



2008 State Platform Comparison



The differences are clear!

ISSUE	REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS
Taxes & Spending	Republicans believe in limited government, free markets and low taxes. We also believe markets are more efficient than bureaucracies. Republicans oppose the imposition of a state income tax.	Democrats support increasing the size of government by creating new programs, and by increasing regulation and entitlement spending. Democrats also support the imposition of a state income tax.
National Defense	“A free America is a strong America.” Republicans endorse policies that will ensure peace through strength, security, and human rights at home and abroad. We also firmly stand against abdicating “America’s national sovereignty to any foreign or international organization.”	Democrats want to “make nonviolence the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy.” They call for “Establishing a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence,” minimize the threat from terrorism and would do away with all ballistic missile defense systems.
Health Care	Republicans believe our health care system should be focused on the freedom to choose a health care plan to meet individual and family needs, and the ability to choose our own doctor. We support “competition among health care providers” and avoiding “health care mandates.”	Democrats call for a one-size-fits-all, government-run “single-payer national health care plan” with numerous mandates. Patient choice is not mentioned in their socialized medicine plan. They also call for “international family planning agencies within the United Nations.”
Crime & Rule of Law	Republicans “believe that an effective criminal justice system should include the appropriate use of the death penalty, strict punishment of sexual predators, deter recidivism and that whenever possible, require criminals to fully compensate those they have harmed.”	Democrats oppose “state or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.” They support “strong legislation regulating the purchase and ownership of firearms,” support the elimination of “three-strikes” sentencing, and oppose capital punishment.
Environment & Energy	Republicans believe “prosperity and environmental stewardship go hand in hand” and favor a market-based approach over expensive government programs and regulation. We believe that “creativity and technology offer the best solutions to improve energy efficiency and to protect clean air.”	Democrats offer no support for the hydroelectric dams which provide renewable energy and water storage for our state. Democrats believe that government planning is key to “world peace, and the health of our environment” and call for government intervention to manage population, growth, and urban sprawl.
Family & Citizenship	“Government’s responsibility is to uphold and respect traditional institutions, such as marriage between one man and one woman, protect the elderly and children from the harmful elements of society, and defend the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.” We support English as the official language.	Democrats oppose funding for “Faith-based initiatives” and believe “marriage, as a legal union of consenting adults, should not be restricted by sexual orientation or gender identity.” Democrats support the “right to die” or assisted suicide. They oppose English as the official language of the United States.

Where do you stand?