

Summary of Topics raised in the Aug 11, 2011 Republican Debate

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This summary is taken from a transcript of the debate. I have overlooked many general remarks referring to Obama, and self promotion "Look at my record". I also overlook some side by side bickering. This is mostly a list of issues discussed. Not every participant spoke on every topic, and there was not a unanimity of agreement on all topics. Topics are not presented in the order in which they were discussed. Many important issues were not discussed: how best to achieve energy independence; how to contain the cost of medicare and social security, etc.

Comments in parentheses are my own. Italics refer to a speaker

The Debaters were: Michele Bachman, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, John Huntsman, Tim Pawlenty, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum:

The Role of Government in the Economy

Debt Ceiling, should not have been raised. -- *Bachman* and others. (No discussion or concern expressed about any consequences if that had happened.)

Should have passed "Cut Cap and Balance." cut spending, cap the budget, and a balanced budget amendment for the Constitution.

Corporate tax rates should be reduced. Impose a flat tax, Eliminate capital gains tax.

No tax increases, period. *Unanimous*

Trade Policies? (No specifics mentioned)

Repeal Dodd Frank, Sarbanes Oxley

Supercommittee of 12 is a dumb idea.

Reduce regulations -- EPA for example -- to help business grow and create jobs.

Permit tax free repatriation of overseas earnings for corporations.

Eliminate, phase out, or audit the Federal Reserve. Its actions cause the business cycle.

Jobless Benefits: workers should contribute and draw from a personal savings plan.

Energy Policy

Is tied to our security. (not much else was said except we should have more energy.)

No to Cap and Trade. (It's an energy tax.)

10th Amendment & States Rights

Same-sex marriage? Who is better to decide, state, federal, the Supreme Court or a constitutional amendment. (Arguments on both sides of the state vs. federal question)

Federal role in education: No Child Left Behind has not worked. Introduce vouchers? Education is a state and local, not federal, responsibility. End unfunded mandates

Health Care

Repeal "Obamacare." It is unconstitutional to compel citizens to purchase services, -- What about education?

Race and Religion

Abortion: All opposed. Is it criminal for doctors to perform abortions? Are there exceptions for rape? health of mother? (no consensus)

Romney is a Mormon; does that bother some Christian voters in the south? (Note: Huntsman is also a Mormon)

Sharia Law? No! The first allegiance must be to the Constitution. "Ensure that those Americans and [sic] the American government are loyal to the United States." *Gingrich*

The official language of the U.S. is English

"As president, would you, following the Lord, be submissive to your husband?" Asked by *Byron York* "What submission means to us, if that's what your question is, it means respect." *Bachman*

Governor Perry? -- we can use his prayers.

Illegal Immigration

Secure the borders first. Use troops returning from Afghanistan?

No entitlements for Illegals

Legal immigration for those with key skills.

Permit states to deal with the immigration issues (referring to 10th amendment)

Government should not force employers to be the immigration police.

Foreign Relations

Iran: The central issue in the Middle East and a threat to Israel. Iran should not be allowed to get atomic weapons.

Ron Paul disagrees "The Soviets and the Chinese have nuclear weapons . . . we didn't attack them. And they were a much greater danger . . . We started [the war in Iran] in 1953 when we installed the shah" [The war with Iran] been going on and on because we just plain don't mind our own business." *Paul*

Afghanistan: For political reasons, Obama, is pulling out too fast. Obama should listen to his Generals who want a longer time period.

Libya: Too much or too little involvement? Unsure. Our involvement should be covert.

Are cyber attacks an act of war? Yes, and we should engage the Chinese on the issue.

Syria: Assad should go, Obama is indecisive.

Cuba: re-establish normal relations.

Israel: Our only friends in the Middle East, and Obama is damaging our relations. "There should be no daylight between us and the nation of Israel." *Pawlenty*

Terrorists

Terrorists do not have rights to a civil trial. Who decides who is a Terrorist?

General Principles

"Some principles non-negotiable" (*Bachman* on abortion)

Judicial selections should be conservative

