conference, President Obama continued to drive the point that spending a trillion dollars on this health care program won't increase

the deficit. Many Americans find this hard to believe. Furthermore, President Obama tends to give five minute answers to simple questions, like how he intends to pay for the irresponsible plan. Instead of just answering honestly and saying "by raising taxes," the President chooses language to try to keep this simple fact obscured.

President Obama's political capital is going down, unemployment is going up, and it's time for him to concentrate on the economy and not spend another trillion dollars on a plan that no one can explain.



Reid



Pelosi



Emanuel

*Democrat Infighting Threatens ObamaCare*

## Czar Wars

It's no secret that President Obama believes big government is the solution to America's problems. It's become clear that the President has no reservations about expanding the size and scope of government at an alarming rate to achieve his ultra-liberal goals. In fact, it seems like the only place that Mr. Obama is comfortable cutting programs is at the Pentagon.

Case in point is President Obama's practice of appointing "Czars" for almost everything the federal government is attempting to accomplish. Unbelievably, the President has signed up more than thirty czars to date! Some of them include: Afghanistan Czar, AIDS Czar, Border Czar, Car Czar, Climate Czar, Domestic Violence Czar, Drug Czar, Economic Czar, Energy Czar, Green Jobs Czar, Guantanamo Czar, Health Czar, Science Czar, TARP Czar, and Urban Affairs Czar. The bureau-



*Nancy-Ann DeParle,  
One of Obama's Many Czars*

cratic nightmare goes on and on. This troubling pattern has sparked bi-partisan outrage.

First of all, most of these positions do not require confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Democrat Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) recently wrote to the President: "The rapid and easy accumulation of power by White House staff can threaten the constitutional system of checks and balances." Republican Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) has taken issue with the lack of transparency and accountability associated with the practice of relying so heavily on czars. Collins argues that this type of governing is not what President Obama promised during the campaign: "By creating these czars that are insulated from accountability, whose work is not transparent, he's moving in exactly the opposite direction."

The bottom line is that the federal government is too big and cumbersome as it is. When's the last time creating yet another layer of bureaucracy accomplished anything?

## Biden Being Biden

Just weeks after President Obama visited Moscow to "push the reset button" on relations between Russia and the United States, Vice President Biden embarrassed the White House, once again, by foolishly wandering far off message. In an interview that demonstrated the Vice President's knack for undermining the Obama administration's goals, he said, "They have a shrinking population base, they have a withering economy, they have a banking sector and structure that is not likely to be able to withstand the next 15 years, they're in a situation where the world is changing before them and they're clinging to something in the past that is not sustainable."

The Vice President's comments were splashed all over the Russian front pages, forcing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to clean up after him on "Meet The Press," saying that the U.S. believes Russia is a "great power." The irony is Biden was largely speaking the truth, but Obama and Clinton have no interest in having a diplomatic confrontation with Russia. The Vice President appears to be oblivious to this fact.

If Biden were truly the foreign policy expert that he was touted as by Obama during the campaign, he would be more sensitive to the dangers of sending mixed messages to the Russians.

## Obama Shuts Down Blumenthal

In June it was reported that top Clinton hatchet man Sidney Blumenthal was on track to join Secretary Clinton's staff as a speech-writing consultant at the State Department.

Blumenthal, as you recall, was the former "journalist" brought in by the Clinton White House to dish dirt on perceived political opponents during the months leading up to Bill Clinton's impeachment. Blumenthal was also one of the witnesses called during the historic Senate impeachment trial to answer questions about what he knew and when he knew it. Seeing Blumenthal's name in the paper brings back memories of the hyper-partisanship and gutter politics that dominated the Clinton White House during the 1990s. Not surprisingly, Blumenthal is proud of his role in defending the indefensible actions of Bill Clinton, even bragging on the back cover of his book, *The Clinton Wars*, that he is "the only presidential aide ever to testify in an impeachment

trial."

A few weeks after it was revealed that Blumenthal was heading to the State Department, *The New York Times* reported that the Obama White House "scuttled" the arrangement. Curiously, the story received little follow up coverage.

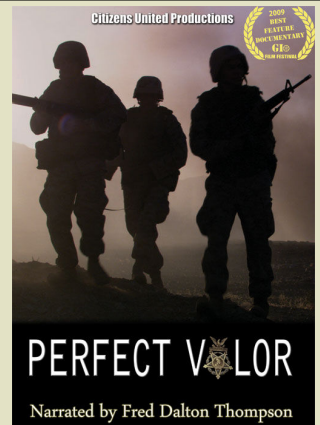


Blumenthal worked on Hillary Clinton's campaign for the White House in 2008, and someone in Obama World must have wondered why Clinton would need a political hack like Blumenthal so close to her at the State Department, where partisan politics aren't supposed to enter the equation. This appears to be one of the best personnel moves by the Obama Administration to date.

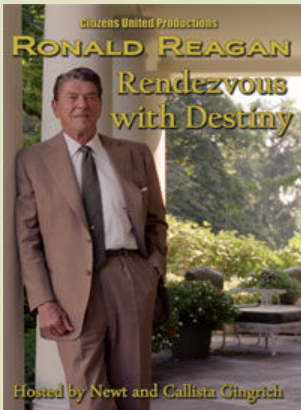
## Citizens United Productions Presents

*Perfect Valor*, the 2009 winner for Best Feature Documentary at the GI Film Festival, continues to premier across the country. Citizens United Productions thought it fitting to premiere the film in some of the home towns of the brave men and women profiled in the film. Scheduled premieres:

- August 8th at the Gillioz Theatre in Springfield, MO
- August 15th at the Kenosha First Assembly Church in Kenosha, WI
- August 22nd at the Fargo Theatre in Fargo, ND



Visit [www.PerfectValor.com](http://www.PerfectValor.com) or [www.CitizensUnited.org](http://www.CitizensUnited.org) for more info!



*Ronald Reagan: Rendezvous with Destiny* remains incredibly popular and continues to receive fantastic reviews from coast to coast. Check out [www.ReaganDocumentary.com](http://www.ReaganDocumentary.com) for more information.

Also be sure to visit [www.CitizensUnited.org](http://www.CitizensUnited.org) to get updates about all of our projects, support our cause, or order any of our 11 feature-length documentaries. Three more films are in production and due out in the Fall so be sure to check back frequently!

A FINAL THOUGHT FROM  
CITIZENS UNITED PRESIDENT  
DAVID N. BOSSIE

Friends,

As a candidate, Barack Obama promised fundamental change and unprecedented progress on the biggest issues of the day. He went so far as to belittle Hillary Clinton and John McCain for questioning his proposed agenda. Unwisely, Clinton and McCain put their faith in the media to scrutinize Mr. Obama's unrealistic platform. The media chose not to do this and now we know why. With the hiring of Newsweek Correspondent Daren Briscoe as the next Deputy Associate Director of Public Affairs at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, eleven members of the liberal media have been appointed by President Obama to work in his administration! Six months have passed since President Obama took the oath of office. It's about time we look back and compare his 2008 rhetoric with 2009 reality.

Out Of Control Spending And Debt

Candidate Obama railed against the huge deficit and debt that spiraled out of control over the last decade, and he promised to do something about it. Unfortunately, he also promised to enact a huge number of exorbitantly expensive programs such as universal health care. Contrary to his campaign promises, Obama has done nothing to rein in spending. He has, in fact, taken steps that will make our fiscal crisis significantly worse. According to the Heritage Foundation, "The consequences of this debt are already being felt...the more Washington borrows...to finance its debt, the lower the amount left for small business loans, mortgage loans, car loans or student loans. This is why interest rates are spiking - and will continue to spike. The result will be less business investment (and therefore less job crea-

tion), and an even worse housing market."

Lobbyists

During the general election, the Obama campaign relentlessly attacked Senator McCain because there were former lobbyists working in his campaign. Time and time again, candidate Obama promised that lobbyists wouldn't be welcome in his administration. Of course, that promise was broken almost immediately when he appointed, among others, a former Raytheon lobbyist to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, and allowed a former Goldman Sachs lobbyist to be Chief of Staff at the Treasury Department.



Transparency

As a candidate, Mr. Obama harped on the need for transparency and promised to run the most open administration in history. As a part of that promise, his campaign website stated, "As president, Obama will not sign any nonemergency bill without giving the American public an opportunity to review and comment on the White House Web site for five days." That promise didn't even make it to the very first bill that President Obama signed into law: the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (certainly not an "emergency" bill) was signed by President Obama just two days after it passed and with no opportunity for public comment.

These are just three promises that President Obama has broken in his first six months in office. While the liberal media is still reluctant to scrutinize the President's performance, the American people seem to be coming around. Recent polling shows that independents and even a few Democrats are realizing that they were sold a bill of goods by a slick salesman.

Sincerely, David N. Bossie