

FLIP-FLOPS


Northeastern University's William Mayer: "After Studying Presidential Nominations For 30 Years, I've Never Seen Somebody Who Has So Completely Renounced His Past Record When He Decided To Run For President." (Jill Zuckman, "Romney's On A Roll, In The Money And The Polls," *Chicago Tribune*, 5/22/07)

TOP ROMNEY TURNAROUNDS

ABORTION: Romney Was Pro-Choice, Then Not Pro-Choice, Then Pro-Choice Again, Then Pro-Life

In 1994, Romney Backed Federal Funding Of Abortion And Codifying Roe v. Wade. "Romney supports a federal health care plan option that includes abortion services, would vote for a law codifying the 1972 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion and backs federal funding for abortions as long as states can decide if they want the money, [a spokesman] said." (Ed Hayward, "Anti-Abortion Group Endorses Romney Bid," *Boston Herald*, 9/8/94)

1999: Romney Claimed "When I Am Asked If Am I Pro-Choice Or Pro-Life, I Say I Refuse To Accept Either Label." (Glen Warchol, "This Is The Place, But Politics May Lead Romneys Elsewhere," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 2/14/99)

 **2002: Running For Massachusetts Governor, Romney Said He Was "Devoted" To Pro-Choice Position.** "I will preserve and protect a woman's right to choose, and am devoted and dedicated to honoring my word in that regard. I will not change any provisions of Massachusetts' pro-choice laws." (2002 Romney-O'Brien Gubernatorial Debate, Suffolk University, Boston, MA, 10/29/02)

2005: Romney Considered Abortion-Rights Supporter By Pro-Life Groups – Aide Claimed His Position Had Not Changed. "[Massachusetts Citizens for Life] considers Romney to be an abortion-rights supporter, as do national antiabortion groups such as the Family Research Council. ... [Romney aide Eric] Fehrstrom said the governor's position has not changed on either sex education or abortion." (Scott S. Greenberger, "Roe V. Wade Omitted From Proclamation," *The Boston Globe*, 3/25/05)

2007: Romney Now Claims He Has Always Been Pro-Life. "I am firmly pro-life ... I was always for life." (Jim Davenport, "Romney Affirms Abortion Opposition During Stop In SC," *The Associated Press*, 2/8/07)

IMMIGRATION: Romney Once Backed Path To Citizenship, Said McCain Plan Was "Quite Different" From Amnesty, But Now Says He Opposes Path To Citizenship And Attacks McCain Plan As "Amnesty"


In 2006, Romney Said Illegal Immigrants Should Have Path To Citizenship. "Gov. Mitt Romney expressed support ... for an immigration program that places large numbers of illegal residents on the path toward citizenship ... Romney said illegal immigrants should have a chance to obtain citizenship." (Evan Lehmann, "Romney Supports Immigration Program, But Not Granting 'Amnesty'," *The Lowell Sun*, 3/30/06)

- **Romney: "Those [Immigrants] That Are Here Paying Taxes And Not Taking Government Benefits Should Begin A Process Towards Application For Citizenship."** "I don't believe in rounding up 11 million people and forcing them at gunpoint from our country ... With these 11 million people, let's have them registered, know who they are. Those who've been arrested or convicted of crimes shouldn't be here; those that are here paying taxes and not taking government benefits should begin a process towards application for citizenship, as they would from their home country." (Evan Lehmann, "Romney Supports Immigration Program, But Not Granting 'Amnesty'," *The Lowell Sun*, 3/30/06)

In 2005, Romney Said McCain Immigration Plan Was "Quite Different" From Amnesty And Called Plan "Reasonable." "In a November 2005 interview with the *Globe*, Romney described immigration proposals by McCain and others as 'quite different' from amnesty, because they required illegal immigrants to register with the government, work for years, pay taxes, not take public benefits, and pay a fine before applying for citizenship. 'That's very different than amnesty, where you literally say, "OK, everybody here gets to stay,"' Romney said in the interview. 'It's saying you could work your way into becoming a legal resident of the country by working here without taking benefits and then applying and then paying a fine.'" (Scott Helman, "Romney's Words Grow Hard On Immigration," *The Boston Globe*, 3/16/07)

- **Romney Spoke "Approvingly Of Efforts By McCain And Bush To Solve The Nation's Immigration Crisis."** "Romney did not specifically endorse McCain's bill, saying he had not yet formulated a full position

on immigration. But he did speak approvingly of efforts by McCain and Bush to solve the nation's immigration crisis, calling them 'reasonable proposals.'" (Scott Helman, "Romney's Words Grow Hard On Immigration," *The Boston Globe*, 3/16/07)

 **Today Romney Says He Opposes Any "Special Pathway To Citizenship."** "[I] think I'm best off to describe my own positions. And my positions, I think I've just described for you – secure the border, employment verification and no special pathway to citizenship. I feel that's the course we ought to take." (CNN's "The Situation Room," 5/22/07)

Today Romney Refers To McCain-Backed Immigration Reform Bill As "Amnesty." "The crowd at South Carolina's Republican convention ... cheered as presidential candidate Romney told them: 'One simple rule: No amnesty.' During his speech and before his remarks, Romney said a proposed new visa for immigrants amounts to amnesty if it can be renewed indefinitely. 'If that's not a form of amnesty, I don't know what is,' Romney said. 'I think we should not call it the "Z visa," we should call it the "A visa" because it's amnesty and that's what it stands for.'" (Jim Davenport, "S.C. Republicans Cheer Romney As He Attacks Immigration Bill," *The Associated Press*, 5/19/07)

TAX CUTS: Romney Refused To Endorse 2003 Bush Tax Cuts, Now Makes Them Central Part Of His Campaign

***Boston Herald*: Romney "Refused To Take A Position On Bush's Massive, 10-Year Tax Cut Plan."** "[R]omney spoke at the 10th annual legislative conference organized by U.S. Rep. Martin T. Meehan (D-Lowell) and met with the Massachusetts delegation. ... Congressional sources said that a point of contention arose when Romney refused to take a position on Bush's massive, 10-year tax cut plan." (Noelle Straub, "Romney Talks Policy With Bush Staffers, Mass. Delegation," *Boston Herald*, 4/11/03)

Romney Said He Wouldn't Be "Cheerleader" For Tax Relief Plan He Didn't Agree With. "According to the observer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Romney told the delegation that he 'won't be a cheerleader' for proposals he doesn't agree with, 'but I have to keep a solid relationship with the White House.'" (Wayne Washington and Glen Johnson, "Romney Weighs In – Carefully – On Bush Tax-Cut Plan," *The Boston Globe*, 4/11/03)

Romney Spokesman Claimed Tax Cuts Weren't A State Matter. "Shawn Feddeman, Romney's spokeswoman, said the governor has neither endorsed nor opposed the tax cut plan because 'it's just not a state matter.'" (Wayne Washington and Glen Johnson, "Romney Weighs In – Carefully – On Bush Tax-Cut Plan," *The Boston Globe*, 4/11/03)

Romney Now Says He Supported The President's Tax Cuts. "McCain opposed President Bush's tax cuts, Romney noted. 'I supported them,' the former governor said." (Lee Bandy, "Romney Targeting McCain," *The State* [SC], 2/4/07)

NO NEW TAXES PLEDGE: Romney Refused To Sign ATR Pledge Against Raising Taxes In 2002, Eagerly Signed It In 2007

In 2002, Candidate Romney Refused To Sign ATR Pledge Against Tax Increases. "Four years ago, Mitt Romney broke with GOP tradition and refused to sign the [Americans for Tax Reform] pledge [to 'oppose and veto any and all efforts to increase taxes']." (Lisa Wangsness, "Healey Will Sign Antitax Pledge," *The Boston Globe*, 9/4/06)

Romney "Rebuffed" Calls To Sign Pledge, Drawing Wrath Of Anti-Tax Advocates. "Gubernatorial front-runner Mitt Romney drew the wrath of GOP anti-tax stalwarts ... by refusing a 'no new tax' pledge to back his levy-cutting promises. Breaking with the past three Republican governors, Romney rebuffed perennial calls by Citizens for Limited Taxation to sign the vaunted pledge." (David R. Guarino, "Romney Refuses To Sign CLT's 'No New Tax' Pledge," *Boston Herald*, 3/28/02)

- **"Romney's Gubernatorial Campaign Spokesman, Eric Fehrstrom, Dismissed Such Pledges At The Time As 'Government By Gimmickry.'" (Scott Helman, "Romney Finds 'No New Taxes' Promise Suits Him After All," *The Boston Globe*, 1/5/07)**

In 2007, Romney Signed Pledge As His Presidential Campaign Began. "Almost five years after he refused to sign a 'no new taxes' pledge during his campaign for governor, Mitt Romney announced ... that he had done just that, as his campaign for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination began in earnest." (Scott Helman, "Romney Finds 'No New Taxes' Promise Suits Him After All," *The Boston Globe*, 1/5/07)


- **Media Noted Signing Of Pledge Symbolized His Shift In Focus To GOP Primary Voters.** "Romney's announcement about signing the pledge came on his first day out of office, and it symbolized what's now his

biggest priority: building support from GOP activists and voters, especially in states with early primaries.” (Scott Helman, “Romney Finds ‘No New Taxes’ Promise Suits Him After All,” *The Boston Globe*, 1/5/07)

- **Concord [NH] Monitor Called It “The Latest Shift For Romney.”** “In the latest shift for Romney ... he recently signed a ‘taxpayer protection pledge’ sponsored by the Grover Norquist-led Americans for Tax Reform. In 2002 ... Romney declined to sign a written pledge not to raise taxes.” (Sarah Liebowitz and Eric Moskowitz, “Romney Pledges To Run A Different Campaign,” *Concord Monitor*, 1/9/07)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: Romney Now Criticizes McCain-Feingold But Once Called For Abolishing PACs, Implementing Spending Limits And Taxing Political Donations

The Hill: “[R]omney ... Once Touted Dramatic Restructuring Measures Such As Taxing Political Contributions And Placing Spending Limits On Federal Campaigns.” “Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who strongly criticized campaign-finance regulations in a private meeting with House conservatives last week, once touted dramatic restructuring measures such as taxing political contributions and placing spending limits on federal campaigns.” (Alexander Bolton, “Romney’s About-Face On Campaign Funding,” *The Hill*, 2/8/07)


- **Romney Proposed Installing 10 Percent Tax On Private Donations To Political Campaigns.** “Mr. Romney campaigned in favor of clean elections, which provides public money to candidates for state office who meet strict fund-raising requirements. But he suggested an alternative funding method. Instead of providing campaign funds from state coffers, his plan would tap 10 percent of the fund raising of candidates who choose to raise money privately.” (Richard Nangle, “Clean Election Advocates Keep Pushing,” *Telegram & Gazette* [Worcester, MA], 11/14/02)
- **Romney Proposed Spending Cap On Congressional Elections.** “Romney also said he advocates spending limits on congressional elections, even suggesting that the current race against Sen. Edward M. Kennedy should have a \$6 million spending cap.” (Frank Phillips, “Romney, Vowing To Live It, Touts Congress Reform Plan,” *The Boston Globe*, 7/27/94)
-  **Romney: “I Also Would Abolish PACs ... I Don’t Like Them.”** “I also would abolish PACs. You probably have one – I don’t like them. I don’t like the influence of money – whether it’s business, labor or any other group. I do not like that kind of influence. Lobbyists, I want to register, know who they are. I want to make sure gifts are limited. I think we have to really become much more vigilant in seeing the impact on money – and I don’t care how it’s organized – on money on politics.” (Mitt Romney, Remarks To Burlington Business Roundtable, Burlington, MA, 10/11/94)

Romney Now Attacks Campaign Finance Reform, Calling McCain-Feingold “A Terrible Piece Of Legislation.” “Romney noted his foe from Arizona wrote the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law that restricts certain types of contributions. ‘That’s a terrible piece of legislation,’ Romney said. ‘It hasn’t taken the money out of politics. ... (But) it has hurt my party.’” (Lee Bandy, “Romney Targeting McCain,” *The State*, 2/4/07)

REPUBLICAN AFFILIATION: Romney Was Not Republican Until 1993, Has Donated To Democrats, Voted For Paul Tsongas, Refused To Even Read Contract With America

Romney Voted For Paul Tsongas In ‘92 Presidential Primary. “An Independent until last December, [Romney] publicizes his brief stint as a Democrat to support ex-senator Paul Tsongas in the 1992 presidential primary. ‘I’m not a partisan politician,’ he said.” (David Broder, “Kennedy Tries To Polish Faded Image,” *The Washington Post*, 10/7/94)

Romney Has Made Campaign Contributions To Democrats. “Belmont businessman W. Mitt Romney ... defended donations to Democratic congressional candidates in 1992. ‘I don’t think they’re mortal sins for Republicans to make contributions to good people and to their friends, irrespective of their party,’ Romney, 46, told reporters...” (Wayne Woodlief, ‘Romney: Religion No Issue In Senate Race,’ *Boston Herald*, 2/3/94)


 **Romney “Warmly Praised” Bill Clinton During ‘94 Senate Race.** “[Romney] warmly praised President Clinton. ‘I think the president does a lot of things that make a lot of sense,’ he said. ‘I support him in many ways.’” (Scot Lehigh and Frank Phillips, “Round 2 – Sound Without The Fury,” *The Boston Globe*, 10/28/94)

Romney Campaigned Against The Contract With America And The ‘94 Republican Agenda. “Mr. Romney, a venture capitalist who has never held elective office, criticized the Republican campaign agenda, the ‘Contract With America,’ as too partisan. He said he would have gone against the GOP leadership and supported the crime

bill, and would oppose a capital gains tax cut.” (Rod Dreher, “Kennedy Avoids Haymaker In Final Debate With Romney,” *The Washington Times*, 10/28/94)

REAGAN LEGACY: Romney Distanced Himself From President Reagan In 1994, Saying He Was An Independent During Reagan Years, But Now Claims Reagan As His Hero


Romney Panned Contract With America, Refused To Link Himself To Reagan Administration. “In his 1994 debate with Kennedy, Romney ... balked when Kennedy tried to link him to the Reagan administration.” (Dan Balz and Shailagh Murray, “Mass. Governor’s Rightward Shift Raises Questions,” *The Washington Post*, 12/21/06)

-  **Romney:** “I was an independent during the time of Reagan-Bush. I’m not trying to return to Reagan-Bush.” (Joe Battenfeld, “Conservative Group Yanks Its Support For Mitt,” *Boston Herald*, 10/27/94)

Romney Now Claims Reagan As His Political Hero. “‘Ronald Reagan is one of my heroes,’ Romney said as he praised Reagan’s strategy for winning the Cold War: ‘We win; they lose.’” (Michael Levenson, “Romney Links Gay Marriage, US Prestige,” *The Boston Globe*, 2/26/05)

SECOND AMENDMENT: Romney Once Bragged Of Opposing NRA, Promised Not To “Chip Away” At Tough Gun Laws But Now Seeks NRA Endorsement

Romney Supported Brady Bill And Assault Weapons Ban, Bragging His Stance Was “Not Going To Make Me The Hero Of The NRA.” “[Romney] said he will take stands that put him at odds with some traditional ultra-conservative groups, and cited his support for the assault rifle ban and the Brady gun control law. ‘That’s not going to make me the hero of the NRA,’ he said. ‘I don’t line up with a lot of special interest groups.’” (Andrew Miga, “Mitt Rejects Right-Wing Aid,” *Boston Herald*, 9/23/94)

 **Romney Praised Massachusetts’ Tough Gun Laws, Vowed Not To “Chip Away At Them” As Governor.** “[A]s the GOP gubernatorial candidate in 2002, Romney lauded the state’s strong laws during a debate against Democrat Shannon O’Brien. ‘We do have tough gun laws in Massachusetts; I support them,’ he said. ‘I won’t chip away at them; I believe they protect us and provide for our safety.’” (Scott Helman, “Romney Retreats On Gun Control,” *The Boston Globe*, 1/14/07)

Romney Explains He Signed Up For Lifetime NRA Membership In August 2006 Because “I’m After The NRA’s Endorsement. ... If I’m Going To Ask For Their Endorsement, They’re Going To Ask For Mine.” “Expressing familiarity with and support for gun rights is key among Republican presidential contenders ... It helps explain why Romney joined the NRA last August, signing up not just as a supporter but a designated ‘Lifetime’ member ... Romney told a Derry, N.H., audience, ‘I’m after the NRA’s endorsement. I’m not sure they’ll give it to me. I hope they will. I also joined because if I’m going to ask for their endorsement, they’re going to ask for mine.’” (Glen Johnson, “Romney Calls Himself A Longtime Hunter,” *The Associated Press*, 4/5/07)

OWNING A GUN: Romney Said He Owned A Gun Himself, Then Admitted It Was Not His Gun

Romney Appealed To Gun Owners For Support, Claiming To Be One Of Them. “[Romney said] he hopes states would continue to ease regulations on gun owners, and he expressed enthusiasm for guns and hunting. ‘I have a gun of my own. I go hunting myself. I’m a member of the NRA and believe firmly in the right to bear arms,’ Romney said.” (Scott Helman, “Romney Retreats On Gun Control,” *The Boston Globe*, 1/14/07)

Romney, In Early 2006: “I Have A Gun Of My Own, I Go Hunting Myself...” (Glenn And Helen Show, www.glennandhelenshow.com, 1/10/07)


Days Later, Romney Admitted That He Did Not Own A Gun. “On Wednesday, Romney said on an Internet podcast, ‘The Glenn and Helen Show,’ that he hopes states would continue to ease regulations on gun owners, and he expressed enthusiasm for guns and hunting. ‘I have a gun of my own. I go hunting myself. I’m a member of the NRA and believe firmly in the right to bear arms,’ Romney said. Asked by reporters at the gun show Friday whether he personally owned the gun, Romney said he did not. He said one of his sons, Josh, keeps two guns at the family vacation home in Utah, and he uses them ‘from time to time.’” (Scott Helman, “Romney Retreats On Gun Control,” *The Boston Globe*, 1/14/07)

HUNTING: Romney Claimed To Be Lifelong Hunter While Having Been Hunting Twice In His Life, Later Explaining He Was Frequent Hunter Of “Small Varmints” And Rodents

Romney Has Spoken Of His Hunting Prowess “On Several Occasions.” “The Republican presidential contender has told audiences on several occasions, most recently this week in gun-savvy – and early voting – New Hampshire, that he has been a longtime hunter.” (Glen Johnson, “Romney Calls Himself A Longtime Hunter,” *The Associated Press*, 4/5/07)

Romney Later Admitted He Has Been Hunting Only Twice In His Life – Once Nearly Fifty Years Ago, Once At “Fenced Game Preserve” On 2006 Retreat For Political Donors. “[T]he former Massachusetts governor’s hunting experience is limited to two trips at the bookends of his 60 years: as a 15-year-old, when he hunted rabbits with his cousins on a ranch in Idaho, and last year, when he shot quail on a fenced game preserve in Georgia. Last year’s trip was an outing with major donors to the Republican Governors Association, which Romney headed at the time.” (Glen Johnson, “Romney Calls Himself A Longtime Hunter,” *The Associated Press*, 4/5/07)

- **Washington Post Editorial: “Mitt Romney Tried To Look Like A Hunter – And Ended Up Shooting Himself In The Foot.”** (Editorial, “Killer Rabbits,” *The Washington Post*, 4/10/07)

 **Romney Revised His Remarks The Next Day, Saying He Has “Always” Hunted “Rodents” And “Small Varmints.”** “Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is taking a second shot at describing his hunting experience. ... Campaigning in Indianapolis on Thursday, Romney said he has hunted small game since his youth. ‘I’m not a big-game hunter. I’ve made that very clear,’ he said. ‘I’ve always been a rodent and rabbit hunter. Small varmints, if you will. I began when I was 15 or so and I have hunted those kinds of varmints since then. More than two times.’” (Emily Udell, “Romney Aims Again To Explain Hunting,” *The Associated Press*, 4/6/07)

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE: After Striving To Take Credit For Universal Health Insurance Bill In Massachusetts, Romney Is Now Running Away From His Own Plan

Romney Staged Elaborate Signing Ceremony With Banners And A Fife-And-Drum Corps. “In a Colonial-era hall, with a fife-and-drum corps marching in with him, Gov. Mitt Romney (R) signed a bill Wednesday requiring all Massachusetts residents to purchase health insurance -- portraying the measure as a historic solution to health-care costs, even as questions emerge about whether the state can afford it. The signing [was] staged with a near-presidential attention to theatrics and slogan-bearing banners...” (David A. Fahrenthold, “Mass. Marks Health-Care Milestone,” *The Washington Post*, 4/13/06)

- **Romney Said Final Legislation “Incorporates About 95 Percent Of My Original Proposal.”** “The final legislation incorporates about 95 percent of my original proposal. So I think, overall, it is a major step forward. We will have health insurance for all our citizens without a government takeover and without new taxes required.” (Jennifer Barrett, “Person Of Faith,” *Newsweek.com*, 6/7/06)

Romney Has Now “Begun To Distance Himself” From His “Signature” Plan. “With signs emerging that his signature healthcare plan faces hurdles, former governor Mitt Romney has begun to distance himself from the new law and is suggesting that Democrats will be to blame if the plan falters. ... At recent political appearances, Romney has subtly lowered expectations for the law he championed as governor.” (Rick Klein, “Boston Globe: Romney Distances Self From Mass. Health Plan,” *The Boston Globe*, 2/3/07)


- **Wall Street Journal: Romney Oversold Virtues Of Healthcare Plan, Imposed Government Mandate And Now Distances Himself From Own Policy.** “[Romney] made a big deal of the health-care ‘reform’ he steered through the Massachusetts legislature last year, and we suppose he deserves credit for trying. But he oversold the results – to the applause of the national health-care lobby – and imposed an insurance mandate without reforming the state insurance market. As it unfolds, this law is turning out to be far from a free-market success. And so now Mr. Romney is distancing himself from it – never mind that he upbraided his critics last year for not understanding its virtues.” (Editorial, “The GOP Field,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2/10/07)
- **Investor’s Business Daily: “He’s Now A Critic Of His Own Biggest Achievement.”** “As governor of Massachusetts he signed a bipartisan law intended to ensure that every resident has coverage. Romney touted it as an innovative free-market solution. Yet these days, Romney ... is much more likely to present his state’s universal coverage law as not a model to copy but an example for other states to learn from. He’s now a critic of his own biggest achievement.” (Sean Higgins, “Ex-Gov. Romney Keeps Distance From His Own Mass. Health Plan,” *Investor’s Business Daily*, 3/7/07)

CLIMATE CHANGE: Romney Once Claimed Global Warming Debate Was “Pretty Much Over” But Now Expresses Skepticism And Attacks His Opponents

Romney In 2003: Global Warming Debate “Is Now Pretty Much Over.” “I think the global warming debate is now pretty much over and people recognize the need associated with providing sources which do not generate the heat that is currently provided by fossil fuels ...” (Jack Coleman, “Massachusetts Governor Urges Use Of Alternative Energy,” *Cape Cod Times*, 3/14/03)

- **Romney:** “I concur that climate change is beginning to effect on our natural resources and that now is the time to take action ...” (“Romney OK With Plan On Emissions,” *Boston Herald*, 7/24/03)

According To Participants, Romney Held 2003 Meeting With Religious Leaders And Said He Was “Terrified” Over Global Warming, Calling It “Quite Alarming.” “Sister Tess Browne, a Roman Catholic nun, said she was particularly moved during the meeting when Romney spoke of his concerns that global warming would jeopardize not just U.S. coastal cities but those in poorer countries, such as Bangladesh. Romney told the group he was ‘terrified’ about global warming, a phenomenon he described as ‘quite alarming,’ according to notes taken by one of the participants, Nancy Davidge of the Episcopal Divinity School at Harvard University.” (Peter Wallsten, “Activists Remember A Different Romney,” *Los Angeles Times*, 3/25/07)

 **In February 2007, Romney Said “Scientists Haven’t Entirely Resolved” Global Warming Question.** “I have to tell you with regards to global warming that that’s something, which, you’re right, the scientists haven’t entirely resolved, but no question about one thing, it’s getting warmer, and a lot of good reasons for us to use less energy, to use it more efficiently and to develop sources here in this country that could allow us to be more independent of foreign sources.” (CNBC’s “Kudlow & Company,” 2/7/07)

Romney Now Says “Some In The Republican Party Are Embracing ... The Ideas Of Al Gore.” “Unfortunately, some in the Republican Party are embracing the radical environmental ideas of the liberal left. As governor, I found that thoughtful environmentalism need not be anti-growth and anti-jobs. But Kyoto-style sweeping mandates, imposed unilaterally in the United States, would kill jobs, depress growth and shift manufacturing to the dirtiest developing nations. Republicans should never abandon pro-growth conservative principles in an effort to embrace the ideas of Al Gore.” (Romney For President, Press Release, 2/23/07)

GAYS IN THE MILITARY: Romney Once Supported And Now Opposes Allowing Gays And Lesbians To Serve Openly In The Military

Romney “Went Out Of His Way” To Court Gay Rights Supporters In ‘94 Senate Run, Said “Certain Privileges” Should Be Offered. “One group [Romney] went out of his way to court [in 1994] was the gay rights community. While he noted that he opposed same-sex marriage, Romney said that ‘certain benefits and privileges should be offered to gay couples and lesbian couples.’ ... He said he would push gay rights issues if elected.” (Dan Balz and Shailagh Murray, “Mass. Governor’s Rightward Shift Raises Questions,” *The Washington Post*, 12/21/06)

In 1994, Romney Endorsed Ability Of Gay Individuals To Serve Openly In Military. “[Romney] called President Bill Clinton’s ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ military policy ‘the first of a number of steps that will ultimately lead to gays and lesbians being able to serve openly and honestly in our nation’s military.’” (Dan Balz and Shailagh Murray, “Mass. Governor’s Rightward Shift Raises Questions,” *The Washington Post*, 12/21/06)

Romney “Has Since Backed Away” And Now Says He Will Defer To Military Leaders. “Romney has since backed away ... from his previously expansive position on gay people in the military. On that issue, he told National Review Online, he now defers to military leaders.” (Dan Balz and Shailagh Murray, “Mass. Governor’s Rightward Shift Raises Questions,” *The Washington Post*, 12/21/06)

Romney Used To Think “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy “Didn’t Make A Lot Of Sense” But Now Supports It. “[Romney] defended his policy switch on gays in the military. He said when he first heard the phrase ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ he thought it was ‘kind of a silly phrase that didn’t make a lot of sense.’ But the last 10 years have convinced him that the policy is working and there is no reason to change it, he said.” (Alexa Aguilar, “Romney Campaigns In Chicago,” *Chicago Tribune*, 4/12/07)

GAY MARRIAGE: In 2002, Romney Refused To Endorse Constitutional Amendment Banning Gay Marriage, Saying It Was Too Extreme, But Later Endorsed Amendment Banning Gay Marriage In 2006

Romney Called 2002 Amendment Banning Gay Marriage And Benefits In Massachusetts Too Extreme And Did Not Support It. “Mitt Romney’s wife, son, and daughter-in-law signed a petition in support of a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban both gay marriage and domestic-partner benefits in Massachusetts – an

amendment that Romney himself condemned as too extreme after being told of his family's support for it." (Rick Klein, "Romney Kin Signed Petition To Ban Same-Sex Marriage," *The Boston Globe*, 3/22/02)

- **Aide Said Romney Felt The Amendment Was "Unnecessary."** "Romney's family members signed the petition to put it on the ballot 'without reading the fine print,' [Romney aide Eric] Fehrstrom said, but he has no reason to believe they do not support it. 'Mitt did not know they signed it, and Mitt does not support it,' he said. 'As far as Mitt is concerned, it goes farther than current law, and therefore it's unnecessary.'" (Rick Klein, "Romney Kin Signed Petition To Ban Same-Sex Marriage," *The Boston Globe*, 3/22/02)

In 2006, Romney Backed Efforts To Pass Constitutional Amendment Banning Gay Marriage In Massachusetts. "Just two weeks before lawmakers resume a Constitutional Convention to vote on a proposed ballot initiative to ban same-sex marriage, Gov. Mitt Romney will stand with the supporters of the measure to call on the Legislature to back it. Romney will join petition backers in a State House press event today to urge the Legislature to pass the Protection of Marriage Amendment when the Constitutional Convention reconvenes July 12, authorizing a 2008 ballot question asking voters to define marriage as between one man and one woman." (Kimberly Atkins and Kate Gibson, "Mitt Joining Supporters Of Anti-Gay Wed Initiative," *Boston Herald*, 6/28/06)

STEM CELL RESEARCH: Romney Once Endorsed Embryonic Stem Cell Research And Promised To "Work And Fight" For It Before Changing His Position


June 2002: Romney "Spoke Extensively" About His Support For Embryonic Stem Cell Research At Bioethics Forum. "Speaking at a bioethics forum, GOP gubernatorial hopeful Mitt Romney yesterday endorsed embryonic stem cell research ... [Romney] endorsed embryonic stem cell research, saying the controversial science might one day help treat his wife's multiple sclerosis in addition to numerous other degenerative diseases. ... Romney spoke extensively about his position on stem cell research, which also involves embryo destruction." (Raja Mishra, "Romney Endorses Stem Cell Research, Is Silent On Cloning," *The Boston Globe*, 6/14/02)

- **Romney:** "I am in favor of stem cell research. I will work and fight for stem cell research ... I'd be happy to talk to [President Bush] about this, though I don't know if I could budge him an inch." (Raja Mishra, "Romney Endorses Stem Cell Research, Is Silent On Cloning," *The Boston Globe*, 6/14/02)
- **Romney:** "We don't want there to be any impediment to doing [stem cell] research in Massachusetts, any impediment that would take you to another state." (Lisa Eckelbecker, "Leaders Deride Drug Imports," *Telegram & Gazette* [Worcester, MA], 4/30/04)

Romney Later Switched Course – In A Move That "Stunned" Observers – And Pressed To Criminalize Research He Once Endorsed. "At a campaign appearance at Brandeis University in June 2002, Romney strongly endorsed stem cell research. At that event and in several instances since, he declined to offer an opinion on embryo cloning ... But on Feb. 10, 2005 ... Romney came out strongly against the cloning technique ... He vowed to press for legislation to criminalize the work. Romney's opposition stunned scientists, lawmakers, and observers because of his past statements endorsing, at least in general terms, embryonic stem cell research." (Scott Helman, "Romney's Journey To The Right," *The Boston Globe*, 12/17/06)

Romney's Stem Cell Views Have "Evolved." "Romney's views on stem cell research have evolved over the past five years. ... A few conservatives have questioned whether Romney and his supporters are trying to muddy his views." (Scott Helman, "Romney's Stem Cell View May Upset The Right," *The Boston Globe*, 2/11/07)

FAVORITE BOOK: Romney Insisted L. Ron Hubbard's "Battlefield Earth" Was His Favorite Novel, Then Said Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" Was His Favorite

 **On Monday, Romney Said His Favorite Novel Is L. Ron Hubbard's "Battlefield Earth."** ROMNEY: "Favorite book... Well, has to be the Bible." FOX NEWS' MARTHA MCCALLUM: "And an interesting response to his favorite novel." ROMNEY: "Actually the one by L. Ron Hubbard, I hate to think ... I'm not in favor of his religion by any means, but he wrote a book called 'Battlefield Earth' that was a very fun science fiction book." (Fox News' "Fox & Friends," 4/30/07)

Romney Later Reversed Himself, Saying "Huckleberry Finn" Was Favorite Fiction Book And "Battlefield Earth" Was Favorite Science Fiction Book. "Asked about his comments during a Fox News interview Monday that L. Ron Hubbard's Battlefield Earth is his favorite novel, Romney said Huckleberry Finn is his favorite fiction and that the book by Hubbard, who founded Scientology, is his favorite science fiction reading." (Mary Anne Ostrom, "Education Should Determine Immigrants' Legal Status, Mitt Romney Says," *The [San Jose, CA] Mercury News*, 5/1/07)

Romney Incorrectly Claimed Hubbard Hadn't Yet Founded Scientology When He Wrote "Battlefield Earth." "It's a great science-fiction book ... He hadn't founded Scientology at that point." (Mary Anne Ostrom, "Education Should Determine Immigrants' Legal Status, Mitt Romney Says," *The [San Jose, CA] Mercury News*, 5/1/07)

- **Hubbard Founded Scientology In 1950s.** "A one-time science fiction writer, Mr. Hubbard founded Scientology in the early 1950's." (Edwin McDowell, "Court Halts Distribution Of Hubbard Biography," *The New York Times*, 5/21/98)
- **Hubbard Wrote Battlefield Earth In 1980.** "L. Ron Hubbard wrote Battlefield Earth in 1980 as he described it, 'It is the only one I ever wrote to amuse myself. It also celebrates my golden wedding with the muse. Fifty years a professional – 1930–1980.'" (Battlefield Earth Website, www.battlefieldearth.com, Accessed 5/2/07)

FAVORITE MOVIE: Romney Has Changed Positions On His Favorite Film In Recent Years

Romney Once Said "O Brother Where Art Thou" Was His Favorite Movie, Now Says It Is "Raiders Of The Lost Ark." "Speaking of Romney, he has been making the rounds on the national TV circuit, providing endless fodder for critics who paint him as a constant flip-flopper. In yet another example, CNN profiled the 2008 presidential field and Romney listed his favorite movie as 'Raiders of the Lost Ark.' But as recently as 2003, Romney told media outlets that his favorite was the George Clooney flick 'O Brother Where Art Thou.'" (Dave Wedge, "Your Mitt Moment, Priceless," *Boston Herald*, 3/4/07)

ANALYSTS ON ROMNEY'S SHIFTING VALUES

BBC's Katty Kay: "[T]his issue of authenticity, he's falling down on that. And if people are looking for something that's authentic, and he has already flip-flopped on his social conservative values, then that's going to be a problem for him." (NBC's "The Chris Matthews Show," 2/11/07)

WFXT-TV's Joe Battenfeld: "[B]efore you see the new Mitt Romney unveil himself here tomorrow, we want to give you a look at the old Mitt Romney." (WFXT's "Fox 25 News At 10," 2/12/07)

- **Battenfeld:** "[W]atch Romney squirm. It's the most revealing look yet at Romney way before his transformation into a pro-life Ronald Reagan wanna-be." (WFXT's "Fox 25 News At 10," 2/12/07)

The Atlantic's Andrew Sullivan: "Romney makes John Kerry look immovable." (Andrew Sullivan, "The Latest Romney Switcheroo II," TheAtlantic.com's [The Daily Dish](http://TheDailyDish), 2/8/07)

- **Sullivan:** "[Romney] makes Bill Clinton look like a rock of principle. (Andrew Sullivan, "Romney's Draft-Deferment," *The Atlantic's The Daily Dish* Blog, 5/11/07)

Democratic Strategist Susan Estrich: "Mitt Romney makes [John] Kerry look like a model of consistency." (Susan Estrich, Op-Ed, "Rudy's Game," [Creators Syndicate](http://CreatorsSyndicate), 2/16/07)

Boston Globe's Scot Lehigh: "Certainly Massachusetts' former governor would present a broad target for the sort of flip-flop attacks that bedeviled John Kerry in 2004." (Scot Lehigh, "United In Ambivalence," *The Boston Globe*, 5/25/07)

Boston Herald's Howie Carr: "Mitt's a lot more adept at doing the old soft shoe around his flip-flops than [John] Kerry." (Howie Carr, Op-Ed, "Mitt's Game Plan Looking Like Flip Side Of Kerry's," *Boston Herald*, 2/9/07)

- **Carr:** "[Romney] was privately against George W. Bush's early tax cuts before he was publicly for them. He was also for gay rights before he was against them, and he supported campaign finance reform before he denounced it. Not to mention he was pro-choice before he was pro-life. He wouldn't sign the local no-new-taxes pledge in 2002 before he signed Grover Norquist's national one in 2007." (Howie Carr, Op-Ed, "Mitt's Game Plan Looking Like Flip Side Of Kerry's," *Boston Herald*, 2/9/07)

National Review's Mark Hemingway: "Romney now claims to be pro-life ... but many find his conversion story far from convincing." (Mark Hemingway, "Mitt Romney's Endurance Race," *National Review Online*, 2/13/07)

American Spectator's "Washington Prowler": "[Romney] appears willing to sell out his core convictions to win." ("Romney's Abortion Positions," *American Spectator's AmSpec Blog*, 2/19/07)

WorldNetDaily.com's Bruce Wilson: "Romney arrived at his pro-life decision in such a backwards manner that it's difficult to take his explanation seriously." (Bruce Wilson, "Mitt Romney's Flip-Flop: Like Father, Like Son?" *WorldNetDaily.com*, 2/13/07)

Political Consultant Paul Begala: "[H]e's not ready for prime time. ... [O]nce again, Mitt stepped in it." (MSNBC's "Imus In The Morning," 3/21/07)

Amb. Richard Blankenship, Former Romney Supporter: "The changes in [Romney's] core beliefs gave rise to some concerns. You have to have an anchor in life." (Adam Smith, "GOP Fundraiser Jumps From Romney To Giuliani," *St. Petersburg [FL] Times*, 3/22/07)

Salt Lake City Mayor and Bush Impeachment Advocate Rocky Anderson (D): "I would fully expect Mitt Romney to distance himself from me, especially now that he's changing his position on so many issues." (Thomas Burr, "Candidate Mitt: Rocky Who?" *Salt Lake Tribune*, 3/23/07)

National Review Online's Yuval Levin: "Flip flops on abortion are a fairly common feature of political resumes in the past few decades. But Romney's flip flops are both more recent and apparently more frequent than most." (Yuval Levin, "Will The Real Mitt Romney Please Stand Up?" *National Review's The Corner*, 2/19/07)

The New Republic's Michelle Cottle: "In modern U.S. politics, it takes work to distinguish oneself as an exceptional opportunist. Romney has met that challenge." (Michelle Cottle, "The Press Makes Too Much Of McCain's Temperament," *The New Republic Website*, 5/25/07)

Human Events' Matt Naugle: "[K]eeping track of Romney's blunders is an overwhelming task." (Matt Naugle, "Romney Bungles Castro Quote In Miami," *Human Events Website*, 3/19/07)

Weekly Standard's Fred Barnes: "[I] don't think [Christian conservatives are] going to be a problem. He has other problems – being from Massachusetts and flip-flopping on issues, those are problems for him." (Fox News' "Special Report," 2/8/07)

The Hill's Dick Morris: "Should the right seek a real alternative to Giuliani, Romney's flip-flops will likely disqualify him." (Dick Morris, Op-Ed, "Hillary And Rudy Could Wrap It Up This Year," *The Hill*, 2/7/07)

Boston Herald's Shelly Cohen: "[Romney] has a spotty record as a fiscal conservative. He has an even spottier record of flip-flopping on social issues." (Fox News' "America's Newsroom," 2/13/07)

Boston Globe's Joan Vennochi: "How much trust can Republican primary voters reasonably invest in a politician who changed so many positions? How good is Romney's word today?" (Joan Vennochi, Op-Ed, "Mitt Romney's Skeletons In The Closet," *The Boston Globe*, 5/27/07)

Roll Call's Mort Kondracke: "[F]lip-flopping is a big issue. [Romney], at one point, refused to sign the no-tax pledge, the Grover Norquist no-tax pledge, now he's signed it. You know, there's just all kinds of changes from Massachusetts to running for national office as a conservative." (Fox News' "Special Report," 2/8/07)

Des Moines Register's David Yepsen: "He's got to shake the implication he's flip-flopped to make himself more appealing to the religious conservatives." (David Yepsen, "Romney Faces Meaty Questions On Social Issues," *Des Moines Register*, 2/13/07)

National Review's Rich Lowry: "For all the trouble the flip-flops have given him, let's face it, we wouldn't even be talking about him if he were a one-term pro-choice former governor of Massachusetts." (Rich Lowry, "Romney And The State Of The Race," *National Review's The Corner*, 2/15/07)

- **Lowry:** "[R]omney doesn't yet have what a top-tier candidates needs, which is a compelling narrative for his candidacy (I didn't hear it in his announcement speech yesterday). Instead, his critics are writing that narrative for him as an opportunist and every time Romney continues to do what he did to get here – move right on everything – it only plays into the negative narrative." (Rich Lowry, "Romney And The State Of The Race," *National Review's The Corner*, 2/15/07)

Washington Post: "This posturing [on hunting] became a particular problem for Mr. Romney in large part because it reinforced the existing narrative of the governor as a politician willing to change his ideological stripes to fit the political environment of the moment." (Editorial, "Killer Rabbits," *The Washington Post*, 4/10/07)

Politico's Elizabeth Wilner: "[Romney] might just be smooth enough to survive this clumsy mess of inconvenient residency and conveniently timed changes of heart." (Elizabeth Wilner, "Romney Ducks And Dodges Over Mass.," *The Politico*, 5/29/07)

- **Wilner:** "Abortion. Stem cell research. Immigration. The drip-drip of Romney's timely conversions to conservative positions goes on." (Elizabeth Wilner, "Romney Ducks And Dodges Over Mass.," *The Politico*, 5/29/07)

Syndicated Columnist Deroy Murdock: "With his angular jaw and slicked-back, dark hair, Romney is the GOP's George Clooney. Who needs the White House? Romney should become a movie star. He already is a skilled actor." (Deroy Murdock, "Mitt May Only Act Part Of Reagan," *Boston Herald*, 2/16/07)

- **Murdock:** "Romney is either a rock-ribbed conservative who played a Rockefeller Republican to get elected in Massachusetts, or a limousine liberal portraying a conservative to win the 2008 GOP nomination. This fine thespian has so lost himself in both these roles that no one really knows where the performer ends and the characters begin." (Deroy Murdock, "Mitt May Only Act Part Of Reagan," *Boston Herald*, 2/16/07)
- **Murdock:** "Romney should warm up to Reagan. After all, Reagan made it big by moving from acting into politics. Romney's best bet may be to make that same journey – in reverse." (Deroy Murdock, "Mitt May Only Act Part Of Reagan," *Boston Herald*, 2/16/07)

New York Daily News: "Tough to beat GOP presidential aspirant Mitt Romney on sheer opportunism. After flipping his positions on abortion (he had a conversion after looking into stem-cell research), gun control (he's been a life-long National Rifle Association member since August) and gay marriage (he liked gay Republicans fine when he was running for Massachusetts governor), now he's flipped on immigration." (Editorial, "The Many Faces Of Mitt," [*New York Daily News*], 5/22/07)

Newsweek's Evan Thomas and Jonathan Darman: "...Romney's turnaround on the burning social issues of gay rights, stem-cell research and abortion has raised questions about the candidate's sincerity – a dangerous doubt at a time when voters seem to crave authenticity." (Jonathan Darman and Evan Thomas, "Mitt Romney: Too Good To Be True?" *Newsweek*, 2/26/07)

Washington Post's Richard Cohen: "I have been following the zigs and zags of Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and now Republican presidential candidate, watching him grow progressively less progressive, sort of making himself up as he goes along." (Richard Cohen, Op-Ed, "The Talented Mr. Romney," *The Washington Post*, 2/20/07)

- **Cohen:** "[A] total flip from always legal to always illegal (the clear message he's sending abortion foes) can have only one explanation: Potomac fever." (Richard Cohen, Op-Ed, "The Talented Mr. Romney," *The Washington Post*, 2/20/07)
- **Cohen:** "In fact, to watch Romney ... was to see a thoroughly counterfeit man. If he were a coin, a vending machine would spit him out." (Richard Cohen, Op-Ed, "The Talented Mr. Romney," *The Washington Post*, 2/20/07)

National Review's John Podhoretz: "Romney comes out of nowhere to rise into the first tier of candidates, raises \$6 million in a night, gives a bad speech in his maiden appearance in the right-wing big leagues, chickens out on spelling out a firm position on Iraq, gets tagged as a flip-flopper, loses steam, goes up on the air with an ad to shore up his declining support, and starts frontally attacking other candidates to bring up their negatives." (John Podhoretz, "Mitt Snit," *National Review's The Corner*, 2/21/07)

Washington Post's Ruth Marcus: "[I]t was also hard to see how a man with deeply held convictions on abortion rights – either for or against – could take a position so calibrated and inconclusive." (Ruth Marcus, "Mitt Romney's Extreme Makeover," *The Washington Post*, 2/21/07)

- **Marcus:** "Listening to Romney that day was like watching a chameleon in the fleeting moment that its color changes to suit its environment." (Ruth Marcus, "Mitt Romney's Extreme Makeover," *The Washington Post*, 2/21/07)

Newsweek: "[Romney] seems to lack good fingertips for the subtleties of politics." (Evan Thomas et al, "Is Mitt Romney Ready For Prime-Time Politics?" *Newsweek*, 4/16/07)

Associated Press's Liz Sidoti: "Republican Mitt Romney titled his book on how he saved the scandal-ridden 2002 Olympics 'Turnaround.' Now, as he runs for president, he's trying to fight the perception that he's committed a few too many turnarounds." (Liz Sidoti, "Romney Tries To Overcome Inconsistencies," *The Associated Press*, 2/27/07)

- **Sidoti:** “The former Massachusetts governor’s equivocations on major issues – and outright position changes on others – threaten to derail his nascent 2008 campaign.” (Liz Sidoti, “Romney Tries To Overcome Inconsistencies,” *The Associated Press*, 2/27/07)
- **Sidoti:** “As previous White House hopefuls have learned, once a candidate is perceived to have a pattern of inconsistency, labels like flip-flopper and waffler are extremely difficult to shake.” (Liz Sidoti, “Romney Tries To Overcome Inconsistencies,” *The Associated Press*, 2/27/07)

Slate’s Daniel Gross: “For Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, the transition from moderate, gay-friendly, abortion-tolerating Massachusetts governor to a certified social conservative isn’t going smoothly. YouTube and Google have exposed Romney’s shifting policy positions and relatively recent history of liberal behavior.” (Daniel Gross, Op-Ed, “The CEO Candidate,” *Slate.com*, 2/27/07)

- **Gross:** “Romney’s flip-flops have been aggravated by his clumsy responses.” (Daniel Gross, Op-Ed, “The CEO Candidate,” *Slate.com*, 2/27/07)
- **Gross:** “Disavowing his remarks in the 1994 Kennedy debate, [Romney] said: ‘Of course, I was wrong on some issues back then. I think most of us learn with experience.’ Yes, as an unformed man of 47, this CEO, father, and multimillionaire was in the thrall of foolish, immature ideas.” (Daniel Gross, Op-Ed, “The CEO Candidate,” *Slate.com*, 2/27/07)
- **Gross:** “It’s not surprising that Romney has fled from his public record and is running to the right. What’s surprising is that the man who has usually been so competent is proving to be rather poor at execution, and timing.” (Daniel Gross, Op-Ed, “The CEO Candidate,” *Slate.com*, 2/27/07)

New York Sun’s Ryan Sager: “Mr. Romney, however, somehow got pegged by the national press as ‘the smooth one.’ They dubbed him Matinee Mitt. Clearly, it’s the hair that fooled them. In fact, a study of the campaign so far shows that Mr. Romney is the most gaffe-prone of all the Republican candidates.” (Ryan Sager, “Romney’s Energy Gaffe,” *The New York Sun*, 4/20/07)

The Hill’s A.B. Stoddard: “Romney thinks he has found a winner in campaign finance reform. ... Unfortunately, one can readily access enough contradictory statements from Romney’s pre-conversion period of his career to find that campaign finance reform is indeed another one of Mitt’s Murky Issues.” (A.B. Stoddard, “No Momentum For Mitt,” *The Hill’s Pundits Blog*, 4/26/07)

Democrat Consultant Bruce Reed: “Mitt Romney is the Jay Gatsby of American politics – a fiction within a fiction who was born in the Midwest, made his fortune in the East, and never stops reinventing himself to impress those he meets along the way.” (Bruce Reed, “Announcing The Mitt Romney Look-Alike Contest,” *Slate’s “The Has Been” Blog*, www.slate.com, 5/29/07)