



PARTY PLATFORM

Republican Party National Platform

Excerpts from 2008 National Rep. Party Platform
<http://platform.gop.com/2008Platform.pdf>

Abortion – Protecting Innocent Life

- We support the Sanctity of Human Life and will not fund organizations involved in performing abortions. That includes the UN convention on women's rights... and the UN convention on the rights of the child."
- We support using adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and cells reprogrammed into pluripotent stem cells—without the unethical destruction of embryonic human life. Oppose investing public dollars in stem cell
- Support the Mexico City policy, which prohibits federal monies from being given to non-governmental organizations that provide abortions or actively promote abortion. Obama overturned it.
- We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion
- Support Born Alive Infants Protection Act - ensures that infants who are born alive during an abortion receive all treatment and care to all newborn infants.
- Support adoption by traditional family. Children do better with a mother and a father.

Education: - School Choice - returning education to the parents – Abstinence

- We support programs for teens with increased funding for abstinence education, which teaches abstinence until marriage as the responsible and expected standard of behavior.
- We support School Choice and through charter schools, vouchers, or tax credits for attending faith-based or other nonpublic schools, or the option of home schooling.

Traditional Marriage – preserving traditional marriage

- We support the Defense of Marriage Act, affirming the right of states not to recognize same-sex marriages. licensed in other states. We call for a constitutional amendment that fully protects marriage as a union of a man and a woman, so that judges cannot make other arrangements equivalent to it
- We also encourage states to review their marriage and divorce laws in order to strengthen marriage

Democratic Party National Platform

Excerpts from Democratic National Convention 2009
<http://www.democrats.org/a/party/platform.html>

Abortion – A woman's right to choose

- The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay,
- Support investing public dollars in stem cell research. We support using federal funding for embryonic stem cells research.
- Oppose the Mexico City policy. Enacted by President Obama. overturns ban on funding international family planning groups that provide abortion.
- Supports using public funds to perform abortions through Planned Parenthood
- Oppose Born Alive Protection Act - family planning services and age-appropriate sex education
- Support gay adoption of children. Florida is the only State that has a 30 year law banning gay men and women from adopting

Education – Support School choice in the public sector

- Support providing age-appropriate sex education, which empower people to make informed choices and live healthy lives.
- We will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit to ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans. In exchange for the credit, students will be expected to perform community service

Traditional Marriage – same sex marriage and civil unions

- We support the full inclusion of all families in the life of our nation, and support equal responsibility, benefits, and protections. We will enact a comprehensive bipartisan employment non-discrimination act. We oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and all attempts to use this issue to divide us."Oppose Defense of Marriage Act. Support allowing same sex marriages. We support the full inclusion of all families, including same-sex couples, in the life of our nation

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Safeguarding Religious Freedom –

- We support the free exercise of religion and forbids any religious test for public office, and it likewise prohibits the establishment of a state-sponsored creed.
- "We affirm every citizen's right to apply religious values to public policy and the right of faith-based organizations to participate fully in public programs without renouncing their beliefs, removing religious objects or symbols, or becoming subject to government-imposed hiring practices. We support the public display of the Ten Commandments
- We support the right of students to engage in student led prayer in public schools, athletic events, and graduation ceremonies, when done in conformity with constitutional standards
- We deplore the increasing incidence of attacks against religious symbols, as well as incidents of anti-Semitism on college campuses.

Military, Arms Control and Security - defending our homeland

- We oppose the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the Military.
- Providing better Intelligence is Key to Fighting bioterrorism and Cyberterrorism

Budget, spending and taxes

- easing taxes for families and individuals

- We favor adoption of the Balanced Budget Amendment to require a balanced federal budget except in time of war
- We believe in returning power to the states is returning power to the people.
- Support tax credits for health care and medical expenses
- We advocate lower taxes, reasonable regulation, and smaller, smarter government
- We favor adoption of the Balanced Budget Amendment to require a balanced federal budget except in time of war.

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Safeguarding Religious Freedom –

- We support federal enforcement of civil rights. We are committed to banning religious profiling.
- Faith Based Initiatives - We will ensure that public funds are not used to proselytize or discriminate. We will also ensure that taxpayer dollars are only used on programs that actually work. Faith-based groups are not a replacement for government.
- We will restore vigorous federal enforcement of civil rights laws in order to provide every American an equal chance at employment, housing, health, contracts, and pay. We are committed to banning racial, ethnic, and religious profiling and requiring federal, state and local enforcement agencies to take steps to eliminate the practice."

Military, Arms Control and Security – defending our homeland

- We support the repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" in the military and the implementation of policies to allow qualified men and women to serve openly regardless of sexual orientation.

Budget, spending and taxes

- We will put an end to the reckless, special interest driven corporate loopholes and tax cuts for the Wealthy.
- We will not increase taxes on any family earning under \$250,000 and we will offer additional tax cuts for middle class families. **(A broken promise)**
- We recognize that Social Security **is not in crisis** and We should do everything we can to strengthen this vital program, including asking those making over \$250,000 to pay a bit more. **(A broken promise)**
- We will phase-out the cap on Medicaid funding and phase-in equal participation in other federal health care assistance programs.