

# FEATURES

## Head to Head : Obama vs. Romney



### Forward for the Forty-fourth

Forty-fourth President Barack Obama is the first African American to step foot into the White House as the commander in chief of the United States. Running for a second term, the Democratic presidential candidate has a multitude of ideas for America that were addressed throughout his campaigns, convention speech and debates. His main points revolve around the economy, tax issues, healthcare, gay rights and abortion.

One of the major issues America is currently flustered over is the poor economy. Internationally-speaking, President Obama supports China's rise to power as long as it is peaceful and has announced that he will not do anything to interfere. He has maintained positive American-European--especially in the United Kingdoms--and Palestinian relations. Nationally, he has cut from several divisions, encouraging government support for sections like education. Furthermore, tens of billions of dollars were cut from the military. Obama also stresses the significance of lowering the federal budget deficit.

In regards to tax cuts, Obama desires to continue the Bush-era tax cuts to those married and making less than \$250,000 and those single who are making less than \$200,000 annually, though Republicans have demanded him to continue the tax cuts for wealthy Americans as well. He supports welfare, particularly financial support for the needy. Obama promotes the "Buffett Rule," which will charge a 30 percent tax rate towards everyone making over a million dollars per year. This rule was named after billionaire investor Warren Buffett, who mentioned he paid less taxes than his secretary.

Obama's healthcare reform, or more commonly known as Obamacare, is also an important subject in today's discussions. He believes that every American requires a healthcare plan and advocates this through Obamacare. This bill has many functions; specifically, it ensures that insurance companies will cover people with pre-existing conditions. The independent Congressional Budget Office published a report informing that compared to the present coverage system, Obamacare will lower costs of healthcare over a ten year period.

In more controversial topics, namely gay rights and abortion, Obama also has straightforward stances. He openly supports gay marriage, and in an interview with ABC News on May 9th, 2012, Obama announced, "It is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married." He repealed the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, which kicked out openly gay soldiers from the military. Obama also strongly supports women's rights. He is "pro-choice," allowing the female to choose between abortion or to keep the child.

Being a liberal politician, Obama is more willing to discard traditional values, for instance, prohibiting gay marriage. He has consistently stayed true to his views, and his campaign slogan of this election expresses his purpose this time around: "Forward!"

By: Jenny Lee  
Staff Writer

FORWARD



### Repeal Rival. Respect Romney.

The Former Governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney, believes that he could renovate America if elected to presidency. Some changes he plans to implement include a five-point economic plan, lowering federal deficits and replacing the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

His five-point economic plan will address the different needs of Americans. The first part of his plan is to achieve energy independence in the United States by 2020. America is teeming with natural resources, and Romney plans to utilize them to create four million jobs. Part two of the plan is to provide Americans with the skills required to succeed through better public schools, better access to higher education and better retraining programs. The plan's third part is to open new markets for American goods and build stronger economic ties in Latin America. Part four is to bring the national debt under control by reducing government spending to less than 20 percent of the national output. Finally, the fifth part of Romney's plan is to support small businesses by cutting back on the regulations and taxes that drive up costs and discourage employees from hiring.

In his campaign for presidency, Romney has said that he wishes to seek income tax law reforms that will lower federal deficits and stimulate economic growth. He plans to cut everyone's income tax rate by 20 percent. Although Obama has said that this will add to the federal deficit, Romney defends his plan by stating that he will make up for it in other ways, such as cutting back on tax credits--a sum deducted from the total amount a taxpayer must pay that many Americans use in order to reduce their taxable income and adjust tax deductions and exemptions.

Romney pledges to replace Obamacare. The plan includes ideas, such as expanding health savings accounts to pay for premiums and lawsuit reform. Romney has also stated that, if elected, he will gradually raise the minimum age for Medicare eligibility per year by one month in order to control government healthcare funds. This will result in tying the age-to-life expectancy.

"If I am elected president of these United States, I will work with all my energy and soul to restore that America, to lift our eyes to a better future. That future is our destiny. That future is out there. It is waiting for us," Mitt Romney said in his speech at the Republican National Convention. "Our children deserve it, our nation depends upon it [and] the peace and freedom of the world require it. And with your help we will deliver it. Let us begin that future together tonight."

As Governor Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama campaign for presidency, Americans all across the country must come to a decision as to which candidate they believe will bring about the right changes for America. Both candidates have big plans for America for the next four years. It is up to the rest of the country to ensure that they pick the right candidate that will best shape America's future.

By: Deborah Chen  
Copy Editor



ROMNEY  
BELIEVE IN AMERICA



"Obama is a charismatic and diligent leader,"  
Jonathan Ngo, sophomore

"[I support Romney's] five-part plan that includes more money for poverty and more money for the middle classes."  
Pauline On, freshman

"[Romney's] experience as a businessman can help to dig this nation out of deficit and rebuild our capitalist economy."  
William Ton, senior

"Mitt Romney is doing his best to be our next good American leader by promising to avoid all past mistakes, and steer us in the right direction."  
Brandie Wong, junior

"[Obama] proves himself to be a very responsible and trustworthy leader. He doesn't contradict himself."  
Iris Luong, junior

"I support Obama because compared to Romney's, I think Obama's policies will help the middle class and those in need more."  
Sabrina Jo Fung, junior

"I prefer Romney's health-care plan because it makes seniors pay less."  
Michael Yu, junior

"Unlike Romney, Obama doesn't endorse instant gratification; he tells the people that although things are tough right now, things will eventually get better."  
Ximena Araujo, junior

"Obama's policies are more appealing to me because they're more liberal than Mitt Romney's, I suggest watching the Mitt Romney parody of Gangnam Style. This is what you call political propaganda."  
Ayesha Abdallah, senior