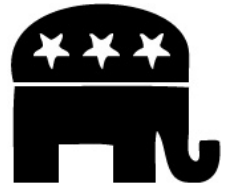




WHERE THEY STAND



BARACK OBAMA

MITT ROMNEY



Economy

Repeal Bush tax cuts for wealthy; stimulus spending and tax cuts for short term economy growth; cut spending and raise taxes on wealthy to reduce debt long term

Make Bush tax cuts for households making more than \$250,000 permanent; cut taxes and regulations to encourage business; cut discretionary spending by 5% to reduce national debt



Health care

Patient protections from insurance companies; policies require everyone to have health insurance

Repeal Affordable Care Act; proposes encouraging individuals to purchase their own health insurance rather than via employers; allowing insurance across state lines



Environment

Supports cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions; delayed decision on northern leg of Keystone XL pipe running oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico due to environmental issues

Opposes cap-and-trade legislation; supports Keystone XL pipeline; \$20 billion package for energy research and new car technology



Gay rights

Supports same-sex marriage; pushed Congress to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, allowing gays to serve openly in the military

Opposes same-sex marriage but supports legal unions; supports Don't Ask, Don't Tell but favors openly serving in the military; supported ENDA to ban anti-gay employer discrimination



Abortion

Supports Roe vs. Wade; criticized Supreme Court decision that upheld ban on partial-birth abortions

Opposes Roe vs. Wade; believes states should be allowed to ban abortion



Gun control

Wants to uphold second amendment rights but wants to pass laws that ideally keep guns out of the hands of criminals; pushes for common sense gun safety measures

Does not support adding new laws restricting gun control; supports expanding rights of gun owners (yet fully punishing those who abuse the power)



Foreign policy

Iraq Opposed invasion from the beginning; opposed troop increase; ended operations in Iraq
Iran Engage in direct diplomacy; military option not off the table; pressures Iran to prove nuclear aspirations are peaceful; doesn't support sending troops; wants diplomacy

Iraq Says keeping the US in Iraq is the best option for minimizing casualties and maintaining democracy in Iraq
Iran Supports sending more troops back to surrounding nations to pressure Iran into giving up its nuclear aspirations