



2012 Presidential Primary Voters Guide

DRAFT

**Palm Beach County Tea Party
South Florida 912**

Preface

Following the Florida GOP Presidency 5 event and CPAC in September, which many of our members attended, we had a reasonable idea of who we planned to support. Since that time, with the departure of Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Jon Huntsman, Gary Johnson and Rick Perry, stumbles by the candidates, and the excessive negative advertising, many are now undecided. Our Voters Guide is an attempt to help them (and us) make an informed decision prior to the January 31 GOP presidential primary election.

If you have been watching the debates, following the nightly news, looking at the candidate websites and perhaps attending candidate events, you will have a pretty good idea of where they stand on policy. We include their positions on the major issues in the Guide, but we also focus on the candidates themselves. What is their concept of leadership? What is their worldview? How would they govern and what has shaped their character? All of these things form a “framework” within which they will decide, act, communicate and govern on matters that may not even be on our policy horizon today.

The material in the “Personal Profile” section was provided by the campaigns, in response to our questions, and some of it is very personal. Three of the campaigns declined to respond by publication date.

The material in the Policy section was either provided by the campaigns (Perry) or assembled from public materials by our team of volunteer researchers.

Since the guide was developed at a time when there were 7 candidates in the race, we are continuing to include the sections on Michele Bachman, John Huntsman and Rick Perry in the “suspended campaigns” section.

We hope you will find the information in this guide helpful. You can let us know what you think by sending a note to info@palmbeachcountyteaparty.org or info@southflorida912.org

Acknowledgments

The editors wish to thank our volunteer staff who composed this guide and did the research on candidate policy positions, including:

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Part 1 – Candidate Personal Profiles

1. *Biography*

Newt Gingrich

Newt Gingrich is the architect of the “Contract with America” that led the Republican Party to victory in 1994 by capturing the majority in the U.S. House for the first time in forty years.

Under Newt’s leadership, Congress passed the first balanced budget in a generation, leading to the repayment of over \$400 billion in debt. Congress also cut taxes for the first time in sixteen years and reformed welfare, leading to over sixty percent of welfare recipients either getting a job or going to school. In addition, the Congress restored funding to strengthen our defense and intelligence capabilities, an action later lauded by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission.



The Washington Times has called Newt Gingrich “the indispensable leader” and Time magazine, in naming him Man of the Year for 1995, said, “Leaders make things possible. Exceptional leaders make them inevitable. Newt Gingrich belongs in the category of the exceptional.”

Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Newt’s experiences as the son of a career soldier convinced him at an early age to dedicate his life to his country and to the protection of freedom. Realizing the importance of understanding the past in order to protect the future, he immersed himself in the study of history, receiving his Bachelor’s degree from Emory University and Master’s and Doctorate in Modern European History from Tulane University. Before his election to Congress in 1978, Newt taught History and Environmental Studies at West Georgia College for eight years. He represented Georgia in Congress for twenty years, including four years as Speaker of the House.

Newt served on the Defense Policy Board under President George W. Bush, which provided strategic counsel to the Pentagon and Secretary of Defense on how to better address threats facing the United States. He is also the longest-serving teacher of the Joint War Fighting course for Major Generals at Air University and taught officers from all five services as an honorary Distinguished Visiting Scholar and Professor at the National Defense University. In 1999, Gingrich was appointed to the United States Commission on National Security/21st Century, the Hart/Rudman Commission to examine our national security challenges as far out as 2025. The Commission’s report is the most profound rethinking of defense strategy since 1947.

Newt is widely recognized for his commitment to a better system of health for all Americans. His leadership helped save Medicare from bankruptcy, prompted FDA reform to help the seriously ill and initiated a new focus on research, prevention, and wellness. His contributions have been so great that the American Diabetes Association awarded him their highest non-medical award and the March of Dimes named him their 1995 Citizen of the Year.

In 2003, Newt founded the Center for Health Transformation to develop free market healthcare reforms to foster a 21st Century System of health and healthcare that is centered on the individual, prevention focused, knowledge intense and innovation rich. Newt also served as the Co-Chairman of the National Commission for Quality Long-term Care and the independent congressional Alzheimer’s Disease Study Group.

Newt and his wife, Callista, host and produce award-winning documentary films, including A City Upon a Hill, Nine Days that Changed the World, Ronald Reagan: Rendezvous with Destiny, and Rediscovering God in America. Together, Newt and Callista also author photo books and record audio books.

Newt is the author of twenty-three books, including thirteen New York Times bestsellers.

The Gingriches reside in McLean, Virginia. Their family includes two daughters and two grandchildren.

Source: www.newt.org

Ron Paul

Congressman Ron Paul of Texas enjoys a national reputation as the premier advocate for liberty in politics today. Dr. Paul is the leading spokesman in Washington for limited constitutional government, low taxes, free markets, and a return to sound monetary policies based on commodity-backed currency. He is known among both his colleagues in Congress and his constituents for his consistent voting record in the House of Representatives: Dr. Paul never votes for legislation unless the proposed measure is expressly authorized by the Constitution. In the words of former Treasury Secretary William Simon, Dr. Paul is the “one exception to the Gang of 535” on Capitol Hill.



Ron Paul was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Gettysburg College and the Duke University School of Medicine, before proudly serving as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force during the 1960s. He and his wife Carol moved to Texas in 1968, where he began his medical practice in Brazoria County. As a specialist in obstetrics/gynecology, Dr. Paul has delivered more than 4,000 babies! He and Carol, who reside in Lake Jackson, Texas, are the proud parents of five children and have eighteen grandchildren.

While serving in Congress during the late 1970s and early 1980s, Dr. Paul's limited-government ideals were not popular in Washington. He served on the House Banking committee, where he was a strong advocate for sound monetary policy and an outspoken critic of the Federal Reserve's inflationary measures. He also was a key member of the Gold Commission, advocating a return to a gold standard for our currency. He was an unwavering advocate of pro-life and pro-family values. Dr. Paul consistently voted to lower or abolish federal taxes, spending, and regulation, and used his House seat to actively promote the return of government to its proper constitutional levels. In 1984, he voluntarily relinquished his House seat and returned to his medical practice.

Dr. Paul returned to Congress in 1997 to represent the 14th Congressional district of Texas. He serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. On the Financial Services Committee, Rep. Paul serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology. He continues to advocate a dramatic reduction in the size of the federal government and a return to constitutional principles.

Dr. Paul is the author of several books, including *The Revolution: A Manifesto*, *End the Fed*, *Liberty Defined*, *Challenge to Liberty*; *The Case for Gold*; and *A Republic, If You Can Keep It*. He has been a distinguished counselor to the Ludwig von Mises Institute, and is widely quoted by scholars and writers in the fields of monetary policy, banking, and political economy. He has received many awards and honors during his career in Congress, from organizations such as the National Taxpayers Union, Citizens Against Government Waste, the Council for a Competitive Economy, and countless others.

Dr. Paul's consistent voting record prompted one Congressman to comment that “Ron Paul personifies the Founding Fathers' ideal of the citizen-statesman. He makes it clear that his principles will never be compromised, and they never are.” Another Congresswoman added that “There are few people in public life who, through thick and thin, rain or shine, stick to their principles. Ron Paul is one of those few.”

Source: <http://www.ronpaul2012.com>

Mitt Romney

Mitt was born in Detroit on March 12, 1947. His mother, Lenore, gave up an acting career when she met and married his father, George. Mitt's father came from humble origins and never graduated from college. He apprenticed as a lath and plaster carpenter and sold aluminum paint before beginning a career that brought him to the head of American Motors and then the governorship of Michigan.

Mitt married his wife, Ann, in 1969. They first met in elementary school when he was a Cub Scout; he remembers tossing pebbles at her when she rode by on a horse. When they met again years later at a friend's house, he was smitten. Between them, they have five sons and sixteen grandchildren, who are the center of their lives.



Like any family, the Romneys have faced hardship: Ann was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1998, and more recently fought a battle with breast cancer. She credits her husband's unwavering care and devotion to her for helping her through these ordeals.

Mitt is not a career politician. He has spent most of his life in the private sector, giving him intimate knowledge of how our economy works. But he has also been an outstanding public servant. In one chapter of his distinguished career, he reversed the decline of a state mired in recession. In another chapter, he salvaged the 2002 Winter Olympic Games from certain disaster.

When Mitt was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 2002, the state was in severe disarray, its budget was out of balance, spending was soaring, and taxpayers were being required to pay more and more in taxes for diminishing services. The state economy was in a tailspin, with businesses cutting back on investment or even closing and unemployment ticking up. Mitt made hard decisions that brought state spending under control. He restructured and consolidated government programs, paring back where necessary and finding efficiencies throughout.

Facing a state legislature dominated by Democrats, Mitt cast more than 800 vetoes as he brought conservative principles to state government. He cut red tape for small businesses, signed into law job-creating incentives, and fought hard to bring new businesses to the state. He eliminated a \$3 billion deficit without borrowing or raising taxes. By 2007, at the end of Mitt's term, the state had accumulated a \$2 billion rainy day fund in its coffers. This stringent fiscal discipline provided an essential backdrop for economic recovery. When Mitt came into office, the state was losing jobs every month. When he left office, the economy was generating new jobs by the thousands.

In 1999, the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics was on the verge of collapse. Thanks to his reputation as a superb manager, Mitt was asked to take over. The event had been bogged down in a bid-rigging scandal, sponsors were fleeing, and the budget was bleeding red ink. The attacks of September 11, 2001, just months before the start date, created a security nightmare. Some were contemplating scaling back the competition or even moving it out of the country.

Mitt set to work. In a remarkably short period, he revamped the organization's leadership, trimmed the budget, and restored public confidence. He oversaw an unprecedented security mobilization to assure the safety of the athletes and millions of international visitors, staging one of the most successful games ever held on U.S. soil.

Mitt's impressive skills did not come out of nowhere. He began his career in business.

After graduating from Brigham Young University in 1971, he earned dual degrees from Harvard Law and Harvard Business School. After working as a business consultant for several years, Mitt founded the investment firm Bain Capital in 1984. Under his leadership, Bain Capital helped to launch or rebuild hundreds of companies, including household names such as Staples, Domino's Pizza, and The Sports Authority. As Bain Capital was growing in prominence, Mitt returned to his old consulting firm, Bain & Company, as CEO. In a time of financial turmoil at the company, he led a successful turnaround.

Source: www.mittromney.com

Rick Santorum

Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990 at the age of 32, and from 1995 to 2007, served in the US Senate. In 2000, he was elected by his peers to the position of Senate Republican Conference Chairman.

Senator Santorum became one of the most successful government reformers in our history, taking on Washington's powerful special interests from the moment he arrived in our nation's Capitol. Along with John Boehner and Jim Nussle, Senator Santorum was a member of the famous "Gang of Seven" that exposed the Congressional Banking and Congressional Post Office scandals. It was this record of reform that prompted a Washington Post reporter to write in a recent article that "Santorum was a tea party kind of guy before there was a tea party."



He was also an author and floor manager of the landmark Welfare Reform Act which passed in 1996 that has empowered millions of Americans to leave the welfare rolls and enter the workforce.

Senator Santorum wrote and championed legislation that outlawed the heinous procedure known as Partial Birth Abortion as well as the "Born Alive Infants Protection Act," the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," and the "Combating Autism Act" because he believes each and every individual has value and the most vulnerable in our society need to be protected.

Senator Santorum fought to maintain fiscal sanity in Washington before it was in fashion, fighting for a balanced budget and a line item veto. He bravely proposed reforming entitlements, cutting spending and even developed a "spendometer" that added up the cost of Democrat amendments to spending bills. This record made him one of the most conservative senators in Pennsylvania's history.

He served eight years on the Senate Armed Services Committee where he led the fight before the attacks of September 11th, 2001 to transform our military from a Cold War force to meet today's threats. He was a leader on US-Israeli relations, authoring both the "Syria Accountability Act" and the "Iran Freedom and Support Act" which he successfully fought to pass in spite of initial opposition by President Bush.

An accomplished author, Senator Santorum penned the 2005 New York Times Best Seller *It Takes a Family*.

But of all his accomplishments, Rick is most proud of his role as a husband and father. Rick and his wife of 21 years, Karen, are the parents of seven wonderful children: Elizabeth, John, Daniel, Sarah Maria, Peter, Patrick and Isabella.

Source: www.ricksantorum.com

2. Leadership

Newt Gingrich

The Gingrich Campaign has not responded to our questions.

Ron Paul

The Paul Campaign has not responded to our questions.

Mitt Romney

a. What are the characteristics of a great leader?

A person with the vision and experience to understand what needs to be done and follow through with the solutions.

b. What leader has most influenced you in your life?

My father, George Romney, who came from a poor background to lead a large corporation (American Motors) and become Governor of Michigan.

c. In what leadership roles that you have held have you been most effective and what did you accomplish?

1. Working in the private sector for over 25 years building businesses and working with Companies all across America.

2. Elected Governor of Mass in an economic slump, worked to make it a job friendly state---cut taxes 19 times and balanced the budget 4 years in a row.

3. Salvaged the 2002 Winter Olympic Games—they were bleeding red ink but went on to become the most successful games ever held in the U.S.

Rick Santorum

a. What are the characteristics of a great leader?

There are numerous characteristics of a great leader. 5 core elements of a great leader include: integrity, fortitude, teamwork, conviction, and prudence. America needs a leader with integrity. If you are willing to cheat at a game of cards, you are willing to cheat at anything. Having strong internal guiding principles is crucial to any leader. Integrity begets trust, which is necessary for a leader to work with others. A leader must have the fortitude to do things that are difficult and arduous, but right. While a leader must be able to take charge of a situation, he or she must be able to work as a team and utilize different skillsets to accomplish goals. Furthermore, a president must have conviction. We need leaders who actually believe what they say and are willing to be tied to the hip with their issue positions. You'll find there isn't another candidate in the race with an accomplished record as consistently conservative as mine. Lastly, a leader must possess prudence. The GOP nominee needs to be prudently conservative. Our conservative standard-bearer must keep in mind the forward consequences of their policies and beliefs.

b. What leader has most influenced you in your life?

N/A

c. In what leadership roles that you have held have you been most effective and what did you accomplish?

Perhaps my most effective and accomplished role has been as a father of seven children (and one in heaven) and the husband of the most wonderful mother in the world. Despite my work in the Congress, we have been able to build a great family with strong values that remains close knit. My political leadership roles as a freshman in the House and as the Republican Conference Chairman are proof of my conservative record of accomplishment. As a freshman, I was part of the Gang of Seven that fought corruption in Congress and ousted several members of Congress from both parties. As the Republican Conference Chairman I was the go to guy for conservative legislation. If a conservative wanted a bill brought to a vote, I was the Senator they would count on.

3. Character

Newt Gingrich

The Gingrich Campaign has not responded to our questions

Ron Paul

The Gingrich Campaign has not responded to our questions

Mitt Romney

a. Some of the dimensions of character include trustworthiness, loyalty, warmth, respect, courage, and reverence. How do these attributes guide your behavior and how much do they influence your view of others?

These characteristics have always played a big role in how I conduct my personal and professional life. Also, use them (and will continue to do so) as guidelines on people that I hire or appoint to positions.

b. Who was the major character influence in your life? How and why?

Once again, my father (and mother). Even though my parents had become successful financially, they taught me the value of hard work and giving back to those less fortunate.

Rick Santorum

a. Some of the dimensions of character include trustworthiness, loyalty, warmth, respect, courage, and reverence. How do these attributes guide your behavior and how much do they influence your view of others?

America deserves a leader who possesses character, including all of the attributes listed above. Loyalty, warmth, respect, courage, and reverence are attributes that have guided me in my personal and public life. My beautiful daughter Bella has taught me so much about warmth and respect for all human life. Furthermore, it is critical for the American people to be able to trust its elected officials, which is why I helped clean up Congress after the House banking scandal. Loyalty to one's country and family is also essential for any leader. As president I will hold loyalty to the American people above all else. While we can disagree on issues, it is important for everyone to have respect and reverence for each other. Although I disagreed with Barbara Boxer on almost every issue, we still worked together on the Iran Freedom and Support Act in order to protect America. Courage is another dimension of character that a president should have. Leaders must have the courage to stand up for what is right, even in the face of heavy opposition. When I faced a tough reelection in 2006, the pundits and strategist wanted me to moderate my support for the war and social issues. I refused and was defeated, but I wouldn't change a thing.

b. Who was the major character influence in your life? How and why?

N/A

4. *Worldview*

Newt Gingrich

The Gingrich Campaign has not responded to our questions.

Ron Paul

The Paul Campaign has not responded to our questions

Mitt Romney

a. What do you see as America's role in the world for the next 20 years?

First, getting our Country back on sound financial footing, lead the world in economic growth and gain back the respect that has primarily been lost over the past 3 years.

b. What level of debt, deficit and taxation is "reasonable" and why?

Cut federal spending and cap level at a sustainable level –20% of GDP is the target — Prioritize spending and balance the budget.

c. What are the top 3 economic problems that "must be solved" to secure our future?

- 1.Repeal Obamacare
- 2.Cut federal spending
- 3.Put people back to work

d. What are the top 3 foreign policy challenges of the next decade?

Maintaining a strong military, dealing with Iran on nuclear capabilities, and keep U.S. safe from radical Islamic terrorists. We must restore our strength at home and abroad.

Rick Santorum

a. What do you see as America's role in the world for the next 20 years?

America must continue to be the shining city on a hill that John Winthrop and Ronald Reagan talked about. The world is better off when America is the strongest power in the world. The rest of the world looks to America as a beacon of freedom and hope. We have a moral obligation to combat Radical Islam and its terrorist tactics. I fought in the US Senate to preserve America's role in the world as a leader for freedom and democracy.

However, America must also continue to keep a focus on what's going on domestically. I want to revitalize the manufacturing sector in this country, so that products can be made in America again. With a strong manufacturing industry America can regain a favorable balance of trade, which will be critical for America's role on the global stage for the next 20 years.

b. What level of debt, deficit and taxation is “reasonable” and why?

The levels of debt, deficit, and taxation we face right now are unsustainable and unreasonable. That's why this election is so important. As president, I will reduce our debt, our deficit, and unleash a pro-growth program of taxation. In my first term I will push a balanced budget amendment, entitlement reform, and my economic agenda. My economic plan focuses on an area that the other candidate refuses to talk about - manufacturing. By rebuilding the manufacturing sector in this country, we can grow our way out of debt and deficit. However, we also need to lower spending and eliminate waste in the federal government.

c. What are the top 3 economic problems that “must be solved” to secure our future?

The economic downturn in America cannot be attributed to just three economic problems, but there are three a new administration can impact immediately. As president, the first three economic problems I would solve are unemployment, our trade deficit, and the growth of the welfare state. Unemployment is so high because our government is not creating an environment that is conducive to job creation. Small businesses are able to thrive and grow when the tax rates are low. My economic plan will reduce the tax rates to 10% and 28%. The Capital Gains tax will be reduced to 12% and the corporate income tax will be cut in half to spur economic growth and investment. The manufacturing sector can create hundreds of thousands of jobs if it is revitalized, and that's why I'll cut the corporate income tax for manufacturers to zero, eliminate taxes on repatriated income if it is invested in plants and equipment, and zero out all Obama regulations that cost businesses over a 100 million dollars. The trade deficit will be greatly reduced by my economic blueprint. Regulations and business taxes will be cut to make America competitive with the world. As president, I will sign 5 free and fair trade agreements within my first year. I will take on China and their unfair trade practices. Once again, by revitalizing the manufacturing sector, we can increase our trade advantage in exporting goods. The welfare state is another top economic problem that must be solved to secure our future. I will repeal and replace Obamacare with a market-driven solution. All agriculture and energy subsidies will be phased out by my 4th year in office. I will put a permanent stop to crony capitalism because I was one of the few candidates for president who opposed the Wall Street bailouts. Furthermore, I will continue my entitlement reform work from 1990s by reforming Medicare and Social Security for sustainable retirements. My administration will block grant Medicaid, Housing, Job Training, and other social services to the States. Lastly, we'll phase out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's government backed role in mortgages and home ownership within five years.

d. What are the top 3 foreign policy challenges of the next decade?

Latin America, China, and the Middle East (particularly Iran & Syria) are going to be the top 3 foreign policy challenges over the next decade. The spread of socialism is coming too close to America by way of Central and South America. Radical Islam is working its way through South America, which is becoming a training ground for groups like Hezbollah. China is taking a role similar to the Soviet Union in respects to the region. They are using aggressive rhetoric and the administration has shown great timidity in response. The Chinese government also poses an economic threat to America because of its currency manipulation, manufacturing core, and cyber terrorism. The Middle East remains the most immediate threat to national security. No other candidate has a record of standing up against Iran and Syria—I do. As a Senator, I passed the Iran Freedom and Support Act while the Bush White House fought against me. Just five months after the bill's first vote failed, it passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support. Additionally, I passed the Syria Accountability Act to protect Israel. We should not have pulled out of Iraq and we must still have a presence in the region to combat Radical Islam.

5. *Quality of Solutions*

Newt Gingrich

The Gingrich Campaign has not responded to our questions

Ron Paul

The Paul Campaign has not responded to our questions

Mitt Romney

a. Explain the major advantage and the most important side effects of your tax plan.

Cutting corporate taxes would encourage manufacturing jobs to the US to put us on a level playing field. playing field with Chinese imports, and stop the manipulation of their currency.

b. What is your “doctrine” regarding the intervention in foreign conflicts?

Evaluate each situation, always with an eye to what is best for the U.S. and its allies.

c. What should be “done” about the United Nations?

One thing, we should not be financing the United Nations at the current level.

d. Close to 50% pay no income taxes – how do we change that?

Creating a climate whereby businesses can plan for future and hire more employees. Increased jobs will automatically result in more people paying taxes---This, without increasing taxes.

Rick Santorum

a. Explain the major advantage and the most important side effects of your tax plan.

The major advantage of my tax plan is that the tax code is simpler and fairer. There will only be two tax rates—10% and 28%. The tax plan eliminates unnecessary taxes like the Alternative Minimum Tax and the Death tax. The Capital Gains and Dividend tax rates are lowered to 12%, which will spur economic growth and investment. The personal deduction for each child in family is tripled, and marriage tax penalties throughout the tax code are eliminated. The deductions for charitable giving, home mortgage interest, healthcare, retirement savings, and children are kept in place to protect middle class families. As for the corporate income tax, it is slashed in half to make our businesses competitive around the world. The research and development tax credit is increased from 14 to 20 percent, which will spur innovation. The manufacturing sector will be reinvigorated by a 0% corporate income tax and a 0% tax on repatriated income that goes to plants and equipment. The most important two side effects of my tax plan is greater disposable income and job creation. By making our tax rates lower and more competitive in the world, businesses will be encouraged to invest and hire more workers. By eliminated certain taxes, increasing deductions, and creating two Reagan era growth tax rates, individuals will have more disposable income to spend in local economies.

b. What is your “doctrine” regarding the intervention in foreign conflicts?

My doctrine regarding foreign intervention is simple. When America faces a national security threat and it is in the American people’s best interests to act, I will not hesitate to intervene in foreign affairs. America must continue to play a leading role in world affairs. For example, if Iran obtains nuclear capabilities and it is clear they intend to use their weapons, America must work hand in hand with Israel to destroy the nuclear sites and weapons. If Iran doesn’t voluntarily dismantle their technology and close their facilities, then we will do it for them. As a member of Congress I served on the Armed Services Committee and authored bills that dealt with foreign intervention. While many Republicans including the administration refused to act on Iran, I authored the Iran Freedom and Support Act to help Iranian dissidents overthrow the government. When American lives depend hang in the balance I won’t falter if this country is endangered by the actions of a foreign enemy.

c. What should be “done” about the United Nations?

While the United Nations serves some valuable humanitarian and international roles, we must preserve American sovereignty. I will eliminate funding for UN organizations that undermine America’s interests. The world is a safer place when America is free and strong. We must ensure that the United Nations serves as a conduit to achieve American international policy goals. Agenda 21 is something that particularly concerns me. We cannot allow an unelected international bureaucracy dictate American policy. One of the single most important virtues of our Constitution is a right to privacy. Agenda 21 at its worst would limit the ability to own private property. As

President I would stand strongly against Agenda 21. The UN also needs to stand strong with Israel. Israel is our most important ally in preventing radical Islam from overtaking the Middle East.

d. Close to 50% pay no income taxes – how do we change that?

The Reagan administration proved that cutting taxes and broadening the base leads to more people paying taxes and greater revenue for the treasury. Every American must pay their fair share of income taxes. That is why I reduce the number of tax rates to just two- 10% and 28%. I will simplify the tax code by eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax, the Death Tax, and marriage penalties throughout the federal tax code. More people pay taxes when they are taxed less.

6. Governing Style

Newt Gingrich

The Gingrich Campaign has not responded to our questions

Ron Paul

The Paul Campaign has not responded to our questions

Mitt Romney

a. How would your style differ from George Bush? From Barack Obama?

I would utilize my experience from both the private and public sector to get the Federal government running more efficiently. Reduce the size of the Federal workforce and align the wages and benefits of federal workers with the private sector, and set about the hard work of fundamentally restructuring the federal government.

b. It is difficult for a President to “change Washington” - how will you work with the existing DC environment and avoid both frustration and/or corruption by it?

Build respect in leading by example. My past experiences will help me to avoid frustration and/or corruption.

Rick Santorum

a. How would your style differ from George Bush? From Barack Obama?

While in the Senate, I fought President Bush on several issues, including the Iran Freedom and Support Act. After my tenure in the Senate, I opposed the big government TARP program while many Republicans supported it. I will be sure to take a leading role in accomplishing my pro-growth and pro-family legislative agenda by working hand in hand with the new Republican Majority Leader and Speaker Boehner. As for a differing governing style than President Obama, I say you look at almost everything he's done as a leader and do the opposite. I won't sit idly by as the Congress passes laws. I won't be deferential to the big spenders in Washington. And, you won't see me on the golf course while the future of our country lies in the balance.

b. It is difficult for a President to “change Washington” - how will you work with the existing DC environment and avoid both frustration and/or corruption by it?

It isn't too difficult for a President to “change Washington.” However, he must have the help of the American people. President Reagan would be my model of building consensus in Washington D.C. The power of the American people can overcome the frustration and corruption in Washington. My years in the United States Congress will prepare me to guide a conservative legislative agenda. In the midst of a divided and contentious DC, I was able to pass the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, Welfare Reform, the Iran Freedom and Support Act, and the Syria Accountability Act. I know what it takes to pass bills in Congress and I will utilize that experience along with my executive authority to pass legislation. I won't be afraid stand up to the congressional leaders of my own party if I don't think they're serving the interests of the American people. I have a record of fighting the establishment and corruption in Congress. As a freshman, I was part of the “Gang of Seven” that exposed the

House Banking Scandal, which put the Democratic Ways and Means Chairman in jail and ousted several members of the Republican Party.

DRAFT

Part 2 – Candidate Policy Positions

1. Tax Reform

What are the key aspects of the tax reform initiatives (if any) that you would attempt to implement if you become President?

Newt Gingrich

Gingrich says that opposing higher taxes is a key conservative value.

- He knows that taxes are necessary but says they are too high because government looks upon the peoples' money as free money to spend as they please.
- He would change tax policies so that the U.S. can compete abroad.
- He would encourage research and development through tax incentives.
- He wants the public to give their input on any major tax reform.
- Supports getting rid of the marriage tax and cutting middle class taxes.
- He would encourage investment by getting rid of capital gains tax.
- He thinks we could use the tax code to reinforce families.

Ron Paul

The power to tax is the power to destroy, which is why Ron Paul will never support higher taxes. Our national debt is currently over \$14 trillion, with the government spending nearly \$2 trillion more per year than it collects. The American people should not have to pay for Washington's reckless and out-of-control appetite for debt. High taxes stifle innovation, prevent saving, destroy production, crush the middle class and the poor, and discourage investment. Every American is entitled to the fruits of his labor, especially during these tough economic times. Lowering taxes will leave you more money to take care of yourself and your family, and it will allow businesses greater opportunities to hire new workers, increase current salaries, and expand their companies. As President, Ron Paul will support a Liberty Amendment to the Constitution to abolish the income and death taxes. And he will be proud to be the one who finally turns off the lights at the IRS for good.

- Ron Paul will never support higher taxes.
- As President, Ron Paul will support a Liberty Amendment to the Constitution to abolish the income and death taxes. And he will be proud to be the one who finally turns off the lights at the IRS for good.
- Capital gains taxes, which punish you for success (and interfere with your efforts to hedge against inflation by purchasing gold and silver coins), should also be immediately repealed.
- Struggling college students and those working to support their families would be greatly benefited and receive an immediate pay raise by eliminating taxes on tips.

Mitt Romney

- Tax rate flatter & simpler but still progressive for now. (Nov 2011)
- Rich are doing fine; Poor have safety net; Middle needs help. (Oct 2011)
- \$200,000 income threshold for no interest & dividend tax. (Sep 2011)
- FairTax is structured poorly against the middle class. (Sep 2011)

- Eliminate taxes on dividends & interest but not via FairTax. (Mar 2010)

Rick Santorum

Against government regulation and interference with business markets. Rated 81% by NTU and has consistently voted to reduce capital gains tax and to support estate tax cuts and to eliminate the marriage penalties. For lower taxes and repatriation of foreign company's taxes. Too many regulations; proposes to zero out taxes on manufacturing industry. Not for flat tax as lower/middle income will pay more. Is for all rates to be reduced.

2. Spending and Deficit

Our \$15T debt is the largest single threat to our institutions and our way of life. What are your top policy prescriptions to address this issue?

Newt Gingrich

Gingrich says that the government should look at how the private sector manages its finances and imitate it.

- He supports replacing bureaucratic attitudes with entrepreneurial management.
- Gingrich thinks the United States must quit spending beyond its means.
- He believes that the budget must be balanced.
- Gingrich believes that Congress must stop spending on discretionary items such as entitlement programs.

Ron Paul

As President, Ron Paul will lead the way out of this crisis by:

1. Vetoing any unbalanced budget Congress sends to his desk.
2. Refusing to further raise the debt ceiling so politicians can no longer spend recklessly.
3. Fighting to fully audit (and then end) the Federal Reserve System, which has enabled the over 95% reduction of what our dollar can buy and continues to create money out of thin air to finance future debt.
4. Legalizing sound money, so the government is forced to get serious about the dollar's value.
5. Ending the corporate stranglehold on the White House.
6. Driving down gas prices by allowing offshore drilling, abolishing highway motor fuel taxes, increasing the mileage reimbursement rates, and offering tax credits to individuals and businesses for the use and production of natural gas vehicles.
7. Eliminating the income, capital gains, and death taxes to ensure you keep more of your hard-earned money and are able to pass on your legacy to your family without government interference.
8. Opposing all unfunded mandates and unnecessary regulations on small businesses and entrepreneurs.
9. Restraining federal spending by enforcing the Constitution's strict limits on the federal government's power would help result in a 0% income tax rate for Americans.
10. Cuts \$1 trillion in spending during the first year of Ron Paul's presidency, eliminating five cabinet departments (Energy, HUD, Commerce, Interior, and Education), abolishing the Transportation Security Administration and returning responsibility for security to private property owners, abolishing corporate subsidies, stopping foreign aid, ending foreign wars, and returning most other spending to 2006 levels.

Mitt Romney

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Rick Santorum

Voted “yes” on balanced budget amendment and has consistently voted for continuing resolutions and bills to prioritize national debt reduction and to reduce federal spending by \$40B over a five year period through reductions in agriculture, employee pensions, conservation, student loans, Medicaid and Medicare outlays.

3. Size of Government

The federal government has become a major factor in everything we do and would be unrecognizable to the founders. How will you “make Washington inconsequential in our lives?” What federal programs would you eliminate or turn over to the states?

Newt Gingrich

Our government is too big, spends too much and is too intrusive. The country could cut costs in half and reduce the deficit by drastically downsizing the government.

Ron Paul

America is the greatest nation in human history. Our respect for individual liberty, free markets, and limited constitutional government produced the strongest, most prosperous country in the world. But, we have drifted far from our founding principles, and America is in crisis. Ron Paul’s “Restore America” plan slams on the brakes and puts America on a return to constitutional government. It is bold but achievable. Through the bully pulpit of the presidency, the power of the Veto, and, most importantly, the united voice of freedom-loving Americans, we can implement fundamental reforms. Departments to eliminate: Energy, HUD, Commerce, Interior, and Education.

- Enforce the Constitution’s strict limits on the federal government’s power
- Veto any bill that is unconstitutional
- Eliminating five cabinet departments (Energy, HUD, Commerce, Interior, and Education)
- Abolishing the Transportation Security Administration and returning responsibility for security to private property owners.
- Repeals ObamaCare, Dodd-Frank, and Sarbanes-Oxley.
- REINS-style requirements for thorough congressional review and authorization before implementing any new regulations issued by bureaucrats.
- Cancel all onerous regulations previously issued by Executive Order.
- Ron Paul on Entitlements: Honors our promise to our seniors and veterans, while allowing young workers to opt out. Block grants Medicaid and other welfare programs to allow States the flexibility and ingenuity they need to solve their own unique problems without harming those currently relying on the programs.

Mitt Romney

- I didn't inhale while governor; government is too big. (Sep 2011)
- Measure American success by series of cyclical indicators. (Mar 2010)
- Dynamic regulations: forward-looking & consistently applied. (Mar 2010)
- 1960s large donors avoided union influence in politics. (Mar 2010)

If elected, Romney pledged to initiate 10 major actions on the first day of his presidency, consisting of five Bills and 5 Executive Orders, which are:

5 Bills For Day One

- The American Competitiveness Act - Reduces the corporate income tax rate to 25%
- The Open Markets Act - Implements Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea
- The Domestic Energy Act - Directs the Department of the Interior to undertake a comprehensive energy review
- The Retraining Reform Act - Consolidates federal retraining programs and return these programs to the states
- The Down Payment on Fiscal Sanity Act - Immediately cuts non-security discretionary spending by 5 percent (\$20 billion)

5 Executive Orders For Day One

- An Order to Pave the Way to End Obamacare - Secretary of Health and Human Services to return the maximum possible authority to the states
- An Order to Cut Red Tape - All agencies to initiate the elimination of Obama-era regulations that burden the economy or job creation
- An Order to Boost Domestic Energy Production - Department of the Interior to implement a process for rapid issuance of drilling permits to
- An Order to Sanction China for Unfair Trade Practices - Department of the Treasury to list China as a currency manipulator and the Department of Commerce to assess countervailing duties on Chinese imports
- An Order to Empower American Businesses and Workers - Reverses the executive orders issued by President Obama that tilt the playing field in favor of organized labor

Rick Santorum

Need to get rid of federal programs and move to states (AFDC) as he sponsored AFDC which ended federal entitlements and block granted this program to the states; reduced number on rolls drastically with funding, reducing rolls 50 percent on average. For limiting role in education.

4. 10th Amendment

The states have asserted themselves in the last couple of years over immigration policy and health care. There are additional moves coming over EPA overreach, education and energy. Where would you draw the line between federal jurisdiction and that given to the states by the constitution?

Newt Gingrich

Contrary to his gung-ho and partisan approach, Gingrich is clearly divided on the issue of immigration. We've rarely seen him struggling to convey his message, so it is a rare treat to see a contemplative, thoughtful and

hesitant Gingrich. He may be alienating a large segment of the GOP grassroots with his stance, and in the process, open himself to accusations of pandering to the Hispanic community, but one can clearly sense that this is Gingrich being earnest.

Immigration: Yea or Nae? Yea.

“There's nothing complicated about what's going on. The richest society in the planet is within geographic reach now, in the age of modern transportation, of much poorer societies. So relatively smart people wake up in the morning and say, Gee, I could earn \$1 an hour here or \$14 an hour in Kansas City. I wonder where I'd like to be next week. This isn't complicated. It's not indecent and it's not wrong. But a society which fails to control its own borders is asking for the level of trouble we now have.”

Ron Paul

Exactly where the constitution stipulates. The encroachment on the 10th amendment has been rampant, especially since WWII. Ron Paul would turn all power back over to the individual states wherever possible, except those expressly indicated in the constitution.

- Draw the line at The US Constitution
- Eliminate the ineffective EPA. Polluters should answer directly to property owners in court for the damages they create – not to Washington.
- Eliminate the department of education
- Eliminate the departments of energy

Mitt Romney

ObamaCare's biggest difference: I believe in 10th Amendment. (Aug 2011)

Rick Santorum

Strongly favors moral law trumping states rights; “states don't have the right to do wrong.” In summary, does not believe in right of states to enact their own laws should they not meet a higher “moral law” firstly.

5. Health Care

Most agree that Obama care must be stopped and 26 states are taking their judicial challenge to the Supreme Court. A legislative solution is needed and there is some fear that the PACA has already made turning back the regulations almost impossible. What steps would you take to deal with this issue and what priority would you give it? What would you propose to replace Obamacare in order to reduce costs while still providing for Medicare recipients and the truly needy?

Newt Gingrich

Replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) with state-based healthcare solutions and implementing ideas from business leaders to reduce the overall cost of government.

- He thinks that health care should be competitive and allowed to cross state lines. Competition would lower prices and provide more choices.
- He would give tax credits for developing the technology to help and prevent disabilities.
- Gingrich thinks Medicare should focus on preventative health instead of illness and that we'd save \$14 billion on diabetes treatments alone.

- He thinks the government does not belong in health care. Nationalizing health care hurts everyone.

Ron Paul

From Alex Berry and Kim Winker:

There is no question that ObamaCare is utterly unconstitutional, by its very concept, never mind its actual execution. As the only candidate with experience as a doctor, he will work with Congress to:

1. Repeal ObamaCare and end its unconstitutional mandate that all Americans must carry only government-approved health insurance or answer to the IRS.
2. Allow purchase of health insurance across state lines.
3. Provide tax credits and deductions for all medical expenses.
4. Exempt those with terminal illnesses from the employee portion of payroll taxes while they are suffering from such illnesses or are incurring significant medical costs associated with their conditions.
5. Give a payroll deduction to any worker who is the primary caregiver for a spouse, parent, or child with a terminal illness.
6. Ensure that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system by providing a tax credit for "negative outcomes" insurance purchased before medical treatment.
7. Guarantee that what is taken from taxpayers to pay for Medicare and Medicaid is not raided for other purposes.
8. Make all Americans eligible for Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and remove government-imposed barriers to obtaining HSAs.
9. Stop the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) from interfering with Americans' knowledge of and access to dietary supplements and alternative treatments.
10. Prevent federal bureaucrats from tracking every citizen's medical history from cradle to grave by prohibiting the use of taxpayer funds for a national database of personal health information.

Mitt Romney

- ObamaCare waivers on Day One; repeal bill on Day Two. (Oct 2011)
- ObamaCare's biggest difference: I believe in 10th Amendment. (Aug 2011)
- RomneyCare intended as state plan; never as national model. (Sep 2011)
- ObamaCare's biggest difference: I believe in 10th Amendment. (Aug 2011)
- In MA, we addressed only the 8% who were uninsured. (Sep 2011)
- Reform Medicare, but don't cancel prescription program. (Sep 2011)
- I stand by what I did in Massachusetts. (Sep 2011)
- Health Savings Accounts give patients stake in health costs. (Sep 2011)
- ObamaCare has enormous differences from RomneyCare. (Sep 2011)
- On Day One, ObamaCare waivers to all 50 states. (Sep 2011)
- MA Constitution allows mandate; US Constitution does not. (Aug 2011)
- If people of MA don't like RomneyCare, they can change it. (Jun 2011)
- ObamaCare's power grab won't work; Obama didn't ask me. (Jun 2011)

- Romney supports universal health care but not a government program which would raise taxes.
- As Governor of Massachusetts, Romney implemented a universal health care plan for the state.
- He plans on market reforms to expand and deregulate private insurance to decrease costs and give more Americans access to affordable care.
- He wants to offers tax breaks and other incentives to individuals without insurance.
- Romney would allow tax deductions for out-of-pocket medical expenses.
- He would permit states to direct funds spent treating the uninsured to instead assist them in purchasing private health insurance.

Rick Santorum

Supports repealing the insurance mandate and all contraceptive services within Obamacare. To stop Obamacare, we must repeal in total the entire bill using the reconciliation process as it was enacted (requires only 51 votes). Medicare should be comprised of private insurance companies, not government run agencies. Would initially stop Obamacare by restricting funding of it through Executive Order, then pursue full repeal.

6. Federal Regulations, EPA, NLRB, FCC

The Obama administration has greatly increased the regulatory assault on business and citizen alike. What can be done to reign in the entrenched bureaucracy and how will you approach this task?

Newt Gingrich

Gingrich supports lowering carbon emissions but is skeptical of the climate change theories.

- He favors tax breaks over cap and trade.
- He supports conservative-based conservation efforts.
- He wrote a book on his views of the environment called 'A Contract with the Earth'.
- Gingrich thinks that the Kyoto treaty is bad for the nation and the environment. • He would give incentives for renewable resources and conservation.
- He would end the 'scare tactics' and drill in Alaska.
- He supports eliminating the gas tax.

Cut regulations on financial institutions, employing a fiscal policy that is based on Reaganomics. A one-year tax moratorium, coupled with the elimination of capital gains tax and bringing down the corporate tax rate to 12.5%. Limiting unemployment benefits to a maximum of four weeks.

"A Newt Gingrich presidency would see sweeping tax cuts, 'very serious deregulation and stringent limits on unemployment benefits after four weeks... I think these kinds of steps would move us toward a very dramatic job growth, which is the best way to move towards a balanced budget—by getting people off of unemployment, off of Medicaid, off of food stamps, get them back into earning a living and paying taxes... Washington would like to raise taxes because Washington would like to spend more money. The American people know this country is not under taxed, this country is overspent... Instead of spending \$140 billion a year for people to do nothing, you'd be spending most of that \$140 billion retaining the American work force, making us more competitive in the world market, making us able to compete with China, Germany and India."

He would eliminate the National Labor Relations Board, replace the Environmental Protection Agency and repeal ObamaCare

Ron Paul

Cut \$1 trillion in spending during the first year of Ron Paul's presidency, eliminating five cabinet departments (Energy, HUD, Commerce, Interior, and Education), abolishing the Transportation Security Administration and returning responsibility for security to private property owners, abolishing corporate subsidies, stopping foreign aid, ending foreign wars, and returning most other spending to 2006 levels.

See response for "Size of Government".

Mitt Romney

- No individual bailouts; but preserve financial system. (Oct 2011)
- Net-net, Bain Capital created tens of thousands of new jobs. (Oct 2011)
- Big banks handle massive regulations; small banks get killed. (Oct 2011)
- Corporations won't send jobs overseas if tax rates lowered. (Mar 2010)
- We need encompassing policy for jobs, energy, taxes, & trade. (Oct 2011)
- Nation should learn lesson from right-to-work states. (Sep 2011)
- Obama's policies have put 2.5 million Americans out of work. (Sep 2011)
- America is an extraordinary jobs machine. (Sep 2011)
- The free economy means sometimes we lose jobs. (Aug 2011)
- Replace jobless benefits with unemployment savings accounts. (Aug 2011)
- "Card check" is a massive imposition on worker freedom. (Mar 2010)
- Opposes "25-75": 25 years of service then 75% pension. (Mar 2010)
- Mitt Romney voiced his protest against a labor bill known as The Employee Free Choice Act that would make it easier for unions to organize describing it as a dangerous legislation saying that it would have a negative impact on the nation's ability to compete globally and would also dampen the scope of new businesses.
- Mitt Romney suggested that welfare recipients should go to work immediately. He suggested doing away with capital gains taxes for those firms that invest in inner city enterprise zones also advocated tax credits for hiring poor residents of those areas.
- He stands for writing off a lot of capital expenditures of business firms to induce them to buy more so that it will have the effect of other companies hiring more people thus generating more jobs.
- He believes a cut in Corporate Taxes will have a significant impact over time. It can stimulate the economy, create jobs and encourage foreign investment.
- He said that the American worker could be richer by \$9000 a year by opening up the market to American goods and services. The workers can sell the products they manufacture around the world thus raking in more income.
- He is of the opinion that it is the businessmen and not politicians who should negotiate trade with foreigners so that patents, designs and technology etc are adequately protected.
- He encouraged Trade and commerce with Asian countries saying that it will only strengthen the US economy and lead to further growth.

Rick Santorum

Remove any and all business regulations proposed by Obama. In his economic "0-0-0 Plan" would have no taxes on manufacturing industry in the U.S., allow all all overseas funds to be repatriated and invested in the

United States with zero taxes. Wants to half the current corporate tax rate.

7. Trade Policy, China

What is your position regarding fair trade with China concerning currency manipulation, intellectual property protection and dumping? Should our trade policy favor certain countries or regions or should we treat everyone equally? What do you see as the future of manufacturing in this country?

Newt Gingrich

- Gingrich believes that protectionism is destructive to the country and helps India and China challenge our supremacy.
- Newt Gingrich believes that China suppresses dissents and abuses human rights.
- He thinks that we should take steps with the people and not the government, to trade, have student exchanges and tourism.
- He said the U.S. should do anything possible to increase friendly relations with the Chinese people. We should be respectful of the government of China but encourage the people to demand their God given rights.
- He believes that we can improve China by trading with them and exposing them to the Western world of freedom.

Ron Paul

In general, Ron Paul's position is constitutional: to have no entangling alliances, but to be friends and trading partners with as many nations as possible.

This response was paraphrased together from A Republican Presidential Forum On Manufacturing

- Our ability to compete is hurt by too high of taxes, too much regulation and our monetary system. When a country becomes the issuer of a reserve currency of the world, unfortunately the biggest export is money so there is a temptation to buy from overseas, increase your current account deficit, and then you go to consumption. That is our disease. We've been doing this ever since we have been issuing paper currency.
- If you want a more balanced and a fairer trade system you have to have a commodity standard of currency otherwise you always have these competing currency devaluations that can lead to trade wars which are devastating.
- Ron Paul wants the freest trade possible. He does not like sanctions, and he doesn't like international trade arrangements like WTO and NAFTA because they sacrifice sovereignty.
- As President, Ron Paul will work for passage of comprehensive audit legislation, and he will also fight to legalize sound money so Americans will have alternatives to the Fed's inflated paper money.

Mitt Romney

- Trade with China only if they follow international rules. (Nov 2011)
- Go to WTO about China; we're already in a trade war. (Nov 2011)
- China is a currency manipulator; go after them for cheating. (Oct 2011)
- China doesn't want to have a trade war; so push hard. (Oct 2011)
- Trade is good for the nation, but not good for everybody. (Mar 2010)

- Protectionism stifles productivity, under Bush AND Obama. (Mar 2010)
- Mitt Romney after his visit to china commented that China will be more of an economic competitor than the United States recognizes.
- He said the Chinese are hardworking, market oriented and smart. Even the taxes they impose in certain areas are lesser. This shows that they are competing to win.
- The US should reach out to China and charter a course that is equivalent to a free economy and a free society. This goal should be at par with those of the US.
- Answering to the question whether China was a human rights disaster Romney responded that he believes in building bridges and not walls.
- He stressed working with China should not be at the cost of security interests and human rights.
- He said that the US market must make sure that the Chinese markets are welcoming to US goods.
- Romney stressed the need to ensure that China respected US intellectual property rights as well as they enforce their own.
- He said China has a vested interest in a strong US economy which will buy more Chinese goods and have no intention to bury the USA.
- He believes that a healthy relationship with China will help to keep away nuclear weapons from North Korea Iran or other terrorists.
- He said one of his highest priorities will be to make China a partner for stability in the world.

▪ **Rick Santorum**

China viewed as part of “gathering storm” of security threats to the United States and wants to take a “stronger stand” with China and demand better trading terms. Acknowledges difficulty of negotiation when we are so heavily indebted to China.

8. United Nations, NATO, European Union

In what way would you change the relationship between the US and these organizations from what the current administration has done?

Newt Gingrich

Gingrich supports the ideals of the United Nations charter but believes that the organization itself is deeply corrupt and in need of reform.

Ron Paul

There is nothing constitutional about cooperating with the UN, and there is certainly no reason to ask the American taxpayers to fund the overwhelming majority of it. Ron Paul would call for the immediate withdrawal of the UN, and cancellation of any financial participation in it. With regard to the EU, the same policy would apply to that of the previous question.

From a debate: The US people are first, the states are second, the federal government is third, the international organizations are in last place

Mitt Romney

- Unacceptable for Iran to become a nuclear nation. (Sep 2011)

- No European-style solutions to an American problem. (Feb 2011)
- Different countries' paths to decline came from isolation. (Mar 2010)
- In long term, Chinese reforms lead to demanding freedom. (Mar 2010)
- Post-WWII role: defeat threats to progress of freedom. (Mar 2010)
- American Exceptionalism means America need not decline. (Mar 2010)
- National turnaround requires leadership; consensus; strength. (Mar 2010)
- Mitt Romney feels that USA should hike up military spending to 4% of the country's GDP. He also believes that the Government should increase the active duty work force by ten thousand.
- Mitt Romney stands for wire tapping mosques to keep a check on Islamic terrorists and feels that USA should stridently hike up the military investment to counter act racial jihad.
- Romney feels that USA should employ both military and diplomatic actions to win the Jihadists. He supports bringing in a global and non military effort to counter act jihad. He also told the press "I want to bring in a real strong team of people who have different backgrounds, a lot from the private sector, and I want to take on a whole series of efforts."
- He once stated, "my view is, we ought to double Guantanamo" so that the terrorist will be prevented from getting any access to lawyers.

Rick Santorum

United Nations is not a legitimate representative body and would like to change. Present administration is weak and being pushed by other United Nations and NATO countries to turn our back on Israel and to participate in war against Libya as examples of non-leadership.

9. Radical Islam, Arab Spring, Iran

Contrast your approach in these three areas to the Obama administration. What should be our future posture towards the emerging regimes in the middle east and Maghreb and how should we deal with Iran's weapons program?

Newt Gingrich

Newt Gingrich has said the Arab Spring and the Muslim campaign against Catholic University are symptoms of a growing anti-Christian climate, and pledged to defend religious freedom around the globe.

Gingrich criticized the Obama administration's involvement in the Arab Spring – the Middle East grassroots uprising that has overthrown longstanding authoritarian leaders such as Libya's Muammar Gaddafi and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak – arguing that such involvement is creating an atmosphere of hatred towards Christians.

The former House Speaker also took issue with the recent complaint by Muslim students against Catholic University of America. The complaint filed with the D.C. Office of Human Rights charged that the school rooms used for Islamic prayer have religious material such crosses and images of Jesus, and that the private Catholic university would not sponsor a Muslim student association.

Gingrich responded to the complaint by asking, "Are you prepared to sponsor a Christian missionary in Mecca? Because if you're not prepared to sponsor religious liberty in Saudi Arabia, don't come and nag us with some hypocritical baloney. So I think we need to be prepared to stand firm for genuine religious liberty, not for something that's anti-Christian."

Gingrich also compared the Ground Zero Victory Mosque project to building a Nazi monument outside the Holocaust Museum.

Gingrich believes that we should pressure Iraq to cut ties with Iran.

Ron Paul

Ron Paul has no section on his website addressing these issues specifically, but he maintains a constitutional, non-interventionist (as opposed to "isolationist") policies with regard to these matters, but would not hesitate to take justifiable, defensive military action, if approved by Congress (as is required in the Constitution)

Ron Paul differs from the current administration because:

- Ron Paul wants to stop foreign aid.
- Ron Paul wants to avoid all entangling alliances.
- Ron Paul wants to follow the Constitution by asking Congress to declare war before one is waged.
- Ron Paul believes the greatest current danger to America concerning Iran is America overreacting and going to war for trumped up justifications.
- Ron Paul believes we should allow Israel to negotiate and defend herself as she sees fit. He believes that we should always provide unambiguous rhetorical support for Israel and trade our goods and military armaments with her freely. We must also liberate her from the heavy hand of U.S. dominance in her affairs. If Iran or others attempt to make war on Israel, our involvement should be predicated on whether Israel asks for our military help, and then if Congress authorizes military actions by declaring war.

Mitt Romney

- If we reelect Barack Obama, Iran will have a nuclear weapon. (Nov 2011)
- Crippling sanctions against Iran, & military, to stop nukes. (Nov 2011)
- \$700B was well-spent to win freedom in Iraq. (Feb 2009)
- To Jihadists, democracy is blasphemous since people make law. (Feb 2008)
- Let lawyers decide if authorization needed to attack Iran. (Oct 2007)
- Deal with Iran nukes with Dems at home & with allies abroad. (Sep 2007)
- Recognize the scope and reality of the jihadist threat. (Mar 2010)
- No Miranda rights for suicide bombers. (Feb 2010)

Romney on Israel

- In Mitt Romney's opinion amidst the many critical challenges that America faces today, the threat of violent and radical Jihad and the threat of nuclear proliferation stand at the top.
- Romney cites the former President Jimmy Carter's view with regard to bringing peace to the Holy Land and thinks the opposite. According to him, it is only helping to prevent terror and bloodshed and violence.
- Romney quotes. "State taxpayers should not be providing special treatment to an individual who supports violent jihad and the destruction of Israel."
- Romney fears that radical Islam has one goal; to replace all Islamic states in the world under one caliphate and convert the non-believers of Islam forcibly, if necessary, to Islam. He says that this plan is more irrational than the Nazi Germany policies of the 1930s and Stalin's Cold War or the 1940s.
- Mitt Romney has committed that he would defeat the jihadists all around the world. Most of his speeches however focus on restricting Iran rather than making decisions to resolve the tension between Israel and Palestine.
- Romney requested the Arab states to stop providing weapons and financial support to Hezbollah and Hamas and instead to put pressure on the Palestinians to "drop terrorism and recognize Israel's right to

exist."

- Mitt Romney strongly supports the security wall that divides Israel from the West Bank.

Romney on Iran

- Romney does not believe that the US is unable to deal with Iran military. He would not use ground forces for the attack on Iran but instead would use "blockade, bombardment and surgical military strikes" for the purpose.
- Romney promised that as President he would not shrink the uses of the military force especially when serious threats confront the US. As an alternative Romney seeks to get the Congress involved according to the law and the Constitution.
- During the 2008 election campaign, Mitt Romney ran an ad concluding, "We can and will stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons."
- Romney believes that if this situation is to continue and Iran is allowed to develop nuclear weapons the threat is bound to take a totally new dimension that could be hazardous for all nations.
- According to Romney, economic sanctions against Iran should be tightened by denying Iran access to international banking system, discouraging it from obtaining credit or purchasing by foreign currency. Romney has also supported strategic divestment from companies that support Iranian regime's hazardous actions.
- Romney further believes that Iran should be diplomatically isolated with only communication channels remaining open to them.

Rick Santorum

Believes we must act militarily against socialists teaming with radical Islamists and their formation of training camps on foreign soil. We must support Israel if they attack Iran's nuclear program as we cannot allow Iran nor other Middle Eastern radical countries to have nuclear weapons. Is for using diplomacy with sanctions in emerging regimes such as those formed under Arab Spring.

10. Role of the Military

Our force composition has changed in response to the asymmetrical threats we face, yet our experience in Iraq and Afghanistan has illuminated many shortcomings in regards to "nation building" projects. How does the military factor into your vision of America's role in the world for the next decade and what changes would you make in structure, weapons systems and human resources in the military forces? What is the appropriate level of spending for our national defense?

Newt Gingrich

Ron Paul

In short, Ron Paul would avoid long and expensive land wars that bankrupt our country by using constitutional means to capture or kill terrorist leaders who helped attack the U.S. and continue to plot further attacks. He would guarantee our intelligence community's efforts are directed toward legitimate threats and not spying on innocent Americans through unconstitutional power grabs like the Patriot Act. Further, President Paul would end the nation-building that is draining troop morale, increasing our debt, and sacrificing lives with no end in sight. We must follow the Constitution by asking Congress to declare war before one is waged, and, when we do, only send our military into conflict with a clear mission and all the tools they need to complete the job – and then bring them home.

Ron Paul differs from the current administration because:

- Ron Paul believes national defense is the single most important responsibility the Constitution entrusts

to the federal government.

- Ron Paul believes that acting as the world's policeman and nation-building weakens our country, puts our troops in harm's way, and sends precious resources to other nations in the midst of an historic economic crisis. Hundreds of thousands of our fighting men and women have been stretched thin all across the globe in over 135 countries.
- We should make securing our borders the top national security priority.
- Avoid long and expensive land wars that bankrupt our country by using constitutional means to capture or kill terrorist leaders who helped attack the U.S. and continue to plot further attacks.
- Guarantee our intelligence community's efforts are directed toward legitimate threats and not spying on innocent Americans through unconstitutional power grabs like the Patriot Act.
- Follow the Constitution by asking Congress to declare war before one is waged.
- Stop taking money from the middle class and the poor to give to rich dictators through foreign aid.
- Revitalize the military for the 21st century by eliminating waste in a trillion-dollar military budget.
- Per Ron Paul's "PLAN TO RESTORE AMERICA", the 2013 Department of Defense Budget is \$501 billion.

Mitt Romney

- It's a terrible idea to cut defense. (Oct 2011)
- Devoted to making America the strongest nation on Earth. (Oct 2011)
- Stay in Afghanistan until our generals say to leave. (Jun 2011)
- Strong Economy; Strong Military; Strong People. (Mar 2010)
- Increase defense spending to at least 4% of GDP. (Mar 2010)
- Strengthen soft power because it is real power. (Mar 2010)
- China's military is over half our size (not one-tenth!). (Mar 2010)
- Our nuclear arsenal must be updated comprehensively. (Mar 2010)
- Allies must increase defense spending to a fair share. (Mar 2010)

Rick Santorum

Strong military is essential to maintaining American exceptionalism. Radical Islam is what our military is up against – not merely a War on Terror. Is against funding cuts to the military budget.

Appendix: Suspended Campaigns – Personal Characteristics

1. *Biography*

Michele Bachmann

Michele Bachmann is running for president to bring a new voice to the White House - a voice of constitutional conservatism, limited government, and a safe and secure America.

Elected in 2006, Michele is the first Republican woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Minnesota. From the beginning, she has demonstrated bold reform, pushing to fix Washington's broken ways.

Michele is a leading advocate for tax reform, a staunch opponent of wasteful government spending, and a strong proponent of adherence to the Constitution, as intended by the Founding Fathers. She believes government has grown exponentially, with Obamacare being the most recent example of its uninhibited growth. Michele wants government to make the kind of serious spending decisions that many families and small businesses have been forced to make. She is a champion of free markets and she believes in the vitality of the family as the first unit of government. She is also a defender of the unborn and staunchly stands for religious liberties.



Prior to serving in the U.S. Congress, Michele was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 2000 where she championed the Taxpayers Bill of Rights. Before that, she spent five years as a federal tax litigation attorney, working on hundreds of civil and criminal cases. That experience solidified her strong support for efforts to simplify the Tax Code and reduce tax burdens on family and small business budgets. Michele also led the charge on education issues in Minnesota calling for the abolishment of Goals 2000 and the Profiles of Learning in its school. She recognized the need for quality schools and subsequently started a charter school for at-risk kids in Minnesota.

Michele sits on the Financial Services Committee (FSC) and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This experience has given her keen insight into the housing crisis and credit crunch, leading Michele to be a staunch opponent of the taxpayer-funded bailout of Wall Street and the Dodd-Frank legislation. Serving on the Intelligence Committee, she has consistently advocated peace through strength to ensure America's national security. She has proudly taken a vow to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

In July 2010, Michele hosted the first Tea Party Caucus meeting. She is seen as a champion of Tea Party values including the call for lower taxes, renewed focus on the Constitution and the need to shrink the size of government.

Michele is a graduate of Anoka High School and Winona State University. She received her J.D. at the O.W. Coburn School of Law at Oral Roberts University and an L.L.M. in Tax Law at the College of William and Mary. She has been married to Marcus for more than thirty years and they live in Stillwater where they own a small business mental health care practice that employs nearly 50 people. Michele and Marcus have five children, Lucas, Harrison, Elisa, Caroline, and Sophia. In addition, the Bachmann family has opened their home to 23 foster children, which has inspired Michele to become one of Congress' leading advocates for foster and adopted children, earning her bipartisan praise for her efforts.

Source: michelebachmann.com

Jon Huntsman

Jon Huntsman Jr., at 51 years of age, has lived a varied and remarkable life in business and public service.

As governor of one of the most conservative states in the country, Jon built a strong executive record by cutting taxes, reducing waste and growing Utah's economy. Thanks to the free-market policies implemented by Gov. Huntsman, Utah weathered the economic storm and grew jobs while the rest of the country saw substantial job loss.

Read-Error

Jon also has extensive foreign policy experience -- a passion that was sparked at a young age. When he was 19, Jon embarked on a two-year mission trip to Taiwan, where he learned to speak Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese Hokkein. He was later named U.S. Ambassador to Singapore, becoming the youngest head of an American diplomatic mission in a century. As U.S. Trade Ambassador under President George W. Bush, Jon helped negotiate dozens of free trade agreements with Asian and African nations.

His commitment to service rises above partisan politics. Asked by President Obama in 2009 to serve his country once again, Jon was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate as ambassador to China. He turned heads by shunning motorcades, preferring instead to ride his bicycle and interact with the Chinese people. As ambassador, he worked closely with American business owners to facilitate commerce in the growing Asian market, bringing jobs and capital back to America. Jon occasionally butted heads with the Chinese government as he stridently advocated for the release of American citizens wrongfully imprisoned.

In the private sector, Jon is a successful businessman with hands-on job creation experience. He served as an executive in his family's business, which built hundreds of products and employed thousands of people. Using his international experience and language skills, Jon has helped the company compete and expand globally.

Shortly after becoming governor in 2004, Jon began implementing his 10-point plan for jumpstarting Utah's economy -- including historic tax reform. He simplified the tax structure and cut taxes by more than \$400 million -- the largest tax cut in the state's history.

He maintained his fiscal responsibility even in the midst of the national economic recession. Rather than raise taxes or use accounting gimmicks, Jon cut waste and made government more efficient. As a result, Utah held its AAA bond rating and earned national accolades for debt management. Under his leadership, Utah ranked number one in the nation in the job creation and was named the best-managed state by the Pew Center.

In 2008, Jon spearheaded and passed comprehensive, market-based health care reform. While other states relied on government control and individual mandates, Jon delivered reforms that give consumers freedom to choose and negotiate their own coverage in a competitive marketplace. He also signed landmark legislation to protect the sanctity of unborn life and defend the Second Amendment.

When he is not working or spending time with his family, Jon enjoys riding his Harley and considers himself a street food connoisseur, frequenting taco stands. He is also an avid motocross racer, which has been a passion his entire life.

Source: jon2012.com

Rick Perry

The 47th governor of Texas, Rick Perry grew up in the small community of Paint Creek, located along the rolling plains of West Texas. Rick Perry is the son of Ray Perry, a World War II tailgunner who flew 35 missions over war-torn Europe, and Amelia Perry, who provided a loving, nurturing home for Rick and his older sister Amelia. Ray and Amelia Perry started out as tenant farmers, providing a modest upbringing for their children. Rick Perry grew up without indoor plumbing the first five years of his life, wore clothes hand-sewn by his mother, and was even bathed in a number 2 washtub as a young boy. Perry was one of 13 students in the Paint Creek Rural School's Class of 1968. He played six-man football, worked on his family farm, and devoted himself to the Boy Scouts, earning the rank of Eagle while in his teens.

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Perry was among the first generation in his family to attend college, enrolling at Texas A&M University in the fall of 1968. He joined the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets and was elected twice to serve as an Aggie Yell Leader. Perry graduated in August 1972 with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science.

Upon graduation, Perry took a commission in the United States Air Force, flying C-130 tactical aircraft to

destinations around the globe, including South America, Europe and the Middle East. In 1977, Perry was honorably discharged from the Air Force with the rank of Captain, and he returned home to the family farm, where they grew dryland cotton, milo and wheat. During the next few years, Perry would become one of millions of conservative Reagan Democrats, and marry his high school sweetheart, Anita Thigpen, 16 years after their first date.

In 1983, Rick and Anita Perry welcomed a son, Griffin, and their daughter Sydney arrived in 1986. It was in 1984 that Perry set his sights on public office, running to represent his rural neighbors in the Texas House. Perry would serve three terms in the House, ultimately switching to the Republican Party toward the end of his final term, before taking the bold step of running statewide for Agriculture Commissioner against a popular Democrat incumbent. Perry scored an upset in 1990 and easily won re-election in 1994.

Four years later, Perry won a close election to become the first Republican Lieutenant Governor in more than a century. He became Governor in December 2000 when George W. Bush resigned the office to become President. Since then, Perry has won three full terms as governor.

Source: rickperry.org

2. Leadership

Michele Bachmann

a. What are the characteristics of a great leader?

A great leader has a core of conviction to guide him and makes it clear where he stands. The Founders looked to character first when outlining in the Federalist Papers the true measure of a qualified candidate for the office. Honesty and integrity are very important qualities.

The true measure of a leader is gauged by how he or she performs when circumstances are least favorable. Ronald Reagan shared this belief and often quoted “America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”

b. What leader has most influenced you in your life?

George Washington, Calvin Coolidge and Ronald Reagan.

c. In what leadership roles that you have held have you been most effective and what did you accomplish?

I've spent most of my life as a real person. My and my husband's greatest accomplishment is raising five biological children and 23 foster children.

I started one of the first charter schools in America, shortly after my state of Minnesota introduced the first charter school law in the nation.

In the Minnesota legislature, I worked with Democrats to pass landmark education reform that returned more authority to parents.

My work originally started in the Minnesota legislature has finally paid off in placing a marriage protection ballot measure on the state ballot for this upcoming election.

I've been at the tip of the spear in Washington, D.C., opposing the Obama-Pelosi agenda, fighting against the TARP Wall Street bailouts, Obamacare, and Dodd-Frank (what I call the “Jobs and Housing Destruction Act”)

I founded the Tea Party Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives and brought 40,000 tea partiers to the U.S. Capitol to showcase the American people's strong opposition to the unconstitutional Obamacare law.

I led opposition to last summer's debt ceiling deal, which added more federal debt we can't afford.

Jon Huntsman

The Huntsman Campaign has not responded to our questions.

Rick Perry

a. What are the characteristics of a great leader?

I've always been fond of the way Sam Houston, one of the founders of my state, summed up the essence of leadership: "Do right, and risk consequences." A great leader is someone who casts a bold vision for change, inspires others to work together to achieve it, and isn't afraid to step on a few toes along the way.

b. What leader has most influenced you in your life?

If I had to choose one, I would say Gene Overton, the Scoutmaster of Troop 48 in my hometown of Paint Creek, Texas. It was in the Boy Scouts that I first learned the importance of setting goals, working hard, taking responsibility for your actions and treating others with respect. Mr. Overton not only taught us those values; he modeled them. He played a profound role in shaping my character as a young man and instilling the values that continue to guide me today.

c. In what leadership roles that you have held have you been most effective and what did you accomplish?

I've always considered my most important job to be that of husband and father. And I think the greatest accomplishment I could have in life is to be a good husband to my wife of nearly 30 years, Anita, and a good dad to our wonderful children, Griffin and Sydney.

In terms of my professional accomplishments, I'm really proud of my record as Governor of Texas. I have helped build the nation's strongest economy by creating a climate that is ripe for job creation. We cut taxes and spending, kept our budgets balanced, and got rid of the junk lawsuits and government regulations that are an impediment to growth. Since I became governor, Texas has gained over one million jobs while the rest of the nation lost two million jobs.

3. Character

Michele Bachmann

a. Some of the dimensions of character include trustworthiness, loyalty, warmth, respect, courage, and reverence. How do these attributes guide your behavior and how much do they influence your view of others?

I mean what say and say what I mean. I've won elections three times in the last 5 years from one of the bluest states in the nation because Republican, Democrat, and independent voters knew that even if they didn't agree with me on everything, they knew where I stood.

b. Who was the major character influence in your life? How and why?

Francis Schaeffer greatly influence my life through his film series, How Shall We Then Live, which taught me the importance of protecting life from conception through natural death.

Jon Huntsman

The Huntsman Campaign has not responded to our questions

Rick Perry

a. Some of the dimensions of character include trustworthiness, loyalty, warmth, respect, courage, and reverence. How do these attributes guide your behavior and how much do they influence your view of others?

I try to live by one of the central teachings of my faith, which is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. That is the standard I strive for, though I often miss the mark.

b. Who was the major character influence in your life? How and why?

That's easy: my dad, Ray Perry. When I was born, he and mom were tenant farmers. We didn't get indoor plumbing until I was 6 years old, and mom sewed most of my clothes by hand until I went to college. What my dad taught me was that what matters most in life was not what you had, but how you lived. If you were a man of honor who worked hard and looked out for others, you were successful, regardless of how much money you made. And as a World War II veteran, he ingrained in me the importance of serving others, which is why I was proud to follow in his footsteps by volunteering to serve in the U.S. Air Force.

4. *Worldview*

Michele Bachmann

a. What do you see as America's role in the world for the next 20 years?

President Harry Truman once said of America, "God has created us and brought us to our present position of power and strength for some great purpose." I believe that purpose is to be the greatest force for good and the greatest example of freedom the world has ever known. But that purpose demands that the U.S. lead the world--lead politically, economically, and militarily.

b. What level of debt, deficit and taxation is "reasonable" and why?

First we need to reverse the conventional wisdom of Washington, D.C., that all our citizens' money belongs to the government, with the government allowing us to keep a portion. Our money is our money just as it is. We the People grant authority to government, not the government that grants our rights to us.

It is imperative that the federal government ends the practice of deficit spending. As president, I will abolish unconstitutional federal departments, return as much health, education, and welfare spending to the states, and work with Congress to reform entitlements so that the federal budget is balanced during my first term and we begin the process of paying down the federal government's debt. I will only submit balanced budgets and veto budgets sent to me congress that are not balanced.

My distinguishing tax principle is that everyone should pay something, even if it's just a dollar. I would abolish the current tax code and replace it with a simpler, flatter, fairer tax code. At minimum, my new tax system would establish among the lowest corporate tax rates in the world and whose highest individual tax rate would charge no more than 25 percent.

c. What are the top 3 economic problems that "must be solved" to secure our future?

Appearing below are three elements of my "American Jobs, Right Now" plan which can be found in full on my website, here: <http://www.michelebachmann.com/issues/americanjobsrighnow/>

1. REPEAL OBAMACARE. Healthcare is one-sixth of the U.S. economy and this unconstitutional takeover of healthcare by the federal government is creating crippling uncertainty for employers across this country. This legislation does nothing to address the true problem with our healthcare system – cost – and will cost states trillions. I believe it is an intentional backstop to imploding healthcare entitlement programs — Medicare and Medicaid — to transition toward a single payer-system. This is the number one hindrance to job creation in the United States (according to a recently released UBS study).

2. REPEAL THE JOBS AND HOUSING DESTRUCTION ACT, ALSO KNOWN AS DODD-FRANK. This law tightened regulations on banks, made it harder for Americans to obtain credit, and failed to address the systemic problem that caused the Wall Street collapse — leverage. This 849-page bill calls for 400 new sets of rules that will be written on 6000 Federal Register pages, all written by bureaucrats, many of whom have never worked in the financial services field. The law also creates a potentially intrusive Financial Services Consumer Protection Bureau that is not accountable to Congress and which has but a vague mandate to combat misconduct – so in the wrong hands, it could cause its own kind of misconduct.

3. LEGALIZE AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION AND AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES. This could create 1.4 million jobs, bringing \$800 billion of new revenue into the U.S. Treasury, and increasing domestic energy supplies by 50 percent. The price of energy has a direct impact on nearly every facet of our lives. We have to abandon the parochial and political energy policies of the past and install a comprehensive energy plan that not only reduces our reliance on unfriendly foreign regimes, but also creates millions of American jobs and

generates increased tax revenues. According to the Congressional Research Service, the U.S. has more energy potential than any other country in the world. We should use that potential. It is a better policy to create American jobs and explore in an environmentally sound way, than to rely on foreign dictators who give little regard to the environment. This includes specific strategies like reviving the logging, timber, mining and metals industries, and bringing federal lands back into productive activity by repealing radical environmental laws that kill access to natural resources.

d. What are the top 3 foreign policy challenges of the next decade?

1.IRAN. While President Obama has his attention on instructing Israel to give back land necessary to protect their existence, he has taken his eye off of the most serious threat to Middle East security, a nuclear Iran. As president, I'll stand on the side of Israel and will ensure that Iran never has a nuclear weapon. An Iran with a nuclear weapon is completely unacceptable to the United States and to Israel; it would be a grave threat to the safety of the world, and so the world community should confront that threat. If President Obama cannot or will not lead that effort, he should step aside and let others do so. President Obama should fully implement provisions of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010. Currently, there is a lack of serious sanctions against investment firms from Russia and China, who are deeply tied to Iran. Without strong sanctions against Iran, it will continue its clandestine uranium enrichment program that could do irrevocable harm to Israel, the United States, or our other regional allies.

2.CHINA. The rise of China since the 1970s has been extremely significant, affecting the world balance of power. We must insist that China follow fair trade practices and stop manipulating its currency, thereby disadvantaging American producers and job creators. China holds over \$1 trillion of the U.S. debt; many Americans are rightly concerned over the leverage that indebtedness could provide to China. Our spending and debt is so out of control that by 2020 the interest payments on our national debt will be larger than the United States military's budget. And even worse is that those interest payments are going to the Chinese to fund China's military build up. President Obama has increased spending tenfold over his predecessor and it is directly weakening our national security as we finance China's build up and undercut our own ability to maintain a strong national defense. If the overspending, overtaxing, and overregulation by the Obama Administration is allowed to continue, we will lose out not only to China, but the rest of the world as well. America must make the difficult decision to cut our soaring deficits and remove the threat posed by our growing debt to China.

3.AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN AND THE WAR ON TERROR. I am committed to winning the war on terror. In Afghanistan, we should allow the surge to work there, just as it did in Iraq. We should listen to our generals, and not politicians or pollsters when we need advice on how or when to draw down our forces. We should never forget that every day, terrorists wake up around the world thinking of how to harm Americans and our way of life, and that the plot that killed thousands of Americans on 9/11 was hatched in the mountains of Afghanistan. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have seen major disruptions of Al Qaeda lines of communications and the deaths of some of its most prominent leaders. However, we cannot forget that while we fight these wars, Al Qaeda continues to grow around the world, including in the northwest frontier of Pakistan. The United States simply cannot commit ground troops to these new countries and expect to find success. Rather, we must continue to invest in our special forces, intelligence apparatus, and military technology to fight Al Qaeda and root out their bases of operation one by one. America must always support our men and women fighting overseas, and at the same time, we must evolve and adapt as our enemies continue to do. Maintaining Guantanamo as a secure facility for the terrorists who have sworn to harm the United States is also a necessary policy that must continue.

PAKISTAN. The operation that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden on May 1, 2011, served as a reminder of the complex and difficult nature of our relationship with Pakistan. On one hand, Pakistan has served as a partner in the War on Terror, allowing our unmanned aerial vehicles to conduct surveillance and perform aerial assaults on terrorist strongholds, and yet on the other hand, Pakistan has been criticized for its faltering attempts at removing the Taliban from within its borders. However, to simply cut off aid and all ties to Pakistan is impossible and reckless. As president, I will carefully review our Pakistan policy. It is true we must hold every country that receives aid from the United States accountable for their actions, but we must also remember that aid serves as an investment by the United States to protect her interests. We must not forget that Pakistan is a nuclear power that shares a border with Iran and Afghanistan and is being courted by China as a strategic partner. Above all else, we must win the War on Terror and make sure that America is never again threatened by terrorists harbored in Pakistan, Afghanistan, or anywhere else.

Jon Huntsman

The Huntsman Campaign has not responded to our questions

Rick Perry

a. What do you see as America's role in the world for the next 20 years?

I have a clear vision for America, one in which America returns to its rightful place as the most free and prosperous nation in history and stands tall before the world instead of bowing to foreign leaders. America must have a tax code that is simple and fair; a federal budget that balances without raising taxes; retirement and health care programs that are sustainable and secure; a common-sense regulatory system that does not create undue burdens on job creators; and a growing economy that allows the best and brightest to create and innovate free from government intimidation.

b. What level of debt, deficit and taxation is “reasonable” and why?

America desperately needs a balanced budget, which is why I have proposed a budget that balances in 2020 and why I support a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. For too long, Washington politicians have spent money we simply do not have. My Cut, Balance, and Grow plan limits federal spending at 18% of GDP, which is the 50-year historical average of revenues collected by the government relative to GDP – any spending cap higher than 18% of GDP will require taxes to be much higher than their historical average. The simple flat tax plan that I have proposed, when combined with a significant cut in federal spending, will generate enough revenue to balance the budget by 2020.

c. What are the top 3 economic problems that “must be solved” to secure our future?

A strong America requires a strong economy, a strong balance sheet, and a strong dollar. To strengthen the economy, we must reduce the tax and regulatory burdens on American families and small businesses. Job-killing regulations must be rolled back, and ObamaCare must be repealed in its entirety. To strengthen our nation's balance sheet, we must reduce spending, limit the size and scope of government, and balance the budget. And to strengthen the dollar, we must rein in the Federal Reserve and stop printing dollars in order to bail out Wall Street.

d. What are the top 3 foreign policy challenges of the next decade?

Our nation faces several key challenges in the next decade:

First, a nuclear Iran remains the single greatest threat to the U.S. and our allies. Iran's leadership has threatened to wipe Israel off the face of the earth, has imprisoned our citizens and carried out terrorist attacks, and as the IAEA recently reported, aggressively continues to seek nuclear weapons. We also know their disruptive actions are not confined to the Middle East, but extend to our own hemisphere. We cannot allow this aggressive regime to develop nuclear weapons.

Second, the rise of the communist government in China is also a threat to U.S. interests in the future. China has emerged as a strong competitor to the United States in the 21st century, both economically and militarily. This administration has failed to confront China on human rights, and let conditions in our country deteriorate to the point when the President of Coca Cola says it is easier to do business in China than in the United States of America. My first order of business is to get our economic house in order and reduce our debt so that we can properly negotiate with China from a position of strength.

I also believe cyber attacks are an emerging threat, and could be as serious as a physical attack for our country. Cyber attacks could target our military, important utilities, and the countless computer systems upon which our economy depends. I believe we must have both defensive and offensive coordinated cyber-security capabilities, so the Chinese, as well as others, know there will be repercussions if they continue this aggression.

5. Quality of Solutions

Michele Bachmann

a. Explain the major advantage and the most important side effects of your tax plan.

I would abolish the current tax code and replace it with a simpler, flatter, fairer tax code. The major advantage of my plan is that it will bring to an end the practice of crony capitalism which has its most ill effects through special interest carve outs in the tax code. I will also restore American competitiveness through a tax rate that allows US businesses to pay one of the lowest rates in the world instead the highest that they currently pay.

b. What is your “doctrine” regarding the intervention in foreign conflicts?

The United States should always be prudent in the use of force. We must also never put troops into harm’s way unless there is a clear United States vital interest and mission. We should never half-heartedly commit our forces to a battle without an end and without knowing our enemy and our mission. And we should always use the full resources of our military to achieve victory.

c. What should be “done” about the United Nations?

The United States should end support for the UN Population Fund and reduce funding for the United Nations. In response to UNESCO’s decision to admit the Palestinians as a full member state, I would withdraw from that entity and would withdraw U.S. funding from any UN entity that recognizes Palestine or grants them membership. If the United Nations General Assembly unilaterally recognizes Palestinian statehood outside of a negotiated settlement with Israel, the United States should withhold funding for the UN completely.

d. Close to 50% pay no income taxes – how do we change that?

When it comes to taxes that provide for our national defense and vital functions of government for which everyone benefits, I believe that everyone should pay something, even if it's just a dollar. As president I will put forward a tax reform that accomplishes this in the context of establishing a new tax code that is flatter, fairer, and simpler.

Jon Huntsman

The Huntsman Campaign has not responded to our questions

Rick Perry

a. Explain the major advantage and the most important side effects of your tax plan.

Under my proposed flat tax system, taxpayers will have the ability to opt-in to the new system or remain under the existing tax code. Those families or small business owners who made investment decisions years ago based upon the structure of the existing tax code will have the freedom to remain in the current system if they so choose. And taxpayers who desire a simpler, less expensive system are free to move into the optional new flat tax system and take advantage of a postcard-sized tax return that could be filled out in minutes.

Although the proposed flat tax system will not include most special tax credits or deductions embedded within the existing system, families and business that made investment decisions years ago based on the existence of those deductions or credits will still have the option to take advantage of those deductions and credits by remaining within the existing tax system. However, the new optional flat tax system will also include deductions for mortgage interest, charitable contributions, and state and local taxes.

Implementing a simple flat tax plan that protects lower- and middle-income families and eliminates special-interest corporate tax breaks is the best way to unleash economic growth and free the country’s entrepreneurs and job creators from the shackles of an incomprehensible tax code.

b. What is your “doctrine” regarding the intervention in foreign conflicts?

I believe any and all intervention in foreign conflicts must be driven by America's vital interests. We cannot send our men and women in uniform into harm's way without a clear objective and strength of purpose; but when necessary, forcefully, with clear objectives and a path to achieve those objectives. When our global interests are threatened, I will use every tool available to support our allies and deter our adversaries, engaging our military only as a last resort.

c. What should be “done” about the United Nations?

I believe it is time to have a serious discussion about how the UN is structured and funded, and whether it is serving a useful purpose. The Obama administration has been far too eager to subvert our national interests to the whims of this multi-national organization.

d. Close to 50% pay no income taxes – how do we change that?

The best way to increase the tax base is to create jobs and reduce unemployment. History has shown that a struggling economy does not produce the same amount of revenue as a healthy economy. So to increase the number of taxpayers, we must do everything possible to jumpstart economic growth in this country. My Cut, Balance, and Grow plan will jumpstart the economy by scrapping the current tax code and freeing up the nearly \$500 billion that is wasted each year on tax compliance.

6. Governing Style

Michele Bachmann

a. How would your style differ from George Bush? From Barack Obama?

George W. Bush is a patriot and a friend. President Bush made the courageous decisions necessary to keep America safe in the wake of the devastating Islamic terror attacks of September 11, 2001. In domestic policy I would focus on reducing the size and scope of the federal government, returning to the states health, educational, and welfare programs that have no constitutional mandate. But President Bush overspent too much and President Obama has continued that practice by tenfold.

My governing style could not differ more from Barack Obama. My primary goal as president will be to undo the damage that President Obama and the Democrats have done to the American economy. I will repeal Obamacare, Dodd-Frank, and legalize American energy production. I will return the federal government to its constitutional limitations and restore the presidency to its proper constitutional role as well. I will work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to end deficit spending and begin paying down the massive federal debt that has nearly doubled under President Obama.

b. It is difficult for a President to “change Washington” - how will you work with the existing DC environment and avoid both frustration and/or corruption by it?

As president I would come into office owing no favors to anyone but the American people. I've won election to Congress by one of the bluest states in the country because my constituents – Republicans, Democrats, independents – know that I mean what I say and say what I mean. I will restore the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights to pride of place in the Oval Office. I will make it clear to Congress that I will work with anyone who is willing to repeal Obamacare, repeal Dodd-Frank, legalize American energy production, and reform entitlements in order for the federal government to live within its means. I will end the practice of crony capitalism that has led to scandals like Solyndra.

Jon Huntsman

The Huntsman Campaign has not responded to our questions

Rick Perry

a. How would your style differ from George Bush? From Barack Obama?

I'll leave questions of style for others to decide, but on issues of substance there will be substantial differences,

particularly with President Obama. Washington is fundamentally broken. The president and other establishment politicians think it can be fixed by tinkering at the margins. I believe Washington needs a complete overhaul. I'm not going to Washington to make friends. I'm going to do whatever it takes to get America working again, regardless of the political consequences.

b. It is difficult for a President to “change Washington” - how will you work with the existing DC environment and avoid both frustration and/or corruption by it?

It is possible to change Washington, but it takes a Washington outsider to make it happen. Those who spent their lives in the Beltway cannot possibly change its culture of corruption and big spending. Ronald Reagan proved that a President can make a huge difference as long as he or she is resolute and committed to seeing the agenda implemented. I know what it takes to be a successful executive because I have been doing the job in Texas for 10 years. We have created 1 million net new jobs at the same time the rest of the country has lost 2 million jobs. When it comes to fixing Washington, leadership and experience matter, and I am committed and able to overhauling Washington and making it as inconsequential in our lives as possible.

DRAFT

Appendix: Suspended Campaigns – Policy Positions

1. Tax Reform

What are the key aspects of the tax reform initiatives (if any) that you would attempt to implement if you become President?

Michele Bachmann

My distinguishing tax principle is that everyone should pay something, even if it's just a dollar.

I would abolish the current tax code and replace it with a simpler, flatter, fairer tax code. At minimum, my new tax system would:

- Abolish the death tax;
- Abolish the capital gains tax;
- Abolish the AMT (or otherwise permanently fix it so as to exclude middle class families);
- Reduce personal income tax rates to a top rate of 25%, with no more than 3 brackets (this was in the Ryan budget plan for which she voted);
- Reduce the federal corporate tax rate to among the lowest in the industrialized world, eliminating most loopholes; and
- Increase expensing for the business tax deduction on leased equipment and off-the-shelf software (Section 179 of the IRS Tax Code) to 100 percent in the year of purchase.

Editor's note: Her plan would also reduce the taxes on repatriated capital, allowing businesses to invest foreign earnings in the US.

Jon Huntsman

"We need to clear out the deductions, the loop holes, the corporate welfare and all the subsidies. Individual rates in the range of 8%, 14%, 24% and corporate rate 25.5%." He would also eliminate the estate tax and keep the Bush tax cuts. Source: MSNBC

Rick Perry

America's tax code is broken. American families and businesses spend more than 6 billion hours and hundreds of billions of dollars each year attempting to comply with the filing requirements of our nation's increasingly complex tax code. One study estimates that annual tax compliance costs will reach \$483 billion by 2015 if no fundamental reforms are made to the tax code. The Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) own Taxpayer Advocate Service testified before Congress that the current tax code imposes excessive compliance burdens, is filled with special tax breaks, creates opportunities for abuse, and promotes non-compliance. Over the last decade the federal tax code has been changed 4,428 times – an average of more than once a day – including 579 new changes in 2010 alone. The current tax code is more than 3 million words long; the mere instructions accompanying the 1040 form exceed 100 pages.

I have proposed the following tax reforms in my Cut, Balance, and Grow plan:

- Institute Individual Flat Income Tax Rate of 20%
- Allow Individuals to Choose Between Existing Tax Code or New Flat Tax System
- Preserve Deductions for Mortgage Interest, Charity, and State/Local Taxes

- Eliminate Tax on Social Security Benefits
- Eliminate Tax on Qualified Dividends and Long-Term Capital Gains
- Eliminate the Death Tax
- Eliminate Corporate Loopholes and Special-Interest Tax Breaks

Editor's Note: Governor Perry would also reduce tax rates on repatriated capital.

2. Spending and Deficit

Our \$15T debt is the largest single threat to our institutions and our way of life. What are your top policy prescriptions to address this issue?

Michele Bachmann

As president, I would repeal the unconstitutional Obamacare law and abolish federal agencies for which most functions are unnecessary at the federal level such as the EPA and Departments of Education, Energy, and Commerce.

I would reform entitlements like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, preserving benefits for those close to or at retirement. Medicaid can be block-granted to the states and gradually returned to the states entirely. For future retirees, the eligibility age may need to come more in line with life expectancy and benefits may need to be means-tested for wealthier beneficiaries. Gradually reform should aim to reduce dependency on these programs that find little direct support in the Constitution.

I would also increase efficiency in military spending particularly in procurement that could save billions of dollars every year.

Editors note: She also supports the Balanced Budget Amendment and would "legalize" American energy production, phase out quasi governmental organizations (eg. Fannie/Freddie) and bring government salaries into line with the private sector.

Jon Huntsman

Only candidate to endorse the deal that averted a default on the US debt payments, calling it a "positive step toward cutting our nations's crippling debt." Source: MSNBC

"I would vote to increase the debt limit if there were a corresponding level of cuts. And if there were some serious talk about a balanced budget amendment." Source: PoliGU.com

As a gubernatorial candidate he said government was growing too quickly but when he became governor of Utah he was "one of the biggest spending governors in the nation." Source: CATO Institute

Rick Perry

The federal government has a spending problem. Last year the government spent \$1.3 trillion more than it collected, and total federal debt now approaches \$15 trillion. By the end of this year, the White House Office of Management and Budget expects the gross amount of federal debt to exceed the size of America's entire economy for the first time in over 65 years. And according to OECD data, America's federal debt relative to its economy is 27% higher than the average for all other OECD countries.

American prosperity has been gravely threatened by runaway spending, increasing debt and deficits, and a political class that refuses to make the tough decisions necessary to restore order to the nation's fiscal house. A balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that limits spending and protects families from tax increases will force Washington lawmakers to finally make the tough decisions about federal spending priorities.

If the federal budget is ever going to be balanced – the first step that must be taken before America's enormous debt burden can be reduced – federal spending must be capped at 18% of GDP to avoid a tax burden that far

exceeds the national historical average. Since 1960, the ratio of total federal tax receipts to GDP has averaged 18%.

3. Size of Government

The federal government has become a major factor in everything we do and would be unrecognizable to the founders. How will you “make Washington inconsequential in our lives?” What federal programs would you eliminate or turn over to the states?

Michele Bachmann

As president, I would repeal the unconstitutional Obamacare law, as well Dodd-Frank and Sarbanes-Oxley. I would abolish federal agencies for which most functions are unnecessary at the federal level such as the EPA and Departments of Education, Energy, and Commerce. I would liquidate Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and divest the United States from any private companies bailed out by taxpayers since 2008. Medicaid should be block-granted to the states and dependency on federal health care and retirement programs (Social Security and Medicare) should be gradually reduced while protecting benefits for current beneficiaries and those nearing retirement.

Jon Huntsman

"No Child Left Behind" hasn't worked for this country. It ought to be done away with." Source: MSNBC

Roll back Obamacare and financial regulations reform, rein in EPA regs, improve cost-benefit analysis of future regulations, repeal Dodd-Frank, streamline FDA approval process, rein in NLRB, privatize Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Source: jon2012.com

Congress needs term limits. Source: "On the Issues"

Rick Perry

Some have offered limited laundry lists of potential reductions in federal spending to address the nation's fiscal mess – this approach suggests that any items not found in the laundry list are therefore pure and should be ignored and left alone. Instead of offering up token spending cuts, the next president should be direct and open with the American people and let them know that when it comes to federal spending, every single penny will be examined and all options are on the table. I have proposed to eliminate the Departments of Commerce, Energy, and Education, as well as privatizing the Transportation Security Administration and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

I also believe Medicaid needs to be returned to the states. The one-size-fits-all approach that the federal government has applied to Medicaid has failed. The best solution for those in need of access to quality health care is to return responsibility for achieving the original goals of Medicaid to the states using the 1996 welfare reform law as a model. States simply must have the flexibility to design and administer health programs in ways that address the unique challenges faced by each individual state. Instead of the federal government confiscating money from states, taking a cut off the top, and then sending the money back out with limited flexibility for how states can actually use it, individual states should control the program's funding and requirements from the very beginning. Medicaid must be reformed to better serve patients and taxpayers.

4. 10th Amendment

The states have asserted themselves in the last couple of years over immigration policy and health care. There are additional moves coming over EPA overreach, education and energy. Where would you draw the line between federal jurisdiction and that given to the states by the constitution?

Michele Bachmann

My view is shaped by a lesson from American history. President Thomas Jefferson worried that his Louisiana Purchase was unconstitutional because there was no enumerated power to make land purchases to expand the nation. But Hamilton believed the Louisiana Purchase was justified by the General Welfare Clause because it was beyond the power of the states to make such purchases.

Like the Louisiana Purchase, today's space program also passes this two-part constitutional test for federal spending: 1) It is for the general welfare and 2) It is beyond the jurisdiction of the states.

By contrast, social welfare programs are within the jurisdiction of the states. Both Hamilton and Madison would agree that the federal government couldn't spend money on welfare programs.

Education also belongs to the states. The federal government has no constitutional jurisdiction to spend money on education programs. I'll repeal federal education law, close the Department of Education and let the states keep the money they've been sending to the federal government to fuel the leviathan bureaucracy of the department of education where its employees make nearly double what the average teacher in the classroom makes.

We also don't need an overarching federal EPA. There are already 50 state "EPA's" to handle most environmental issues. For environmental issues arising between the states, civil remedies, interstate compacts, and legislation on a case-by-case basis would suffice.

Our founding fathers were really very efficient political planners. They gave each area of government responsibility to one and only one level of government.

Unless we want to go the way of Greece, we have to adhere to the organizational structure of the Constitution and stop the federal government from spending for purposes that are only within the jurisdiction of the states.

Jon Huntsman

Repeal Obamacare; let states experiment. Source: MSNBC

As governor he signed legislation that promoted state education guidelines over NCLB. Source: MSNBC

On gay marriage he says states should dictate their own policies on this issue. Source: MSNBC

Rick Perry

The founders laid out the answer for us—first in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which outlines those powers very specifically enumerated to the Congress...And then in the Tenth Amendment, which reserves powers not delegated to the United States to the states and the people.

I believe that freedom is best protected by locating government closest to the people and that this should inform our policy-making process.

As president I will secure the border within one year using strategic fencing, boots on the ground and technology, and I will support any state that exercises their Tenth Amendment right and takes affirmative action to protect the border, like Arizona.

Regarding the overreaching regulations of the EPA, I've proposed a plan, "Energizing American Jobs and Security" that will not only grow jobs, but will dismantle the EPA and rebuild it as a much less intrusive organization. Clean air and water is a priority for all of us, but it is a bigger priority for those who work the land, rather than some bureaucrat living in Washington. As president I will institute an immediate moratorium on new regulations by the EPA and conduct rigorous cost-benefit analyses on all regulations applied under previous administrations.

I have also proposed eliminating the Department of Education. Decisions about how to educate our children should be left to parents and local governments.

5. Health Care

Most agree that Obama care must be stopped and 26 states are taking their judicial challenge to the Supreme Court. A legislative solution is needed and there is some fear that the PACA has already made turning back the regulations almost impossible. What steps would you take to deal with this issue and what priority would you give it? What would you propose to replace Obamacare in order to reduce costs while still providing for Medicare recipients and the truly needy?

Michele Bachmann

My top domestic priority as president will be the complete repeal of the unconstitutional Obamacare law. I led 40,000 people to Washington to oppose Obamacare. I understand how to repeal Obamacare and that executive orders and waivers won't be good enough. As the author of the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act, I strongly believe that free market reform, increased consumer choice, and competition can reduce healthcare costs. I would equalize tax treatment between health plans provided by employers and those purchased directly by individuals. I would also expand medical savings accounts, permit trade associations to offer health plans, allow for competition across state lines for health insurance plans, and introduce serious medical malpractice reform to drive down costs.

Additionally, Medicaid should be block-granted to the states and current beneficiaries of Medicare and those nearing retirement should have their benefits protected. Genuine reform of Medicare will give younger workers greater choice based in the free market in order to plan out their future health insurance benefits.

Jon Huntsman

Let states experiment and come up with their own health care system. Source: MSNBC

Rick Perry

Obamacare is wrong for America because it puts more power in the hands of bureaucrats and less in the hands of doctors and patients, and this ill-conceived policy will make health care more expensive and the budget more bloated. Starting my first day in office, I will work to repeal this law completely using any and all means necessary. Not only will I use all powers granted to the executive, through appointments and rule-making, but I will work with the Congress to ensure a complete legislative repeal of this unconstitutional law. I do believe that our health care system needs reform, but that reform must lower costs through market-based strategies and fix our broken and nearly bankrupt entitlement programs, Medicare and Medicaid.

6. Federal Regulations, EPA, NLRB, FCC

The Obama administration has greatly increased the regulatory assault on business and citizen alike. What can be done to reign in the entrenched bureaucracy and how will you approach this task?

Michele Bachmann

America's job creators and small business owners have lost economic liberty under the weight of \$1.8 billion annually in compliance costs with government regulations. Together we sent \$2.2 trillion in taxes to the federal government this year. By comparison, job creators spend nearly as much annually to comply with bureaucratic mandates. Obamacare, Dodd-Frank, and the string of mandates and rules from the Environmental Protection Agency — as well as other agencies — are creating such incredible uncertainty in the market. The House Republican leadership has identified 219 planned Obama administration regulations, each of which will cost the economy more than \$100 million. This red tape rampage must stop.

I will repeal Obamacare, Dodd-Frank, and Sarbanes-Oxley to remove the legal underpinnings of today's federal regulatory state.

I will abolish the federal EPA. There are already 50 state "EPA's" to handle most environmental issues. For

environmental issues arising between the states, civil remedies, interstate compacts, and legislation on a case-by-case basis would suffice.

With a fraction of the nation's workers opting to affiliate with labor unions, the need for a separate federal arbitration mechanism like the NLRB is antiquated. Labor law is more properly a matter for state authority and disputes necessitating federal review should be returned to the courts.

As president I will curtail the FCC's illegal efforts regulate Internet commercial activity over which the commission has no statutory authority.

Jon Huntsman

See "Size of Government".

Rick Perry

- Impose an immediate moratorium on all pending regulations- An immediate freeze on all pending and new regulations is necessary to ensure a full audit of existing regulations.
- Enforce a full audit of every regulation passed since 2008-Before any new regulations are implemented, every regulation promulgated since the beginning of 2008 must be audited and judged according to the following criteria: is it affordable, is it effective, and does it do more harm than its purported good.
- Automatically sunset all federal regulations unless Congress renews them-A requirement that all new federal regulations will automatically sunset after seven years unless explicitly renewed by Congress will ensure continuous review of every new federal regulation.
- Institute annual regulatory budget for each agency- By instituting an annual regulatory budget for each agency, bureaucrats will be incentivized to design proposals in a way that maximizes benefits while minimizing costs, as opposed to defining the benefits so broadly that they always outweigh the total cost to businesses and taxpayers.
- Create a searchable public database with all regulations currently in force- A simple and searchable online database of all federal regulations currently in force.

7. Trade Policy, China

What is your position regarding fair trade with China concerning currency manipulation, intellectual property protection and dumping? Should our trade policy favor certain countries or regions or should we treat everyone equally? What do you see as the future of manufacturing in this country?

Michele Bachmann

As president, I will pursue free trade agreements that open up the markets of other countries to our exporters. President Obama wasted precious time holding hostage trade deals with Colombia, Panama and South Korea as he tried to negotiate favors for Big Labor. The world needs to know that we are open for business and U.S. Companies need to expand beyond our borders to the 95 percent of people who do not live here.

We must insist that China follow fair trade practices and stop manipulating its currency, thereby disadvantaging American producers and job creators. I opposed recent efforts to legislate sanctions on China as a well-intentioned effort that would likely have sparked a trade war that would have done little to alleviate the problem but would have harmed American manufacturers and farmers. As president I would consider the avenue of the World Trade Organization as a mechanism to achieve Chinese compliance. We need to be tougher in negotiations with China and solving the U.S. spending and debt crisis would also give our country more leverage with our largest foreign creditor.

Federal regulations and excessive labor union advantages in federal law constitute major impediments to manufacturing in this country. As president I will roll back the federal regulatory state and I will sign a national

right-to-work law to protect worker freedom over the prerogatives of union bosses.

Finally, we must get our spending under control so we stop borrowing from the Chinese. Our large debt to them makes negotiating with them more difficult.

Jon Huntsman

Huntsman favors free trade and establishing new lines of trade particularly across the Pacific with such countries as Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Chile, Malaysia and New Zealand. On China he says a "... more effective approach to the China relationship is ... needed." Source: jon2012.com

Huntsman favors the establishment of a "free trade area of the Americas". Source: Club for Growth

Rick Perry

China must be held accountable for the manipulation of its currency, for its blatant and persistent theft of American intellectual property, and for its belligerent military attitude toward our allies around the world. Even worse, China is the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt, owning more than \$1.1 trillion in Treasury securities. In order for China to take the U.S. seriously at the negotiating table, we must cut spending, balance the budget, and reduce the amount of our debt that China owns.

I am a firm believer in free trade and open markets. But while we have opened our markets to China, the country has not fully reciprocated. We must work with China to increase American access to Chinese consumers and businesses.

A strong manufacturing industry is also essential to our economic growth and our national security. Federal regulations and taxes are strangling American manufacturers and hurting their competitiveness. America has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world. My Cut, Balance, and Grow plan will reduce the tax rate on businesses to a flat 20%, putting us on a level playing field with the rest of the world and allowing our manufacturers to truly compete in the global marketplace.

8. United Nations, NATO, European Union

In what way would you change the relationship between the US and these organizations from what the current administration has done?

Michele Bachmann

The United States should end support for the UN Population Fund and reduce funding for the United Nations. In response to UNESCO's decision to admit the Palestinians as a full member state, I would withdraw from that entity and would withdraw U.S. funding from any UN entity that recognizes Palestine or grants them membership. If the United Nations General Assembly unilaterally recognizes Palestinian statehood outside of a negotiated settlement with Israel, the United States should withhold funding for the UN completely.

I disagreed with President Obama's "leading from behind" NATO intervention in Libya this past year. The decision to send any type of assistance, without a clear plan and without the consent of Congress, sets a dangerous precedent. At a time when the Alliance continues to back up U.S. efforts in Afghanistan, this humanitarian adventurism diverted valuable resources.

As president, I will be too focused on reversing the Europeanization of America to bailout failed European welfare states. I would halt any further bailouts of European financial institutions or governments whether through the Federal Reserve or through the U.S. contribution to the International Monetary Fund.

Editor's note: Michele was a co-sponsor of the United Nations Transparency, Accountability, and Reform Act of 2007 which would have shifted funding for the UN from an automatic item to a voluntary item.

Jon Huntsman

"Rebalance NATO... Let's put the political into the political-military alliance." Source: jon2012.com

The US must remain committed to the transatlantic partnership with Western Europe. Source: jon2012.com

Rick Perry

I believe it is time to have a serious discussion about how the UN is structured and funded, and whether it is serving a useful purpose. The Obama administration has been far too eager to subvert our national interests to the whims of this multi-national organization. The same applies to U.S. interests at NATO, where the U.S. often bears the brunt of the funding and military mission on behalf of its allies. We need to reexamine these and other international organizations, and ensure they are still meeting U.S. interests around the globe.

9. *Radical Islam, Arab Spring, Iran*

Contrast your approach in these three areas to the Obama administration. What should be our future posture towards the emerging regimes in the middle east and Maghreb and how should we deal with Iran's weapons program?

Michele Bachmann

While President Obama has his attention on instructing Israel to give back land necessary to protect their existence, he has taken his eye off of the most serious threat to Middle East security, a nuclear Iran. As president, I'll stand on the side of Israel and will ensure that Iran never has a nuclear weapon. An Iran with a nuclear weapon is completely unacceptable to the United States and to Israel; it would be a grave threat to the safety of the world, and so the world community should confront that threat. If President Obama cannot or will not lead that effort, he should step aside and let others do so. President Obama should fully implement provisions of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010. Currently, there is a lack of serious sanctions against investment firms from Russia and China, who are deeply tied to Iran. Without strong sanctions against Iran, it will continue its clandestine uranium enrichment program that could do irrevocable harm to Israel, the United States, or our other regional allies.

While we won the Iraq war, this president has seemed determined to lose the peace with his decision to withdraw all of our troops from Iraq. The victory we fought so hard with precious American lives and treasure will be lost to the Iranians who will seek to expand their reach in Iraq.

I am committed to winning the war on terror. In Afghanistan, we should allow the surge to work there, just as it did in Iraq. We should listen to our generals, and not politicians or pollsters when we need advice on how or when to draw down our forces. We should never forget that every day, terrorists wake up around the world thinking of how to harm Americans and our way of life, and that the plot that killed thousands of Americans on 9/11 was hatched in the mountains of Afghanistan. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have seen major disruptions of Al Qaeda lines of communications and the deaths of some of its most prominent leaders. However, we cannot forget that while we fight these wars, Al Qaeda continues to grow around the world, including in the northwest frontier of Pakistan. The United States simply cannot commit ground troops to these new countries and expect to find success. Rather, we must continue to invest in our special forces, intelligence apparatus, and military technology to fight Al Qaeda and root out their bases of operation one by one. America must always support our men and women fighting overseas, and at the same time, we must evolve and adapt as our enemies continue to do. Maintaining Guantanamo as a secure facility for the terrorists who have sworn to harm the United States is also a necessary policy that must continue.

The operation that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden on May 1, 2011, served as a reminder of the complex and difficult nature of our relationship with Pakistan. On one hand, Pakistan has served as a partner in the War on Terror, allowing our unmanned aerial vehicles to conduct surveillance and perform aerial assaults on terrorist strongholds, and yet on the other hand, Pakistan has been criticized for its faltering attempts at removing the Taliban from within its borders. However, to simply cut off aid and all ties to Pakistan is impossible and reckless. As president, I will carefully review our Pakistan policy. It is true we must hold every country that receives aid

from the United States accountable for their actions, but we must also remember that aid serves as an investment by the United States to protect her interests. We must not forget that Pakistan is a nuclear power that shares a border with Iran and Afghanistan and is being courted by China as a strategic partner. Above all else, we must win the War on Terror and make sure that America is never again threatened by terrorists harbored in Pakistan, Afghanistan, or anywhere else.

Jon Huntsman

"We should be cautious about the Arab Spring. Revolution doesn't ensure creation of Democracy." Source: jon2012.com

On Iran he says we must have robust sanctions and diplomatic pressure in the near term and military deterrence. Source: jon2012.com

Rick Perry

The Obama administration has taken a muddled and confusing approach to the Arab Spring, and his policy towards Iran.

In the case of the Arab Spring, I believe it is always a good thing when citizens in an oppressed country try to take steps to reform their governments. But we are still unclear about the identities of many of the political actors, and should work to encourage changes that are as positive toward our interests and those of our allies as possible. Instead of standing by while unrest plagues new governments, I believe we should work with these new leaders to encourage those favorable to U.S. interests. We can begin by using our development assistance as an incentive towards tolerant, inclusive behavior instead of as charity.

In the case of Iran, I continue to believe that a nuclear Iran is the greatest threat for our future. The Obama administration's policy of engagement has been an abject failure, beginning with its lack of support for the Green Revolution in 2009. Round after round of half-hearted sanctions have done little to deter Iran's nuclear development and aggressive behavior.

I believe that every diplomatic and economic effort must continue to be brought to bear to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. As president, I will not rule out military options. We should never tie our own hands behind our back.

10. Role of the Military

Our force composition has changed in response to the asymmetrical threats we face, yet our experience in Iraq and Afghanistan has illuminated many shortcomings in regards to "nation building" projects. How does the military factor into your vision of America's role in the world for the next decade and what changes would you make in structure, weapons systems and human resources in the military forces? What is the appropriate level of spending for our national defense?

Michele Bachmann

As Commander-in-Chief, I will commit the necessary resources to the first constitutional duty of our government, protecting the nation and keeping America free, safe and sovereign. But that's not to say that like the rest of government, the military can't be asked to look at its budget and find ways to meet threats we have with a leaner budget.

The Defense Department has undertaken the first steps to trim \$400 billion from its budget. If targeted carefully, these cuts can be made. However, if the Pentagon is forced to live with an additional \$600 billion in cuts as a result of the failure of the super committee to come to a realistic budget agreement, we will do significant damage to our military capabilities. We can make cuts, but they must be strategically planned and not randomly

made on a political whim.

We can accomplish significant reductions in spending by cutting wasteful federal spending, including unnecessary Pentagon programs and an often dysfunctional procurement system.

One major reform in the procurement system we can make immediately is to change from cost plus contracting to fixed price contracting. American consumers don't pay more the longer it takes to make retail products and they shouldn't have to pay more for weapons systems based on the length of development. This policy only encourages waste and delay in the development of new technology for our military rather than protect it.

Like the private sector, health care benefit costs for military retirees continue to rapidly increase. Just as Medicare must be reformed to decrease costs, so must the TRICARE system. These are but a few of the changes we can make to decrease the size of the defense budget.

Make no mistake, in a Bachmann administration, we will have a strong military, but we will do so by changing the business practices of the military, employing common sense and by reforming the spending practices of the military, which coupled with aggressive reform of the military industrial complex will save us billions of dollars.

Jon Huntsman

"We must not just spend more money but spend it wisely" on the military. We also need the willingness to ".. adapt to the realities of the security environment in the 21st century... including asymmetrical threats." Source: jon2012.com

Rick Perry

I believe we must support our troops in the wars they fight today, and invest in what they need to defend our country tomorrow. Our military must be fully capable of defending U.S. interests, at home and abroad. The tools needed to defend our nation will continue to change, and we must provide our troops with the tools they need to fight today's wars, as well as the technology to fight tomorrow's wars. That is why I believe our defense budget must be a priority for the federal government – and should not be based on a percentage of our shifting GDP, or an arbitrary number, but on what the U.S. military needs to defend this nation. A "one-size-fits-all" approach to our national defense doesn't solve the real problems faced by our soldiers in on the battlefield today, or the challenges the U.S. will inevitably face again in the future.

As president, I will provide our armed services with their global mission, and allow them to determine the tools and resources they need to accomplish that mission and protect U.S. interests around the globe. The defense of our nation cannot be held hostage by a federal government that cannot put its financial house in order, and we cannot allow waste and bureaucracy to hold up funding for our warfighters around the globe.