

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

November 30, 2012

[The President and Vice President Meet with President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico](#)



On Tuesday, President Obama and Vice President Biden welcomed Mexican President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto to the White House. It is a longstanding tradition for Mexican presidents-elect to visit the Oval Office shortly after winning an election.

President Obama congratulated President-elect Peña Nieto on his victory and spoke about his hopes for a strong partnership between the U.S. and Mexico:

"I know that President Peña Nieto has a very ambitious reform agenda, and we are very much looking forward to having a fruitful discussion here today about not only how we can strengthen our economic ties, our trades ties, our coordination along the border, improving our joint competitiveness, as

well as common security issues. But I think what I know the President-elect is also interested in is a discussion about both regional and global issues, because Mexico has become not simply an important bilateral partner, but is today a very important multilateral, multinational leader on a whole range of issues from energy to climate change, and we look forward to working with Mexico not only on regional issues, but also on global issues."

You can watch President Obama's remarks [here](#).

[President Obama Urges Congress to Extend Middle Class Tax Cuts](#)



On Wednesday, President Obama delivered remarks at the White House stressing the need for congressional action on extending middle class tax cuts for millions for Americans. If Congress fails to act, taxes will be raised by as much as \$2,200 on the typical middle class family. In his remarks, the President said:

"Families and small businesses would, therefore, be able to enjoy some peace of mind heading into Christmas and heading into the New Year. And it would give us more time than next year to work together on a comprehensive plan to bring down our deficits, to streamline our tax system, to do it in a balanced way -- including asking the wealthiest Americans to pay a little more, so that we can still

invest in things like education and training, and science and research."

The President is calling on Congress to continue current tax rates for the 98% of Americans and 97% of small businesses, as part of his efforts to protect middle-class security and grow the economy from the middle out.

Go [here](#) to watch President Obama's remarks.

The President Holds Cabinet Meeting

On Wednesday, the President held his first Cabinet meeting since winning re-election on November 6th. He took the opportunity to thank his Cabinet for the work they do and to lay out some of the challenges facing the country in his second term, saying:

"So my main purpose is to say thank you to them, but also to remind them that we've got a lot of work to do. There are going to be a few specific issues that we spend a lot of time on. One in particular that I should note is that the devastating impact of Hurricane Sandy is still being felt by families all across New York and New Jersey, parts of Connecticut. We are very pleased that under the leadership initially of Janet Napolitano and FEMA, but now Shaun Donovan, who's heading up a task force, we're focusing not only on recovery, but now on rebuilding and making sure those communities come back stronger than ever and people get the help that they need. So that will be an important topic because it's really going to be an interagency concern."



The President also wished Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano a happy birthday.

You can watch the President's remarks [here](#).

The President and Vice President Hold Meeting with Business Leaders

On Wednesday, President Obama and Vice President Biden held a meeting with business leaders at the White House. The President and Vice President discussed how to continue growing the American economy and finding a balanced approach to reducing our deficit.



The President is committed to strengthening the American economy and growing our economy from the middle class out. During his re-election campaign, the President stressed the need to find a balanced way to reduce our deficit that protects key investments we need to make and asks all Americans to contribute their fair share to paying down our nation's debt.

President Obama and Governor Romney Meet for Lunch

On Thursday, President Obama had lunch with Governor Mitt Romney at White House.

According to a readout from the White House, Governor Romney congratulated the President for the success of his campaign and wished him well over the coming four years. They discussed America's leadership in the world and the importance of maintaining that leadership position in the future, and they also pledged to stay in touch and work together on shared interests that may arise in the future.

The President Travels to Hatfield, PA to Discuss the Fiscal Cliff and Extending Middle Class Tax Cuts

On Friday, President Obama traveled to Hatfield, Pennsylvania to listen to Americans' concerns about the fiscal cliff and how they feel congressional inaction will impact their lives. In Hatfield, the President made the case for action on preventing a tax hike on millions of middle-class Americans. He said:

"I believe America only thrives when we have a strong and growing middle class. And I believe we're at our best when everybody who works hard has a chance to get ahead. That's what I believe. And I know that's what the founders of this company believe as well. We were talking about these guys' dad, who I understand just passed away at the age of 101. So these guys have good genes in addition to inventive minds. And the story of generations starting businesses, hiring folks, making sure that if you work hard, you can get ahead, that's what America is all about. And that's at the heart of the plan that I've been talking about all year."

During his visit, the President toured The Rodon Group manufacturing facility. It is the only American manufacturing facility that produces K'NEX brand toys, including Tinker Toys, K'NEX Building Sets and Angry Bird Building Sets. The Rodon Group is a third generation family business that employs over 150 people at their Hatfield facilities.

Issues in the News

Talking Points: Fighting for Tax Cuts for the Middle Class and Impact on Small Businesses (11/28/12)

- President Obama will continue to meet this week with business and civic leaders – from both inside and outside the Beltway – to talk about his plans for creating more jobs and hear their thoughts on job creation and fostering economic growth.
- With respect to the fiscal cliff, leaders on both sides of the aisle have made a pledge to cooperate over the weeks ahead and take action as quickly as they can. Additionally, the President's team of senior officials has been directed to work with Members of Congress and congressional staff.
- We are seeing promising signals that Washington Republicans are considering a solution that works for both parties. Republicans in Congress are clearly and openly leaving tax revenue on the table as a component of a balanced effort to reduce our nation's deficit. President Obama has continually shown his support for looking at both revenues and cuts to spending in order to bring down the deficit in a balanced fashion. So the President welcomes these recent developments, but now it is critical for the GOP to lay out specific details on what they will consider as well as their own plan.
- As we find ourselves in the holiday season, both parties should work together to pass a renewal of tax cuts for the middle class, so American families can have some added certainty at this crucial time for our nation's economy. If we take swift action, we can avoid a blow to consumer spending, which accounts for roughly 70% of the American economy.
- Through an extension of middle class tax cuts, every single American will receive a tax break on the first \$250,000 of their income. Moreover, income taxes will not increase at all for 98% of families across the country as well as 97% of small businesses. But if we don't pass an extension, hardworking families will get hit with an income tax hike of \$2,200 in a matter of only a couple weeks. We all are in agreement that taxes shouldn't be increased on the middle class. The House has received a bill from the Senate to extend tax cuts on the middle class. There is no need for delay.
- Furthermore, one of the most significant actions we can take for our economic security is laying the foundation for middle-class job growth over the long term through a reduction in the deficit.

- President Obama's plan brings down the deficit by \$4 trillion – taking a balanced approach that asks the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share and continues making the investments needed for economic growth. Already, the President has signed \$1 trillion in spending cuts, and he is eager to work with both parties on a balanced effort to continue reducing the deficit.
- Though President Obama has already proposed a detailed plan to bring down the deficit, he is not married to every single piece of it. The President remains open to reaching a compromise, but throughout these discussions, his bottom line will be a balanced approach that's best for middle-class families.
- The problems we face are difficult, but they can be solved. President Obama has emphasized for months that he will work hard each and every day for America's middle class – fighting to move our nation forward and build our economy not from the top down, but from the middle out.
- President Obama's agenda for the second term is producing more jobs and bringing back middle-class security through key investments in small businesses, American manufacturing, education, and clean energy. The President is ready and willing to get down to business – working with both Democrats and Republicans to move the middle class forward.

Small Businesses:

- This week, President Obama met with small business owners to talk about the need to prevent a tax hike on small businesses before the year comes to a close. Keeping in mind the holiday shopping season is underway and that consumer spending accounts for roughly 70% of the U.S. economy, President Obama also spoke to these small business owners about the ways in which they would be affected by a tax increase on the middle class.
- President Obama's plans for the second term include investments in small businesses that encourage innovation and lead to job creation, so that hard work pays off. The President has a plan to cut taxes for businesses that decide to employ more workers or raise their wages, jumpstarting job growth among small businesses.
- However, before the year comes to a close, we are dealing with a number of deadlines and Congress must take action. President Obama has been working toward compromise solutions that will keep taxes from increasing on 98% of families across the country and 97% of U.S. small businesses. This is good news for every single small business, and here are two major reasons why:
 - Taxes will remain low on the first \$250,000 of every business owner's income. However, if Congress does not take action, a small business owner earning \$120,000, for instance, could be hit with a tax hike of as much as \$4,600.
 - Middle-class families won't see their taxes increase by \$2,200 – dodging a blow to consumer spending which accounts for roughly 70% of our economy. With holiday season underway, both parties should work together to pass a renewal of tax cuts for the middle class, so both American families and small business owners have an additional sense of certainty at this crucial time for the economy.
- The plan put forward by President Obama is focused on small businesses on Main Street, not people like Donald Trump and hedge fund managers. We know that America's small businesses are responsible for creating two out of every three net new jobs in the private sector – fostering economic growth in communities in every corner of the country and providing millions of Americans, both families and individuals, with a shot at achieving the American dream. Keeping taxes low for 97% of small businesses will lead to job creation.
- Whether it's the mom-and-pop stores in our local communities or the startups in the high-tech world that keep America innovative and competitive, small businesses constitute the backbone of our nation's economy. In President Obama's second term, he plans to keep building on the 18 small business tax breaks he's already signed into law, but before we can do that, we must reach a compromise solution that prevents taxes from increasing on 97% of small businesses beginning on January 1 of next year.

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Talking Points: #My2K (11/28/12)

- At the White House today, President Obama talked about the need to pass an extension of tax cuts for the middle class for 98% of Americans and 97% of small businesses. If Congress fails to take action, a typical middle-class family of four would face a tax hike of \$2,200.
- The White House also began a new effort today to make it easier for Americans to make their voices heard over the course of this debate – the #My2K online movement to extend the middle class tax cuts. The Obama Administration will encourage Americans in every corner of the country to talk about the difference \$2,000 makes in their lives – both on WH.gov/my2k and with the hashtag #My2K on Twitter, in addition to other social media outlets. The Administration will bring attention to the #My2K stories it receives as a way to spotlight the negative effects of inaction by Congress.
- One year ago, as part of another major battle to stand up for the middle class, tens of thousands of hardworking Americans made calls, wrote tweets, and sent emails to their Members of Congress urging them to do what’s right. That’s also what took place earlier this year, when college students from coast to coast took a stand and insisted that Congress act to keep student loan rates from rising. Things get done in our nation’s capital when everyday Americans make their voice heard – and we heard President Obama call on the American people to lend their voices to this effort one more time.
- We are seeing promising signals that Washington Republicans are considering a solution that works for both parties. Republicans in Congress are clearly and openly leaving tax revenue on the table as a component of a balanced effort to reduce our nation’s deficit – something the GOP hasn’t done in over two decades. President Obama has continually shown his support for looking at both revenues and cuts to spending in order to bring down the deficit in a balanced fashion. So the President welcomes these recent developments, but now it is critical for the GOP to lay out specific details on what they will consider, as well as identify their own plan.
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