

(Continued)

ISSUE	DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM	REPUBLICAN PLATFORM
		long run. Also, public access to public lands for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting should be permitted on all appropriate federal lands.
Taxes	We believe in deficit reduction not by placing the burden on the middle class and the poor, but by cutting out programs we can't afford and asking the wealthiest to again contribute their fair share.	We oppose tax policies that divide Americans or promote class warfare. . . . In any restructuring of federal taxation, to guard against hypertaxation of the American people, any value added tax or national sales tax must be tied to the simultaneous repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment, which established the federal income tax.
Workplace Rights	Democrats believe that the right to organize and collectively bargain is a fundamental American value. . . . We will continue to fight for the right of all workers to organize and join a union. . . . We will continue to vigorously oppose "Right to Work" and "paycheck protection" efforts, and so-called "Save Our Secret Ballot" measures whenever they are proposed.	We salute the Republican Governors and State legislators who have saved their States from fiscal disaster by reforming their laws governing public employee unions. We urge elected officials across the country to follow their lead in order to avoid State and local defaults on their obligations and the collapse of services to the public.
Voter Rights	We believe the right to vote and to have your vote counted is an essential American freedom, and we oppose laws that place unnecessary restrictions on those seeking to exercise that freedom. . . . Democrats know that voter identification laws can disproportionately burden young voters, people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, and the elderly, and we refuse to allow the use of political pretexts to disenfranchise American citizens.	We support State laws that require proof of citizenship at the time of voter registration to protect our electoral system against a significant and growing form of voter fraud. . . . We call for vigorous prosecution of voter fraud at the State and federal level. . . . We recognize that having a physical verification of the vote is the best way to ensure a fair election.
Health Care	We believe accessible, affordable, high quality health care is part of the American promise, that Americans should have the security that comes with good health care, and that no one should go broke because they get sick.	We believe that taking care of one's health is an individual responsibility. Chronic diseases, many of them related to lifestyle, drive healthcare costs, accounting for more than 75 percent of the nation's medical spending. To reduce demand, and thereby lower costs, we must foster personal responsibility while increasing preventive services to promote healthy lifestyles.

Source: Democratic Party platform: assets.dstatic.org/dnc-platform/2012-National-Platform.pdf; Republican Party platform: www.gop.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/2012GOPPlatform.pdf.