

Special Election 2012 Edition

THE ALL STATE.ORG

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DECISION 2012

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SELECT YOUR PRESIDENT ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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STATE ELECTIONS

Not just a presidential election

U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives will also be on ballot Tuesday, Nov. 6

There is a huge concentration on the presidential campaign and voting for who will sit in the oval office for the next four years, but the president is not the only thing citizens are making a choice about on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Voters are also going to cast their ballots on the United States Senate, United States House of Representative; the state of Tennessee's Senate and House of Representatives and city council. The voting for the United States House of Representatives, Tennessee Senate,

Tennessee House of Representatives and city councils are divided into districts based on where registered voters live in Montgomery County.

For more information on other districts and city council candidates, voters can visit the Montgomery County Election Commission office in the Montgomery Veterans Plaza on 350 Pageant Lane, call at 931-638-5707 or visit them online at mcgton.org/election.

**Note: The candidates listed are for the district that APSU is located in.*



Mark E. Clayton

United States Senate

Democrat



Bob Corker

United States Senate

Republican



Shaun E. Crowell

United States Senate

Independent

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

David Gatchell

United States Senate

Independent

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

James Higdon

United States Senate

Independent

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Michel Long

United States Senate

Independent



Martin Pleasant

United States Senate

Green Party



Troy Stephen Scoggin

United States Senate

Independent



Kermit Steck

United States Senate

Constitution Party



Ryan Akin

U.S. House of
Representatives

Independent



Credo Amouzouvik

U.S. House of
Representatives

Democrat



Jack Arnold

U.S. House of
Representatives

Independent



Marsha Blackburn

U.S. House of
Representatives

Republican



Leonard Ladner

U.S. House of
Representatives

Independent



Howard Switzer

U.S. House of
Representatives

Green Party



Tim Barnes

TN Senate-22nd
Senatorial District

Democrat



Mark E. Green

TN Senate-22nd
Senatorial District

Republican



Joe Pitts

TN House of
Representatives-67th
District

Democrat

Who is your guy? Obama or Romney



A creative depiction of Mitt Romney and Barack Obama in college. **CHRISTY WALKER** | DESIGNER

» **By GARY GOLDBERG,**
APSU COLLEGE REPUBLICANS POLITICAL DIRECTOR

With the 2012 presidential election only a matter of weeks away, people have asked me, “why should the APSU community vote for the Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney?”

I believe there are a number of reasons that one could point out to vote for Romney for president. However, there is one reason that has been growing and growing and this is the national debt.

The national debt topped \$16 trillion earlier this year in September.

This leaves every United States citizen owing at total of \$51,000 if we all had to pay the debt that our nation has accumulated.

However, seeing as that total is based off of the number of citizens — including newborns, babies, teens, young adults, adults and the elderly, in the country—not the number of people that pay taxes.

If you leave the amount of debt to just the hard-working men and women of this country, the amount of debt that is owed is \$141,000 per taxpayer.

The average college student graduates with somewhere around \$25,000 in student loan debt, which is a grand total for the average college student graduating \$166,000 in debt.

That is roughly a payment of \$462.00 a month for the next 30 years. This is

to assume that the college student can find a job after college with the average college graduate unemployment rate being 50 percent.

The national debt in this country has been growing and growing for generations. Like most things in politics it is talked about, and it is debated, then passed-on for the next generation to deal with, just like the challenges of civil rights.

This is not a fight that we have asked for, but it is our fight now.

In 2008, then candidate, Obama said, “The problem is, is that the way [George] Bush has done it over the last eight years is to take out a credit card from the Bank of China in the name of our children, driving up our national debt from \$5 trillion for the first 42 presidents — number 43 added \$4 trillion by his lonesome, so that we now have over \$9 trillion of debt that we are going to have to pay back — \$30,000 for every man, woman and child. That’s irresponsible. It’s unpatriotic.”

Yet, under now President Obama the national debt has hit \$16 trillion that has been around \$7 trillion in just 4 years.

We have to make the hard choice and not vote for who we like best, but vote for who will get the job done.

Mitt Romney has said he will cut the debt and that’s who we need vote for, and if he fails like so many before him, we will vote him out as well. **TAS**

» **By RYAN WHIPKEY,**
APSU COLLEGE DEMOCRATS PRESIDENT

Many people are getting interested in whom to cast their vote for and may feel overwhelmed. I believe there is only one choice that will make our country stronger and that is to vote to re-elect President Barack Obama for another term.

I am voting for President Obama and his administration because they are focused on helping middle and lower class Americans in these challenging times. Obama’s American Jobs Act would help strengthen the middle class by creating over a million jobs, while improving our country’s infrastructure and education system. A strong and healthy middle class will help the U.S. grow from the middle out, building an economy and a country to last.

The issue that affects almost everyone at APSU and most universities across the nation is education. Obama passed education policies and student loan reforms that have made the education system stronger and more accessible. Obama has reduced student loan interest rates and streamlined the student loan program.

Many of us, including myself, are using loans and grants to cover our college expenses. College should not be a luxury for the wealthy and privileged.

Obama and I believe obtaining a college education should be an achievable milestone for every American, regardless of their wealth.

Another reason Obama would be the best

choice for our country is because of his focus on equality. Obama demonstrated his drive for equality with the first law he passed, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which created equality and equal pay for women in the workforce. Obama and I believe women who do equal work should get equal pay.

Obama has also shown his commitment to the gay and lesbian community by repealing the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” military policy. Obama was the first sitting president to show support for marriage equality and also passed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

President Obama also passed health care reform that has already helped millions of Americans access health care and receive expanded health care benefits. Obama’s health care reform has allowed 3.1 million people to remain on their parents’ health insurance, while also ensuring that individuals would no longer be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions along with many more benefits. This reform limits the power and profits of insurance companies to make health care accessible and affordable for all Americans.

When it comes to Obama’s record and vision for our economy, education policy, rights of women and the gay and lesbian community, and healthcare; it is clear to see why I will be voting to re-elect our president. Unlike his opponent, Obama will not put the needs of the wealthy, Wall Street, or banks and insurance executives above the needs of average Americans like you and me. I am “in” for President Barack Obama—are you? **TAS**

BARACK OBAMA



President Barack Obama in Columbus, Ohio on Tuesday, Oct. 9. SCOUT TUFANKJIN | FOR OBAMA FOR AMERICA

Student Loan Forgiveness

Capped federal student loan repayments at 10 percent of income. Reduced interest rates by cutting out banks and private institutions and making student loans available through the Department of Education.

Marriage Equality



Supports same sex marriage and civil unions. Repealed Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, now allowing gay and lesbian soldiers to openly serve in military.

Unemployment/Job Market Issues

Proposed American Jobs Act, which focused on infrastructure to create jobs. Invest in education, research and technology to grow the economy for the long term.

Gun Control



Supports the Second Amendment but does believe there should be restrictions on assault automatic weapons. "Guns made for soldiers in the war theatre should not be allowed on the streets."

Environmental Issues

Established fuel economy standards to decrease pollution from cars by half. Proposes similar standards for businesses. Production of renewable energy doubled under Obama's presidency. Has expanded protection for wilderness areas.

Health Care



Obamacare eliminates capping or dropping coverage due to illness costs, gender disparities in cost and discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions. All this comes at the cost of an additional tax.

Gender Equality

Supports Roe v. Wade and women's choice to have abortions in limited instances. Under Obamacare, new insurance plans will soon be required to provide free access to contraceptives.

MITT ROMNEY

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Opposes forgiveness of federal student loan debt. Would reform the Pell Grant system to eliminate waste by limiting awards to only the most needy students. Advocates a return to a privatized student loan system.

Student Loan Forgiveness



Believes in traditional marriage. Advocates for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Advocates for return to full enforcement of Defense of Marriage Act.

Marriage Equality

Intends to create jobs by spurring economic growth through reducing private and corporate taxes, reducing government spending, decreasing government regulation and encouraging international free trade.

Unemployment/Job Market Issues



Supports Second Amendment protections for lawful use of firearms for hunting, recreation, self-defense and protecting property. Opposes imposing additional regulations or requirements for gun acquisition or ownership.

Gun Control

Seeks to repeal some regulations curbing CO2 emissions. Opposes mandates, taxes and regulations for environmental protection which may be detrimental to the economy. Supports more off-shore drilling and green energy research.

Environmental Issues

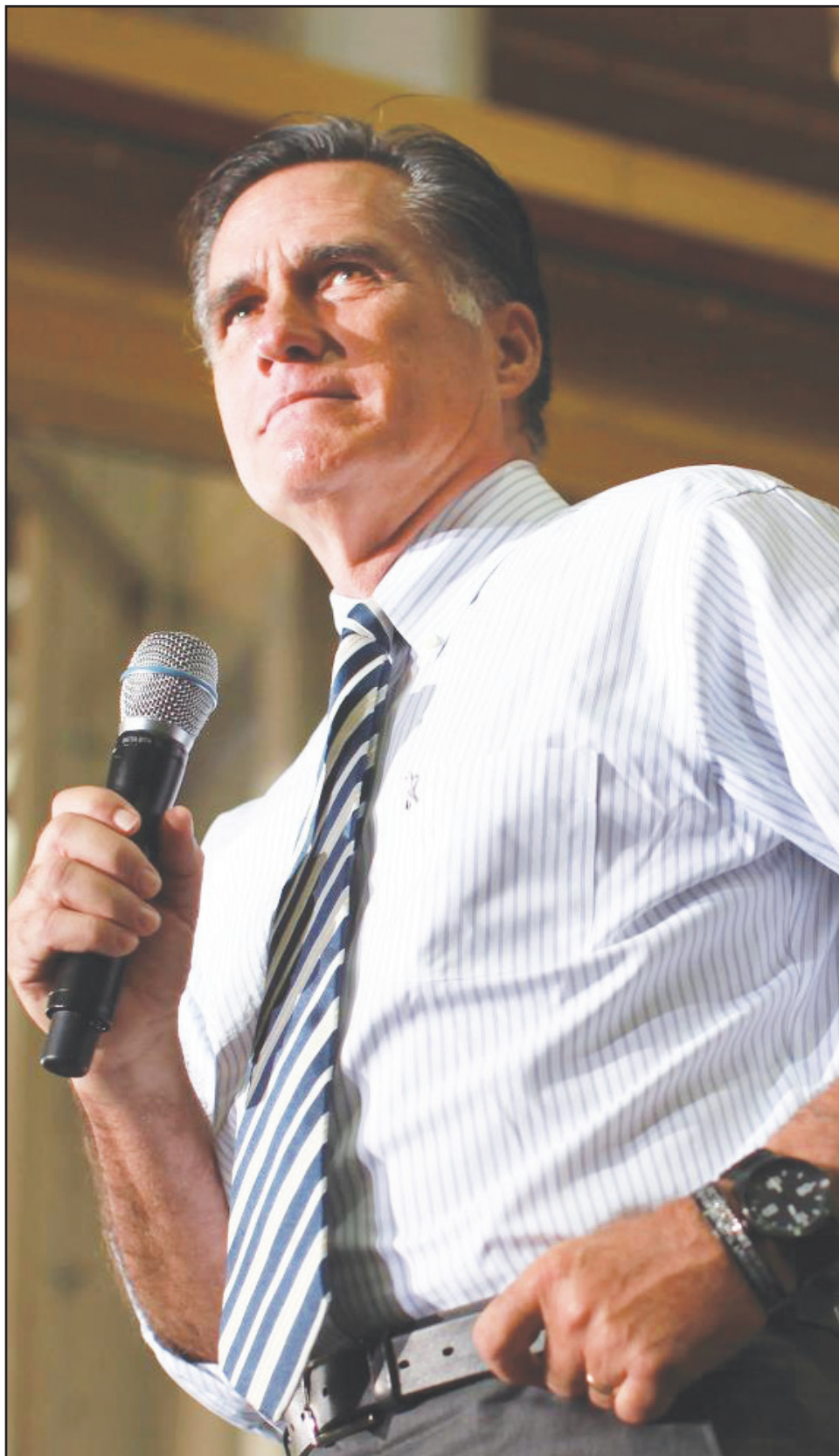
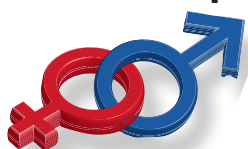


Will issue executive order to allow states to opt out of Obamacare. Wants to repeal Obamacare. Supports giving states power to regulate local insurance markets. Claims free-market approach to health care will lower costs and improve quality.

Health Care

Pro-life. Believes life begins at conception. Advocates overturn of Roe v. Wade and a return to state-level abortion laws. Will end federal funding for abortion providers. Will allow employers to not provide coverage for birth control on moral grounds.

Gender Equality



TAKEN FROM MITT ROMNEY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES

A look at third party candidates

When voters look at their ballot on Tuesday, Nov. 6, Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney will not be the only names on the ballot for president. There are two third party candidates this election who are on enough ballots to potentially win the election, Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party and Jill Stein of the Green Party.



Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party



Johnson believes the United States is nearing a state of economic collapse that he has compared to Russia's 1998 financial crisis. He believes the only way to fix this is to balance the federal budget and promises to not only submit a balanced budget for 2013, but also to veto any bills in which spending exceeds revenue.

Johnson does not believe the government can actually create jobs, but he does think it can foster certainty in private business. Johnson says his beliefs on

budget, tax reform, immigration reform and the environment are all ways in which the government can increase certainty for private business owners.

Johnson has a "limited government" view and leans toward fiscal conservatism. Johnson has also expressed opposition to a large military and foreign wars, promising to cut the military budget by 43 percent in his first presidential budget.



Jill Stein of the Green Party



Being a member of the Green Party, Stein bases much of her platform on the principles of social justice and grassroots democracy. Stein believes Obama's stimulus plan was not big enough, and is an ardent supporter of ending tax cuts for the wealthy. She asserts that the economy is not working for the majority.

To reduce unemployment Stein proposed a "Green New Deal" that would cost \$20,000 per job as opposed to \$220,000 in Obama's stimulus. Stein's plan also focuses on directly creating jobs as opposed to going through tax incentives as in Obama's plan.

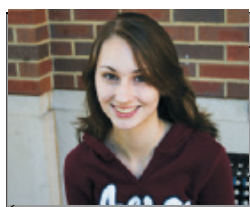
Stein is an adamant supporter of energy efficiency, and incorporates "going green" into many of her other proposed policies. She believes the world cannot wait four more years to address climate change.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

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The vice presidential nominees, Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Paul Ryan, shake hands after their debate on Thursday, Oct. 11. PHOTO TAKEN FROM PAUL RYAN'S FACEBOOK PAGE



» KRISTIN JAGGERS

kkittell@my.apsu.edu

“People don’t vote for vice presidents at the ballot box,” wrote CNN reporter Peter Hamby following the Vice Presidential Debate on Thursday, Oct. 11. I think anyone who’s ever shared a joke at Sarah Palin’s expense would feel differently, and anyone who watched the debate would have to concede that both men brought their “A” games, dishing out hard

facts and doing their best to represent their respective campaigns.

The truth is, when it comes to choosing a president, voters want to know who each candidate deems worthy enough to join them in leading the country and this decision could make or break a campaign. This year, Joe Biden, a seasoned politician with White House experience is facing off with Paul Ryan, a young Senator with a hopeful future.

PAUL RYAN - REPUBLICAN

- At 42 years of age, Paul Ryan brings a younger perspective to the presidential race.
- For far right Conservatives, Paul Ryan forms a much needed contrast to Mitt Romney, who some feel is too moderate. He is firmly against abortion, believing that

human life begins at conception.

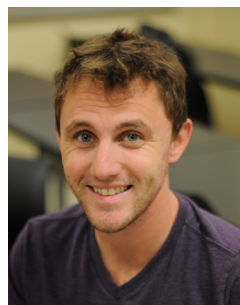
- Ryan has also consistently voted in favor of banning gay marriage and adoption by gay couples. He has voted against the need for hate-crime legislation.
- Ryan’s voting records indicate a pro-business financial stance.
- Ryan is a Catholic. This puts him in a position to appeal to staunchly Christian voters who disapprove of Romney’s Mormonism.
- While the Obama administration has been widely criticized for its failure to support Israel, Ryan established his support for a US-Israeli alliance in 2010.
- Ryan’s voting record indicates that he is in favor of limited government – a stance Romney has not really shown in his campaign against Obama.
- While Romney has not managed to formulate an effective plan to compete with Obama’s health care reform, Ryan himself penned “the Ryan Budget,” which has garnered congressional support.
- In terms of homeland security, Ryan has demonstrated the same no-holds-barred approach voters expect from the Republican Party. He has voted in favor of extending the PATRIOT Act’s roving wiretaps and allowing electronic surveillance without a warrant.

JOE BIDEN - DEMOCRAT

- At 69, Joe Biden gave an air of wisdom to then-presidential hopeful Barack Obama in 2008, combating a major selling point for the McCain-Palin campaign. His

immense experience is still considered a benefit to the Obama administration.

- While the Obama administration has made no official stance supporting gay marriage, Joe Biden has made several candid remarks expressing his support of gay rights. This is a tactical win for the campaign; where Obama might fall short for gay voters, Biden goes the extra mile.
- Biden made it clear during the Vice Presidential Debate that while he agrees with Ryan that life begins at conception, he also supports a woman’s right to choose.
- Biden refutes Ryan’s insinuations that Obama’s administration has not been friendly to Israel, claiming support for the nation.
- Biden refutes Ryan’s stance on limited government by claiming the Romney campaign does not represent the middle class. According to ABC News, Biden accused the Romney campaign would put the middle class in “chains” by deregulating Wall Street, therefore standing as a representative for middle class American voters.
- Obama has done a sufficient job of garnering support for his healthcare reform, so Biden’s primary job was to discredit the opposing congressional plan proposed by Ryan. He pointed out that Ryan’s plan would increase national debt, rather than decreasing it as Ryan claimed.
- Foreign policy, a major issue in this year’s election, is an area in which Biden has a vast amount of experience. His focus has been on foreign policy since his election into the Senate in the 1970s. What Obama lacks in experience, Biden easily makes up for, regardless of whether or not he contributes to policy. **TAS**

» **WES IKNER**

"I feel Gary Johnson best represents my interest. He plans to take effective action to balance the budget and restore power to the states where it belongs. Where the main party candidates focus on personal agendas, Johnson will play to the best interests of the country to move it in a positive direction."

» **ERICA LAYNE**

Senior Corporate Communications major

"I am definitely on the fence at the moment. I am not entirely satisfied with President Obama's first term, but Mitt Romney shows no promise to me at the moment. I will have to do a lot more investigation on both parties view before I make my decision."

» **CHARLENE TALBERT**

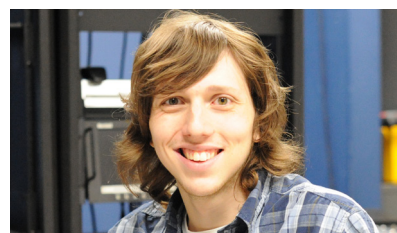
Senior Public Relations major

"I am voting not based on the color of my skin but because of who is going to change the issues that hit close to me. I believe I am that 47 percent, as a student who was raised by a single parent and the wife of a military soldier."

» **MICHAEL KRYCHIW**

Senior Media Technology major

"I am voting to reelect President Barack Obama. I do not believe Mitt Romney has the best intentions for America. I believe Obama's policies benefit me as a young college student. His policies will move the country forward. I believe Mitt Romney is a flip-flopping candidate who can be easily bought."

» **BRENT RICHARDSON**

Junior Broadcast Media major

"I'm voting for Obama because as a young adult I'm very concerned about the state of the economy and I feel that Obama is best served to fix things."

» **CLAY HERD**

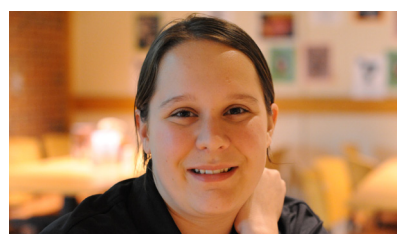
Senior English major

"I am currently undecided. I look very objectively at both sides. I will vote for whoever can persuade me and agree with my policies."

» **JOSEPH MARLER**

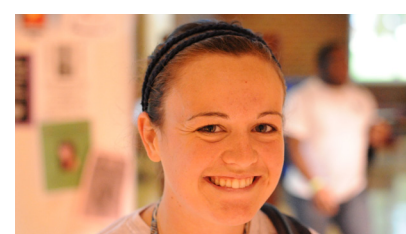
Senior Public Relations major

"I am voting for Romney because I agree with his fiscal policies. His stance on the economy will allow small businesses and big businesses to succeed together. This single issue was the deciding factor on who to vote for this election."

» **JESSICA IMLU**

Sophomore Criminal Justice major

"I'm voting Romney because he has policies that I agree with, policies I think will better our nation. His passion for his faith and everything he does shines through even in the heat of debate."

» **NORA ZANOT**

Freshman undecided major

"I am voting for Mitt Romney. I do not think President Obama has done a particularly good job over these past four years and I agree with more of Romney's principles and goals."

ABOUT US

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