

Nonpartisan 2008 Democrat and Republican Platform Comparison on Issues*

Democratic Party	Issue	Republican Party
The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right. (p50)	Abortion	Faithful to the first guarantee of the Declaration of Independence, we assert the inherent dignity and sanctity of all human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. (p52)
Democrats will fight to end discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and disability ... (p51)	Civil Rights	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. (p51-52)
... we will preserve Americans' Second Amendment right to own and use firearms. We believe that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation... We can work together to enact and enforce common-sense laws and improvements – like closing the gun show loophole... (p48)	Gun Ownership	We uphold the right of individual Americans to own firearms, a right which antedated the Constitution and was solemnly confirmed by the Second Amendment ... enabling Americans to defend themselves, their property, and communities... We recognize that gun control only affects and penalizes law-abiding citizens, and that such proposals are ineffective at reducing violent crime. (p51)
We will lead to defeat the epochal, man-made threat to the planet: climate change. Without dramatic changes, rising sea levels will flood coastal regions around the world. Warmer temperatures and declining rainfall will reduce crop yields, increasing conflict, famine, disease, and poverty. (p43)	Environment	Republicans caution against the doomsday climate change scenarios ... We can – and should– address the risk of climate change based on sound science without succumbing to the no-growth radicalism that treats climate questions as dogma rather than as situations to be managed responsibly. (p36)
... We know we can't drill our way to energy independence and so we must summon all of our ingenuity and legendary hard work and we must invest in research and development, and deployment of renewable energy Technologies—such as solar, wind, geothermal, as well as technologies to store energy through advanced batteries and clean up our coal plants ... (p17)	Energy	If we are to have the resources we need to achieve energy independence, we simply must draw more American oil from American soil. We support accelerated exploration, drilling and development in America ... Republicans support [solar and wind energy] and other alternative energy sources, including geothermal and hydropower, and anticipate technological developments that will increase their economic viability. (p31-32)
We support the full inclusion of all families, including same-sex couples, in the life of our nation, and support equal responsibility, benefits, and protections. We will enact a comprehensive bipartisan employment non-discrimination act. We oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and all attempts to use this issue to divide us. (p52)	Same-Sex "Marriage"	... we call for a constitutional amendment that fully protects marriage as a union of a man and a woman, so that judges cannot make other arrangements equivalent to it. In the absence of a national amendment, we support the right of the people of the various states to affirm traditional marriage through state initiatives. (p53)

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