

Where Do the Presidential Candidates
STAND ON THE ISSUES?

The National Education Association (NEA) has heard from education voters and our members across the country who are looking for information on where the likely Presidential candidates stand on important issues regarding education.

To help inform your decision about who to support in the 2012 elections, NEA has provided this comparison brochure based on our research of the public statements and websites of all of the candidates.

To learn more, please visit www.EdVotes.org/Election2012



2012 ISSUE GUIDE:

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND

Find out where the Presidential candidates stand on the issues that matter to America's educators.

For more information, visit www.EdVotes.org/Election2012



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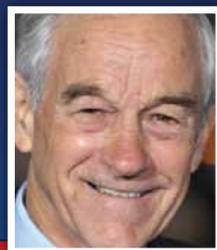
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To get more detailed information about the candidate's records, please go to www.EdVotes.org/Election2012



	President Barack Obama	Fmr. U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich (GA)	Rep. Ron Paul (TX)	Fmr. Gov. Mitt Romney (MA)	Fmr. U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (PA)
NCLB/ESEA	<p>"I want to take us in a new and better direction...This agenda starts with education...We cannot be satisfied until every child in America--and I mean every child--has the same chances for a good education that we want for our own children."¹</p>	<p>Gingrich would "...insist that federal funds only go to school systems which require teacher competency and accountability."¹</p>	<p>Paul voted against No Child Left Behind and opposes federal involvement in education.¹</p>	<p>"We had a No Child Left Behind...in our state a number of years ago... And it's had a big impact here. It's improved schools."¹</p>	<p>Santorum voted for No Child Left Behind "...because I thought, well, we need to get the facts and we need to have some national system to be able to determine whether we are in fact succeeding or failing."</p>
Health Care Reform	<p>Health reform makes health care more affordable, holds insurers more accountable, expands coverage to all Americans and makes our health system sustainable.²</p>	<p>"...I'm against Obamacare, which is imposing radical change."²</p>	<p>Paul introduced H.R. 5444, "The Private Option Health Care Reform Act" to repeal the individual mandate.²</p>	<p>Romney would issue "ObamaCare waivers" for the 50 states and work with Congress to repeal the legislation altogether.²</p>	<p>Santorum would demand repeal of health care reform in exchange for the debt ceiling, said that he'd "absolutely" let the country go into default over it.</p>
Workers' Rights	<p>President Obama believes "collective bargaining is a 'fundamental American value.'" He has said that "...making it harder for public employees to collectively bargain generally seems like more of an assault on unions..."⁴</p>	<p>Gingrich publicly sided with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker against teachers and public employees.⁴</p>	<p>"You should have no privileges, no special benefits legislated to benefit the unions, but you should never deny any working group to organize and negotiate for the best set of standards of working conditions."⁴</p>	<p>Romney publicly sided with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker against teachers and public employees.⁴</p>	<p>Santorum said pro-union protestors were "...acting like their drug is being taken away from them."</p>
Vouchers	<p>"Private school vouchers are not an effective way to improve student achievement."³</p>	<p>Gingrich strongly supports school vouchers, suggests calling them Pell Grants for kids.³</p>	<p>Paul voted for H.R. 1540, a federally-funded school voucher program.³</p>	<p>Romney has previously stated support for means-tested school voucher programs.³</p>	<p>Santorum supports school vouchers, voted for S. Amdt. 1249, a federally-funded school voucher program.</p>
Social Security & Retirement Benefits	<p>"We have an obligation to keep that promise, to safeguard Social Security for our seniors, people with disabilities and all Americans — today, tomorrow and forever."⁵</p>	<p>"The only good options are to cut benefits and move state and local retirement plans to a pre-funded basis with personal savings plans."⁵</p>	<p>Paul says "There's no authority [in the Constitution]. Article I, Section 8 doesn't say I can set up an insurance program for people."⁵</p>	<p>Romney favors indexing benefits to inflation and might lower benefits for those in the highest income brackets.⁵</p>	<p>Santorum says the problem with Social Security is "...we don't have enough workers to support the retirees...because of abortion."</p>
Sources	<p>1. Weekly Radio Address, 5/21/11 2. Whitehouse.Gov/Healthreform 3. Statement Of Administration Policy, H.R. 471 4. "Presidential Proclamation," Office of the Press Secretary, The White House, 9/2/11; WTMJ-TV, 2/17/11 5. Weekly Radio Address, 8/14/10</p>	<p>1. "Newt Gingrich Letter," Humanevents.com, 9/5/06 2. Gingrich interview, Meet the Press, 5/15/11 3. Gingrich interview, <i>Politico</i>, 5/17/10 4. Fox & Friends, 2/22/11 5. Real Change, by Newt Gingrich, p. 31-32 12/18/07</p>	<p>1. H.R. 1, 5/23/01 2. www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-5444 3. clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll344.xml, 5/25/11 4. 2007 Republican Debate, 10/9/07 5. Fox News Sunday, 5/15/11</p>	<p>1. Politifact, 9/14/07 2. Speech at U of M Cardiovascular Center, 5/12/11 3. <i>Boston Globe</i> review of 1994 campaign issues, 3/21/02 4. Boston.com, 2/24/11 5. CNN Money, 7/12/07</p>	<p>1. CNS Interview, 1/24/11 2. Fox News Sunday, 4/24/11 3. Roll Call Vote # 260, 9/30/97 4. <i>Politico</i>, 2/22/11 5. <i>NY Daily News</i>, 3/30/11</p>