



THE 2012  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES  
AND THE  
U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

A CAHI “PLANK” SUMMARY

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# THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Although the 2012 presidential election is still a year away, candidates are already positioning themselves on an issue which will take center stage during the campaign—the state of the U.S. health care system. The Council for Affordable Health Insurance’s (CAHI) plank summary provides a current snapshot of the candidates and their various blueprints for reform. Our intent is to be thorough and accurate in compiling what they have said or indicated they will do. As plans take shape, CAHI will explain what the proposals really mean for our health care system and, most importantly, for Americans’ access to affordable health insurance coverage. And we’ll eliminate the “spin” so you don’t have to.

## **METHODOLOGY**

For the past two decades, CAHI has analyzed the presidential candidates’ health care platforms and reported our findings in a simple, easy to read format.

As we get closer to the 2012 election, more details will emerge about the candidates’ plans to reform or fix our nation’s health care system. CAHI will continually monitor the candidates’ positions and provide frequent updates to our **Candidates-at-a-Glance** chart. Although the information contained herein comes from the candidates’ own web sites, CAHI will provide an in depth, independent analysis of the plans. Please see the **Additional Information** section for more detail and links.

We have included only those candidates who have either declared or established exploratory presidential election committees in our **Candidates-at-a-Glance** table.

In both the **Candidates-at-a-Glance** table, as well as the **Additional Information** section, CAHI lists the candidates who are generally considered “contenders” (determined by their fundraising and rankings in legitimate polls) as “First-Tier Candidates.” The second group—“Other Candidates”—represents those about which there is little or no mainstream media information available, and whom have negligible poll recognition. It is possible for a candidate to move between the tiers during the course of the election cycle.

## CANDIDATES-AT-A-GLANCE

Candidate	Repeal PPACA	Single Payer	Tax Deduction / Subsidy for Health Insurance Purchase	HSAs	High Risk Pool	Purchase Insurance Across State Lines	Medical Malpractice Reform	Medicare Reform	Medicaid Reform	Other Market Reforms
<b>First-Tier Candidates</b>										
Newt Gingrich (R)	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
President Barack Obama (D)		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>					<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Rep. Ron Paul (R)	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Mitt Romney (R)	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Rick Santorum (R)	No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.									
<b>Other Candidates</b>										
Stewart Alexander (R)		<b>X</b>								
Roger Gary (O)					<b>X</b>					<b>X</b>
RJ Harris (O)	<b>X</b>									<b>X</b>
Gary Johnson (O)	<b>X</b>							<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Fred Karger (R)	No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.									
Andy Martin (R)	No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.									
Jimmy McMillan (R)	No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.									
Tom Miller (R)										<b>X</b>
Roy Moore (R)			<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>
Carl Person (O)	No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.									
Buddy Roemer (R)	<b>X</b>					<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>

Candidate	Repeal PPACA	Single Payer	Tax Deduction / Subsidy for Health Insurance Purchase	HSAs	High Risk Pool	Purchase Insurance Across State Lines	Medical Malpractice Reform	Medicare Reform	Medicaid Reform	Other Market Reforms
Randall Terry (D)	<b>X</b>						<b>X</b>			
Lee Wrights (O)			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>						<b>X</b>
Vern Wuensche (R)			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Key: D = Democrat; R = Republican; O = Other Affiliation</b>										

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

*(Candidates listed by tier and then by alphabetical order)*

### **First-Tier Candidates**

#### **Newt Gingrich (R)**

[www.newt.org](http://www.newt.org)

The former Speaker of the House of Representatives' web site says he is against Obamacare and the individual mandate and instead focuses on empowering patients in his "Patient Power" plan which includes: tax credits for purchasing health insurance; HSAs allowed for everyone including those on Medicare and Medicaid; allowing people to purchase insurance across state lines; reforming Medicare with a voluntary, private sector solution to create more choices and lower costs; Medicaid block grants to give states more flexibility; state high risk pools; reform of the FDA; consumer incentives to reward good behaviors; and, protection from discriminatory rate increases or policy cancellations.

#### **Barack Obama (D)**

[www.barackobama.com/get-involved](http://www.barackobama.com/get-involved)

Our current President was instrumental in creating and ensuring passage of The Patient Protection and Accountability Act (PPACA or ACA). Numerous provisions took place-starting 2010, and by January 1, 2014, the remainder will be in place. The federal law includes: rating restrictions; an individual mandate; Medicaid eligibility expansion; the creation of state-based health insurance exchanges (a state marketplace to purchase health insurance coverage); federal subsidies for the purchase of health insurance coverage for those up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level; minimum standards for health insurance policies as well as annual and lifetime caps prohibited; an essential benefit package sold through the exchanges; and, Medicaid and Medicare program changes.

#### **Ron Paul (R)**

[www.ronpaul2012.com](http://www.ronpaul2012.com)

Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX), a physician, includes pledges on his web site to: "repeal ObamaCare and end its unconstitutional individual mandate; allow purchase of health insurance across state lines; provide tax credits and deductions for all medical expenses; exempt those with terminal illnesses from the employee portion of payroll taxes while they are suffering from such illnesses or are incurring significant medical costs associated with their conditions; give a payroll deduction to any worker who is the primary caregiver for a spouse, parent, or child with a terminal illness; make all Americans eligible for an HSA and remove government-imposed barriers to them; stop the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) from interfering with Americans' knowledge of and access to dietary supplements and alternative treatments; and, prevent the federal government from tracking every citizen's medical history from by prohibiting the use of taxpayer funds for a national database of personal health information."

**Mitt Romney (R)**

[www.mittromney.com](http://www.mittromney.com)

The former Massachusetts Governor's web site details that he wants to "repeal Obamacare and replace it with market-based reforms that empower states and individuals and reduce health care costs. States and private markets, not the federal government, hold the key to improving our health care system." Romney believes consumers should be able to purchase health insurance across state lines and receive tax deductions for the purchase of health insurance. He supports medical liability reform and would "strengthen health savings accounts."

**Rick Santorum (R)**

[www.ricksantorum.com](http://www.ricksantorum.com)

No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.

**Other Candidates****Stewart Alexander (Green Party/Socialist Party/Peace and Freedom Party)**

[www.stewartalexandercares.com](http://www.stewartalexandercares.com)

Mr. Alexander is a proponent of a "socialized health care system based on universal coverage, salaried doctors and health care workers, and revenues derived from a steeply graduated income tax." He also believes in "the immediate abolition of all private health insurance companies," and "public ownership and worker and community control of the pharmaceutical industry."

**Roger Gary (Libertarian)**

[rvgary2012.com](http://rvgary2012.com)

According to Mr. Gary's web site, "the problem of rising health care costs is best solved by reducing cost transfers, opening up the market to competition, removing government red tape which drives up costs, and a focus on health savings accounts to help offset the costs."

**RJ Harris (Libertarian)**

[rjharris2012.com](http://rjharris2012.com)

According to Mr. Harris' website, he "will not enforce Obama Care since it is blatantly unconstitutional." In addition, Harris believes "the Republic is obliged to provide health care for its veterans..., to Native Nations... and to those who have become detrimentally reliant upon the Medicare system by having been made to pay into that system for the bulk of their adult lives."

**Gary Johnson (Libertarian)**

[www.garyjohnson2012.com/issues](http://www.garyjohnson2012.com/issues)

The former New Mexico governor's web site states that he wants to "identify and implement "common-sense" cost savings to place Medicare on a path toward long-term solvency" and "repeal President Obama's healthcare plan, as well as the failed Medicare prescription drug benefit."

**Fred Karger (R)**

[fredkarger.com/issues](http://fredkarger.com/issues)

No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.

**Andy Martin (R)**

[andymartinforpresident.com](http://andymartinforpresident.com)

No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.

**Jimmy McMillan (R)**

[mcmillan2012.com](http://mcmillan2012.com)

No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.

**Tom Miller (R)**

[www.reducegovernment.com](http://www.reducegovernment.com)

Mr. Miller supports the policies of the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center: 1) Create value (by improving patient health outcomes and satisfaction with U.S. health care as well as decrease medical errors, costs and waste). 2) Coordinate care (defined coordination of patient care through health IT, disclosure of good health information, etc.). 3) Reform the payment system (that provides incentives for various providers to coordinate care, improve care and support informed patient decision-making). 4) Offer a voluntary private health insurance plan to all Americans (not mandated). He believes the proposal is "cost neutral when paid for with the savings from Medicare reform."

**Roy Moore (R)**

[www.wix.com/elogicxnet/roymooreexplore#!](http://www.wix.com/elogicxnet/roymooreexplore#!)

Mr. Moore believes "businesses should receive tax credits for employee health coverage, and health insurance should be available between the states for competition and quality care."

**Carl Person (Libertarian)**

[carlperson.org](http://carlperson.org)

No health care platform details available as of January 19, 2012.



**Buddy Roemer (R)**

[buddyroemer.com/](http://buddyroemer.com/)

The former LA Governor pledges on his web site to “eliminate Obamacare, but keep insurance coverage of preexisting conditions,” and allow consumers to purchase health insurance across state lines.

**Randall Terry (D)**

[www.terryforpresident.com](http://www.terryforpresident.com)

Mr. Terry’s web site states he “strongly opposes government-mandated universal health care mandate” and believes “the solution for the health needs of the poor rests with the Church.”

**R. Lee Wrights (Libertarian)**

[wrights2012.com](http://wrights2012.com)

Mr. Wright believes “there are three basic components for restoring and reviving a true free-market health care system that actually saves lives: Establish medical savings accounts...deregulate the health care industry...remove barriers to safe, affordable medicines.”

**Vern Wuensche (R)**

[voteforvern.com](http://voteforvern.com)

Mr. Wuensche wants to “repeal the 2010 health care bill, enact tort reform with a cap on punitive damages in health care cases, allow consumers to buy health insurance across state lines, introduce free enterprise into the health care system, institute user friendly tax-free medical savings accounts, provide a tax credit to individuals to allow them parity with employees under employer-provided health insurance, and focus on prevention and early detection of health problems.”