

# Obama: ‘Now Is The Time’

## President Eyes Immigration Overhaul

BY JULIE PACE AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Declaring “now is the time” to fix broken immigration laws, President Barack Obama on Tuesday heralded a rare show of bi-partisanship between the White House and Senate lawmakers on basic plans for putting millions of illegal immigrants on a pathway to citizenship, cracking down on businesses that employ people illegally and tightening security at the borders.

But both the White House and Senate proposals for tackling the complex and emotionally charged issue still lack key details. And potential roadblocks are already emerging over how to structure the road to citizenship and whether a bill would will same-sex couples — and that’s all before a Senate measure can be debated, approved and sent to the Republican-controlled House where opposition is likely to be stronger.

Obama, in the heart of the heavily Hispanic Southwest, said Congress is showing “a genuine desire to get this done soon.” But mindful of previous immigrations efforts that have failed, Obama warned that the debate would become more difficult as it gets closer to a conclusion.

“The question now is simple,” Obama said during a campaign-style event in Las Vegas, one

week after being sworn in for a second term in the White House. “Do we have the resolve as a people, as a country, as a government to finally put this issue behind us? I believe that we do.”

Despite possible obstacles to come, the broad agreement between the White House and bipartisan lawmakers in the Senate represents a drastic shift in Washington’s willingness to tackle immigration, an issue that has languished for years. Much of that shift is politically motivated, due to the growing influence of Hispanics in presidential and other elections and their overwhelming support for Obama in November.

The separate White House and Senate proposals focus on the same principles: providing a way for most of the estimated 11 million people already in the U.S. illegally to become citizens, strengthening border security, cracking down on employers who hire illegal immigrants and streamlining the legal immigration system.

A consensus around the question of citizenship could help lawmakers clear one major hurdle that has blocked previous immigration efforts. Many Republicans have opposed allowing illegal immigrants to become citizens, saying that would be an unfair reward for people



Obama

who have broken the law.

Details on how to achieve a pathway to citizenship still could prove to be a major sticking point between the White House and the Senate group, which is comprised of eight lawmakers — four Democrats and four Republicans.

Obama and the Senate lawmakers all want to require people here illegally to register with the government, pass criminal and national security background checks, pay fees and penalties as well as back taxes, and wait until existing immigration backlogs are cleared before getting in line for green cards. After reaching that status, U.S. law says people can become citizens after five years.

The Senate proposal says that entire process couldn’t start until the borders were fully secure and tracking of people in the U.S. on visas had improved. Those vague requirements would almost certainly make the timeline for achieving citizenship longer than what the White House is proposing.

The president urged lawmakers to avoid making the citizenship pathway so difficult that it would appear out of reach for many illegal immigrants.

“We all agree that these men and women have to earn their way to citizenship,” he said. “But for comprehensive immigration reform to work, it must make clear from the outset that there is a pathway to citizenship.”

“It won’t be a quick process, but it will be a fair process,” Obama added.

# Soldier With New Arms Determined To Be Independent

BY ALEX DOMINGUEZ  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — After weeks of round-the-clock medical care, Brendan Marrocco insisted on rolling his own wheelchair into a news conference using his new transplanted arms. Then he brushed his hair to one side.

Such simple tasks would go unnoticed in most patients. But for Marrocco, who lost all four limbs while serving in Iraq, these little actions demonstrate how far he’s come only six weeks after getting a double-arm transplant.

Wounded by a roadside bomb in 2009, the former soldier said he could get by without legs, but he hated living without arms.

“Not having arms takes so much away from you. Even your personality, you know. You talk with your hands, and when you don’t have that, you’re kind of lost for a while,”

BRENDAN MARROCCO

day he was to be discharged from the hospital.

Next comes several years of rehabilitation, including physical therapy that is going to become more difficult as feeling returns to the arms.

Before the surgery, he had been living with his older brother in a specially equipped home on New York’s Staten Island that had been built with the help of several charities. Shortly after moving in, he said it was “a relief to not have to rely on other people so much.”

The home was heavily damaged by Superstorm Sandy last fall.

said he has for other wounded soldiers.

“Just not to give up hope. You know, life always gets better, and you’re still alive,” he said. “And to be stubborn. There’s a lot of people who will say you can’t do something. Just be stubborn and do it anyway. Work your ass off and do it.”

Dr. W.P. Andrew Lee, head of the team that conducted the surgery, said the new arms could eventually provide much of the same function as his original arms and hands. Another double-arm transplant patient can now use chopsticks and tie his shoes.

Lee said Marrocco’s recovery has been remarkable, and the transplant is helping to “restore physical and psychological well-being.”

Tuesday’s news conference was held to mark a milestone in his recovery — the



AMY DAVIS/BALTIMORE SUN/MCT  
Brendan Marrocco attends a press conference, January 29, 2013, held at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, with his team of doctors to discuss his bilateral arm transplant surgery, which was done on Dec. 18, 2012. Marrocco lost all four limbs in a roadside bomb attack in Iraq in 2009. Marrocco, from Staten Island, New York, is the first successful double arm transplant at Hopkins, and only the 7th patient in the U.S. to undergo this surgery.

“We’ll get it back together. We’ve been through a lot worse than that,” his father, Alex Marrocco, said.

For the next few months, Marrocco plans to live with his brother in an apartment near the hospital.

The former infantryman said he can already move the elbow on his left arm and rotate it a little bit, but there hasn’t been much movement yet for his right arm, which was transplanted higher up.

Marrocco’s mother, Michelle Mar-

rocco, said he can’t hug her yet, so he brushes his left arm against her face.

The first time he moved his left arm was a complete surprise, an involuntary motion while friends were visiting him in the hospital, he said.

“I had no idea what was going through my mind. I was with my friends, and it happened by accident,” he recalled. “One of my friends said ‘Did you do that on purpose?’ And I didn’t know I did it.”

## Senate Confirms Kerry Nomination For State Dept.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate overwhelmingly confirmed President Barack Obama’s choice of five-term Sen. John Kerry to be secretary of state, with Republicans and Democrats praising him as the ideal successor to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The vote Tuesday was 94-3. One senator — Kerry — voted present and accepted congratulations from colleagues on the Senate floor. The roll call came just hours after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the man who has led the panel for the past four years.

No date has been set for Kerry’s swearing-in, but in a letter to Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Kerry says his resignation is effective at 4 p.m. Friday. The State Departments plans a welcoming ceremony for Kerry on Monday.

Obama tapped Kerry, 69, the son of a diplomat, decorated Vietnam veteran and 2004 Democratic presidential candidate, to succeed Clinton, who is stepping down after four years. The Massachusetts Democrat, who had pined for the job but was passed over in 2009, has served as Obama’s unofficial envoy, smoothing fractious ties with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“Sen. Kerry will need no introduction to the world’s political and military leaders and will begin Day One fully conversant not only with the intricacies of U.S. foreign policy, but able to act on a multitude of international stages,” said Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., who will succeed Kerry as committee chairman.

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## Judge OKs BP’s Guilty Plea To Manslaughter

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — BP PLC closed the book on the Justice Department’s criminal probe of its role in the Deepwater Horizon disaster and Gulf oil spill Tuesday, when a federal judge agreed to let the London-based oil giant plead guilty to manslaughter charges for the deaths of 11 rig workers and pay a record \$4 billion in penalties.

What the plea deal approved by U.S. District Judge Sarah Vance doesn’t resolve, though, is the federal government’s civil claims against BP. The company could pay billions more for environmental damage from its 2010 spill.

Vance noted that the company already has racked up more than \$24 billion in spill-related expenses and has estimated it will pay a total of \$42 billion to fully resolve its liability for the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

The judge said the \$4 billion criminal settlement is “just punishment” for BP, even though the company could have paid far more without going broke. In accepting the deal, Vance also cited the risk that a trial could result in a much lower fine for BP, one potentially capped by law at \$8.2 million.

The criminal settlement calls for BP to pay nearly \$1.3 billion in fines. The largest previous corporate criminal penalty assessed by the Justice Department was a \$1.2 billion fine against drug maker Pfizer in 2009.

## Egypt’s Army Chief Warns State Could Collapse

PORT SAID, Egypt (AP) — Thousands of mourners chanting for the downfall of Egypt’s president marched in funerals again Tuesday in the restive city of Port Said as the army chief warned the state could collapse if the latest political crisis drags on.

Army chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi’s warning, his first comments after six days of rioting and violence across much of the country, appeared aimed at pressuring Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in particular but also his opponents to find some common ground and the worst political crisis to hit Egypt since the ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak nearly two years ago.

So far, the military — which for months seems to have had an understanding with Morsi — has allowed him to deal with the crisis and on his orders deployed troops and tanks over the weekend in Port Said and Suez, two riot-torn cities along the strategic Suez Canal.

But it has been willing to go only so far, clearly reluctant to clash with protesters. Troops stood by and watched Monday night as thousands took to the streets in direct defiance of a nighttime curfew and a 30-day state of emergency declared by Morsi in the cities. Residents of the two cities and Ismailiya, a third city also under the emergency, marched just as the curfew came into force at 9 p.m.

The last time el-Sissi delved into politics was late last year when he invited political leaders to an informal gathering to ease tensions during clashes and protests at the time. The invitation was swiftly withdrawn and leaders from Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood later suggested el-Sissi overstepped the boundaries by intervening.

## Flare Meant For Outdoors Started Brazil Fire

SANTA MARIA, Brazil (AP) — Penny-pinching by a band known for its onstage pyrotechnic displays may have cost more than 230 people their lives at a nightclub in southern Brazil, according to a state police inspector leading the investigation into this weekend’s deadly blaze.

Inspector Marcelo Arigony told reporters at a news conference Tuesday that members of the band knowingly purchased flares meant for outdoor use because they cost a mere \$1.25 a piece, compared with the \$35 price tag for an indoor flare.

“The flare lit was for outdoor use only, and the people who lit them know that,” said Arigony. “They chose to buy those because they were cheaper than those that can be used indoors.”

The repercussions of that choice continued to send shock waves through Santa Maria, a college town of 260,000 people that’s been stunned by the early Sunday morning tragedy in the Kiss nightclub.

The Rio Grande do Sul state forensics department raised the death toll Tuesday from 231 to 234 to account for three victims who did not appear on the original list of the dead. Authorities say more than 120 people remain hospitalized for smoke inhalation and burns, with dozens of them in critical condition.

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Bike pair
  - 7 Invites
  - 11 Roma’s nation
  - 12 Computer part
  - 13 Job for Petruccio
  - 14 Theater award
  - 15 “Bye!”
  - 17 Optimal
  - 20 Lead-in
  - 23 “That’s gross!”
  - 24 Raised
  - 26 Big head
  - 27 Time to prepare
  - 28 — roll
  - 29 Soup
  - 31 Actor
  - 32 Like draft beer
  - 33 Travel stops
  - 34 Olympics projectile
  - 37 River to the Severn
  - 39 St. Francis’s home
  - 43 Salamander
  - 44 Painter
  - 45 Turn down
- DOWN
- 1 Deep hole
  - 2 Greek vowel
  - 3 Block up
  - 4 Hollywood’s elite
  - 5 Queue
  - 6 Cooking mint
  - 7 Play start
  - 8 Overpower verbally
  - 9 Family
  - 10 Mole, e.g.
  - 16 Startled cry

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### Yesterday’s answer

- 17 Good, in Granada
- 18 Incite
- 19 Defeat
- 21 Quarrel
- 22 Lustrous gems
- 24 Lends a hand
- 25 “— had it!”
- 30 Delicate
- 33 Debate topic
- 35 Play group
- 36 Manual reader
- 37 Plus
- 38 Neckline shape
- 40 Writer Levin
- 41 Melancholy
- 42 “— been real!”

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43						44				
45						46				

1-30

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z S F B F N V M S V D X V D K H R

Y D K P D Z S F V D K H G Z S F

P Q H H S V M S . — X E X Q H S I

I S S N X J X E V  
Yesterday’s Cryptoquote: HATRED IS NEVER ANYTHING BUT FEAR — IF YOU FEARED NO ONE, YOU’D HATE NO ONE. — HUGH DOWNS

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