

Ratings are determined on a zero-to-four torch scale. The better a candidate's positions on civil liberties, the brighter Lady Liberty's torch shines.

(NOTE: Dates are only provided for discrete past actions and statements made by the candidates. Ongoing positions do not have dates attached to them.)

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: MICHELE BACHMANN

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = No Torches

- [Co-sponsored](#) the "Birthright Citizenship Act" in September 2010 and repeatedly [promises](#) to strip birthright citizenship from the Constitution.
- [Voted](#) in December 2010 against the DREAM Act, which provides a path to higher education and military service to some, regardless of immigration status.
- [Supports](#) completing a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border and signed a pledge to do so.
- [Supports](#) Arizona's SB 1070 anti-immigration law, which criminalizes the lack of immigration papers, gives police broad authority to arrest people and promotes racial profiling.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = No Torches

- Proposes expanding Guantanamo Bay. She [said](#) in August 2011: "Terrorists who commit acts against United States citizens, people who are from foreign countries who do that, do not have any right...under our Constitution to Miranda rights."
- [Co-sponsored](#) legislation to prevent the transfer of detainees at Guantanamo Bay to the United States.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = No Torches

- [Voted](#) against the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in December 2010.

ENDING TORTURE = No Torches

- Approves of "enhanced interrogation techniques" like waterboarding – both euphemisms for torture and illegal under U.S. law and [said](#) during a November 2011 debate, "If I were President, I would be willing to use waterboarding. I think it was very effective."

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = No Torches

- Wants to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act and further expand its already extensive surveillance powers because "we have to completely change the way that we go about investigating," she [said](#) in a November 2011 debate.

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = No Torches

- [Supports](#) a federal constitutional marriage amendment.
- [Signed](#) the conservative Family Leader's marriage pledge in July 2011. The pledge asks candidates to support the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, endorse a constitutional marriage amendment and encourage legislative changes to "anti-marriage" aspects in divorce, tax and welfare laws.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = No Torches

- [Introduced](#) the "Heartbeat Informed Consent Act" in October 2011 that would require women to hear a fetal heartbeat before having an abortion.
- [Signed](#) the Susan B. Anthony List's "Pro-Life Pledge" in June 2011 that mandates a pro-life agenda in office.
- Co-sponsored and [voted](#) for the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act" in May 2011.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: NEWT GINGRICH

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = Two Torches

- [Signed](#) a pledge in December 2011 to build a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Proposes a more “humane” pathway to account for undocumented immigrants already living in the U.S. In June 2011, Gingrich [said](#), “No serious citizen [...] for totally kicking out 20 million people in a heartless way. There are humane, practical steps to solve this problem.”
- [Supports](#) parts of the DREAM Act, which opens up a path to citizenship through military service for many, regardless of immigration status.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = No Torches

- [Proposes](#) to expand Guantanamo Bay and have a two-tiered justice system that includes military panels and tribunals.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = No Torches

- Said “I would listen to the commanders” and reinstate “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

ENDING TORTURE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) “enhanced interrogation techniques” like waterboarding – both euphemisms for torture and illegal under U.S. law.

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = No Torches

- [Wants](#) to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act and further expand its already extensive surveillance powers.

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = No Torches

- [Co-authored](#) the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which passed in September 1996 and which defines marriage as only a legal union between a man and a woman.
- [Supports](#) a federal constitutional marriage amendment.
- [Affirmed](#) the conservative Family Leader’s “marriage pledge” in December 2011. The pledge asks candidates to support the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, back a constitutional marriage amendment and encourage legislative changes to “anti-marriage” aspects in divorce, tax and welfare laws.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) a ban on the use of federal funds for abortion services.
- [Voted](#) in favor of the so-called “Partial-Birth” Abortion Ban Bill in March 1997.
- [Signed](#) the Susan B. Anthony List’s “Pro-Life Pledge” in June 2011 that mandates a pro-life agenda in office.
- [Supports](#) an Ohio law that criminalizes abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detectable.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: JON HUNTSMAN

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = Two Torches

- [Supports](#) increased border security and has said a “border fence” might be the only choice for America.
- [Supports](#) alternatives to deportation and a pathway for undocumented immigrants already here to gain legal residence.
- [Opposed](#) state legislation in January 2007 that would have repealed in-state college tuition for undocumented immigrant students.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = Three Torches

- [Supports](#) closing Guantanamo Bay and wants to uphold constitutional principles in the fight against terrorism, saying, “It is also a priority that as we defend ourselves, we maintain our international legal commitments, and more importantly, abide by the spirit and letter of our Constitution.”

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY

No stated position.

ENDING TORTURE = Three Torches

- [Opposes](#) “enhanced interrogation techniques” like waterboarding, saying, “We diminish our standing in the world and the values that we project, which include liberty, democracy, human rights and open markets, when we torture...We lose that ability to project values that a lot of people in corners of this world are still relying on the United States to stand up for.”

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = Three Torches

- [Takes](#) the side of civil liberties with respect to the PATRIOT Act. “We have to be very careful in protecting our individual liberties,” he said during a November 2011 debate. “We’ll try to find that balancing act between our individual liberties and security.”

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = One Torch

- [Supports](#) civil unions.
- [Supported](#) a constitutional amendment that banned marriage for gays and lesbians in Utah and was passed by voters in November 2004.
- [Supports](#) the federal Defense of Marriage Act as a “safeguard” for states that ban marriage for gay couples.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = No Torches

- [Favors](#) a federal constitutional amendment that would overturn *Roe v. Wade* and outlaw abortion.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: GARY JOHNSON

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = Three Torches

- [Supports](#) the DREAM Act, which provides access to higher education and military service for many, regardless of immigration status.
- [Opposes](#) the completion of a US-Mexico border fence.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = Two Torches

- [Supports](#) keeping Guantanamo Bay open because it is necessary for “enemy combatants.”
- [Believes](#) individuals detained anywhere by the U.S. have due process rights and must not be held indefinitely without charges or trial.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = Four Torches

- [Supports](#) the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” as “long overdue.”

ENDING TORTURE = Three Torches

- [Opposes](#) the use of torture against criminal or terrorist suspects.

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = Three Torches

- [Thinks](#) the PATRIOT Act should be allowed to expire.

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = Four Torches

- [Supports](#) freedom to marry for gay couples.
- [Opposes](#) the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = Two Torches

- [Supports](#) a woman’s right to choose abortion until “viability” but favors banning late-term abortions and withholding public funding.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: BARACK OBAMA

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = Two Torches

- [Expanded](#) “Secure Communities,” an enforcement program designed to arrest and deport undocumented criminals but that has resulted in racial profiling and the arrest of thousands of innocent immigrants and U.S. citizens.
- [Continued](#) building a border fence and increased the border security budget and added more border patrol agents.
- [Opposes](#) Arizona’s anti-immigrant SB 1070, which criminalizes the lack of immigration papers, gives police broad authority to arrest people and promotes racial profiling, as a law that undermines “fairness” and “trust.”
- [Supports](#) the DREAM Act, which provides access to higher education and military service to many, regardless of immigrant status.
- [Deported](#) 1.1 million people in three years, the most of any administration.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = One Torch

- Took [Ali al-Marri](#) out of indefinite detention and criminally charged him, found new homes for some detainees transferred from Guantanamo and has not sent new detainees to Guantanamo or created new military detention facilities.
- [Backtracked](#) on promises to close Guantanamo Bay and use civil courts by maintaining a system of indefinite detention and permitting military commission trials to continue.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = Four Torches

- [Signed](#) the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act” into law in December 2010.

ENDING TORTURE = Three Torches

- [Ordered](#) an end to the use of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, withdrew flawed legal analysis used to justify torture and applied the Army Field Manual on interrogations government wide.
- [Abolished](#) the CIA secret prisons.
- [Says](#) that “waterboarding is torture” and “contrary to America’s traditions... contrary to our ideals.”
- No reports of extraordinary rendition to torture or other cruelty under his administration.
- Failed to hold those responsible for past torture and other cruelty accountable; has blocked alleged victims of torture from having their day in court.

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = No Torches

- Voted for all reauthorizations and extensions, [saying](#) in May 2011 that “It’s an important tool for us to continue dealing with an ongoing terrorist threat.”

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = Three Torches

- [Instructed](#) the Justice Department in February 2011 to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act.
- [Opposes](#) a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage but does not support marriage equality.
- [Supports](#) civil unions.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = Three Torches

- In 2009, [lifted](#) the global gag rule (aka Mexico City Policy) that prohibits international organizations that receive U.S. aid from using their own non-federal funds to advocate for safe and legal abortion care, but also signed an executive order affirming the ban on federal funds for abortions during health reform in March 2010.
- [Failed](#) to remove all abortion funding restrictions in his fiscal year 2010 budget, but eliminated direct funding for ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, created the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, and lifted the DC abortion ban that prevents the District from using its own locally raised funds to provide abortion services to low-income women enrolled in Medicaid.
- [Supported](#) federal funding for reproductive health care providers like Planned Parenthood, as well as the National Family Planning Program, in the fiscal year 2011 budget, but also agreed to reinstate the DC abortion ban during budget negotiations to avoid a government shutdown.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: RON PAUL

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = Two Torches

- [Opposes](#) the completion of a US-Mexico border fence.
- [Opposes](#) privacy intrusions created by Arizona's SB 1070 anti-immigration law, which criminalizes the lack of immigration papers, gives police broad authority to arrest people and promotes racial profiling.
- Wants to end birthright citizenship and effectively [repeal](#) the 14th Amendment for one class of people.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = Four Torches

- [Opposes](#) a two-tiered system where *suspected* terrorists – not convicted terrorists – are held indefinitely without charges or trial.
- [Says](#) new detention powers under the pending National Defense Authorization Act should “scare the living hell out of every American.”

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = Four Torches

- [Voted](#) in December 2010 to repeal the law. “You just have the same rules for everybody and treat them all the same,” he [said](#).

ENDING TORTURE = Three Torches

- [Said](#) that “waterboarding is torture” and “illegal” and opposes all “enhanced interrogation techniques.”

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = Four Torches

- [Opposes](#) the PATRIOT Act because it is “unpatriotic” and wants the broad powers it grants revoked.
- During a November 2011 GOP presidential debate in Washington, DC, he [said](#), “If you advocate the police state, yes, you can have safety and security and you might prevent a crime, but the crime then will be against the American people and against our freedoms.”

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = One Torch

- [Opposes](#) a federal constitutional marriage amendment.
- [Supports](#) the Defense of Marriage Act as a matter of states' rights.
- Refused to sign the conservative Family Leader's “marriage pledge.” The pledge asks candidates to support the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, back a constitutional marriage amendment and encourage legislative changes to “anti-marriage” aspects in divorce, tax and welfare laws.
- [Appears to support](#) something like civil unions

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = No Torches

- [Opposes](#) the federal government's authority to regulate abortion yet, in October 2003, [voted](#) in favor of the federal partial-birth abortion ban.
- [Signed](#) the Susan B. Anthony List's “Pro-Life Pledge” in June 2011 that mandates a pro-life agenda in office.
- [Believes](#) states should be given free rein to ban abortion.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: RICK PERRY

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = Two Torches

- [Opposes](#) the completion of a US-Mexico border fence.
- Became the [nation's first governor](#) in September 2001 to grant in-state tuition rates to undocumented immigrants.
- Expressed doubt over Arizona's SB 1070 anti-immigration law, which criminalizes the lack of immigration papers, gives police broad authority to arrest people and promotes racial profiling. "[SB 1070] would not be the right direction for Texas," Perry [said](#) in an April 2010 speech because it uses police officers as de facto immigration agents and distracts them from law enforcement.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = No Torches

- Supported President Obama's decision to keep Guantanamo Bay open. "I'm glad he did that. America's safer for it," Perry [said](#) during a September 2011 GOP presidential debate in California.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = No Torches

- [Says](#) "a person's sexuality is no one's business but their own" as reason to reinstate "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."
- Aired a highly controversial and discriminatory [advertisement](#) in December 2011 that compared gays and lesbians serving openly in the military with an "attack on Christianity."

ENDING TORTURE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) enhanced interrogation techniques" – a euphemism for torture that would allow waterboarding and other tactics illegal under U.S. and international law.

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) keeping the PATRIOT Act alive and strengthening its already expansive powers.

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = No Torches

- [Signed](#) the conservative Family Leader's marriage pledge in November 2011. The pledge asks candidates to support the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, back a constitutional marriage amendment and encourage legislative changes to "anti-marriage" aspects in divorce, tax and welfare laws.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = No Torches

- [Signed](#) the Susan B. Anthony List's "Pro-Life Pledge" in August 2011 that mandates a pro-life agenda in office.
- [Authorized](#) a Texas law in May 2011 that requires doctors to take a sonogram for women seeking abortion and describe the image in detail, including organs and limbs.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: BUDDY ROEMER

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = No Torches

- [Would](#) deport all undocumented individuals and have them apply for legal entry.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION

No stated position.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = No Torches

- [Supports](#) the reinstatement of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

ENDING TORTURE

No stated position.

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE

No stated position.

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = No Torches

- Agrees with DOMA and [supports](#) state-based gay marriage bans.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = One Torch

- [Opposes](#) abortion except in cases of rape or incest or where the mother’s life is endangered.
- [Vetoed](#) a bill in July 1990 that would have banned all abortions, except in the case of reported rape or incest, saying that “concern for the unborn” should not be “at the expense of those who are alive, mothers whose lives are threatened, who have been illegally violated.”

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: MITT ROMNEY

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = No Torches

- [Supports](#) a fence at the U.S.-Mexico border and increasing border security.
- [Would](#) require all undocumented individuals to leave the U.S. and reapply for legal entry.
- [Supports](#) Arizona's SB 1070 anti-immigration law, which criminalizes the lack of immigration papers, gives police broad authority to arrest people and promotes racial profiling.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = No Torches

- [Said](#) in May 2007 he wants to "double Guantanamo," expanding indefinite detention without trial.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = No Torches

- [Supports](#) "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as effective public policy.

ENDING TORTURE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) the use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" like waterboarding – both euphemisms for torture and illegal under U.S. law.

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) the further expansion of the PATRIOT Act's already extensive surveillance powers, saying "we need tools when war is waged domestically."

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = No Torches

- [Opposes](#) same-sex marriage.
- [Supports](#) a federal constitutional marriage amendment that defines marriage as only between a man and woman.
- [Signed pledge](#) to National Organization for Marriage agreeing to support anti-gay federal marriage amendment.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) attempts by states to define life as beginning at conception.
- [Wants](#) the Supreme Court to reverse *Roe v. Wade* and allow states to decide whether abortion is legal.

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD: RICK SANTORUM

HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY = No Torches

- [Supports](#) building a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- [Opposes](#) in-state tuition for undocumented students.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY & INDEFINITE DETENTION = No Torches

- [Believes](#) it is “essential” to keep Guantanamo Bay open and opposes the use of civilian courts for terrorism suspects.

GAYS & LESBIANS SERVING OPENLY IN THE MILITARY = No Torches

- [Would](#) reinstate “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

ENDING TORTURE = No Torches

- [Supports](#) “enhanced interrogation techniques” like waterboarding – both euphemisms for torture and illegal under U.S. law.

ENDING A SURVEILLANCE STATE = No Torches

- [Voted](#) in favor of the PATRIOT Act in October 2001, as well as its [reauthorization](#) in March 2006.
- [Answered](#) “No” when asked during a December 2011 forum if the law tramples any civil rights of U.S. citizens.

FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR GAY COUPLES = No Torches

- [Co-sponsored](#) the Federal Marriage Amendment in July 2004 and again in January 2005.
- [Voted](#) in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act in September 1996.
- [Describes](#) himself as a “solid conservative who stood and fought for” DOMA.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE = No Torches

- Opposes abortion and [said](#), “I would advocate that any doctor who performs an abortion should be criminally charged for doing so,” on *Meet the Press* in June 2011.
- [Voted](#) in favor of the so-called “partial-birth” abortion ban in October 2003.
- [Signed](#) the Susan B. Anthony List’s “Pro-Life Pledge” in June 2011 that mandates a pro-life agenda in office.