



Speaking out for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



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## Special Feature: The 2012 Election

VOR Weekly News Update

**Did you receive this as forwarded e-mail? If so, someone thought you would benefit from VOR's information. Please consider [joining VOR](#) and receive this E-News Update publication weekly!**

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**VOR is a national organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities**  
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**Quotable, by Franklin D. Roosevelt**

**Coming Up:**

**The Growing Burden on Caregivers**

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#### 1) Disclaimer

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VOR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity organization. As such, VOR is not allowed to take a position on any candidate for any political office.

We can, however, share background information aimed at assisting our members in making informed decisions with regard to candidates for President.

It is in that spirit that we offer this special

**VOR  
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resource**

Election issue of the *VOR Weekly E-News Update*.

Effort was made to provide balanced information from the perspective of each candidate. VOR does not, and cannot, favor one candidate over the other; nor does sharing this information suggest support for the organization publishing the information. The information is provided in the spirit of informing and to encourage you to VOTE.

## **2) National Presidential Forum on Disability Issues**

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Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy, Jr., (D) and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers(R-WA) are spoke on behalf of their respective parties at the [National Forum on Disability Issues \(NFDI\)](#) to present their campaign's positions on matters relating to Americans with disabilities. The event took place in Columbus, Ohio on September 28, 2012.

According to organizers, the non-partisan forum was the only national event that brings together representatives from President Barack Obama's and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's campaigns and provides them with a platform to present their candidate's policy positions on disability issues.

Each representative occupied the stage exclusively for 30 minutes. During that time, they had 10 minutes to present their party's vision for the future on disability policy in America and 20 minutes to respond to questions presented by moderator, Frank Sesno. Questions for the session were generated by the disability community. Each candidate had the opportunity to address such topics as employment, health care, long-term community-based services and supports, education, transportation, housing, and research.

[18 video segments](#), including statements and answers by Kennedy and McMorris Rodgers are available on YouTube, or you can [download the complete transcript here](#). Kennedy begins speaking on page 20 of the transcript and McMorris Rodgers begins speaking on page 44 of the transcript.

## **2) The Candidates' Positions**

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You can get positions on many issues, including disability and healthcare, directly from the Presidential candidates.

[Here is Governor Romney's policy on healthcare.](#)

[Here is President Obama's policy statements on health care.](#)

[The full Democrat Platform can be found here.](#)

[The full Republican Platform can be found here.](#)

## **3) The 2012 Party Platforms: Comparison of Disability-Related Issues**

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**The Arc \* September 26, 2012**

This [document](#) a side by side comparison of disability-related issues from both the Republican and Democrat Party Platforms. The issues are broken down into two categories: "Disability Mentions" and "Entitlements" and include:

- \* Americans with Disabilities (general overview)
- \* Civil Rights
- \* Education
- \* Poverty
- \* Voting
- \* Social Security and Medicare
- \* Medicaid

This information is provided for individuals to use in making their own judgments and to inform their vote.

## **4) Two Campaigns have sharply different visions for Medicaid**

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***New York Times* \* September 1, 2012**

Few other issues present a starker difference between the Republican and Democratic tickets. President Obama, through the health care law that was a centerpiece of his domestic agenda, seeks a vast expansion of Medicaid, which currently covers more than 60 million Americans — compared with 50 million in Medicare — and costs the states and the federal government more than \$400 billion a year.

To fulfill the law's goal of near-universal coverage, the president envisions adding as many as 17 million people to the rolls by allowing everyone with incomes up to 133 percent of the poverty level to enroll, including many childless adults. While the Supreme Court ruled in June that states could opt out of the expansion, Medicaid — and federal spending on it — is still likely to grow significantly if Mr. Obama wins a second term.

Mr. Romney and Mr. Ryan would take Medicaid in the opposite direction. They would push for the repeal of the health care law and replace the current Medicaid program with block grants, giving each state a lump sum and letting them decide eligibility and benefits. (Currently, the federal government sets minimum requirements, like covering all children under the poverty level, which some states surpass. It also provides unlimited matching funds.) The grants would grow at the rate of inflation, with adjustments for population growth. Critics say annual increases would not keep up with rising health care costs.

[Read More](#)

**5) C-SPAN ELECTION RESOURCE: Find out who's running for office in your state**

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The [C-SPAN Election Resource](#) allows you to zero in on candidates for office in your district.

## 6) Just for Fun: Web Quiz Tells You Which Presidential Candidate Best Fits Your Worldview

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**NPR \* July 19, 2012**

Take one guy with an abiding interest in politics, another guy with website-building skills and throw in the shared desire to get people more engaged in the political process, and you have the ingredients for an interactive site called [ISideWith.com](http://ISideWith.com).

The site's purpose is to show you which presidential candidate's views most align with yours by running you through a short quiz that asks your stance on various policy issues, then determines which candidate most agrees with you.

[Read the article](#)

[Take the quiz](#)

### **Quotable**

*"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."* ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

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