

Republican Party on the Issues
<http://www.gop.com/2008Platform/>

Abortion

- ❖ We assert the inherent dignity and sanctity of all 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, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children.
- ❖ We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion and will not fund organizations which advocate it.
- ❖ We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity and dignity of innocent human life.

Marriage

- ❖ We call for a constitutional amendment that fully protects marriage as a union of a man and a woman.
- ❖ In the absence of a national amendment, we support the right of the people of the various states to affirm traditional marriage through state initiatives.
- ❖ Republicans recognize the importance of having in the home a father and a mother who are married. The two-parent family still provides the best environment of stability, discipline, responsibility, and character. Children in homes without fathers are more likely to commit a crime, drop out of school, become violent, become teen parents, use illegal drugs, become mired in poverty, or have emotional or behavioral problems.
- ❖ We support the courageous efforts of single-parent families to provide a stable home for their children. Children are our nation's most precious resource. We also salute and support the efforts of foster and adoptive families.

Environment

- ❖ The United States should take measured and reasonable steps today to reduce any impact on the environment.
- ❖ Republicans support technology-driven, market-based solutions that will decrease emissions, reduce excess greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, increase energy efficiency, mitigate the impact of climate change where it occurs, and maximize any ancillary benefits climate change might offer for the economy.

Energy

- ❖ Our current dependence on foreign fossil fuels threatens both our national security and our economy and could also force drastic changes in the way we live. The ongoing transfer of Americans' wealth to OPEC – roughly \$700 billion a year – helps underwrite terrorists' operations and creates little incentive for repressive regimes to accept democracy, whether in the Middle East or Latin America.
- ❖ We must aggressively increase our nation's energy supply, in an environmentally responsible way.
- ❖ In the long run, American production should move to zero-emission sources, and our nation's fossil fuel resources are the bridge to that emissions-free future.
- ❖ We support accelerated exploration, drilling and development in America, from new oilfields off the nation's coasts to onshore fields such as those in Montana, North Dakota, and Alaska. The Green River Basin in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming offers recoverable shale oil that is ready for development, and most of it is on federal lands.

Health Care

- ❖ Republicans support the private practice of medicine and oppose socialized medicine in the form of a government-run universal health care system.
- ❖ We can reduce demand for medical care by fostering personal responsibility within a culture of wellness, while increasing access to preventive services, including improved nutrition and breakthrough medications that keep people healthy and out of the hospital.
- ❖ Our Medicaid obligations will consume \$5 trillion over the next ten years. Medicaid now accounts for 20-25 percent of state budgets and threatens to overwhelm state governments for the indefinite future. We must ensure that taxpayer money is focused on caring for U.S. citizens and other individuals in our country legally.

Crime

- ❖ We support mandatory sentencing provisions for gang conspiracy crimes, violent or sexual offenses against children, rape, and assaults resulting in serious bodily injury.
- ❖ We oppose the granting of parole to dangerous or repeat felons.
- ❖ Courts must have the option of imposing the death penalty in capital murder cases and other instances of heinous crime, while federal review of those sentences should be streamlined to focus on claims of innocence and to prevent delaying tactics by defense attorneys.
- ❖ We will continue the fight against producers, traffickers, and distributors of illegal substances through the collaboration of state, federal, and local law enforcement. We support the work of those who help individuals struggling with addiction, and we support strengthening drug education and prevention programs to avoid addiction.

Education

- ❖ We advocate policies and methods that are proven and effective: building on the basics, especially phonics; ending social promotion; merit pay for good teachers; classroom discipline; parental involvement; and strong leadership by principals.
- ❖ We reject a one-size-fits-all approach and support parental options, including home schooling, and local innovations such as schools or classes for boys only or for girls only and alternative and innovative school schedules.
- ❖ We recognize and appreciate the importance of innovative education environments, particularly homeschooling, for stimulating academic achievement.
- ❖ To ensure that all students will have access to the mainstream of American life, we support the English First approach and oppose divisive programs that limit students' future potential. All students must be literate in English, our common language, to participate in the promise of America.
- ❖ College:
 - Community colleges are central to the future of higher education, especially as they build bridges between the world of work and the classroom.
 - While federal student loans and grants have opened doors to learning for untold numbers of low- and middle-income students, the overall financial aid system, with its daunting forms and confused rationales, is [extremely complicated]. It must be simplified.
 - Distance learning propelled by an expanding telecommunications sector and especially broadband, is certain to grow in importance – whether through public or private institutions – and federal law should not discriminate against the latter.

Taxes

- ❖ The mammoth IRS tax code must be replaced with a system that is simple, transparent, and fair while maximizing economic growth and job creation.
- ❖ American families with children are the hardest hit during any economic downturn. Republicans will lower their tax burden by doubling the exemption for dependents.
- ❖ New technology should not occasion more taxation. We will permanently ban internet access taxes and stop all new cell phone taxes.
- ❖ For the sake of family farms and small businesses, we will continue our fight against the federal death tax.
- ❖ The Alternative Minimum Tax, a stealth levy on the middle-class that unduly targets large families, must be repealed.
- ❖ Republicans support tax credits for health care and medical expenses.
- ❖ We support a tax code that encourages personal savings. High tax rates discourage thrift by penalizing the return on savings and should be replaced with incentives to save.
- ❖ We support a major reduction in the corporate tax rate so that American companies stay competitive with their foreign counterparts and American jobs can remain in this country.

Civil Liberties

- ❖ We must always ensure that law enforcement respects the civil and constitutional rights of the people.
- ❖ While we wage war on terrorism in foreign lands, it is sometimes necessary for intelligence agencies and law enforcement officials to pursue terrorist threats at home. However, no expansion of governmental powers should occur at the expense of our constitutional liberties.

Immigration

- ❖ Our commitment to the rule of law means smarter enforcement at the workplace, against illegal workers and lawbreaking employers alike, along with those who practice identity theft and traffic in fraudulent documents.
- ❖ The rule of law means guaranteeing to law enforcement the tools and coordination to deport criminal aliens without delay – and correcting court decisions that have made deportation so difficult. It means enforcing the law against those who overstay their visas, rather than letting millions flout the generosity that gave them temporary entry. It means imposing maximum penalties on those who smuggle illegal aliens into the U.S., both for their lawbreaking and for their cruel exploitation.
- ❖ We oppose amnesty. The rule of law suffers if government policies encourage or reward illegal activity.
- ❖ In our multiethnic nation, everyone – immigrants and native-born alike – must embrace our core values of liberty, equality, meritocracy, and respect for human dignity and the rights of women.
- ❖ One sign of our unity is our English language. For newcomers, it has always been the fastest route to prosperity in America. English empowers. We support English as the official language in our nation, while welcoming the ethnic diversity in the United States and the territories, including language. Immigrants should be encouraged to learn English.