

DESPITE SEEMING “HEALTH CARE WIN” VIA SUPREME COURT DISREGARDING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND KICKING THE HEALTH CARE TAX BACK TO CONGRESS AND VOTERS, OBAMA IS BEGGING DONORS FOR MONEY, UNLIKE 2008.... AS WE HEAR OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM, WE FEEL LESS LIKE “THE HOME OF THE BRAVE” AND RATHER “THE HOME OF JOBLESSNESS”.... THE TEA PARTY STAKES NOVEMBER AND MITT ROMNEY FOR CONFRONTING REPEAL AND REPLACE AND CREATING JOBS....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZViBEXz_jZScT_4jGlpPbSVdeBit7oPIE5CD-Wh3HS4/edit

AS ROMNEY FUNDRAISING TOPS OVER \$5 MILLION IN WAKE OF HEALTH CARE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH ROMNEY DECLARING REPEAL AND REPLACE.... OBAMA GETS HIS WAKE UP CALL THAT NO ONE LIKES HIM MUCH ANYMORE, OR HIS POLICIES THAT DESTROYED JOBS TO CREATE ABSOLUTELY NO INSURANCE....

July 02, 2012 'Weary' Obama 'Begging' Donors to Send Him Money



AP

Exclusive: President Obama Asks Campaign Donors to Send Him More Money

By Lloyd Grove, *The Daily Beast*

In an anxious conference call from Air Force One, Obama asked campaign donors to send more money. Lloyd Grove obtained the tape and describes the presidential pitch.

President Obama sounded weary and maybe a tad worried late Friday during a rambling conference call with campaign donors whom he repeatedly begged to send money—and send it now.

“The majority on this call maxed out to my campaign last time. I really need you to do the same this time,” the president said in a highly unusual (and presumably legal) fundraising pitch from Air Force One on his way back to Washington from Colorado Springs, where he’d been assessing the terrible damage caused by uncontained wildfires.

A special phone on the government aircraft is dedicated to political calls that are paid for by the campaign.

“I’m asking you to meet or exceed what you did in 2008,” the presidential pitchman continued, speaking to donors who were invited to dial in based on their contributions during the last election. “Because we’re going to have to deal with these super PACs in a serious way. And if we don’t, frankly I think the political [scene] is going to be changed permanently. Because the special interests that are financing my opponent’s campaign are just going to consolidate themselves. They’re gonna run Congress and the White House.”

Read more:

<http://nation.foxnews.com/president-obama/2012/07/02/weary-obama-begging-donors-send-him-money#ixzz1zTBYX38W>

WND EXCLUSIVE

JUDGE ISSUES RULING IN OBAMA-ELIGIBILITY CASE

Addresses question of whether dual citizen can be 'natural born'

Published: 2 hours ago



by DREW ZAHN [Email](#) | [Archive](#)

Drew Zahn is a former pastor who cut his editing teeth as a member of the award-winning staff of *Leadership*, Christianity Today's professional journal for church leaders. He is the editor of seven books, including *Movie-Based Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching*, which sparked his ongoing love affair with film and his weekly WND column, "Popcorn and a (world)view." [More ↓](#)

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The judge in a Florida lawsuit challenging Barack Obama's eligibility to be president has dismissed the case "with prejudice."

[In his issued ruling](#) Circuit Judge Terry Lewis agreed with White House attorneys that Obama's eligibility could not be challenged under Florida election law because, technically, Obama hasn't been nominated yet and furthermore, the judge said, Obama's birth in the U.S. meets the Constitution's requirements for being a "natural born citizen."

The attorney challenging Obama's eligibility, however, told WND the judge's ruling is "intellectually dishonest" and so poorly written it makes an appeal "relatively easy."

A fund has been set up for donations to cover legal expenses for the case.

[As WND reported](#), Michael Voeltz, who identifies himself as "a registered member of the Democratic Party, voter and taxpayer in Broward County," had challenged Obama's eligibility, arguing that the "natural born citizen" clause was rightly understood in historical context to mean a child not only born in the U.S., but born to two American-citizen parents, so as not to have divided loyalties. Obama, however, readily admits to being born a dual citizen because of his father's British citizenship.

Judge Lewis rejected Voeltz's and attorney Larry Klayman's arguments on three grounds. First, the judge insisted, Obama's candidacy cannot be challenged because he has not been nominated yet.

"The respective major political parties determine their nominee at a national convention [that hasn't occurred yet]," Lewis writes. "Thus, under Florida law, Mr. Obama is not presently the nominee of the Democratic Party for the office.

Second, the judge insisted, it's not the Florida secretary of state's job to determine a presidential candidate's eligibility.

Quoting Florida law, Lewis writes, "The secretary of state has no affirmative duty, or even authority, 'to inquire or pass judgment upon the eligibility of a candidate to hold office for the nomination for which he is running.'"

Third, Lewis insisted, Obama should be considered a natural born citizen.

"The United States Supreme Court has concluded that 'every person born in the United States,

and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, becomes at once a citizen of the United States,” Lewis writes.

Then citing district and appellate court ruling from other states, Lewis adds, “Other courts that have considered the issue in the context of challenges to the qualifications of candidates for the office of president of the United States have come to the same conclusion.”

As WND reported, Klayman had earlier suggested he would seek “declaratory relief” in the case, regardless of whether or not Lewis considered Obama “nominated” yet or not, a move Lewis appears to anticipate in his ruling.

“Plaintiff suggests the possibility of a declaratory judgment claim,” Lewis writes, “but I don’t see how Plaintiff, as an individual voter, would have standing to seek declaratory relief.”

Klayman, however, spoke with WND to break down what he says are glaring flaws in the judge’s ruling.

“The decision issued today by Judge Terry Lewis was poorly reasoned and written,” Klayman asserts. “It goes against prior Florida Supreme Court precedent in particular, thus making our chances on appeal great. . . . In any event, Plaintiff Micheal Voeltz filed a new complaint today for declaratory relief, which will, in addition to his appeal, now proceed forward. In short, we remain confident that if the Florida courts ultimately decide to obey their own election law, we will prevail in the end.”

Specifically, Klayman objected first to Lewis’ assertion that Obama’s nomination is a matter for the Democrats’ national convention and not subject to Florida law.

“He basically said that a presidential candidate can never be nominated under Florida law, ever, and that’s just wrong,” Klayman said. “He made our appeal relatively easy, because he flies in the face of the Florida statute and also a Florida Supreme Court case. There’s nothing on which for him to come to this conclusion. The law is clear here that Obama was nominated for office.” And as for the judge’s concession that Voeltz might have cause for an election challenge *after* Obama is elected president, Klayman scoffed, “That’s a disingenuous dodge.”

At the heart of the case, however, was the judge’s reasoning that a citizen born in the U.S. fulfills the U.S. Constitution’s “natural born” citizen requirement for the presidency.

“The judge equated being a ‘citizen’ with a ‘natural born citizen’ and cited no authority to conclude the two terms are the same,” Klayman continued in his analysis. “He quotes other state’s cases, where judges reached that conclusion, but that’s not precedent for him. What other courts said in lower cases means nothing to him.”

Klayman also bristled at the judge’s claim that the “burden of proof” fell upon Voeltz to demonstrate Obama’s ineligibility, despite denying Klayman’s team “discovery,” a process that may have allowed subpoena power of Obama’s identifying documents.

“How can you say we have the burden of proof, then not allow discovery?” Klayman asked. “He says we have burden, but doesn’t allow us to meet it. We’re entitled to discovery. That’s a very vulnerable part of this case going forward.”

Finally, Klayman marveled that the judge would declare his client doesn’t have “standing” for

declaratory relief – a common argument many judges around the country have used to dismiss eligibility challenges without considering them on merit.

“That’s not true, we do have standing under Florida law,” Klayman said.

“The ruling is intellectually dishonest, from a Democrat judge who didn’t want to be put on the hot seat by his own party,” Klayman asserted. “We’re immediately appealing, and we’re confident on appeal. The main thrust of the judge’s decision is contrary to how the Florida Supreme Court has already ruled on when a candidate is nominated.”

Is Obama constitutionally eligible to serve? Here’s WND’s complete archive of news reports on the issue

-  Print
-  Email

 **Willis Pope** shared Conservative and damn proud's photo.
7 seconds ago · 🌐

Uh-Huh!



TRUMP ON OBAMACARE

Let me get this straight . . .
We're going to be "gifted" with a health care plan we are forced to purchase and fined if we don't, Which purportedly covers at least ten million more people, without adding a single new doctor, but provides for 16,000 new IRS agents, written by a committee whose chairman says he doesn't understand it, passed by a Congress that didn't read it but exempted themselves from it, and signed by a Dumbo President who smokes, with funding administered by a treasury chief who didn't pay his taxes, for which we'll be taxed for four years before any benefits take effect, by a government which has already bankrupted Social Security and Medicare, all to be overseen by a surgeon general who is obese, and financed by a country that's broke!!!!

Think About It...

Unlike · Comment · Share 👍 1

👍 You like this.

 **Aja Brooks** I couldn't have said it better!
2 seconds ago · Like

MAYBE BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY GOT THEIR WAY, AMERICANS DIDN'T WANT TAX INCREASES WHEN THEY WANTED HEALTH CARE REFORM AND A JOB... LIKE, THE 30 MILLION WHO LOST THEIR JOBS OVER THIS SHITTY LEGISLATION...

Romney Campaign Says Non-Compliance Fee Is A Penalty, Not A Tax

POSTED IN LIBERALAND BY ALAN • JULY 2, 2012, 10:48 AMET •



Mitt Romney's senior adviser Eric Fehrnstrom says the fee for not participating in the individual mandate is **a penalty**, not a tax. "The governor disagreed with the ruling of the court," Fehrnstrom said. "He agreed with the dissent that was written by Justice [Antonin] Scalia, which very clearly stated that the mandate was not a tax."

But Romney, himself **called his own individual mandate fee a tax**, not a penalty.

MOST LIKELY BECAUSE IN HIS STATE THEY WON'T LOCK YOU UP OVER IT, WHEREAS, OBAMACARE MANDATED PURCHASE OF INSURANCE OR JAIL TIME, FINES, AND TAX PENALTIES, THE SUPREME COURT STRUCK DOWN THAT AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, DECLARING CONGRESS CAN NOT FORCE YOU TO BUY A PARTICULAR PRODUCT OR JAIL YOU OR FINE YOU, BUT THEY CAN TAX YOU FOR NOT PARTICIPATING, WHICH IS WHY ROMNEY SAYS THAT IT'S STILL A PENALTY AND A TAX, WHICH CAN AND WILL BE REPEALED....

BETWEEN THE UNCERTAINTY OVER HEALTH CARE UNTIL WE ENACT REAL REPEAL REPEAL & REPLACE, PART 2: Health Care Reform Act of 2012: Standardization of Procedural and Medical Care Related Costs <https://t.co/2UhQi8Z>

UNREVERSED UNEMPLOYMENT AND LACK OF FOREIGN POLICY, OBAMA'S STENCH OF LACK OF LEADERSHIP STILL LINGERS OVER THE

ECONOMY...

"Markets Are Terrified" as Middle East Turmoil Continues to Flare, Says Expert

Related: [AFK](#), [OIH](#), [GAF](#), [EGPT](#), [EEM](#), [GLD](#), [OIL](#)

Wednesday brought additional fighting in Libya, protests in Syria and a state of emergency in Yemen as unrest continues to roil entrenched regimes across the Middle East and North Africa.

Having already toppled dictatorships in Tunisia and Egypt, the so-called Jasmine Revolution has “got a long way to go,” says Robert Powell, Mid-East analyst for The Economist Intelligence Unit. “The aims of the protests are extremely difficult for entrenched regimes to meet; there’s very little middle ground.”

In the accompanying video, Powell and I discuss where the movement is likely to spread next, the U.S.’s inconsistent – and arguably hypocritical -- response, Iran’s role in Bahrain as well as the current situation in Egypt.

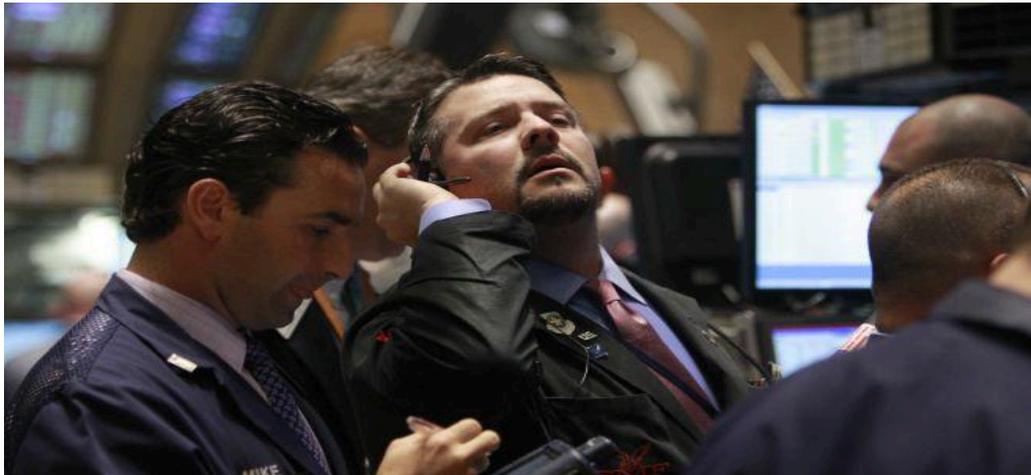
We also discuss the potential for unrest in Saudi Arabia, the scenario about which Powell says “markets are terrified.”

Wall Street Shakes Off Weak Manufacturing Data

By Adam Samson

Published July 02, 2012

FOXBusiness



Reuters

FOX Business: The Power to Prosper

The broad-market averages managed to overcome a worrisome reading on the U.S. manufacturing sector and close in the green, helped by a strong performance by tech heavyweight Apple.

Today's Markets

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 10.3 points, or 0.08%, to 12870, the S&P 500 rose 3.3 point, or 0.2%, to 1365 and the Nasdaq Composite rose 16.2 points, or 0.55%, to 2951.

The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing gauge fell to 49.7 in June from 53.5 in May, coming up short of

the 52 expected. Readings below the 50 mark point to contraction while those above indicate expansion. It was the first reading below 50 since July 2009, according to ISM. The manufacturing sector had recently been a bright spot for the U.S. economy, but it has come under stress recently.

A separate report from the Commerce Department showed construction spending having risen 0.9% in May from April, beating expectations of a gain of 0.2%.

The markets also got manufacturing reports from China and Europe.

Chinese manufacturing accelerated at a slightly slower rate in June than the month before, according to the country's PMI gauge. That beat expectations of slight contraction. A private survey from HSBC pointed to a modest downturn for the month, but that also came in better than an earlier reading.

"As external demand has weakened and domestic demand hasn't shown a meaningful improvement in response to earlier easing measures, growth is likely to be on track for further slowdown," Hongbin Qu, HSBC's chief economist, China, wrote in a research note. "But as inflation eases sharply, Beijing has plenty of room and policy ammunition to avoid a hard landing."

The contraction in eurozone manufacturing continued at the same pace in June as the month before. Germany, the bloc's economic powerhouse, saw its manufacturing activity slip to the lowest level in three years, yet another sign that Europe's debt crisis is beginning to infect increasingly major economies.

A separate report showed unemployment in the eurozone having risen to a record of 11.1% in June from 11% in May. On the corporate front, **Barclays** (BCS: 10.75, +0.45, +4.37%) Chairman Marcus Agius resigned amid a scandal over the bank's manipulation of Libor, which is a key interest rate banks use when lending to each other. The rate is also used at a peg of trillions of dollars in global financial transactions.

Micron Technology (MU: 6.54, +0.22, +3.57%) forged a deal to acquire rival Elpida Memory in a \$2.5 billion deal.

Oil futures were to the downside after soaring in the last session. The benchmark contract traded in New York fell \$1.21, or 1.4%, to \$83.75 a barrel. Wholesale New York Harbor gasoline dipped 0.3% to \$2.624 a gallon.

In metals, gold slid \$6.50, or 0.41%, to \$1,598 a troy ounce.

Foreign Markets

The Euro Stoxx 50 jumped 1.2% to 2292, the English FTSE 100 gained 1.3% to 5641 and the German DAX rallied 1.3% to 6496.

In Asia, the Japanese Nikkei 225 fell 0.04% to 9003 and the Chinese Hang Seng soared 2.2% to 19441.

Read more:

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2012/07/02/wall-street-shakes-off-weak-manufacturing-data/#ixzz1zV6kTnIF>

DEMOCRATS ARE LEARNING THEIR LESSON THAT GETTING THEIR WAY IS NOT CONSIDERED BIPARTISANSHIP OR GETTING THEIR WAY ISN'T DOING ANYTHING THAT IS HELPING THE COMMON MAN WHO IS STILL OUT OF WORK...

Thirty-Something

Posted by [Don Seymour](#)

June 27, 2012

General

[Speaker John Boehner](#) said today that "House Republicans are going to continue to stay focused on jobs and the economy, which is what we've done the last 18 months." Senate Democrats, on the other hand, are still blocking key jobs bills. And President Obama – as the numbers show – has "been out on the campaign trail" while his policies are making our economy worse. For example, **there have been...**

- **More than 30 Jobs Bills Passed by the House Being Blocked by Senate Democrats:** These House-passed bills remove government barriers to job growth by expanding energy production, eliminating excessive regulations, and more. Each of these bills is part of the Republican *Plan for America's Job Creators*. See the full list [here](#) and learn more at [jobs.GOP.gov](#).
- **30 Votes Taken by the House to Repeal, Defund, & Dismantle ObamaCare:** Among the [30 votes to scrap the president's health care law](#) – which is driving up costs and making it harder for small businesses to hire – was a recent bill repealing an ObamaCare tax that is [shipping jobs overseas](#). Unless the Supreme Court overturns the full law, the House will vote to repeal whatever is left.
- **The 30 Worst Months for Employment in the Last 25 Years:** The 30 “[worst months for employment in the past 25 years](#)” have all happened under President Obama. Half of recent college graduates are out of work or underemployed. And the unemployment rate has been higher than 8 percent – far above what was promised if the ‘stimulus’ passed – for 40 months.
- **More than 30 Speeches Given by President Obama So Far this Month:** President Obama has delivered [more than 30 speeches](#) since the last [dismal jobs report](#) was released. [More than half were “campaign events.”](#) a reflection of a White House more focused on campaigning than jobs. At no point has the president called on Senate Democrats to act on House-passed jobs bills.

The numbers don't lie: Republicans are focused on jobs. President Obama and Senate Democrats are not.

THE DEAL WAS THAT WE GIVE CONCESSION ON FEDERAL ROAD PROJECTS, AND DEMOCRATS WOULD GIVE US OUR JOB CREATION BILLS IN THE SENATE? DO YOU THINK THAT WILL HAPPEN THIS WEEK???

House Passes Bill to Reform Infrastructure Spending, Stop Student Loan Rates from Doubling

Posted by Speaker Boehner Press Office

June 29, 2012

Press Release

WASHINGTON, DC – House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) released the following statement after the House approved a bipartisan agreement with the United States Senate that ensures taxpayer dollars are spent on high-priority infrastructure projects that support economic activity and stops student loan rates from doubling:

“This bipartisan agreement ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent on high-priority infrastructure projects, not bike paths and beautification; cuts red tape to reduce permitting time; and eliminates duplicative federal government programs by two thirds – with no earmarks whatsoever. We are disappointed that the president and Democratic leaders continue to block

the thousands of jobs that would come from building the Keystone pipeline – a project which is supported by the American people and strong bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate – but Republicans will continue to fight for this common-sense proposal. This bill is far from perfect, but it is a substantial improvement over the original Senate highway bill and I'd like to thank Chairman Mica and our negotiators for all their hard work in making this agreement happen.

“This measure also includes a student loan fix to prevent interest rates from doubling. Despite the president’s efforts to make this a political issue and distract attention from his failed record on jobs, I’m pleased members of both parties in the Congress worked amicably to resolve the issue.”

#####

Tags: [Student Loans](#), [Economy](#), [Keystone XL](#)

Speaker Boehner Statement on the Supreme Court’s Health Care Ruling

Posted by Speaker Boehner Press Office

June 28, 2012

Press Release

WASHINGTON, DC - House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) released the following statement after the Supreme Court announced its ruling on the president’s health care law:

“The president’s health care law is hurting our economy by driving up health costs and making it harder for small businesses to hire. Today’s ruling underscores the urgency of repealing this harmful law in its entirety. What Americans want is a common-sense, step-by-step approach to health care reform that will protect Americans’ access to the care they need, from the doctor they choose, at a lower cost. Republicans stand ready to work with a president who will listen to the people and will not repeat the mistakes that gave our country ObamaCare.”

#####

16m Tea Party Chief @2012_TeaParty We'll get to #GA by 7/6 so all #NJ #SC and #GA will be featured in this week's newsletters. The others were so long, I didn't have room.

23m Tea Party Chief @2012_TeaParty Those slated for unemployment reduction... #NJ #SC #GA #MI #NY -- we will be focusing on pressuring the Senate to pass job bills #PassOurs

EUROZONE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

THE BLOG

Record 11.1 Percent Unemployment in Eurozone

9:44 AM, JUL 2, 2012

• BY DANIEL HALPER



The [Economic Times](#) reports:

Unemployment in the 17 country euro currency bloc hit another record in May as the continent continued to be buffeted by its debt crisis, official figures showed Monday.

Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, said unemployment rose to 11.1 per cent in May from 11 percent the previous month. That's the highest rate since the euro was launched in 1999, and compares badly with an unemployment rate of 8.2 per cent in the United States and only 4.4 per cent in Japan.

In total, 17.6 million people were out of work in the eurozone in May, 1.8 million higher than a year earlier.

Unemployment has been edging higher for over a year as concerns over the debt crisis and the future of the euro currency itself have weighed on economic activity.

Europe's numbers look a little better: "Across the wider 27-country European Union, which includes non-euro countries such as Britain and Poland, unemployment edged up to 10.3 per cent in May from 10.2 percent the month before."

PM Faces More Pressure Over EU Referendum



Britain should look at how to take powers back from the EU, the former defence secretary will say later – as David Cameron faces questions over the future of the UK's membership.

Liam Fox will be giving his first speech since leaving the Cabinet earlier this year.

He is expected to say "life outside the EU holds no terror" – and that the UK should seek a looser relationship with Europe.

In a speech, the Tory MP will say: "I would like to see Britain negotiate a new relationship on the

basis that, if we achieved it and our future relationship was economic rather than political, we would advocate acceptance in a referendum of this new dynamic.

"If, on the other hand, others would not accede to our requests for a rebalancing in the light of the response to the euro crisis, then we would recommend rejection and potential departure from the EU."

Mr Cameron is expected to face more questions on his stance in the Commons when he makes a statement to MPs about the EU summit in Brussels last week, during which eurozone leaders agreed a **"breakthrough" bailout deal** for their debt-laden banks.

Nearly 100 Conservative MPs have written to Mr Cameron urging him to make it a legal commitment to hold a poll on the EU during the next parliament but Mr Cameron has been cautious about how the issue would be put to people.

On Sunday he said he was willing to call a referendum.

Writing in The Sunday Telegraph, he acknowledged that the country's position within the evolving EU must have the "full-hearted support" of Britons.

He said: "There is more to come - further moves, probably further treaties - where we can take forward our interests, safeguard the single market and stay out of a federal Europe.

"How do we take the British people with us on this difficult and complicated journey? How do we avoid the wrong paths of either meekly accepting the status quo or giving up altogether and preparing to leave?"

"As we get closer to the end point we will need to consider how best to get the full-hearted support of the British people, whether it is in a general election or a referendum.

"As I have said, for me the two words 'Europe' and 'referendum' can go together, particularly if we really are proposing a change in how our country is governed, but let us get the people a real choice first."

You are here: [Jobs](#) > [Articles & News](#) > Top 10 Companies Hiring This Week



Top 10 Companies Hiring This Week

By [AOL Jobs Contributor](#)

Filed under: [Now Hiring](#), [Top 10 Lists](#)

1723 [15177](#) [4814](#) [7966](#) [7035](#)



A job search can get quite frustrating these days, with so many people competing for too few openings.

To ease the burden, *AOL Jobs* tracked down the 10 top companies that are hiring this week. From sales jobs to finance positions, full-time to part-time, these employers have a plethora of openings they're looking to fill.

Good luck job hunting!

Top 10 Companies: June 25 - July 1, 2012 [Fullscreen](#)

1 of 10

1. Sears

The retail company is planning to [revamp product lines](#) in an effort to better connect with customers in 2012.

Employee Review: "My favorite thing about working with Sears is the stability. The company has been around for over 100 years and is one of the largest in the world. It has great benefits and work-life balance is excellent. I don't have to worry about being on-call on nights and weekends. They have really great quality people who are easy to get along with."*

Number of Job Openings: 3,449

[Find jobs at Sears.](#)



2 of 10

Fullscreen

2. Citi

The bank [plans to hire](#) 300 additional bankers and brokers in the coming year, in efforts to build a wealth management group.

Employee Review: "Nice co-workers, good hours, pleasant management, good location, interesting work spanning decades of involvement in the country. Good springboard for future jobs."*

Number of Job Openings: 2,101



3 of 10

Fullscreen

3. Macy's

The company recently [reported sales figures](#) for the month of May which exceeded estimates made by Wall Street. This bodes well for the overall health of the retail chain.

Employee Review: "The management is competent. Employees are given a good discount and still able to use coupons. You can pick up more hours online when they become available."*

Number of Job Openings: 1,817

[Find jobs at Macy's.](#)



4 of 10

Fullscreen

4. UnitedHealth Group

UnitedHealth Group currently provides health insurance services to over 75 million people worldwide. It recently joined the 100,000 Jobs Mission, a coalition of companies dedicated to hiring 100,000 veterans by 2020.

Employee Review: "I really enjoyed my time at UnitedHealth Group. The trainers were very knowledgeable and were always there to answer any questions that I had. I worked as a claims associate for just a few short months before being promoted to another department. I then went on to work from home! Only left this company because of personal issues not related to my job. Great place to work!"*

Number of Job Openings: 1,801

Top 10 Companies: June 25 - July 1, 2012



5 of 10

Fullscreen

5. AT&T Retail

AT&T has committed to a \$350 million program, called "Aspire," which includes a job-shadowing program aimed at bringing students into the workforce. Although traditional landline service is dying, new talent is needed to fulfill wireless needs.

Employee Review: "They provide great benefits and pay. I know they match quite a bit for 401(k) investment. It is a great job for someone interested in technology and learning about new technologies. Also, it is great to know that you are helping others out on a daily basis."*

Number of Job Openings: 1,754



6 of 10

Fullscreen

6. Wells Fargo

The company agreed to a [partnership with the Obama administration](#) in which it pledged to provide part-time summer jobs to young people. The federal program will provide approximately 180,000 paid jobs and Wells Fargo has committed to approximately 1,000 of them.

Employee Review: "Large company with a lot of training; encouraged to change positions/departments within bank to grow and learn; good senior management and diversity commitment."**

Number of Jobs: 1,477



7 of 10

Fullscreen

7. Rent-A-Center

Operating over 3,000 stores in the United States, Rent-A-Center recently opened stores in [Rochester, N.Y.](#), and [Rocky Mount, Va.](#)

Employee Review: "Always something new every day, never a dull moment. Small stores, opportunities to develop strong relationships with customers. Virtually no scripts to follow, no "dumbing-down"... employees are encouraged and empowered to answer challenges and solve problems"**.

Number of Job Openings: 1,362



8 of 10

Fullscreen

8. RadioShack

Affectionately known as "The Shack" by some, [RadioShack](#) has almost 7,200 locations worldwide. In order to staff these locations, as well as its corporate offices, the company employs somewhere in the neighborhood of 35,000.

The company is known for selling electronic products and parts, as well as mobile phones and coverage offered from a variety of carriers, including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and various pre-paid services.

Employee Review: "Made many friends and had some really good customers. Salary is commission plus base-rate, so averaged a decent amount on my paychecks."*

Number of Job Openings: 1,258



9 of 10

Fullscreen

9. Chipotle

The company was [founded](#) by Steve Eells in 1993. After graduating from college, Eells decided to pursue his passion for cooking by enrolling at the Culinary Institute of America. After graduating from the institute, he worked as a chef at Stars restaurant in San Francisco before borrowing some capital from his parents to open the first Chipotle, just outside the University of Denver. Stock prices for 2012 [have continued to skyrocket](#), as the company shows steadier growth than McDonald's or Panera.

Employee Review: "The food is honestly good and comes from good sources. The company provides good health, dental and vision insurance. There are also plenty of opportunities for advancing within the company."*

Number of Job Openings: 1,182



10 of 10

Fullscreen

10. T-Mobile Retail

The company has begun a rollout of its new HSPA+ "4G" network, with speeds comparable to the high-speed LTE networks on AT&T and Verizon Wireless. T-Mobile's U.S. operations currently employ about 42,000 workers. The non-retail sector of the company is also doing well, with [plans to add 350 employees](#) at an expanding call center.

Employee Review: "The culture is a plus. Our previous CEO, Robert Dotson, said that his experience from managing volunteer missionaries has really affected his leadership style, and it shows. After all, how do you motivate someone to do something if you can't fire them?"*

Number of Job Openings: 1,170

Tags: [aol](#), [companies hiring](#), [companies+that+are+hiring](#), [companiesthatarehiring](#), [hiring+jobs](#), [hiringjobs](#), [job openings](#), [jobs+hiring](#), [jobsh](#)

STATE-BY-STATE STRATEGIC UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION PLAN:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L2ZmGM-izViR2QkN_RRhV9IG82z-n7VZcUpetHQi2F0/edit

30 STATES IN 30 WEEKS:

<http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm> **TEA PARTY SLATES REDUCING FEDERAL WORKFORCE 1/5, REPEAL BY INJUNCTION TO HIRE WITHOUT OBAMACARE, 30 STATE UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION STRATEGY BY RETURNING 30 MILLION-150 MILLION ON FEDERAL PAYROLL TO PRIVATE SECTOR WITH GRANTS TO HIRE AND CREATE JOBS...**

Federal, state, local employees 150 million relieved to work in private sector/create small businesses <http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm>
[#30states30weeks](#)

WEEKLY TEA PARTY NEWSLETTER FEATURES 1 STATE PER WEEK, AS ROMNEY TAKES 1 STATE PER WEEK, FOR 30 WEEKS

TEA PARTY BUDGET \$2.5 TRILLION ANNUAL REVENUE <http://lnk.ms/Wb6nV>

The Tea Party is here to REFORM and REVOLUTIONIZE -- D.C. - 37 fed pgms. to be cut/govt. employees don't contribute as private sector employees: it takes 5 private sector employees to fund one govt. employee=Tea Party to shrink federal workforce 150 million employees to private sector... 150 million federal employees need to get a federal grant NOW, and start your OWN small business, BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR JOB TO CUTS !!!!

New Jersey is ranked 47th worst for unemployment:

New Jersey

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the U.S. state of New Jersey. For other uses, see [New Jersey \(disambiguation\)](#).

"NJ" redirects here. For other uses, see [Nj \(disambiguation\)](#).  

State of New Jersey



Flag *



Seal *

Nickname(s): *The Garden State*^[1]

Motto(s): *Liberty and prosperity*



Official language(s)

None

Spoken language(s)	English (only) 72.6% Spanish 13.6% Others 13.8% ^[2]
Demonym	New Jerseyan, ^[3] New Jerseyite ^[4]
Capital	Trenton
Largest city	Newark
Area	Ranked 47th in the U.S.
- Total	8,721 sq mi (22,608 km ²)
- Width	70 miles (112 km)
- Length	170 miles (273 km)
- % water	14.9
- Latitude	38° 56' N to 41° 21' N
- Longitude	73° 54' W to 75° 34' W
Population	Ranked 11th in the U.S.
- Total	8,821,155 (2011 est) ^[5]
- Density	1189/sq mi (459/km ²)
- Median household income	Ranked 1st in the U.S. \$70,378 (2nd)
Elevation	
- Highest point	High Point ^[6] ^[7] 1,803 ft (549.6 m)
- Mean	250 ft (80 m)
- Lowest point	Atlantic Ocean ^[6] sea level
Before statehood	Province of New Jersey
Admission to Union	December 18, 1787 (3rd)
Governor	Chris Christie (R)
Lieutenant Governor	Kim Guadagno (R)
Legislature	New Jersey Legislature
- Upper house	Senate
- Lower house	General Assembly
U.S. Senators	Frank Lautenberg (D) Bob Menendez (D)
U.S. House delegation	7 Democrats, 6 Republicans (list)
Time zone	Eastern: UTC -5/-4
Abbreviations	NJ N.J. US-NJ
Website	www.nj.gov

New Jersey ([Pronunciation: /nu: 'dʒɜrzi/](#)) is a state in the [Northeastern](#) and [Middle Atlantic](#) regions of the United States. It is bordered on the north and east by the [U.S. state of New York](#), on the southeast and south by the [Atlantic Ocean](#), on the west by [Pennsylvania](#), and on the southwest by [Delaware](#). New Jersey is the [4th least extensive](#), but the [11th most populous](#) and the [most densely populated](#) of the [50 United States](#). New Jersey lies mostly within the sprawling [metropolitan areas](#) of [New York City](#) and [Philadelphia](#). It is also the third wealthiest by 2009–2010 [median household income](#).[\[8\]](#)

The area was inhabited by Native Americans for more than 2,800 years, with historical tribes such as the [Lenape](#) along the coast. In the early 17th century, the Dutch and the [Swedes](#) made the first European settlements.[\[9\]](#) The [British](#) later seized control of the region,[\[10\]](#) naming it the [Province of New Jersey](#). It was granted as a colony to Sir [George Carteret](#) and [John Berkeley, 1st Baron Berkeley of Stratton](#). At this time, it was named after the largest of the British [Channel Islands](#), [Jersey](#), Carteret's birthplace.[\[11\]](#) New Jersey was the site of several decisive battles during the [American Revolutionary War](#).

In the 19th century, factories in cities such as [Paterson](#), [Newark](#), [Trenton](#), and [Elizabeth](#) helped to drive the [Industrial Revolution](#). New Jersey's position at the center of the [Northeast megalopolis](#), between [Boston](#) and New York City to the northeast, and Philadelphia, [Baltimore](#), and [Washington, D.C.](#) to the southwest, fueled its rapid growth through the process of [suburbanization](#) in the 1950s and beyond.

STRATEGY:

1) ANALYZE NEW JERSEY'S ECONOMIC CAPABILITY/ECONOMIC PROFILE: (this includes natural resources, state government budget, and crime rate)

ECONOMIC PROFILE:



Economy



The New Jersey State Quarter, released in 1999, with a depiction of [Washington Crossing the Delaware](#). The [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) estimates that New Jersey's gross state product in 2010 was \$487 billion.^{[52][53]} As of January 2012, the state's unemployment rate is 9%.^{[54][55][56]}

Affluence

Its [per capita gross state product](#) in 2008 was \$54,699, 2nd in the U.S. and above the national per capita gross domestic product of \$46,588.^[57] Its per-capita income was the third highest in the nation with \$51,358.^[57] The state also has the highest percentage of millionaire households.^[58] It is ranked 2nd in the nation by the number of places with per capita incomes above national average with 76.4%. Nine of New Jersey's counties are in the wealthiest 100 of the country.

Fiscal policy

New Jersey has seven tax brackets for determining [income tax](#) rates. The rates range from 1.4 to 8.97%. The standard [sales tax](#) rate is 7%, applicable to all retail sales unless specifically exempt by law. Exemptions include most food items for at-home preparation, medicines, clothing (except fur items), footwear, and disposable paper products for use in the home. Approximately 30 New Jersey municipalities are designated as [Urban Enterprise Zones](#) and shoppers are charged a 3½% tax rate, half of the rate charged outside the UEZs. Sections of [Elizabeth](#) and [Jersey City](#) are examples of communities that are subject to the lower sales tax rate. New Jersey has the highest tax rate of all 50 states with residents paying a total of \$68 billion in state and local taxes annually with a per capita burden of \$7,816 at a rate of 12.9% of income.^[59] All [real property](#) located in the state is subject to [property tax](#) unless specifically exempted by statute. New Jersey does not assess an intangible personal property tax, but it does impose an [inheritance tax](#).

Federal taxation disparity

New Jersey has the highest disparity of any state in the United States between what it gives to the federal government and what it receives. In fiscal year 2005, New Jersey taxpayers gave the federal government \$77 billion, while only receiving \$55 billion. This difference is higher than any other state and means that for every \$1 New Jersey taxpayers send to Washington, the state only receives \$0.61 in return. This calculation is applied correctly after making the federal government deficit neutral, as sometimes the federal government spends more than it receives.^[60] As of 2005, New Jersey has never been above 48th in rank for per capita federal spending (with a rank of 50th for the majority of that time) since 1982, while being second or third in per capita federal taxes paid to Washington.

New Jersey runs into deficits frequently and has one of the highest tax burdens in the nation.^[61] Factors for this include the large federal tax liability which is not adjusted for New Jersey's higher cost of living and Medicaid funding formulas. As shown by the study, incomes tend to be higher in New Jersey, which puts those in higher tax brackets especially vulnerable to the [alternative minimum tax](#).



Industries

[Cranberry](#) harvest.

New Jersey's economy is centered on the pharmaceutical industry, the financial industry, chemical development, telecommunications, food processing, electric equipment, printing and publishing, and tourism. New Jersey's agricultural outputs are nursery stock, horses, vegetables, fruits and nuts, seafood, and dairy products. New Jersey ranks second among states in [blueberry](#) production, third in [cranberries](#) and [spinach](#), and fourth in [bell peppers](#), [peaches](#), and [head lettuce](#).^[62] New Jersey harvests the fourth-largest number of acres planted with asparagus.^[63]

Although New Jersey is home to many energy-intensive industries, its energy consumption is only 2.7% of the U.S. total, and its carbon dioxide emissions are only 0.8% of the U.S. total. Its comparatively low greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to nuclear power. According to the [Energy Information Administration](#), nuclear power dominates New Jersey's electricity market, typically supplying more than one-half of State generation. New Jersey has three nuclear power plants, including the [Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station](#), which came online in 1969 and is the oldest operating nuclear plant in the country.^[64]

New Jersey has a strong scientific economy. New Jersey is home to major pharmaceutical firms such as [Johnson and Johnson](#), [Sanofi-Aventis](#), [Novartis](#), [Pfizer](#), [Merck](#), [Hoffman-LaRoche](#), and [Bristol-Myers Squibb](#). New Jersey is home to major telecommunications firms such as [Verizon Wireless](#), [Avaya](#), [Alcatel-Lucent](#) and [AT&T Communications](#). Furthermore, New Jersey draws upon its large and well-educated labor pool which also supports the myriad of industries that exist today.

New Jersey is the ultimate [bedroom community](#) since the state is right next to New York City and Philadelphia. Thus, there is a strong service economy in New Jersey serving residents who work in New York City or Philadelphia. Some of these industries include retail sales, education and real estate. [Newark Liberty International Airport](#) is ranked seventh among the nation's busiest airports and among the top 20 busiest airports in the world.

Shipping is a strong industry in New Jersey because of the state's strategic location, the [Port of New York and New Jersey](#) the busiest on the [East Coast](#). The [Port Newark-Elizabeth Marine Terminal](#) was the world's first [container port](#) and is one of the world's largest container ports. New Jersey also has a strong presence in chemical development, refining, and food processing operations.

New Jersey hosts several business headquarters, including twenty-four [Fortune 500](#) companies.^[65] [Paramus](#) is noted for having one of the highest retail sales per person ratios in the nation. Several New Jersey counties such as [Somerset](#) (7), [Morris](#) (10), [Hunterdon](#) (13), [Bergen](#) (21), [Monmouth](#) (42) counties

are ranked among the [highest-income counties in the United States](#). Four others are also in the top 100.

Natural resources

New Jersey's greatest natural resource is its location, which has made the state a crossroads of commerce. Other commercial advantages include its extensive transportation system, which puts one quarter of all United States consumers within overnight delivery range. Lake and seaside resorts such as Atlantic City have contributed to New Jersey's rank of fifth among the states in revenues from tourism.

Almost half of New Jersey is wooded. The chief tree of the northern forests is the oak. A large part of the southern section is in pine. Jersey oak has been used extensively in shipbuilding.

The mineral resources in New Jersey are small. The state, however, does rank high in smelting and refining minerals from other states. Some mining activity does still take place in the area in and around the [Franklin Furnace](#), which was long a center of zinc production (see [New Jersey Zinc Company](#)).

New Jersey is second in the nation in [solar power](#) installations, enabled by one of the country's most favorable [net metering](#) policies, and the renewable energy certificates program. The state has more than 10,000 solar installations.[66]

2) COORDINATE WITH STATE LEADERSHIP: (employment agencies, state government budget balancing, crime reduction/community prevention)

NEW JERSEY STATE EMPLOYMENT SITE <http://www.state.nj.us/nj/employ/>

NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AND BUDGET:

<http://www.state.nj.us/>

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/omb/publications/12budget/index.shtml#budget>

***BALANCED THE BUDGET, SEE BUDGET IN THE ABOVE LINK**

for 2011 and 2012

<http://www.politifact.com/new-jersey/statements/2012/jan/17/chris-christie/chris-christie-touts-accomplishments-video-preview/>

Just over a year ago Governor Christie entered office and was faced with an unprecedented budget gap.

In January of 2010, New Jersey was staring down a \$2.2 billion deficit for fiscal year 2010 that required difficult and tough solutions. Furthermore, Governor Christie still had to address an immediate \$10.7 billion gap in fiscal year 2011. It was not easy, but the Governor laid out a plan to do what was necessary to stabilize the state's finances.

In many ways, the leftover mess of fiscal year 2010 was an indicator of everything wrong with New Jersey's budget process. The previous budget gaps, totaling a combined \$13 billion, were the culmination of years of shortsighted policies and poor budgeting practices that ignored economic realities, failed to plan for eroding recurring revenue sources, and consistently relied on one-time revenues sources. Despite diminishing revenue, State spending increased by nearly 30% over the previous eight years. Consistent spending beyond the State's means was emblematic of the Trenton philosophy – just continue to automatically fund programs at previous levels without giving any thought to the effectiveness of the program or the overall fiscal health of the state.

The hard choices that required shared sacrifice in the fiscal year 2011 Budget set the foundation for future budget planning. By closing a nearly \$11 billion budget gap of legislated spending without raising taxes, Governor Christie hit the reset button on how budgeting works in Trenton.

3) CREATE LOCAL JOBS AND ATTRACT INVESTORS: (DETERMINE IMMEDIATE JOB GROWTH AREAS AND ABILITY TO REPAY FEDERAL LOANS)

New Jersey's Economic Outlook for Fiscal Year 2012

The Difficult Path to New Jersey's Recovery

New Jersey was especially hard hit by the national recession, but it is beginning to show signs of recovery. Between December 2006 and December 2010, New Jersey lost 225,800 private sector jobs, or 6.6% of the workforce. Unemployment reached its highest level in 33 years, while the housing market collapsed and State revenue declined precipitously. The magnitude of the gap in government finances created by this crisis was great. Through difficult decisions and a new focus on discipline and fiscal responsibility, New Jersey has begun to see signs of progress and recovery, and citizens are showing a renewed optimism about the direction of the State. The State's economy is crawling back from the severe recession of 2007 to 2009. The recovery is likely to continue unabated, but at a painfully slower pace than experienced during past economic expansions.

But job growth, while beginning to improve, has been less robust. Private employment has stabilized, which was a marked improvement from 2008-2009. New Jersey lost 108,500 private sector jobs in 2008 and 121,200 in 2009. In contrast, from January 2010-December 2010, New Jersey stemmed the loss of jobs and gained a total of 8,200 private sector jobs.

Employment did grow in a number of sectors, most notably at temporary help firms. (Growth in temporary hiring is usually regarded as a leading indicator of more permanent job gains.) Additionally, finance and health care industry employment also inched higher.

Some parts of the State have fared better than others during the slow recovery. Most notably, Passaic

County saw a robust, nearly 2% increase in the number of jobs between the middle of 2009 and the middle of 2010. Among other counties with employment over 75,000, Atlantic, Mercer, Ocean, Somerset, and Union also saw job growth during that time period.

Private sector wages are finally starting to rise. State gross income and corporate business tax collections are beating the estimates in last year's Budget, an indicator that both paychecks and profits are growing.

Looking ahead to growth sectors in the State's economy, New Jersey should be in a fortunate position. Our state retains large concentrations of employers in the life sciences, telecommunications, and finance --sectors likely to grow at a faster clip as the national economy expands. These sectors employ highly-skilled, well-educated, and generally highly-paid workers who pump significant revenue into local economies. New Jersey is one of the national leaders in the share of population with a post-graduate education.

<http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/nj/crime/>

CRIME RATE HAS GOT TO GO DOWN, THAT GOES HAND-IN-HAND WITH LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT:

New Jersey Information

POPULATION 8,791,894

- DATA
- [FIND A REALTOR](#)

New Jersey Crime Data [Help](#)

Annual Crimes

VIOLENT	PROPERTY	TOTAL
27,055	183,042	210,097



3.08

20.82

23.90

Violent Crime per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **4.0**

MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM

in New Jersey **1 in 324**

3.08

New Jersey

Population 8,791,894 New Jersey violent crimes

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	371	981	11,818	13,885
RATE PER 1,000	0.04	0.11	1.34	1.58

Population 308,745,538 United States violent crimes

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	14,748	84,767	367,832	778,901
RATE PER 1,000	0.05	0.27	1.19	2.52

Property Crime Rate per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **29.4**

MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM

in New Jersey **1 in 48**

20.82

New Jersey

Population 8,791,894 New Jersey property crimes

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	38,732	128,754	15,556
RATE PER 1,000	4.41	14.64	1.77

Population 308,745,538 United States property crimes

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	2,159,878	6,185,867	737,142
RATE PER 1,000	7.00	20.04	2.39

Crimes Per Square Mile

NATIONAL MEDIAN **39.3**

72

New Jersey

4) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRACKING PROGRESS: (DELEGATION OF DUTIES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND ORCHESTRATION BY LEADERSHIP, CUMULATIVE RESULTS)

THESE DUTIES ARE DELEGATED TO SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

<http://www.menendez.senate.gov/>

CONTRIBUTIONS BY REPUBLICAN/TEA PARTY LEADERSHIP: TEA PARTY CHIEF AJA BROOKS RECORDS AND UPDATES REPORTS FOR MITT ROMNEY, GOVERNOR PERRY ASSISTS WITH STATE OFFICES, AND

RICK SANTORUM IS DESIGNATED TO SPEAK REGARDING THESE MATTERS, AS IS THE ROMNEY CAMPAIGN.

RESULTS: NEW JERSEY NEEDS CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE, NOT SOMEONE WHO THINKS THAT OIL SUBSIDIES ARE STOPPING THE GOVERNMENT FROM HANDING OUT MORE ENTITLEMENTS!

South Carolina is ranked 46th for unemployment:

South Carolina

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the U.S. state of South Carolina. For other uses, see [South Carolina \(disambiguation\)](#).

State of South Carolina



Flag



Seal

Nickname(s): *The Palmetto State*

Motto(s): *Dum spiro spero** (*Latin*)

Animis opibusque parati† (*Latin*), *Prepared in Mind and Resources*



Official language(s)

Demonym

English

South Carolinian

Capital
(and largest city)

Columbia

Largest metro area

Columbia

Area

Ranked 40th in the U.S.

- Total

32,020[1] sq mi
(82,931. km2)

- Width

200 miles (320 km)

- Length

260 miles (420 km)

- % water

6

- Latitude

32° 2' N to 35° 13' N

- Longitude

78° 32' W to 83° 21' W

Population

Ranked 24th in the U.S.

- Total

4,679,230 (2011 est)[2]

- Density

155/sq mi (60.0/km2)

Ranked 19th in the U.S.

- Median household income

\$39,326 (39th)

Elevation

- Highest point

Sassafras

Mountain[3][4]

3,560 ft (1,085 m)

- Mean

350 ft (110 m)

- Lowest point

Atlantic Ocean[3]
sea level

Before statehood

Province of South
Carolina

Admission to Union

May 23, 1788 (8th)

Governor

Nikki Haley (R)

Lieutenant Governor

Glenn McConnell (R)

Legislature

General Assembly

- Upper house

Senate

- Lower house

House of

Representatives

U.S. Senators

Lindsey Graham (R)

Jim DeMint (R)

U.S. House delegation

5 Republicans, 1

Democrat (list)

Time zone

Eastern: UTC -5/-4

Abbreviations

SC US-SC

Website

www.sc.gov

[show]

South Carolina State symbols

South Carolina ([/ˌsaʊθ kærəˈlɪnə/](#)) is a state in the [Southeastern United States](#). It is bordered to the north by [North Carolina](#); to the south and west by [Georgia](#), located across the [Savannah River](#); and to the east by the [Atlantic Ocean](#). Originally part of the [Province of Carolina](#), the [Province of South Carolina](#) was the first of the [13 colonies](#) that declared independence from the British Crown during the [American Revolution](#). The colony was originally named by King [Charles II of England](#) in honor of his father [Charles I](#) (*Carolus* being [Latin](#) for [Charles](#)). South Carolina was the first state to ratify the [Articles of Confederation](#), the 8th state to ratify the US Constitution on May 23, 1788. South Carolina later became the first state to vote to secede from the [Union](#) which it did on December 20, 1860. It was readmitted to the United States on June 25, 1868.

South Carolina is the [40th most extensive](#) and the [24th most populous](#) of the [50 United States](#). South Carolina comprises [46 counties](#). The capital and largest city of the state is [Columbia](#).

STRATEGY:

1) ANALYZE SOUTH CAROLINA'S ECONOMIC CAPABILITY/ECONOMIC PROFILE: (this includes natural resources, state government budget, and crime rate)

ECONOMIC PROFILE:

Economy



The Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge from Charleston Harbor.

According to the U.S. [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), South Carolina's [gross state product](#) in current dollars was \$97 billion in 1997, and \$153 billion in 2007. Its per-capita real gross domestic product (GDP) in [chained 2000 dollars](#) was \$26,772 in 1997, and \$28,894 in 2007; that represents 85% of the \$31,619 per-capita real GDP for the United States overall in 1997, and 76% of the \$38,020 for the U.S. in 2007.

Major agricultural outputs of the state are: tobacco, poultry, cattle, dairy products, soybeans, hay, rice,

and swine. Industrial outputs include: textile goods, chemical products, paper products, machinery, automobiles and automotive products and tourism.[41][42]According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of March 2012, South Carolina has 1,852,700 nonfarm jobs of which 12% are in manufacturing, 11.5% are in leisure and hospitality, 19% are in trade, transportation and utilities, and 11.8% are in education and health services. The service sector accounts for 83.7% of the South Carolina economy.[43]

During the economic downturn in the Late 2000s Recession, South Carolina's Unemployment Rate peaked at 12.0% for November and December 2009. It is continuing a steady decline with an unemployment rate of 8.9% as of March 2012.[44]

Many large corporations have moved their locations to South Carolina. South Carolina is a no labor union state and many businesses utilize staffing agencies to temporarily fill positions. This labor force is appealing to companies because of lower wages and no responsibility of maintaining healthcare benefits for its temporary employees. Domtar, located in Rock Hill is the only Fortune 500 company headquartered in South Carolina.[45] The Fortune 1000 list includes [SCANA](#), [Sonoco Products](#) and [ScanSource](#).

South Carolina also benefits from foreign investment. There are 1,950 foreign-owned firms operating in South Carolina employing almost 135,000 people.[46] Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) brought 1.06 billion dollars to the state economy in 2010.[47]

[edit]The Arts

South Carolina has many venues for visual and performing arts. The [Gibbes Museum of Art](#) in Charleston, the [Greenville County Museum of Art](#), the [Columbia Museum of Art](#), Spartanburg Art Museum, and the [South Carolina State Museum](#) in Columbia among others provide access to visual arts to the state. There are also numerous historic sites and museums scattered throughout the state paying homage to many events and periods in the state's history from Native American inhabitation to the present day.

South Carolina also has performing art venues including the [Peace Center](#) in Greenville, the [Koger Center for the Arts](#) in Columbia, the [North Charleston Coliseum](#), and the [Newberry Opera House](#), among others to bring local, national, and international talent to the stages of South Carolina.

There are also countless local festivals throughout the state highlighting many cultural traditions, historical events, and folklore.

According to the South Carolina Arts Commission, creative industries generate \$9.2 billion annually and support over 78,000 jobs in the state.[48] A 2009 statewide poll by the University of South Carolina Institute for Public Service and Policy Research found that 67% of residents had participated in the arts in some form during the past year and on average citizens had participated in the arts 14 times in the previous year.

2) COORDINATE WITH STATE LEADERSHIP: (employment agencies, state government budget balancing, crime reduction/community prevention)

South Carolina website <http://sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

employment <http://sc.gov/employment/Pages/default.aspx>

FY2013 State Budget http://sunshinereview.org/index.php/South_Carolina_state_budget

The state Board of Economic Advisors added nearly \$1 billion to the FY2013 state budget. Gov. Nikki Haley has said she believes any new money in the state budget either should go toward the state pension deficit or be returned to taxpayers as a tax rebate, but some legislators have said they believe the money should be used to restore cuts previously made to state agencies' funding.[8]

The \$6.7 billion FY2013 state budget passed by the [legislature](#) includes \$1.3 billion in one time funds.[9]

The budget highlights include

- the first pay increase in four years for state workers: a 3 percent pay increase for most state employees, and a 5 percent increase for state law enforcement officers earning less than \$50,000 per year. The budget provides \$48 million to school districts to increase teachers' pay by 2 percent. The budget as passed also covers state employees' rising health insurance premiums.[9]
- \$153 million more for public schools;[9]
- \$300 million to dredge the Charleston harbor to a 50-foot depth to accommodate mega-size ships expected to call after the Panama Canal is widened in 2014.[9]

Legislative Proposed Budget

With the House and Senate \$6.6 billion budgets not reconciled, the legislature adjourned on June 7, 2012. Lawmakers took up the budget again when they reconvene on June 19, 2012, for a special session.[10]

The legislature approved a \$6.7 billion final budget on June 28, 2012.[9] The House passed the spending plan with a vote of 89-10 in favor and the Senate voted 26-8.[9] The final budget includes a tax cut for small business owners.[9]

The [Senate](#) approved a \$6.6 billion FY2013 proposed budget on May 16, 2012. The budget adds additional judges, which lawmakers said was necessary because South Carolina's general court judges have the highest caseload nationwide. The budget bill was sent back to the [House](#) [11] but no action was

taken before the session concluded.

Both chambers' budget proposals cut the income tax rate that small business owners pay on their profits, with the Senate plan phasing in the approach over multiple years, while the House plan immediately reduces the rate from 5 percent to 3 percent, meaning \$65 million less in revenue in 2012-13.[10]

The House unanimously approved its FY2013 spending plan in March 2012.[12] Highlights of the House budget include:[12]

- a 2 percent raise for state employees and teachers:[12]
- additional education funding, increasing the base student cost from \$1,880 to \$2,012:[12]
- \$180 million to deepen the Charleston port:[12]
- \$77 million to pay down the state's debt to the federal government for what it borrowed for unemployment benefits[12]
- 5 percent into the state's rainy day fund, more than the constitutionally requires 4%, which is an additional \$58 million.[12]

Lawmakers will likely return for a short special session beginning June 19 so conference committees can work out differences between bills passed by both chambers, including the budget.[13]

Pensions

The Senate Finance Committee to increase state workers' contributions to the state workers' retirement system to 8 percent of their pay from 6.5 percent.[14]

VERY SURPRISED SOUTH CAROLINA'S CRIME RATES ARE THE SAME AS NEW JERSEY'S:

<http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/sc/crime/>

THIS IS REALLY UNACCEPTABLE, CONSIDERING SOUTH CAROLINA IS LESS DEVELOPED AND MORE AGRICULTURE. I WOULD LOOK TO INVESTIGATING GANG ACTIVITY. SOUTH CAROLINA ALSO USES FEDERAL FUNDS ENTIRELY TOO MUCH.

South Carolina Crime Data [Help](#)

Annual Crimes

VIOLENT

PROPERTY

TOTAL

27,648

180,407

208,055



5.98

39.00

44.98

Violent Crime per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **4.0**

MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM

in South Carolina **1 in 167**

5.98

South Carolina

Population 4,625,364 South Carolina violent crimes

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	280	1,466	4,982	20,920
RATE PER 1,000	0.06	0.32	1.08	4.52

Population 308,745,538 United States violent crimes

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	14,748	84,767	367,832	778,901
RATE PER 1,000	0.05	0.27	1.19	2.52

Property Crime Rate per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **29.4**

MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM

in South Carolina **1 in 25**

39.00

South Carolina

Population 4,625,364 South Carolina property crimes

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	46,156	121,054	13,197
RATE PER 1,000	9.98	26.17	2.85

Population 308,745,538 United States property crimes

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	2,159,878	6,185,867	737,142
RATE PER 1,000	7.00	20.04	2.39

Crimes Per Square Mile

NATIONAL MEDIAN **39.3**

10

South Carolina

3) CREATE LOCAL JOBS AND ATTRACT INVESTORS: (DETERMINE IMMEDIATE JOB GROWTH AREAS AND ABILITY TO REPAY FEDERAL LOANS) TOURISM, POLITICS, CULTURE, ARTS, SPORTS, MEDIA

Hub for tourism and arts, South Carolina needs a modern makeover.

4) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRACKING PROGRESS: (DELEGATION OF DUTIES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND ORCHESTRATION BY LEADERSHIP, CUMULATIVE RESULTS)

THESE DUTIES ARE DELEGATED TO HOUSE REP. JAMES CLYBURN

<http://clyburn.house.gov/>

CONTRIBUTIONS BY REPUBLICAN/TEA PARTY LEADERSHIP: TEA PARTY CHIEF AJA BROOKS RECORDS AND UPDATES REPORTS FOR MITT ROMNEY, GOVERNOR PERRY ASSISTS WITH STATE OFFICES, AND RICK SANTORUM IS DESIGNATED TO SPEAK REGARDING THESE MATTERS, AS IS THE ROMNEY CAMPAIGN.

RESULTS: SOUTH CAROLINA USES TOO MUCH FEDERAL FUNDING AND HAS A CRIME RATE AS BAD AS NEW JERSEY, INDICATIVE OF A HUB FOR GANGS. SOUTH CAROLINA MUST UPGRADE!

Georgia is ranked 45th for unemployment, but 32 in the

world for GDP: Georgia (U.S. state)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"State of Georgia" redirects here. For TV series, see [State of Georgia \(TV series\)](#). For the sovereign state, see [Georgia \(country\)](#). For other uses, see [Georgia \(disambiguation\)](#).

State of Georgia



Flag *



Seal *

Nickname(s): *Peach State*;
Empire State of the South

Motto(s): *Wisdom, Justice, Moderation*



Official language(s)

English

Demonym

Georgian

Capital
(and largest city)

Atlanta

Largest metro area

Atlanta metro area

Area

Ranked 24th in the U.S.

- Total

59,425 sq mi
(153,909 km²)

- Width

230 miles (370 km)

- Length

298 miles (480 km)

- % water

2.6

- Latitude

30.356 – 34.985° N

- Longitude

80.840 – 85.605° W

Population

Ranked 9th in the U.S.

- Total

9,815,210 (2011 est)[1]

- Density

165/sq mi (65.4/km²)

Ranked 18th in the U.S.

- Median household income

\$50,861 (23rd)

Elevation

- Highest point

Brasstown Bald[2][3]
4,784 ft (1458 m)

- Mean

600 ft (180 m)

- Lowest point

Atlantic Ocean[2]
sea level

Before statehood

Province of Georgia

Admission to Union

January 2, 1788 (4th)

Governor

Nathan Deal (R)

Lieutenant Governor

Casey Cagle (R)

Legislature

General Assembly

- Upper house

State Senate

- Lower house

House of
Representatives

U.S. Senators

Saxby Chambliss (R)

Johnny Isakson (R)

U.S. House delegation	8 Republicans, 5 Democrats (list)
Time zone	Eastern: UTC -5/-4
Abbreviations	GA Ga. US-GA
Website	www.georgia.gov

Georgia (i/ˈdʒɔrdʒiə/[ⓘ]) is a state located in the [southeastern United States](#). It was established in 1732, the last of the original [Thirteen Colonies](#).^[4] Named after [King George II of Great Britain](#),^[5] Georgia was the fourth state to ratify the [United States Constitution](#), on January 2, 1788.^[6] It declared its secession from the Union on January 21, 1861, and was one of the original seven [Confederate states](#).^[6] It was the last state to be restored to the Union, on July 15, 1870.^[6] Georgia is the [24th most extensive](#) and the [9th most populous](#) of the [50 United States](#). From 2007 to 2008, 14 of [Georgia's counties](#) ranked among the nation's 100 fastest-growing, second only to Texas.^[7] Georgia is known as the *Peach State* and the *Empire State of the South*.^[6][Atlanta](#) is the state's capital and its most populous city.

Georgia is bordered on the south by [Florida](#); on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and [South Carolina](#); on the west by [Alabama](#); and on the north by [Tennessee](#) and [North Carolina](#). The northern part of the state is in the [Blue Ridge Mountains](#), a [mountain range](#) in the [Appalachian Mountains](#) system. The central [Piedmont](#) extends from the [foothills](#) to the [fall line](#), where the rivers cascade down in elevation to the continental [coastal plain](#) of the southern part of the state. The highest point in Georgia is [Brasstown Bald](#), 4,784 feet (1,458 m); the lowest point is the [Atlantic Ocean](#).

Georgia is the most extensive state east of the [Mississippi River](#) in terms of land area, although it is the fourth most extensive (after [Michigan](#), [Florida](#), and [Wisconsin](#)) in total area, a term which includes expanses of water which are part of state territory.^[8]

STRATEGY:

1) ANALYZE GEORGIA'S ECONOMIC CAPABILITY/ECONOMIC PROFILE: (this includes natural resources, state government budget, and crime rate)

ECONOMIC PROFILE:

Economy

Georgia's 2010 total [gross state product](#) was \$403.1 billion.^[52] Its [Per Capita personal income](#) for 2007 puts it 37th in the nation at \$33,499. If Georgia were a stand-alone country, it would be the 28th largest economy in the world.^[53]

There are 15 Fortune 500 companies and 26 Fortune 1000 companies with headquarters in Georgia, including such names as [Home Depot](#), [UPS](#), [Coca Cola](#), [Delta Air Lines](#), [Aflac](#), [Southern Company](#), and [SunTrust Banks](#). Georgia has over 1,700 internationally headquartered facilities representing 43 countries, employing more than 112,000 Georgians with an estimated capital investment of \$22.7 billion.



[edit] Industry and Commerce

Savannah's River Street is a popular destination among visiting tourists.

Georgia's agricultural outputs are poultry and [eggs](#), [pecans](#), [peaches](#), cotton, peanuts, [rye](#), cattle, [hogs](#), [dairy products](#), [turfgrass](#), tobacco, and vegetables. Its industrial outputs are textiles and [apparel](#), transportation equipment, cigarettes, food processing, paper products, [chemical](#) products, and electric equipment. Tourism also makes an important contribution to the economy. Atlanta has been the site of enormous growth in real estate, service, and communications industries.

[Atlanta](#) has a very large effect on the state of Georgia and the Southeastern United States. The city is an ever growing addition to communications, industry, transportation, tourism, and government.

Food is also a major industry in Georgia, with widespread farms producing peanuts, corn, and soybeans across middle and south Georgia. The state is the number one producer of pecans in the world, with the region around Albany in southwest Georgia being the center of Georgia's pecan production. Gainesville in northeast Georgia touts itself as the Poultry Capital of the World.



A Georgia U.S. quarter

Industry in Georgia is quite diverse. Major products in the mineral and timber industry include a variety of pines, clays, stones, sands and the clay [palygorskite](#), known as attapulgite. Textile industry is located around the cities of [Rome](#), [Columbus](#), [Augusta](#), [Macon](#) and along the I-75 corridor between Atlanta and [Chattanooga, Tennessee](#) to include the towns of [Cartersville](#), [Calhoun](#), [Ringgold](#), and [Dalton](#) (the Carpet Capital of the World). In November 2009, Kia started production at the first U.S. Kia Motors plant, [Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia](#) in [West Point](#).

Georgia has one of the strongest military presences in the country. Several United States military installations are located in the state including [Fort Stewart](#), [Hunter Army Airfield](#), [Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay](#), [Fort Benning](#), [Moody Air Force Base](#), [Robins Air Force Base](#), [Naval Air Station Atlanta](#), [Fort](#)

McPherson, Fort Gillem, Fort Gordon, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Coast Guard Air Station Savannah and Coast Guard Station Brunswick. However, due to the latest round of BRAC cuts, Forts Gillem and McPherson will be closing and NAS Atlanta will be transferred to the Georgia National Guard.

[edit]Energy use and production

Georgia's electricity generation and consumption are among the highest in the United States, with coal being the primary electrical generation of fuel. However, the state also has two nuclear power plants which contribute less than one fourth of Georgia's electricity generation. The statistics are 75% coal, 16% nuclear, 7% oil and natural gas, and 1% hydroelectric/other. The leading area of energy consumption is the industrial sector because Georgia "is a leader in the energy-intensive wood and paper products industry".^[54]

[edit]State taxes

Georgia has a [progressive income tax](#) structure with six brackets of state [income tax](#) rates that range from 1% to 6%. In 2009, Georgians paid 9.1% of their income in state and local taxes, compared to the US average of 9.8% of income.^[55] This ranks Georgia 25th among the states for total state and local tax burden.^[55] The state [sales tax](#) in Georgia is 6.875%, but there is no sales tax on [prescription drugs](#), certain medical devices, or food items for home consumption.^[56]

The [state legislature](#) may allow municipalities to institute local sales taxes and special local taxes, such as the 2% [SPLOST](#) tax and the 1% sales tax for [MARTA](#) serviced counties. [Excise taxes](#) are levied on alcohol, tobacco, and motor fuel. Owners of [real property](#) in Georgia pay [property tax](#) to their county. All taxes are collected by the [Georgia Department of Revenue](#) and then properly distributed according to any agreements that each county has with its cities.

[edit]Tourism

In the Atlanta area, [Zoo Atlanta](#) and [Stone Mountain](#) are tourist attractions.^[57]^[58] Stone Mountain receives several^[*quantify*] million tourists per year.^[59] Atlanta also hosts the [Georgia Aquarium](#). The ten-million-gallon aquarium is billed as the largest in the world and features more marine species than any other aquarium.^[*citation needed*]

[Callaway Gardens](#), in western Georgia, is a family resort.^[60]

The [Savannah Historic District](#) attracts over eleven million tourists each year.^[61]

[edit]Cultural



Main article: [Culture of Georgia \(U.S. state\)](#)

The Fox Theatre, a former [movie palace](#), is a performing arts venue located in [Midtown Atlanta](#), and is the centerpiece of the [Fox Theatre Historic District](#).

[\[edit\]](#) **Fine and performing arts**

Georgia's major fine art museums include the [High Museum of Art](#) and the [Michael C. Carlos Museum](#), both in Atlanta; the [Telfair Museum of Art](#) in Savannah; and the [Morris Museum of Art](#) in Augusta.^[62]

The [Atlanta Opera](#) brings opera to Georgia stages.^[63] The [Atlanta Symphony Orchestra](#) is the most widely recognized orchestra and largest arts organization in the southeastern United States.^[64]

There are a number of performing arts venues in the state, among the largest are the [Fox Theatre](#), and the [Alliance Theatre](#) at the [Woodruff Arts Center](#), both on [Peachtree Street](#) in [Midtown Atlanta](#).

[\[edit\]](#) **Literature**

The rich heritage and southern [antebellum](#) atmosphere of Georgia has given rise to a great number of works such as [Margaret Mitchell's](#) *[Gone with the Wind](#)*, [Olive Ann Burns'](#) *[Cold Sassy Tree](#)*, and [Alice Walker's](#) *[The Color Purple](#)*.

Georgia has also given rise to many prominent authors, poets and playwrights such as [James Dickey](#), [Sidney Lanier](#) and [Lewis Grizzard](#).^[65]

[\[edit\]](#) **Film**

Main article: [Film industry in Georgia \(U.S. state\)](#)

The state film commission was established in 1973; the agency is now referred to as the Georgia Film, Music and Digital Entertainment Office.^[66] Since 1972, seven hundred film and television projects have

been filmed on location in Georgia.[67] In 2008–2009, Georgia's film and television industry created a \$1.15 billion economic impact on the state's economy.[68]

[edit]Sports

Main article: Sports in Georgia (U.S. state)

See also: Tour de Georgia, Masters Tournament, and Bicycle Ride Across Georgia

Sports in Georgia include professional teams in all major sports, [Olympic Games](#) contenders and medalists, collegiate teams in major and small-school conferences and associations, and active amateur teams and individual sports. The state of Georgia has a team in seven major professional leagues (MLB, NFL, NBA, ABA, AFL, IL, and ECHL).

NBA superstars [Dwight Howard](#), [Josh Smith](#), and [Louis Williams](#), Heavyweight champion boxer [Evander Holyfield](#) are from Atlanta and wrestling superstar [Hulk Hogan](#) is from Augusta.

[edit]Parks and recreation

Main article: Protected areas of Georgia (U.S. state)

There are 63 parks in Georgia, 48 of which are state parks and 15 that are historic sites, and numerous state wildlife preserves, under the supervision of the [Georgia Department of Natural Resources](#).^[69] Other historic sites and parks are supervised by the [National Park Service](#) and include the [Andersonville National Historic Site](#) in Andersonville; [Appalachian National Scenic Trail](#); [Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area](#) near Atlanta; [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) at Fort Oglethorpe; [Cumberland Island National Seashore](#) near St. Marys; [Fort Frederica National Monument](#) on St. Simons Island; [Fort Pulaski National Monument](#) in Savannah; [Jimmy Carter National Historic Site](#) near Plains; [Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park](#) near Kennesaw; [Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site](#) in Atlanta; [Ocmulgee National Monument](#) at Macon; [Trail of Tears National Historic Trail](#); and the [Okefenokee Swamp](#) in Waycross, Georgia^[70]

Outdoor recreational activities include hiking along the [Appalachian Trail](#); [Civil War Heritage Trails](#); [rock climbing](#) and [whitewater paddling](#).^{[71][72][73][74]} Other outdoor activities include hunting and fishing.

2) COORDINATE WITH STATE LEADERSHIP: (employment agencies, state government budget balancing, crime reduction/community prevention)

GOVERNMENT SITE <http://georgia.gov/government>

BALANCED BUDGET FOR 2 YRS. AND INCREASE IN RAINY DAY FUND

http://opb.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/23/26/180289834State%20of%20Georgia%20Budget%20R

After several difficult years for both Georgia and its citizens, we are now seeing slow but steady progress in the state's economic and fiscal condition, and we are guardedly optimistic. Our long history of conservative fiscal management has served us well. Georgia remains one of only eight states with a Triple-A bond rating by all three rating agencies. We have grown our rainy day fund from \$116 million last year to \$328 million today, and for the past two years, I have submitted balanced budgets without any new tax increases.

While revenues continue to grow moderately, we must continue to focus on meeting the basic needs of a growing state. My proposed budget continues to streamline state services by consolidating and realigning agencies and programs to find efficiencies. At the same time it strategically invests funds in activities that will strengthen our economy and the core business of state government.

In developing the Amended FY 2012 and FY 2013 budget, we have applied a zero-based budget approach to approximately 10% of our programs. This is an important tool that can help all of us better manage state spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used in the most efficient and effective way. It is my intent to continue this approach throughout my administration. Additionally, all agencies were asked to look for efficiencies and prioritize their spending requests. In most cases, agencies have reduced their base spending levels over the prior year.

Competing in a world economy requires us to give our children the best learning opportunities possible. This begins in pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) and continues through post-secondary education in our colleges and universities. My budget increases the school year for Pre-K by 10 days, bringing the Pre-K school year to 170 days and increasing Pre-K teacher salaries accordingly, and funds 84,000 slots for children. The amended budget adds \$87.9 million to fund enrollment growth for Quality Basic Education and in FY 2013 provides \$58.7 million for additional enrollment growth and \$55.8 million in pay increases for Georgia's teachers based on training and experience. Further, my proposal includes no reduction to QBE, Equalization Grants, State Schools, or other enrollment driven programs. With the goal of increasing the percentage of children in Georgia reading at grade level by the completion of 3rd grade, my budget also includes \$1.6 million for a reading mentor's program. I am also recommending \$8.7 million in both budget years for supplemental grants to state special charter schools that were affected by the Georgia Supreme Court ruling. Charter schools are a key to Georgia's educational success and without these additional dollars affected charter schools would be forced to operate on approximately half of the funds of other public schools.

CRIME RATE:

3X THAT OF NEW JERSEY AND SOUTH CAROLINA, MAKING GEORGIA ONE OF MOST DANGEROUS PLACES TO LIVE. WE ALSO HAVE A HIGH FORECLOSURE RATE, WHICH GIVES US NO BUFFER, DENSELY POPULATED CITIES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS MAKING CERTAIN AREAS LIKE MEXICO IN THE CITY, ASIAN GANGS, AND BLACK GANGS. ATLANTA HAVING THE REPUTATION FOR BEING THE BLACK HOLE, WHERE THE CRAP ALL GOES DOWN, THE METRO AREA BEING THE BOTTOM RINGS OF THE TOILET BOWL, MAKING IT THE NEW YORK OF THE SOUTH. A PROPOSED WALKING TRAIL AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF ATLANTA WAS JOKINGLY CALLED 'THE RING AROUND THE CONGO', SOME CALLING ATLANTA A CONCRETE JUNGLE. IT HAS EARNED ITS REPUTATION BEING CALLED "DIRTY SOUTH".

Georgia Information

POPULATION **9,687,653**

- DATA
- [FIND A REALTOR](#)

Georgia Crime Data [Help](#)

Annual Crimes

VIOLENT	PROPERTY	TOTAL
39,072	352,679	391,751



4.03

36.41

40.44

Violent Crime per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **4.0**

MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM
in Georgia **1 in 247**

4.03

Georgia

Population 9,687,653 Georgia violent crimes

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	558	2,093	12,373	24,048
RATE PER 1,000	0.06	0.22	1.28	2.48

Population 308,745,538 United States violent crimes

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT
REPORT TOTAL	14,748	84,767	367,832	778,901
RATE PER 1,000	0.05	0.27	1.19	2.52

Property Crime Rate per 1,000 residents

NATIONAL MEDIAN **29.4**

MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM
in Georgia **1 in 27**

36.41

Georgia

Population 9,687,653 Georgia property crimes

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	96,723	225,651	30,305
RATE PER 1,000	9.98	23.29	3.13

Population 308,745,538 United States property crimes

	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
REPORT TOTAL	2,159,878	6,185,867	737,142
RATE PER 1,000	7.00	20.04	2.39

Crimes Per Square Mile

NATIONAL MEDIAN **39.3**

11

Georgia

3) CREATE LOCAL JOBS AND ATTRACT INVESTORS: (DETERMINE IMMEDIATE JOB GROWTH AREAS AND ABILITY TO REPAY FEDERAL LOANS) TOURISM, POLITICS, CULTURE, ARTS, SPORTS, MEDIA
ONE OF THE PROBLEMS HAS BEEN THE GA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WEBSITE, SO WHEN NATHAN DEAL BECAME GOVERNOR, HE GAVE EVERYONE A CHANCE TO USE HIS OFFICE. THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER WEBSITE NOW <https://www.careers.ga.gov/>

WE HAVE A LOT OF PROBLEMS AT LOCAL LEVEL WITH CITY AND COUNTY BUDGETS IN THE RED, WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO LOST REVENUE, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND CRIME. PARTICULARLY GANGS USING IT AS A HUB.

4) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRACKING PROGRESS: (DELEGATION OF DUTIES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND ORCHESTRATION BY LEADERSHIP, CUMULATIVE RESULTS)

THESE DUTIES ARE DELEGATED TO HOUSE REP. JOHN LEWIS AND REP. DAVID SCOTT.

<http://www.norton.house.gov/>

CONTRIBUTIONS BY REPUBLICAN/TEA PARTY LEADERSHIP: TEA PARTY CHIEF AJA BROOKS RECORDS AND UPDATES REPORTS FOR MITT ROMNEY, GOVERNOR PERRY ASSISTS WITH STATE OFFICES, AND RICK SANTORUM IS DESIGNATED TO SPEAK REGARDING THESE MATTERS, AS IS THE ROMNEY CAMPAIGN.

RESULTS: WE NEED CONSERVATIVE HOUSE LEADERSHIP, NOT THOSE WHO ENCOURAGE GANG ACTIVITY TO KEEP THEIR SEATS THROUGH SUCH INSURRECTION MOVEMENTS LIKE OCCUPY.

U.S. Construction Spending Hit 2.5-Year High in May

By Reuters 

| Posted Jul 2nd 2012 11:30AM

1000



AP WASHINGTON, July 2 (Reuters) -

U.S. [construction spending](#) rose to its highest level in nearly two and a half years in May as investment in residential and federal government projects surged, a rare dose of good news for the flagging economic recovery.

[Construction](#) spending increased 0.9 percent to an annual rate of \$830 billion, the highest level since December 2009, the [Commerce Department](#) said on Monday. That followed an upwardly revised 0.6 percent rise in April.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected construction spending to rise 0.2 percent after a previously reported 0.3 percent gain in April.

In a reversal of fortunes, housing has become one of the few bright spots in the economy, whose recovery has slowed in recent months as the debt crisis in Europe and an unclear fiscal policy path at home create a cloud of uncertainty for businesses and households.

The gain in construction spending in May was driven by a 1.6 percent rise in private construction outlays. Spending on residential projects jumped 3 percent to the highest level since January 2009.

Private nonresidential construction spending rose 0.4 percent to the highest level since October 2009. Investment in multifamily residential projects surged 6.3 percent, while outlays for single-family buildings increased 1.8 percent.

[Residential construction](#) is expected to contribute to growth this year for the first time since 2005.

Spending on public sector construction dipped 0.4 percent to \$269.6 billion, down for the fifth month. However, outlays on federal government projects jumped 5.6 percent, the largest gain since December, almost reversing the prior month's drop.

Spending on state and local government projects dropped 1.0 percent, falling for a fifth straight month.

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FAST AND FURIOUS FALLOUT...

Arms trade treaty negotiations begin, Syria casts shadow



By Louis Charbonneau | Reuters – 11 hrs ago

- [Email](#)
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UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Delegates from around the world gather in New York on Monday for the start of month-long U.N.-hosted negotiations to hammer out the first-ever binding treaty to regulate the global weapons market, valued at more than \$60 billion a year. Arms control campaigners say one person every minute dies as a result of armed violence around the world and that a convention is needed to prevent illicitly traded guns from pouring into conflict zones and fueling wars and atrocities.

Most U.N. member states favor a strong treaty.

If they get their way, all signatories would be charged with enforcing compliance to any treaty by companies that produce arms and with taking steps to prevent rogue dealers from operating within their borders.

They say conflicts in [Syria](#) and elsewhere cast a shadow over the talks, reminding delegates of the urgency of the situation.

"In Syria, Sudan and the Great Lakes of Africa, the world is now once again bearing witness to the horrific human cost of the reckless and overly secret arms trade," said Brian Wood, international arms control and human rights manager at Amnesty International.

"Why should millions more people be killed and lives devastated before leaders wake up and take decisive action to properly control international arms transfers?" he said.

There is no guarantee the July 2-27 negotiations will produce a treaty, let alone a good one. In February, preparatory talks on the ground rules for this month's talks nearly collapsed due to procedural wrangling and other disagreements.

In the end, the United States and other countries succeeded in ensuring the treaty must be approved unanimously, so any one country can effectively veto a deal.

But the treaty may not be doomed if that happens. Wood said nations that support a strong pact could bring a treaty to the 193-nation U.N. General Assembly and adopt it with a two-thirds majority vote if there is no consensus in July.

There are deep divisions on key issues to be tackled in the treaty negotiations, such as whether human rights should be a mandatory criterion for determining whether governments should permit weapons exports to specific countries.

Arms control advocates say a strong treaty is long overdue.

"It is an absurd and deadly reality that there are currently global rules governing the trade of fruit and dinosaur bones, but not ones for the trade of guns and tanks," said Jeff Abramson, director of Control Arms.

EYES ON SYRIA

Abramson, Amnesty's Wood and Anna Macdonald of Oxfam spoke with reporters on Friday about the negotiations.

Much of the discussion revolved around [Russia's](#) arms supplies to [Syria](#), where President Bashar al-Assad's 16-month assault on an increasingly militarized opposition has killed over 10,000 people. Russia is Assad's top arms supplier.

Wood said Russia is not the only culprit in Syria, one of many conflicts fed by unregulated arms deliveries. Western nations have also helped Assad. There are tanks on Syrian streets, Wood said, that come from Slovakia, upgraded by Italy.

Oxfam's Macdonald said: "From Congo to Libya, from Syria to Mali, all have suffered from the unregulated trade in weapons and ammunition allowing those conflicts to cause immeasurable suffering and go on far too long. In the next few weeks, diplomats will either change the world - or fail the world."

One senior Western diplomat said the Syrian conflict has led to a "polarization" within the arms trade talks, with Russia becoming increasingly defensive about arms supplies to its ally Damascus that it says have nothing to do with the conflict.

The campaigners outlined what they want to see in the treaty. Governments should be required to regulate the sale and transfer of all weapons, arms, munitions and equipment used in military and domestic security activities, ranging from armored vehicles, missiles and aircraft to small arms and ammunition.

Governments should also be required to make risk assessments before authorizing arms sales, make public all authorizations and deliveries and track their use. Trading without permission or diverting arms should be made a crime, they said.

One of the reasons this month's negotiations are taking place is that the United States, the world's biggest arms trader accounting for over 40 percent of global conventional arms transfers, reversed U.S. policy on the issue after Barack Obama became president and decided in 2009 to support a treaty.

But U.S. officials say Washington insisted in February on having the ability to "veto a weak treaty" during this month's talks, if necessary. It also seeks to protect U.S. domestic rights to bear arms - a sensitive issue in the United States.

The other five top arms suppliers are Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia.

Wood, Macdonald and Abramson said some of the top arms trading countries have been joining other nations in an attempt to weaken the treaty. They said the United States, China, Syria and Egypt were pushing to exclude ammunition.

China, they added, wants to exempt small arms, while several Middle East states oppose making compliance with human rights norms a mandatory criterion for allowing arms deliveries.

(Editing by Todd Eastham)

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Mexico Elections: Institutional Revolutionary Party Candidate Enrique Pena Nieto Wins Presidency

By MARK STEVENSON and KATHERINE CORCORAN 07/02/12 11:54 AM ET

AP



78

25

14

339

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MEXICO CITY — The party that ruled Mexico with a tight grip for most of the last century has sailed back into power, promising a government that will be modern, responsible and open to criticism.

Though Institutional Revolutionary Party candidate Enrique Pena Nieto's margin of victory was clear in the preliminary count from Sunday's election, it was not the mandate the party had

anticipated from pre-election polls that had at times shown the youthful, 45-year-old with support of more than half of Mexico's voters.

Instead, he won 38 percent support, about 6 to 7 points more than his nearest rival, with 92 percent of the votes counted, and he went to work immediately to win over the two-thirds who didn't vote for him, many of whom rejected his claim that he represented a reformed and repentant party.

"We're a new generation. There is no return to the past," he said in his victory speech. "It's time to move on from the country we are to the Mexico we deserve and that we can be ... where every Mexican writes his own success story."

But his top challenger, leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, refused to concede, saying he would await a full count and legal review. He won roughly 32 percent of the vote, according to the preliminary results. Lopez Obrador in 2006 paralyzed Mexico City streets with hundreds of thousands of supporters when he narrowly lost to President Felipe Calderon. This time, only about 700 gathered at his campaign rally and he canceled plans to proceed to the Zocalo, the main square he filled as recently as Wednesday.

"We have information that indicates something different from what they're saying officially," he said. "We're not going to act in an irresponsible manner."

But Spanish President Mariano Rajoy already recognized Pena Nieto as the winner, sending him a telegram Monday congratulating him and offering him "all of Spain's support."

The PRI for 71 years ruled as a single party known for coercion and corruption, but also for building Mexico's institutions and social services. It was often accused of stealing elections, most infamously the 1988 presidential vote. But PRI governments were also known for keeping a lid on organized crime, whose battles with government and each other under Calderon have taken more than 50,000 lives and traumatized the country.

Repeating a popular belief of many Pena Nieto supporters, Martha Trejo, 37, of Tampico said, "He'll stabilize the cartels. He'll negotiate so they don't hurt innocents."

Pena Nieto in his victory speech vowed he won't make pacts with organized crime, but rather will focus on curbing violence.

Many predict he will build on Calderon's economic and security strategies but, working with a more friendly congress, may have more success. The main test of a new PRI will be how it handles corruption.

"We know there is some local corruption in the PRI with organized crime," said Andrew Selee of the Washington-based Mexico Institute. "The question is, `Will they ignore it or go after it aggressively?'"

The vote Sunday went smoothly with the usual protests at polling places that ran out of ballots and a few arrests for small cases of alleged bribery or tampering of ballots. Josefina Vazquez Mota of the ruling National Action Party, Mexico's first woman candidate for a major party, conceded almost immediately after the polls closed and exit surveys showed her trailing in third place. The preliminary count gave her roughly 25 percent.

Her party unseated the PRI after 71 years in 2000 with the victory of Vicente Fox, who won more than 40 percent of vote, and again with Calderon in 2006, who won by a half percentage point over Lopez Obrador.

"I think this will be a major setback," businessman Leonardo Solis, 37, said of the PRI victory. "I

don't think they've changed much, but we'll see soon enough."

Still, the PRI may actually lose seats in Congress despite winning the presidency. The PRI-led coalition with the Green Party had about 38 percent of the congressional vote, with 92 percent of ballots counted on Monday. The coalition won about 46 percent in the last legislative vote three years ago.

And while the PRI recaptured the governorships of the states of Jalisco and Chiapas, both of which it lost more than a decade ago, it apparently lost Tabasco, Lopez Obrador's home state, to Democratic Revolution. The leftist party also won the governor's race in Morelos, just south of Mexico City.

At the PRI headquarters in Mexico City, a party atmosphere broke out as the national results came in, with supporters in red dancing to norteno music.

Pena Nieto, who is married to a soap opera star, also has been dogged by allegations that he overspent his \$330 million campaign funding limit and has received favorable coverage from Mexico television giant Televisa.

University students launched a series of anti-Pena Nieto marches in the final weeks of the campaign, arguing that his party hasn't changed since its days in power.

Pena Nieto praised their protests Sunday as a positive sign of the democracy and said he, too, wants to see Mexico change.

"You have given our party a second chance," he said. "We will honor that with results."

Associated Press writers Adriana Gomez Licon, Michael Weissenstein, Olga Rodriguez, Carlos Rodriguez and Galia Garcia-Palafox contributed to this report from Mexico City.

Armando Montano Dead: Aspiring Journalist And AP Intern Dies At 22

By ANITA SNOW 07/01/12 11:17 PM ET 



128

126

58

284

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MEXICO CITY — Armando Montano, an aspiring journalist who was working this summer as a news intern for The Associated Press in the Mexican capital, was found dead early Saturday. He was 22 years old.

Montano's body was found in the elevator shaft of an apartment building near where he was living in the capital's Condesa neighborhood. The circumstances of his death were being investigated by Mexican authorities.

The Colorado Springs, Colorado, resident arrived in Mexico City in early June after graduating from Grinnell College with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a concentration in Latin American studies.

During his time in the bureau, Montano covered stories including the saga of nine young elephants from Namibia who wound up on an animal reserve in Mexico's Puebla state, and the shooting of three federal policemen at the Mexico City airport.

He was not on assignment at the time of his death. The U.S. embassy is monitoring the course of the investigation.

Montano had planned to attend a master's degree program in journalism at the University of Barcelona in the fall.

With his high energy and broad smile, Montano made scores of friends within weeks after his arrival in the Mexican capital.

"Armando was a smart, joyful, hardworking and talented young man," said Marjorie Miller, AP's Latin America editor based in Mexico City.

"He absolutely loved journalism and was soaking up everything he could," said Miller. "In his short time with the AP, he won his way into everyone's hearts with his hard work, his effervescence and his love of the profession."

In December and January, Montano covered the Iowa presidential caucuses as a news intern for The New York Times, and last year worked for several months as an intern covering policy and finance for The Chronicle of Higher Education in Washington, D.C.

"Mando was a standout young journalist, with a rare passion and exuberance for life and for people," said Richard Berke, an assistant managing editor at The New York Times. "He accomplished so much and touched so many in a short time, and his potential was truly limitless."

Berke said that he arranged to have Montano help cover the caucuses because he was so impressed with the young reporter when they met earlier at the New York Times Student Journalism Institute in Tucson, Arizona.

Kathleen Carroll, executive editor of the AP, said, "The loss of this vibrant young journalist is a shock to his colleagues and the long list of people who called Armando friend."

Montano had also been a multimedia and reporting intern at The Colorado Independent, an online news service; and a reporting and investigative intern at The Seattle Times. At the Scarlet & Black, Grinnell College's student newspaper in Grinnell, Iowa, he worked as an editor and writer.

Montano was the recipient of an Ellen Masin Persina Scholarship from the National Press Club in 2008; a Newhouse Scholar with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in 2008; and a Chips Quinn Scholar from the Freedom Forum for Diversity in 2011. He belonged to the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Journalists.

Born in Massachusetts, Montano was a fluent Spanish speaker who grew up in Colorado but lived for two years as a child in Costa Rica and spent time in Argentina and on the U.S.-Mexico border with his family.

He is survived by his parents, Diane Alters and Mario Montano, of Colorado Springs, who both teach at Colorado College.



Tea Party Chief 2012@_TeaParty

@ATFHQ It was not within your organization who blew the whistle: I did from what I witnessed-I do not blame you all...<http://pic.twitter.com/xXEePI3>



6m **Katie Pavlich** @KatiePavlich

ATF Supervisor on #fastandfurious whistleblowers "f--k them"<http://ow.ly/bXogJ>



4m **Tea Party Chief** 2012@_TeaParty

@KatiePavlich would the ATF supervisor like me to say more? I can.....

Townhall The Tipsheet Katie Pavlich

ATF Supervisor on Fast and Furious Whistleblowers: Take Them Down



- Katie Pavlich
- *News Editor, Townhall*

Jul 01, 2012 11:51 PM EST

Late Friday afternoon, Senator Grassley and Congressman Darrell Issa sent a letter to DOJ Inspector General Michael Horowitz. Their concern? More ATF whistleblower retaliation. It has been well documented that ATF likes to retaliate against those who tell the truth to expose corruption within the bureau. Whether it's the case of ATF Special Agent [Jay Dobyns](#), [Vince Cefalu](#), [John Dodson and others](#). However, it seems the retaliation is even worse than previously known.

According to the letter, in an eye witness account, ATF Chief of Public Affairs Scott Thomasson was none too pleased allegations of gunwalking during Operation Fast and Furious had gone public in the Spring of 2011. He allegedly stated, "All of these whistleblowers have axes to grind. ATF needs to f--k these guys," and "we need to get whatever dirt we can on these guys and take them down"

When Thomasson was asked about the allegations against him of whistleblower retaliation were true, he allegedly said he "didn't know and didn't care," according to Oversight Committee investigators. Grassley and Issa are concerned because two of the main Fast and Furious whistleblowers were placed under Thomasson's supervision. Thomasson was part of crafting the response to Grassley's initial inquiry about gunwalking allegations in early 2011. The official response to Grassley's inquiry came in the form of the infamous February 4 letter flat out denying gunwalking tactics were used that was so full of falsehoods and misleading statements, it was withdrawn.

Grassley and Issa are asking Horowitz to determine the following:

1) what steps the Department has taken, if any, to admonish Thomasson about such retaliatory remarks 2) how someone who expressed Thomasson's contempt for whistleblowers was chosen to become the Division Chief of the Firearms Operations Unit and given supervisory responsibility over those very same whistleblowers, and 3) what steps, if any, are being taken to ensure that Thomasson does not use his new position to engage in a campaign of retaliation along the lines he express a desire to conduct last year.

Grassley and Issa also released new documents Friday that further prove ATF was engaged in a cover-up immediately following the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry.

The following email is from Thomasson to former Special Agent in Charge of the Phoenix Field Division Bill Newell, who to this day claims ATF never walked guns into Mexico.

From: Thomasson, Scot L.
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tue Jan 11 09:34:06 2011
Subject: Todays clips

Bill,

Great Quote in today's clips;

"This investigation is further proof of the relentless efforts by Mexican drug cartels to illegally acquire large quantities of firearms in the U.S. for use in the ongoing Mexican drug war," said Bill Newell, Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Phoenix Field Division. "This investigation is also further proof that the 'straw purchase' of firearms continues to be a significant problem. Those individuals that knowingly falsify ATF firearms forms to supply Mexican drug cartels with firearms have as much blood on their hands as the criminals that use them."

Scot L. Thomasson
Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division

What Newell didn't mention in his statement Thomasson praised is that it was ATF ordering gun dealers to sell to straw purchasers throughout 2010 during Operation Fast and Furious. ATF created it's own straw purchasing problem and the only reason the straw purchasers Newell referred to in his quote were able to acquire large quantities of firearms was because ATF told gun dealers to ignore false identification and suspicious wads of cash being used. The norm from ATF to dealers was, "sell as much as they order." ATF knew who the straw purchasers in Operation Fast and Furious were before they even walked through the gun dealer door to buy their weapons.

A newly released ATF public affairs official statement document dated January 12, 2011 also shows an effort to engage in a full scale coverup.



Operation: Fast and Furious and Corresponding Investigations
(1/12/11)

Proposed Opening Statement

- The violence inflicted by the cartels on the citizens of Mexico has reached epidemic proportions. To think that this violence does not affect the United States is naïve; and Agent Terry's murder is a painful reminder of that fact. Illegally obtained firearms are the tools of the trade used by the cartels to protect their criminal enterprise and terrorize the public. Unlike the drugs that they supply, these illegal firearms can stay in circulation indefinitely and cause death and destruction for decades. It is the responsibility of the men and women of ATF to disrupt the flow of firearms to these criminals and protect the public from violent crime.

Once again, ATF fails to mention the firearms used to kill Terry were funneled to the cartels by ATF through Operation Fast and Furious. ATF gave the cartels the "tools of the trade," and while the official document above states "it is the responsibility of the men and women of ATF to disrupt the flow of firearms to these criminals and protect the public from violent crime," ATF and Newell were doing exactly the opposite.

The document also prepares ATF officials for press questions and uses Terry's murder as an example of why the bureau is focused on "stemming the flow" of guns into Mexico.

- Some media reports, referencing an anonymous ATF official, claim that ATF knowingly "walked" about 1,900 firearms across the U.S.-Mexico border as part of this operation. What can you tell me about that?

Or

- The news release/indictment indicates that ATF waited until nearly 2,000 guns were illegally purchased before arresting the straw buyers in this case. Why did ATF wait so long?

ANSWER: It's not against the law for an individual to purchase 10,20 or 50 or even 100 guns at one time. It's not illegal to own or possess hundreds of guns; however, **it is illegal to straw purchase firearms for those who cannot possess them legally. (Pavlich note: this line is important because we've been hearing the argument for 18 months that straw purchasing isn't illegal)** Operation Fast and Furious became a long-term investigation because of the amount of time it took to gather enough evidence against those who were supplying these violent criminals with the tools of their trade. We needed to ensure that when we did arrest these individuals, justice would be served. **(Pavlich note: this line is completely misleading and disingenuous. ATF knew who the straw purchasers were, informed gun dealers of who they were and told the dealers to sell to those individuals anyway, making the argument to the dealers ATF agents needed to see where the guns were going up the cartel chain, although the guns were never actually followed but instead lost.)**

ANSWER: Knowing what it takes to prosecute these types of federal violations is the best way to understand why this investigation took as long as it did and utilized so many resources. Investigations of this type are often long and complicated due to the fact that firearms are a legal commodity being diverted for illegal use. When conducting these investigations we have found that the end user of often shrouded by many layers of straw purchasers and middlemen whose sole purpose is to hide the connection between the first retail purchaser and the violent criminal. Determining when the firearm leaves legal commerce can be extremely difficult and therefore hard to prove.

Questions from press:

- Border Patrol Agent Brian A. Terry was shot and killed after he and his team encountered several suspects near Rio Rico, Ariz. At least four suspects are in custody while one is still being pursued. Was a gun trafficked in this case used in the murder?

Or

- We understand that a firearm bought in connection with this ATF investigation was used to murder Border Patrol Agent Brian A. Terry. Can you please comment on this information?

ANSWER: **Agent Terry's death is the exact reason why we must continue going after those who are determined to destroy the lives of so many innocent individuals in our**

communities by plying their illicit trade. For those who would say it is Mexico's problem, I say Agent Terry's death and all of those who have perished because of this violence prove that this challenge belongs to everyone.

Issa [introduced new](#) Whistleblower protection legislation in November 2011. Retaliating against whistleblowers is a crime.

Chairman of the House Oversight Committee Darrell Issa, who has been leading the investigation into Operation Fast and Furious, introduced new legislation to reinforce provisions of the 1989 Whistleblower Protection Act. The reinforcement, known at the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, is badly needed in light of Fast and Furious as retaliation against whistleblowers exposing corruption within the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF falls under the jurisdiction of the Justice Department) runs rampant. The legislation is bipartisan and is co-sponsored by Ranking Member of the House Oversight Committee Elijah Cummings.

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Issa, Grassley release details about Fast and Furious whistleblower retaliation, cover-up

Published: 6:05 PM 06/29/2012



By [Matthew Boyle](#)

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House oversight committee chairman Rep. Darrell Issa and Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley are

asking the Department of Justice's internal investigator to hold accountable anyone who retaliated against or threatened to retaliate against Operation Fast and Furious whistleblowers.

In a Friday **letter** to the DOJ's Inspector General Michael Horowitz, Grassley and Issa said they're now concerned retaliation is much more likely following Thursday's votes to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in criminal and civil contempt of Congress.

"We just learned that ATF senior management placed two of the main whistleblowers who have testified before Congress about Fast and Furious under the supervision of someone who vowed to retaliate against them," they wrote before describing how senior political figures have made dangerous threats before.

Grassley and Issa said that in early 2011, right around the time Grassley first made public the whistleblowers' allegations about Fast and Furious, Scot Thomasson – then the chief of the ATF's Public Affairs Division – said, according to an eyewitness account: "We need to get whatever dirt we can on these guys [the whistleblowers] and take them down."

Thomasson also allegedly said that: "All these whistleblowers have axes to grind. ATF needs to f—k these guys."

According to Grassley and Issa, when Thomasson was asked about whistleblowers' allegations that guns were allowed to walk, Thomasson said he "didn't know and didn't care."

Grassley and Issa have given Horowitz until July 6 to answer whether Thomasson was "admonished" for those threats against whistleblowers, how he got his job in the first place and how the DOJ and ATF are going to make sure he doesn't retaliate against whistleblowers moving forward.

The two lead Fast and Furious investigators also released new, never-before-public documents that show officials in ATF's Washington headquarters were trying to cover up Fast and Furious two weeks before Grassley ever even asked about it.

Grassley didn't confront the Justice Department or ATF with those questions until Jan. 27, 2011, but ATF headquarters had prepped internal talking points as early as Jan. 12, 2011.

In that Jan. 12, 2011, memo, ATF officials laid out expected questions about gunwalking in Fast and Furious and Border Patrol agent Brian Terry's murder with Fast and Furious weapons – and canned answers ATF officials were supposed to give to press or anyone else asking about it.

For instance, a couple of expected questions include: "Border Patrol Agent Brian A. Terry was shot and killed after he and his team encountered several suspects near Rio Rico, Ariz. At least four suspects are in custody while one is still being pursued. Was a gun trafficked in this case used in the murder?" and "We understand that a firearm bought in connection with this ATF investigation was used to murder Border Patrol Agent Brian A. Terry. Can you please comment on this information?"

ATF officials were encouraged to not respond to those questions. Instead, they were told by leadership in Washington to give one of these answers spinning his murder to stress ATF's need to accomplish its mission with Fast and Furious:

- "The death of Agent Terry is tragic and is a sad and dark day for all of law enforcement. We've lost one of our own. This is another example of the dangers faced by law enforcement every day across this country when pursuing these violent criminals."

- "Agent Terry's death is the exact reason why we must continue going after those who are determined to destroy the lives of so many innocent individuals in our communities by plying their illicit trade. For those who would say it is Mexico's problem, I say Agent Terry's death and all of those who have perished because of this violence prove that this challenge belongs to everyone."

- "The investigation into the murder of Agent Terry is active and ongoing. ATF has pledged its support and resources to bring to justice the perpetrators who are guilty of that crime. I won't say anything here today to jeopardize that investigation or the subsequent prosecution of those responsible for this terrible crime."

- "The murder of Agent Terry is a tragic loss that has been felt throughout the United States and underscores the dangers that law enforcement officers face every day. As the investigation continues into

this heinous crime, our hearts go out to Agent Terry's family and his fellow Border Patrol Agents who continue to risk their lives to protect the citizens of our great Country."

Grassley and Issa released other internal documents, including emails, with their Friday letter to Horowitz. The documents show that soon-to-be-former Assistant Attorney General Ron Weich – who is resigning to lead the University of Baltimore School of Law – may have been in on this cover-up plan.

Weich was the author of a false Feb. 4, 2011 letter to Grassley, in which he denied – on behalf of Holder – gunwalking ever took place. Holder's DOJ withdrew that letter 10 months later, in December 2011.

Weich and now former acting ATF director Ken Melson – who was promoted into DOJ leadership after he secretly deposed Congress without DOJ or ATF counsel – were cc-ed on emails from late January 2011.

Those emails discuss how the DOJ and ATF planned to respond to Grassley's request for information.

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TAGS: BRIAN TERRY, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL TOBACCO FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES, OPERATION FAST AND FURIOUS

Read more:

<http://dailycaller.com/2012/06/29/issa-grassley-release-details-about-fast-and-furious-whistleblower-retaliation-cover-up/#ixzz1zT8Pksio>

Hiker finds assault rifles near Madera Canyon

Posted: Jul 01, 2012 8:28 PM EDT Updated: Jul 02, 2012 1:20 PM EDT

Posted by James Bennett - email

NOGALES, AZ (AP) -

A hiker has stumbled upon an find in the Madera Canyon area -- assault rifles in a black trash bag.

The Nogales International reported the hike discovered the AK-47s one mile north of Old Baldy Trail.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's deputies then went to the site and recovered what turned out to be a stash of AK-47 assault rifles.

Lt. Raoul Rodriguez said the rifles were "badly rusted" and had "obviously been there for quite some time."

Four rifle magazines were also recovered.

Rodriguez said the weapons were taken to the sheriff's office and secured.



Tea Party Chief 2012@_TeaParty

@DanMarriesKOLD @KatiePavlich yes good possibility <http://pic.twitter.com/Q34IqTD>



15m **Dan Marries** @DanMarriesKOLD

S. #Arizona hiker finds stash of AK-47 assault rifles.

#Fast&Furious?<http://bit.ly/MM6AS9> @KatiePavlich

Retweeted by Tea Party Chief



12m **Katie Pavlich** @KatiePavlich

YIKES @danmarrieskold possibility, if ATF reveals the trace data...which most likely they won't. More #fastandfurious gun traces = bad PR



10m **Tea Party Chief** 2012@_TeaParty

@KatiePavlich @danmarrieskold Yeah but that's not way #ATF works-they are just supposed to seize weaponry and do as they're told #NotAtFault

1:45 PM - 2 Jul 12 via web · Details

Prosecute Eric Holder

Dear Patriot,



The House of Representatives has held US Attorney General, Eric Holder in contempt for his repeated stonewalling and withholding information from Congress regarding the "Fast and Furious" gun walking scandal. Tens of thousands of guns were allowed to "walk" into the hands of Mexican drug cartels in what was likely an attempt to generate a crisis so the Obama administration could trample the Second Amendment rights of all Americans. It was illegal from the start and resulted in one of our Border Patrol agents being killed by one of the weapons the Justice Department placed into the hands of drug dealers.

Now it's time to keep the pressure on Congress to use every tool they have to hold Eric Holder accountable. Since the Justice Department would have to prosecute, we know that is not going to happen. This Administration has shown over and over again that they consider themselves above the law in all matters. **Tell Congress that we expect them to do what is right, remove Holder.**

[Sign the petition here.](#)

We need you to send your petition to your Member of Congress and two Senators and let them know that this is both criminal and unacceptable in America. **The leadership in Congress needs to know that we will not stand by and let them sweep this issue under the table just because it is an election year.** So far, over 438,000 letters have been sent but we need that to number to be closer to a million. Please send your letters even if you have done so previously. You do not need to contribute to sign the petition. Just click on the "Go to petition page without donating" button.

[Click here to send your letters](#)

Thank you,

Todd Cefaratti
Freedom Organizer

P.S. Our strength is in numbers. Please help our efforts by forwarding this message to a friend.

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'Fire Holder' protest at White House broken up when Secret Service finds suspicious bag

By Perry Chiaramonte
Published July 02, 2012
FoxNews.com



A protest at the White House ended quickly when the Secret Service found an unattended package.
(campusreform.org)

A protest in front of the White House calling for the firing of Attorney General Eric Holder was shut down before it even began when Secret Service agents spied an unattended bag.

A group of about 50 activists had gathered near the North Lawn Monday as part of a protest over the ongoing Fast and Furious scandal and were protesting for about 30 minutes before the street was cleared for an unattended backpack.

"The Secret Service agents had asked us if the bag belonged to any of us," protest organizer and activist Oliver Darcy, of Arlington, Va., told FoxNews.com. "We told them it didn't, and that's when they cleared the street and shut it down."

"It's definitely one heck of a coincidence."

- Oliver Darcy

It was determined that the backpack belonged to a tourist who had left the bag on the ground to take a photo, according to sources that were at the scene.

The package was cleared from the area and Pennsylvania Avenue was quickly reopened to the public, according to Secret Service officials. But by then, the gathering had lost steam and demonstrators had scattered.

Holder is under fire after being found in contempt of Congress for not turning over documents relating to the gun-walking sting that went awry, allowing thousands of guns to potentially fall into the hands of Mexican drug gangs. One such gun turned up at the scene of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry's murder.

Several protesters who took to Twitter and other social media forums found the Secret Service's actions more suspicious than an errant backpack.

"It's definitely one heck of a coincidence. It seemed like an overreaction [by Secret Service agents]," said Darcy.

"They were antsy the whole time we were there. They kept asking a lot of us if we were planning any civil disobedience," he added, maintaining that the group was there only for a peaceful protest.

Secret Service spokesman Brian Leary said agents handled the situation professionally.

"We followed standard operating procedure to protect the safety of the public, our agents and the safety of others," Leary said.

Read more:

[http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/07/02/fast-and-furious-protests-at-white-house-abruptly-ended-after-suspicious/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:%20foxnews/politics%20\(Internal%20-%20Politics%20Text\)&partner=skygrid#ixzz1zUJNZAaJ](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/07/02/fast-and-furious-protests-at-white-house-abruptly-ended-after-suspicious/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:%20foxnews/politics%20(Internal%20-%20Politics%20Text)&partner=skygrid#ixzz1zUJNZAaJ)

Townhall The Tipsheet Katie Pavlich

Found While Hiking: Stash of AK-47s



- **Katie Pavlich**
 - *News Editor, Townhall*
- Jul 02, 2012 01:44 PM EST

No big deal....despite the fact that a stash of AK-47s was found along a hiking trail in not Colombia, not Mexico but in...[Arizona](#).

A hiker in the Madera Canyon area found three assault rifles in a black trash bag one mile north of Old Baldy Trail.

After receiving a report of the discovery on Wednesday, June 20, the Pima County Sheriff's Office determined that the rifles were found in Santa Cruz County, and notified the local sheriff's office.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's deputies then went to the site and recovered what turned out to be a stash of AK-47 assault rifles.

Lt. Raoul Rodriguez said the rifles were "badly rusted" and had "obviously been there for quite some time." Four rifle magazines were also recovered.

Hikers apparently are now subject to Mexican drug cartels stashing powerful weapons along areas where they used to be able to safely enjoy being outdoors. I'll be interested to know if any of these guns are linked to Operation Fast and Furious however, even if they are, I doubt ATF will be letting us know because after all, more Fast and Furious weapons traced means more bad PR for Holder's Justice Department.

On a more serious note, this is an example of what local law enforcement is up against on a daily basis. It's a war down there. Learn more by reading about [my ride along with a Pinal County Sheriff's SWAT Team member](#).

Nearby is the infamous Vekol Valley, the largest hotbed of drug and human smuggling in the

United States and where a Pinal County Deputy was shot in April 2010. Vekol is surrounded by nasty mountain ranges on both sides. There is wide-open desert starting from mile marker 160 on I-8 and stretching all the way to Mexico. Because of the terrain, Vekol acts as a funnel. As we drove into the area, I could feel that it just wasn't a safe place to be.

Cartels also take advantage of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation on the west side of Vekol Valley. They use it as an entry point, marry into Indian families so they can live on the reservation and, if a village is small enough, cartel members will simply walk in and take property by lethal force.

While we were driving near Vekol, Thomas explained the "terrain" problem to me after pulling off the side of the road to show me the "Travel Caution: Smuggling and Illegal Immigration May Be Encountered in This Area" sign provided by Homeland Security. (Remember, according to Janet Napolitano, the border is secure.) He said the cartels have a vast intelligence network. Men known as "spotters" sit up on the top of hills and mountains with cell phones and radios, calling drug running crews in the U.S. and Mexico about where Sheriff vehicles are located and where Border Patrol is cruising. Usually, as soon as Thomas shows up on patrol, the cartels are watching and know exactly where he is. For the spotters, failing to identify where U.S. authorities are located can result in a beating or even death. If a spotter calls into the boss in Mexico or down the road, says that they are clear to come through with a load, but then the authorities show up and seize the load, that spotter pays the price for the loss.

But these cartels aren't just targeting Border Patrol. U.S. citizens travelling along I-8 who stop for a restroom break often find themselves carjacked right off the road. The area can't be used for camping, hiking or hunting as it used to be because the area is dangerous and drug and human smugglers are carrying high-powered weapons like AK-47s.

"If you see too much you may get killed out here because they [cartel members] don't want witnesses," Thomas said.

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Michelle Compares Obama to Biblical Figures
(VIDEO) nation.foxnews.com/first-lady/201...



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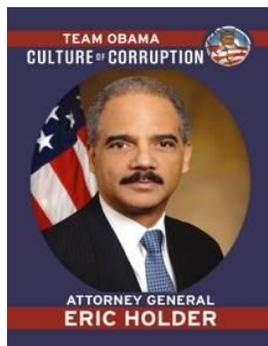
@foxnation Well Obama can part the ocean back to Africa and lead his followers home to Mother Africa, he's impeached, evicted, and losing...

8:44 AM - 2 Jul 12 via web

THE BUSH JR.-HOLDER-OBAMA CONNECTION IS FROM THE SENATE...Corruptocrat Eric Holder's GOP Enablers



By Michelle Malkin • June 15, 2012 08:21 AM



Corruptocrat Eric Holder's GOP Enablers

by Michelle Malkin

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While calls for U.S. Attorney General Eric “Stonewall” Holder’s resignation grow and the House GOP gears up for a contempt vote next week, it’s worth remembering how we got into this mess. In two words: feckless bipartisanship.

“I like Barack Obama and want to help him if I can.” That was Utah GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch in January 2009, just weeks before the Senate voted on President Obama’s attorney general nominee, Eric Holder. Right out of the gate, upon Obama’s election in November 2008, Hatch signaled that he would greenlight the administration’s top law enforcer.

“I start with the premise that the president deserves the benefit of the doubt,” the six-term incumbent Hatch told The Hill newspaper. “I don’t think politics should be played with the attorney general.”

Utah voters, mark those words. Bending to bipartisanship for bipartisanship’s sake — and ignoring the obvious consequences — is playing politics.

And, conservatives, please remember the actions of **all 19 Republican senators** who ignored Holder’s abominable career as a political fixer and confirmed him. **“I found Mr. Holder to be a good listener,** which is an important prerequisite for any good leader,” Missouri GOP Sen. Kit Bond explained in support of the nomination. “I believe him when he says that he’s willing to take good ideas from wherever they come.”

In addition to Hatch and Bond, the other 17 Senate Republicans who helped put Holder in place at the Justice Department were: Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., Bob Bennett, R-Utah, Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., Susan Collins, R-Maine, Bob Corker, R-Tenn., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, Judd

Gregg, R-N.H., Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., Richard Lugar, R-Ind., John McCain, R-Ariz., Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and George Voinovich, R-Ohio.

It's not like these GOP enablers weren't warned over and over about Holder's shady judgment and questionable ethics. The **2002 House Committee on Government Reform's report** on the Clinton-era Marc Rich pardon scandal spelled out Holder's willingness to put political ambition above the rule of law. Then-Deputy Attorney General Holder and former White House counsel Jack Quinn, who was representing the fugitive financier Rich, worked together to cut the Justice Department out of the process. The duo ensured "that the Justice Department, especially the prosecutors of the Southern District of New York, did not have an opportunity to express an opinion on the Rich pardon before it was granted." The report noted further that "Holder failed to inform the prosecutors under him that the Rich pardon was under consideration, despite the fact that he was aware of the pardon effort for almost two months before it was granted."

Holder admitted that he allowed his judgment to be overridden by crony political considerations. He told GOP senators he had learned from his "mistake" and that it would **make him a better attorney general**. But it wasn't just one "mistake."

Holder pandered to leftist special interests in engineering clemency for 16 members of the violent terrorist groups Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN) and Los Macheteros — linked by the FBI to more than 130 bombings and six murders. He gave the terrorists unprecedented access to phone calls and consultations as they negotiated their freedom. He hid behind executive privilege covers when asked by victims' families to explain the decision process. And as a partner at Covington and Burling, the powerhouse D.C.- and N.Y.-based law firm infamous for representing Gitmo detainees, Holder's opposition to the jihadi detention center raised bright red conflict-of-interest flags.

Is it any wonder that such a serial conniver would now be embroiled in multiple scandals involving the endangerment of national security? And that he would name old pals to run interference for him in his time of need?

To investigate his department's bloody malfeasance in the Fast and Furious gunwalking scandal, Holder appointed acting DOJ Inspector General **Cynthia A. Schnedar**. She worked under Holder in the 1990s and had co-filed several legal briefs with him. Schnedar is in hot water for having released secret Fast and Furious audiotapes to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix before reviewing them. The tapes somehow found their way into the hands of the local ATF office. Both are targets of congressional probes.

To investigate self-aggrandizing White House leaks on jihadi kill lists and computer viruses targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, Holder named two political appointees. One is Ronald Machen, an Obama donor, a transition team leader and a U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C., who formerly worked under Holder. Blind Democrats are outraged at questions about the independence of Holder's appointees.

Johnny-come-lately Republicans are demanding special prosecutors and balking at Holder's arrogance, obstructionism and wanton disregard for American security and safety. Note: Two of the loudest voices belong to Sens. McCain and Graham, who both approved Holder's nomination.

Joseph Connor, son of FALN murder victim Frank Connor, was right. In January 2009, he spoke from pain-filled experience: "**Holder clearly does not have the judgment, character or values to be attorney general.**" GOP surrender-ism cost more innocent lives. For the sake of the victims, let this be a lesson learned — and not repeated again.

~ For the latest breaking news, be sure to join Michelle's **e-mail list** ~

Posted in: **Corruption, Eric Holder, GOP**

SPEAKING OF RACISTS.... AND YES, I DO THINK HOLDER IS RACIST, LIKE THE BLACK CAUCUS, BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO WHITES, THEY'RE SO

IGNORANT THAT THEY DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LATINO, A MEXICAN, A JEW, AND A WHITE PERSON, OR A NATIVE AMERICAN, SO IF YOU'RE NOT BLACK, YOU'RE JUST WHACK... APPARENTLY. MY FIRST EXAMPLE OF THAT IS GEORGE ZIMMERMAN. A PERSON OF HISPANIC DESCENT WITH AN ENGLISH FIRST NAME AND A JEWISH LAST NAME. OH, BUT HE'S.... <GASP WHITE!!!!!!>

SECOND EXAMPLE? JOE WILLIAMS, NOW FORMER MSNBC REPORTER, SPEWS A REVERSE RACIST TANTRUM ABOUT MITT ROMNEY STRAPPING HIS KIDS TO THE TOP OF HIS MINIVAN LIKE HIS DOG (WHICH HE NEVER DID) AND GOES ON AN OBSCENE RANT ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT ROMNEY IS FLACID OR NOT AND THAT ANN COULD TELL US, SAYING THAT AT ROMNEY EVENTS THEY EAT GREY POUPON, AND HE'S NEVER ATE THE STUFF, IMPLYING ONLY BLACK PEOPLE EAT MUSTARD...

Joe Williams, Politico Reporter, Out Of A Job Following Controversial Mitt Romney Comments

The Huffington Post | By Melissa Jeltsen Posted: 06/30/2012 3:01 pm Updated: 06/30/2012 9:11 pm



404

140

64

5,456



Journalist Joe Williams has lost his job at Politico, the [website reported Saturday](#), one week after he was suspended for making [controversial comments](#) about Mitt Romney on cable television and Twitter.

Politico editor John Harris announced Williams' departure **in a memo** sent to staff Saturday morning. "After some cordial discussions, Joe Williams and I mutually decided that the best step for him is to begin a transition to the next phase of his career," he wrote. "Joe is an experienced and respected journalist, with keen insights into politics. After nearly 30 years in the business, he has the authority and is ready to give voice to his insights and conclusions in a new setting."

On June 21, Williams made an **MSNBC appearance** to discuss immigration. When asked what his thoughts were on Romney's problem connecting with Hispanic voters, he said the former Massachusetts governor appeared ""very comfortable" around "white folks."

Conservative websites pounced on the remarks, posting the video and digging through Williams' tweets for examples of overtly partisan leanings. Politico editors **responded that day**, suspending Williams and releasing a statement saying his MSNBC remark "fell short of our standards for fairness and judgment." They also faulted "an unacceptable number" of Williams' statements on Twitter for failing to "cover politics fairly and free of partisan bias," as Politico reporters are required to do.

In an interview with Current TV host Bill Press days after his suspension, Williams claimed that he had been the **target of a deliberate right-wing smear campaign**. ""It's the schoolyard bully concept," he said. "They're in the business of gathering scalps."

According to Politico media reporter Dylan Byers, Williams wrote that he was **"disappointed"** at the circumstances surrounding his exit, but was still grateful he had a chance to work at the organization.

Mitt Romney 2012

1 of 25



Report on election buzz in your community - or lack of it

We want to hear about the campaign ads, robocalls, other calls, fliers and national campaign activities in your

community. Tell us about it here or send us information via email to offthebus@huffingtonpost.com, on Twitter [@off_the_bus](https://twitter.com/off_the_bus), or tag your Tumblr post with the term [offthebus](#).

LIKE OBAMA, SUPPORT FOR PUTIN WANING IN THE FACE OF SYRIAN CRISIS AND HIS RE-ELECTION THAT CITIZENS SAY CAME BY CORRUPTION....

Poll: Stark Russian divide over Vladimir Putin

AP By LAURA MILLS and LYNN BERRY | Associated Press – 5 hrs ago

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FILE - In this Monday, Aug. 1, ...



FILE - In this Tuesday, June 12, ...

MOSCOW (AP) — The success and possible future undoing of President Vladimir Putin lies in the contrast between people like provincial housewife Yekaterina Arsenyeva and Moscow student Kirill Guskov.

In the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, Arsenyeva sees Putin as the only man who can ensure her children have a decent future. In the capital, Guskov can't hide his contempt for Russia's leader and the culture of corruption he has overseen: "A fish rots from its head," he fumes. An Associated Press-GfK poll released Monday reveals a stark divide between Moscow and the rest of Russia over the man who has ruled the country for the past 12 years. A total of 60 percent of Russians maintain a favorable opinion of the president as he begins his third term. In contrast, only 38 percent in the capital — where tens of thousands have joined anti-Putin protests — have a favorable view of him.

The division extends to views on the fairness of elections and the state of the economy, while almost all agree that corruption is among the most serious problems facing Russia today. The split promises to have profound, albeit still unknown, consequences for the future of the protest movement and of Putin himself. The outcome depends in large part on the economy, which the poll shows is the primary concern of most Russians. While anger over the trampling of democratic rights has brought Muscovites out to protest in droves, any deterioration in living standards could prove the catalyst for protests in the provinces. Pending hikes in utilities prices have the potential to cause broad discontent.

The mood in the hinterlands may also change as more people gain access to the Internet and the social networks that have been crucial to the rise of the protest movement in Moscow and other large cities.

For now, people like the 39-year-old Arsenyeva have no sympathy for the protest movement and the educated, urban professionals who have been its driving force.

"If they don't like our country, why do they live here? Let them go to Europe or America and express their dissatisfaction there," she said. Her hopes are pinned firmly on Putin.

"My husband works in a good company that is growing, we have a stable income, I can easily buy diapers, soap, anything my children need and I don't have to stand in line or run around in search of goods in short supply," said Arsenyeva, who is expecting her second child.

Her views reflect a deep-seated fear of social upheaval and of a return to the turmoil of the 1990s, the decade following the Soviet collapse, when salaries often went unpaid for months and store shelves were thinly stocked.

Nikolai Petrov, who studies Russian regional politics at the Carnegie Moscow Center, said that Putin's popularity should be considered support for the existing order and not for Putin himself. "The majority of Russians are still not ready to change the whole system," Petrov said.

Putin's rating on his job performance hit a high of 81 percent as he wrapped up his second term in 2008, according to the Levada Center, which measures his current approval rating at 60 percent, about the same as the 58 percent registered in the AP-GfK poll. This differs from favorability rating, which seeks to measure overall impressions of a person.

Putin handed over the presidency to his junior partner, Dmitry Medvedev, but as prime minister he remained the dominant player in Russian politics. Putin's decision in September to reclaim the presidency, followed by his party's victory in a December parliamentary election through what observers said was widespread fraud, set off protests across Russia.

After Putin won the March presidential election with 64 percent of the vote, the protests died away in much of the country except for Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The AP-GfK poll indicates that Putin retains broad support, although only 18 percent expressed a strongly favorable view of him. The poll was conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications from May 25 to June 10 and was based on in-person interviews with 1,675 randomly selected adults nationwide. The results have a margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

At the other end of the spectrum, 14 percent expressed a somewhat or strongly unfavorable view. The majority falls in between, passively supportive but some increasingly cynical.

Magomed Abakarov, who works for the government in the North Caucasus city of Makhachkala, voted for Putin, but his support is tepid at best.

"I consider him a liar and a fake," Abakarov said. "Someday we'll know who the real Mr. Putin is, but under the current circumstances he is the best candidate for president. He can talk tough with the leader of any country."

The majority of Russians see their country as a stronger international power than it was before Putin became president in 2000, according to the poll.

Like many Russians, Abakarov said he voted for Putin because there was no viable alternative in a country where only Kremlin-approved candidates are allowed to run for president. Putin has centralized control over the political system, preventing the emergence of independent political leaders and reducing parliament to a rubber stamp.

The presidency is now the only institution that at least half of Russians feel can be trusted to do what is right, according to the AP-GfK poll. The military, still manned by conscripts, comes next with the trust of 41 percent.

The parliament only has the trust of about a quarter of the people and the same goes for the courts, which have been compromised by corrupt judges. Just 18 percent say they trust the police, who are notorious for shaking down motorists.

Corruption is among Russians' biggest concerns, with 91 percent of those surveyed in Moscow calling it a serious problem and almost as many, 85 percent, of those outside the capital saying the same. Even though Putin has failed to deliver on repeated pledges to crack down on corrupt officials, most Russians don't hold him responsible.

Grigory Mikheyev, a 28-year-old systems administrator in the far eastern town of Dalnegorsk, complained of a system of double standards.

"The laws seem fine, but they only apply to the selected few," he said. "The simple people get punished, while the bureaucrats get rich."

Still, Mikheyev said he generally approves of Putin.

In keeping with the disparity between the capital and the rest of the country, Muscovites are far more likely to see election fraud as a serious problem: 56 percent compared with 37 percent elsewhere.

Guskov, the 21-year-old Moscow student, expressed frustration over what he sees as one-man rule.

"He is still a czar and Russia is the kind of country where a lot depends on a single person," Guskov said. "But we as a people are trying to do something, so we go to protests and demonstrate our discontent."

A major factor behind the divergence between Moscow and the rest of Russia is that about half of those surveyed live in small towns and rural areas, where most people still get their news from the Kremlin-controlled national television networks.

Half of the respondents outside the capital said they do not use the Internet, compared with only 10 percent in Moscow. Without access to the Internet, they have not seen the flood of videos purporting to show blatant vote rigging or read about alleged corruption in political and business circles close to Putin.

Without the Internet, many Russians are unlikely to know much about Alexei Navalny, a charismatic corruption fighter and blogger who is a leader of the anti-Putin protest movement. In Moscow, only 15 percent said they had no opinion of Navalny, compared with 46 percent in the rest of the country.

This may change, however, as the number of Internet users rises steadily. The Public Opinion Foundation said 38 percent of Russians now use the Internet daily, up from 22 percent just two years ago.

Residents of Moscow also differ from the rest of their countrymen with their far more pessimistic view of Russia's oil-based economy, perhaps because they are more aware of the challenges ahead.

To consolidate his base ahead of the election, Putin promised higher wages and benefits to soldiers, police, doctors and teachers. He pledged to pump billions of dollars into ailing industrial plants and the military.

But economists warn that the additional spending is unsustainable if oil prices remain low. Russia is able to balance its budget if the Urals blend of oil stays above \$115, but it is currently trading at closer to \$90.

Sergei Mikheyev, an analyst with the Center for Political Technologies, said the economic troubles would have to be lasting and deep to drive people in the region out onto the streets.

"To make the regions rise up in a revolt, the oil price will need to take a dramatic toll on living standards, for example by making millions of people jobless," he said.

Petrov, the Carnegie scholar, is more pessimistic. He points to substantial hikes in the cost of heating and electricity that will go into effect in July and begin to bite once the weather turns cold, coupled with unpopular new taxes and education reforms going into effect in September.

"We've witnessed a big wave of political protests, with Moscow as the leader, in big cities,"

Petrov said. "I don't think this political protest will go down to small towns, but in the fall there

will be socio-economic protests, and socio-economic protests across the country combined with political protests in the big cities will create a deadly mix."

Liya Khabarova in Vladivostok, Arsen Mollayev in Makhachkala, Sergei Venyavsky in Rostov-on-Don and Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this report.

On the Net:
www.ap-gfkpoll.com

House Democrats want more open Pacific trade talks

Published June 27, 2012

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Two-thirds of House Democrats on Wednesday wrote to the White House's top trade official complaining they are being left out of the loop as the Obama administration negotiates the most consequential trade deal in decades, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement.

The 132 Democrats, led by Reps. George Miller of California and Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, urged U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to make sure "there is ample opportunity for Congress to have input on critical policies that will have broad ramifications for years to come."

Also this week, the Republican chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Rep. Darrell Issa of California, asked Kirk to allow him to attend the next round of TPP negotiations in San Diego next month, saying that would "help to alleviate some of my concerns about the process through which the agreement is being negotiated."

The United States and eight other Pacific nations — Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam — have been negotiating some three years on the agreement that would lower trade barriers and spur economic growth in the region. Mexico and Canada are set to join in the 13th round of negotiations in San Diego and Japan has expressed interest in future participation.

The House Democrats, who in the past have tended to be skeptical of free trade accords, expressed concern that the trade deal could force on the United States binding policies related to labor, food standards, the environment, patents, and financial, healthcare, energy and telecommunications regulations. "We are troubled that important policy decisions are being made without full input from Congress."

The USTR, in a statement on its Web page, said that while the U.S. and its Trans-Pacific partners had entered into a customary confidentiality arrangement on private talks, "USTR consults extensively with key congressional committees, interested members of Congress, as well as a wide range of trade advisory committees."

USTR spokeswoman Carol Guthrie said the agency "will be continuing our already unprecedented outreach to keep the public more informed about TPP" while ensuring its ability to conclude successful negotiations. She said they would discuss the issue further with the House Democrats and were working with Issa's office on his request.

In May, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., head of the Senate Finance subcommittee on international trade, introduced legislation that would give all members of Congress and staff with appropriate clearance access to the substance of trade negotiations.

The Trans-Pacific agreement, he said in introducing the bill, could be the most far-reaching economic agreement since the World Trade Organization was established nearly 20 years ago. But "the majority of Congress is being kept in the dark as to the substance of the Trans-Pacific negotiations, while representatives of U.S. corporations — like Halliburton, Chevron, PHRMA, Comcast and the Motion Picture Association of America — are being consulted and made privy to details."

Read more:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/06/27/house-democrats-want-more-open-pacific-trade-talks/#ixzz1zTwn9YSr>

VOTING.... yeah that....



Tea Party Chief 2012@_TeaParty

@GASOSKemp Of course, putting it in newsletter would be just deserts! this is why you have problems with voter participation #LocalProblems



1h **Tea Party Chief** 2012@_TeaParty

@GASOSKemp That would stop a lot of useless arguing, sending documents and emails back and forth, and then demanding apologies for it.



1h **Tea Party Chief** 2012@_TeaParty

@GASOSKemp you need to put on your website that it takes 4-5 months to register because the Henry Co. Registrar doesn't keep up with GA Laws



1h **Brian Kemp** @GASOSKemp

Today is the last day to register to vote for the July 31st Primary. Register today!
http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/how_to_register.htm



1h **Tea Party Chief** 2012@_TeaParty

@GASOSKemp Yeah finally received my cards 6/29... after sending my registration in February and it taking 6wks. then denial, then again 6/29

8:18 AM - 2 Jul 12 via web · Details



Kem Kimbrough @Kem_Kimbrough

Today is the final day to register to vote. Don't miss the opportunity to make your voice heard!
<http://1.usa.gov/tcxyw5>

Retweeted by Tea Party Chief

SYRIA

Much-hyped plan to end Syria crisis falls flat

AP

By MATTHEW LEE | Associated Press – 23 hrs ago

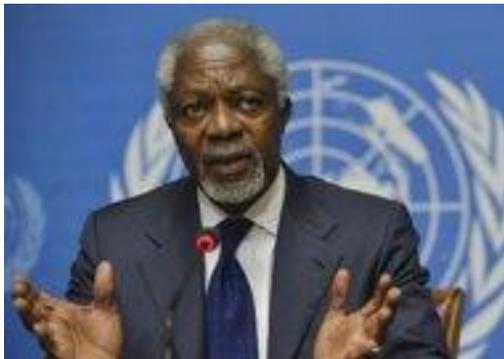
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WASHINGTON (AP) — The much-hyped plan to end [Syria's](#) misery and guide its transition to democracy appears to have fallen flat despite the endorsement of Western powers.

[Russia's](#) objections gutted the most stringent conditions on a potential interim leader in Damascus. The Syrian opposition quickly dismissed the proposal as a waste of time and with "no value on the ground."

The U.S. and its allies insist the plan will force [Syrian President Bashar Assad](#) from power.

Russia disagrees and Assad is unlikely to acquiesce.

It all leaves U.N. envoy Kofi Annan's efforts to end 15 months of bloodshed no better off than before.

Western nations needed to win Russia's backing for the plan at an international conference Saturday in Geneva, so they dropped the demand that "those whose continued presence and participation would undermine the credibility of the transition and jeopardize stability and reconciliation" would be excluded from the process.

That was widely understood to mean Assad and much of his inner circle, and while the West insisted, Assad's main allies in Moscow resisted intensely.

As a result, the plan contains no criteria for excluding anyone from the transitional government and leaves its composition entirely up to the "mutual consent" of Assad administration and the fractured opposition. Both sides presumably have unlimited veto power over members of the interim government, which could prolong the stalemate and keep Assad in charge.

U.S. and Western officials acknowledge the possibility of that scenario. But they insist that the "mutual consent" language puts the opposition on equal footing with Assad in determining who will be part of the governing body.

Annan said he could not imagine that the Syrian people would choose anyone with blood on their hands to lead them.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, going further, said the plan requires Assad to leave because there is no chance he can meet the "mutual consent" standard.

"What we have done here is to strip away the fiction that he and those with blood on their hands can stay in power," she said.

Yet as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pointed out, the plan excludes no one. Nor does it give anyone without a vested interest any authority to suggest who might or might not be acceptable.

That's why Assad's foes are skeptical, at the very least.

"The country has been destroyed and they want us then to sit with the killer?" asked opposition figure Haitham Maleh.

Bassma Kodmani, a Paris-based spokeswoman for the main opposition group, the Syrian National Council (SNC), said the agreement was "ambiguous" and lacks a mechanism or timetable for implementation.

Western officials say they expect Russia and China, which have blocked U.N. action on Syria, to make the case to Assad that he needs to step down for the good of his country. They hope, as Clinton said Saturday, that Assad will "see the writing on the wall" and remove himself from the equation.

So far, though, neither has shown any inclination to back away from defending Assad.

Clinton and her Western counterparts will take the Annan plan to a meeting of the "Friends of Syria" group in Paris on Friday to get a broader endorsement of the deal. This, they hope, will raise the pressure on Russia and China to convince Assad of the need to get the transition started.

Should that fail and the process remain stalled, they intended to return to the U.N. Security Council for a resolution that would compel compliance.

The SNC said nearly 800 people have been killed in violence across the country in the past week and that more than 14,000 people have died in the 15-month-old uprising against Assad's rule.

There's an urgent need for a solution because the conflict is threatening to spill across borders after Syria shot down a warplane from neighboring Turkey, which responded by setting up

anti-aircraft guns along the frontier.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Matthew Lee covers international affairs and U.S. foreign policy for The Associated Press.

An AP News Analysis

Syria helicopters strike Damascus suburb; diplomacy stalled

 **REUTERS** By Mariam Karouny | Reuters – 38 minutes ago

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A member of rebel group Khaled ibin al Walid Fighters with his weapon walks past ...



A member of rebel group Khaled ibin al Walid Fighters stands with his weapon in a ...



REFILE - ADDING NAME OF REBEL GROUP Members of rebel group Khaled ibin al Walid Fighters ...

- **Photo: Two members of rebel group Khaled ibin al Walid Fighters walk in a street in Hamidiyah ...**
- **Photo: Members of rebel group Khaled ibin al Walid Fighters pose with their weapons at the ...**

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Syrian attack helicopters bombarded a suburb of Damascus on Monday and Turkey said it had scrambled warplanes near the border in the north, as a 16-month conflict entered a more violent phase and diplomacy appeared to have failed.

Fighting has come to the gates of the capital in recent weeks and is also raging throughout the country as the battle to unseat President Bashar al-Assad increasingly takes on the character of an all-out civil war, fuelled by sectarian hate.

Syrian government forces have launched an assault on Douma, a city on the edge of Damascus where they stormed a rebel stronghold two days ago leaving bodies rotting in the streets of the nearly abandoned town.

"The bombardment of Douma continued today using helicopters. Some activists entered the city today and they saw at least seven decaying bodies in the streets under the sun. One man had been executed inside his house," said Mohamed Doumany, an activist who fled the city two days ago and was now nearby.

"There is huge destruction in the city, which is almost empty. Only a few of its people remain inside," he told Reuters by Skype.

Diplomats from the West and Arab states who oppose Assad met the Syrian leader's allies Russia and China on Saturday in Geneva under the auspices of peace envoy Kofi Annan. But they made no progress persuading Moscow and Beijing to sign up to a statement calling for Assad to leave power, leaving the effort to forge an international consensus in tatters.

The failure of diplomacy to have any measurable impact on a conflict that the United Nations says has killed more than 13,000 people is testing the patience of countries in the region, especially Turkey, which reacted with fury 10 days ago when Syria shot down one of its warplanes.

FIGHTERS SCRAMBLED

Turkey said on Monday it had scrambled six F-16 fighters in response to three separate incidents of Syrian helicopters approaching the border. Turkey also scrambled fighters on Saturday and has moved guns and soldiers toward the frontier.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told Syrian opposition figures gathered in Cairo that their struggle to unseat Assad would end in victory.

"The Assad regime's guns, tanks, weapons have no meaning in the face of the will of the Syrian

people. Sooner or later the will of the Syrian people shall reign supreme. And you will lead this process," he said.

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, a former ally of Assad who has turned decisively against him, says Turkish military rules of engagement have been changed and any Syrian forces approaching the border and deemed threatening will be targeted.

The Syrian government tightly controls access, making it difficult to verify accounts of fighting on the ground.

Anti-Assad activists said there were heavy clashes in Deir Ezzor province near the Iraqi border where villages were under army fire. Rebels destroyed two tanks, they said.

In rural areas near Aleppo south of the Turkish border there were clashes following explosions inside the city overnight. Forested areas near the border were on fire, activists said.

Syrian artillery pounded the village of Talbiseh near Homs on Monday, targeting an area near the mosque. Video footage posted on YouTube showed a blast hitting the mosque's slender minaret, engulfing it in a cloud of grey smoke and dust.

Other footage showed high explosive rounds slamming into an unseen target behind the mosque every minute.

Security forces were also shelling towns in the province of Deraa, near the Jordan border, activists said.

(Additional reporting by Erika Solomon and Douglas Hamilton in Beirut, Jonathon Burch in Ankara and Edmund Blair in Cairo; Writing by Peter Graff, editing by Peter Millership)

Turkey says scrambled F16s to check Syrian border

AP By ZEINA KARAM | Associated Press – Sun, Jul 1, 2012

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In this Thursday, June 28, 2012 ...



Kofi Annan, Joint Special Envoy ...

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's military says it scrambled fighter jets to its border on Saturday after Syrian helicopters flew too close to the frontier.

A military statement Sunday said F-16 jets were scrambled, and sent to the border after the helicopters flew in the area on at least three occasions.

The military did not report that any direct confrontation had taken place.

The jets were scrambled days after Turkey said it would treat any Syrian military unit approaching its border as a direct threat in response to the downing of a Turkish reconnaissance plane by Syrian forces on June 22.

Turkey has also reinforced its border with anti-aircraft guns and other weapons.

The military said the helicopters flew as close as 4 miles (6.5 kilometers) to the Turkish border.

Arab League says Syrian opposition must unite during Cairo meeting about transitional plan

THE CANADIAN PRESS 

By The Associated Press | The Canadian Press – 6 hours ago

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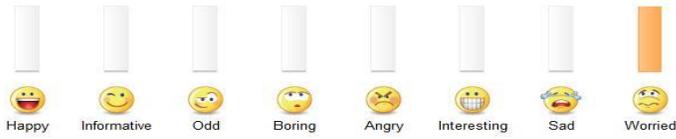
CAIRO - The Arab League chief has called on the fragmented Syrian opposition to unite during a meeting in Cairo to discuss a new international plan for a transitional government.

Arab League Secretary General Nabil Elaraby addressed nearly 250 members of the Syrian opposition at the meeting on Monday in an effort to get disparate groups to pull together. It is the first time the Arab League hosts a meeting of the Syrian opposition.

On Sunday, Syrian opposition groups rejected a U.N.-brokered peace plan for a transitional government because it left the door open for President Bashar Assad to be part of the interim administration.

Elaraby says the opposition "must not miss this opportunity" to unite, adding that the Syrian people are more valuable than any factional disagreements.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS ARTICLE?



IRAN

EU oil embargo on Iran comes into effect



By Farhad Pouladi | AFP – 7 hrs ago

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Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ...



A European Union embargo on Iranian ...

A European Union embargo on Iranian oil went into effect on Sunday, provoking anger in Tehran which says the measure will hurt talks with world powers over its sensitive nuclear activities.

Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi sought to downplay the embargo as just the latest punishment in decades of ineffective sanctions.

Iranian leaders have insisted they will forge ahead with their atomic programme, regardless of the Western restrictions and others imposed by the [UN Security Council](#).

But the White House welcomed the implementation of the EU embargo, calling it "an essential part" of an international response to Tehran's nuclear programme.

"This action is an essential part of our concerted diplomatic efforts to present [Iran](#) with a clear choice between isolation or meeting its obligations," President Barack Obama's press secretary Jay Carney said.

"With this decision, our partners in the EU have underscored the seriousness with which the international community views the challenge of Iran's nuclear ambitions," Carney said.

Oil market observer bodies and analysts say the embargo, coupled with US financial sanctions ramped up on Thursday, are gutting Iran's vital oil exports, which account for half of government revenues.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) says Iran crude exports in May appear to have slipped to 1.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) as the market braced for the embargo, which has been phased in since being announced January 23.

That is far less than the 2.1-2.2 mbpd Iran insists it continues to sell abroad.

"The sanctions have had no effect on Iran and will have none," Qasemi was quoted as saying on Sunday by the ISNA news agency.

"I do not see a problem in our enemies starting the sanctions as of today (Sunday), since these sanctions have existed for many years and nothing has happened and one should not anticipate anything new," he was also quoted as saying on the website of state broadcaster IRIB.

Qasemi and other officials admitted the "illogical" embargo had reduced exports to EU nations, but they said other nations had stepped forward to buy the oil.

"While we collectively exported 18 percent of our oil to them before, it is not difficult to substitute customers for this much oil in the world," Qasemi said.

It was not possible to verify that claim because Iran has turned off the mandatory location transponders on most of its fleet of 39 oil tankers.

The IEA and experts say most of the tankers remain anchored off Iran and are being used to store up to 42 million barrels of oil unable to be exported.

Before the embargo, Europe bought some 600,000 bpd from Iran, which sent two-thirds of its exports to China, India, Japan and South Korea.

The United States has granted exemptions to those Asian countries from its latest sanction which that targets foreign companies doing business with Iran.

Non-EU nations wanting to buy Iranian oil face an obstacle in insuring the tanker shipments, as more than 90 percent of such insurance is by EU companies now barred from underwriting Iran oil delivery contracts. China gets around that by having its companies insure the tankers.

The EU embargo is the latest -- and most punishing -- of a raft of international sanctions designed to pressure Iran to curb its nuclear programme.

Most of the West fears that the Islamic republic is seeking to get to the cusp of being able to make nuclear weapons, despite Tehran's repeated denials.

The sanctions are part of a "carrot and stick" approach running in parallel with revived talks between Iran and the "P5+1 group" comprising UN Security Council permanent members the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus non-permanent member Germany.

After three inconclusive rounds that succeeded only in defining the wide gap that exists between both sides, the talks have been downgraded to the level of experts, with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday in Istanbul.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, warned the EU in a letter on Thursday that the new EU and US sanctions will have "repercussions" on the talks. He did not elaborate.

Iran has threatened to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the oil-rich Gulf if its nuclear programme is targeted by air strikes that Israel and the United States reserve as an option.

That threat, repeated since December, helped propel oil prices to a four-year high of \$128 for a barrel of Brent North Sea reference crude in early March.

But since then overproduction by Saudi Arabia making up for the shortfall in Iranian exports, and fears of an economic dip caused by EU debt woes and China's manufacturing slowdown, have pushed oil prices to below \$100 a barrel.

Iran feels pinch of new EU oil sanctions

AP

By NASSER KARIMI and RYAN LUCAS | Associated Press – 18 hrs ago

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TEHRAN, [Iran](#) (AP) — As new European Union sanctions targeting Iran's vital oil industry took

effect Sunday, Tehran acknowledged the measures aimed at reining in its disputed nuclear program were taking a toll. The vice president said authorities had stockpiled imported goods and hard currency to help cushion the blow to the economy.

The ban by the 27-member EU on the purchase of Iranian oil dealt the Islamic Republic its second economic setback in days, following fresh U.S. sanctions that prohibit the world's banks from completing oil transactions with Iranian banks. Combined, the measures significantly ratchet up the pressure on an Iranian economy already squeezed by previous rounds of sanctions.

"Today, we are facing the heaviest of sanctions, and we ask people to help officials in this battle," Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi was quoted as saying on state television's website. He said the "dastardly sanctions" might cause "occasional confusion" in the domestic market. Iran reacted furiously when the U.S. and EU sanctions were announced, threatening to block the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway used to ship about one-fifth of the world's oil. On Sunday Iranian officials appeared to be backing away from that threat, which roiled international oil markets at the time.

Rahimi also said Tehran has stocked up on some imported goods to reduce the embargo's impact, without saying what specifically.

The EU, which accounted for around 18 percent of Iran's oil exports, said earlier this week that all contracts for importing Iranian oil will have to be terminated from Sunday. Also, European companies will no longer be involved in insuring Iranian oil.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney welcomed the EU oil embargo. He said in a statement that the U.S. and EU "are committed to holding Iran accountable for failing to meet its international obligations," showing "the seriousness with which the international community views the challenge of Iran's nuclear ambitions."

Carney said Iran has a "clear choice between isolation and meeting its obligations." He said Iran must take "concrete steps" to resolve international concerns over its nuclear program.

Iran is the second largest OPEC oil producer, producing about 4 million barrels of oil a day. The country's recoverable oil reserves are estimated at more than 137 billion barrels, or 12 percent of the world's overall reserves. The country relies on oil exports for about 80 percent of its public revenues. However, most of Iran's crude production is used domestically.

The sanctions are the latest move in the West's standoff with Iran over its disputed nuclear program, which the U.S. and its allies suspect is aimed at developing atomic weapons. Iran denies the charges and insists its program is designed solely for peaceful purposes, such as energy and producing medical isotopes.

Three rounds of nuclear talks between Iran and world powers, including the U.S., have failed to produce a breakthrough, prompting some critics to charge that Tehran is merely dragging out the negotiations to buy time to further advance its suspected weapons program. The U.S. and Israel have left the door open to a possible military strike if no agreement is reached.

In the meantime, Washington and its allies have used sanctions to target Iran's oil sector — the nation's primary revenue source — and there are already indications that previous rounds of sanctions have started to bite.

Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Iranian crude exports have dropped to 1.5 million barrels a day from 2.5 million barrels last year, which comes out to

almost \$32 billion in revenue lost over a year.

The Iranian rial has slumped against international currencies, with the unofficial rate spiking at around 21,000 to the dollar this week, up from around 19,000. That's down from a high of around 23,000 in January, but still far above the rate of around 11,000 about 18 months ago. The price of staples has skyrocketed as well. Since the EU first announced its embargo in January, Iranian government figures show the prices of bread, milk and meat have risen around 20 percent, while the price of chicken has jumped some 80 percent.

Fully aware of the burden this places on families, Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami, an adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said last week that the price hikes are "a matter of pain" for Iran. But he also urged people not to complain, telling them: "If you say ouch, the arrogant ones will say they have achieved their goal. So be patient, and make them regret it." So far, the Iranian public has proven patient, in part because of widespread support for the nation's nuclear program, which is a source of pride for many in Iran, regardless of their political leanings.

"Westerners said the sanctions have aimed at halting nuclear activities. But they have targeted our families and children," said Abbas Heidar, a 32-year-old teacher in Tehran. "The government is continuing its nuclear activities and I do not expect it stop."

Iranian officials, meanwhile, scrambled Sunday to present the government as actively working to ease any hardship the sanctions might bring.

Central bank governor Mahmoud Bahmani told the semiofficial Mehr news agency that Iran has "plans" to deal with the embargo and enough hard currency to meet its import needs.

"We have not remained passive. To confront the sanctions, we have plans in progress," Bahmani said without elaborating.

Iran's Oil Minister Rostam Ghasemi ordered his staff to "mobilize" against the sanctions, according to Mehr. It did not elaborate.

Ghasemi also sought to boost public morale, telling state television late Saturday that Iran has weathered previous rounds of sanctions.

"I do not see it as a problem that enemies have imposed an embargo today," he said. "They have imposed similar sanctions years ago, and nothing happened."

He said Iran has already halted oil sales to many EU countries, and had found new buyers to replace them.

"Developing countries and countries with fast economic growth have no alternative to oil.

Fortunately, because of the quality of our country's oil, all are interested in using it," he said.

Mehr published its own analysis listing measures that Iran could take to counter the sanctions, including shutting the vital Strait of Hormuz. The semiofficial news agency's editorials sometimes reflect views held by top Iranian officials who do not wish to state them publically.

On Sunday, however, Iran's Defense Minister Gen. Ahmad Vahidi made statements to the official IRNA news agency about the strait in which he did not mention any plans to close it — remarks that suggest that Iran is playing down the threat in dealings with the West.

Vahidi said Iran is the main protector of the waterway, and that Tehran "has confronted anybody who tried to endanger the Strait."

Mehr also suggested that Iran could make use of hard currencies other than the U.S. dollar and the euro, form its own insurance syndicate to replace foreign companies that withdraw from the

market, store up oil in tanks for later sale so as not to cut production, or simply reduce oil production to save its reserves for the future.

Lucas reported from Cairo.

Report: Iran to fire missiles during military drills

By the CNN Wire Staff

updated 5:44 AM EDT, Mon July 2, 2012



An Iranian ground-to-sea missile is launched during navy war games near the Strait of Hormuz in Iran in January.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Report: The missiles will target bases made to look like airbases of "extra-regional powers"
- The announcement comes the same day an EU oil embargo takes effect

(CNN) -- Iran will test-fire missiles during "war games" this week, the semiofficial Mehr News Agency reported Sunday.

The three-day exercise, which began Monday, will target desert bases made to look like airbases of "extra-regional powers," the agency said.

"During the war games, long-range, medium-range, and short-range missiles will be used and will be fired from different points across the country at 100 designated targets," Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh told reporters, according to Mehr.





The point of the exercises, he said, is to give experts the chance to assess the "precision and efficiency of warheads and missile systems," the agency reported.

The announcement came the same day that an embargo of Iranian oil from the European Union takes effect. The full embargo and other sanctions are meant to pressure Iran into giving up its nuclear program. Some 80% of Iran's foreign revenues are derived from oil exports, Iran has repeatedly insisted that its nuclear program is for peaceful, civilian energy purposes only. But it has rebuffed demands to halt its production of enriched uranium, and a November 8 report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog found "credible" information that Tehran has carried out work toward nuclear weapons -- including tests of possible bomb components.

CNN's Shirzad Bozorgmehr contributed to this report.

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Iran warns to close down Hormuz Strait if sanctions take effect



2 July 2012, 11:41 (GMT+05:00)



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A member of the Iranian parliament (Majlis) said that Iran will close the Hormuz Strait if the economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic take effect.

Arsalan Fathipour in an interview with Alalam News Network said that the recent oil price fall will not last for long.

"We take the control of the Hormuz Strait. If we are supposed to be sanctioned, we will not allow a drop of oil to pass through the strait," he said, Fars News Agency reported.

"In such a situation, oil price will surge and we will see that those who have imposed sanctions will not be able to be accountable for their people," he noted.

He noted that Iran can find new customers for oil.

Iran has stored up imports and hard currency for a "battle" against EU sanctions, officials said on Sunday, the day that the measures aimed at pressuring the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program take effect.

Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi said the country has stockpiled the population's daily needs to reduce the impact of the embargo hitting the oil and banking sectors.

"Today, we are facing the heaviest of sanctions and we ask people to help officials in this battle," Rahimi was quoted by the IRIB News.

He said the "dastardly sanctions" might cause "occasional confusion" in the market, but that the Iranian nation would not be stopped.

Central bank governor Mahmoud Bahmani also told the Mehr News Agency that Iran has "plans" to deal with the embargo and enough hard currency to meet its import needs.

The EU said earlier this week that all contracts for importing Iranian oil will have to be terminated from Sunday.

Also, European companies will no longer be involved in insuring Iranian oil. The measures come on top of previous sanctions levied by the U.S. and the West that have already hit Iran's economy.

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Iran says it wants 'win-win' in nuclear talks

AP

By NASSER KARIMI | Associated Press – 1 hr 0 mins ago

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TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran wants a "win-win" outcome in its talks with world powers over Tehran's disputed nuclear program, the country's foreign minister said Monday, warning that the only other choice is confrontation.

Three rounds of nuclear negotiations between Iran and six world powers have failed to produce a breakthrough. A low-level meeting of technical experts is scheduled for Tuesday in Istanbul to see whether there is enough common ground to return to full-fledged talks.

"We want to see a win-win outcome," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi told the semiofficial ISNA news agency on the eve of the discussions in Turkey. "In the talks, the other side has no choice but to find an agreement, otherwise confrontation will be the alternative. I don't think that common sense is looking for a confrontation."

Iran is locked in a tense standoff with the West over Tehran's nuclear program, which the Islamic Republic insists is purely for civilian purposes, such as producing energy and medical isotopes.

The U.S., Israel and others suspect the program is instead a cover for building nuclear weapons. Israel has accused Iran of stretching out the talks to move closer to the ability to make an atomic bomb, and it has threatened to attack Iran a last resort.

Salehi said Iran prefers diplomacy to conflict, but stressed that it is prepared for anything.

"We are looking for a deal and not a confrontation, but if they (world powers) want to react unwisely, they should know that Iran will firmly defend its rights as it did during the Iran-Iraq war" in the 1980s, he said.

The U.S. and EU have imposed several rounds of sanctions to pressure Iran to give up its uranium enrichment program. On Sunday, an EU ban on the purchase of Iranian oil took effect,

days after new U.S. sanctions prohibited the world's banks from completing oil transactions with Iranian banks.

Iran acknowledged that the measures were taking a toll, saying it has stockpiled goods and hard currency to help cushion the economy.

The Islamic Republic initially responded to the sanctions by threatening to block the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic waterway through which about one-fifth of the world's oil is shipped. Officials appeared Sunday to back off from that threat, which roiled international oil markets at the time.

But the Iranian parliament's committee on national security and foreign policy drafted a bill calling for Tehran to block the strait to tankers shipping oil to countries that support the sanctions, a lawmaker said Monday.

Ebrahim Aghamohammadi, who is a committee member, told the official IRNA news agency the bill will soon be discussed in parliament, and said that some 100 lawmakers have already expressed supported for the draft legislation.

 49s **Tea Party Chief** 2012@_TeaParty [#Ahmedinejad](#) not attacked West or any other country but terrorists groups [# Hamas](#) or [# Hezbollah](#) tried to involve [# Iran](#) in war lobbing [# Israel](#)

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1:48 PM - 2 Jul 12 via web · Details

Iran mourns 1988 airliner downing by US warship

AP

Associated Press – 1 hr 2 mins ago

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TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranians marked on Monday the anniversary of the downing of an airliner by a U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf more than two decades ago.

State TV showed officials joining relatives of the 290 dead in scattering flowers from a ship and a helicopter into the waters where the Iran Air Airbus A300 crashed on July 3, 1988, killing all

on board.

Participants chanted, "Down with the U.S."

The two countries have a long record of discord. The latest dispute is over Iran's nuclear program that the West suspects is aimed at developing weapons. Iran denies the charge, saying its nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes like power generation and cancer treatment. Iran has held similar ceremonies on past anniversaries of the airliner's downing by the USS Vincennes.

Iran insists the attack on the airliner was unprovoked and called for the warship's commander, [William C. Rogers III](#), to be put on trial.

Rogers said he believed he was threatened with attack when he fired the missile at Flight 655 after warning the pilot. A U.S. Navy inquiry gave credence to the claim but added evidence to show that it was a mistake in judgment and identification by the American crew.

In 1990, then-U.S. President George H. W. Bush awarded Rogers the Legion of Merit for his service as a commanding officer.

In 1999, Iran said that it had received \$130 million from a 1996 settlement that included compensation for families of the victims.

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Red Cross volunteer from Pleasant Valley heads to fires

Retired nurse leaves for Colo.

7:12 AM, Jul 2, 2012 |



A helicopter tries to put out fire on the Waldo Canyon wildfire as it moved into subdivisions and destroyed homes in Colorado Springs, Colo., last week. / Gaylon Wampler/AP

Written by

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AP Photo By Chris Carlson Fri, Jun 29, 2012

Several firefighters from Colorado Springs Fire Dept. get massages after coming off the fire line on the the Waldo Canyon wildfire west of Colorado Springs, Colo., Friday, June 29, 2012. One person has been found dead, another is missing and nearly 350 homes have been destroyed by a raging U.S. wildfire that has forced tens of thousands to flee this week. President Barack Obama on Friday will tour the scene of the most destructive fire in Colorado history. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

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To make a donation to American Red Cross Disaster Relief, visit www.redcross.org or call 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767). People can also text REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Contributions may also be sent to local American Red Cross chapters or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

Donations enable the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, emotional support and other forms of disaster assistance.

Visit www.coloradoan.com for the latest information on the fires.

PLEASANT VALLEY — American Red Cross volunteers are stepping up to assist in the disaster response to wildfires raging across Colorado.

Longtime volunteer Laura Tasciotti, a registered nurse, left Sunday to care for other Red Cross volunteers in Colorado Springs, where the most destructive wildfire in the state's history has been raging for more than a week.

As a member of the Red Cross Staff Wellness Division, the Pleasant Valley senior citizen will provide first aid and coordinate medical care for Red Cross volunteers. Tasciotti also participated in disaster relief efforts in Florida during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. "Even though I'm retired, I'm still a nurse," she told the Journal on Sunday.

The 26-square-mile canyon fire, northwest of the city, destroyed nearly 350 homes and claimed the lives of two people last week. More than 30,000 people were evacuated from their homes. Authorities said the fire was 45 percent contained as of Sunday. Other fires burned near Fort Collins, in northern Colorado, and in Utah and Montana.

Tasciotti, who worked as a nurse and teacher at Millbrook High School for many years, was awarded the exceptional volunteer award by the American Red Cross of Dutchess County in 2009.

Another local volunteer, Sheryl McGrath of Modena, will serve in the Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services Division. Both women are part of a second wave of volunteers from the Red Cross' Northeastern New York Region deployed to assist with wildfire disaster efforts.

Shantal Parris Riley: sdriley@poughkee.gannett.com, 845-437-4809, Twitter: [@shantalpojonews](https://twitter.com/shantalpojonews)

Western wildfires

Residents began returning to charred areas of Colorado Springs on Sunday, July 1, after the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history forced tens of thousands of people from their homes and left the landscape a blackened wasteland.

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<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/colorado-wildfires-slideshow/water-dropping-helicopter-makes-run-over-plume-smoke-photo-083147305.html>

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Flesh-eating victim released from hospital:

‘I feel I’ve been blessed’



By Dylan Stableford, Yahoo! News | The Lookout – 24 mins ago

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Aimee Copeland in an undated photo

before the accident (AP/Andy Copeland)

Aimee Copeland--a 24-year-old Georgia woman who has spent more than two months recovering after contracting a rare flesh-eating bacteria in a zip line accident--has been released from the hospital, officials at Doctors Hospital in Augusta said Monday.

Copeland, who had one her legs and most of her hands amputated by doctors and endured multiple skin grafts while fighting the *Aeromonas hydrophila* bacteria, will now spend the next several weeks in a rehab facility, her father, Andy Copeland said.

The original gash on Copeland's leg took 20 staples to close; the bacteria, doctors say, came from the Little Tallapoosa River where Aimee fell on May 1.

"She hated to see a lot of people she loves, to say goodbye," Andy Copeland said. "The sweet is that she is moving on to the next phase."

"This next step is her opportunity to go to the next phase and learn something, be able to rehabilitate and basically relearn her life skills," he told CNN. "She needs to be able to develop the autonomy to be able to transfer from her bed to a wheelchair to the shower to the bathroom or anywhere else in the house. And she can do it."

Last week, Aimee Copeland was able to leave her hospital room in a wheelchair for the first time. Andy Copeland--who has been blogging about his daughter's progress--wrote that he asked her about how she felt about the ordeal.

"I don't have any regrets about what has happened," Aimee said, according to her father. "I don't focus on what I've lost, I would rather focus on what I've gained. I feel like I've been blessed."

Aimee: no one could be happier that this day is here!! My boyfriend's grandmother passed just about the time you went into the hospital. She was ready to die, being past the death of her husband 13yrs. I knew you were not ready to die, and I wanted more than anything for you to be able to speak to your family. Speaking the Cherokee word "heal" over you took a lot of faith when everyone thought you would die. It was equally hard for me to do it, being shook up about the sudden death of my boyfriend's Granny. God heals us, either to live in this body, or He heals us perfectly to go live with him. It took a lot of gumption and faith to pray specifically that you would heal, but I knew you had a lot of life left to live and God had other things He wants you to finish first.

LET'S WELCOME AIMEE COPELAND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/lookout/flesh-eating-victim-aimee-copeland-released-georgia-150152675.html>



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Jun Lin's Head May Have Been Found In Montreal

By ROB GILLIES 07/01/12 11:02 PM ET **AP**



Luka Magnotta, 29, is accused of dismembering his lover, student Jin Lin, and mailing the body parts to schools and political parties around Canada.

TORONTO -- Police found what appears to be a human head in a park in Montreal and are investigating whether it is the missing head of a Chinese student who they say was dismembered by a Canadian porn actor, an official said Sunday.

A police official said it appears to be a human head. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the details.

Luka Magnotta is accused of dismembering his lover Jun Lin and mailing the body parts to political parties and schools. He pleaded not guilty last month. Lin's head is the only remaining body part unaccounted for.

Montreal police spokesperson Anie Lemieux said investigators made their way to Park Angrignon on Sunday afternoon after the major crimes unit received a tip. The park is located a few miles (kilometers) south of Magnotta's apartment.

Lemieux said they must wait for tests results over the next few days to confirm if there is any link and whether it is in fact a body part.

Police have been questioning Magnotta with the hope that they would find out the location of the head. The family of Lin has been seeking closure.

Investigators say Magnotta, 29, posted a video online showing him having sex with the dismembered corpse. A second, unedited version of the video seen by police shows him eating parts of the body. Police say Magnotta and Lin were in a relationship.

The case became known when a package containing a severed foot was found at Canada's ruling Conservative Party headquarters on May 29. That same day, a hand was discovered at a postal facility, addressed to the Liberal Party of Canada.

Lin's torso was found in a suitcase at a garbage dump in Montreal outside Magnotta's apartment building.

About a week later, a missing foot and hand were found mailed to two schools in Vancouver.

Police said notes were included in most of the packages but declined to say what they said.

Magnotta, who fled to Europe before the body was discovered, spent a few days partying in Paris before moving on to Berlin, where he was caught last month as he read stories about himself at an Internet cafe. He did not contest his extradition from Germany and arrived in Montreal last month on a Canadian military plane.

Lin's family arrived in Montreal last month and attended a memorial service last week. Lin, 33, studied computer science student at Montreal's Concordia University.

Associated Press Writer Phil Couvrette in Ottawa, Ontario contributed to this report.

NATIONAL / WORLD NEWS 12:56 p.m. Monday, July 2, 2012

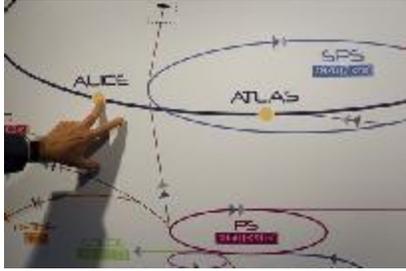
APNewsBreak: Evidence of 'God particle' found

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By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Scientists working at the world's biggest atom smasher plan to announce Wednesday that they have gathered enough evidence to show that the long-sought "God particle" answering fundamental questions about the universe almost certainly does exist.



FILE - In this May 20, 2011 file photo, a physicist explains the ATLAS experiment on a board at the European Center for Nuclear Research, CERN, outside Geneva, Switzerland. The illustration shows what the long-presumed Higgs boson particle is thought to look like. Scientists at CERN plan to make an announcement on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 about their hunt for the elusive sub-atomic particle. Physicists have said previously they are increasingly confident that they are closing in on it based on hints at its existence hidden away in reams of data. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus, File)



FILE - In this May 20, 2011 file photo, a wall painting by artist Josef Kristofletti is seen at the Atlas experiment site at the European Center for Nuclear Research, CERN, outside Geneva, Switzerland. The painting shows how a Higgs boson may look. Scientists at CERN plan to make an announcement on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 about their hunt for the elusive sub-atomic particle. Physicists have said previously they are increasingly confident that they are closing in on it based on hints at its existence hidden away in reams of data. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

But after decades of work and billions of dollars spent, researchers at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, aren't quite ready to say they've "discovered" the particle.

Instead, experts familiar with the research at CERN's vast complex on the Swiss-French border say that the massive data they have obtained will essentially show the footprint of the key particle known as the Higgs boson — all but proving it exists — but doesn't allow them to say it has actually been glimpsed.

It appears to be a fine distinction.

Senior CERN scientists say the two independent teams of physicists who plan to present their work at CERN's vast complex on the Swiss-French border on July 4 are about as close as you can get to a discovery without actually calling it one.

"I agree that any reasonable outside observer would say, 'It looks like a discovery,'" British theoretical physicist John Ellis, a professor at King's College London who has worked at CERN since the 1970s, told The Associated Press. "We've discovered something which is consistent with being a Higgs."

CERN's atom smasher, the \$10 billion Large Hadron Collider, has been creating high-energy collisions of protons to help them understand suspected phenomena such as dark matter,

antimatter and ultimately the creation of the universe billions of years ago, which many theorize occurred as a massive explosion known as the Big Bang.

The discovery of the Higgs boson won't change people's lives, but will help explain the underpinnings of the universe. It would confirm the standard model of physics that explains why fundamental particles have mass. Those particles are the building blocks of the universe. Mass is a trait that combines with gravity to give an object weight.

The phrase "God particle," coined by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Leon Lederman, is used by laymen, not physicists, more as an explanation for how the wonders of the subatomic universe work than how it all started.

Rob Roser, who leads the search for the Higgs boson at the Fermilab in Chicago, said: "Particle physicists have a very high standard for what it takes to be a discovery," and he thinks it is a hair's breadth away.

Rosen compared the results that scientists are preparing to announce Wednesday to finding the fossilized imprint of a dinosaur: "You see the footprints and the shadow of the object, but you don't actually see it."

Though an impenetrable concept to many, the Higgs boson has until now been just that — a concept intended to explain a riddle: How were the subatomic particles, such as electrons, protons and neutrons, themselves formed? What gives them their mass?

The answer came in a theory first proposed by physicist Peter Higgs and others in the 1960s. It envisioned an energy field where particles interact with a key particle, the Higgs boson.

The idea is that other particles attract Higgs bosons and the more they attract, the bigger their mass will be. Some liken the effect to a ubiquitous Higgs snowfield that affects other particles traveling through it depending on whether they are wearing, metaphorically speaking, skis, snowshoes or just shoes.

Officially, CERN is presenting its evidence at a physics conference in Australia this week, but plans to accompany the announcement with meetings in Geneva. The two teams, ATLAS and CMS, then plan to publicly unveil more data on the Higgs boson at physics meetings in October and December. Each of the teams involves thousands of people working independently from one another, to ensure accuracy.

Scientists with access to the new CERN data say it shows with a high degree of certainty that the Higgs boson may already have been glimpsed, and that by unofficially combining the separate results from ATLAS and CMS it can be argued that a discovery is near at hand. Ellis says at least one physicist-blogger has done just that in a credible way.

CERN spokesman James Gillies said Monday, however, that he would be "very cautious" about unofficial combinations of ATLAS and CMS data. "Combining the data from two experiments is a complex task, which is why it takes time, and why no combination will be presented on Wednesday," he told AP.

But if the calculations are indeed correct, said John Guinon, a longtime physics professor at the University of California at Davis and author of the book "The Higgs Hunter's Guide," then it is fair to say that "in some sense we have reached the mountaintop."

Sean M. Carroll, a California Institute of Technology physicist flying to Geneva for the July 4th announcement, said that if both ATLAS and CMS have independently reached these high thresholds on the Higgs boson, then "only the most curmudgeonly will not believe that they have

found it."

Borenstein reported from Washington.

July 02, 2012 12:56 PM EDT

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NEW LAWS THAT TOOK EFFECT FOR JULY 1ST, 2012:

METRO ATLANTA / STATE NEWS 8:37 p.m. Sunday, July 1, 2012

More ID needed for drivers' licenses

ACLU objects, others say latest measure is 'small inconvenience'

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By [Steve Visser](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Dennis Jackson decided to get his driver's license renewed last week to avoid having to dig up a birth certificate and his original Social Security card.

[Enlarge photo](#)



Cherokee County Sheriff's OfficeA federal mandate aimed at improving secure identification -- and decreasing the number of counterfeit IDs, such as those shown here -- is one reason Georgians will find big changes when renewing drivers' licenses starting July 1.

More Atlanta area news »

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- DeKalb offering grants to nonprofits

Had he put it off until this week, when the state begins requiring more identification for a license, he figured he would be in for a much longer wait.

"I'm here today to renew it early, before that system breaks in," the 43-year-old Ellenwood man said Friday, as he waited in line at the Department of Driver Services office next to Turner Field. "I don't see why people who have been driving for 10 years or 20 years have to come up with their birth certificate."

As many as 750,000 Georgians whose licenses and state identification are up for renewal this year will find themselves trekking to a state driver's license office before Dec. 31 with potentially long waits. A new rule requires them to bring documents proving they are who they say they are.

Susan Sports, spokeswoman for the state Department of Driver Services, said the federal government required states to develop more secure identification in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The state has been implementing various changes to licenses and identification cards at different phases. The state has until 2017 to get licenseholders over age 50 in compliance.

"The majority of customers we have spoken with think it is a small inconvenience to do something to increase homeland security," Sports said. "But there is always a group that doesn't appreciate the extra trouble."

Drivers, whether they have lived in Georgia five years or 50 years, will have to bring an original or certified birth certificate, Social Security card and proof of where they live.

An unexpired passport can substitute for a birth certificate. Power bills or bank statements can be used to prove residency at an address. For a complete list of acceptable documents, go to the DDS website at www.dds.ga.gov/drivers/index.aspx.

Charles Selander blames Big Brother for the inconvenience.

"You could use the word Orwellian," he said.

Driver services believes the measure protects against identify theft by making it harder to get a driver's license in someone else's name, Sports said.

Those concerned about giving personal information to DDS can be assured the department can protect against hackers, she said.

Sports noted that it's a one-time inconvenience. The next time a driver renews, he or she will be able to do it online.

The American Civil Liberties Union has opposed the "Secure ID" and "Real ID" programs nationwide for fear it will facilitate data-tracking on individuals, said Azadeh Shahshahani, director of the National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project Director for the ACLU in Georgia. A number of drivers, however, found the inconvenience acceptable.

"When you weigh the lesser of the evils, you want to be safe," said Issic Alexander, 27, of northwest Atlanta.

Sports said the department has intensified recruiting and training to fill DDS positions, noting there are effectively 86 more examiners available this fiscal year.

The agency also is using 95 temporary employees to answer general questions so examiners can focus on issuing driver's licenses, Sports said.

Anyone lacking proper documentation will be given a 120-day temporary license.

People who can provide evidence of their citizenship but who do not have a birth certificate in some cases can receive a waiver, she said.

Leroy Trice, 24, counted himself lucky to have a birthday before July, but he said he didn't have any problem with the regulation.

"If you are who you say you are, you should be able to get your birth certificate," the Ben Hill man said. "It is only going to be bad for procrastinators and thieves."

New laws of note

-- Unemployment benefits drop from 26 weeks to a sliding scale of between 14 and 20 weeks, depending on the unemployment rate.

-- Businesses with more than 100 or more, but fewer than 500 employees must start using a federal work authorization program called E-Verify.

-- Parents who apply for the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program must pay for and pass a drug test that would cost at least \$17. TANF provides temporary financial help to low-income families with children. Passing the drug test once would be a condition of eligibility to receive benefits.

-- Alternative sentencing for criminals with drug or mental health issues. The Judicial Council of Georgia will spend the next several months establishing standards for state drug and mental health courts.

-- A bill eliminating the \$1 charge for the optional "In God We Trust" decals for car license plates.

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About expressing creativity and sharing it with others

Mission 2012 Mission Work:

*1/1/12 Lighthouse Missionary Baptist Church \$2 tithe/Prayer List

*1/7/12 \$70 worth of scarves to Project Overcoat for United Way

*1/16/12 \$10 Rick Perry

*1/31/12 \$10 Rick Santorum

*2/1/12 1 scarf and 1 purse, valued at \$25 for January birthday gift

*2/7/12 \$5 Prison ministry

*2/10/12 2 scarves for Valentine's Day one \$15, the other \$10

*2/20/12 \$190 pledge to Rick Santorum's campaign for scarves and buttons to raise money for Rick Santorum's campaign, \$15 donation to his campaign equals a free scarf and button

*3/17/12 \$10 donation to Wounded Warrior Project on behalf of Ashton Williamson, who was given a scarf to wear

*4/3/12 \$25 donation to Rick Santorum's campaign for advertising

*4/5/12 \$25 Prison Ministry for Easter

*4/11/12 \$5 to Rick Santorum's campaign

*4/11/12 \$5 to Newt Gingrich to carry Rick's banner of repeal <http://t.co/VcLjBgo>

*4/13/12 \$10 to Rick Santorum's campaign

*4/20/12 \$18 to Rick Santorum for Trisomy 18 Awareness for Bella

*5/20/12 \$932.47 to Governor Nathan Deal, Governor Perry, and Mitch McConnell for Disaster Relief certificates

*6/1/12 2-John Cena scarves, one for Ryan one for Tyler, valued at \$10

*6/2/12 1 white Betty Boop Purse, 1 tea pot, basket, tea bags, and political unity scarf, for Courtney's graduation, valued at \$50

*6/30/12 \$10 for Repeal and Replace to Mitt Romney

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*5/3/11 Red Cross disaster relief for the South \$1.59

*5/9/11 Red Cross disaster relief for the South \$.42

*5/10/11 GA GOP Chairmanship Tricia Pridemore Grassroots and GA GOP \$5

*5/16/11 Prison ministry \$10

*6/23/11 tithe and prayer list \$2

*7/16/11 Prison ministry \$10

*8/16/11 Prison ministry \$10

*9/11/11 DeKalb Memorial 9/11 \$9.12

*9/16/11 Prison ministry \$10

*10/5/11 2 pink breast cancer awareness scarves, valued at \$10

*10/22/11 1 pink breast cancer awareness scarf and pink purse, valued at \$15

*11/6/11 Prison ministry \$10

*11/24/11 1 camo scarf valued at \$15

*12/6/11 1 pink and black diva scarf valued at \$15

*12/8/11 4 red and black Mt. Zion school colors - scarves valued at \$40

*12/21/11 Prison ministry \$5/\$5

*12/21/11 Rick Santorum \$10

*12/24/11 1 ocean colored scarf, valued at \$15

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Haggai 1:9

Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

Churlish souls stint their contributions to the ministry and missionary operations, and call such saving good economy; little do they dream that they are thus impoverishing themselves. Their excuse is that they must care for their own families, and they forget that to neglect the house of God is the sure way to bring ruin upon their own houses. Our God has a method in providence by which He can succeed our endeavours beyond our expectation, or can defeat our plans to our confusion and dismay; by a turn of His hand He can steer our vessel in a profitable channel, or run it aground in poverty and bankruptcy. It is the teaching of Scripture that the Lord enriches the liberal and leaves the miserly to find out that withholding tendeth to poverty. In a very wide sphere of observation, I have noticed that the most generous Christians of my acquaintance have been always the most happy, and almost invariably the most prosperous. I have seen the liberal giver rise to wealth of which he never dreamed; and I have as often seen the mean, ungenerous churl descend to poverty by the very parsimony by which he thought to rise. Men trust good stewards with larger and larger sums, and so it frequently is with the Lord; He gives by cartloads to those who give by bushels. Where wealth is not bestowed the Lord makes the little much by the contentment which the sanctified heart feels in a portion of which the tithe has been dedicated to the Lord. Selfishness looks first at home, but godliness seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, yet in the long run selfishness is loss, and godliness is great gain. It needs faith to act towards our God with an open hand, but surely He deserves it of us; and all that we can do is a very poor acknowledgment of our amazing indebtedness to His goodness.

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SYNTHESIS ARCHIVES	299		
TEA PARTY CONSORTIUM		60	
US GOVT. AGENCIES-THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH	66		
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CONSERVATIVE WOMEN, CONSERVATIVE VALUES	264		
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SUMMERTIME BLUES, BUT AT LEAST YOU HAVE A FREE 6 MONTH SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE SYNTHESIS"

<http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AVUUGGGbcuQuZGRya3NyYmZfODA4Z2Jrczl3YzM&hl=en>

8-13-2010: CAPPING OFF THE SUMMER, 2010 SUMMER'S END EDITION: THE KIDDIES ARE BACK IN SCHOOL, AND IT TOOK OBAMA NEARLY 4 MONTHS TO 'PLUG THE HOLE'--- BUT AT LEAST YOU HAVE A FREE 6 MONTH SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE SYNTHESIS"

<https://docs.google.com/document/edit?id=1cf3eTsBF0MiFrPJSAKHMKhOSPdHS1kEzXII0yBaAJc4&hl=en&authkey=CPWpyaMD>

8-22-2010: EXPOSING THE 2010 CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES OF THE DEMOCRATS: UNFUNDED FOOD STAMPS, FAKE BUDGET CUTS, AND HOUSING GIMMICKS FOR VOTES... WHY IT'S SO HARD TO DO THE RIGHT THING FIRST BECAUSE OF REGRESSIVE POLITICS

https://docs.google.com/document/edit?id=1cV67sYM99nyZBT1DY-C8D87UedFevwg0e_ZYz_A7zGE&hl=en#

12-1-2010: POST 2010 ELECTION-THANKSGIVING EDITION: OBAMA IS FACING \$26 BILLION IN CUTS TO HIS 2011 BUDGET/REPUBLICAN THANKFULNESS SHOWS ITSELF IN MANY FORMS, AS AMERICANS ARE NO TURKEYS WHEN IT COMES TO WALKING AWAY FROM OBAMA'S LACKLUSTER PRESIDENTIAL

POLICIES....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a5_JeRPE70CNhMtkEC_DdRjFG9DQYHP7IsP9xosHryU/edit?hl=en&authkey=CIXJw5oH

12-5-2010: THE UN-CENSURED EDITION...

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iYvA-ynRJE8rRkWnegrpeO6A6pVuE68M45ghluUccUo/edit?hl=en&authkey=CJO1negB>

12-20-2010: VICTORY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!

THE RECON. ACT IS CONFIRMED AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL: OBAMA'S CITIZENSHIP CONTESTED BY SUPREME COURT 1-7-2011....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1viNttmZCkIOjSj2dyAz2IIF4VGrztNIMN_uwCaqvDg/edit?authkey=CIDK0q0J&hl=en&pli=1#

12-27-2010: MERRY CHRISTMAS -- THE PERSON OF THE YEAR IS OF COURSE, GLENN BECK:

https://docs1.google.com/document/d/1il5xix4pBLfubYV2mdd9mN-0Hk2c-rBgC_Rv8NCKti8/edit?hl=en#

1-4-2011 EDITION: HAPPY NEW YEAR!! SO I GUESS I'M STILL JUST A LITTLE P-SSED....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ru29au_nNz6Nge6BRPE62ZCj85br2mJ5YDXFwGidyME/edit?hl=en#

1-7-2011 JUDGEMENT DAY EDITION:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11aXEL9UCYYPSCUc2nmg4YDsrmY5hI0RR5QUoFA2BYf8/edit?hl=en#>

1-14-2011 EDITION: HEY, YOU CAN'T SAY THAT...

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-LZANvBs58rC9OsYYPfU7bY63svuRfYBGKPA7qQH3Mk/edit?hl=en&pli=1#>

1-23-2011 EDITION: 50th Anniversary of JFK'S INAUGURATION.... remembering those affected by the Arizona shooting tragedy

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Em3-CdaZXv_SS00ZzYK3IlwvZqrXL-41oGZA_sR49F4/edit?hl=en&pli=1#

1-25-2011 EDITION: THE 2011 STATE OF THE TEA PARTY ADDRESS

<https://docs3.google.com/document/d/1cuNaMf2I9K08ntMgXIN5h0XXVX7Oo42rnqZRLPykn-8/edit?pli=1&hl=en#>

1-30-2011 EDITION: THE CAPITOL IS NO PLACE FOR A TEA PARTY !!!

https://docs2.google.com/document/d/1VdK9fOfOgYX2LgcCNPJCxDDtui3taT7NEi_3PDVyguk/edit?hl=en#

2-2-2011 GROUND HOG EDITION: OBAMA IS NULLIFIED; WE DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM!

<https://docs0.google.com/document/d/1KTnz7OL-BH3XjpYzY1AkWzYk1AyPfQ8ognja90YfBLo/edit?hl=en#>

2-6-2011 IMPEACHMENT EDITION: WITH H.R. 4872, OBAMA TO USE YOUR TAX DOLLARS TO BED PLANNED PARENTHOOD WITH SEX TRAFFICKERS TO ENACT CORRUPT CONTRACTS WITH STERICYCLE AS ABORTION FOR PROFIT...

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14PDQAADUP3sPwsBGMjuQk8p5wq6oyyt9lxyzK8gud5g/edit?hl=en#>

2-20-2011 EXPLOSION EDITION: EVERYTHING IS EXPLODING: STATE BUDGET COSTS, POLITICIAN'S EGOS, AND EVEN HOMES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS...

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rrCQPbHqdyrbMBOtvUFYM9VeYatg-iB1GoRAkdf-6Vg/edit?hl=en#>

2-27-2011 EDITION: WAS IT A PRESIDENTIAL WEEK OR THE MOMENT FOR IMPEACHMENT? THIS WEEK OBAMA'S WTF MOMENT...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wS_FBeLHOHensYpCHn7ZsIr1SP8INrFz-v2BMFyKwx4/edit?hl=en&pli=1#

3-11-2011 EDITION: WOULD OBAMA PLEASE COMMENCE TO NOT SPEAK, AND WOULD THE SUPREME COURT PLEASE SPEAK UP??

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LhbpchXYpmO3F8dYFX28yP5yXtKHaam8S5a0g3-DLGY/edit?hl=en#>

3-18-2011/3-25-2011 MARCH-MADNESS DOUBLE-FEATURE EDITION: ONE YEAR LATER, OBAMACARE HAS GIVEN YOU UNEMPLOYMENT, STILL NO HEALTH INSURANCE, AND A \$14 TRILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EBferxQ1r_evna1B2x-6q3mL21kxex517s5RLWSneik/edit?hl=en#

4-01-2011/4-08-2011 THE-JOKE-IS-ON-OBAMA DOUBLE-FEATURE EDITION: GOP GIVES OBAMA DOUBLE WHAMMY WITH THE PATH TO PROSPERITY!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13zVuOv0mv1i00O_NYCEQ5V_mupk-eZ-707yq9SFiwsE/edit?hl=en#

4-20-2011 SPECIAL FEATURE EDITION: THE TEA PARTY DECLARES WAR ON OBAMA DEFICIT!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D6NuunT6oyljKRs2N5pHCOBITG7K_Utn9Butvcwp3IE/edit?hl=en#

5-1-2011 EDITION: "MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING" ...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uqslJuauYRdtwi6B88vIRH_s_V2us7nNPrR3zXM7etl/edit?hl=en#

5-8-2011 EDITION: NOPE, NOT BLUNDERER IN CHIEF, "LIAR IN CHIEF":

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j_ifOwQbfN839fqcQ9BNcZ7BCCgKjHxgmvpDjnl2r18/edit?hl=en#

5-14-2011 EDITION: CORRUPTION... CONGRESS SINCE 2006, OTHER LOCAL GA GOP GROUPS, AND CROOKED LAW ENFORCEMENT!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PREXKHVpl_c_RRWPJXABLz6olvwvtSY2B0ImVYx_Wic4/edit?hl=en#

5-20-2011 EDITION: THE TYRANNY OF OBAMA, DICTATOR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PURSE, IS UNFORTUNATELY ALIVE AND WELL....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nlp03RGVBOrMEipEIEutEYoX1QvbXHhBAYbt0WzpiDk/edit?hl=en_US&pli=1#

5-27-2011 EDITION: OBAMA THE TRAITOR, THE BETRAYAL OF AMERICAN LEGACY:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A4T0XhS1PHvBxwWY8t_uf-NvFnNbFKJuHQbmsxVPwke/edit?hl=en_US#

6-03-2011 EDITION: SUMMERTIME IS ANTI-OBAMA AGENDA ERADICATION PLANNING AND STEAM FOR TEA PARTY CAMPAIGNING 2012 !!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/11AHGYsh7b5M6G8vLFNKNUTTtipupD_HODibL-9UMoiCw/edit?hl=en_US

6-10-2011 EDITION: THE GREAT UNRAVELING... HEY I HEARD THE WHITE HOUSE IS HIRING... THE COUNTRY IS FALLING APART UNDER OBAMA !!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HjzTDFIhfE2PTumdaH0iX9vfb3eA3ywtODiwdDtMTys/edit?hl=en_US

7-4-2011 POST-FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL EDITION: A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, AND OUR ELDERS ON AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM; HOW TO WIN-THE-FUTURE IN THE WTF GENERATION:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rAuBBJ70xp7y965EGoyhviyKW6z8TQMkQ1IhjcUs-6U/edit?pli=1&hl=en_US

7-11-2011 and 7-17-2011 DOUBLE FEATURE EDITION: UNEMPLOYMENT, A \$14 TRILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT, AND A GOVERNMENT THAT DOESN'T WORK, AS IT CAN'T EVEN GOVERN ITSELF !!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19i_sJ9WPKTcK7Qr1LPh54W8jn3ulzccqONpySKihv81Q/edit?hl=en_US

7-22-2011 MEDIA SELLOUTS AND DEFAULT: CONSIDER THE TEA PARTY AS ANTISEPTIC TO AN INFECTED WOUND OF 2008 UNETHICAL ELECTION POLICIES, LYING MEDIA, AND PARTY POLITICS!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tUo3Pn-S2dkyyDMDmH0M4C5yBNegmyfwXMOcJikBxk0/edit?hl=en_US
S

7-27-2011 DEFAULT PREVENTION EDITION: A BRIEF HISTORY, THE FACTS ABOUT CUTS, HOW MUCH, WHAT PROGRAMS, THE FEATURES OF EACH PLAN, AND TEA PARTY DISCOURSE ON WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS TO BE A CONSERVATIVE IN A VOLATILE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
https://docs.google.com/document/d/11wxliTKkaK5OzWzPvWS1wRPzfQSPSioC2Gu7ZgdmeJM/edit?hl=en_US
S

8-4-2011 IT'S NON-CITIZEN OBAMA'S BDAY EDITION: A BITTERSWEET VICTORY FOR THE TEA PARTY - THE 2012 BATTLEGROUND ESTABLISHED ON CHOOSING FINANCIAL SECURITY RATHER UNLIKE 2008 POLITICAL NOVELTY GAMES...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/14bDVsp5N-1ICEjOWAu0WZ4z1mN3ERAAUfOZqavpSAwc/edit?hl=en_US
S

8-12-2011: OBAMA'S POLITICAL CREDIT DOWNGRADED AND WITH S&P: YOU CAN'T BUILD, FUND, AND MAINTAIN A PRESIDENCY ON LIES.... HIS NON-CITIZEN STATUS BEGETS DEATH KNEEL TO ECONOMY BY S&P DOWNGRADE, CORRUPTION WITH BANKS, AND FOREIGN POLICY SLIPPING FROM HIS GRASP... ALSO, IOWA GOP DEBATE REAL-TIME TWEETS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL AUDIT UNDERWAY TO REPLACE THE CESSPOOL OF CONGRESS...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B9SpurfPoC2AUT3R1ZYcCGSyrwx3-HWLBCalTV0XJs/edit?hl=en_US

8-21-2011: THE TEA PARTY ISN'T THE SAME AS THE GOP.. WHY WE'RE NOT SUPPORTING NEWT GRINGRICH 2012, AND WHY THE TEA PARTY ISN'T RACIST OR EXCLUSIVE, UNLIKE DEMOCRATS... (ESPECIALLY RACIST BLACK DEMOCRATS WHO ONLY WANT A BLACK FACE REPRESENTING THEM AND WANT TO REPRESENT BLACK CONSTITUENTS ONLY)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SpuD2TPPjNz3ARoqwSRNjSuzeVmYyHppPXi4_yQejY/edit?hl=en_US

8-26-2011: RESTORING FISCAL SANITY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY, UNLIKE OBAMA AND DEMOCRATS, THE TEA PARTY HAS A PLAN AND WE'RE NOT AFRAID TO PUT IT ON PAPER... HOW OBAMA IS TAXING US EMOTIONALLY BEYOND REASON, HOW MUCH IT'S COSTING US, AND WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT !!! EXPOSING WHY WASTING \$9 TRILLION WAS DUBBED "TREACHEROUS AND TREASONOUS"...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yHTpdTmd0SmRuseOzKL1yApRbLal0xixWZnKn233s/edit?hl=en_US

9-1-2011: UNVEILING THE 2011-2012 TEA PARTY ELECTION BATTLE PLAN "TAKE BACK AMERICA" CAMPAIGN -- SLAYING THE BEAST OF BIG GOVERNMENT...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r6vsH4lkEd32V5UCDYhtohRBo2gXytUtr2p_-Fklbe4/edit?hl=en_US
9-11-2011: REMEMBERING 9-11-01, 10YRS. OF WAR IN THE NEW AGE OF AMERICA... 25-30 MILLION STILL OUT OF WORK; TECHNOLOGY, RACIAL POLITICS, AND CORRUPTION FROM THE HIGHEST OFFICE:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YFCRahee9R6YQ-Lxt3p-s4KjyOASJlgRUGeH7cT9fd4/edit?hl=en_US

9-26-2011: LAME- DUCKY, NON-CITIZEN OBAMA IS CLUELESS ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY AND HIS SHOVEL IS RUSTING FOR THE "SHOVEL-READY" JOBS HE PROMISED....
https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Sr5ObIkEGbgJvrRMobVv07XBxN5v0ycrbQTjQcP5yU/edit?hl=en_US

CONT.D

9-30-2011 P-DAY EDITION: SO, WILL YA OR WON'T YA?! OH BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT.... IF I DON'T TURN THE ECONOMY AROUND IN 3 YEARS, "then there is going to be a one term proposition"
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f6LS8JA0JB70jqqUVEb-15FM_IYEFJZilcTPAFDeJ1M/edit?hl=en_US&pli=1

10-6-2011 SPECIAL EDITION: CELEBRATING 5 YRS. FREE FROM GOVERNMENT GLUTTONY.... my personal story, my passion, and pertinent relevance that drives the Tea Party movement
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rJBirKpbz2cmx1bN7uyKLCAYkV9om1qnim8j-IPkqKE/edit?hl=en_US

10-16-2011 EDITION: OBAMA'S CORRUPTION LAID BARE: RACIST POLITICAL AGENDAS, A FULLY UNRAVELED PRESIDENCY WITH IMPEACHMENT LONG OVERDUE; OCCUPY WALL STREET A PLOY FOR HIS BSJobsAct, WATCHING THE SOLYNDRA HEARINGS ON C-SPAN AND THE FAST&FURIOUS GUN SCANDAL, GOP KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE AND THE "I'M A MORMON" OBAMONEY ADS...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N8oX2J5IDgkEGemVcfawTt3udNqDoidrObCptw7mKI0/edit?hl=en_US

10-20-2011 SPECIAL EDITION: OSAMA, ANWAR, GADDAFI, ALL DEAD... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LIVING? CHURCH TITHING AT ALL-TIME LOW, PINK SLIPS A-PLENTY, OCCUPY WHATEVER STREET, LOW FOOD INVENTORIES... THE TEA PARTY CHIEF TELLS OBAMA TO GET HIS ASS IN GEAR....
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1va06sK0-_HzJrwLrmTmBbCD49zDLZFcOpE0Mh6rvhhE/edit?hl=en_US

10-23-2011 SUPER SUNDAY EDITION: OBAMA-GADDAFI CORRUPTION TIED TO CAIR DONATIONS FROM 2008, 39,000 COMING HOME FROM IRAQ, NEW FOCUS IS AFRICA: YEAH BUDDY, LET'S TALK ABOUT RACISM... CRACK HAS CONSEQUENCES, OCCUPY WHATEVER STREET FIZZLES AND DOESN'T SURVIVE THE COLD WEATHER OR RATIONAL THINKING TEST, AND THIS IS THE HOMECOMING WE GIVE OUR TROOPS??!!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/10GklnNKudQ4TT6kXfcUCFK80KpjSmHKqKGruLQvvy3E/edit?pli=1&hl=en_US

10-28-2011 FAT AMERICA EDITION: PAYING FOR AMERICA'S GLUTTONY AND GREED-BINGING, BAD HABITS, AND SPENDING ADDICTIONS ARE COSTING OUR COUNTRY'S BRIGHT FUTURE, AND HOW AND WHY CONSERVATISM WORKS AS A SOLUTION, AS A WAY OF LIFE, AND A POLITICAL IDEOLOGY WHEN OTHERS DON'T...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Y2MEwS4i0K-DSBYAuMR_0CKzqjndOImItJjngT1hal/edit?hl=en_US

11-3-2011 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH EDITION #1: THE HISTORY OF THE CHEROKEE PHOENIX REVISITED, 34 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CALL FOR HOLDER'S RESIGNATION, FOLLOWED BY THE TEA PARTY'S INSISTENCE THAT OBAMA BE CHARGED WITH MISAPPROPRIATION AND FRAUD FOR NOT PRODUCING A BUDGET, WHATSOEVER...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Ha8nD2H2eRd8QUeiMhfsQB0ttQaTiSV3ARH_kZ0COA/edit?hl=en_US

11-8-2011 GA VOTES EDITION: ON SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES, PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, EARTHQUAKES, SALACIOUS SCANDALS, AND POVERTY RATE CLIMBS FROM 42 MILLION IN ONE YEAR TO AN ALL-TIME 30YR. HIGH IN 2011 TO 49 MILLION.... THIS YEAR'S CLIMATE A GOOD BAROMETER OF 2012 ELECTION TRENDS:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/14B2uG-ub6SMZZEfwUIRrxrXNCMc2fntfocDt57tMMZQ/edit?hl=en_US&pli=1

11-19-2011 EDITION: GA MARKS REMEMBRANCE OF THE BURNING OF ATLANTA WITH A FULL NIGHT WATCH, #OWS INSURRECTION, THWARTED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, TEA PARTY PUTS GPS ON CONGRESS, SUPER COMMITTEE, BUDGET AND CUTS, WITH FOUR GRUMPY OLD MEN FROM GA.... (and 3 stories of VINDICATION, in AZ, GA, AND EVEN JUSTIN BIEBER....)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UVSd_lx2-Hf437aGufgYI5hgaa9B8efxBFsoluD9MQY/edit?pli=1&hl=en_US

11-26-2011 EDITION: NOMINEES GET THEIR REPORT CARD, WHO'S THIS YEAR'S TURKEY, NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH REACHES THE CLIMAX, HOW GEORGIA CELEBRATES BLACK FRIDAY....
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kzUO3DIImTWtyUCY8_ij0uZfyzd676hy2ZjUyhlcWnlo/edit?hl=en_US

11-29-2011 SPECIAL EDITION: PROMISES, PROMISES... VIRTUES, AND THE STUFF THAT POLITICS IS REALLY MADE OF, AND WELL, WHAT IT ISN'T:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BQduzvn39KwrNHIFdaUbyQwSEKe690STZS7JLvJdlHs/edit?hl=en_US
12-08-2011 SOLIDIFYING NOMINATION: WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AMERICA'S PRESIDENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF DNC CORRUPTION AND TO REPAIR THE CRACKS OBAMA HAS CAUSED TO OUR NATION'S FOUNDATION...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1olzctEYX0inZ3THn15_8OQyZ-7pWQ5Zk_I6sbTAeIE0/edit?hl=en_US&p

li=1

12-13-2011 GEARING TO A PEACETIME ECONOMY, THIS EDITION CELEBRATES TWO YEARS IN PRINT TODAY:

THE GOP HAS A NEWTINY ON THEIR HANDS, THE TEA PARTY CHIEF TELLS CONGRESS HELL NO~ ON THEIR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST AND DISCUSSES EU SUMMIT PROGRESS WITH SARKOZY, THE DEBATES ON THE EVE OF THE PRIMARY TO PREPARE FOR THE LAST DEBATE, AND WHY THE GA TEA PARTY ENDORSES RICK PERRY AND RICK SANTORUM AS WORTHY OF NOMINATION:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xzQDvD8G7WCEpyi2FpUb5zPJkCQVcOgJ0J-3jUqJEFY/edit?hl=en_US

MARKING MILESTONES AND SETTING MONUMENTS 12-18-11 EDITION: U.S. DRAWS FORMAL END TO IRAQ WAR AND OCCUPATION, WRAPPING THEIR US-IRAQ FORCES FLAG IN CAMO; SOLDIERS RETURN HOME, THE TEA PARTY REMEMBERS BORDER AGENT BRIAN TERRY, AND CONGRESS GIVES OBAMA AN INFORMAL 60 DAY NOTICE TO VACATE THE OFFICE... (REALLY? I HAVE PEOPLE CONTACTING ME WHEN I NEVER SIGNED UP FOR ROMNEY EMAIL ALERTS ABOUT THE PRIMARY IN GEORGIA IN MARCH? PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE SOME MANNERS WHEN THEY HOST EVENTS, AND DON'T TELL ME WHO TO VOTE FOR...)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10zQwojdjw8MoMOv7yhIIKgz-VDeh_Jh9gwebdgT6CQU/edit?hl=en_US

HOW OBAMA SAYS MERRY CHRISTMAS 12-23-2011 EDITION: OBAMA HAS A PRESIDENTIAL MELTDOWN; HE THREATENS TO VETO THE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED CONTINUING RESOLUTION THAT WOULD PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN, PHONES IN ON THE BLACKBERRY TO BLAME THE HOUSE, AND GOES ON A \$4 MILLION HAWAIIAN VACATION WHEN WE HAVE A \$15 TRILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT, AND STILL NO APPROVED BUDGET.... THE TEA PARTY ISSUES OBAMA'S IMPEACHMENT ORDER, SUBSEQUENT TO THE HOUSE FINISHING THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE TEA PARTY'S PETITION OF IMPEACHABLE OFFENSES FROM 5-27-11, EFFECTIVE 1-1-12:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XhvtgGcHDQ8C5CSW616QfkVoxj-KQleRPvs0pTR0Bwg/edit?hl=en_US

12-29-11 FIRST PRIMARY PRIMER EDITION: THE IOWA CAUCUS, THE NOMINEES' STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, DO THEY GET THE TEA PARTY'S "THUMBS' UP" OR "THUMBS' DOWN" , AND WHY OR WHY NOT:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19xdYwSB7t6SPAmfErCtcN0tatldqKLB2AkgoF2auR_0/edit?pli=1&hl=en_US

1-5-12 POST PRIMARY EDITION: AFTER SANTORUM'S SURGE, IOWA CROWNS SANTORUM NOMINEE CONTENDER: what the numbers reveal... the Tea Party Chief discusses nomination strategy, general election strategy, and beats the drum for Obama's impeachment and removal from Office:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hvqsqiTMBDjiderB_K9nsqyqtJ2JMBdB8nxJLV0cHas/edit?pli=1&hl=en_US

1-9-12 EDITION: GA LEGISLATURE NOW IN SESSION, 2012 IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD (though we were given 2 dates and it didn't end and Obama thinks he is the Mahdi, when he's not), SANTORUM REALLY WON IOWA, RON PAUL FOLLOWERS ARE CONVINCED IF YOU DON'T VOTE FOR HIM ARMAGEDDON WILL OCCUR:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ee5L1BmOUSTWz0z4kM_1gAkmTnha47_DvhQvVWRDwus/edit?hl=en_US

1-11-12 SPECIAL EDITION: NEW HAMPSHIRE UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR JOBS: HUNTSMAN WHO SKIPPED IOWA, COMES IN THIRD, WITH PERRY PULLING A HUNTSMAN... THE RACE, UNLIKE DECIDED BY THE MEDIA IN 2008 AND STILL FACES SCRUTINY BY THE COURTS, NOW MOVES TO THE COVETED SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATIVE BATTLEGROUND....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GeNjFHQJcRiWCjRBgX3Z0nBiscn017oJSxy47ledvRM/edit?hl=en_US

1-19-12 SPECIAL EDITION: VINDICATION: SANTORUM DECLARED WINNER BY 34 VOTES OVER ROMNEY, ROMNEY LOSES FALSE FRONTRUNNER STATUS BY MEDIA SHARK POLITICS WHO THREATEN RICK PERRY TO LEAVE THE RACE OVER UNSURENESS OVER THEIR INVESTMENTS, AND VICTOR HILL GETS WHAT HE DESERVES...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eq70wKJjAzMyeFUETqWT7wpr_8C66rJKV0dMN-dsIJE/edit?hl=en_US

1-16-12 SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIAL EDITION: SOUTH CAROLINA TO WINNOW THE CHAFF OF THE FIELD: CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM FOR THE NOMINEES TO MAKE A PRODUCTIVE AND GREAT CONTEST OF NOMINATION OR A SOUTH CAROLINA STINKER?? SO MANY VIEWED THE PRIMARY PRIMER, IT IS NOW TIME TO REFLECT ON SOME SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NOMINATION RACE... WHO WE DO NOT ENDORSE AND WHY:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LdcSFJ1YckFRP0ycj_ciwn0yJC5oJHGDNTXoTvnQHgw/edit?hl=en_US

1-29-12 SPECIAL EDITION: OBAMA'S FAILURE TO APPEAR IN GA COURT 1-26-12 EARNS HIM THE TITLE OF "OBAMA THE COWARD", GOP CORRUPTION SO DISCONCERTING AS TO PUT OBAMA-ROMNEY-NEWT ALL HOLDING HANDS UNDER THE BAIN UMBRELLA, HELD UP BY ERICK ERICKSON, AND THE 700 CLUB (no, I don't mean Pat Robertson) the 700 like Romney, who have evaded paying taxes, of the 535 Congress members (tax evading/insider trading), and 165 rich putzes who haven't paid their taxes, causing us to borrow and creating the deficit:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FoSYHTVdM8tMwE-qMB6MPSMtZvkxvWpo9mMyA9vTERw/edit?hl=en_US

2-1-12 SPECIAL EDITION: CHANGE FOR THE WORSE AND DESPAIR IS OBAMA'S STRATEGY TO HANG ON UNTIL HE'S EVICTED AND FORCED TO LEAVE IN TOTAL SHAME, ROMNEY'S STRATEGY ABSENTEE BALLOTS, NEWT IS LACKLUSTER/HAS NO STRATEGY, RON PAUL'S STRATEGY IS DELEGATES, AND RICK SANTORUM QUADRUPLES HIS FUNDRAISING AFTER IOWA PRIMARY WIN GAINING GROUND FOR THE PATH FORWARD TO NOMINATION... WHY WE CALL IT RED FEBRUARY (CBO DEFICIT REPORTS AND WHEN GOP TAKES BACK OVER IN INFLUENCE AND POWER)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TP0TLlyjes0zS1JZiRR4vh0GothNnmfGZiVU_rFolQg/edit?hl=en_US

2-2-12 EXTRA SPECIAL EDITION: VICTOR HILL'S TIES TO THE ZETAS' CARTEL(S) EXPOSED; HOLDER ASKED TO RESIGN BEFORE BEING CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTION AND CONTEMPT, AND OBAMA'S PRESIDENCY OFFICIALLY IMPLODES ON GROUND HOG DAY, A MONTH AND A DAY AFTER HIS IMPEACHMENT AND EVICTION DATE SET FOR 3/1/12, SUBSEQUENT TO THE ORDER OF IMPEACHMENT 1/1/12...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Xfn1F816eSe4yE_QQdBCF1kzaLTDOApNMMyofQvivNk/edit?hl=en_US

2-8-12 THE RICK SANTORUM EDITION: RICK SANTORUM GETS HIS POLITICAL SUPERBOWL... THIS HEADLINE WRITTEN BY CONSERVATIVE VOTERS IN AMERICA: IN RESPONSE TO BAIN-GOP CORRUPTION WITH OBAMA-NEWT-ROMNEY IN A 3-RING CIRCUS, GETTING THEIR \$ FROM THE SAME TROUGH MAKES CONSERVATIVES RECOIL AND STRIKE VICTORY FOR SANTORUM....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lyPCmLZliNMZk8kXk42nWZIZbQ50Ea545qqCUdAjv8s/edit?pli=1&hl=en_US

2-22-2012 SPECIAL LENT EDITION: SOUTH ATL TEA PARTY SNIPPET, HOW BAIN IS THE BANE OF ALL SMALL BUSINESSES, LOCAL STUFF AND MORE ON COMMUNITY CONCERNS RELATED TO POLICY AND INTERPRETATION

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nD0Bv9MAPhrL6AZonqMqp5kDRZ8DqZCWTuRd7CJuUsI/edit>

3-1-2012 GA PRE-PRIMARY EDITION: OBAMA NO LONGER RECOGNIZED AS PRESIDENT OR LEGALLY OCCUPYING THE OFFICE AS HIS 60-DAY NOTICE TO VACATE EXPIRED AFTER IMPEACHMENT ORDER 1/1/2012 ON 3/1/12, ROMNEY'S MICHIGAN DRAW WITH RICK SANTORUM REVEALS SERIOUS ISSUES OF CORRUPTION WITH BAIN, UNETHICAL LOBBYING, AND VOTE BRIBERY, AS BAIN BOYCOTT SPREADS, ELECTION 2012 AT FEVER PITCH, AND PART 1 BOOK REVIEWS FROM NOMINEES, WHAT'S WORTH READING AND WHAT'S NOT...

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XKRDfkzfsUYwbSahZMeH7fwBrQCcJSeAduScEQDqLZE/edit?pli=1>

3-9-2012 "FOCUS ON THE ECONOMY" EDITION: WITH OBAMA'S FORMAL IMPEACHMENT HEARING FAST APPROACHING AFTER HOLDER'S, IS IT ANY WONDER THE HOUSE WILL GET TO IT BEFORE THE ELECTION? RECORDS WERE PURPOSEFULLY HIDDEN FROM PUBLIC RECORD IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, TO COVER UP THAT OBAMA WAS INDEED BORN IN KENYA AND HIS MOTHER FLEW BACK AFTERWARDS! WHY ROMNEY MAKING A LOT OF MONEY DOESN'T MEAN HE KNOWS EVERYTHING OR EVEN HOW TO BE PRESIDENT, WHY RICK SANTORUM IS THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB IN THE NOMINATION RACE, AND WHY NEWT'S \$2.50 GAS IS A CAMPAIGN GIMMICK, ALSO WHY RON PAUL'S "END THE FED" THEORY IS NOT A SOLUTION OR VIABLE POLICY FOR PRESIDENCY:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fbvej2TbPq6r2UB14_arKhPheV0z_SwFRt-AeS9xkZM/edit?pli=1

CONT.D

3-16-2012 "FOCUS ON THE ECONOMY", PART 2 EDITION: MANAGING THE BUDGET, CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM, AND INFLATION ARE WHY CONSERVATIVE VOTERS COALESCE AROUND SANTORUM, AS OBAMA PROPOSES MORE ECONOMIC ENSLAVEMENT THROUGH INFLATION, AS HIS IMPEACHMENT BILL IS ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE: EXPLORING OUR ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS, CAMPAIGN DONORS, AND OUR DEFICIT....

WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE?! GINGRICH DONOR TIED TO CHINESE ORGANIZED CRIME - NASTY NEWT !! AFGHANISTAN, SYRIA, AND WHAT'S UP WITH THAT...

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kkfiJNEQkvybb6RmAQe70Q6sWhS4Aasm9Z-LLBkw3Vmk/edit>

3-21-2012 "FOCUS ON THE ECONOMY" PART 3 EDITION: DRUM ROLL PLEASE... HAWAII OFFICIAL SWEARS UNDER OATH WHAT WE KNEW TO BE TRUE ALL ALONG - OBAMA HAS NO HAWAII BIRTH CERTIFICATE, WHICH IS WHY HIS MOTHER'S FLIGHT RECORDS WERE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC RECORD AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, RON PAUL, NEWT, AND ROMNEY ARE UNDER SUSPICION OF FRAUD, VERY MUCH LIKE OBAMA'S, AND MAY BE DISQUALIFIED AT THE CONVENTION, AND FORGING AHEAD... REP. PAUL RYAN'S MEDICARE AND BUDGET PLAN COME UP FOR HOUSE SOLUTIONS TO END THE INFLATION OF THE OBAMA DEFICIT:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KorzIzEk0UDF31I4HDwf0jH217ov3oLwgruAxmQNYzA/edit?pli=1>

3-29-2012 "FOCUS ON THE ECONOMY" PART 4 EDITION: THE PRIMARY IS A SOAPBOX FOR ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS AND DIFFERING STRATEGIES WITH AMERICA AIRING CONCERNS THAT OBAMA IS THE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT TO OFFICE AND AN IMPEDIMENT TO OUR FUTURE, SUPREME COURT ARGUMENTS HAVE MADE CLEAR THE NEED FOR PROPOSED REPEAL SO PEOPLE HAVE THEIR HEALTH-IN ORDER TO WORK AND BE PRODUCTIVE IN SOCIETY, AS REPEAL IS PROPOSING APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNINSURED WITHOUT PENALIZATION OR DEPRIVING PEOPLE FREEDOM, BUT "NO AMERICAN LEFT ALONE": HOW GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS ARE EXPLOITING THE USE OF MONEY AND PERCEIVED RACIAL DIFFERENCES TO UNDERMINE THE UNITY AND PURPOSE OF OUR NATION -- DON'T BE DECEIVED, BE INFORMED!! THIS EDITION DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ANDREW WORDES...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RYR2zTmMsYjLqjAwBFE4_1OkZm8qnztDU9EvQyFS9pw/edit?pli=1

4-3-2012 THE REPUBLICAN REVENGE: THE GOP HAS CRAFTED A FLAWED PRIMARY WITH ROMNEY AT CENTER THAT LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE OBAMA'S 2008 CAMPAIGN, THE BAIN BOYCOTT CONTINUES TO DRAIN OBAMA, ROMNEY, AND NEWT OF 'CASH FOR NEGATIVE ADS' AND STRAINS THEIR STOCK PORTFOLIOS AND INVESTMENTS, AS OBAMA CAMPAIGN CONTINUES WHEEL OF FRAUD: A WEEK OF BAD PRESS, AND ANAAN SETS SYRIAN DEADLINE FOR PEACE AT 4-10-12:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Le9af9ff6LyTVd3zQJGssXjdlIUVehdd9mcd6j0TBto/edit>

4-6-2012 GOOD FRIDAY EDITION: WELL WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT?? A LOT... EASTER EGGS, CANDY, FELLOWSHIP, AND HOPE... AND I MEAN REAL HOPE !! HOPE THAT IS ETERNAL, NOT "HOPE" USED MERELY AS A CAMPAIGN SLOGAN... IMPEACHMENT IS ON THE TABLE:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W621iTOAFmIjk3YT6ABZIViJKJZ7LxxhJ4Zs28cAFh4/edit>

4-11-2012 FYI EDITION: SECURING OUR FUTURE - AFTER CONFRONTING OBAMA, A SURPRISE SUNDAY AGREEMENT SIGNED ON EASTER CRYSTALLIZES AFGHANISTAN POLICY AND UNEXPECTED PARTNERSHIP, SYRIAN PEACE AGREEMENT IMPLODES, AL QAEDA IN YEMEN, FRANCE PENSIVE ON RADICALIZATION FROM IMPRISONING TOULOUSE SHOOTER WHO TARGETED JEWS, 2ND NAVY SHIP IN HORMUZ, AND SAUDI ARABIA DELIVERS JUSTICE TO 50 AL QAEDA MEMBERS THAT ATTACKED THEIR OWN PEOPLE AND EMBASSIES... AND RICK SANTORUM SUSPENDS CAMPAIGN FOR FAMILY REASONS:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gn1E5U8YQkAUMWg8JX4Xe-v5xpmx09E0SNJ2gomZXsk/edit>

4-15-2012 ANNUAL TEA PARTY EDITION: DID YOU PAY YOUR TAXES?? I DID... WHAT LITTLE I MAKE!!

FOLKS, THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF IDEAS THROWN AROUND ABOUT TAXATION: FLAT TAX, FAIR TAX, TAX GIMMICKS LIKE 9-9-9, BUT WHEN GOVERNMENT IS MISAPPROPRIATING FUNDS AND LOCAL POLLSTERS RIG PRIMARIES OR DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT YOU FROM VOTING, WHO NEEDS DEAD PEOPLE?? WE HAVE GOT TO DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT, INSTEAD OF IT BEING THE CONSTANT BATTLE OF THE GOP BEING THE LESS STUPID, VS. DEMOCRATS THE MOST STUPID...
https://docs.google.com/document/d/19_ulj5Fp7zz_kM_cylxZJG3DbQ1I36H_YsOZuOXyD7Y/edit

4-20-12 FULL IMPEACHMENT EDITION: HOW MANY SCANDALS DOES IT TAKE BEFORE OBAMA IS FULLY IMPEACHED AND PREVENTED FROM EVER HOLDING OFFICE AGAIN, SO THAT HE IS HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE?? #LobbyGate #VoterGate #Certifigate #RenumerationGate #GibbsGate #ClimateGate #FastAndFuriousGunGate #GaddafiGate #KoranGate #HookerGate #AssadGate
https://docs.google.com/document/d/17i1UZnb6MOeIC_8RRlwQzguskSldy-DYuvOXgd3aN4M/edit?pli=1

CORRUPTION CAUSES BLEEDING OF TAX DOLLARS, ACCOUNTABILITY 4-28-12 ISSUE: HOUSE ISSUES 48PG. CITATION AGAINST ERIC HOLDER, FOR BEING IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS, SUMMARIZING OUTCOME OF FAST AND FURIOUS HEARINGS TO PRESS TOWARD FULL IMPEACHMENT OF OBAMA, BUDGET PARTICULARS HEAT UP OVER SAVING MEDICARE AND NOT USING IT AS A SLUSH FUND BUT ADDRESSING STUDENT LOAN POLICY, AS OBAMA THREATENS TO VETO EVERYTHING THE HOUSE DOES, THOUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER POWER HAS BEEN ARRESTED:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x3bpLxnDaw6Es0Y0N7CxleDW6ZKK-9_dbXctU2eG8BE/edit

SUMMER REVIVAL PREPARATION EDITION 5-13-2012 DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DOROTHY LINDSEY AND EVERY MOTHER: CHRONIC JOBLESSNESS, CONGRESS TOO AFRAID TO GET REAL FOR FEAR OF DISPOSSESSING THE POLITICALLY CORRECT OR IN KEEPING THE STATUS QUO, GAY MARRIAGE BEING A CAMPAIGN SLOGAN TO MANIPULATE GAY VOTERS ON IDEOLOGY, AND HOW ALL OF THIS IS AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITIES HERE IN GA.... LET US HONOR OUR MOTHERS AND THEIR WISDOM WITH WHAT THEY TAUGHT US, IN FERVENT PRAYER AND BEING COMMITTED TO ACT ON BEHALF ON THE GOOD OF OTHERS:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V2aTtZE4tNvFmWHhwfWckYwoSDhXmyUYU2X8SftIczk/edit>

HOUSE PASSES FIRST PRIORITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL BUDGETING TO FUND DEFENSE, JUST BEFORE SATURDAY ARMED FORCES DAY, OBAMA IGNORES JOB CREATION OTHER THAN TO LIE ABOUT IT ON THE WHITE HOUSE WEBSITE AND TO STOKE VOTER EMOTION RATHER THAN PRODUCE RESULTS, HOUSE PUTS ALL OPTIONS ON THE TABLE REGARDING CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS AND ERIC HOLDER... PLUS, THE DOG ATE MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13DaEJ9lp1VLURM8zqI4jYaCPnTLK6whcbsbQgETqnBI8/edit>

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 5-25-2012 EDITION: TEA PARTY UNVEILS JOB CREATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION STRATEGY, AS IT SLATES REDUCING FEDERAL WORKFORCE 1/5, BY REPEAL AND INJUNCTION TO HIRE WITHOUT OBAMACARE, THE TEA PARTY JOINS ROMNEY ON A 30 STATES IN 30 WEEKS STRATEGY...GEORGIA REVISITS PENNY SALES TAX T-SPLOST INITIATIVES, AND THE TEA PARTY DISCUSSES FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESSES, TWO CRUCIAL DATES SEPTEMBER 30TH--FACING 5TH GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AS WE TRANSITION OFF OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION BUDGETING, AND DECEMBER 31ST--BEWARE OF TAX INCREASES:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fgvJV2AWN1gRDYcs3GXFQv2ID2xXsH6-n1cooUVIY10/edit>

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER EDITION 6-1-12: OBAMA HAS NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE, FORMER SHERIFF VICTOR HILL HAS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THAT GOES BACK OVER 7YRS. TIED TO MEXICAN CARTELS AND SUSPECTED TIES TO FAST AND FURIOUS, UNEMPLOYMENT STUCK OVER 8% AS GAS PRICES GO DOWN BECAUSE SCHOOL IS OUT AND PEOPLE STILL CAN'T FIND WORK DESPITE NUMBERS GOING DOWN BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FILE FOR MORE UNEMPLOYMENT....
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dtdy7S-0ldPexoHmTRRnPB7CgrkJFqMRXm-vI8iu8-8/edit>

SUMMER JOB CREATION AND GOVERNMENT EVALUATION 6-7-2012 EDITION: OBAMA AND THE SENATE ARE TO BLAME FOR A SUCKY ECONOMY... *IT'S NOT ALL OF CONGRESS AND NOT THE HOUSE, THOUGH THEY WANT SALARIES THAT ARE \$200 BILLION MORE THAN OUR MILITARY BUDGET, WHICH IS A*

TOTALLY TOP-HEAVY GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONING UNCONSTITUTIONALLY.... INVESTORS WANT ROMNEY TO PICK UP THE AXE...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aMGJINGeEwxkP9SYpzTNmhNd_UWDTxm8_3H9a0EJfRA/edit#

SPECIAL EDITION LET'S TAKE BACK THE SENATE 6-11-12: TEA PARTY 2012 COLOR-CODED GUIDE TO SENATE SEATS....

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wz9M2nS5hJaf70LmDsIW-OQMFe7IPF00fw9BGdo4x0/edit#heading=h.wrr7gcoxvrxk>

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE AMERICAN DREAM?? MURDERGATE, UNEMPLOYMENT, SEXUAL ABUSE AND SOCIETAL UPHEAVAL, RAGING DEFICITS, AND WORLD TENSION MAKE A CASE FOR THE COMPARISON TO THE TIMES OF NOAH AND APT BACKDROP FOR MAYAN 2012 PROPHECY OF CATASTROPHE...

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Ly6dF7RGpohXFISTUVfw9s8JaMWjA0VDbCK1mY5bmY/edit#>

6-28-12 "THE SNAKE BITES THE TAIL" EDITION - THE SUPREME COURT RULES, HOLDER CONTEMPT VOTE BEFORE CONGRESS, AND THE DEFICIT OF INTELLIGENCE IN THE BLACK CAUCUS BANKRUPTING DEMOCRATS' PARTY AND OUR CONGRESS OF LEADERSHIP....

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cFUEyF6r8eLazkDyF56XHbz-sD2s6V6DZMZZkFR3fuQ/edit#>

DESPITE SEEMING "HEALTH CARE WIN" VIA SUPREME COURT DISREGARDING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND KICKING THE HEALTH CARE TAX BACK TO CONGRESS AND VOTERS, OBAMA IS BEGGING DONORS FOR MONEY, UNLIKE 2008.... AS WE HEAR OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM, WE FEEL LESS LIKE "THE HOME OF THE BRAVE" AND RATHER "THE HOME OF JOBLESSNESS".... THE TEA PARTY STAKES NOVEMBER AND MITT ROMNEY FOR CONFRONTING REPEAL AND REPLACE AND CREATING JOBS....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZViBEXz_jZScT_4jGlpPbSVdeBit7oPIE5CD-Wh3HS4/edit