

## Republican Party Platform- 2012

### ***Preamble***

The 2012 Republican Platform is a statement of who we are and what we believe as a Party and our vision for a stronger and freer America.

The pursuit of opportunity has defined America from our very beginning. This is a land of opportunity. The American Dream is a dream of equal opportunity for all. And the Republican Party is the party of opportunity.

Today, that American Dream is at risk.

Our nation faces unprecedented uncertainty with great fiscal and economic challenges, and under the current Administration has suffered through the longest and most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Many Americans have experienced the burden of lost jobs, lost homes, and lost hopes. Our middle class has felt that burden most acutely. Meanwhile, the federal government has expanded its size and scope, its borrowing and spending, its debt and deficit. Federalism is threatened and liberty retreats.

For the world, this has been four years of lost American leadership, leadership that depends upon economic vitality and peace through strength.

Put simply: The times call for trustworthy leadership and honest talk about the challenges we face. Our nation and our people cannot afford the status quo. We must begin anew, with profound changes in the way government operates; the way it budgets, taxes, and regulates. Jefferson's vision of a "wise and frugal government" must be restored.

Providence has put us at the fork in the road, and we must answer the question: If not us, who? If not now, when?

That is the choice facing the American people this November. Every voter will be asked to choose between the chronic high unemployment and the unsustainable debt produced by a big government entitlement society, or a positive, optimistic view of an opportunity society, where any American who works hard, dreams big and follows the rules can achieve anything he or she wants.

The American people possess vast reserves of courage and determination and the capacity to hear the truth and chart a strong course. They are eager for the opportunity to take on life's challenges and, through faith and hard work, transform the future for the better. They are the most generous people on earth, giving sacrificially of their time, talent, and treasure.

This platform affirms that America has always been a place of grand dreams and even grander realities; and so it will be again, if we return government to its proper role, making it smaller and smarter. If we restructure government's most important domestic programs to avoid their fiscal collapse. If we keep taxation, litigation, and regulation to a minimum. If we celebrate success, entrepreneurship, and innovation. If we lift up the middle class. If we hand over to the next generation a legacy of growth and prosperity, rather than entitlements and indebtedness.

That same commitment must be present both here at home and abroad. We are a party that knows the difference between international acclaim and world leadership. We will lift the torch of freedom and democracy to inspire all those who would be free. As President Reagan issued the clarion call to "tear down this Wall," so must we always stand against tyranny and oppression. We will always support and cherish our men and women in uniform who defend our liberties with their lives.

As we embark upon this critical mission, we are not without guidance. We possess an owner's manual: the Constitution of the United States, the greatest political document ever written. That sacred document shows us the path forward. Trust the people. Limit government. Respect federalism. Guarantee opportunity, not outcomes. Adhere to the rule of law. Reaffirm that our rights come from God, are protected by government, and that the only just government is one that truly governs with the consent of the governed.

The principles written in the Constitution are secured by the character of the American people. President George Washington said in his first inaugural address: "The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained." Values matter. Character counts.

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan understand these great truths. They share a positive vision for America – a vision of America renewed and strong. They know America's best days lay ahead. It will take honest results-oriented, conservative leadership to enact good policies for our people. They will provide it.

We respectfully submit this platform to the American people. It is both a vision of where we are headed and an invitation to join us in that journey. It is about the great dreams and opportunities that have always been America and must remain the essence of America for generations to come.

May God continue to shed his grace on the United States of America.

Governor Bob McDonnell, Chairman  
Senator John Hoeven, Co-Chair  
Congressman Marsha Blackburn, Co-Chair

## ***Restoring the American Dream: Economy & Jobs***

We are the party of maximum economic freedom and the prosperity freedom makes possible. Prosperity is the product of self-discipline, work, savings, and investment by individual Americans, but it is not an end in itself. Prosperity provides the means by which individuals and families can maintain their independence from government, raise their children by their own values, practice their faith, and build communities of self-reliant neighbors. It is also the means by which the United States is able to assert global leadership. The vigor of our economy makes possible our military strength and is critical to our national security.

This year's election is a chance to restore the proven values of the American free enterprise system. We offer our Republican vision of a free people using their God-given talents, combined with hard work, self-reliance, ethical conduct, and the pursuit of opportunity, to achieve great things for themselves and the greater community. Our vision of an opportunity society stands in stark contrast to the current Administration's policies that expand entitlements and guarantees, create new public programs, and provide expensive government bailouts. That road has created a culture of dependency, bloated government, and massive debt.

Republicans believe in the Great American Dream, with its economics of inclusion, enabling everyone to have a chance to own, invest, build, and prosper. It is the opposite of the policies which, for the last three and a half years, have stifled growth, destroyed jobs, halted investment, created unprecedented uncertainty, and prolonged the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Those policies have placed the federal government in the driver's seat, rather than relying on energetic and entrepreneurial Americans to rebuild the economy from the ground up. Excessive taxation and regulation impede economic development. Lowering taxes promotes substantial economic growth and reducing regulation encourages business formation and job creation. Knowing that, a Republican President and Congress will jumpstart an economic renewal that creates opportunity, rewards work and saving, and unleashes the productive genius of the American people. Because the GOP is the Great Opportunity Party, this is our pledge to workers without jobs, families without savings, and neighborhoods without hope: together we can get our country back on track, expanding its bounty, renewing its faith, and fulfilling its promise of a better life.

1. [Job Creation: Getting Americans Back to Work](#)
2. [Small Business and Entrepreneurship](#)
3. [Tax Relief to Grow the Economy and Create Jobs](#)
4. [American Competitiveness in a Global Economy](#)
5. [Fundamental Tax Principles](#)
6. [Reining in Out-of-Control Spending, Balancing the Budget, and Ensuring Sound Monetary Policy](#)
7. [Balancing the Budget](#)
8. [Inflation and the Federal Reserve](#)
9. [Ending the Housing Crisis and Expanding Opportunities for Homeownership](#)
10. [Rebuilding Homeownership](#)
11. [Infrastructure: Building the Future](#)
12. [More American Jobs, Higher Wages, and A Better Standard of Living](#)
13. [A Twenty-First Century Workforce](#)
14. [Freedom in the Workplace](#)

## ***We the People: A Restoration of Constitutional Government***

We are the party of the Constitution, the solemn compact which confirms our God-given individual rights and assures that all Americans stand equal before the law. Perhaps the greatest political document ever written, it defines the purposes and limits of government and is the blueprint for ordered liberty that makes the U.S. the world's freest, most stable, and most prosperous nation. Its Constitutional ideals have been emulated around the world, and with them has come unprecedented prosperity for billions of people.

In the spirit of the Constitution, we consider discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion, creed, disability, or national origin unacceptable and immoral. We will strongly enforce anti-discrimination statutes and ask all to join us in rejecting the forces of hatred and bigotry and in denouncing all who practice or promote racism, anti-Semitism, ethnic prejudice, or religious intolerance. We support efforts to help low-income individuals get a fair chance based on their potential and individual merit; but we reject preferences, quotas, and set-asides as the best or sole methods through which fairness can be achieved, whether in government, education, or corporate boardrooms. In a free society, the primary role of government is to protect the God-given, inalienable, inherent rights of its citizens, including the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Merit, ability, aptitude, and results should be the factors that determine advancement in our society.

The Republican Party includes Americans from every faith and tradition, and our policies and positions respect the right of every American to follow his or her beliefs and underscore our reverence for the religious freedom envisioned by the Founding Fathers of our nation and of our party. As a matter of principle, we oppose the creation of any new race-based governments within the United States.

1. [A Restoration of Constitutional Order: Congress and the Executive](#)
2. [Defending Marriage Against An Activist Judiciary](#)
3. [A Sacred Contract: Defense of Marriage](#)
4. [Living Within Our Means: A Constitutional Budget](#)
5. [Federalism and The Tenth Amendment](#)
6. [The Continuing Importance of Protecting the Electoral College](#)
7. [Voter Integrity to Ensure Honest Elections](#)
8. [The First Amendment: The Foresight of Our Founders to Protect Religious Freedom](#)
9. [The First Amendment: Speech that is Protected](#)
10. [The Second Amendment: Our Right to Keep and Bear Arms](#)
11. [The Fourth Amendment: Liberty and Privacy](#)
12. [The Fifth Amendment: Protecting Private Property](#)
13. [The Ninth Amendment: Affirming the People's Rights](#)
14. [The Sanctity and Dignity of Human Life](#)
15. [Respect for Our Flag: Symbol of the Constitution](#)
16. [American Sovereignty in U.S. Courts](#)

## ***America's Natural Resources***

We are the party of sustainable jobs and economic growth – through American energy, agriculture, and environmental policy. We are also the party of America's growers and producers, farmers, ranchers, foresters, miners, and all those who bring from the earth the minerals and energy that are the lifeblood of our nation's historically strong economy. We are as well the party of traditional conservation: the wise development of resources that keeps in mind both the sacrifices of past generations to secure that bounty and our responsibility to preserve it for future generations.

1. [Domestic Energy Independence: An "All of the Above" Energy Policy](#)
2. [Our Nation's Energy Abundance](#)
3. [Pulling the Plug on American Energy Independence: The Failure of the Current Administration](#)
4. [Agriculture](#)
5. [Protecting Our Environment](#)
6. [Our Republican Party's Commitment to Conservation](#)
7. [Private Stewardship of the Environment](#)
8. [Reining in the EPA](#)

## ***Reforming Government to Serve the People***

We are the party of government reform. At a time when the federal government has become bloated, antiquated and unresponsive to taxpayers, it is our intention not only to improve management and provide better services, but also to rethink and restructure government to bring it into the twenty-first century. Government reform requires constant vigilance and effort because government by its nature tends to expand in both size and scope. Our goal is not just less spending in Washington but something far more important for the future of our nation: protecting the constitutional rights of citizens, sustainable prosperity, and strengthening the American family.

It isn't enough to merely downsize government, having a smaller version of the same failed systems. We must do things in a dramatically different way by reversing the undermining of federalism and the centralizing of power in Washington. We look to the example set by Republican Governors and legislators all across the nation. Their leadership in reforming and reengineering government closest to the people vindicates the role of the States as the laboratories of democracy.

Our approach, like theirs, is two-fold. We look to government – local, State, and federal – for the things government must do, but we believe those duties can be carried out more efficiently and at less cost. For all other activities, we look to the private sector; for the American people's resourcefulness, productivity, innovation, fiscal responsibility, and citizen-leadership have always been the true foundation of our national greatness.

For much of the last century, an opposing view has dominated public policy where we have witnessed the expansion, centralization, and bureaucracy in an entitlement society. Government has lumbered on, stifling innovation, with no incentive for fundamental change, through antiquated programs begun generations ago and now ill-suited to present needs and future requirements. As a result, today's taxpayers – and future generations – face massive indebtedness, while Congressional Democrats and the current Administration block every attempt to turn things around. This man-made log-jam – the so-called stalemate in Washington – particularly affects the government's three largest programs, which have become central to the lives of untold millions of Americans: Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

1. [Saving Medicare for Future Generations](#)
2. [Strengthening Medicaid in the States](#)
3. [Security For Those Who Need It: Ensuring Retirement Security](#)
4. [Regulatory Reform: The Key to Economic Growth](#)
5. [Protecting Internet Freedom](#)
6. [A Vision for the Twenty-First Century: Technology, Telecommunications and the Internet](#)
7. [Protecting the Taxpayers: No More "Too Big to Fail"](#)
8. [Judicial Activism: A Threat to the U.S. Constitution](#)
9. [Restructuring the U.S. Postal Service for the Twenty-First Century](#)
10. [Protecting Travelers and their Rights: Reforming the TSA for Security and Privacy](#)
11. [The Rule of Law: Legal Immigration](#)
12. [Honoring Our Relationship with American Indians](#)
13. [Preserving the District of Columbia](#)
14. [Modernizing the Federal Civil Service](#)
15. [America's Future in Space: Continuing this Quest](#)
16. [Honoring and Supporting Americans in the Territories](#)

## ***Renewing American Values to Build Healthy Families, Great Schools, and Safe Neighborhoods***

We are the party of independent individuals and the institutions they create – families, schools, congregations, neighborhoods – to advance their ideals and make real their dreams. Foremost among those institutions is the American family. It is the foundation of our society and the first level of self-government. Its daily lessons – cooperation, patience, mutual respect, responsibility, self-reliance – are fundamental to the order and progress of our Republic. Government can never replace the family. That is why we insist that public policy, from taxation to education, from healthcare to welfare, be formulated with attention to the needs and strengths of the family.

1. [Preserving and Protecting Traditional Marriage](#)
2. [Creating a Culture of Hope: Raising Families Beyond Poverty](#)
3. [Adoption and Foster Care](#)
4. [Making the Internet Family-Friendly](#)
5. [Advancing Americans with Disabilities](#)
6. [Repealing Obamacare](#)
7. [Our Prescription for American Healthcare: Improve Quality and Lower Costs](#)
8. [Ensuring Consumer Choice in Healthcare](#)
9. [Supporting Federal Healthcare Research and Development](#)
10. [Protecting Individual Conscience in Healthcare](#)
11. [Reforming the FDA](#)
12. [Reducing Costs through Tort Reform](#)
13. [Education: A Chance for Every Child](#)
14. [Attaining Academic Excellence for All](#)
15. [Consumer Choice in Education](#)
16. [Improving Our Nation's Classrooms](#)
17. [Addressing Rising College Costs](#)
18. [Justice for All: Safe Neighborhoods and Prison Reform](#)

## ***American Exceptionalism***

We are the party of peace through strength. Professing American exceptionalism – the conviction that our country holds a unique place and role in human history – we proudly associate ourselves with those Americans of all political stripes who, more than three decades ago in a world as dangerous as today's, came together to advance the cause of freedom. Repudiating the folly of an amateur foreign policy and defying a worldwide Marxist advance, they announced their strategy in the timeless slogan we repeat today: peace through strength – an enduring peace based on freedom and the will to defend it, and American democratic values and the will to promote them. While the twentieth century was undeniably an American century – with strong leadership, adherence to the principles of freedom and democracy our Founders' enshrined in our nation's Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and a continued reliance on Divine Providence – the twenty-first century will be one of American greatness as well.

Today's adversaries are different, as are their weapons and their ideology, but this remains the same: the unity of Americans, beyond party, in gratitude to those who have defended our country, pursued its attackers to the ends of the earth, and today stand vigilant guard in our cities, on our coasts, and in alien lands. We pledge to our servicemen and women the authority and resources they need to protect the nation and defend America's freedom. Continued vigilance, especially in travel and commerce, is necessary to prevent bioterrorism, cyber terrorism, and other asymmetric or non-traditional warfare attacks and to ensure that the horror of September 11, 2001 is never repeated on our soil.

Our country and its way of life have enemies both abroad and within our shores. We affirm the need for our military to protect the nation by finding and capturing our enemies and the necessity for the President to have the tools to deal with these threats. As history has sadly shown, even our fellow citizens may rarely become enemies of their country. Nevertheless, our government must continue to ensure the protections under our Constitution to all citizens, particularly the rights of habeas corpus and due process of law.

History proves that the best way to promote peace and prevent costly wars is to ensure that we constantly renew America's economic strength. A healthy American economy is what underwrites and sustains American power. The current Administration is weakening America at home through anemic growth, high unemployment, and record-setting debt. We must therefore rebuild our economy and solve our fiscal crisis. In an American century, America will have the strongest economy and the strongest military in the world.

1. [The Current Administration's Failure: Leading From Behind](#)
2. [The Dangers of A Hollow Force: The Looming Sequestration](#)
3. [Leaks for Political Purposes](#)
4. [A Failed National Security Strategy](#)
5. [Conventional Forces in Decline](#)
6. [Nuclear Forces and Missile Defense Imperiled](#)
7. [A Twenty-First Century Threat: The Cybersecurity Danger](#)
8. [An America That Leads: The Republican National Security Strategy for the Future](#)
9. [Supporting our Troops, Standing By Our Heroes](#)
10. [Recognizing and Supporting Military Families](#)
11. [Honoring and Supporting Our Veterans: A Sacred Obligation](#)



12. [Sovereign American Leadership in International Organizations](#)
13. [Protecting Human Rights](#)
14. [America's Generosity: International Assistance that Makes a Difference](#)
15. [Combating Human Trafficking](#)
16. [Promoting a Free Marketplace of Ideas: Public Diplomacy](#)
17. [Strengthening Ties in the Americas](#)
18. [Advancing Hope and Prosperity in Africa](#)
19. [U.S. Leadership in the Asian-Pacific Community](#)
20. [South Asia](#)
21. [Taiwan](#)
22. [China](#)
23. [Europe](#)
24. [Russia](#)
25. [Our Unequivocal Support of Israel](#)
26. [The Challenges of a Changing Middle East](#)