

Mitt Romney
Romney for President
585 Commercial Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Governor Romney,

In this election year, matters of religious belief are once again highly visible in the public square. Some have tempered their enthusiasm for sound governing principles by their concern over differences in a candidate's theological doctrine. It is time to remind ourselves that civil government is not about a particular theology but rather about public policy, and the question we ask is this one: what are the policy principles that will govern your administration should you prevail on Election Day.

For that answer we must look to the Republican platform, the document that most clearly defines your principles, and those of your party, on a wide range of topics. Among them are those that derive from Biblical truth, an important source of our nation's political philosophy. As you know, this year the platform proposals received hearty debate and intense scrutiny by Republican delegates from every state just prior to the party convention in Tampa. The platform was adopted resoundingly and embraced wholeheartedly by you and your running mate Paul Ryan.

From our perspective as leaders who are motivated by Christian faith, it is a remarkably strong document and we congratulate you for it. On those matters of social policy that address our deepest concerns-- the sanctity of human life, compassion for the downtrodden and persecuted, the identity of the family, and religious freedom, the Republican platform speaks clearly and powerfully. Its principles are squarely within the Judeo-Christian tradition, and we affirm the compelling words that convey its positions. Here are some of them:

Sanctity of Human Life

"Faithful to the 'self-evident' truths enshrined in the Declaration we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution and endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children... (p. 14)"

"We also salute the many states that have passed laws for informed consent, mandatory waiting periods prior to an abortion, and health-protective clinic regulation. We seek to protect young girls from exploitation through a parental consent requirement; and we re-affirm our moral obligation to assist, rather than penalize, women challenged by an unplanned pregnancy (p.14)."

Defense of Marriage

"A serious threat to our country's constitutional order...is an activist judiciary, in which some judges usurp the powers reserved to other branches of government. A blatant example has been the court-ordered redefinition of marriage in several states...It is an assault on the foundations of our society,

challenging the institution which, for thousands of years in virtually every civilization, has been entrusted with the rearing of children and the transmission of cultural values.

“That is why Congressional Republicans took the lead in enacting the Defense of Marriage Act, affirming the right of the states and the federal government not to recognize same-sex relationships licensed in other jurisdictions...We affirm our support for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We applaud the citizens of the majority of states which have enshrined in their constitutions the traditional concept of marriage, and we support the campaigns underway in several other states to do so (p.10).”

Religious Freedom

“The Republican Party includes Americans from every faith and tradition, and our policies and positions respect the right of every American to follow his or her beliefs and underscore our reverence for the religious freedom envisioned by the Founding Fathers of our nation and of our party (p. 9).”

“We pledge to respect the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard the independence of their institutions from government...we assert every citizen’s right to apply religious values to public policy and the right of faith-based organizations to participate fully in public programs without renouncing their beliefs, removing religious symbols, or submitting to government-imposed hiring practices (p.12).”

Religious Persecution

“To those who stand in the darkness of tyranny, America has always been a beacon of hope, and so it must remain...Religious minorities across the Middle East are being driven from their ancient homelands, fanaticism leaves its bloody mark on both West and East Africa, and even among America’s Western friends and allies, pastors and families are penalized for their religious convictions. A Republican administration will return the advocacy of religious liberty to a central place in our diplomacy (p. 45).”

Human Trafficking

“As we approach the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by the first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, we are reminded to be vigilant against human bondage in whatever form it appears. We will use the full force of the law against those who engage in modern-day forms of slavery, including the commercial exploitation of children and the forced labor of men, women and children (p.46).”

Non-discrimination

“...We consider discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion, creed, disability or national origin unacceptable and immoral. We will strongly enforce antidiscrimination statutes and ask all to join us in rejecting the forces of hatred and bigotry and in denouncing all who practice or promote racism, anti-Semitism, ethnic prejudice, or religious intolerance (p.9).”

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These then are some of the concepts in the Republican platform that speak to the moral principles at stake in today’s society. No such document will satisfy everyone, and its enactment will only be as vigorous as the political leaders we elect. Nonetheless, the platform is a strong statement of social principles, and we encourage everyone to judge it for themselves (it is available at <http://whitehouse12.com/republican-party-platform/>). In the confusing moral thickets of our day, this is a political compass that provides clear and sharp direction, a guide that is sorely needed by our country’s office holders. Once again we congratulate you and the Republican Party for your diligent work in producing the 2012 platform.

Cc: Reince Priebus, Chairman
Republican National Committee

Signed by the following as individuals (affiliations listed for identification purposes only)

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