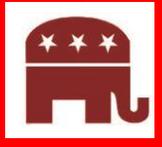


**REPUBLICAN PARTY  
PLATFORM (2012)**

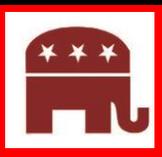


**DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
PLATFORM (2012)**



<p><b>Abortion</b></p>	<p>“We assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution.”</p> <p>“We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or fund organizations which perform or advocate it and will not fund or subsidize healthcare which includes abortion coverage.”</p>	<p>“The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman’s right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay.”</p> <p>“[We] support access to affordable family planning services, and President Obama and Democrats will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers.”</p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>“[We are] the party of fresh and innovative ideas in education. We support options for learning, including home schooling and local innovations like single-sex classes, full-day school hours, and year-round schools. School choice ... is important for all children, especially for families with children trapped in failing schools.”</p> <p>“The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans ... Private sector participation in student financing should be welcomed.”</p> <p>“We renew our call for replacing ‘family planning’ programs for teens with abstinence education.”</p>	<p>“We are committed to ensuring that every child in America has access to a world-class public education so we can out-educate the world and make sure America has the world’s highest proportion of college graduates by 2020 ... This requires excellence at every level of our education system, from early learning through post-secondary education. It means we must close the achievement gap in America’s schools and ensure that in every neighborhood in the country, children can benefit from high-quality educational opportunities.</p> <p>“Democrats support evidence-based and age appropriate sex education.”</p>
<p><b>Energy</b></p>	<p>“The Republican Party is committed to domestic energy independence ... The role of public officials must be to encourage responsible development across the board. Unlike the current Administration, we will not pick winners and losers in the energy marketplace. Instead, we will let the free market and the public’s preferences determine the industry outcomes ... [We] advocate an all-of-the-above diversified approach, taking advantage of all our American God-given resources ... We will end the EPA’s war on coal and encourage the increased safe development in all regions of the nation’s coal resources, the jobs it produces, and the affordable, reliable energy that it provides for America. Further, we oppose any and all cap and trade legislation.”</p>	<p>“We can move towards a sustainable energy-independent future if we harness all of America’s great natural resources. That means an all-of-the-above approach to developing America’s many energy resources, including wind, solar, biofuels, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, oil, clean coal, and natural gas. President Obama has encouraged innovation to reach his goal of generating 80 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources by 2035 ... Democrats support making America the world’s leader in building a clean energy economy by extending clean energy incentives that support American businesses and American jobs in communities across the country.”</p>

**REPUBLICAN PARTY  
PLATFORM (2012)**

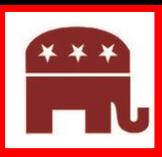


**DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
PLATFORM (2012)**



<p><b>Environment</b></p>	<p>“The environment is getting cleaner and healthier ... Efforts to reduce pollution, encourage recycling, educate the public, and avoid ecological degradation have been a success. To ensure their continued support by the American people, however, we need a dramatic change in the attitude of officials in Washington, a shift from a job-killing punitive mentality to a spirit of cooperation with producers, landowners, and the public.”</p> <p>“Legislation to restore the authority of States in environmental protection is essential.”</p> <p>[The platform includes no references to climate change]</p>	<p>“Democrats are committed to balancing environmental protection with development, and that means preserving sensitive public lands from exploration ... [We] will continue to work with local communities to conserve our publicly-owned lands and dramatically expand investments in conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and wetlands across America for generations to come.</p> <p>“We know that global climate change is one of the biggest threats of this generation – an economic, environmental, and national security catastrophe in the making. We affirm the science of climate change, commit to significantly reducing the pollution that causes [it], and know we have to meet this challenge by driving smart policies that lead to greater growth in clean energy generation and result in a range of economic and social benefits.”</p>
<p><b>Firearms</b></p>	<p>“We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms... We acknowledge, support, and defend the law-abiding citizen’s God-given right of self-defense ... This also includes the right to obtain and store ammunition without registration.”</p>	<p>“We believe that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation ... We can work together to enact commonsense improvements – like reinstating the assault weapons ban and closing the gun show loophole.”</p>
<p><b>Foreign Policy</b></p>	<p>“The Republican Party is the advocate for a strong national defense as the pathway to peace, economic prosperity, and the protection of those yearning to be free. Since the end of World War II, American military superiority has been the cornerstone of a strategy that seeks to deter aggression or defeat those who threaten our national security interests.”</p> <p>“The current Administration’s most recent National Security Strategy reflects the extreme elements in its liberal domestic coalition. It is a budget-constrained blueprint that, if fully implemented, will diminish the capability of our Armed Forces. The strategy significantly increases the risk of future conflict by declaring to our adversaries that we will no longer maintain the forces necessary to fight and win more than one conflict at a time.”</p>	<p>“Under [our] leadership, the tide of war is now receding, and America is looking ahead to a new future ... These actions have enabled a broader strategic rebalancing of American foreign policy. After more than a decade at war, we can focus on nation-building here at home and concentrate our resources and attention abroad on the areas that are the greatest priority moving forward. This means directing more energy toward crucial problems, including longstanding threats like nuclear proliferation and emerging dangers such as cyber attacks, biological weapons, climate change, and transnational crime. [We] know that there is no greater responsibility than protecting the American people. We also understand the indispensable role [we] must continue to play in promoting international peace and prosperity.”</p>

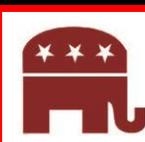
**REPUBLICAN PARTY  
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**DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
PLATFORM (2012)**



<p><b>Healthcare/ Contraception</b></p>	<p>“Congressional Republicans are committed to [Obamacare’s] repeal; and a Republican President, on the first day of office, will use his legitimate waiver authority under that law to halt its progress and then sign its repeal. Then the American people, through the free market, can advance affordable and responsible healthcare reform that meets the needs and concerns of patients and providers.”</p> <p>“Through Obamacare, the current Administration has promoted the notion of abortion as healthcare. We, however, affirm the dignity of women by protecting the sanctity of human life ... We support the ability of all organizations to provide, purchase, or enroll in healthcare coverage consistent with their religious, moral or ethical convictions without discrimination or penalty.”</p>	<p>“We believe accessible, affordable, high quality health care is part of the American promise, that Americans should have the security that comes with good health care, and that no one should go broke because they get sick. Over the determined opposition of Republicans, we enacted landmark reforms that are already helping millions of Americans, and more benefits will come soon.”</p> <p>“No law is perfect ... but we are committed to moving forward ... We refuse to go back to the days when health insurance companies had unchecked power to cancel your health policy, deny you coverage, or charge women more than men.”</p> <p>“The Affordable Care Act ensures that women have access to contraception in their health insurance plans.”</p>
<p><b>Immigration</b></p>	<p>“In an age of terrorism, drug cartels, human trafficking, and criminal gangs, the presence of millions of unidentified persons in the country poses grave risks to the safety and sovereignty of the United States. Our highest priority, therefore, is to secure the rule of law both at our borders and at ports of entry.</p> <p>[We] oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by intentionally violating the law, disadvantage those who have obeyed it. Granting amnesty only rewards and encourages more law breaking.</p> <p>“We insist upon enforcement at the workplace through verification systems so that jobs can be available to all legal workers ... State enforcement efforts in the workplace must be welcomed, not attacked.”</p>	<p>“[We] know there is broad consensus to repair [the immigration] system and strengthen our economy, and that the country urgently needs comprehensive immigration reform that brings undocumented immigrants out of the shadows and requires them to get right with the law, learn English, and pay taxes in order to get on a path to earn citizenship. We need an immigration reform that creates a system for allocating visas that meets our economic needs, keeps families together, and enforces the law.”</p> <p>“President Obama and the Democrats fought for the DREAM Act, legislation ensuring that young people who want to contribute fully to our society and serve our country are able to become legal residents and ultimately citizens.”</p>
<p><b>Labor</b></p>	<p>“We support the right of states to enact right-to-work laws and encourage them to do so to promote greater economic liberty. Ultimately, we support the enactment of a national right-to-work law to promote worker freedom and to promote greater economic liberty.”</p>	<p>“[We] believe the right to organize and collectively bargain is a fundamental American value; every American should have a voice on the job and a chance to negotiate for a fair day’s pay after a hard day’s work. We will continue to fight for the right of all workers to ... join a union.”</p>



<b>Marriage</b>	<p>“Congressional Republicans took the lead in enacting the Defense of Marriage Act, affirming the right of States and the federal government not to recognize same-sex relationships licensed in other jurisdictions ... We reaffirm our support for a Constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.”</p>	<p>“We support marriage equality and support the movement to secure equal treatment under law for same-sex couples ... We support the full repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act.”</p>
<b>Taxes</b>	<p>“Taxes, by their very nature, reduce a citizen’s freedom. Their proper role in a free society should be to fund services that are essential and authorized by the Constitution, such as national security, and the care of those who cannot care for themselves. We reject the use of taxation to redistribute income, fund unnecessary or ineffective programs, or foster the crony capitalism that corrupts both politicians and corporations.”</p> <p>“We condemn attempts by activist judges ... to seize the power of the purse by ordering higher taxes. We oppose tax policies that divide Americans or promote class warfare.”</p>	<p>“President Obama will extend key tax relief for working families and those paying for college, while asking the wealthiest and corporations to pay their fair share.”</p> <p>“We are committed to reforming our tax code so that it is fairer and simpler, creating a tax code that lives up to the Buffet Rule so no millionaire pays a smaller share of his or her income in taxes than middle-class families do.”</p>