



2012 Presidential Candidates

The Key Men in the Race to the White House

By Alicia Eckman

It's hard to believe four years have passed since the historical election of 2008. Yet, it is that time again when the bright colored signs pop up in yards, stickers, buttons, and fliers are passed around and mailed to gather votes. Many voters are selecting their candidate and rallying behind them. Even though Election Day is still weeks away, it is time to start researching who YOU want to vote for.

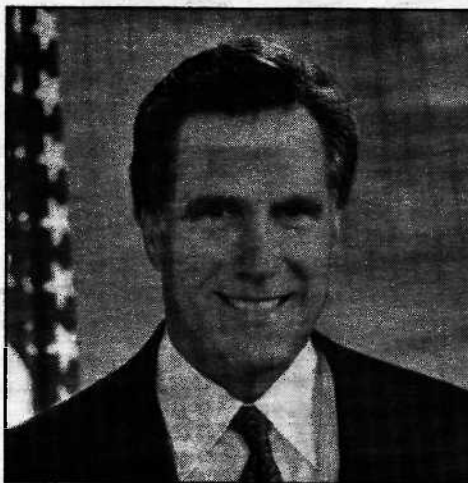
As Nov. 6 approaches, candidates are settling in with their running mates and reiterating their stand on key issues. So do you know who the key players are this election?

Republican

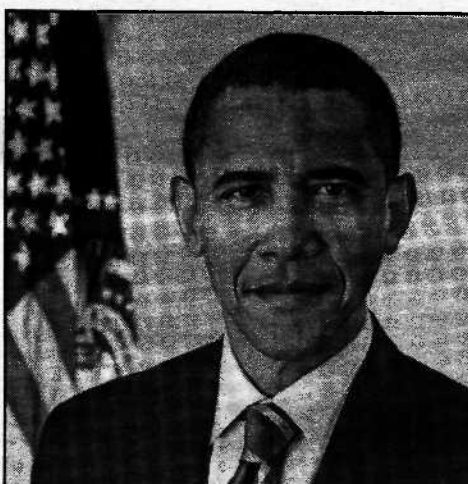
The main candidate running for the Republican Party is Mitt Romney, former Governor of Massachusetts. Unlike many political candidates, Romney does not come from a long political background.

Romney married his wife Ann in 1969 and together they have five children. He attended and graduated from Brigham Young University in 1971 and continued on to Harvard Law and Business School. In 1984, Romney founded Bain & Co. and became CEO of the investment firm until he was elected governor in 2002.

Romney's running mate is Paul Ryan, a U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's First Congressional District. Together their mission statement, found on their website, is "American's deserve more



VS.



jobs and more take-home pay." For more information about Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan you can visit the website mittromney.com.

Democrat

The current President, Barack Obama, is on the ballot competing for a second term in the White House. Along with Vice President Joe Biden, their mission statement for this year's campaign is "Forward."

With one term under his belt, President Obama came into office with a political background of Senator of Illinois. His education consists of degrees from Columbia University and Harvard Law School.

Obama and Biden focus on change to the economy, education, and environment. You can find out all of their plans and views at barakobama.com.

Of course, the Republicans and Democrats are not the only parties in the running. The Independent, Green, Libertarian, and others have their candidates included on the ballot. Election Day is still weeks away, but now is the time to start looking for your candidate. Hop online and start doing research. A great website for quick facts about the candidates is

2012-presidential-candidates.findthedata.org.

Be ready to cast your vote on Nov. 6!

Why Vote?

By Lauren Erath

The upcoming presidential election has college students wondering whether they should vote or not. Since the election will be the first one open to a majority of college students, many are uncertain about how to get involved and why they should participate.

To shine more light on the situation, CSP students were interviewed about their views on the issue. "It's our civic duty," said David Edwards, a fourth year student. But how responsible are college students concerning their involvement in national issues? Does having the ability to vote make one obligated to do so? Some students think the problem is more complex than that. "I'm ignorant [about] politics and both candidates, and America in general," said junior, Amy Abrigo, bringing about the issue of making uninformed decisions.

Should students vote if they are not

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familiar with the candidates and what they stand for? Third year student Joanna Johnson, feels that "if you don't vote you have no right to complain about the results." "I don't want to impact anything unless I'm certain I want to impact it in that way," said second year student, Gina Marchetti.

Should college students vote in the upcoming election? While students have mixed feelings on the subject, as a citizen of this country it is a right and duty to participate. Students should educate themselves on the candidates and issues; figure out where they stand and cast their vote for the candidate they believe will do the best job. One doesn't need to be an expert in politics to participate on Election Day; they just need to know what they believe in.