

Mitt Romney

Research Project

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Period 1

Mitt Romney was a Republican candidate for the United States presidency, born on March 12, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan. He grew up and lived in Michigan until he went away to college. He will be 61 years old this election year. It is important to note that Romney has suspended his presidential campaign for 2008. Nevertheless, the content contained herein may be valid as a presidential candidate analysis, anticipating that he may decide to run for President again in 2012.

Mitt Romney is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This has caused some discussion because many people don't know very much about his faith. He served as a missionary for two and a half years in France starting at age 19. He was later a "bishop" (a local pastor) and a "stake president" (a regional leader) for his church – both unpaid clerical positions of much responsibility.

Service in the public and private sectors, and volunteer work, have been a major part of Romney's life. He has been involved in such volunteer organizations as City Year, Boy Scouts of America, and the Points of Light Foundation. He is an Eagle Scout, which is the highest awarded rank of the Boy Scouts of America.

His father, George Romney, was an important businessman and a governor of Michigan. The Romney Institute of Public Management was named in George Romney's honor, because of his commitment to public service. Mitt Romney has frequently expressed admiration for his father, who also ran for United States President (in the 1968 election). His mother is Lenore LaFount Romney. She ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 1970. Mitt Romney followed both his parents in politics and business.

Mitt Romney's given name was Willard Milton Romney – named after J. Willard Marriott (founder of Marriott hotel chain and family friend) and a relative, Milton Romney, who

played football with the Chicago Bears in the 1920s. Mitt Romney has a brother and two sisters. Romney married Ann Davies in 1969, and they have been happily married for 39 years. They have five children, all boys: Tagg, Matt, Josh, Ben, and Craig Romney.

Romney went to high school in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He attended Stanford University for two semesters before he was a missionary. After his mission, he went to Brigham Young University, where he was valedictorian, and earned his B.A. (with Highest Honors) in 1971. At Harvard Business School he earned his M.B.A (he was in the top 5% of his class – named a Baker Scholar), and at Harvard Law School his J.D. “cum laude” in 1975. Mitt Romney is an extremely well-educated individual in many areas, especially in business and law.

Mitt Romney worked at a consulting firm called Bain & Company for several years as vice president, then as CEO. He formed Bain Capital, a venture capital and investment company. Through Bain Capital, he helped several companies to be successful, including The Sports Authority, Brookstone, etc., and even international companies such as Domino’s Pizza and Staples. According to Al Costlow, a previous worldwide marketing manager for Vetco Gray, who now lives in Gulf Breeze, Mitt Romney is extremely knowledgeable in a variety of fields:

“Baine Venture Capital purchased Vetco Gray from Baker Hughes in Houston Texas.

[...] The President of Vetco Gray and I were asked to come to Boston to meet with Mitt Romney and present an overview of Vetco Gray, the market, customers and competitors. The three of us met in a small conference room and discussed our business for more than four hours. Mitt Romney knew our business and the markets better than our president. He asked many probing thought provoking questions and offered valuable advice to improve the performance of our business. I was certainly surprised at his in-depth

knowledge of our business given he was involved with so many companies in so many different industries.”

In 2002, the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics were facing huge financial problems and a \$379 million operating deficit. He took over as President and CEO of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, bringing successful management and reorganization, eliminating the deficit, and saving the Salt Lake City Olympics. Mitt Romney has proven himself to be a qualified and knowledgeable entrepreneur and skilled businessman, which our country needs as we face economic crisis.

Romney has not spent his entire adult life in politics. This may in fact be an advantage to him; he has thus had a chance to gain a lot of experience in other areas, such as management and economics. However, he is not new to politics either. In 2002 he was elected governor of Massachusetts. He served his state well, eliminating \$3 billion dollars of state debt without raising taxes. He stimulated the economy and made the government in his state more efficient. He also lowered the unemployment rate. As governor, he also reformed the educational system and ensured that everyone in Massachusetts would have health insurance.

Mitt Romney, like most of the candidates, has strong opinions about the economic, political and social/moral issues of the times. Mitt Romney feels that the United States economy is weakening. He wants to counteract this weakening by reducing the government’s extravagant spending and borrowing. Romney wants to work to reduce the national debt. He also wants to encourage investment and revamp the trade and tax laws – he advocates lower taxes and a simplified tax code. He wants to make sure that the people become educated so that our country can compete with other countries that are rapidly growing economically – specifically, Romney wants to raise the bar for math and science education, and increase the involvement of parents in

their children's schooling. In addition, he wants to become independent from foreign energy sources through conservation, efficiency, exploitation of domestic oil reserves, and research into alternative energy sources – biodiesel, ethanol, nuclear, coal gasification, et cetera.

As to the political issues, Mitt Romney wants to cut down on the size of the government, thereby reducing spending and waste. He wants to make sure that everything the government spends money on, and all the government jobs, are necessary and nonsuperfluous. Romney wants to set up strict spending limits for the government, as well as to give the executive branch more flexibility in spending. He wants to establish a three-fifths majority vote rule for passing any laws that would raise taxes. One much-debated issue facing the country is illegal immigration. Romney acknowledges that immigration in general is good for the country, but illegal immigration is not. He wants to better secure the nation's borders, improve non-citizen immigrant identification systems and documents, and increase fines and penalties for employers who employ illegal employees. Another political issue is foreign policy. Romney wants to continue the war against terrorism and violent extremists globally. He wants to encourage secular education, modern economic policies, and human rights in other nations.

The social and moral issues Mitt Romney focuses on are varied. Romney wants to make sure every citizen has health insurance – through market reforms, as opposed to government programs or raised taxes. Romney is pro-life, and against abortion in most cases (except cases involving abuse or saving the mother's life). He often repeats that he wants to “preserve the sanctity of life.” He wants to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Nevertheless, he wants to allow states the opportunity to decide their own laws concerning abortion. Mitt Romney firmly believes that our nation's values are decaying, and that the nation's strength and freedom is dependent upon the upholding of traditional moral values. He wants to pass a Federal Marriage Amendment that

defines marriage as between one man and one woman. He wants to protect family values and children by setting stronger laws against immorality, pornography, and violence in the media, in video games, and on the internet.

Mitt Romney's basic campaign strategy is to try to appeal to conservatives, and to infer that he is the "only true conservative." Also, he tries to portray himself as an energetic and innovative executive. Romney has raised about \$105.1 million for his campaign. In addition, he put \$35.4 million of his own money into the campaign. He spent \$96.3 million dollars, and has about \$42.3 million dollars in campaign debt.

At this point, it is impossible for Mitt Romney to win the 2008 Republican presidential nomination (or to become President). He suspended his campaign on February 7. John McCain, the leading Republican candidate, has already obtained the minimum required 1191 delegates to become the Republican nominee. Nevertheless, it is not unlikely that Mitt Romney will run again for President in 2012.

Voter Survey

Twenty-one eligible voters who supported Mitt Romney were surveyed on the following topic, and 12 responded. **Question:** Do you think Mitt Romney should have left the 2008 presidential race?

Yes: 9 (75%)

No: 2 (17%)

I don't know: 1 (8%)

National Polls

Preference for Mitt Romney as the Republican nominee

*Poll:	1	2	3	
Week 1 Average :	20%	19%	23%	<i>(01/20 - 01/26, 2008)</i>
Week 2 Average :	22%	25%	23%	<i>(01/27 - 02/02, 2008)</i>
Week 3 Average :	21%	31%	23%	<i>(02/03 - 02/09, 2008)</i>
Overall Average :	21%	25%	23%	<i>(01/20 - 02/09, 2008)</i>

* Poll 1: Gallup Poll, as reported at <http://www.pollingreport.com/wh08rep.htm>

Poll 2: Rasmussen Reports, as reported at http://rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/weekly_presidential_tracking_polling_history

Poll 3: CBS News Poll, as reported by <http://www.usaelectionpolls.com/2008/cbs-news-national-polls.html>

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