



Introduction

A Note from NRCC Chairman Pete Sessions:

Candidates,

Enclosed, you will find the 2012 National Republican Congressional Committee Issues Book. This book is intended to be a primer on any major issues that could be relevant to your campaign. We hope that you will use the book both as a base of knowledge for unfamiliar topics as well as a refresher for subjects in which you are already well-versed. By taking command of the issues and delivering a message that sharply contrasts with the runaway policies of Washington Democrats, we can further shore up and grow our Republican majority in the House and help win back the Senate and the White House.

Keep fighting,

Pete Sessions, Chairman
National Republican Congressional Committee

A Note from the Author:

Dear Candidates,

The NRCC has produced Issues Books in the past as a policy resource for campaigns. The goal of the 2012 edition of the NRCC Issues Book was to build on previous editions and provide an even broader and more comprehensive policy resource for the 2012 election cycle. It is our goal to convey complex policy information in as simple and as useable a format and context as possible without neglecting the specifics that are sometimes necessary to fully understand various issues. Each section is presented in a comprehensive way, written largely in narrative form, with graphs, charts and links provided to additional and/or source material where appropriate.

One of the new “features” of the 2012 edition that may prove quite helpful is that each section begins with a rather extensive Executive Summary highlighting the major points of each subject. The intent of including

the Executive Summary in each section was to provide something on each of the subjects for candidates to be able to refer to quickly and easily, if necessary. Another new “feature” of this edition is that each section also now includes a sub-section listing hyperlinks to Additional Information and Resources that may prove useful if further and expanded research is needed.

While the book can be used to get up to speed on the top issues of the day, it can also be used as a quick reference when preparing for debates, addressing editorial boards and crafting editorials and press releases. The purpose of this book is to help prepare you to knowledgeably address the issues during a campaign – arming you with facts, statistics, background, legislative information and suggested talking points on each topic. It is also extremely important, however, to take the political environment of your own District into consideration when using any information as part of your campaign.

Finally, as much as the 2012 NRCC Issues Book is an original work, it is also a collection of information that is publicly available from a variety of sources. Most of these sources are already linked to either in the text of each section or under the sub-section Additional Information and Resources found in each section. Additionally, below is an abbreviated list of resources that are publicly available from which background information for this book was drawn.

If your campaign has any questions or seeks more information on the topics covered in this book or any other federal issue, please feel free to contact the NRCC. It is my hope that the 2012 NRCC Issues Book will be an indispensable resource for your campaign.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Pitts
NRCC Legislative Director

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Committee and not authorized by a candidate or
candidate’s committee. www.NRCC.org

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SELECTED POLICY RESOURCES

- ❖ Clerk of the House of Representatives - clerk.house.gov
- ❖ Congressional Budget Office - www.cbo.gov/
- ❖ Congressional Research Service - limited amounts of public reports from this Congressional Service are available at www.opencrs.org
- ❖ Government Accountability Office - www.gao.gov/
- ❖ Thomas – thomas.loc.gov

House Republican Legislative, Policy and Leadership Information

- ❖ Speaker of the House, John Boehner - <http://www.speaker.gov/>
- ❖ House Majority Leader, Eric Cantor <http://republicanleader.house.gov/>
- ❖ House Republican Whip, Kevin McCarthy <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/>
- ❖ House Republicans - www.gop.gov
- ❖ House Republican Policy Committee - republicanhousepolicy.com
- ❖ Republican Study Committee - <http://rsc.jordan.house.gov/>

Selected Third-Party Information

- ❖ American Solutions www.americansolutions.com - Newt Gingrich's think tank organization.
- ❖ CATO Institute www.cato.org A libertarian non-profit public policy research foundation
- ❖ The Heritage Foundation - www.heritage.org - a public policy research institute which formulates and promotes conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.
- ❖ The Tax Foundation - www.taxfoundation.org - The mission of the Tax Foundation is to educate taxpayers about tax policy and the size of the tax burden borne by Americans at all levels of government.