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Obama Blames Bush and GOP

President **Barack Obama** made it clear at a fund-raiser in Atlanta today: The Democrats are still running against former President **George W. Bush**.



President Barack Obama speaks at a Democratic National Committee fund-raising event in Atlanta, Monday. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

At the Democratic Party event, [the president said](#) the Republican Party hasn't differentiated itself from his predecessor. "They don't have a single idea that's different from George Bush's ideas—not one," Obama said to applause. Obama rarely refers to Bush by name during speeches, preferring instead to say "the previous administration."

He said Republican policies caused the recession. "We got here after 10 years of an economic agenda in Washington that was pretty straight forward," Obama said. "You cut taxes for millionaires, you cut rules for special interests, and you cut working folks loose to fend for themselves. That was the philosophy of the last administration and their friends in Congress."

The Obama administration wants to extend tax cuts enacted under Bush for people making less than about \$250,000 but not those making more. Republicans want to extend the tax cuts for everyone, included the wealthy.

Obama's comments come as the economy is front and center in the midterm elections. Republicans have criticized Democratic efforts to spur economic growth, saying they haven't strengthened the economy or stabilized unemployment, which stands at close to 10%.

By comparing Republican lawmakers to Bush, who left office with low approval ratings, Obama is attempting to blame the GOP for the U.S. economy's current woes. At the fund-raiser, he touted his administration's efforts to stabilize the economy, by investing billions in clean energy, providing tax cuts to small businesses and overhauling Wall Street regulation.

He criticized the Republican Party for saying it wanted to repeal legislation overhauling health care and Wall Street regulation, and for opposing legislation that would expand credit and loans to small businesses.

Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** of Kentucky offered the opposite view. In [a statement](#) in anticipation of Democrats' action on a bill aimed at providing more stimulus money to help state and local governments avoid laying off teachers, police and others, McConnell declared: "Enough is enough." He said that "Democrats can call say these bills are a response to the jobs crisis all they want. But the American people have already issued their verdict. The American people have seen the bitter results of the Democrats' so-called economic agenda. Every bill they pass only adds more burdens on the people we need to get us out of this economic ditch.

"Whether it's the health care bill or financial regulation, every bill they pass seems to have as a prerequisite that it kills more jobs. If a bill doesn't kill jobs or make it harder to create them, they're not interested."

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