



18th Anniversary Year



# The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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## PARTY PLATFORM COMPARISONS, 1984

A comparison of the 1984 Republican and Democratic Party Platforms on key issues proves that they offer the American people "a choice, not an echo." This report is made up of direct quotations from the two Platforms except for what is in brackets [ ].

### Taxes

**Republican:** We oppose any attempts to increase taxes. ...For families, we will restore the value of personal exemptions, raising to a minimum of \$2,000 and indexing to prevent further erosion. ...We reaffirm that the personal exemption for children be no less than for adults, and we will at least double its current level. ...We will continue to actively seek the elimination of discrimination against homemakers with regard to Individual Retirement Accounts so that single-income couples can invest the same amount in IRAs as two-income couples. ...We pledge to preserve tax indexing. We will fight any attempt to repeal, modify, or defer it. ...We pledge comprehensive tax reform that will give America back what was its post-war glory: a pro-family tax code with a dramatic work incentive for low-income and welfare families. ...We reaffirm our commitment to reduce marginal tax rates further. We oppose any scheme to roll back the estate tax cuts. ...We support lower capital gains tax rates and indexation of asset values to protect investors from inflation.

**Democratic:** [Walter Mondale, in his acceptance speech, pledged: "I will raise taxes."] ...The Democratic Party is pledged to cap the effect of the Reagan tax cuts for wealthy Americans and enhance the progressivity of our personal income tax code, limiting the benefits of the third year of the Reagan tax cuts to the level of those with incomes of less than \$60,000. We will partially defer indexation.

### Balanced Budget

**Republican:** We will work for the constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget. ...We favor reducing deficits by continuing and expanding the strong economic recovery brought about by the policies of this Administration and by eliminating wasteful and unnecessary government spending.

**Democratic:** We oppose the artificial and rigid constitutional restraint of a balanced budget amendment.

### Opportunity Society

**Republican:** The American people want an opportunity society, not a welfare state. ...Restore the work ethic. ...The Republican economic expansion added over six million new jobs to the economy. ...The Republican Party pledges to continue our efforts to lower tax rates, change and modernize the tax system, and eliminate the incentive-destroying effects of graduated tax rates. We therefore support tax reform that will lead to a fair and simple tax system and believe a modified flat tax -- with specific exemptions for such items as mortgage interest -- is a most promising approach.

**Democratic:** Our country must move to a more progressive tax system.

### Enterprise Zones

**Republican:** We will create enterprise zones to revitalize economically depressed areas by offering simplified regulation and lower taxes for small businesses that relocate there. ...Congress must pass enterprise zones, to draw a green line of prosperity around the red-lined areas of our cities and to help create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

**Democratic:** [not mentioned]

### Homework

**Republican:** We demand repeal of prohibitions against household manufacturing. Restrictions on work in the home are intolerable intrusions into our private lives and limit economic opportunity, especially for women and the homebound.

**Democratic:** [not mentioned]

### Tax Credits

**Republican:** We support the concept of creating Family Education Accounts which would allow tax-deferred savings for investment in America's most crucial asset, our children, to assist low- and middle-income families in becoming self-reliant in meeting the costs of higher education. ...In addition, to further assist the young families of America in securing the dream of homeownership, we would like to review the concept of Family Housing Accounts which would allow tax-exempt savings for a family's first home.

**Democratic:** [not mentioned]

### Welfare and Workfare

**Republican:** We will employ the latest technology to combat welfare fraud in order to protect the needy from the greedy. ...We have launched real welfare reforms. We have targeted benefits to the needy through tighter eligibility standards, enforced child-support laws, and encouraged "workfare" in the States. ...Welfare programs have devastated low-income families and induced single parenthood among teens. We will review legislation and regulations to examine their impact on families and on parental rights and responsibilities. We seek to eliminate incentives for family break-up and to reverse the alarming rate of pregnancy outside marriage.

### Public Housing

**Republican:** It is abundantly clear that their pride of ownership has been the most important factor contributing to the efficiency of operation, enhancing the quality of housing, improving community morale, and providing incentives for their self-improvement. The Republican Party therefore supports the development of programs which will lead to home ownership of public housing developments by current residents.

**Democratic:** We reaffirm our commitment to public housing for the most disadvantaged members of our society.

### Right-to-Life

**Republican:** The unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We applaud President Reagan's fine record of judicial appointments, and we reaffirm our support for the appointment of judges at all levels of the judiciary who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.

**Democratic:** The Democratic Party recognizes reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right. ...The Democratic Party supports the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion rights as the law of the land and opposes any constitutional amendment to restrict or overturn that decision.

### Abortion Funding

**Republican:** We oppose the use of public revenues for abortion and will eliminate funding for organizations which advocate or support abortion.

**Democratic:** We therefore oppose government interference in the reproductive decisions of Americans, especially government interference which denies poor Americans their right to privacy by funding or advocating one or a limited number of reproductive choices only.

### Gay Rights

**Republican:** [not mentioned]

**Democratic:** All groups must be protected from discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, language, age, or sexual orientation. We will support legislation to prohibit discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation. We will assure that sexual orientation *per se* does not serve as a bar to

participation in the military. ...We will ensure that foreign citizens are not excluded from this country on the basis of their sexual orientation.

### ERA

**Republican:** We firmly support an equal opportunity approach which gives women and minorities equal access to all jobs. ...We are creating an environment in which individual talents and creativity can be tapped to the fullest, while assuring that women have equal opportunity, security, and real choices for the promising future. For all Americans, we demand equal pay for equal work.

**Democratic:** A top priority of a Democratic Administration will be ratification of the unamended Equal Rights Amendment.

### Comparable Worth

**Republican:** With equal emphasis, we oppose the concept of "comparable worth." We believe that the free market system can determine the value of jobs better than any government authority. [Note: "Comparable worth" is a system of wage-setting by bureaucrats, judges, and "evaluators" instead of by the free market.]

**Democratic:** The Democratic Party defines nondiscrimination to encompass both equal pay for equal work and equal pay for work of comparable worth, and we pledge to take every step, including enforcement of current law and amending the Constitution to include the unamended ERA, to close the wage gap.

### Quotas

**Republican:** Just as we must guarantee opportunity, we oppose attempts to dictate results. We will resist efforts to replace equal rights with discriminatory quota systems and preferential treatment. Quotas are the most insidious form of discrimination; reverse discrimination against the innocent. We must always remember that, in a free society, different individual goals will yield different results.

**Democratic:** The Democratic Party reaffirms its longstanding commitment to the eradication of discrimination in all aspects of American life through the use of affirmative action, goals, timetables, and other verifiable measurements to overturn historic patterns and historic burdens of discrimination in hiring, training, promotions, contract procurement, education, and the administration of all Federal programs.

### Veterans

**Republican:** We will maintain the veterans' preference for federal hiring. ...Veterans have earned their benefits; these must not be taken away.

**Democratic:** A top priority of a Democratic Administration will be ratification of the unamended Equal Rights Amendment. [Note: ERA advocates testified before the House Judiciary Committee in 1983 that ERA will nullify veterans' preference. That's why all veterans organizations demand that ERA be amended.]

### Child Care

**Republican:** For families, we will restore the value of personal exemptions, raising it to a minimum of \$2,000 and indexing to prevent further erosion. ...We raised the maximum child care tax credit from \$400 to \$720

per family. ...We have increased child support collections from \$1.5 billion to \$2.4 billion and enacted a strong child support enforcement law.

**Democratic:** Our Party also recognizes that women cannot compete equally with men so long as they are expected to choose between having a job and having a family. The Democratic Party calls for universally available day-care with federal or business funding, for meaningful part-time work, and for flex-time on the job so that women -- and men -- can shape even full-time jobs around their family schedules.

#### Education

**Republican:** Parents have the primary right and responsibility for the education of their children; and States, localities, and private institutions have the primary responsibility for supporting that parental role. ...We urge the aggressive enforcement of the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (also known as the Hatch Amendment, 20 U.S.C. 1232h) in order to protect pupils' and parents' rights. The amendment prohibits requiring any pupil to reveal personal or family information as part of any federally supported program, test, treatment, or psychological examination unless the school first obtains written consent of the pupil's parents. ...Classroom materials should be developed and produced by the private sector in the public marketplace, and then selections should be made at the State, local, and school levels. ...The federal role in education should be limited. ...

**Democratic:** We call for the immediate restoration of the cuts in funding of education programs by the Reagan Administration, and for a major new commitment to education.

#### Prayer and Equal Access

**Republican:** We have enacted legislation to guarantee equal access to school facilities by student religious groups. Mindful of our religious diversity, we reaffirm our commitment to the freedoms of religion and speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and firmly support the rights of students to openly practice the same, including the right to engage in voluntary prayer in schools.

**Democratic:** The Democratic Platform affirms its support of Supreme Court decisions forbidding [school prayer].

#### Tuition Tax Credits

**Republican:** In education, as in other activities, competition fosters excellence. We therefore support the President's proposal for tuition tax credits. We will convert the Chapter One grants to vouchers, thereby giving poor parents the ability to choose the best schooling available. ...We offer hope, not despair; more opportunities for education through vouchers and tuition tax relief; and increased participation in the private enterprise system through the reform of counterproductive taxes and regulations.

**Democratic:** [not mentioned]

#### Judiciary

**Republican:** It is not a judicial function to reorder the economic, political, and social priorities of our nation.

The intrusion of the courts into such areas undermines the stature of the judiciary and erodes respect for the rule of law. Where appropriate, we support congressional efforts to restrict the jurisdiction of federal courts. We commend the President for appointing federal judges committed to the rights of law-abiding citizens and traditional family values. ... In his second term, President Reagan will continue to appoint Supreme Court and other federal judges who share our commitment to judicial restraint.

**Democratic:** There can be little doubt that a Supreme Court chosen by Ronald Reagan would radically restrict constitutional rights and drastically reinterpret existing laws. Today, the fundamental right of a woman to reproduction freedom rests on the votes of six members of the Supreme Court -- five of whom are over 75. That right could easily disappear during a second Reagan term.

#### Pornography

**Republican:** The problem of physical and sexual abuse of children and spouses requires careful consideration of its causes. In particular, gratuitous sex and violence in entertainment media contribute to this sad development. We and the vast majority of Americans are repulsed by pornography. We will vigorously enforce constitutional laws to control obscene materials which degrade everyone, particularly women, and depict the exploitation of children. We commend the Reagan Administration for creating a commission on pornography and the President for signing the new law to eliminate child pornography. We stand with our President in his determination to solve the problem. We call upon the Federal Communications Commission, and all other Federal, State, and local agencies with proper authority, to strictly enforce the law regarding cable pornography and to implement rules and regulations to clean up cable pornography and the abuse of telephone service for obscene purposes.

**Democratic:** [not mentioned]

#### Gun Control

**Republican:** Republicans will continue to defend the constitutional right to keep and bear arms. When this right is abused and armed felonies are committed, we believe in stiff, mandatory sentencing. Law-abiding citizens exercising their constitutional rights must not be blamed for crime. Republicans will continue to seek repeal of legislation that restrains innocent citizens more than violent criminals.

**Democratic:** We support tough restraints on the manufacture, transportation, and sale of subnosed handguns, which have no legitimate sporting use and are used in a high proportion of violent crimes.

#### Foreign Policy

**Republican:** We Republicans emphasize that there is a profound moral difference between the actions and ideals of Marxist-Leninist regimes and those of democratic governments, and we reject the notions of guilt and apology which animate so much of the foreign policy of the Democratic Party. ...Any future agreement with the Soviets must require full compliance, be

fully verifiable, and contain suitable sanctions for non-compliance. ...We condemn [Soviet Treaty] violations. We insist on full Soviet compliance with all treaties and executive agreements. ...We will increase law-enforcement and counterintelligence efforts to halt Soviet commercial espionage and illegal exploitation of our technology. ...We applaud the liberation of Grenada, and we honor those who took part in it. ...The heroic effort to build democracy in El Salvador has been brutally attacked by Communist guerrillas supported by Cuba and the Sandinistas. We therefore support the President in his determination that the Salvadoran people will shape their own future. ...We support continued assistance to the democratic freedom fighters in Nicaragua. Nicaragua cannot be allowed to remain a Communist sanctuary, exporting terror and arms throughout the region. We condemn the Sandinista government's smuggling of illegal drugs into the United States as acrimony against American society and international law.

**Democratic:** In Grenada, Mr. Reagan renounced diplomacy for over two years, encouraging extremism, instability, and crisis. By his failure to avoid military intervention, he divided us from our European allies and alienated our friends throughout the Western hemisphere. By excluding the press, he set a chilling precedent, greatly hampering public scrutiny of his policies. ...We must terminate our support for the *contras* and other paramilitary groups fighting in Nicaragua.

#### Foreign Organizations

**Republican:** The United States hosts the headquarters of the United Nations, pays a fourth of its budget, and is proportionally the largest contributor to most international organizations; but many members consistently vote against us. ...This is why President Reagan announced that we will leave the worst of these organizations, UNESCO. He has put the U.N. on notice that the U.S. will strongly oppose the use of the U.N. to foster anti-semitism, Soviet espionage, and hostility to the United States. ...Debtor nations seeking our assistance must increase incentives for growth by encouraging private investment, reducing taxes, and eliminating subsidies, price controls, and politically motivated development projects.

**Democratic:** A Democratic President will work to see the power and prestige of the U.S. fully committed to the reform and strengthening of the United Nations and other international agencies in the pursuit of their original purposes -- peace, economic and social welfare, education, and human rights. ...The Democratic Administration will recommend an increase in the lending capacity of the World Bank, as well as increase in the lending capacity of the Export-Import Bank of the U.S., to ensure that debtor nations obtain adequate capital for investment in export industries.

#### National Security

**Republican:** We reaffirm the principle that the national security policy of the United States should be based upon a strategy of peace through strength, a goal of the 1980 Republican Platform. ...Maintaining a technological superiority, the historical foundation of our policy

of deterrence, remains essential. In other areas, such as our maritime forces, we should continue to strive for qualitative superiority. In order to deter, we must be sufficiently strong to convince a potential adversary that under no circumstances would it be to its advantage to initiate conflict at any level. We pledge to do everything necessary so that, in case of conflict, the United States would clearly prevail. ...The B-1B bomber, replacing our aging B-52 force, is ahead of schedule and under cost. ...President Reagan has launched a bold new Strategic Defense Initiative to defend against nuclear attack. We enthusiastically support President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. We enthusiastically support the development of non-nuclear, space-based defensive systems to protect the United States by destroying incoming missiles. Recognizing the need for close consultation with our allies, we support a comprehensive and intensive effort to render obsolete the doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). The Democratic Party embraces Mutual Assured Destruction. The Republican Party rejects the strategy of despair and supports instead the strategy of hope and survival. We will begin to eliminate the threat posed by strategic nuclear missiles as soon as possible. Our only purpose (one all people share) is to reduce the danger of nuclear war. To that end, we will use superior American technology to achieve space-based and ground-based defensive systems as soon as possible to protect the lives of the American people and our allies. President Reagan has asked, "Would it not be better to save lives than to avenge them?" The Republican Party answers, "Yes!" ...We stand united with President Reagan in his hope that American scientists and engineers can produce the technology and the hardware to make nuclear war obsolete.

**Democratic:** These steps should lead promptly to the negotiation of a comprehensive, mutual and verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of all nuclear weapons. Building on this initiative, the Democratic President will update and resubmit the SALT II Treaty to the Senate for its advice and consent; terminate production of the B-1 bomber. ...True national security requires urgent measures to freeze and reverse the arms race, not the pursuit of the phantom of nuclear superiority or futile Star Wars schemes. ...Mr. Reagan wants to open the heavens for warfare. His Star Wars proposal would create a vulnerable and provocative "shield" that would lull our nation into a false sense of security. ...Unfortunately, our best scientists agree that an effective population defense is probably impossible. Therefore, we must oppose an arms race where the sky is no longer the limit.

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