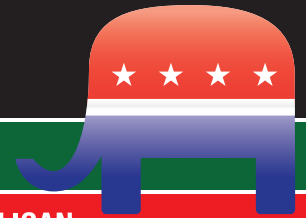
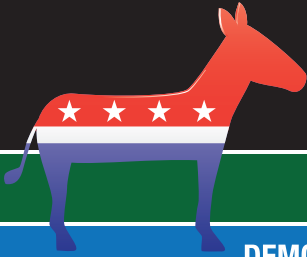


# A Comparison of the 2008 Republican and Democratic Platforms



Continued From Side One

DEMOCRAT	KEY ISSUE	REPUBLICAN
<p>"We support a system that requires undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, pay taxes, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens. They are our neighbors, and we can help them become full tax paying, law-abiding, productive members of society.... We need to secure our borders, and support additional personnel, infrastructure and technology on the border and at our ports of entry." (Dem. Platform, p. 40)</p>	<p><b>Immigration</b></p>	<p>"Our determination to uphold the rule of law begins with more effective enforcement, giving our agents the tools and resources they need to protect our sovereignty, completing the border fence quickly and securing the borders, and employing complementary strategies to secure our ports of entry. Experience shows that enforcement of existing laws is effective in reducing and reversing illegal immigration.... We oppose amnesty. The rule of law suffers if government policies encourage or reward illegal activity. The American people's rejection of en masse legalizations is especially appropriate given the federal government's past failures to enforce the law." (Rep. Platform, p. 3-4)</p>
<p>"We will give our military a new mission: ending this war and giving Iraq back to its people. We will be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in. We can safely remove our combat brigades at the pace of one to two per month and expect to complete redeployment within 16 months. After this redeployment, we will keep a residual force in Iraq to perform specific missions: targeting terrorists; protecting our embassy and civil personnel; and advising and supporting Iraq's Security Forces, provided the Iraqis make political progress." (Dem. Platform, p. 24)</p>	<p><b>Iraq</b></p>	<p>"Our success in Iraq will deny al Qaeda a safe haven, limit Iranian influence in the Middle East, strengthen moderate forces there, and give us a strategic ally in the struggle against extremism. To those who have sacrificed so much, we owe the commitment that American forces will leave that country in victory and with honor. That outcome is too critical to our own national security to be jeopardized by artificial or politically inspired timetables that neither reflect conditions on the ground nor respect the essential advice of our military commanders." (Rep. Platform, p. 13)</p>
<p>"The Democratic Party also strongly supports access to affordable family planning services and comprehensive age-appropriate sex education which empowers people to make informed choices and live healthy lives." (Dem. Platform, p. 45)</p>	<p><b>Sex Education</b></p>	<p>"We renew our call for replacing family planning programs for teens with increased funding for abstinence education, which teaches abstinence until marriage as the responsible and expected standard of behavior. Abstinence from sexual activity is the only protection that is 100 percent effective against out-of-wedlock pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS when transmitted sexually. We oppose school-based clinics that provide referrals, counseling, and related services for abortion and contraception." (Rep. Platform, p. 45)</p>
<p>"We are committed to ensuring full equality for women. We reaffirm our support for the Equal Rights Amendment, recommit to enforcing Title IX, and will urge passage of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women." (Dem. Platform, p. 46)</p>	<p><b>Equal Rights for Women</b></p>	<p>"We consider discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion, creed, disability, or national origin to be immoral, and we will strongly enforce anti-discrimination statutes." (Rep. Platform, p. 51)</p>
<p>The Democratic Platform is silent on euthanasia and assisted suicide.</p>	<p><b>Euthanasia/ Assisted Suicide</b></p>	<p>"We believe medicines and treatments should be designed to prolong and enhance life, not destroy it. Therefore, federal funds should not be used for drugs that cause the destruction of human life. Furthermore, the Drug Enforcement Administration ban on use of controlled substances for physician assisted suicide should be restored." (Rep. Platform, p. 40)                  "We oppose the nonconsensual withholding of care or treatment from people with disabilities, as well as the elderly and infirm, just as we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide, which endanger especially those on the margins of society." (Rep. Platform, p. 52-53)</p>

The full texts of the party platforms may be found at [www.PoliticalResponsibility.com](http://www.PoliticalResponsibility.com).



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