





GOP Candidates: Where They Stand On Issues

***Disclaimer: IBEW Local 104 DOES NOT endorse any of the GOP candidates. President Obama is the best choice to create job growth for Local 104 members.**

	 Newt Gingrich	 Ron Paul	 Mitt Romney	 Rick Santorum
Labor & Business	Newt Gingrich believes that workers have basic human rights but unions have outlived their purpose. He has said that unions discourage competition and are overly concerned with politics, spending millions of dollars on influencing government policies while their pension funds are in the red. He also believes unions have made the cost of producing goods in the U.S. prohibitive.	Ron Paul believes that inflation is caused by big business' demand for easy money. He thinks labor should have the right to organize but there should be no specific benefits for unions. He believes that unemployment benefits should stay at 39 weeks and that extending them encourages people to remain jobless.	Mitt Romney voiced his protest against The Employee Free Choice Act that would make it easier for unions to organize, describing it as dangerous legislation that would have a negative impact on the nation's ability to compete globally and would also dampen the scope of new businesses. He believes a cut in corporate taxes can stimulate the economy, create jobs and encourage foreign investment.	During his 16-year congressional career, Rick Santorum cast votes to benefit organized labor, including preserving government Prevailing Wage, and reportedly voted to lift the debt ceiling eight times. In March 2006, the then-U.S. senator, as chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, voted in favor of an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution that would increase funding for labor, health and education programs by \$7 billion.
Economy, Budget & Taxes	"To get America's economy moving again, we must return to the supply side, strong dollar policies that have worked in the past." Gingrich believes in making the Bush tax cuts permanent, as well as reducing the corporate tax rate to 12.5 percent, and eliminating the inheritance tax and capital gains tax.	Ron Paul supports the elimination of the income tax and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). He says he would support a Fair Tax and agrees with extensive budget cuts, including cuts in military spending.	Mitt Romney believes the U.S. needs long-term tax/budget reform, not temporary fixes. Unemployment compensation is necessary but outdated; needs reform to be less expensive and encourage people to go back to work. Romney favors consumption taxes but opposes the "fair tax" stating that it decreases the burden on the richest and poorest while increasing taxes for the middle class.	Santorum would lock in place the current, low capital gains and dividend rates, while cutting corporate income tax rates immediately in half, and for manufacturers, he would completely eliminate corporate income taxes.
National Security & Foreign Policy	Gingrich has advocated a covert war on Iranian nuclear efforts, including potential assassination of scientists. Gingrich would like more money spent on our military to keep it superior to China's.	Starkly contrasting the rest of the Republican field, Paul opposes any action in Iran in the name of nuclear anti-proliferation or Israeli security.	Terrorism is a result of radical Islam based in the Middle East. Romney believes in sanctions to counter Iran's efforts toward nuclear weapons and would pursue military action if needed.	Santorum has said: "Our nation's security must be our foremost priority" and "American intervention in the Middle East helps promote 'core American values.'" Santorum has stated that military action against Iran cannot be taken off the table.
Immigration	Gingrich urges 100% control on the Mexican border but also states that he looks to find a middle ground between deportation and amnesty for the estimated 11 million illegals already here.	While Paul opposes a fence, he believes in bringing troops home from abroad to patrol the borders.	Against "amnesty" for illegal immigrants already in the U.S.; as Massachusetts governor, directed state police to enforce federal immigration laws. Romney is "pro-fence."	Santorum has opposed a measure backed by President Bush that could allow a majority of illegal immigrants already here to eventually become legal permanent residents, by paying fines, fees and back taxes and learning English. However, Santorum does not believe mass deportations are the answer. Santorum is "pro-fence."
Health Care	Gingrich wants to address the health care crisis through market-oriented, patient focused reforms, "not more big government regulations and bureaucracies." Gingrich seeks reform or repeal of Obamacare and the use of tax credits to make coverage more affordable as well as setting up a high risk pool for those who cannot afford it.	Paul said "Obamacare is the worst possible answer. All it does is perpetuate a flawed system by forcing everyone to become a client of insurance companies, even those who don't want to or need to participate."	As Massachusetts governor, Romney signed law mandating that residents buy healthcare or face tax penalty; plan does not have a public option. His Massachusetts plan was the outline for Obama's national plan; however, Romney favors the repeal of Obamacare.	"If we don't repeal 'Obamacare,' America as we know it is over." Santorum has stated that the repeal of Obamacare would be his #1 priority.
Social Issues	Abortion: Pro-life. Gingrich supports ending financing for Planned Parenthood. Gay marriage: Gingrich has stated that he believes marriage is between a man and a woman, but has not signed the pledge to pursue a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Gingrich has an openly lesbian half-sister who opposes his candidacy. Torture: Gingrich previously opposed waterboarding as torture and not legal but more recently has endorsed it, if specifically authorized by the President.	Abortion: Strongly pro-life. Paul has been criticized by pro-life activist for stating that laws and enforcement should be left to the states. Same-Sex Marriage: Paul has declined to sign the pledge to add a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage. Torture: Paul stated that waterboarding is torture and illegal.	Abortion: Pro-life. Gay marriage: Against same-sex marriage but also against denial of rights. Romney has pledged to support a constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage. Gun laws: Supports 2nd Amendment but also assault weapons ban. Torture: Romney does not believe waterboarding is torture.	Abortion: "A sharp critic of abortion rights, Santorum has garnered headlines by questioning why President Barack Obama, as the nation's first black president, is willing to deny civil rights to fetuses." Santorum is strictly pro-life, no exceptions. Gay marriage: "Santorum . . . is blasting his fellow Republicans for timidity in defense of traditional marriage." Santorum signed the Family Leader's "Marriage Vow"; a pledge supporting "traditional marriage values" and supports adding a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage. Gun laws: Pro-2nd Amendment. Torture: Santorum supports 'enhanced interrogation techniques,' including waterboarding, as proven and successful ways of gathering information. He also stated that Guantanamo Bay must remain open.
Recent Interest Group Ratings	1995 American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Positions 0% 1997 American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Positions 0% 1997 American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Positions 0% As of February 25th, 2011, NumbersUSA - 2012 Presidential Hopefuls gave Gingrich a grade of D- based on what Gingrich says a President should do about immigration.	2010 American Federation of Government Employees - Positions 7% 2010 American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) - Positions 0% 2010 American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees - Positions 0% 2009 American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) - Lifetime Score 19%	As of February 25th, 2011, NumbersUSA - 2012 Presidential Hopefuls gave Romney a grade of D based on what Romney says a President should do about immigration. Mitt Romney not a real 'buddy,' says AFL-CIO http://thehill.com/blogs/twitter-room/other-news/186557-mitt-romney-not-a-real-buddy-says-afl-cio	2005-2006 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Positions 29% 2005 American Federation of Government Employees - Positions 0% 2005 American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) - Positions 0% In 2006 Citizens for Global Solutions gave Santorum a grade of D. In 2006, the National Rifle Association assigned Santorum a grade of A+. In 2006 Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America gave Santorum a grade of D-.