

Issue	Mitt Romney	John McCain	Hillary Clinton	Barack Obama
Immigration - Fence	Secure the border – physical and technological fence.	Secure the border. Also have effective screening at our ports and other points of entry.	Unclear - strengthening our borders.	He supports additional personnel, infrastructure and technology on the border and at our ports of entry. Obama believes we need additional Customs and Border Protection agents equipped with better technology and real-time intelligence.
Immigration - card	Enforceable Employer Verification system – biometrics-enabled tamperproof card supported by a national database.			
Immigration - Amnesty	Reject Amnesty - No special pathways for illegal immigrants.	Recognize the importance of assimilation of our immigrant population, which includes learning English, American history and civics, and respecting the values of a democratic society.		
Immigration - Sanctuary Cities	Punish Sanctuary Cities – reduce federal funding.			
Immigration - Employers	Interior Enforcement – Crackdown on employers who hire illegals with stiffer fines and penalties.		Strict penalties for those who exploit undocumented workers.	
Immigration - Employers			Employer verification system	Create a new employment eligibility verification system so employers can verify that their employees are legally eligible to work in the U.S.

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Immigration - visas		Recognize the importance of a flexible labor market to keep employers in business and our economy on top. It should provide skilled Americans and immigrants with opportunity.		
Immigration - Service in the Armed Forces			Supports the DREAM Act - provides a path to citizenship through military service (or higher education)	Legal immigrants who have fought for us overseas should have expedited procedures towards citizenship.
Immigration - Other			Protect the sanctity of families. Family reunification should be a guiding principal of our immigration system	Introduced amendments to put greater emphasis on keeping immigrant families together and to revisit a controversial new points system that never received a proper public hearing.
Immigration - Other			Against a guest worker program - exploits workers and creates a supply of cheap labor.	introduced legislation that passed the Senate to improve the speed and accuracy of these background checks.
Immigration - Other				Supports a system that allows undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, not violate the law, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens.
Terrorism - Military	Stronger Military + 100,000 troops.	Increasing the size of the American Military.	Not covered under issues.	Will increase the size of ground forces, adding 65,000 soldiers to the Army and 27,000 Marines.

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Terrorism - Military				Give our troops new equipment, armor, training, and skills like language training.
Terrorism		Will pursue our opportunity for victory in Iraq, strengthen our hand in the larger war against Islamic extremists, and make our nation more secure.		Should direct our precious homeland security dollars according to risk, not as a form of general revenue sharing.
Terrorism - Alliances	Create a Special Partnership Force (SPF) – Drawn from Army Special Forces to work with civilian governments – local focus to eliminate terrorist elements.			
Terrorism - Support Moderates	New type of Marshal Plan Unifying Nonmilitary Sources of Power to Support Moderate Muslims – public schools, micro-credit, rule of law, human rights and basic health care.			
Terrorism - Intelligence		Have the quality intelligence necessary to uncover plots before they take root, the resources to protect critical infrastructure and our borders against attack, and the capability to respond and recover from a terrorist incident swiftly.		improve our intelligence system by creating a senior position to coordinate domestic intelligence gathering; establishing a grant program to support thousands more state and local level intelligence analysts and increasing our capacity to share intelligence across all levels of government.

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Terrorism - Nuclear	Tighten Economic Sanctions Against Iran.	Effective Missile Defense.		Will secure all loose nuclear materials in the world within four years.
Terrorism - Other	Isolate Iran Dipomatically.			Help introduce a bill that requires chemical facilities to enhance security, including improving barriers, containment, mitigation, and safety training, and, where possible, using safer technology, such as less toxic chemicals.
Terrorism	Have Arab States Join this Effort To Prevent a Nuclear Iran.			Mandate screening of all inbound cargo to the U.S., improve scanning of cargo at foreign ports, and promote greater sharing of shipping data across nations.
Terrorism	Make it clear the Iranian People that Nuclear capabilities are a source of peril – lost of control of nuclear material.			Provide \$37.5 million over five years to upgrade the monitoring and security efforts of drinking water systems.
Terrorism				Revisit the PATRIOT Act to ensure that there is real and robust oversight of tools like National Security Letters, sneak-and-peek searches, and the use of the material witness provision.
Terrorism				Update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to provide greater oversight and accountability to the congressional Intelligence Committees to prevent future threats to the rule of law.

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Terrorism				Restore the right of Habeas Corpus that has been denied to those deemed enemy combatants.
Iraq War	Not Addressed.	For many years John McCain urged a larger ground force to implement a new counterinsurgency campaign like the one now underway in Iraq.	Within the first 60 days in office - have the Joint Chiefs, Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council prepare a plan to end our military engagement in Iraq's civil war and immediately start bringing our troops home.	Will immediately begin to remove our troops from Iraq. He will remove one to two combat brigades each month, and have all of our combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months.
Iraq War		To concede defeat now would strengthen al Qaeda, empower Iran and other hostile powers in the Middle East, unleash a full scale civil war in Iraq that could lead to genocide, and destabilize the entire region as neighboring powers come to the aid of their favored factions.	Direct aid to government and non government entities to get the aid in the hands of the Iraqi people.	Engage representatives from all levels of Iraqi society – in and out of government – to seek a new accord on Iraq's Constitution and governance. The United Nations will play a central role in this convention, which should not adjourn until a new national accord is reached addressing tough questions like federalism and oil revenue-sharing.
Iraq War			Support the appointment of a high level U.N. representative to help broker the peace.	Provide at least \$2 billion to expand services to Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries, and ensure that Iraqis inside their own country can find a safe-haven.

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Iraq War			Convene a regional stabilization group composed of key allies and all of the states bordering Iraq.	Launch the most aggressive diplomatic effort in recent American history to reach a new compact on the stability of Iraq and the Middle East. This effort will include all of Iraq's neighbors – including Iran and Syria. This compact will aim to secure Iraq's borders; keep neighboring countries from meddling inside Iraq; isolate al Qaeda; support reconciliation among Iraq's sectarian groups; and provide financial support for Iraq's reconstruction.
Iraq War			Organize a multi-billion dollar international effort for refugees.	
Energy Policy - Domestic Oil	Increase domestic production – Open ANWR.	Not Addressed.	Increase fuel standards to 55 MPG by 2030 and \$20 billion of "Green Vehicle Bonds" to help U.S. auto makers retool the factories to meet this goal.	Double fuel economy standards within 18 years.
Energy Policy - Alternative energy	Invest in Research – federal spending.		\$50 billion Strategic Energy fund to fund investment in alternative energy.	Double science and research funding for clean energy projects including those that make use of our biomass, solar and wind resources.

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Energy Policy - Alternative energy			25% of electricity generated by renewables by 2025	Establish a 25 percent federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to require that 25 percent of electricity consumed in the U.S. is derived from clean, sustainable energy sources, like solar, wind and geothermal by 2025.
Energy Policy - Nuclear	Increase Focus on Energy Security.			
Energy Policy - R&D/Technology	Promote Nuclear Technology – Nuclear power plants.		Doubling federal investment in basic energy research.	Invest \$150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the commercialization of plug-in hybrids, promote development of commercial-scale renewable energy, invest in low-emissions coal plants, and begin the transition to a new digital electricity grid. A principal focus of this fund will be devoted to ensuring that technologies that are developed in the U.S. are rapidly commercialized in the U.S. and deployed around the globe.
Energy Policy - Other			A cap and trade system for carbon emissions. It auctions 100% of permits alongside investments to move us on the path towards energy independence.	Supports implementation of a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions by the amount scientists say is necessary: 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

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Energy Policy - Other				Provide retooling tax credits and loan guarantees for domestic auto plants and parts manufacturers, so that they can build new fuel-efficient cars rather than overseas companies. Obama will also invest in advanced vehicle technology such as advanced lightweight materials and new engines.
Fiscal Responsibility - Reduce Spending	Establish Strict Spending limits – Veto domestic nondefense discretionary appropriations by more than one percent below inflation.	End Pork Barrel Spending. Will oppose spending money on projects that siphon away tax dollars collected to fund important commitments. Setting priorities, and keeping them, is a crucial step toward fiscal restraint and an important priority for a McCain presidency.		Introduced and passed bipartisan legislation that would require more disclosure and transparency for special-interest earmarks. Obama will slash earmarks to no greater than year 2001 levels and ensure all spending decisions are open to the public.
Fiscal Responsibility - Reduce Spending	Conduct a Stem-to-Stern Review - waste, duplication, inefficiencies.		Return to the budget rules of the 90's - fund new expenditures with new revenues or cuts in other areas.	enforcing pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budgeting rules which require new spending commitments or tax changes to be paid for by cuts to other programs or new revenue.
Fiscal Responsibility - Reduce Spending	Authorize the President to spend up to 25% less the appropriated.			
Fiscal Responsibility - Reduce Spending	Reform Entitlements - work with Congress.			Stop funding wasteful, obsolete federal government programs that make no financial sense.
Fiscal Responsibility - line item veto	Institute the Line-Item Veto.	Seek the line-item veto.		

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Fiscal Responsibility - Accountability		Increased Transparency - Members of Congress who request earmarks in legislation should be identified and their request should be fully described.		Will ensure that federal contracts over \$25,000 are competitively bid
Fiscal Responsibility - Accountability		Transparency in the budget process will identify elected officials with their fiscal decisions and will ensure Americans know exactly how each of their hard-earned tax dollars is spent.	Publishing budgets for every government agency	Increase the efficiency of government programs through better use of technology, stronger management that demands accountability and by leveraging the government's high-volume purchasing power to get lower prices.
Fiscal Responsibility - Other	Restore Supermajority Requirement – 60% supermajority to pass tax increases.	Reform Social security and supplement with personal accounts.		Obama has called for an end to subsidies for oil and gas companies that are enjoying record profits, as well as the elimination of subsidies to the private student loan industry which has repeatedly used unethical business practices.

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Fiscal Responsibility - Other		Promises made to previous and current generations have placed the United States on an unsustainable budget pathway. Unchecked, Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare obligations will grow as large as the entire federal budget is now in just a few decades. Without comprehensive bipartisan reform to America's entitlement programs, the nation will be unable to meet the challenges of providing vital medical and social security assistance to future generations.		Tackle wasteful spending in the Medicare program.
Economy and Taxes - Alternative Tax System				Barack Obama will dramatically simplify tax filings so that millions of Americans will be able to do their taxes in less than 5 minutes. Currently, the IRS receives Americans' financial information directly from employers and banks. Obama will ensure that the IRS uses this information to give taxpayers the option of a pre-filled tax forms to verify, sign and return to the IRS or online.
Economy and Taxes - Corporate Taxes	Lower the Corporate rate.		Tracking and eliminating corporate welfare.	Give the Treasury Department the tools it needs to stop the abuse of tax shelters and offshore tax havens and help close the \$350 billion tax gap between taxes owed and taxes paid.

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Economy and Taxes - Interest, Dividends and Capital Gains	Zero Rate on Middle Class Savings – No taxes on interest, dividends and capital gains when adjusted gross income is under \$200,000.	Keep the current rates on dividends and capital gains.		Eliminate the capital gains taxation of start-up businesses to encourage innovation and job creation.
Economy and Taxes - Lower Tax rates	Lower Taxes for All.		Lower taxes for middle class families.	Restore fairness to the tax code and provide 150 million workers the tax relief they deserve.
Economy and Taxes - Bush Tax Cuts	Make the Bush tax cuts permanent.			Protect tax cuts for poor and middle class families, but he will reverse most of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers.
Economy and Taxes - R&D Tax Credit		Permanent R&D Tax Credit.	overhaul the R&E tax credit - the 20% incremental tax credit should be made permanent.	Make the Research and Development tax credit permanent
Economy & Taxes -				Supports doubling federal funding for basic research.
Economy and Taxes - Education	Strengthen Education – math and science.		Support initiatives to bring more women and minorities into the math, science and engineering professions.	Create a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This universal and fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university. And by making the tax credit fully refundable, Obama's credit will help low-income families that need it the most.

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Economy and Taxes - Education				Increase our annual number of science and engineering graduates, encourage undergraduates studying math and sciences to pursue graduate studies, and work to increase the representation of minorities and women in the science and technology talent pipeline
Economy and Taxes - Other		Enforcing Fiscal Discipline.	Child tax credit and marriage penalty relief.	Level the playing field for all businesses by eliminating special-interest loopholes and deductions, such as those for the oil and gas industry.
Economy and Taxes - Other	Implement National Tort Reform.	Ban Internet taxes.	Tax cuts for college and retirement	Create a new "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$500 per person, or \$1,000 per working family. This refundable income tax credit will provide direct relief to American families who face the regressive payroll tax system. It will offset the payroll tax on the first \$8,100 of their earnings while still preserving the important principle of a dedicated revenue source for Social Security. The "Making Work Pay" tax credit will completely eliminate income taxes for 10 million Americans. The tax credit will also provide relief to self-employed small business owners who struggle to pay both the employee and employer portion of the payroll tax.

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Economy and Taxes - Other	Build and Repair Transportation Infrastructure.	Ban new cell phone taxes.	harness the power of innovation to create high wage jobs of the 21st century.	Create a universal mortgage credit. This 10 percent credit will benefit an additional 10 million homeowners, the majority of whom earn less than \$50,000 per year. Non-itemizers will be eligible for this refundable credit, which will provide the average recipient with approximately \$500 per year in tax savings.
Economy and Taxes - Other	Improve worker Retraining.		Expand Earned income Tax Credit	Reward work by increasing the number of working parents eligible for EITC benefits, increasing the benefit available to parents who support their children through child support payments, increasing the benefit for families with three or more children and reducing the EITC marriage penalty which hurts low-income families.
Economy and Taxes - Other	Provide Regulatory Relief.		Child care tax credit	Eliminate all income taxation of seniors making less than \$50,000 per year.
Economy and Taxes - Other				Reform the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by making it refundable and allowing low-income families to receive up to a 50 percent credit for their child care expenses.

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Healthcare- Taxes	Fix The Tax Code – All health care expenses tax deductible.	Reform the tax code - provide all individuals with a \$2,500 (\$5,000 for families) tax credit increase incentives for insurance coverage.	Small employers will receive a tax credit to continue or begin to offer coverage.	Health care plan will help small businesses that want to cover their employees by letting small firms buy into a new low-cost, high-quality national health plan similar to the one offered to members of Congress.
Healthcare- Taxes			Refundable tax credit to working families to help pay for health coverage. The goal is to limit premium payments to a percentage of income	
Healthcare - Access for all	Stop the Free Riders – Have the needy buy [affordable] private insurance (Massachusetts model).	Provide access to health care for our citizens.	Create a level-playing field of insurance rules across states and markets, the plan ensures that no American is denied coverage, refused renewal, unfairly priced out of the market, or forced to pay excessive insurance company premiums.	
Healthcare - Access for all			Individuals will be required to get and keep insurance in a system where insurance is affordable and accessible	New national health plan to all Americans, including the self-employed and small businesses, to buy affordable health coverage that is similar to the plan available to members of Congress: guaranteed eligibility; cover all essential medical services, including preventive, maternity and mental health care; Affordable premiums, co-pays and deductibles. Will require that all children have health care coverage.

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Healthcare - Tort Reform	Reform The Medical Liability System – Federal caps on non-economic and punitive damages.	Pass tort reform to eliminate excessive damages.		Strengthen antitrust laws to prevent insurers from overcharging physicians for their malpractice insurance and will promote new models for addressing errors that improve patient safety, strengthen the doctor-patient relationship and reduce the need for malpractice suits.
Healthcare - Medicaid/Medicare	Provide innovation in Medicaid – Give states the flexibility to apply their Medicaid dollars.	Reform the payment systems in Medicare to compensate providers for diagnosis, prevention and care.	Strengthen Medicaid - so that the most vulnerable populations receive affordable, quality care.	
Healthcare - States	Deregulate State Markets – Reduce insurance regulations.	Give states flexibility with alternative forms of access, reisk-adjusted payments payments per episode covered under Medicare.		Due to federal inaction, some states have taken the lead in health care reform. States can continue to experiment, provided they meet the minimum standards of the national plan.
Healthcare - Competition	Bring Health Care Into The 21st Century – Use of competitive forces.	Promote competition between providers and among alternative treatments.		Prevent companies from abusing their monopoly power through unjustified price increases. His plan will force insurers to pay out a reasonable share of their premiums for patient care instead of keeping exorbitant amounts for profits and administration. His new National Health Exchange will help increase competition by insurers.
Healthcare - Savings Accounts		Protect seniors against rising Medicare premium payments.		

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Healthcare - Redefined			You can keep your existing coverage or access the same menu of quality private insurance options that Members of Congress receive.	National Health Insurance Exchange to help individuals who wish to purchase a private insurance plan. The Exchange will act as a watchdog group and help reform the private insurance market by creating rules and standards for participating insurance plans to ensure fairness and to make individual coverage more affordable and accessible.
Healthcare - Redefined				Will allow Americans to buy their medicines from other developed countries if the drugs are safe and prices are lower outside the U.S. Obama will also repeal the ban that prevents the government from negotiating with drug companies, which could result in savings as high as \$30 billion.