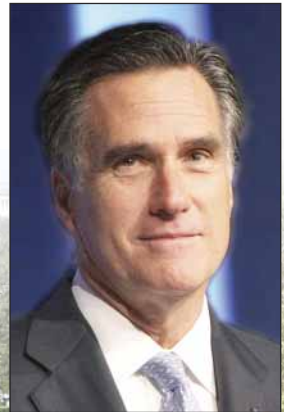


LIBERTY COUNSEL

Presidential Voter Guide 2012



Issue: **ABORTION AND HUMAN LIFE**

Barack Obama¹

- Voted against legislation, the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, which would have required that medical assistance be provided to a child born alive during an attempted abortion.
- Supports federal funding of organizations that promote and provide abortions.
- Voted against a partial-birth abortion ban.
- Voted to allow minors to cross state lines for the purpose of obtaining an abortion.
- Voted against requiring minors to tell their parents when they have crossed state lines to obtain an abortion.
- Supports embryonic stem cell research.
- Supports the HHS federal mandate forcing religious employers to provide contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs.
- Issued Executive Order to fund abortion in the District of Columbia and around the world.
- Supports using U.S. influence and funds to liberalize abortion laws of foreign nations.

Mitt Romney²

- Believes life begins at conception.
- Opposes federal funding of organizations that promote and provide abortions.
- Supports the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits the use of federal funding for abortions, except in the cases of rape, incest, and the life of the mother.
- Supports overturning *Roe v. Wade*.
- Opposes federal funding of stem cell research.
- Opposes cloning.

¹ *Obama Biden: Forward*, <http://www.barackobama.com/> (last visited September 24, 2012); *2012 Presidential Candidates: Barack Obama*, On the Issues, http://www.ontheissues.org/barack_obama.htm (last visited September 24, 2012).

² *Issues*, Mitt Romney for President, <http://www.mittromney.com/issues> (last visited September 22, 2012); *2012 Presidential Candidates: Mitt Romney*, On the Issues, http://www.ontheissues.org/mitt_romney.htm (last visited September 22, 2012).

Issue: FAMILY VALUES

Barack Obama

- Supports same-sex marriage.
- Advocated for and signed repeal of the so-called “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy and underlying law, which repeal now allows for open homosexuality in the military.
- Supports the Employment Non-discrimination Act which would add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to employment laws.
- Supports federal benefits for same-sex partners of federal employees.
- Opposes the Defense of Marriage Act.
- Supports using U.S. influence and funding to liberalize laws in foreign countries to advance Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) rights.
- Supports comprehensive sex education.

Mitt Romney

- Supports a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.
- Supports the Defense of Marriage Act and will appoint an Attorney General who will defend the law.
- Supports abstinence education.
- Believes child development is enhanced by having a mother and father.
- Supports teaching family values in schools.

Issue: RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Barack Obama

- Said he is “a big believer in the separation of church and state.”
- Supports the HHS federal mandate that forces religious employers to fund contraception, sterilization, and abortion, even if doing so directly conflicts with the rights of religious freedom and the rights of conscience.

Mitt Romney

- Said “[f]reedom requires religion just as religion requires freedom.”
- Opposes the HHS federal mandate that forces religious employers to fund contraception, sterilization, and abortion.

Issue: PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (OBAMACARE)

Barack Obama

- Advocated for and signed ObamaCare into law.

Mitt Romney

- Supports repeal of ObamaCare.

Issue: GUN RIGHTS

Barack Obama

- Cosponsored a bill to limit gun purchases to one per month.
- Opposes concealed carry, except for retired police officers.
- Supports a ban on automatic guns referred to as “assault weapons.”

Mitt Romney

- Supported a ban on automatic guns referred to as “assault weapons.”
- Supported a five-day waiting period on handgun purchases.
- Says he will not support new laws restricting gun ownership.

Issue: GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Barack Obama

- Supports regulating institutions for what they do, not who they are.
- Supports mercury regulations on oil and gas smokestacks.
- Supports eliminating government programs that no longer work.
- Voted against allowing some lobbyist gifts to Congress.
- Supports Cap and Trade.
- Supports Dodd-Frank law regulating business.
- Stopped the Keystone oil pipeline.

Mitt Romney

- Supports requiring congressional approval of all new “major” regulations.
- Supports broad review and elimination of regulations that burden the economy.
- Supports a multi-year lead time for companies to comply with onerous environmental regulations.
- Opposes the Fairness Doctrine.
- Opposes government management of the Internet.
- Supports consolidating agencies and streamlining processes.
- Opposes Cap and Trade.
- Opposes Dodd-Frank law.
- Supports the Keystone oil pipeline.

Issue: FISCAL REFORM

Barack Obama

- Voted against reducing federal spending by \$40 billion in 2005.
- Supports increasing taxes on people who earn more than \$1 million.
- The federal deficit increased by over 5 trillion dollars during first term as President.
- Supported ObamaCare which imposed new taxes.

Mitt Romney

- Supports capping spending at 20% of GDP.
- Supports cutting nonsecurity discretionary spending by 5%.
- Supports reducing the top income tax rate from 35% to 25%.
- Supports a reduction in foreign aid.
- Supports eliminating the death tax.
- Supports eliminating interest, dividends, and capital gains taxes on taxpayers making less than \$200,000.
- Supports strengthening research and development tax credits.
- Supports aligning federal compensation rates with those lower rates of the private sector.
- Supports repeal of ObamaCare.

Issue: IMMIGRATION

Barack Obama

- Unilaterally decided to lift the threat of deportation from young illegal immigrants, effectively instituting what the legislature did not pass in the DREAM Act.
- Supports securing the borders.
- Voted against declaring English as the official language of the U.S. government.

Mitt Romney

- Believes the U.S. immigration system is broken.
- Supports building a fence on the southern border.
- Supports enforcing employment laws.
- Supports English as official language of the U.S., but supports communicating in Spanish too.

Issue: IMMIGRATION (CONTINUED)

- Voted for a guest worker program.
- Voted to allow illegal aliens to participate in Social Security.
- Supports deportation of criminals.
- Supports enforcing employment laws against employers.
- Opposes mass deportation.
- Supports a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

- Opposes mass deportation.
- Supports granting more visas for legal immigration.
- Opposes chain migration.
- Supports de-incentivizing illegal immigration and thus opposes tuition breaks for illegal immigrants.

Issue: ISRAEL

Barack Obama

- Acknowledged Israel is America's "strongest ally in the region."
- Supports taking action if Israel is attacked.
- Believes Jerusalem "will be the capital of Israel," but that ultimately, that issue "has to be resolved between the Palestinians and the Israelis."
- Supports reducing Israel's geographical territory to the 1967 borders and land swaps with the Palestinian Authority.
- Opposes expanding Jewish settlements in Israel.

Mitt Romney

- Supports "stand[ing] with the Israeli people."
- Supports reducing assistance to Palestinians if they continue to incorporate terrorist groups like Hamas, which are dedicated to the destruction of Israel.

Issue: JUDICIARY

Barack Obama

- Believes the Constitution is "a living document and must be read in the context of an ever-changing world."
- Most important quality of a judge is his ability to provide fairness and justice and emphasized the importance of the judge having a sense of "what real-world folks are going through."
- Voted against the confirmations of both Samuel Alito, Jr. and John Roberts to the Supreme Court.
- Appointed Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court.

Mitt Romney

- Supports appointing judges who "will exhibit a genuine appreciation for the text, structure, and history of our Constitution and interpret the Constitution and the laws as they are written."
- Opposes using faith as a litmus test or qualifier for appointed positions, including Supreme Court Justices.

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