**Presidential Election 2012 - Meet the Candidates**

**Barack Hussein Obama II (Democrat)**

44th President of the U.S.

**Vice President** Joseph R Biden Jr.

**Born** August 4, 1961 (age 51)

 Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.

**Spouse(s)** Michelle Robinson (1992–present)

**Children** Malia (b. 1998)

 Sasha (b. 2001)

**Residence** White House (Official)

 Chicago, Illinois (Private)

**Education** Columbia College (B.A.)

 Harvard Law School (J.D.)

**Profession** Community organizer

 Lawyer

 Constitutional law professor

 Author

**Religion** Christianity

**Awards** Nobel Peace Prize

**Website** barackobama.com

**Signature** 

**Willard Mitt Romney (Republican)**

70th Governor of Massachusetts

**Vice President Candidate** Paul Ryan

**Born** March 12, 1947 (age 65)

 Detroit, Michigan, U.S.

**Spouse(s)** Ann Romney (1969-present)

**Children** Taggart (b. 1970)

 Matthew (b. 1971)

 Joshua (b. 1975)

 Benjamin (b. 1978)

 Craig (b. 1981)

**Residence** Belmont, Massachusetts

 Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

 San Diego, California

**Education** Brigham Young University (BA)

 Harvard University (MBA, JD)

**Profession** Management consultant,

 Venture capitalist

 Private equity

**Religion** Church of Latter-day Saints (Mormon)

**Positions** Co-founder and CEO, Bain Capital

 (1984–2002)

 CEO, Bain & Company (1991–1992)

 CEO, 2002 Winter Olympics

 Organizing Committee (1999–2002)

**Website** MittRomney.com

**Signature** 

**Gary Earl Johnson (Libertarian)**

29th Governor of New Mexico

**Vice President Candidate** James P. Gray

**Born** January 1, 1953 (age 59)

 Minot, North Dakota, U.S.

**Political Party** Libertarian (2011–present)

 Republican Party (before 2011)

**Spouse(s)** Dee Simms (1977–2005)

**Domestic Partner** Kate Prusack (2009–present)

**Children** Seah (b. 1979)

Erik (b. 1982)

**Residence** Taos, New Mexico

**Education** University of New Mexico (BA)

**Profession** Co-Founder/Owner, Big J Enterprises,

 1976-1999

**Organizations** Honorary Chairman, Our America

Initiative, 2009
Advisory Board, Anderson School of Management's Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
Board of Directors, Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

**Religion** Christianity

**Website** garyjohnson2012.com

**Democratic 2012 Platform**

***“****Moving America Forward”*

**Rebuilding Middle Class Security**

* Putting Americans Back to Work
* The Middle Class Bargain
* Cutting Waste, Reducing the Deficit, Asking All to Pay Their Fair Share
* Economy Built to Last

**America Works When Everyone Plays by the Same Rules**

* Wall Street Reform
* 21st Century Government: Transparent and Accountable
* Lobbying Reform and Campaign Finance Reform

**Greater Together**

* Strengthening the American Community
* Protecting Rights and Freedoms
* Ensuring Safety and Quality of Life

**Stronger in the World, Safer and More Secure At Home**

* Responsibly Ending the War in Iraq
* Disrupting, Dismantling, and Defeating Al-Qaeda
* Responsibly Ending the War in Afghanistan
* Preventing the Spread and Use of Nuclear Weapons
* Countering Emerging Threats
* Strengthening Alliances, Expanding Partnerships, and Reinvigorating International Institutions
* Promoting Global Prosperity and Development
* Maintaining the Strongest Military in the World
* Advancing Universal Values

**Republican 2012 Platform**

*“We Believe in America”*

**Preamble**

The 2012 Republican Platform is a statement of who we are and what we believe as a Party and our vision for a stronger and freer America.

The pursuit of opportunity has defined America from our very beginning. This is a land of opportunity. The American Dream is a dream of equal opportunity for all. And the Republican Party is the party of opportunity.

**Key Points**

* Restoring the American Dream: Rebuilding the Economy and Creating Jobs
* A Restoration of Constitutional Government
* America’s Natural Resources: Energy, Agriculture and the Environment
* Reforming Government to Serve the People
* Renewing American Values to Build Healthy
* Families, Great Schools and Safe Neighborhoods
* American Exceptionalism

**Libertarian 2012 Platform**

*“The Party of Principle”*

**Preamble**

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

**Statement of Principles**

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

**Key Points**

* Personal Liberty
* Economic Liberty
* Securing Liberty
* Omissions