



Where Do the Candidates Stand on Key Issues?

A non-partisan guide to the positions of the 2012 Presidential Candidates on various issues of concern to the electorate.



BARACK OBAMA	KEY ISSUE	MITT ROMNEY
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The White House issued a statement attacking the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3): "If the President is presented with H.R. 3, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill." 	<p>Taxpayer Funding for Abortion</p> <p>The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would codify the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortion.</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I support the Hyde Amendment, which broadly bars the use of federal funds for abortions."
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I am pro-choice. I believe in Roe v. Wade" "With one more vacancy on the court, we could be looking at a majority hostile to a woman's right to choose for the first time since Roe v. Wade, and that is what is at stake in this election." (01/22/2008) 	<p>Roe V. Wade & Abortion</p> <p>The 1973 Roe v. Wade and its companion Doe v. Bolton decisions together essentially legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States.</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I support the reversal of Roe v. Wade because it is bad law and bad medicine. Roe was a misguided ruling that was a result of a small group of activist federal judges legislating from the bench."
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On his third day in office, President Obama nullified the pro-life "Mexico City Policy," making organizations that perform and promote abortion as a method of family planning overseas eligible for U.S. foreign aid funds. 	<p>Funding For Abortion Providers</p> <p>Each year, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are given to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, reporting 332,278 abortions in 2009.</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I will support efforts to prohibit federal funding for any organization like Planned Parenthood, which primarily performs abortions or offers abortion-related services."
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 23, 2010, signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) into law. 	<p>Obamacare Healthcare Law</p> <p>The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) will provide funding for health plans that pay for abortion on demand.</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Obamacare will violate that crucial first principle of medicine: 'do no harm.'" Mitt Romney believes that ObamaCare must be repealed.(Statement on Mitt Romney's website)
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Obama Administration issued a "final rule" mandating that groups, including religious schools and hospitals, provide health insurance plans that cover certain drugs or procedures, even if it violates the groups' religious and moral convictions. 	<p>Rights of Conscience</p> <p>The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (S. 1467, H.R. 1179) would exempt institutions or individuals from providing health coverage for services that violate their religious or moral convictions.</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "... on day one I will eliminate the Obama Administration rule that compels religious institutions to violate the tenets of their own faith. Such rules don't belong in the America that I believe in."
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Under the rule, women will still have access to free preventive care that includes contraceptive services -- no matter where they work. So that core principle remains." 2-10-12 Statement by President Obama at the White House. 	<p>HHS Mandate and Religious Liberty</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Obama administration is forcing religious institutions to choose between violating their conscience or dropping health care coverage for their employees, effectively destroying their ability to carry on their work....[O]ne day one I will eliminate the Obama administration rule that compels religious institutions to violate the tenets of their own faith. Such rules don't belong in the America that I believe in." 2-3-12 op-ed by Mitt Romney, "President Obama Versus Religious Liberty".

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Continued From Side One

BARACK OBAMA	KEY ISSUE	MITT ROMNEY
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “With one more vacancy on the Supreme Court, we could be looking at a majority hostile to a women’s fundamental right to choose for the first time since Roe v. Wade. The next president may be asked to nominate that Supreme Court Justice. That is what is at stake in this election”. 	<p>The Supreme Court</p> <p>One of the President’s duties is to nominate Justices to the Supreme Court</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitt Romney states that he wants “a judiciary that will strictly construe the Constitution and refuse to legislate from the bench.” He has appointed as co-chairs of his Justice Advisory Committee law professor and former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Mary Ann Glendon and former Reagan Supreme Court nominee Judge Robert Bork. The Committee advises Mr. Romney on the Constitution and legal matters.
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a Senator he co-sponsored S. 1520 that would have allowed the cloning of human embryos for research, but prohibited cloned embryos from being implanted in women for reproduction. He declared his opposition to “the use of cloning for human reproduction,” but did not address the creation of human clones for research purposes. 	<p>Human Cloning</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetoed the bill that would have allowed the cloning of human embryos as Governor of Massachusetts. • “Quite simply, America cannot condone or participate in the creation of human life when the sole purpose of its creation is its sure destruction.” (from Mitt Romney’s campaign website: http://www.mittromney.com/issues/values)
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the use of taxpayer funds for embryonic stem cell research in March 2009, ending President George W. Bush’s eight-year ban on funding any research that used embryonic stem cell lines created after August 2001. 	<p>Embryonic Stem Cell Research</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult stem cell research and alternative methods to derive pluripotent stem cells, such as altered nuclear transfer and direct reprogramming, are scientific paths that carry much promise and avoid raising ethical concerns. As president, Mitt will focus his energy on laws and policies that promote this kind of research to unlock the medical breakthroughs that our loved ones so desperately need.
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “...at a certain point I’ve just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same sex couples should be able to get married.” • Obama voted against the Federal Marriage Act, which would have defined marriage as between a man and a woman. 	<p>Gay Marriage</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “...I do not favor marriage between people of the same gender and I do not favor civil unions if they are identical to marriage other than by name. My view is the domestic partnership benefits, hospital visitation rights, and the like are appropriate but that the others are not.”
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans to create a 21st century immigration system by: continuing to fulfill the federal government’s responsibility to securing our borders; demanding accountability for businesses that break the law by undermining American workers and exploiting undocumented workers; strengthening our economic competitiveness by creating a legal immigration system that reflects our values and diverse needs; and requiring responsibility from people who are living in the United States illegally. 	<p>Immigration</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes in the rule of law and will fully enforce federal immigration law. As governor, he authorized state police to assist the federal government in immigration enforcement. • Mitt Romney opposes amnesty because he believes that it acts as a magnet encouraging illegal immigration.
<p>Obama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has defunded the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship Program, the federal program established in 2004 to provide vouchers allowing low-income children in the nation’s capital to go to a public or private school of their parents’ choice. 	<p>Education Vouchers</p>	<p>Romney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the creation of federal vouchers which would allow tax dollars now sent to public schools to help educate poor and disabled children to instead follow the students to the private schools of their parents’ choosing.



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