

The Democratic Party Platform

Education

Democrats share with all parents the pledge to prepare our children to lead lives of happiness and success. That's why we're dedicated to ensuring the next generation has access to a first-rate education and the tools to drive our economy forward.

In 2010, President Obama signed into law student loan reform that ended government aids to big banks and made college more affordable to millions of Americans—a measure in size and scope second only to the G.I. Bill. The Obama administration is working to overhaul the “No Child Left Behind” program and provide teachers with more professional support and resources—while also holding them accountable. President Obama instituted “Race to the Top,” a revolutionary program designed to promote innovation and provide incentives for improvement in education. As a result, already over a dozen states have made changes to increase standards and implement reforms.

Energy

President Obama knows we can't just drill our way to lower gas prices or a quick-fix solution to our energy needs. That's why he and Democrats are focused on developing all of America's natural resources—domestic oil, gas, wind, solar and biofuels—and encouraging fuel efficiency so that we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil over time.

Health Care

In March 2010, President Obama fulfilled a promise that Democrats have pursued for nearly a century: making health care available to all Americans. Despite common opposition from Republicans, Democrats were finally able to pass comprehensive health reform into law.

By 2014, health reform will eliminate all discrimination for pre-existing conditions, start the process of expanding health insurance coverage for an additional 32 million Americans, and provide the largest middle-class tax cut for health care in history.

Immigration

America has a long and rich heritage of immigration. Democrats have always embraced our country's diversity, but we also recognize that our current immigration system is broken.

Democrats support comprehensive reform grounded in the principles of responsibility and accountability:

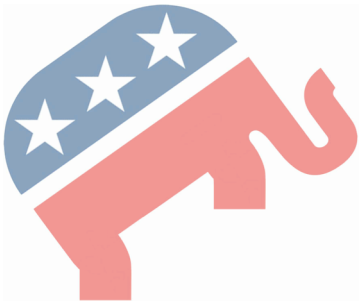
Responsibility from the federal government to secure our borders: The Obama administration has dedicated unprecedented resources to securing our borders and reducing the flow of illegal traffic in both directions.

National Defense

As the threats facing our country have evolved over the years, so too has our ability to respond to them. Our national security personnel are the most dynamic and well-trained in the world, and we must never forget the solemn duty that they fulfill for our nation. Democrats are committed to ensuring that our troops have the training, equipment, and support that they need when they are deployed and the care that they and their families need and deserve when they return home.



The Republican Party Platform



Economy

The Republican Party believes in the power and opportunity of America's free-market economy. We believe in the importance of sensible business regulations that promote confidence in our economy among consumers, entrepreneurs and businesses alike. We oppose interfering policies that put the federal government in control of industry and allow it to pick winners and losers in the marketplace.

National Defense

Today the Republican Party believes national defense requires defending America's homeland, including remaining vigilant in confronting global terrorism, maintaining a robust defense against the threats arising from nuclear spread, including a strong ballistic missile defense for America and our allies, and promoting an effective, capable intelligence community. It requires a full commitment to America's Armed Forces to ensure they are modern, alert and adaptable to the unpredictable range of challenges in the years ahead. And it requires a continued international effort, which complements our military activities, to develop and maintain alliances and relationships that will lead to greater peace and stability. While the United States participates in various international organizations, which can serve the cause of peace and posterity, they must never substitute for principled American leadership nor prevent America from joining other democracies to protect our vital national interests.

Health Care

The Republican Party supports common-sense reforms that will lower costs, ensure quality health care that Americans deserve, and end lawsuit abuse. We oppose government-run health care, which won't protect the physician-patient relationship, won't promote competition, and won't promote health care quality and choice.

Education

The Republican Party believes that maintaining a world-class system of primary and secondary education with high standards in which all students can reach their potential is critically important to America's future. We believe parents should be empowered to send their children to the school of their choice.

Energy

Republicans believe in energy independence. We support an "all of the above" approach that encourages the responsible production of nuclear power, clean coal, solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, as well as drilling for oil and natural gas in an environmentally responsible way. We oppose so-called cap and trade legislation that would impose a national energy tax on families and small business that would kill jobs and raise utility prices.



Courts

Republicans believe a judge's role is to interpret the law, not make law from the bench. Judges in our federal court system, from district courts to the Supreme Court, should demonstrate fidelity to the U.S. Constitution. We trust the judicial system to base rulings on the law, and nothing else.

