

Issue	McCain	Romney
<p>Redistribution of Income</p>	<p>Mixed record but overall anti-growth - He opposed the tax increase pushed by both Bush the elder and Bill Clinton and he voted in favor of a reduction in capital gains. He opposed Bush the younger's tax cuts each time and (until recently) has weighed in on the need to sunset them.</p> <p>He claims, now, that his opposition to the tax cuts was that there weren't enough spending cuts to offset the tax cuts. At the time, his opposition was right in line with Hillary, Obama, Kennedy and the rest of the class panderers. He said at the time "I cannot in good conscience support a tax cut in which so many of the benefits go to the most fortunate among us at the expense of middle-class Americans who need tax relief." - conversely, Teddy Kennedy had this to say around the same time: "Now, they are proposing more of the same, more tax breaks benefiting only the wealthiest among us."</p> <p>Additionally, he not only voted against the latest tax cuts, he joined with leading liberals in attempting to pass legislation that would undermine the tax cuts. Check out the details on this at http://www.clubforgrowth.org/2007/03/arizona_senator_john_mccains_t.php.</p> <p>This article concludes the tax portion of the post with these words "Despite his occasional constructive votes on tax policy, Senator McCain's vigorous opposition to and misguided rhetoric against the most pro-growth tax cuts in twenty years should make economic conservatives very worried about the tax policies that would emanate from a McCain presidential administration." Nothing short of sage advise, that.</p>	<p>Mixed record - He did not make any broad based tax hikes, he DID raise taxes in real world terms. He increased fees and closed loopholes and made some minor spending cuts. The majority of his fee hikes hit businesses and not the average person. Only problem with that theory is that what hits the pocketbook of the business owner, hits the pocketbook of the average person, too.</p> <p>While he did fight the Massachusetts legislature (and won) to stop the imposition of a retroactive capital gains tax, he also opposed Bush the younger's tax cuts. Additionally, he fought against his constituents' attempt to eliminate the MA state income tax, he proposed auto excise taxes on SUVs and a tax on development of ocean space, he even supported a federal tax hike on gas!</p> <p>And finally, to this day, he opposes any sort of flat tax system - in 1996, even though he wasn't running for office at the time, he ran several newspaper ads denouncing Steve Forbes 17% flat tax proposal as a "tax cut for fat cats". All in all, his record on taxing is very confusing and peppered with many contradictory statements and positions that should be of concern to any conservative.</p>
<p>2nd Amendment Rights</p>	<p>John McCain currently enjoys an "F" rating from Gun Owners of America (www.gunowners.org) for his history as the anti-gun senator from Arizona. McCain was the "pro-gun voice" for Andrew McKelvey's anti-gun group "American's for Gun Safety" after McKelvey split from the Brady group because they wouldn't do things his way so he took his billions and started his own group. McCain joined forces with Lieberman to legislate gun shows even while others in the republican party were actively working to fight this type of legislation. He also pushed for legislation that would require firearms be locked up in the home - this in spite of the fact that most studies show that gunlocks lead to more deaths than lives saved.</p> <p>In 2000 he ran as an anti-gun candidate. In 2008, he's trying to erase history and run as a pro-gun candidate.</p>	<p>While in Massachusetts running for governor, Mitt Romney promised he would not "chip away" at some of the most draconian gun laws on the books in our country - yes, those of Massachusetts. He further promised that his views on firearms were "not going to make [him] the hero" of the gun lobby.</p> <p>When Romney ran for the senate in 1994 he was a staunch supporter of both the Brady Bill AND a ban on scores of semi-automatic firearms. These both happened to be democrat pet projects even though they all knew that these laws would do NOTHING to help deter crime.</p> <p>His support of anti-self defense legislation was strong in his 2002 gubernatorial run; however he did help to pass legislation in the state meant to loosen restriction on gun licensing. Only problem was that in addition to this legislation he also signed into law bans on common, household firearms that are owned by millions of Americans across the country.</p>

<p>Real Immigration Reform</p>	<p>Anyone ever heard of the McCain-Kennedy Immigration Reform of 2007? ‘Nuff said.</p>	<p>With less than a month left in his term as Governor of Massachusetts, and an eye already on running for president in 2008, Romney signed an agreement with the federal government deputizing 30 of the MA state troopers to enforce federal immigration laws in the state. Although he started talking about entering the agreement early in 2006, he waited until it was a near certainty that the troopers wouldn’t start training until after he left office on 04 January 2007.</p> <p>As governor of Massachusetts he turned a blind eye on sanctuary cities in his state. However, he did fight against giving driver’s licenses to illegals and fought against in-state tuition for illegals as well.</p>
<p>In Defense of Life</p>	<p>He believes that Roe v. Wade was bad law, but not that it should be overturned. He voted against allowing partial-birth abortions. He voted against federal funding for abortions. He supported legislation that would require parental notification before a minor could have an abortion. He supports federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research; however his campaign sites says he does not support embryo creation for the purposes research.</p>	<p>He supports the overturning of Roe v. Wade. He supports a ban on partial-birth abortions. He opposes taxpayer funding of abortions. He supports parental notification before an abortion can be performed on a minor. He supports stem-cell research if the embryos were not created explicitly for said research.</p>
<p>“Free” Healthcare</p>	<p>He supports free-market approaches to make healthcare more accessible to we the people. He supports the ability for people to buy healthcare nationwide rather than only on a state-by-state basis, utilizing co-op type groups to increase buying power. He also supports destroying our drug industry by re-importing the price-fixed drugs from Canada.</p>	<p>Romneycare in Massachusetts – like that’s a good thing or something. Gregg Jackson of Human Events gives a great itemization of this regulation-laden bureaucratic behemoth, here: http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=22649&keywords=romney+healthcare</p>
<p>Fighting L.O.S.T.</p>	<p>McCain is on record as [sort of] opposing the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST). In October 2007 he said: “I’d like to make some changes to it. I think it’s important, but I have not frankly looked too carefully at the latest situation as it is, but it would be nice if we had some of the provisions in it. But I do worry a lot about American sovereignty aspects of it, so I would probably vote against it in its present form.</p> <p>I would like to see a treaty as far something to bring order, for example, in a place like the Arctic right now, where thanks to climate change, it’s going to be far more important than it was. You watch the Russians asserting their sovereignty over it, and I’d like to see some order out of that chaos. But I’m just too concerned about the aspect of United States sovereignty being handed over to some international organization.”</p>	<p>Romney is also on record as [sort of] opposing LOST – the only thing I could find on it was this: "Governor Romney has concerns with the Law of the Sea Treaty. He believes giving unaccountable international institutions more power is a serious problem." From http://www.newsmax.com/insidecover/law_of_the_sea_treaty/2007/10/27/44481.html</p>
<p>Club Gitmo</p>	<p>McCain has made numerous statements against Guantanamo even go so far as to say in Iowa that he would close the holding place on his first day as president. See the C-Span video here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5Co7x3A12s</p>	<p>In the debate in May 2007 Mitt Romney posited that the U.S. should <i>double</i> the number of detainees being held at Guantanamo. He further stated that suspected terrorists need to be kept off of American soil and that he supported the use of “enhanced interrogation techniques” with the approval of the president. As far as I am able to determine he still holds these positions.</p>

<p>Global Climate Change</p>	<p>McCain has spoken over and over again of his support of economy crippling regulations to “stop” global warming. He dismisses any naysayers in the best mimicry of Al Gore, Robert Kennedy and the like.</p>	<p>It appears that Romney was at first non-judgmental on the idea of global warming, but has since spoken out against it as being (a.) real and/or (b.) a product of man. He clearly (as shown in the last debate) doesn't believe in the McCain-Lieberman legislation proposed by his opponent.</p>
<p>Activist Judges</p>	<p>McCain SAYS he will appoint constructionist judges, but I don't buy it. I have nothing to clearly point to the idea that he won't. However, for anyone familiar with the Gang of 14 he founded that notion shouldn't be far from their mind. The Gang of 14 was a “bi-partisan” group with the stated intention of helping to streamline the confirmation process of judges through the senate. What it did, in actuality, was to stop the process on any judge deemed to controversial by the democrats. So if his appointee is too controversial for the dems in congress, will he willing withdraw his nomination? I'm betting he will; it's way too important to him to have acceptance from the dems to stand against them.</p>	<p>Great article at RedState on this item – check it out here: http://www.crosstabs.org/blogs/mikeks/2007/dec/20/romney-appointed-liberal-judges-in-massachusetts. Romney did precious little to move the court systems of Massachusetts back to the founder's beliefs. Are we certain he will do any better at the federal level?</p>
<p>On Islam in General</p>	<p>This is such a great article: http://www.beliefnet.com/story/220/story_22001_1.html - watch it all or read it – the thing that most interested me is this portion: in answer to a question about how having a muslim in the whitehouse he had this to say – “I admire the Islam. There's a lot of good principles in it. I think one of the great tragedies of the 21st century is that these forces of evil have perverted what's basically an honorable religion. But, no, I just have to say in all candor that since this nation was founded primarily on Christian principles.... personally, I prefer someone who I know who has a solid grounding in my faith. But that doesn't mean that I'm sure that someone who is Muslim would not make a good president. I don't say that we would rule out under any circumstances someone of a different faith. I just would--I just feel that that's an important part of our qualifications to lead.”</p> <p>He did later clarify his remarks to Belifnet saying: “I would vote for a Muslim if he or she was the candidate best able to lead the country and defend our political values.” Nothing like pandering to everyone.</p>	<p>I found several blogs saying Romney is against radical Islam, but I could find nothing in the candidate's own words. From what I can tell he has never publically stated anything other than a need to stay the course in the War on Terror and defeat “Radical Islam”.</p>