

## Obama's top 10 violations of the Constitution

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Let's get away from the fight for the GOP nomination for a moment. Over at *The Daily Caller*, [Ilya Shapiro](#), senior fellow in Constitutional Studies at the [Cato Institute](#), has listed in detail the [top 10 constitutional violations committed by President Barack Obama](#). The list is obviously long, and there is a long to say about them, so I've listed excerpts of the main points, though you really should read the entire piece:

The first item on the Shapiro's list is the individual mandate:

*No list of President Obama's constitutional violations would be complete without including the requirement that every American purchase health insurance, on penalty of civil fine. The individual mandate is unprecedented and exceeds Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce. If it is allowed to stand, Congress will be able to impose any kind of economic mandate as part of any kind of national regulatory scheme. Fortunately, the Supreme Court has a chance to strike this down during its current term.*

Shapiro also lists the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB; better known as "death panels," which is part of ObamaCare):

*IPAB is the group of 15 presidential appointees who, beginning in 2014, are tasked with reducing Medicare spending. Any decisions IPAB makes automatically become law that can only be overridden by a three-fifths majority vote in the Senate. Unlike other federal agencies, IPAB is subject to no external review — no public notification in advance of proposed rules or opportunity for comment, no administrative guidelines and no judicial review. Medicare comprises about 13 percent of the federal budget, so that's an awesome amount of power for Congress to delegate to unelected executive-branch bureaucrats. Indeed, it's so basic a violation of traditional separation of powers that there's no historical analog. The Goldwater Institute has filed a strong lawsuit challenging this (yet another) unprecedented aspect of Obamacare, which will continue wending its way through the lower courts regardless of how the Supreme Court rules on the individual mandate and Medicaid-coercion issues.*

Next up is Dodd-Frank, a vast overhaul and of financial regulations in the US, which has been responsible for banks increasing their fees on consumers and transactions:

*Intended to remedy weaknesses in the U.S. financial system — ensuring transparency and accountability — the Dodd-Frank financial “reform” empowered unlimited, unreviewable and often secret bureaucratic discretion. The administrative bodies the legislation created face no constraints on the exercise of arbitrary authority. For example, the Treasury Department now has broad and essentially unchecked power to seize banks and other financial entities that it determines are unsound but “too big to fail.” The new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Financial Stability Oversight Council, meanwhile, craft, execute and interpret their own law. Due process and separation of powers issues abound.*

**And finally, Shapiro notes that Obama is not a friend to free speech:**

*Earlier this year, the IRS tried to muzzle political speech by asserting that donations to certain nonprofit advocacy groups (so-called 501(c)(4) organizations) would be subject to the gift tax. Historically, the IRS has not applied the gift tax in this way — donations to advocacy groups are not likely to be used to circumvent the estate tax — and when the IRS previously tried to tax political donations, it was rebuffed by the courts on the grounds that such transfers are not gifts (i.e., the donor is getting something in return). The IRS has since backed down, but the suspicion remains that it was trying to chill the political speech of those opposed to President Obama’s policies, in violation of the First Amendment.*

Again, you should [read the full piece](#) to get an idea of how bad this president is when it comes to defending and upholding the Constitution, the document he took an oath to protect.