A Comparison of the 2012 Republican and Democratic Platforms

DEMOCRAT	KEY ISSUE	REPUBLICAN
• The Democratic Party Platform had all mention of God removed, and then one mention was added at the end of the process.	God	• The Republican Party Platform mentions 'God' a dozen times.
• "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay. We oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right." • 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 52	Abortion	• "Faithful to the 'self-evident' truths enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, we assert the sanctity of 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 endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children." • 2012 Republican Platform, p. 13-14
• "Democrats support access to affordable family planning services, and President Obama and Democrats will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers." • 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 52	Planned Parenthood	• "We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or fund organizations which perform or advocate it and will not fund or subsidize health care which includes abortion coverage." • 2012 Republican Platform, p. 14
• "We oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and responsibilities as other married couples. We support the full repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act." • 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 53	Same-Sex Marriage	• "We reaffirm our support for a Constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We applaud the citizens of the majority of States which have enshrined in their constitutions the traditional concept of marriage, and we support the campaigns underway in several other States to do so." • 2012 Republican Platform, p. 10
• "Over the determined opposition of Republicans, we enacted landmark reforms that are already helping millions of Americans, and more benefits will come soon. "As a result of our efforts, today, young Americans entering the workforce can stay on their parents' plans. Insurers can no longer refuse to cover kids with pre-existing medical conditions. Insurance companies will no longer be able to arbitrarily cap and cancel coverage, or charge women more simply because of their gender. People with private insurance are getting preventive services like cancer screenings, annual well-woman visits, and FDA-approved contraception with no out-of-pocket costs." • 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 34	Obamacare	• "Congressional Republicans are committed to [Obamacare's] repeal; and a Republican President, on the first day in office, will use his legitimate waiver authority under that law to halt its progress and then will sign its repeal. Then the American people, through the free market, can advance affordable and responsible healthcare reform that meets the needs and concerns of patients and providers. Through Obamacare, the current Administration has promoted the notion of abortion as healthcare. We, however, affirm the dignity of women by protecting the sanctity of human life." • 2012 Republican Platform, p. 32-33
• "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." • 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 52	HHS Mandate/ Religious Liberty	• "The most offensive instance of this war on religion has been the current administration's attempt to compel faith-related in stitutions, as well as believing individuals, to contravene their deeply held religious, moral, or ethical beliefs regarding health services, traditional marriage, or abortion. "We pledge to respect the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard the independence of their institutions from government." • 2012 Republican Platform, p. 12

Continued On Reverse

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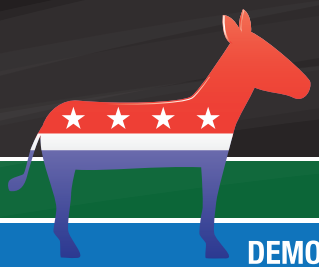

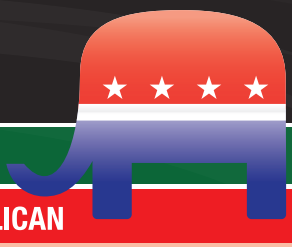

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DEMOCRAT	KEY ISSUE	REPUBLICAN
"Too many students, particularly students of color and disadvantaged students, drop out of our schools, and Democrats know we must address the dropout crisis with the urgency it deserves. The Democratic Party understands the importance of turning around struggling public schools. We will continue to strengthen all our schools and work to expand public school options for low-income youth, including magnet schools, charter schools, teacher-led schools, and career academies." 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 36	Education	"We support options for learning, including home schooling and local innovations like single-sex classes, full-day school hours, and year-round schools. School choice — whether through charter schools, open enrollment requests, college lab schools, virtual schools, career and technical education programs, vouchers, or tax credits—is importantfor all children, especially for families with children trapped in failing schools." 2012 Republican Platform, p. 36
"We can move towards a sustainable energy-independent future if we harness all of America's great natural resources. That means an all-of-the-above approach to developing America's many energy resources, including wind, solar, biofuels, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, oil, clean coal, and natural gas. President Obama has encouraged innovation to reach his goal of generating 80 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources by 2035." 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 39	Energy	"Unlike the current Administration, we will not pick winners and losers in the energy marketplace. Instead, we will let the free market and the public's preferences determine the industry outcomes. In assessing the various sources of potential energy, Republicans advocate an all-of-the-above diversified approach, taking advantage of all our American God-given resources. That is the best way to advance North American energy independence." 2012 Republican Platform, p. 15
"During the Obama administration, the Justice Department has initiated careful, thorough, and independent reviews of proposed voting changes, and it has prevented states from implementing voter identification laws that would be harmful to minority voters. Democrats know that voter identification laws can disproportionately burden young voters, people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, and the elderly, and we refuse to allow the use of political pretexts to disenfranchise American citizens." 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 52	Voter ID	"We support State efforts to ensure ballot access for the elderly, the handicapped, military personnel, and all authorized voters. For the same reason, we applaud legislation to require photo identification for voting and to prevent election fraud, particularly with regard to registration and absentee ballots. We support State laws that require proof of citizenship at the time of voter registration to protect our electoral system against a significant and growing form of voter fraud. Every time that a fraudulent vote is cast, it effectively cancels out a vote of a legitimate voter." 2012 Republican Platform, p. 11
"Today, the Southwest border is more secure than at any time in the past 20 years. Unlawful crossings are at a 40-year low, and the Border Patrol is better staffed than at any time in its history. We are continuing to work to hold employers accountable for whom they hire. The Department of Homeland Security is prioritizing the deportation of criminals who endanger our communities over the deportation of immigrants who do not pose a threat such as children who came here through no fault of their own and are pursuing an education...When states sought to interfere with federal immigration law by passing local measures targeting immigrants, this administration challenged them in court. 2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 46-47	Immigration	"State efforts to reduce illegal immigration must be encouraged, not attacked. The pending Department of Justice lawsuits against Arizona, Alabama, South Carolina, and Utah must be dismissed immediately. The double-layered fencing on the border that was enacted by Congress in 2006, but never completed, must finally be built. In order to restore the rule of law, federal funding should be denied to sanctuary cities that violate federal law and endanger their own citizens, and federal funding should be denied to universities that provide instate tuition rates to illegal aliens, in open defiance of federal law." 2012 Republican Platform, p. 26
"President Obama, working closely with our international partners and Congress, has put in place unprecedented sanctions against Iran. Iran has yet to build a nuclear weapon, but has continually failed to meet its obligations under the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and several United Nations Security Council resolutions, and it cannot demonstrate with any credibility that its program is peaceful. "The President is committed to using all instruments of national power to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons." -2012 Democratic National Platform, p. 59	Iran	"Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons capability threatens America, Israel, and the world. That threat has only become worse during the current Administration. A continuation of its failed engagement policy with Iran will lead to nuclear cascade. In solidarity with the international community, America must lead the effort to prevent Iran from building and possessing nuclear weapons capability." 2012 Republican Platform, p. 50

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