

The Open Internet is a powerful tool for political activism, electronic commerce, free flow of information and communication. President Obama recognized this even as a candidate for Presidential office in 2008. His campaign Obama for America used the Internet to fundraise and connect with likely voters, to sign up volunteers for his campaign, encourage new voters to get registered etc. In his Presidency the Obama White House launched the successful “What \$40 Means To Me Campaign” at WhiteHouse.gov for ordinary American citizens to share what an extra \$40 in their paycheck means to them and to push the Republicans unwilling to extend the payroll tax cut even as they push tax cuts for millionaires to allow an extension of the payroll tax cut. See whitehouse.gov/40dollars/stories

In December of 2011, and again in February of 2012, the American people took to the Internet to tell Washington in no uncertain terms that letting the payroll tax cut expire was not acceptable. Tens of thousands of Americans tweeted, called and emailed to remind Washington that politics is not a game – serving the American people is a serious responsibility and the decisions made in Congress have serious consequences on people’s lives.

Thanks in no small part to their efforts to make their voices heard, Americans scored a major victory when Congress passed a two-month tax cut extension in December that prevented the typical family earning \$50,000 a year from losing about \$40 each paycheck.

Then, as that extension neared its expiration date in February, people spoke out once again—and it made all the difference. Lawmakers extended the payroll tax cut through the rest of 2012, in addition to extending unemployment benefits that provide lifelines to millions of Americans looking for work, and [President Obama signed it into law](#).

Individuals nationwide shared their stories with The White House. The latest campaign Don’t Double My Rate seeks to convince young voters who were helpful to the Obama 08 victory to support the President’s re-election and to push Congress to pass legislation preventing student loan rates on Stafford Loans from doubling. Please protect the Open Internet from corporate gatekeepers, deny the Verizon SpectrumCo transactions, and require interoperability and AWS service rules now. Finally please reconsider not reclassifying broadband under Title II.