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Former top presidential adviser says Obama LIED about his support for gay marriage for years so he could get elected

- President told a newspaper in 1996 when he first ran for statewide office that he supported gay marriage
- Two years later he wrote 'undecided' on the same paper's candidate questionnaire about the topic
- By 2008, as a presidential candidate, he was firmly in the 'traditional marriage' camp
- But Obama returned to his 1996 leanings in 2010, telling the country that his position had 'evolved'
- Former Obama advisor David Axelrod claims in a book Obama lamented to him that 'I'm just not very good at bulls***ing' – but another of his stories from the same book has already been labeled as fiction

By [David Martosko, Us Political Editor For Dailymail.com](#)

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Longtime Barack Obama adviser David Axelrod writes in his new memoir that Barack Obama lied about his position on gay marriage so he could get elected president in 2008.

And documents reveal that Obama responded to a questionnaire in 1996 from the Chicago-based Outlines newspaper, as he was making his first run for the state Senate in Illinois, that he strongly favored legalizing same-sex unions.

'I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages,' Obama wrote then.

Two years later, though, as his political future began to take shape, he told the same newspaper that he was 'undecided.'

In 2008, under the glare of a presidential campaign and the weight of history, his public rhetoric swung to a position that America's Bible belt could embrace – support for only a traditional definition of marriage.

But as president in 2010 he returned publicly to his original position 14 years after he first articulated it.



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HE LIED: Obama misled the public about his views on gay marriage in order to get to the White House, according to his longtime close adviser David Axelrod (center, pictured in the Oval Office in 2010)



© MCT via Getty Images

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By the year 2000, as an Illinois state senator, Obama already been through a flip-flop on same-sex marriage, one that wouldn't come full circle for more than another decade

Axelrod writes in 'Believer: My Forty Years in Politics' that he told the future president in 2008 that he should hide the ball and deceive the American public for political purposes.

'Opposition to gay marriage was particularly strong in the black church,' the former Obama insider writes, 'and as he ran for higher office, he grudgingly accepted the counsel of more pragmatic folks like me, and modified his position to support civil unions rather than marriage, which he would term a "sacred union".'

That duplicity reached its apex during a 2008 appearance at Pastor Rick Warren's Saddleback Church, a wellspring of American evangelical Christian thought.

'I believe that marriage is the union between a man and a woman,' he said then. 'Now, for me as a Christian – for

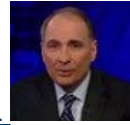
me – for me as a Christian, it is also a sacred union. God's in the mix.'

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Friends of Barack Obama
2152 E. 71st Street
Chicago, Illinois 60649
Ph. (312) 363-1996
Fax (312) 363-5099

Outlines
1115 W. Belmont, 2-D
Chicago, Illinois 60657

Dear Ms. Ring:

Below are my responses to your questionnaire:

- 1) I would support and co-sponsor a state civil rights bill for gays and lesbians.
- 2) I do not favor a statewide registry of names of people who test positive for HIV.
- 3) I favor an increase in funding for state AIDS services.
- 4) I favor more aggressive (and better funded) prevention programs, particularly targeted at young people and minority communities where infection rates continue to increase.
- 5) I favor mandatory Medicaid coverage for persons with HIV/AIDS.
- 6) I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages.
- 7) I believe in the rights of gays and lesbians to become foster parents, adopt children and have the right to custody of their own children on the same basis as heterosexuals.
- 8) I support a woman's right to choose an abortion, favor Medicaid funding of abortions for poor women, and oppose parental notification laws.
- 9) I vigorously support existing affirmative action programs.

Please call me at the number listed above if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

 Barack Obama
 Candidate for State Senate, 13th District

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In 1996 when Barack Obama ran for statewide office in Illinois for the first time, he told a

Chicago newspaper called Outlines that 'I favor legalizing same-sex marriages'

OUTLINES/BLACKlines CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE '08
 Illinois SENATE Candidate: BARACK OBAMA District: D-13TH SENATE

4) Do you favor legalizing same-sex marriage? UNDECIDED
 Would you support a bill to repeal Illinois legislation prohibiting same-sex marriage? UNDECIDED
 Would you co-sponsor it? UNDECIDED

© Windy City Times

By 1998 Obama's transformation into a more cautious – and electable – politician had begun; he told the same paper that he was 'undecided' about marriage rights for gays and lesbians

And just two days before he would be elected president, he told an interview on MTV that 'I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. I am not in favor of gay marriage.'

Six months into his first term as president, Obama would ask Congress to repeal the Defense Of Marriage Act, an anti-gay-unions law. THE following year he told a group of liberal bloggers that he was having a change of heart.

'Attitudes evolve, including mine,' Obama said then.

If he was having a change of heart, Axelrod writes, it was in the process of returning to his true feelings.

'If Obama's views were "evolving" publicly, they were fully evolved behind closed doors,' he relates in his book.

'The president was champing at the bit to announce his support for the right of gay and lesbian couples to wed – and having watched him struggle with this issue for years, I was ready, too.'



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HIDE THE BALL: Two days before his first presidential election, he told an MTV audience that 'I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. I am not in favor of gay marriage.'



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FULL CIRCLE: Obama publicly said in 2012 what he had believed for years – that he backed marriage rights for homosexuals

Barack Obama speaks about gay marriage in all states in 2013



Time magazine got the first sneak peek at the section of the book, released Tuesday, that deals with Obama's on-again, off-again relationship with the gay marriage issue.

Axelrod's recollections pair a picture of Obama as a tortured soul, unable to square his self-image as a truth teller with the reality of his political lie.

'Having prided himself on forthrightness, though, Obama never felt comfortable with his compromise and, no doubt, compromised position,' he writes. 'He routinely stumbled over the question when it came up in debates or interviews.'

Axelrod writes that he recalls Obama telling him: 'I'm just not very good at bullshitting' – a claim that Republicans would dispute.

Ultimately it was Vice President Joe Biden who flushed his boss out, saying on the Sunday morning 'Meet the Press' talk show that he was 'absolutely comfortable' with the idea of gay marriage.

BELIEVER

DAVID AXELROD

MY FORTY YEARS IN POLITICS



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BELIEVABLE? Axelrod's book has already stirred controversy with a story about Mitt Romney that the former Republican nominee's closest personal aide says is a 'lie'

With that, Obama had to come forward.

'Every single American – gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender – every single American deserves to be treated equally in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of our society,' he said at an annual dinner of the Human Rights Campaign, America's leading gay-rights group.

And on May 9, 2012 in an interview with ABC News, he said: 'I've just concluded that for me personally, it is

important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married.'

Last month during an interview with a YouTube celebrity, the president said he hopes the U.S. Supreme Court will issue a ruling this year that would prevent states from banning gay marriage.

'I'm hopeful the Supreme Court comes to the right decision,' he said.

Axelrod's recollections might be taken with a grain of salt, since the first published excerpt from his book focused on a story that was later labeled 'ridiculous' and a 'lie.'

He claimed that during a post-election concession phone call in 2012, Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney hinted to Obama that he won primarily on the strength of black voter turnout in inner cities.

'You really did a great job of getting the vote out in places like Cleveland and Milwaukee,' Romney told the president, according to Axelrod's version of events.

But Romney's personal aide Garrett Jackson said he was in the room, listening to Romney's end of the conversation, and nothing like that conversation ever occurred.

The revelation appeared timed to affect the public standing of Romney if he had decided to run for president again in 2016. Ultimately, the former Massachusetts governor opted to stay on the sidelines.

'I just hope this lie is the work of David Axelrod and not the president,' Jackson told CBS. 'It's ridiculous. I was very disappointed they would make that up.'



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[tehgarr](#), N_a, United States, about 12 hours ago

Oh no, what happened to all the "Axelrod is just as credible as Obama" comments. Hypocrites.

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[midwest](#), United States, about 12 hours ago

rom a family of atheists, his actual opinion is whatever will help HIM the most. And even with his wife, he appeases her by acting Christian, when he is not. So this is a very natural lie for him.

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[Detroit - Michigan - USA](#), United States, about 12 hours ago

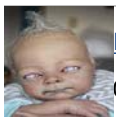
lied, imagine that.

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[k](#), Boston, United States, about 12 hours ago

O SHOCKED.

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[Womble](#), Somewhere out there, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

Well, so Axelrod told him to lie. Just as Goerge W. Bush lied about WMDs and Iraq., But Bush's lie got this country in what looks like perpetual trouble.

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[Justabrake](#), New York, United States, about 12 hours ago

He's a pathological lier !

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[G Bailey](#), Springfield, United States, about 12 hours ago

It's not shocking that Obama has continuously lied about everything under the sun. What is shocking is that there are so many people who believe his lies...STILL.

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[nohopeforus](#), anywhere, United States, about 12 hours ago

LMFAO!! Obama didn't tell the truth? No way!!!

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, Salt Lake City, United States, about 12 hours ago

pper.... he can join Romney.

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[Bob](#), Langhorne, United States, about 12 hours ago

Probably the smallest lie of a very long list of lies...the rest of the lies are what's killing me!

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[rang](#), London, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

s and do anything to get elected.

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