**2012 Democratic Party Platform Summary**

**TAXES:** The Democratic platform calls for extending the middle-class tax cuts for the 98% of families who make less than $250,000 a year, and promises not to raise their taxes. The platform says a typical family has saved $3,600 during Obama's first term.

**ABORTION RIGHTS:** The Democratic platform states that the party "unequivocally" supports Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that affirmed a constitutional right to an abortion. The platform also "supports a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay."

The platform also states: "Abortion is an intensely personal decision between a woman, her family, her doctor and her clergy; there is no place for politicians or government to get in the way."

**GAY MARRIAGE:** The Democratic platform supports the movement to get equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples.

The platform says: "We also support the freedom of churches and religious entities to decide how to administer marriage as a religious sacrament without government interference." The platform opposes "federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal protection under the law" to same-sex couples.

**IMMIGRATION:** The platform says, "Democrats are strongly committed to enacting comprehensive immigration reform." Immigration overhaul would include bringing "undocumented immigrants out of the shadows," requiring illegal immigrants "to get right with the law, learn English and pay taxes" to get on a path toward citizenship. It also calls for a visa system that meets the country's "economic needs, keeps families together and enforces the law." It acknowledges that administrative fixes are not permanent. "Only Congress can provide a permanent, comprehensive solution."

**MEDICARE:** Democrats say the new health care law makes Medicare stronger by adding new benefits, fighting fraud and improving care for patients. It notes that nearly 50 million older Americans and those with disabilities rely on Medicare. Over 10 years, the law will save the average Medicare beneficiary $4,200, the platform says. "Democrats adamantly oppose any efforts to privatize or voucherize Medicare," the platform says.

**HEALTH CARE:** The platform pledges to continue building on the new health care law. It says accessible, affordable, high-quality health care is part of the American promise, that Americans should have the security that comes with good health care, and that no one should go broke because they get sick. "No law is perfect, and Democrats stand willing to work with anyone to improve the law where necessary, but we are committed to moving forward," the platform says.

**DEFENSE:** The platform says Democrats have responsibly ended the war in Iraq, put the al-Qaida terrorist organization on the path to defeat with the killing of Osama bin Laden and reversed the Taliban's momentum to set the stage for the drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Democrats back further reductions in the nuclear weapons stockpile, building on the hard-fought U.S.-Russia treaty that Obama got through the Senate in December 2010.

Democrats say they want to maintain a strong military, but argue that, in the current fiscal environment, tough budgetary decisions must include defense spending. They noted that Democrats and Republicans agreed last summer in the deficit-cutting plan to reduce military spending.