IN THEIR OWN WORDS

EXCERPTS FROM THE 2012 REPUBLICAN & DEMOCRATIC PLATFORMS

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM	DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM
LIFE	
"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." (Pages 13-14)	"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." (Page 18)
"We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or fund organizations which perform or advocate it and will not fund or subsidize health care which includes abortion coverage." (Page 14)	"Democrats 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." (Page 18)
MARRIAGE	
"**A Sacred Contract: Defense of Marriage.** 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." (Page 10)	"**Freedom to Marry.** 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." (Page 18)
	"The State Department is funding a program that finances [overseas] gay rights organizations." (Page 31)
HEALTH CARE & CONSCIENCE	
"Congressional Republicans are committed to [Obamacare's] repeal; and a Republican President… will use his legitimate waiver authority under that law to halt its progress." (Page 32)	"Mitt Romney and the Republican Party would repeal health reform… No law is perfect…but we are committed to moving forward… The Affordable Care Act is not the end of efforts to improve health care for all Americans." (Page 4)
"**Protecting Individual Conscience in Healthcare.** 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." (Page 34)	"**Women.** The Affordable Care Act ensures that women have access to contraception in their health insurance plans." (Page 18)
SECOND AMENDMENT (FIREARMS)	
"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." (Page 13)	"We believe that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation… We can work together to enact commonsense improvements – like like reinstating the assault weapons ban and closing the gun show loophole." (Page 18)

A party platform is a statement of who the party is, what they believe, & their vision for a stronger, better America.
2012 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL PLATFORM is available as a free download at www.gop.com/2012-republican-platform_home
2012 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM is available as a free download at www.democrats.org/democratic-national-platform
We encourage all readers to study both platforms in order to gain a greater understanding of the positions each party champions.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM	DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM
EDUCATION	
"We support options for learning, including home schooling...School choice—whether through charter schools, open enrollment requests, college lab schools, virtual schools, career and technical education programs, vouchers, or tax credits—is important for all children." (Page 36) "We renew our call for replacing 'family planning' programs for teens with abstinence education." (Page 36)	"Public education is one of our critical democratic institutions… [We have] invested in expanding and reforming Head Start..." (Page 5) "We must continue our work to prevent vicious bullying of young people and support LGBT youth. " (Page 17) "Democrats support evidence-based and age-appropriate sex education." (Page 18)
THE ECONOMY	
"We propose to: [Extend] the Bush tax cuts...reform the tax code…eliminate the taxes on interest, dividends, and capital gains altogether for lower and middle-income taxpayers; End the Death Tax; and Repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax." (Page 2)	"President Obama and Democrats in Congress have enacted infrastructure investments... [They] proposed to go substantially further, including a significant up-front investment in our infrastructure followed by sustained increases in investment." (Pages 8-9)
THE UNITED NATIONS	
"The United Nations remains in dire need of reform… We strongly reject the U.N. Agenda 21 as erosive of American sovereignty, and we oppose any form of U.N. Global Tax." (Page 45)	"The United Nations [has] been a centerpiece of international order since the mid-20th century… The Democratic Party [is] committed to modernizing its infrastructure for the 21st century." (Page 27)
RIGHT TO WORK & UNIONS	
"We support the enactment of a National Right-to-Work law to promote worker freedom and to promote greater economic liberty." (Page 8)	"The President and the Democratic Party believe in the right to organize and in supporting America's workers with strong labor laws." (Page 9)
ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE	
"Republicans advocate an all-of-the-above diversified approach, taking advantage of all our American God-given resources...[including] the Outer Continental Shelf...the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)... [and] the Keystone XL Pipeline." (Pages 15-16)	"The national security threat from climate change is real, urgent, and severe... We are committed to environmental justice… Preserving sensitive public lands from exploration, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Pacific West Coast..." (Pages 25, 21, 7)

DID YOU KNOW? "God" is in the Republican platform 10 times. The Democratic platform contains one reference to God (which was initially omitted, then reinserted to booing from convention delegates), and their section on "Faith" does not mention God.

"Constitution" (or a variation, e.g., "constitutional") is in the Democratic platform 6 times and in the Republican platform 60 times.

The 2012 Republican Platform supports American exceptionalism;"public display of the Ten Commandments as a reflection of our history and...Judeo-Christian heritage;" the right of students to pray; including "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance; voter ID; strict constructionist judges; and rejecting the use of foreign law (such as Sharia law) in U.S. courts. (P. 39, 12, 14, 11, 25, 14)

The 2012 Democratic Platform supports LGBT "families;" embryonic stem cell research; Supreme Court Justices like Elena Kagan & Sonia Sotomayor; consumer watchdog agencies; public funding for the National Endowment for the Arts; Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico; decreasing America's nuclear arsenal; and open homosexuality in the military. (P. 17, 15, 20, 11, 16, 23, 17)

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