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VOTER’S GUIDE TO DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PLATFORMS¹

Issue	Democratic Platform²	Republican Platform³
<i>Abortion and Human Life</i>		
Affirms the Unborn Child’s Right to Life/Supports Human Life Amendment	No ⁴	Yes (p. 13-14)
Supports Taxpayer-Funded/Subsidized Abortion	Yes (p. 18, 31)	No (p. 14, 33)
Supports Funding Organizations that Perform or Advocate for Abortion	Yes (p. 18, 31)	No (p. 14)
Supports Parental Consent Requirements for Abortion	No ⁵	Yes (p. 14, 34)
Opposes Embryonic Stem Cell Research	No (p. 15)	Yes (p. 14)
Opposes Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide	No ⁶	Yes (p. 14)
<i>Family Values</i>		
Supports a Constitutional Amendment that Marriage is the Union of One Man and One Woman	No (p. 18)	Yes (p. 10)
Supports the Federal Defense of Marriage Act	No (p. 18)	Yes (p. 10)
Supports Openly Identified LGBT Individuals for Military Service	Yes (p.17)	No ⁷
Supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act which Includes Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	Yes (p. 17)	No ⁸

¹ This voter guide may be redistributed in its original form by any individual or non-profit organization, including churches.

² Moving America Forward: 2012 Democratic National Platform, <http://assets.dstatic.org/dnc-platform/2012-National-Platform.pdf>.

³ We Believe in America: Republican Platform, <http://www.gop.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/2012GOPPlatform.pdf>.

⁴ Not addressed in the party’s platform.

⁵ Not addressed in the party’s platform.

⁶ Not addressed in the party’s platform.

⁷ Not addressed in the party’s platform.

⁸ Not addressed in the party’s platform.

Encourages Bullying Prevention and Support for LGBT Youth	Yes (p. 17)	No ⁹
Encourages Enforcement of Laws against Pornography and Obscenity	No ¹⁰	Yes (p. 32)
Encourages Abstinence-Only Education for Teens	No (p. 18)	Yes (p. 35)
<i>First Amendment, Liberty, and Responsibility</i>		
Addresses Religious Liberty	Yes (p. 18) ¹¹	Yes (p. 43, 45)
Supports the Public Display of the Ten Commandments	No ¹²	Yes (p. 12)
Affirms the Rights of Faith-Based Organizations to Participate in Public Programs	Yes (p. 15)	Yes (p. 12)
Opposes Discrimination Based on Religion	Yes (p. 17)	Yes (p. 9)
Opposes Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation	Yes (p. 17)	No ¹³
Opposes Discrimination Based on Gender Identity	Yes (p. 17)	No ¹⁴
Opposes the Fairness Doctrine	No	Yes (p. 12)
Opposes the Disclose Act	No (p. 12)	Yes (p. 12)
Supports Repeal of Campaign Contribution Limits	No (p. 12)	Yes (p. 12)
Emphasizes Personal Responsibility	Yes (p. 4, 13) ¹⁵	Yes (p. 22)
Protects Internet Freedom	Yes (p. 31)	Yes (p. 23)
<i>ObamaCare</i>		
Supports Repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare)	No (p. 4)	Yes (p. 32)
Supports Tort Reform in Medical Malpractice Cases to Reduce Healthcare Costs	No ¹⁶	Yes (p. 33, 35)
Supports Insurance Portability	No ¹⁷	Yes (p. 33)

⁹ Not addressed in the party's platform.

¹⁰ Not addressed in the party's platform.

¹¹ The Democratic National Convention Platform reference to religious liberty stated: "The Affordable Care Act ensures that women have access to contraception in their health insurance plans, and the President has respected the principle of religious liberty." (p. 18)

¹² Not addressed in the party's platform.

¹³ Not addressed in the party's platform.

¹⁴ Not addressed in the party's platform.

¹⁵ The Democratic National Convention Platform refers to personal responsibility in only two contexts: Social Security and Medicare and Immigration. Regarding Social Security and Medicare, the Platform states, "America's seniors have earned their Medicare and Social Security through a lifetime of hard work and personal responsibility." (p.4) Regarding immigration, the Platform states, "President Obama has made important progress in implementing immigration policies that reward hard work and demand personal responsibility." (p. 13)

¹⁶ Not addressed in the party's platform.

Supports Allowing Consumers to Purchase Insurance Across State Lines	No ¹⁸	Yes (p. 34)
Supports Protection of Individual Conscience in Healthcare	No ¹⁹	Yes (p. 34)
<i>Gun Rights</i>		
Supports Right to Obtain and Store Ammunition without Registration	No ²⁰	Yes (p. 13)
Supports Federal Legislation that Requires States to Provide Reciprocity Between States that Issue Concealed Carry Permits	No ²¹	Yes (p. 13)
<i>Fiscal Reform</i>		
Supports Reforming the Tax System	No ²²	Yes (p. 2)
Supports a Constitutional Amendment Requiring a Super-Majority for Tax Increases	No ²³	Yes (p. 4)
Supports a Constitutional Amendment that Caps Spending	No ²⁴	Yes (p. 4)
Supports Requiring an Annual Audit of the Federal Reserve	No ²⁵	Yes (p. 4)
Supports Exploring Ways to Set a Fixed Value for the Dollar	No ²⁶	Yes (p. 4)
<i>Immigration</i>		
Supports Securing the Border	Yes (p. 13)	Yes (p. 26)
Supports a Pathway to Citizenship	Yes (p. 13)	No ²⁷
Supports Employment Verification Systems	No ²⁸	Yes (p. 26)
Supports a New Guest Worker	No ²⁹	Yes (p. 26)

¹⁷ Not addressed in the party's platform.

¹⁸ Not addressed in the party's platform.

¹⁹ Not addressed in the party's platform.

²⁰ Not addressed in the party's platform.

²¹ Not addressed in the party's platform.

²² While the Democratic National Convention Platform references tax cuts and tax credits, it does not mention reforming the entire tax system, to reflect a fair or flat tax system, nor does it mention the enlargement of the Internal Revenue Service created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

²³ Not addressed in the party's platform.

²⁴ The Democratic National Convention Platform states, "We reinstated the tough pay-as-you-go budget rules of the 1990s so that all permanent new spending and tax cuts must now be offset by savings or revenue increases [taxes]." (p. 6)

²⁵ Not addressed in the party's platform.

²⁶ The Democratic National Convention Platform states, "[w]e will raise the minimum wage, and index it to inflation." (p. 19)

²⁷ Not addressed in the party's platform.

²⁸ While the Democratic National Platform does not address use of an employment verification system to employers do not employ illegal aliens, it does note the democrats are working "to hold employers accountable for whom they hire." (p. 13)

²⁹ Not addressed in the party's platform.

Program		
Supports English as the Nation's Official Language	No ³⁰	Yes (p. 26)
<i>Israel as an Ally</i>		
Affirms Commitment to Israel	Yes (p. 26)	Yes (p. 49)
Supports Official Recognition of Jerusalem as Capital of Israel	Yes (p. 26) ³¹	Yes (p. 49)
Condemns Terrorists Groups Hamas and Hezbollah	No ³²	Yes (p. 5)
<i>Government Oversight</i>		
Supports States' Rights	No ³³	Yes (p. 10-11)
Supports a Sunset Requirement for Review of All Regulations	No ³⁴	Yes (p. 23)
Supports Reducing Internet Regulations	No ³⁵	Yes (p. 23)
Supports Privatization of TSA Airport Screening	No ³⁶	Yes (p. 25)
Removes Power to Criminalize Behavior from Federal Agencies and Reserves Such Power to Legislators	No ³⁷	Yes (p. 38)
<i>Judiciary</i>		
Addresses Judicial Activism	No ³⁸	Yes (p. 25)
Rejects Using Foreign Law to Interpret the U.S. Constitution	No ³⁹	Yes (p. 14)
<i>Word Use Comparisons</i>		
Use of "God"	1 ⁴⁰	12

³⁰ The Democratic National Platform does note the importance of immigrants learning English as part of the integration process. (p. 13)

³¹ Chairman of the Platform Drafting Committee, Former Governor Ted Strickland, offered Amendments to include God and that Jerusalem is the Capital of Israel in the Democratic National Convention Platform. The Amendments required a two-thirds vote. See video of the vote here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX11IUjkEKs>.

³² Not addressed in the party's platform.

³³ Not addressed in the party's platform.

³⁴ While the Democratic National Convention Platform does not specifically support a sunset provision on all regulations, it does state, "There's no question that some regulations are outdated, unnecessary, or too costly. That's why President Obama asked all federal agencies to review and streamline outdated regulations, an effort that will save at least \$10 billion over five years, and will eliminate tens of millions of hours in annual paperwork burdens. That's why he has approved fewer regulations in the first three years of his presidency than his Republican predecessor did in his." (p. 12)

³⁵ Not addressed in the party's platform.

³⁶ Not addressed in the party's platform.

³⁷ Not addressed in the party's platform.

³⁸ Not addressed in the party's platform.

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