[[{“id”:1, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The court ruled in [a 5-4 vote](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/06/26/supreme-court-gay-lesbian-marriage/28649319/) that states can’t deny gay people marriage rights afforded to heterosexual couples, legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide. About 123,000 such marriages occurred within the following year. Obama, who “[evolved](http://www.usatoday.com/story/theoval/2015/02/10/axelrod-obama-gay-marriage-election/23180553/)” on the issue during his presidency, called the decision “[a victory for America](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/06/26/obama-gay-marriage-ruling/29328755/).”

[[{“id”:2, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The act, [first passed in 1994](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/03/07/obama-signs-violence-against-women-act/1971073/), had expired in 2011. The law makes it easier to prosecute crimes against women in federal court and provides domestic abuse hotlines, battered women shelters and other services. It’s credited with helping reduce domestic violence by more than 60%. The new law also [extended protections](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/02/28/violence-against-women-congress-obama/1953527/) to gays, lesbians and transgender people, Native Americans and immigrants.

[[{“id”:3, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The act [gives an employee up to 180 days](http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/01/28/lilly-ledbetter-wage-gap-women-obama-column/79319786/) to challenge any paycheck that reflects unequal pay for equal work, making it easier for workers to sue companies for pay discrimination.

[[{“id”:4, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The act expands hate-crime protections to include attacks based on sexual orientation, disability or gender identity, in addition to previously protected classes of ethnicity, religion and race.

[[{“id”:5, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act gives card users the right to opt out of changes in terms while requiring clearer due dates and limiting interest rate hikes.

[[{“id”:6, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIP) renewed and expanded the federally funded health care from an estimated 7 million children to 11 million.

[[{“id”:7, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, championed by Michelle Obama, went into action in 2012. A bid to combat childhood obesity, it requires schools to serve more variety and larger portions of fruits and vegetables in school lunches. Some students were [less than thrilled](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2014/11/22/thanksmichelleobama-school-lunches-pictures-twitter/19415567/) with the healthier results.

[[{“id”:8, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The sweeping overhaul, which aims expand health coverage to most Americans, became Obama’s signature legislation. By 2016, as some braced for [big rate hikes](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/10/31/obamacare-exchanges-open-amid-fears-rates-effect-enrollment/92913140/), Obama [admitted](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/10/20/obama-offers-prescription-affordable-care-act-growing-pains/92466252/) the plan needed improvements. Still, [Obamacare received 6.4 million signups](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/12/21/first-obamacare-deadline-had-big-late-rush/95707668/) during last November and December —400,000 more than the year prior—as the incoming president and congressional Republicans swore to repeal it.

[[{“id”:9, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 nationalized the student loan industry. The reforms expanded Pell grants, cut private banks out of the federal loan process and made it easier to students to repay such loans. In 2015, Obama [directed the Department of Education](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/03/10/obama-student-aid-bill-of-rights-atlanta-georgia-tech/24694673/) to find further ways to assist borrowers.

[[{“id”:10, “blurb”: “@”}]]

His formal certification resulted in the repeal of [the military’s ban](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/theoval/2015/12/22/obama-facebook-dont-ask-dont-tell/77766380/) on openly gay service members. The military had prohibited homosexuality since World War I.

[[{“id”:11, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The program set aside more than $4 billion in education grants to reward states that adopted the Common Core, standards that often resulted in more difficult tests for students. Obama said the program benefited [22 million students nationwide](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/03/25/obama-arne-duncan-race-to-the-top-report/6839475/).

[[{“id”:12, “blurb”: “@”}]]

New standards aimed for automakers to nearly double their fleets’ average fuel efficiency to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. That goal dropped to 50.8 miles per gallon in 2016 to reflect buying habits, and the next administration could roll back the standards further.

[[{“id”:13, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The act halted taxpayer money used to fund major political party conventions and [diverted it toward finding cures for childhood diseases](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/local/2014/04/03/president-obama-gabriella-miller-act/7277043/). The bill, which saw bipartisan support, redirected $126 million over 10 years toward the research.

[[{“id”:14, “blurb”: “@”}]]

Whistleblower [Edward Snowden leaked](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/12/03/nsa-snowden-guardian-counterterrorism/3856423/) thousands of secret documents about government spying programs to journalists, including the National Security Agency’s mass collection of Americans’ phone records from major carriers. Controversy followed, and two years later Obama [signed the USA Freedom Act](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/06/02/patriot-act-usa-freedom-act-senate-vote/28345747/) that restricted NSA surveillance.

[[{“id”:15, “blurb”: “@”}]]

Obama had promised to end the war in Iraq and made good on that pledge at the end of 2011. The administration was unable to reach a deal with Iraq to leave a significant U.S. force in place. Republicans argue that [left a vacuum](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/08/13/fact-check-bush-clinton-iraq/31631127/) where the Islamic State was able to take root and grow. By 2016, after the jihadist group had [claimed](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/01/02/istanbul-turkey-nightclub-attack/96077880/) multiple [attacks](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2015/12/05/isil-radio-two-supporters-carried-out-san-bernardino-massacre/76828170/) in the [U.S.](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/11/29/isil-osu-attacker-islamic-state-soldier/94612402/), polling showed Americans’ concern about terrorism was [higher than after 9/11](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/09/american-terrorism-fears-september-11/499004/).

[[{“id”:16, “blurb”: “@”}]]

Whistleblowers revealed in 2014 that Phoenix VA staffers had [tampered with patient wait-time data](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/05/04/va-healthcare-delays-treatment-phoenix-cheyenne-deaths/8602117/), resulting in delays to see a doctor and contributing to patient deaths. A nationwide audit ensued. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki resigned over the controversy, which led to [reforms](http://bit.ly/2ieElBr). Two years later, though, [problems remained](http://bit.ly/2iezC2o).

[[{“id”:17, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The FCC’s rules prohibit Internet service providers from [blocking or slowing transmission speeds](http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2015/02/26/fcc-approves-net-neutrality-rules/24053057/) and charging customers or even content providers like Netflix and Amazon fees for faster Internet speeds. Customers get the Internet speeds they’re paying for, no matter what websites they choose for news, movie streaming or shopping.

[[{“id”:18, “blurb”: “@”}]]

After the Obama administration [re-established diplomatic relations](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/12/17/obama-cuba-alan-gross-prisoner/20526497/) with Cuba in 2014, a series of executive orders took effect so Americans could [take a commercial flight](http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/flights/todayinthesky/2016/11/28/us-airlines-now-flying-havana-first-time-five-decades/94557384/) to Havana, [buy Cuban cigars](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/10/14/obama-cuba-regulations-expands-trade-travel-rum-cigars/92042662/) and work on the Communist island’s civil aviation security system. The fate of the U.S.-Cuba embargo, however, still rests in the hands of Congress.

[[{“id”:19, “blurb”: “@”}]]

A Department of Labor rule aimed to make [4.2 million workers eligible](http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2016/05/17/overtime-pay-eligible-employees-workers/84504890/) for overtime pay by raising the threshold exempting some employees from $23,660 to $47,476. A federal judge [blocked the rule](http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2016/12/26/what-happens-worker-pay-benefits-under-trump/95749354/) before it’s Dec. 1 start date, tying it up in court. Employers, lamenting the rule, reshuffled salaries to avoid it.

[[{“id”:20, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The United States formally committed to reduce all emissions by up to 28% below the 2005 level by 2025. To get there, federal agencies must [set stricter emissions standards](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/09/26/us-emissions-climate-change/91128456/) for equipment in commercial buildings, carbon pollution from plants and methane from landfills and the gas industry. The agreement wasn’t ratified by Congress, though, and could be abandoned by the next administration.

[[{“id”:21, “blurb”: “@”}]]

He used the 1906 act more frequently than any president in history to carve out federally protected lands. [They were often historic sites](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/06/26/obamas-national-monuments-more-than-conservation/82931356/), providing a low-cost way to appease constituents. He named the latest, in Utah and Nevada, on Dec. 28.

[[{“id”:22, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The national debt will stand at [19.9 trillion](http://www.usatoday.com/videos/money/personalfinance/2016/08/01/87905622/) when Obama ends his presidency, nearly twice that of when he came. When he took office, Obama used spending to prop up a crumbling economy, beginning with a $787 billion stimulus plan approved by Congress in 2009. Since then, the debt’s risen more under Obama than under all previous presidents combined.

[[{“id”:23, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The White House’s plans to up the nation’s [number of accepted refugees to 110,000](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2016/09/14/white-house-syrian-refugees-110000-2017/90359988/) aim to help stem a migrant crisis gripping Europe and the Middle East. It’s an increase from an 85,000 cap in 2016 and the 70,000 refugee cap in 2015. The next president is no fan of Obama’s decision, however. Trump, once in office, could drop the number of [total refugees to zero](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/11/14/president-elect-donald-trump-immigration-plan/93584804/).

[[{“id”:24, “blurb”: “@”}]]

The program has protected [740,000 undocumented immigrants](http://on.app.com/2ifPXnH) from deportation. Those brought illegally to the U.S. as children can apply for a two-year work permit to stay in the county. Obama launched the program through executive action, meaning the next president [could revoke the protections](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/11/14/president-elect-donald-trump-immigration-plan/93584804/)—though [he may not](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2016/11/18/president-elect-donald-trump-deportation-increase-undocumented-immigrants/94022680/).