

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
during the first year of his presidency [2009-12-04]

From Professor [Robert](#) Watson

I feel that [President Barack](#) Obama has accomplished so much not from a heavy-handed or top-down approach but from a style [which](#) has institutionalized efforts to reach across the aisle, encourage vigorous debate, utilize town halls, and [involve](#) panels of experts in the policy-making process. Beyond the accomplishments, [this](#) process is good for democracy as [I've seen](#) our democratic processes have been battered and bruised in recent years.

[It's OK](#) that [I've also](#) missed [items](#) in the list.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA...

1. Ordered all federal agencies to undertake a study and make recommendations for ways to cut spending
2. Ordered a review of all federal operations to identify and cut wasteful spending and practices
3. Instituted enforcement of [equal](#) pay for women
4. [Began](#) the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq
5. [Assured the coverage of all expenses for the](#) families of fallen soldiers to be on hand when the body arrives at Dover AFB
6. Ended media blackout on war casualties; reporting full information
7. Ended media blackout on covering the return of fallen soldiers to Dover AFB; the media is now permitted to do so pending adherence to respectful rules and approval of fallen soldier's family
8. [Assured](#) the White House and [Federal](#) government are respecting the Freedom of Information Act
9. Instructed all [Federal](#) agencies to promote openness and transparency as much as possible
10. [Set and enforced](#) limits on [access of](#) lobbyists to the White House
11. [Set and enforced](#) limits on White House aides working for lobbyists after their tenure in the administration
12. Ended the previous stop-loss policy that kept soldiers in Iraq/Afghanistan longer than their enlistment date
13. [Phased](#) out the expensive F-22 war planes and other outdated weapons systems, which weren't even used or needed in Iraq/Afghanistan
14. Removed restrictions on embryonic stem-cell research [to prevent disease](#)

15. **Enforced** Federal support for stem-cell and new biomedical research **to prevent disease**
16. **Created new** Federal funding for science and research labs **to prevent disease**
17. **Made sure that** States are permitted to enact Federal fuel efficiency standards above Federal standards
18. Increased infrastructure spending (roads, bridges, power plants) after years of neglect
19. **Found** funds for high-speed, broadband Internet access to K-12 schools
20. **Found new** funds for school construction
21. **Made sure that** the prison at Guantanamo Bay is being phased out
22. **Created the** US Auto industry rescue plan
23. **Created the Federal** Housing rescue plan
24. **Created the** \$789 billion economic stimulus plan
25. **Made sure that** the public can meet with Federal housing insurers to refinance (the new plan can be completed in one day) a mortgage if they are having trouble paying it.
26. **Created the** US financial and banking rescue plan
27. **Made sure that** the secret detention facilities in Eastern Europe and elsewhere are being closed
28. Ended the previous policy; the US now has a no torture policy and is in compliance with the Geneva Convention standards
29. **Made sure that** better body armor is now being provided to our troops
30. **Assured that** the missile defense program is being cut by \$1.4 billion in 2010
31. Restarted the nuclear nonproliferation talks **for** building back up the nuclear inspection infrastructure/protocols
32. Reengaged in the **Treaties/Agreements** to protect the Antarctic
33. Reengaged in the **Agreements/Talks** on global warming and greenhouse gas emissions
34. Visited more countries and met with more world leaders than any **President** in his first six months in office
35. **After** successful release of a US captain held by Somali pirates; authorized the SEALs to do their job

36. Made sure that US Navy increased patrols off Somali coast
37. Created attractive tax write-offs for those who buy hybrid automobiles
38. Instituted the Cash for Clunkers program, offering vouchers to trade in fuel inefficient, polluting old cars for new cars; stimulated auto sales
39. Announced plans to purchase a fuel efficient American-made fleet for the Federal government
40. Expanded the SCHIP program to cover health care for 4 million more children
41. Signed National Service legislation; expanded National Youth Service Program
42. Instituted a new policy on Cuba, allowing Cuban families to return home to visit loved ones
43. Ended the previous policy of not regulating and labeling carbon dioxide emissions
44. Expanded vaccination programs
45. Made an immediate and efficient response to the floods in North Dakota and other natural disasters
46. Closed offshore tax safe havens
47. Negotiated a deal with Swiss banks to permit US Government to gain access to records of tax evaders and criminals
48. Ended the previous policy of offering tax benefits to corporations who outsource American jobs; the new policy is to promote in-sourcing to bring jobs back
49. Ended the previous practice of protecting credit card companies; in place are new consumer protections from credit card industry's predatory practices
50. Forced energy producing plants to begin preparing to produce 15% of their energy from renewable sources
51. Lowered drug costs for seniors
52. Ended the previous practice of forbidding Medicare from negotiating with drug manufacturers for cheaper drugs; the Federal government is now realizing hundreds of millions in savings
53. Increased pay and benefits for military personnel
54. Improved housing for military personnel
55. Initiated a new policy to promote Federal hiring of military spouses
56. Improved conditions at Walter Reed Military Hospital and other military hospitals

57. Increased student loans
58. Increased opportunities in the AmeriCorps Program
59. Sent envoys to the Middle East and other parts of the world that had been neglected for years; reengaging in multilateral and bilateral talks and diplomacy
60. Established a new Cyber Security Office
61. Began the process of reforming and restructuring the military 20 years after the Cold War to a more modern fighting force; including new procurement policies, increasing size of military, new technology and cyber units and operations, etc.
62. Ended previous policy of awarding no-bid defense contracts
63. Ordered a review of hurricane and natural disaster preparedness
64. Established a National Performance Officer charged with saving the Federal government money and making Federal operations more efficient
65. Made sure that students struggling to make college loan payments can have their loans refinanced
66. Improved benefits for veterans
67. Had many more press conferences and town halls and much more media access than previous administration
68. Instituted a new focus on mortgage fraud
69. Made sure that the FDA is now regulating tobacco
70. Ended the previous policy of cutting the FDA and circumventing FDA rules
71. Ended the previous practice of having White House aides rewrite scientific and environmental rules, regulations, and reports
72. Authorized discussions with North Korea and private mission by Pres. Bill Clinton to secure the release of two Americans held in prisons
73. Authorized discussions with Myanmar and mission by Sen. Jim Web to secure the release of an American held captive
74. Made more loans available to small businesses
75. Established an Independent Commission to make recommendations on slowing the costs of Medicare
76. Appointed the first Latina to the Supreme Court

77. Authorized construction/opening of additional health centers to care for veterans
78. Limited salaries of senior White House aides; cut to \$100,000
79. Renewed loan guarantees for Israel
80. Changed the failing/status quo military command in Afghanistan
81. Deployed additional troops to Afghanistan
82. Created a new Afghan War Policy limiting aerial bombing and prioritizing aid, development of infrastructure, diplomacy, and good government practices by Afghans
83. Announced the long-term development of a National Energy grid with renewable sources and cleaner, efficient energy production
84. Returned money authorized for refurbishment of White House offices and private living quarters
85. Paid for redecoration of White House living quarters out of his own pocket
86. Held first Jewish Seder in the White House
87. Attempted to reform the National healthcare system which is the most expensive in the world yet leaves almost 50 million without health insurance and millions more under insured
88. Has put the ball in play for comprehensive immigration reform
89. Has announced his intention to push for energy reform
90. Has announced his intention to push for education reform

Oh, and he built a swing set for the girls outside the Oval Office!

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