

2012 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Candidates & Website Link	RICK PERRY	MITT ROMNEY	RICK SANTORUM
		Read: Plan for Jobs & Economic Growth	
	Read: Energizing American Jobs & Security		
	Read: Cut, Balance & Grow	Read: Foreign Policy Strategy	
	Read: Overhaul Washington		
Immigration	<p>1. Will substantially increase manpower, technology and fencing along the border</p> <p>2. Will deploy thousands of National Guardsmen to the border until a sufficient number of border patrol agents can be hired and trained</p> <p>3. Will order federal officials to expedite construction of strategic fencing, especially in high traffic areas where manpower alone is insufficient to do the job.</p> <p>4. Will make greater use of unmanned aerial assets to gather reliable, real-time intelligence that law enforcement can immediately act upon.</p>	<p>1. Raise visa caps for highly skilled workers.</p> <p>2. Grant permanent residency to eligible graduates with advanced degrees in math, science & engineering.</p>	

<p>Jobs / Economy / Spending / Taxes</p>	<p>1. 20% tax rate for individuals/corps 2. Eliminate tax on SS Benefits, dividends/cap gains & death tax, no federal sales tax or VAT 3. Moratorium on pending regs & audit of regs passed since 2008 4. Federal regs auto-sunset unless Congress renews 5. Searchable public database with all regs currently in force 6. Preserve benefits for current & near-term SS beneficiaries 7. Protect SS Trust Fund 8. Allow personal retirement accounts & state employees to opt out of SS 9. Gradually increase full retirement age 10. Use price-growth to index benefits for higher-income beneficiaries 11. Reform Medicare 12. Return Medicaid to states 13. Cap federal spending at 18% of GDP & balance budget by 2020 14. Reduce non-defense discretionary spending by \$100 Billion in 1st year 15. Balanced Budget Amendment that does not raise taxes 16. End Baseline Budgeting 17. Reform budget process; Institute auto government shutdown protection, Give annual budget resolution force of law, No earmarks, Emergency spending only on emergencies, PAYGO for new federal programs 18. Freeze federal civilian hiring/salaries until budget balanced 19. No bailouts 20. Repeal Obamacare 21. Repeal Sarbanes-Oxley & Dodd-Frank 22. Eliminate Dept of Commerce, Education and Energy 23. Privatize Fannie/Freddie</p>	<p>1. Reduce corp tax rate to 25% & transition to territorial corporate tax 2. Hold the line on indiv.income tax rates & pursue overhaul that applies lower/flatter rates to broader base 3. Eliminate taxes on interest, dividends & capital gains for low- and mid-income with AGI below \$200,000 4. Eliminate estate tax 5. Implement Colombia, Panama, South Korea Free Trade Agreements. Submit pending FTA's to Congress, conclude Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations & seek Trade Promotion Authority to pursue new trading relationships. 6. Cut Non-discretionary spending 5% 7. Initiate elimination of Obama's regs & cap annual increase in regulatory costs at 0 dollars. Initiate review of Obama-era regs 8. Implement process for rapid issuance of drilling permits to developers w/established safety records. 9. Reverse Obama's orders that tilt playing field to organized labor 10. Work to appeal Dodd-Frank; replace with streamlined regulatory framework. Amend Sarbanes-Oxley 11. Cost-conscious approach to environmental regulation, increased role for Congress in approval of new regs. 12. Move to cut spending and cap at 20% of GDP; Pursue Balanced Budget Amendment. 13. Align wages/benefits of govt workers w/private workforce 14. Reduce fed workforce by 10% via attrition</p>	<p>1. As Senator, sponsored legislation for a 'Balanced Budget Amendment' and 'Line Item Veto' 2. Sponsored 1996 Welfare Reform law 3. Spearheaded passage of Bush's 2001 and 2003 tax cuts</p>
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**National Security
/ Foreign Policy**

Mitt Romney has issued an extensive paper on his foreign policy views. It can be viewed here:
<http://www.mittromney.com/blogs/mitts-view/2011/10/fact-sheet-mitt-romneys-strategy-ensure-american-century>

1. Spent 8 years on Senate Armed Services Committee 2. Fought for the 'Syria Accountability Act' in 2003 3. In 2005, authored/passed the 'Iran Freedom and Support Act' which authorized federal money to support pro-democracy movements in Iran & to keep Ahmadinejad from obtaining a nuclear weapon 4. Since leaving the Senate, created the 'Program to Protect America's Freedom' at the Ethics and Public Policy Center to identify, study and heighten awareness of the threats posed to America.

<p>Energy Plan</p>	<p>1. Eliminate Department of Energy 2. Return to Pre-Obama levels of permitting oil drilling in Gulf 3. Open ANWR, NPR-A and the Alaskan OCS for development 4. Open Southern Atlantic OCS off-shore resources for development 5. Approve Keystone Pipeline 6. Expand on-shore oil/gas development in Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, Montana, New Mexico, Wyoming 7. Oppose federal restrictions on natural gas production, hydraulic or nitrogen fracturing and horizontal drilling 8. Suspend/reconsider Obama's Clean Air Act regs including EPA's Utility MACT, CSAPR, Boiler MACT, EPA's authority over greenhouse gases & eliminate all current/planned EPA regs to restrict carbon dioxide emissions 9. Oppose adoption of a national Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) 10. Streamline permitting process for nuclear energy 11. Dismantle EPA & rebuild; Reduce in size & influence</p>	<p>1. Undertake comprehensive survey of American energy reserves & initiate leasing in all areas currently approved for exploration. 2. Directs Dept. of Interior to implement process for rapid issuance of drilling permits to developers with established safety records. 3. Will significantly expand areas available for energy development. 4. Expand NRC capabilities for approval of additional nuclear reactor designs & streamline NRC process.</p>	
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Healthcare / Entitlements	<p>1. Repeal Obamacare 2. Reform Medicare to be sustainable for the long-term 3. Return Medicaid responsibility to the states 4. Repeal Obamacare</p>	<p>1. Directs federal agencies to return maximum authority to the states to design healthcare solutions that works best for them. 2. Will work to appeal & replace Obamacare. 3. Will work to reform Medicaid, converting it to a block grant administered to the states. 4. Will issue an Executive Order paving way for Obamacare waivers for all 50 states. 5. Empower individuals to purchase their own insurance by expanding tax deduction. 6. Focus federal regulation of health care on making markets work including purchasing insurance across state lines, not denying insurance to continuously-covered individuals because of pre-existing conditions, allow individuals/small businesses to form purchasing pools. 7. Reform the broken medical liability system by capping non-economic damages & supporting alternative dispute resolutions. 8. Will strengthen Health Saving Accounts.</p>	
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Education

1. Eliminate the Department of Education

Rights & Freedoms	1. End life-time appointment of federal judges through Constitutional Amendment (18-year terms for Supreme Court staggered every 2 years - would apply to future appointments only)	1. Will undertake a restructuring of government that places burden on the federal agency to establish why a program or service must be provided at the federal level.	
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<p>Other</p>	<p>1. Supports traditional marriage & supports a national DOMA Constitutional Amendment 2. As Gov, signed parental consent law for minors, Prenatal Protection Act, Woman's Right to Know Act, ban on late-term abortions, law ensuring pregnant women receive a sonogram prior to abortion, defunded Planned Parenthood 3. Defender of 2nd Amendment 4. Only appoint judges with a demonstrated commitment to Constitution 5. Would work to establish a part-time Congress 6. Cut Congressional pay in half & repeal rules that prevent Congressmen from holding real jobs in their home states 7. Slash congressional staff budgets 8. Criminalize insider trading by Congress 9. Amend Freedom of Information Act to make it apply to Congress & WH; require that requests be filled within 30 days of receipt for entire fed government 10. Transition Dept. of Homeland Security to a public-private partnership 11. Restructure and reform the EPA 12. Order full audit of all federal agencies to identify waste/fraud/abuse 13. Eliminate federal government waste/redundancy by working with Congress to pass laws requiring that duplicative programs get cut 14. Work with Congress to pass legislation requiring a two-thirds majority for any increase in taxes.</p>	<p>1. Consolidates sprawl of federal retraining programs & return funding/responsibility for these programs to states. 2. Directs Treasury to list China as a currency manipulator & Commerce Dept. to assess countervailing duties on Chinese imports if China does not respond. 3. Protect workers rights & employer flexibility. Appoint to NLRB experienced individuals with a respect for law & even-handed approach to labor relations. Will amend NLRB Act so it does not restrain companies in their investment decisions (such as the Boeing case). The Act must give workers the pros/cons of unionization & then allow workers to vote in private. Act must put an end to practice of allowing unions to deduct money directly from worker's paychecks & spend it on political causes which the workers may disagree. 4. Amend Clean Air Act to exclude Carbon Dioxide from its purview.</p>	<p>1. Was author of legislation to outlaw partial-birth abortion 2. Authored legislation to advance adult stem cell research 3. Fought for passage of 'Individuals with Disability Act' (IDEA) and the 'Combating Autism Act' 4. Spearheaded the debate in favor of the Federal Marriage Amendment of 2004 5. Authored the 'Workplace Religious Freedom Act' 6. Founded the Congressional Working Group on Religious Freedom to ensure that the principle of Freedom of Religion would not be infringed upon.</p>
<p>What's NOT on their campaign website?</p>		<p>http://www.issues2000.org/Mitt_Romney.htm</p>	

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<p>What's NOT on their campaign website that we consider problematic</p>		<p><u>Romney is infamous for his 'flip-flops' on issues. RedState.com put out this detailed document on his flip-flops. Included: Abortion, Illegal Immigration, Tax issues, Campaign Finance Reform, Republican Affiliation & Reagan, 2nd Amendment, Universal Health Care (Romneycare), Climate Change, Gays in the Military, Gay Marriage, Stem Cell Research. READ:</u> http://www.redstate.com/erick/files/2011/10/FLIPFLOPS.pdf - Also:</p>	
<p>What's NOT on their campaign website that we consider problematic</p>		<p><u>Video: Romney admits that he's a moderate and a Progressive</u></p>	