



# 2012 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SCORECARD

**Because secular values are American values.**



## 2012 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SCORECARD

*In 2012, voters will make a decision that will have a profound effect on our country: who will lead America through the year 2016. During a time when secular values are under constant attack by many religious leaders and political candidates, the Secular Coalition for America presents the 2012 Presidential Candidate Scorecard. This card reviews each of the major candidates in both the Democratic and Republican parties and examines their views on issues that are important to the nearly 50 million secular and nontheistic Americans who will help choose our president this upcoming November.*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Attitude Toward Nontheists	F	F	N/A	B	F	F	C	C
Church & State Separation	F	F	B	B	C	F	C	F
Taxpayer Funding of Religion	F	F	N/A	C	B	F	C	F
God, Faith & Governance	F	F	B	C	F	F	A	F
Endorsements & Associations	F	C	N/A	B	C	F	C	F
Accepts Evolution	F	F	A	A	F	F	A	F
Scientifically Based Regulations & Legislation	F	F	B	A	C	F	C	F
Religious Discrimination & Civil Rights	F	F	B	A	C	F	F	F
Religious Refusal Laws	F	F	N/A	B	F	N/A	F	F

### Key:

Candidate's remarks and/or actions have been:

- A:** Consistently positive.
- B:** Neutral or occasionally positive.
- C:** Mixed, with positive and negative responses.
- F:** Consistently hostile or negative.
- N/A:** At the time of publication, the Secular Coalition for America was unable to verify the candidate's position or did not have enough information to rate the candidate.

*The above chart is based on the topics and individual public candidate responses in the following sections.*

# THE CANDIDATES



**Michele Bachmann**

Member of the United States House of Representatives,  
Minnesota's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Republican)



**Newt Gingrich**

Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
Georgia's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Republican)



**Jon Huntsman**

Former United States Ambassador to China, former Governor of Utah  
(Republican)



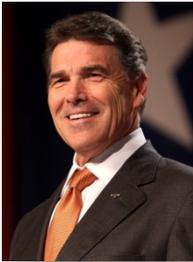
**Barack Obama**

President of the United States (Democrat)



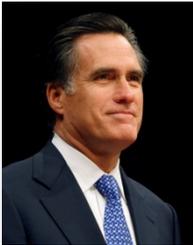
**Ron Paul**

Member of the United States House of Representatives,  
Texas's 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Republican)



**Rick Perry<sup>1</sup>**

Governor of Texas (Republican)



**Mitt Romney<sup>2</sup>**

Former Governor of Massachusetts (Republican)



**Rick Santorum**

Former United States Senator, Pennsylvania (Republican)

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<sup>1</sup> Gage Skidmore, "Rick Perry by Gage Skidmore 4", October 7, 2011 via Wikipedia, Creative Commons Attribution

<sup>2</sup> Jessica Rinaldi, "Mitt Romney", December 21, 2008 via Wikipedia, Creative Commons Attribution

# INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE RESPONSES

## Attitude Toward Nontheists

Has the candidate ever publicly acknowledged secular or nontheistic Americans? Was the acknowledgment positive?

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Attitude Toward Nontheists	F	F	N/A	B	F	F	C	C

- **Bachmann:** She said she believes “nothing is more important than” converting people before the world ends.<sup>3</sup>
- **Gingrich:** “There is no attack on American culture more deadly and more historically dishonest than the secular Left’s relentless effort to drive God out of America’s public square,” he said.<sup>4</sup> “I am convinced that if we do not decisively win the struggle over the nature of America, by the time [my grandchildren are] my age they will be in a secular atheist country, potentially one dominated by radical Islamists and with no understanding of what it once meant to be an American.”<sup>5</sup>
- **Huntsman:** N/A
- **Obama:** “We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and non-believers,” he said.<sup>6</sup> After the 2009 Fort Hood shootings he said, “Veterans’ Day is our chance to honor those Americans who’ve served on battlefields...They are Americans of every faith, and station. They are Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus and nonbelievers.”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Diamond, Marie, “Bachmann Predicted the World Would End in 2006: ‘We Are In The Last Days,’” *ThinkProgress.org*, July 18, 2011; <http://thinkprogress.org/politics/2011/07/18/264811/bachmann-predicted-world-end-2006/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Gingrich, Newt, *Rediscovering God in America*, p. 6; 2006.

<sup>5</sup> Montopoli, Brian, “Newt Gingrich Warns U.S. at Risk of Atheism and Radical Islam,” *CBS News*, March 29, 2011; [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544\\_162-20048494-503544.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20048494-503544.html); retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>6</sup> 2009 Presidential Inaugural Address; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/inaugural-address>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> *Weekly Address: President Obama Extends Condolences to the Fort Hood Community*, November 7, 2009; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/weekly-address-president-obama-extends-condolences-fort-hood-community>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

- **Paul:** “I think faith has something to do with the character of the people that represent us, and law should have a moral fiber to it and our leaders should. We shouldn’t expect us to try to change morality. You can’t teach people how to be moral,” he said.<sup>8</sup> “The ultimate goal of the anti-religious elites is to transform America into a completely secular nation, a nation that is legally and culturally biased against Christianity.”<sup>9</sup>
- **Perry:** In a December 2011 campaign ad, he said as president he will “end Obama’s war on religion” and “fight against liberal attacks on our religious heritage.”<sup>10</sup>
- **Romney:** “I’m convinced that the nation...does need to have people of different faiths but we need to have a person of faith lead the country.” In a 2007 *Meet the Press* interview, Romney said he does believe atheists can be moral. TIM RUSSERT: “But when you say freedom requires religion, can you be a moral person and be an atheist?” ROMNEY: “Oh, oh, of course [...] on an individual basis, you have many individuals of great morality and—that, that don’t have any particular faith.”<sup>11</sup>
- **Santorum:** “I think the key to the success of this country, how we all live together, because we are a very diverse country—Madison called it the perfect remedy—which was to allow everybody, people of faith and no faith, to come in and make their claims in the public square, to be heard, have those arguments, and not to say because you’re not a person of faith, you need to stay out, because you have strong faith convictions, your opinion is invalid,” he said. However Santorum also stated, “The movement in our country to fly on ‘one wing’ reason alone will ultimately undermine the very foundation of our country—freedom.” (Two wings mean faith and reason.)

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<sup>8</sup> CNN Live Event/Special: Republican Debate, June 13, 2011;

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1106/13/se.02.html>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>9</sup> Paul, Ron, “The War on Religion”, December 30, 2003; <http://www.lewrockwell.com/paul/paul148.html>; retrieved December 20, 2011

<sup>10</sup> Quinn, Sally, “Rick Perry’s Faith-based Initiative,” *The Washington Post* “On Faith,” December 9, 2011, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-faith/post/rick-perrys-faith-based-initiative/2011/12/09/gIQAmIvEiO\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-faith/post/rick-perrys-faith-based-initiative/2011/12/09/gIQAmIvEiO_blog.html); retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>11</sup> *Meet the Press*, Interview with Mitt Romney, December 16, 2007, [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22273924/ns/meet\\_the\\_press/t/meet-press-transcript-dec/#.TuJozvKOtog](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22273924/ns/meet_the_press/t/meet-press-transcript-dec/#.TuJozvKOtog)

## **Church & State Separation**

*Does the candidate support a robust separation of church and state? Has the candidate ever asserted that the United States is a “Christian nation” or denied that the United States has a secular government that guarantees separation of church and state?*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Church & State Separation	F	F	B	B	C	F	C	F

- Bachmann:** She linked the death of more than 40 Americans after Hurricane Irene in 2011 to a message from God admonishing politicians “to rein in the spending.”<sup>12</sup> In 2006, Bachmann told a Christian group that public schools “are teaching children that there is separation of church and state, and I am here to tell you that is a myth.”<sup>13</sup>
- Gingrich:** From Gingrich’s presidential candidate website: “The revolutionary idea contained in the Declaration of Independence is that certain fundamental human rights, including the right to life, are gifts from God and cannot be given nor taken away by government. Yet, secular radicals are trying to remove ‘our creator’—the source of our rights—from public life.” His website also mentions one of his core “solutions” is to “protect religious expression in the public square such as crosses, crèches and menorahs.”<sup>14</sup>
- Huntsman:** Based on Huntsman’s positions and actions on issues of science and religious discrimination and civil rights—which are often in direct opposition to his personal religious faith—he has demonstrated his ability and willingness to separate church and state. For example, Huntsman accepts evolution and climate change and supports civil unions for same-sex couples.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Von Nixon III, York, “Michele Bachmann: No Separation Between Church and State and Reality,” *Examiner.com*, August 30, 2011, <http://www.examiner.com/political-buzz-in-washington-dc/michele-bachmann-no-separation-between-church-and-state-and-reality>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>13</sup> Epps, Garrett, “Constitutional Myth #4: The Constitution Doesn’t Separate Church and State”, *The Atlantic*, June 15, 2011, <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/06/constitutional-myth-4-the-constitution-doesnt-separate-church-and-state/240481/>

<sup>14</sup> Newt Gingrich 2012 Website, <http://www.newt.org/solutions/protecting-life-and-religious-liberty>

<sup>15</sup> “Jon Huntsman Brings Sanity to GOP Debate in Iowa”, *Politics.Gather.com*, August 12, 2011, <http://politics.gather.com/viewArticle.action?articleId=281474979890115>

- **Obama:** “Given the diversity of America’s population, the dangers of sectarianism are greater than ever. Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation—at least not just. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of non-believers. [...] And even if we did have only Christians in our midst, if we expelled every non-Christian from the United States of America whose Christianity would we teach in the schools? Would it be James Dobson’s or Al Sharpton’s? Which passages of scripture should guide our public policy? [...] Democracy demands that the religiously motivated translate their concerns into universal rather than religion-specific [proposals],” he said.<sup>16</sup>
- **Paul:** “The goal of government isn’t to mold society and mold people; the role of government is to preserve liberty so that we as individuals assume the responsibility. [...] The law can’t reflect the morality of the people, if you do that, you have embarked on something where you have sacrificed liberty,” he said.<sup>17</sup> But Paul also said, “But the Constitution addresses this by saying—literally, it says no theocracy. But it doesn’t talk about church and state. The most important thing is the First Amendment. Congress shall write no laws—which means Congress should never prohibit the expression of your Christian faith in a public place.”<sup>18</sup>
- **Perry:** On December 18, 2011, Rick Perry told worshipers at the First Wesleyan Church in Charles City, Iowa, that they should disregard “the politically correct police” who say the separation of church and state means faith has no place in public life. “As a matter of fact, you are Biblically charged to take your values into the public arena,” he said.<sup>19</sup> In 2011, he issued an official proclamation urging Texas residents to pray for rain as a solution to the state’s drought and wildfires.<sup>19</sup> In August 2011, Perry hosted an explicitly Christian prayer gathering where he said the nation must “call upon Jesus to guide us.”<sup>20</sup>
- **Romney:** “I will take care to separate the affairs of government from any religion, but I will not separate us from the God who gave us liberty. Nor would I separate us from our religious heritage. Perhaps the most important question to ask a person of faith who seeks a political office is this: Does he share these American values: the equality of humankind, the obligation to serve one another, and a steadfast commitment to liberty. They’re not unique to any one denomination; they belong to the great moral inheritance we hold in common. They’re the firm ground on which Americans of different faiths meet and stand as a nation, united. [...] Americans acknowledge that liberty is a gift of God not an indulgence of government,” he said.<sup>21</sup> However, Romney also stated “God did not create this country to be a nation of followers. America is not destined to be one of several equally balanced global powers. America must lead the world, or someone else will.”<sup>22</sup>

<sup>16</sup> “Call to Renewal” speech in Washington D.C., Wednesday, June 28, 2006, as Senator Obama.

<sup>17</sup> Thanksgiving Family Forum, Republican Debate, November 19, 2011; <http://www.thefamilyleader.com/thanksgiving-family-forum>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>18</sup> CNN Live Event/Special: Republican Debate, June 13, 2011; <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1106/13/se.02.html>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>19</sup> Burns, Alexander, “Perry in His Element”, *Politico*, December 18, 2011; <http://www.politico.com/blogs/burns-haberman/2011/12/perry-in-his-element-107926.html>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>20</sup> Sullivan, Amy, “Rick Perry’s Controversial Call to Prayer”, *Time*, June 8, 2011; <http://swampland.time.com/2011/06/08/rick-perrys-controversial-call-to-prayer/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>21</sup> “Faith in America” speech, College Station, Texas, Dec. 6, 2007; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySx912TK8YI>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>22</sup> Associated Press, “Romney: God Wants U.S. to Lead, Not Follow,” Fox News, October 7, 2011;

- **Santorum:** “America is a country that was founded on the concept that our rights come to us from our creator, come to us from God. He doesn’t say just do whatever you want to do with them, in fact he has laws we must abide by. In our case we have civil laws, but our civil laws have to comport with higher laws,” he said.<sup>23</sup>

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<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/10/07/romney-God-wants-us-to-lead-not-follow/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>23</sup> Thanksgiving Family Forum, Republican Debate, November 19, 2011;

<http://www.thefamilyleader.com/thanksgiving-family-forum>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

## **Taxpayer Funding of Religion**

*Does the candidate oppose the funding of faith-based initiatives? Does the candidate oppose school voucher programs that send taxpayer dollars to religious schools that proselytize and discriminate?*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Taxpayer Funding of Religion	F	F	N/A	C	B	F	C	F

- **Bachmann:** Voted “yes” to reauthorize the federally funded D.C. school voucher program, which allows taxpayer funding of private religious schools.<sup>24</sup>
- **Gingrich:** As Speaker of the House, he helped pass a major welfare reform law that included a provision allowing faith-based groups to win government contracts to run social service programs.<sup>25</sup> “The idea that taking school prayer out in 1963 made the schools better—I don’t see any evidence,” he said.<sup>26</sup>
- **Huntsman:** N/A
- **Obama:** “If you get a federal grant, you can’t use that grant money to proselytize the people you help and you can’t discriminate against them—or against the people you hire—on the basis of their religion. Federal dollars that go directly to churches, temples and mosques can only be used on secular programs,” he said in a July 2008 speech in Zanesville, Ohio. However, nearly three years later, now-President Obama has not signed an executive order to restrict federal funding to such organizations. According to an article in the Huffington Post, funding data from the Bush administration shows that religious charities received 10.8 percent of the \$20.4 billion in federal dollars available in 2007. Experts believe the numbers have been similarly high during the Obama administration.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> H.R. 471, Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, March 30, 2011.

<sup>25</sup> Kaleem, Jaweed, “Newt Gingrich Pushes Faith-Based Charities at a Time When Church, State Often Work Together on Welfare,” *The Huffington Post*, December 12, 2011; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/12/newt-gingrich-faith-based-charities-social-services\\_n\\_1140774.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/12/newt-gingrich-faith-based-charities-social-services_n_1140774.html); retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>26</sup> “God, The Bible & Evolution—Gingrich Doesn't Get It,” *The Young Turks*, September 30, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RHkBHbbJW4>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>27</sup> Kaleem, Jaweed, “Newt Gingrich Pushes Faith-Based Charities at a Time When Church, State Often Work Together on Welfare,” *The Huffington Post*, December 12, 2011; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/12/newt-gingrich-faith-based-charities-social-services\\_n\\_1140774.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/12/newt-gingrich-faith-based-charities-social-services_n_1140774.html); retrieved December 19, 2011.

- **Paul:** In 2001, he proposed a tax credit for private donations to faith-based organizations that provide social services, rather than the then-current structure which allowed religious organizations to accept taxpayer funds in order to provide government-contracted social services. He said, “Churches should not become entangled with government subsidies and programs because truly independent religious institutions are critical to a free society,” he said.<sup>28</sup> In 2001, he voted “no” to pass a bill that would allow religious organizations to compete equally with other non-governmental groups for federal funds to provide social service, and provide \$13.3 billion in tax breaks for charitable giving over 10 years.<sup>29</sup>
- **Perry:** Perry called for an “end to barriers that prevent faith-based and community-based organizations from serving people in need.”<sup>30</sup>
- **Romney:** While governor of Massachusetts, Romney established an office to help the state’s religious organizations compete for federal funds.<sup>31</sup> He pledged to vote to establish a means-tested school voucher program to allow students to attend the public or private school of their choice in 2002. He said that local school districts should have complete control over the programs, but that they could not endorse specific religious beliefs or prayer in schools.<sup>32</sup>
- **Santorum:** In 2005, then-Senator Santorum put forth an amendment to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to expand then-current law to allow religious organizations that are recipients of federal funds under the Social Services Block Grant to discriminate in employment based on religion.<sup>33</sup> *The New York Times* has referred to him as “the nation’s pre-eminent faith-based politician.”<sup>34</sup>

<sup>28</sup> “Ron Paul on Welfare & Poverty”, *On the Issues*, October 25, 2007;

[http://www.issues2000.org/2012/Ron\\_Paul\\_Welfare\\_+\\_Poverty.htm](http://www.issues2000.org/2012/Ron_Paul_Welfare_+_Poverty.htm); Retrieved December 20, 2011

<sup>29</sup> *On the Issues*, July 19, 2001; [http://www.issues2000.org/HouseVote/Party\\_2001-254.htm](http://www.issues2000.org/HouseVote/Party_2001-254.htm); retrieved on December 19, 2011.

<sup>30</sup> “Gov. Perry: Faith-Based Organizations Deserve Level Playing Field”, Office of the Governor, July 25, 2006; <http://governor.state.tx.us/news/press-release/2402/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>31</sup> “Romney on the Issues”, *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*, 2010;

<http://pewforum.org/religion08/candidates/mitt-romney/>, retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>32</sup> “Mitt Romney on Education”, *On the Issues*, November 28, 2011;

[http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Mitt\\_Romney\\_Education.htm#28](http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Mitt_Romney_Education.htm#28); retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>33</sup> “Santorum Amendment to H.R. 4”, *the Leadership Conference*, March 30, 2004;

<http://www.civilrights.org/advocacy/letters/2004/santorum-amendment-to-h-r-4.html>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>34</sup> “The Believer”, *The New York Times*, May 22, 2005;

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/22/magazine/22SANTORUM.html?pagewanted=all>

## **God, Faith & Governance**

*Has the candidate ever claimed that God or any other supernatural entity spoke to or sent him or her messages directly? Does the candidate profess that his or her personal religious beliefs will guide his or her actions while in office? Does candidate believe the end times are approaching?*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
God, Faith & Governance	F	F	B	C	F	F	A	F

- Bachmann:** Bachmann said in 2006 at a church service, “We are in the last days. [...] The day is at hand when your [Jesus’] return will come nigh.”<sup>35</sup> She said God told her to run for president of the United States, and also for her position in the U.S. House of Representatives: “God then called me to run for the United States Congress.”<sup>36</sup>
- Gingrich:** “Does faith matter? Absolutely,” Gingrich said. “How can you have judgment if you have no faith? How can I trust you with power if you don’t pray? The notion that you are endowed by your creator sets a certain boundary of what we mean by America.”<sup>37</sup> Gingrich said, “Judges so radically anti-American that they thought ‘one nation under God’ was wrong, they shouldn’t be on the court.”<sup>38</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Weigel, David, “Luckily, Michele Bachmann Was Wrong about When the ‘Last Days’ Would Occur,” *Slate*, July 8, 2011;

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/weigel/2011/07/08/luckily\\_michele\\_bachmann\\_was\\_wrong\\_about\\_when\\_the\\_last\\_days\\_woul.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/weigel/2011/07/08/luckily_michele_bachmann_was_wrong_about_when_the_last_days_woul.html); retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>36</sup> Roberts, Christine, “Michele Bachmann’s: ‘God Calling on Me to Run,’ *New York Daily News*, June 1, 2011; <http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/318-66/6119-michele-bachmann-qGod-calling-on-me-to-rung>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>37</sup> GOP Debate, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 18, 2011; <http://archives.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1110/18/se.05.html>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>38</sup> Explaining his position on calling federal judges before Congress to explain unpopular decisions, Republican Candidate Debate, Sioux City, Iowa, December 15, 2011; <http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2011/12/video-watch-the-fox-news-iowa-gop-debate-from-sioux-city/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

- **Huntsman:** In a May 2011 interview with George Stephanopoulos of *ABC News*, he said he is a “good Christian” and is “proud of my Mormon heritage.”<sup>39</sup> However, he told *Newsweek* that his church doesn’t control his spiritual life. “There are varying degrees. I come from a long line of saloon keepers and proselytizers, and I draw from both sides.”<sup>40</sup> Huntsman has said that he and his wife draw from an array of sources for inspiration: “I was raised a Mormon, Mary Kaye was raised Episcopalian, our kids have gone to Catholic school, I went to a Lutheran school growing up in Los Angeles. I have an adopted daughter from India who has a very distinct Hindu tradition, one that we would celebrate during Diwali. So you kind of bind all this together.”<sup>41</sup>
- **Obama:** In an interview on ABC’s *Nightline*, Obama said he prays for “guidance” in leading the country. He said he has gone from praying nightly before going to bed to praying all the time because he has a “lot of stuff” on his plate and needs “guidance all the time.”<sup>42</sup>
- **Paul:** “My faith is a deeply private issue to me, and I don’t speak on it in great detail during my speeches because I want to avoid any appearance of exploiting it for political gain. Let me be very clear here: I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, and I endeavor every day to follow him in all I do and in every position I advocate.”<sup>43</sup>
- **Perry:** “Being the president of the United States has to be the hardest job in the world and the idea that one of us sitting around this table could do it with our own human intellect or capabilities is beyond any of us and we have to have that eternal wisdom that comes from God. The idea that I could walk into that without God almighty holding me up would scare me to death,” he said.<sup>44</sup>
- **Romney:** “I separate quite distinctly matters of personal faith from the leadership one has in a political sense. [...] You don’t begin to apply the doctrines of a religion to the responsibilities for guiding a nation or guiding a state. [...] I’m not a spokesman for my church, and one thing I am not going to do in running for president is become a spokesman for my church or apply a religious test which is simply forbidden by the Constitution. I’m not going there,” he said.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Stephanopoulos, George, “Transcript: Exclusive Interview with Jon Huntsman”, *ABC News*, May 20, 2011; <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2011/05/exclusive-interview-with-jon-huntsman/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>40</sup> Henneberger, Melinda, “Jon Huntsman: The Potential Republican Presidential Candidate Democrats Most Fear,” *Time*, May 12, 2011; <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2071150,00.html>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>41</sup> Kirn, Walter, “Mormons Rock!” *Newsweek*, June 5, 2011; <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2011/06/05/mormons-rock.print.html> ; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>42</sup> “Obama: I’m praying to God for guidance ‘all the time’ now.” July 30, 2009; <http://hotair.com/archives/2009/07/23/obama-im-praying-to-God-for-guidance-all-the-time-now/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>43</sup> Ron Paul for President website; <http://www.ronpaul2012.com/the-issues/statement-of-faith/>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>44</sup> Thanksgiving Family Forum, Republican Debate, November 19, 2011; <http://www.thefamilyleader.com/thanksgiving-family-forum>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>45</sup> *Piers Morgan Tonight*, CNN, June 7, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7Wn5NXhUj>

- **Santorum:** “I knew when I won [my Senate race] that I had a constituency of one [God]. [My experience in the Senate] opened up to me why I was there and what God had called me to do.”<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Thanksgiving Family Forum, Republican Debate, November 19, 2011;  
<http://www.thefamilyleader.com/thanksgiving-family-forum>; retrieved December 19, 2011.

## **Endorsements and Associations**

*Does the candidate have any personal or political associations with groups or individuals that are either allies or opponents of the Secular Coalition for America’s public policy goals?*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Endorsements & Associations	F	C	N/A	B	C	F	C	F

- Bachmann:** Bachmann studied law at the O. W. Coburn School of Law at Oral Roberts University, founded by the Christian televangelist and Pentecostal faith healer of the same name. The school taught that “God is the source of law; the Constitution is akin to a biblical covenant, binding on future generations; the founders did not intend for a strict separation of church and state.”<sup>47</sup> At the O. W. Coburn School of Law, Bachmann studied with John Eidsmoe, who she recently described as “one of the professors who had a great influence on me.”<sup>48</sup> Bachmann served as his research assistant on the 1987 book, *Christianity and the Constitution*, which argued that the United States was founded as a Christian theocracy, and that it should become one again. She prayed publicly in support of Bradlee Dean’s notoriously anti-gay “You Can Run But You Can’t Hide” ministry. Dean has repeatedly called for gays and lesbians to be put in prison and has said executing gays is “moral.”<sup>49</sup> She also received the endorsement of Dr. George Grant, a Dominionist activist who has said that homosexuality should be punishable by death and said “World conquest. That's what Christ has commissioned us to accomplish. [...]Christian politics has as its primary intent the conquest of the land - of men, families, institutions, bureaucracies, courts, and governments for the Kingdom of Christ. It is to reinstitute the authority of God's Word as supreme over all judgments, over all legislation, over all declarations, constitutions, and confederations.”<sup>50</sup>

<sup>47</sup> “For Bachmann, God and Justice Were Intertwined”, *The New York Times*, October 13, 2011, [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/14/us/politics/bachmanns-years-at-oral-roberts-university.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/14/us/politics/bachmanns-years-at-oral-roberts-university.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all); retrieved December 19, 2011.

<sup>48</sup> Lizza, Ryan, "The Transformation of Michele Bachmann", *The New Yorker*, August 15, 2011; [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/08/15/110815fa\\_fact\\_lizza?currentPage=all](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/08/15/110815fa_fact_lizza?currentPage=all); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>49</sup> Diamond, Marie, “Bachmann Predicted The World Would End In 2006: ‘We Are In The Last Days’”, Think Progress, July 18, 2011, <http://thinkprogress.org/politics/2011/07/18/264811/bachmann-predicted-world-end-2006/>

<sup>50</sup> Mantyla Kyle, “Bachmann Endorser Grant Says ‘It Is Dominion We Are After. World Conquest’”, *Right Wing Watch*, November 15, 2011; <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/bachmann-endorser-grant-says-it-dominion-we-are-after-world-conquest>; retrieved December 21, 2011.

- **Gingrich:** The majority of the Congressional endorsements Gingrich has received are hostile to issues important to the secular community, including U.S. Representative Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA) and U.S. Representative Andy Harris (R-MD) who both voted to reaffirm “In God We Trust” as the national motto and voted in favor of the “Protect Life Act”, which would allow federally funded hospitals to deny abortions to women, even in cases where she would die without one – a practice based in religious ideology.<sup>51</sup>
- **Huntsman:** N/A
- **Obama:** Obama and his administration have invited the secular community to the White House for a briefing, as well as entertained questions from the secular community. However, he currently serves as honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America<sup>52</sup>—the organization discriminates by barring those who do not believe in God from participation at both the child and adult level.<sup>53</sup>
- **Paul:** He has been endorsed by martial artist and actor Chuck Norris, who said in a June 11, 2007 column, entitled “If I were elected president” that he would “tattoo an American flag with the words ‘In God we trust’ on the forehead of every atheist.”<sup>54</sup>
- **Perry:** His August 6, 2011 “The Response” prayer rally was sponsored by the American Family Association, an extremist hate group, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.<sup>55</sup> Members of New Apostolic Reformation, a Dominionist movement that seeks to promote a “Kingdom of God on Earth”, were also key in organizing and participating in Perry’s “Response” Rally.
- **Romney:** Romney has been endorsed by former Delaware Senate Candidate Christine O’Donnell, who does not accept evolution, calls being gay a disorder, and promotes abstinence-only education.<sup>56</sup>
- **Santorum:** He has been endorsed by Iowa’s Cary Gordon of Iowa’s Cornerstone World Outreach — who led the charge to recall three Iowa Supreme Court justices who brought marriage equality to the state — and has made disparaging comments about gays and lesbians and the secular community. Gordon said, “Protect the virtue of true Americanism from our own mental barbarians who attack our minds with the God-hating secularism of Europe.”<sup>57</sup>

<sup>51</sup> Bassett, Laura, “Protect Life Act: New Bill Would Allow Hospitals To Refuse To Perform Abortions”, *The Huffington Post*, November 11, 2011, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/11/protect-life-act-anti-abortion-bill\\_n\\_1005937.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/11/protect-life-act-anti-abortion-bill_n_1005937.html)

<sup>52</sup> “Presidents of the United States and the Boy Scouts of America”, *The Boy Scouts of America*; <http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/presidents.aspx>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>53</sup> “Revoke Public Funding to the Boy Scouts Due to Religiously-Based Discrimination”, *Secular Coalition for America*; <http://secular.org/issues/bsa>

<sup>54</sup> Norris, Chuck, “If I am elected president”, June 11, 2007;

[http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=56107](http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=56107)

<sup>55</sup> “American Family Association”, *Southern Poverty Law Center*; <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/groups/american-family-association>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>56</sup> Oliphant, James, “It’s witchcraft: Christine O’Donnell endorses Mitt Romney”, *The Los Angeles Times*, December 14, 2011; <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-christine-odonnell-endorses-mitt-romney-20111214,0,1709529.story>; retrieved December 16, 2011.

<sup>57</sup> “Cornerstone World Outreach”, *Right Wing Watch*;

<http://www.rightwingwatch.org/category/groups/cornerstone-world-outreach>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

## Accepts Evolution

*Does the candidate accept evolution by the theory of natural selection? Does the candidate support the teaching of evolution in all American biology classrooms? Does the candidate oppose the teaching of creationism and “intelligent design”?*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Accepts Evolution	F	F	A	A	F	F	A	F

- **Bachmann:** Bachmann said “God created Earth” and that excluding intelligent design in teaching evolution in public schools amounts to “censorship by government.”<sup>58</sup>
- **Gingrich:** Gingrich said, “How do you think we came to be? We were randomly gathered protoplasm? We could have been rhinoceroses, but we got lucky this week?” Gingrich said he thinks removing religion from schools amounts to teaching “bad history.”<sup>59</sup>
- **Huntsman:** Huntsman tweeted, “To be clear: I believe in evolution and trust scientists on global warming. Call me crazy.”<sup>60</sup>
- **Obama:** “I’m a Christian, and I believe in parents being able to provide children with religious instruction without interference from the state. But I also believe our schools are there to teach worldly knowledge and science. I believe in evolution, and I believe there’s a difference between science and faith. That doesn’t make faith any less important than science. It just means they’re two different things. And I think it’s a mistake to try to cloud the teaching of science with theories that frankly don’t hold up to scientific inquiry,” he said.<sup>61</sup>
- **Paul:** “I think evolution is a theory and I don’t accept it as a theory,” he said.<sup>62</sup>
- **Perry:** Perry said evolution is “a theory that’s out there” and one that’s “got some gaps in it.”<sup>63</sup>
- **Romney:** “I believe that God designed the universe and created the universe. And I believe evolution is most likely the process he used to create the human body,” he said.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>58</sup> “Michele Bachmann: Evolution-Only Approach In Schools Amounts To ‘Censorship By Government’”, *The Huffington Post*, December 1, 2011; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/01/michele-bachmann-evolution\\_n\\_1122949.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/01/michele-bachmann-evolution_n_1122949.html); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>59</sup> “God, The Bible & Evolution - Gingrich Doesn’t Get It”, *The Young Turks*, September 30, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RHkBHbbJW4>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>60</sup> @JonHuntsman, Twitter, August 18, 2011; <https://twitter.com/#!/JonHuntsman/status/104250677051654144>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>61</sup> “Should Intelligent Design be taught as science in schools?”, *Procon.org*; <http://2008election.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=1924>; retrieved December 20, 2011

<sup>62</sup> Brayton, Ed, “Ron Paul Rejects Evolution Too”, *Science Blogs*, August 25, 2011; [http://scienceblogs.com/dispatches/2011/08/ron\\_paul\\_rejects\\_evolution\\_too.php](http://scienceblogs.com/dispatches/2011/08/ron_paul_rejects_evolution_too.php); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>63</sup> “Michele Bachmann: Evolution-Only Approach In Schools Amounts To ‘Censorship By Government’”, *The Huffington Post*, December 1, 2011; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/01/michele-bachmann-evolution\\_n\\_1122949.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/01/michele-bachmann-evolution_n_1122949.html); retrieved December 20, 2011.

- **Santorum:** In 2001 then-Senator Santorum proposed incorporating pro-intelligent design language into the No Child Left Behind bill, that portrayed the theory of evolution as not widely accepted. He said that anytime evolution is taught, children should also be taught why the subject “generates so much continuing controversy”.<sup>65</sup> In a recent interview he said, “Science will only allow things in the classroom that are consistent with a non-creator idea of how we got here, as if somehow or another that’s scientific.”<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Luo, Michael, “Romney Elaborates on Religion”, *The New York Times*, May 11, 2007; <http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/05/11/romney-elaborates-on-evolution/>; retrieved December 20, 2011

<sup>65</sup> Congressional Record Proceedings of the 107th Congress, first edition, June 13, 2001; <http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/filesDB-download.php?command=download&id=111>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>66</sup> Vacula, Justin, “Santorum: Scientific Community ‘Afraid of Discussion’ About God in Classrooms”, *The Examiner*, November 30, 2011; <http://www.examiner.com/atheism-in-scranton/santorum-scientific-community-afraid-of-discussion-about-God-classrooms>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

## **Scientifically Based Regulations & Legislation**

*Does the candidate support scientifically based regulations including science surrounding reproduction, climate change, embryonic stem cell research, and cloning, and reject abstinence-only sex education?*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Scientifically Based Regulations & Legislation	F	F	B	A	C	F	C	F

- Bachmann:** Bachmann voted “no” on expanding research to more embryonic stem cell lines in January 2007. She also co-sponsored a bill to grant fetuses equal protection under the 14th Amendment. “I am 100 percent pro-life [...] I believe in the dignity of life from conception until natural death. I believe in the sanctity of human life. Our Declaration of Independence said it’s a creator who endowed us with inalienable rights given to us from God, not from government,” she said.<sup>67</sup> She signed a “personhood” pledge that invokes religion and “God” and states: “I oppose assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and procedures that intentionally destroy developing human beings. [...] Abortion and the intentional killing of an innocent human being are always wrong and should be prohibited. [...] If elected President, I will work to advance state and federal laws and amendments that recognize the unalienable right to life of all human beings as persons at every stage of development, and to the best of my knowledge, I will only appoint federal judges and relevant officials who will uphold and enforce state and federal laws recognizing that all human being at every stage of development are person with the unalienable right to life.”<sup>68</sup>
- Gingrich:** He signed a “personhood” pledge that invokes religion and “God” and states: “I oppose assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and procedures that intentionally destroy developing human beings. [...] Abortion and the intentional killing of an innocent human being are always wrong and should be prohibited. [...] If elected President, I will work to advance state and federal laws and amendments that recognize the unalienable right to life of all human beings as persons at every stage of development, and to the best of my knowledge, I will only appoint federal judges and relevant officials who will uphold and enforce state and federal laws recognizing that all human being at every stage of development are person with the unalienable right to life.”<sup>69</sup>

<sup>67</sup> “Michele Bachmann on Abortion”, *On the Issues*;

[http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Michele\\_Bachmann\\_Abortion.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Michele_Bachmann_Abortion.htm); retrieved December 20, 2011

<sup>68</sup> Mantyla, Kyle, “Gingrich, Santorum, and Bachmann All Sign Radical Personhood USA Pledge”, *Right Wing Watch*, December 14, 2011; <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/gingrich-santorum-and-bachmann-all-sign-radical-personhood-usa-pledge>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>69</sup> Mantyla, Kyle, “Gingrich, Santorum, and Bachmann All Sign Radical Personhood USA Pledge”, *Right Wing Watch*, December 14, 2011; <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/gingrich-santorum-and-bachmann-all-sign-radical-personhood-usa-pledge>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

- **Huntsman:** “When you make comments that fly in the face of what 98 of 100 climate scientists have said, when you call into question the science of evolution—all I am saying is that in order for the Republican Party to win, we can’t run from science,” he said.<sup>70</sup> However, he also said, “I do support a right to life amendment.”<sup>71</sup>
- **Obama:** As a U.S. Senator, Obama voted “yes” on expanding research to more embryonic stem cell lines and supports teaching children abstinence—in addition to providing contraception information. When asked about whether life begins at conception, he said, “This is something that I have not come to a firm resolution on. I think it’s very hard to know what that means, when life begins. Is it when a cell separates? Is it when the soul stirs? So I don’t presume to know the answer to that question. What I know is that there is something extraordinarily powerful about potential life and that that has a moral weight to it that we take into consideration when we’re having these debates.”<sup>72</sup>
- **Paul:** “I still think there is a time where the law doesn’t solve the problems. Only the moral character of the people will eventually solve this problem, not the law,” he said. He showed support for birth control and the “morning after” pill when he said, “Very early pregnancies and victims of rape can be treated with the day-after pill, which is nothing more than using birth control pills in a special manner.” But then said, “I have a bill in Congress I certainly would promote and push as president, called the ‘Sanctity of Life Amendment.’ We establish the principle that life begins at conception.”<sup>73</sup> In 2009, he claimed that climate change was a hoax.<sup>74</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Republican Presidential Debate at the Reagan Library, September 7, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDmsk0dwPyo>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>71</sup> “Rick Perry: He’s no Galileo”, *Los Angeles Times*, September 9, 2011; <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/sep/09/opinion/la-ed-climate-20110909>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>72</sup> Transcript: Democratic Candidates Compassion Forum, *CNN.com*, April 13, 2008; <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0804/13/se.01.html>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>73</sup> “Ron Paul in Speech at 2008 CPAC conference”, *On the Issues*; [http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/2008\\_CPAC\\_Ron\\_Paul.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/2008_CPAC_Ron_Paul.htm); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>74</sup> “Ron Paul on Fox Business: Global Warming is a Hoax”, November 4, 2009; [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=hCc5Gk1nops#t=416s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=hCc5Gk1nops#t=416s); retrieved December 20, 2011.

- **Perry:** Perry’s state of Texas, which provides an abstinence-only curriculum, has the third highest teen birth rate in the nation, and is number one in the nation for repeat teen pregnancies.<sup>75</sup> Despite the statistics, in 2010 Rick Perry chose to continue the state’s abstinence-only education, passing up \$4.4 million in federal funds aimed at comprehensive sex education for adolescents.<sup>76</sup> Perry supports prohibiting federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research.<sup>77</sup> “Well I do agree [...] the science is not settled on [climate change]. The idea we would put Americans [and the] economy in jeopardy based on scientific theory that is not settled yet to me is just nonsense. [...] I tell somebody just because you have a group of scientists that have stood up and said this is the fact; Galileo got outvoted for a spell.”<sup>78</sup> Perry first mandated HPV vaccinations—which can prevent cervical cancer—for Texas girls, then bowed to religiously based pressure to apologize for doing so.<sup>79</sup>
- **Romney:** In 2007 he said that stem cell research’s “lofty goals” don’t justify destroying life. “From a legal standpoint, I would outlaw cloning to create new stem cells and I would outlaw embryo farming. I would allow, on a private basis, the use of surplus embryos from in vitro fertilization. In terms of funding, I think the best source of our funding application should be in what are known as alternative methods. And this isn’t just recent. I’ve been fighting for this for some time. But this recently saw a major breakthrough with direct reprogramming of human adult cells to become stem cells that can be very potent cells applied to help cure disease and serious conditions,” he said.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>75</sup> Collins, Gail, “Mrs. Bush, Abstinence and Texas”, *The New York Times*, February 16, 2011; <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/17/opinion/17gailcollins.html>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>76</sup> “Rick Perry Struggles To Answer Question About Sex Ed: ‘Abstinence Works’”, *the Huffington Post*, August 23, 2011; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/23/rick-perry-struggles-to-a\\_n\\_934172.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/23/rick-perry-struggles-to-a_n_934172.html); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>77</sup> “Rick Perry on the Issues - Pro-Life”, Rick Perry for America; [https://www.americansforrickperry.com/AfRP\\_National/site-page/rick-perry-issues-pro-life](https://www.americansforrickperry.com/AfRP_National/site-page/rick-perry-issues-pro-life); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>78</sup> Republican Presidential Debate at the Reagan Library, September 7, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDmsk0dwPyo;%20de>; retrieved December 20, 2011

<sup>79</sup> Ertelt, Steven, “Rick Perry Admits Mistake on Gardasil-HPV Vaccine Decision”, *Life News*, August 15, 2011; <http://www.lifenews.com/2011/08/15/rick-perry-admits-mistake-on-gardasil-hpv-vaccine-decision/>

<sup>80</sup> Ertelt, Steven, “Mitt Romney Restates Abortion Change, Allowing Some Embryonic Research”, *Life News*, December 17, 2007; <http://www.lifenews.com/2007/12/17/nat-3542/>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

- **Santorum:** “As long as abortion is legal, we will never have rest because our law doesn’t comport with Gods law,” he said.<sup>81</sup> Santorum signed a “personhood” pledge that invokes religion and “God” and states, “I oppose assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and procedures that intentionally destroy developing human beings. [...] Abortion and the intentional killing of an innocent human being are always wrong and should be prohibited. [...] If elected President, I will work to advance state and federal laws and amendments that recognize the unalienable right to life of all human beings as persons at every stage of development, and to the best of my knowledge, I will only appoint federal judges and relevant officials who will uphold and enforce state and federal laws recognizing that all human being at every stage of development are person with the unalienable right to life.”<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Thanksgiving Family Forum Republican Debate, *the Family Leader*, November 19, 2011; <http://www.thefamilyleader.com/thanksgiving-family-forum>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>82</sup> Mantyla, Kyle, “Gingrich, Santorum, and Bachmann All Sign Radical Personhood USA Pledge”, *Right Wing Watch*, December 14, 2011; <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/gingrich-santorum-and-bachmann-all-sign-radical-personhood-usa-pledge>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

## **Religious Discrimination & Civil Rights**

*Does the candidate support a secular definition of marriage, including marriage equality for LGBT Americans? Does the candidate support non-discrimination in adoption policy? Does the candidate support the decision to remove the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy from the U.S. military?*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Religious Discrimination & Civil Rights	F	F	B	A	C	F	F	F

- Bachmann:** “All of us as Americans have the same rights; we have the same civil rights. And so that’s really what government’s role is: to protect our civil rights. There shouldn’t be any special rights or special set of criteria based on people’s preferences. We all have the same civil rights. Well [same-sex couples] can get married, but they abide by the same laws as everyone else. They can marry a man if they are a woman or they can marry a woman if they are a man. [A man can’t marry a man] because that’s not the law of the land. [...] There is no right to same-sex marriage,” she said.<sup>83</sup> Bachmann was the chief author of a constitutional amendment in the Minnesota Senate defining marriage as between one man and one woman. In 2007, she voted “no” on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to make employment discrimination based on sexual orientation unlawful. Bachmann recently said she supports “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell.”<sup>84</sup>
- Gingrich:** “As president, I will vigorously enforce the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which was enacted under my leadership as Speaker of the House, and ensure compliance with its provisions, especially in the military. I will also aggressively defend the constitutionality of DOMA in federal and state courts. I will support sending a federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman to the states for ratification. I will also oppose any judicial, bureaucratic, or legislative effort to define marriage in any manner other than as between one man and one woman,” he said.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>83</sup> Pizza Ranch, Waverly, IA, November 30, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RenwNhL1Te0>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>84</sup> “Michele Bachmann on Civil Rights”, *On the Issues*; [http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Michele\\_Bachmann\\_Civil\\_Rights.htm#1](http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Michele_Bachmann_Civil_Rights.htm#1); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>85</sup> Williams, Steve, “Newt Gingrich Vows to Defend the Defense of Marriage Act”, Care2.com, December 14, 2011; <http://www.care2.com/causes/newt-gingrich-vows-to-defend-the-defense-of-marriage-act.html#ixzz1gcRr9DEF>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

- **Huntsman:** “I believe in civil unions. I believe we can do a better job in this country as it relates to equality and basic reciprocal beneficiary rights. I believe in traditional marriage; I don’t think you can redefine it without getting into trouble. But I think along with that we can have civil unions. I think this country has arrived at a point in time when we can show a little more equality and respect. Leave it to the states; I think it is a state issue that ought to be driven by discussion in various states and you’ve got the defense of marriage act that basically is a safeguard that allows that to happen.”<sup>86</sup>
- **Obama:** Obama signed the repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”. Obama called for the repeal of the federal “Defense of Marriage Act” (DOMA) and determined that his Administration would no longer defend the constitutionality of DOMA in the courts.
- **Paul:** “If you believe in federalism it’s better that we allow these things by states. My personal belief is that marriage is a religious ceremony and it should be dealt with religiously. The state really shouldn’t be involved. The state – both federal and state-wise – got involved for health reasons a hundred years ago. [...] All voluntary associations, whether they are economic or social, should be protected by the law but to amend the Constitution is totally unnecessary, to define something that’s already in the dictionary. We do already know what marriage is all about,” he said.<sup>87</sup>
- **Perry:** “Well, obviously, I think [protecting faith-based adoption agencies from being forced to allow adoptions to same-sex couples] is an issue that you can address at the federal level and passing the federal marriage amendment is one of the ways to do that. But until that does pass, as in the state of Texas, a gay couple cannot adopt a child,\* so the states have the ability again, until there is a federal marriage amendment that clearly states that marriage is between one man and one woman,” he said.<sup>88</sup>
- **Romney:** “I believe that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman. The Defense of Marriage Act that exists in Washington today defines benefits, whether for veterans or non-veterans as between married spouses and for me that's a man and a woman,” he said.<sup>89</sup>

<sup>86</sup> *Piers Morgan Tonight*, CNN, August 22, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHXSxWbJCYA&noredirect=1>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>87</sup> Republican Presidential Debate, October 21, 2007, Orlando, FL; [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGaBAb\\_oS84](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGaBAb_oS84); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>88</sup> Thanksgiving Family Forum, Des Moines, Iowa, November 19, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZcGujnvevU>; <http://www.ontopmag.com/article.aspx?id=10140&MediaType=1&Category=26>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>89</sup> Hunt, Kasie, “Romney Grilled on Gay Marriage by Gay NH Veteran”, *Associated Press*, December 12, 2011; [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hp5TkxliiNV6554L\\_YiE6RIbU97w?docId=e28e1fc200e2477bb8b3c6155fdcea1c](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hp5TkxliiNV6554L_YiE6RIbU97w?docId=e28e1fc200e2477bb8b3c6155fdcea1c); retrieved December 20, 2011.

- **Santorum:** Santorum said marriage equality is "messing with the basic family unit." And supports a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage. Santorum said the overturning of sodomy laws is not constitutionally based.<sup>90</sup> "The state is not doing a service to the child and to society by not putting that child in a home where there is a mother and a father. [...] This is common sense. This is nature. And what we are trying to do is defy nature because a certain group of people want to be, want to be affirmed by society. And I just don't think that's to the benefit to society or the child. [...] I don't believe in same-sex adoption nor do I believe in same-sex marriage," he said.<sup>91</sup>

*\*Texas does allow same-sex adoption, although both parents cannot be listed on the child's birth certificate. From the Texas Vital Statistics website: "when a child is adopted by a same-sex couple, one of the adoptive parents must choose to be designated on the birth certificate as the father, in the case of a male couple, or the mother, in the case of a female couple. The other adoptive parent is not listed."<sup>92</sup>*

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<sup>90</sup> Sokolove, Michael, "The Believer," *The New York Times*, May 22, 2005; <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/22/magazine/22SANTORUM.html?pagewanted=all>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>91</sup> Online with Terry Jeffrey, January 18, 2011; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZg6cplF3E0>

<sup>92</sup> Texas Vital Statistics website; <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/regproc/faq/adoption.shtm#a4>; retrieved December 20, 2011.

## **Religious Refusal Laws**

*Does the candidate oppose laws that allow health care providers and other public servants to refuse to provide legal medical treatments and services if they conflict with the providers' religious beliefs? Examples include: clerks refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in states where it is legal, or health providers refusing to perform an abortion or offer referrals to a pregnant woman when her life is at risk.*

	Bachmann	Gingrich	Huntsman	Obama	Paul	Perry	Romney	Santorum
Religious Refusal Laws	F	F	N/A	B	F	N/A	F	F

- **Bachmann:** Bachmann supported the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion” act, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions and to provide for conscience clauses.
- **Gingrich:** On his website he says it is important that “no American working in a medical environment should be forced to perform any procedure that he or she finds morally or ethically objectionable based on religious teaching. This protection should include, but not be limited to abortion. Existing conscience clause protections need to be strengthened.”<sup>93</sup>
- **Huntsman:** N/A
- **Obama:** Revised conscience clause regulations to apply only to abortion, exempted contraception and related services. He repealed a Bush-era regulation that strengthened conscience clauses by requiring institutions that receive federal money to certify their compliance with conscience laws.<sup>94</sup>
- **Paul:** Voted “yes” on the “Abortion Non-Discrimination Act of 2002” that would expand an existing “conscience clause” law that protects physician training programs that refuse to provide training for abortion procedures.<sup>95</sup>
- **Perry:** N/A

<sup>93</sup> “21<sup>st</sup> Century Contract with America”, Newt Gingrich official campaign website; <http://www.newt.org/contract/day-one-plan>

<sup>94</sup> “Obama Administration Revises 'Conscience Clause' Rules: Contraception No Longer Considered Abortion”, *the Huffington Post*, February 18, 2011; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/18/obama-conscience-clause-abortion-contraception\\_n\\_825461.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/18/obama-conscience-clause-abortion-contraception_n_825461.html); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>95</sup> “Ron Paul on Abortion”, *On the Issues*, [http://www.issues2000.org/tx/Ron\\_Paul\\_Abortion.htm](http://www.issues2000.org/tx/Ron_Paul_Abortion.htm)

- **Romney:** Romney vetoed a bill that would have required private hospitals to offer rape victims “morning after” pills, to prevent unwanted pregnancies.<sup>96</sup> The Massachusetts state legislature overrode Romney's veto, after which Romney tried to make an exemption for private hospitals by citing a “conscience clause” in state law regarding private hospitals.<sup>97</sup>
- **Santorum:** His campaign website states that he wants to “Restore conscience clause protections for health care workers.”<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> “A Plan B Mistake”, *The Boston Globe*, December 8, 2005; [http://www.boston.com/yourlife/health/women/articles/2005/12/08/a\\_plan\\_b\\_mistake/](http://www.boston.com/yourlife/health/women/articles/2005/12/08/a_plan_b_mistake/); retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>97</sup> “Pro-Life Principles: Why Critics are Wrong About Mitt Romney”, Mitt Romney official campaign website; [http://whyromney.com/prolife\\_conversion.php#8](http://whyromney.com/prolife_conversion.php#8) ; retrieved December 20, 2011.

<sup>98</sup> “Senator Santorum Launches the Faith, Family and Freedom Tour”, Rick Santorum official campaign website, November 4, 2011; <http://www.ricksantorum.com/pressrelease/senator-santorum-launches-%E2%80%9Cfaith-family-and-freedom-tour%E2%80%9D>



The Secular Coalition for America is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization whose purpose is to amplify the diverse and growing voice of the nontheistic community in the United States. We are located in Washington, D.C. for ready access to government, activist partners and the media. [Our staff](#) lobbies U.S. Congress on [issues](#) of special concern to our [constituency](#).

Our [member organizations](#) are established 501(c)(3) nonprofits who serve atheists, agnostics, humanists, freethinkers and other nontheistic Americans. Their purpose in founding the coalition was to formalize a cooperative structure for visible, unified activism to improve the civic situation of citizens with a naturalistic worldview. A number of [additional organizations](#) have endorsed our mission statement.

### **Member Organizations**

- American Atheists – [www.atheists.org](http://www.atheists.org)
- American Ethical Union – [www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)
- American Humanist Association – [www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org)
- Atheist Alliance of America – [www.atheistallianceamerica.org](http://www.atheistallianceamerica.org)
- Camp Quest – [www.campquest.org](http://www.campquest.org)
- Council for Secular Humanism – [www.secularhumanism.org](http://www.secularhumanism.org)
- Institute for Humanist Studies – [www.humaniststudies.org](http://www.humaniststudies.org)
- Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers – [www.militaryatheists.org](http://www.militaryatheists.org)
- Secular Student Alliance – [www.secularstudents.org](http://www.secularstudents.org)
- Society for Humanistic Judaism – [www.shj.org](http://www.shj.org)