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**Policy and Structure** Although its founders refused to recognize the right of states and territories to practice slavery, the modern Republican Party supports states' rights against the power of the federal government in most cases. It opposes the federal regulation of traditionally state and local matters, such as policing and education. Because the party is highly decentralized, opinions on certain issues vary. But in general most Republicans advocate reduced taxes as a means of stimulating the economy and preserving individual economic freedom. They tend to oppose government regulation of business, government-funded social programs, affirmative action, and policies aimed at strengthening the rights of workers. Many Republicans, though not all, support increased government regulation of the private, noneconomic lives of citizens in some areas, such as abortion. However, most Republicans also strongly oppose gun-control legislation. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to support organized prayer in public schools and to oppose the legal recognition of equal rights for gays and lesbians. Regarding foreign policy, the Republican Party traditionally has supported a strong national defense and the aggressive pursuit of U.S. national security interests even when that involves acting in opposition to the views of the international community.  |  |  |

Learn how your views relate to Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate:



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