

# Rick Santorum

Website <https://www.ricksantorum.com/>

## Background

Rick Santorum served in the House of Representatives for Pennsylvania from 1991-1995 and then served two terms as a Senator. He practiced law before his work in Congress. Santorum had been the third-ranking Senate Republican, one of his party's fastest-rising stars. He is popular with grassroots social conservatives because of his views on abortion, marriage, and gay rights. Santorum and his wife of 21 years, Karen, are the parents of seven children, whom they home schooled. Santorum has raised \$1.3 million dollars.

## Positions on Key Issues

- Believes **abortion** should be outlawed even in cases of rape or incest, and that doctors who perform abortions should be prosecuted as criminals.
- Signed a pledge to ban **same-sex marriage** in the constitution.
- Opposes **legalizing marijuana**.
- Believes the United States should not leave **Afghanistan** until the Taliban has been "neutered." Opposes a timetable for withdrawal.
- Would suspend the Obama **health care** law by executive order.
- Against giving government services to undocumented **immigrants** and against the federal government requiring states to do so. While in the Senate in 2006, Santorum voted in favor of several measures that required the building of additional fences along the U.S.-Mexico border

# Rick Perry

## Website:

<http://www.rickperry.org/>

## Background:

Rick Perry is the nation's longest-serving governor, having served Texas in that capacity for a decade, beginning in 2000. He was initially a Democrat. He served three terms in the Texas House of Representatives, joining the Republican Party late in his final term as a legislator. He then ran for Texas agriculture commissioner. Perry sparked a mini-controversy in 2009 when, during the early days of the tea party movement, he suggested that Texas might secede from the United States. He later said his comments were misinterpreted. He and his wife, Anita, have 2 children.

## Position on Key Issues:

- In the past has said **abortion** should be illegal except in cases of rape, incest, or the woman's health, but recently announced that it should be outlawed even in rape and incest cases.
- Supports a constitutional amendment to prevent **same-sex marriages**.
- Against **legalization of marijuana** and considers it a state matter, believing that the decision lies with its people.
- Believes the troops in **Afghanistan** should be brought home "as soon and safely as we can."
- On **immigration**, against a 2,000-mile border fence with Mexico, and has defended a Texas law that lets some children of undocumented immigrants qualify for in-state tuition to state colleges.
- Favors repeal of what he calls "Obamacare," calling it "the greatest intrusion on individual freedom in a generation" and believes the states should take over **health care** delivery.

# Mitt Romney

Website <http://www.mittromney.com/>

## Background

Mitt Romney is a former businessman who helped found Bain Capital, an investment firm that bought and sold companies. He was Governor of Massachusetts from 2003-2007. He ran for President in 2008 and lost to John McCain. Romney is wealthy, with assets worth an estimated \$190 million to \$250 million. Mitt and Ann Romney, married since 1969, have 5 children and 16 grandchildren. Romney has raised \$32.6 million.

## Position on Key Issues:

- Supported **abortion** rights before becoming Governor of Massachusetts but has since changed position to “firmly pro-life.”
- Pledged to support a constitutional amendment outlawing **same-sex marriage** .
- Opposes the **legalization of marijuana**, including medical marijuana.
- Has not taken a strong stand on troops in **Afghanistan** but says they should come home as soon as possible and didn’t criticize President Obama’s decision to remove troops last summer.
- In the past has supported the idea of a legal path for citizenship for undocumented **immigrants**, but now favors a fence along the Mexican border and is critical of tuition breaks for undocumented immigrants. He recently stated he opposes the DREAM Act. (DREAM Act is a bill which would provide conditional and permanent residence to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the US as minors, who graduated from US high schools, and have lived in the US for at least 5 years).
- As Governor, signed into law **health care** bill in MA very similar to the Democratic/Obama bill. Is in favor of repealing the health care reform act and wants to issue waivers to states to opt out.

# Ron Paul

Website <http://www.ronpaul2012.com/>

## Background

Ron Paul has been in Congress for 20 years representing Texas, and is known as a Libertarian, a political view that favors limited government. This is his third time running for President. Paul is a conservative and an advocate of stronger states' rights. He and his wife have five children and 18 grandchildren. One of his sons, Rand Paul, is now a Senator from Kentucky. Paul has raised \$12.8 million.

## Position on Key Issues

- Ardently anti-**abortion**, would like to see abortion legislation shifted to the states.
- Against **same-sex marriage** but doesn't believe the federal government should be involved in the issue of marriage.
- Believes that the decision for **legalization of marijuana** should lie in the hands of individual states and doesn't want the federal government regulating it.
- Strongly against the war in **Afghanistan** (and Iraq) and believes we should drastically reduce military spending overseas.
- Opposes a border fence and favors having the military patrolling the border. Opposes amnesty for undocumented **immigrants**, against the DREAM act. (DREAM Act is a bill which would provide conditional and permanent residence to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the US as minors, who graduated from US high schools, and have lived in the US for at least 5 years).
- Wants to repeal the **health care** reform act.

# Newt Gingrich

Website <http://www.newt.org/>

## Background

Newt Gingrich served in the House of Representatives from 1979-1999. When the Republican Party became a majority, he became the Speaker of the House, or leader of the House of Representatives, from 1995-1999. Gingrich faces an uphill battle winning over evangelicals and religious conservatives because of his personal life, which includes three marriages and two admitted extramarital affairs. He has authored twenty-three books, including 13 New York Times bestsellers. Newt and his wife, Callista, have two daughters and two grandchildren. Gingrich has raised \$2.9 million.

## Position on Key Issues

- Anti **abortion**, favors ending financing for Planned Parenthood, signed the pledge to appoint only anti-abortion officials.
- Says that marriage is between a man and woman, declined to sign a pledge to support constitutional ban of **same-sex marriage**, has an openly gay sister who opposes his candidacy.
- Was user and advocate of **marijuana legalization** (medical marijuana), but now strongly opposes legalization.
- Critical of President Obama's troop drawdown in **Afghanistan** because it wasn't supported by military leaders, and wasn't considered in the context of Islamic extremism.
- Is in favor of controlling the border and making English the official language in the US. Proposed using local citizen boards to decide which undocumented **immigrants** should be allowed to stay in the country.
- Wants to "repeal and replace" **health care** reform act with "pro-jobs, pro-responsibility health plan," wants to allow health insurance to be sold across state.

Issue Sheets—to be copied and distributed to all students.

<p><b>Abortion</b></p> <p>My opinion:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Same-Sex Marriage</b></p> <p>My opinion:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Legalization of Marijuana</b></p> <p>My opinion:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Health Care</b></p> <p>My opinion:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Immigration</b></p> <p>My opinion:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>War in Afghanistan</b></p> <p>My opinion:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>