

(AP) President Barack Obama's campaign is buying advertising time in six states that will be critical to the president's re-election effort, a sign that the presidential campaign is entering a new phase. A campaign official says the Obama campaign has bought ad time in Michigan, Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Iowa and on national cable television. The official spoke on condition of anonymity and was not authorized to speak publicly about internal campaign strategy.



Obama's campaign has not yet launched its television advertising, but the decision to buy ad time shows the campaign is moving closer to directly rebutting Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney and other GOP opponents on television. Obama delivers his State of the Union address on Tuesday and then travels to five states to discuss his policies.