

# OBAMA 2012 REELECTION & SECOND PRESIDENTIAL TERM

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



- 2012 Reelection
- Domestic Benchmarks in the Second Term, 2013-2017
- Foreign Policy Benchmarks in the Second Term (2013-2017)
- Backlash (Tea Party, Birtherism)
- Being a Black President (Trayvon Martin, Emanuel Nine)

# OBAMA/BIDEN & ROMNEY/RYAN



- Obama, the incumbent president, had a record on which to run. Though the economic recovery was not yet complete, the trajectory of leading economic indicators was positive. The passage of 2009 Recovery Act proved to be a plus. The legislation enacted to tax cuts, expanded benefits to the poor and unemployed (expansion of unemployment insurance and food stamps), fiscal relief to the states, and tax credits (earned income tax credit and child tax credit). His other domestic accomplishment lay in the auto industry bailout. His foreign policy achievements lay in the killing of bin Laden and the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq that was completed in December 2011.

# OBAMA POSITIONED ROMNEY INTO A DEFENSIVE POSTURE

**Bin Laden is DEAD**

**General Motors is Alive**

**If the Republicans had won in 2008 it would most likely be the other way around**

**(any questions? thought not.)**



- This campaign slogan provided a pithy summary of Obama's first term: bin Laden was dead and GM was alive! Moreover, Obama, sitting in the mid-40s in his polling, portrayed Romney "as an out-of-touch businessman bent on protecting the rich." He was described as engaged in "vulture capitalism." Moreover, Romney, who as governor of Massachusetts, worked with Democrats to enact Commonwealth Care, a veritable blueprint for the Affordable Care Act, emphasized its seeming difference with the national health care legislation.

# DOMESTIC BENCHMARKS IN THE SECOND TERM



- Though President Obama crusaded for anti-gun legislation in the wake of the Sandy Hook massacre at a Connecticut elementary school, the bill failed to get the necessary 60 votes in the United States Senate in 2013.
- Despite an earlier endorsement of the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 that forbade same-sex marriage, President Obama embraced the Supreme Court decision in 2015 in *OBERGEFELL V. HODGES* in a 5-4 ruling that reversed DOMA



# FOREIGN POLICY BENCHMARKS IN THE SECOND TERM



- Iran Nuclear Deal (2015) restricted Iran's nuclear enrichment to prevent the imminent development of that nation's nuclear capacity; the USA, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, China, and other signatories placed time limits on uranium enrichment and centrifuge development. Donald Trump, Obama's presidential successor, withdrew from the deal.
- Trans-Pacific Partnership (2016) involved 12 Pacific Rim nations to lower tariffs and and other measures to restrict China's trade and economic ascendancy in the Pacific; also scuttled by the succeeding Trump Administration.

# RACIST BACKLASH: TEA PARTY AND BIRTHERISM



- Pretended outrage over “runaway” federal spending energized political opposition to the presidency of Barack Obama. It fed GOP victories at the polls and activated the pernicious and untruthful charge that President Obama was born in Kenya and was therefore ineligible to be the nation’s Chief Executive.

# BEING A BLACK PRESIDENT



- The 2013 murder of Trayvon Martin, a 17 year old youth, by the later acquitted vigilante, spurred the founding of Black Lives Matter.
- President Obama remarked that “ you know, when Trayvon Martin was first shot I said that this could have been my son.”



# BEING A BLACK PRESIDENT



- At the funeral of Reverend Clementa Pinckney, one of the nine murdered at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, President Obama led in singing AMAZING GRACE.