| DEMOCRATS | ACTV | REPUBLICANS |
|---|---|---|
| **HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS** | | |
| Would guarantee legal rights to homosexuals in employment, the military and immigration, and deplore violence against gay men and lesbians. | **We are committed to guaranteeing the civil rights of all citizens, but believe that the creation of so-called "gay rights" for homosexuals is a threat to our nation's family life and extends civil rights beyond what is appropriate.** | Make no mention of homosexual rights. |
| **PORNOGRAPHY** | | |
| Make no mention of pornography. | **We support enactment and enforcement of legislation to contain the moral blight of pornography in our land.** | Opposes sex and violence in media. Recommends vigorous enforcement of obscenity laws. Calls upon FCC to deal with cable pornography. |
| **ERA** | | |
| Endorse adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. Support equal pay for work of comparable worth. | **We affirm the importance of economic justice for women, but reject the Equal Rights Amendment without qualifications as the vehicle to achieve that worthy goal.** | Make no mention of proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, but say all Republicans "are free to work individually for women's progress" and demand that there be "no inhibition" of women's rights to "full opportunity and advancement within this society." Oppose concept of equal pay for jobs of "comparable worth." |
| **PARENTAL RIGHTS** | | |
| No specific mention of parental rights. Emphasis is on government programs providing day care centers, health and welfare programs. Parental involvement in education would be encouraged. | **We contend that government must acknowledge that parents are responsible for the raising of their children.** | Affirms that parents have primary responsibility for their children; government has secondary role in supporting parents. |
| **EDUCATION** | | |
| Call for restoration of Reagan cuts in federal education spending. Promise incentives to schools that focus on science, math, communications, and computer literacy. Would strengthen support for programs targeted at disadvantaged children and would expand bilingual education. | **We believe that parental choice of public or private education should be available to all Americans, not just the wealthy. Therefore, we favor tuition tax credits or the equivalent for parents who send their children to private schools.** | Would limit the federal role in education, restoring power to state and local governments. Support merit pay for teachers. Oppose mandatory busing of students to achieve racial desegregation. Advocate tuition tax credits or vouchers to give parents more choice in where their children are educated. |
| **ECONOMIC POLICY** | | |
| Would reduce federal budget deficits by reassessing defense expenditures, creating a tax system that is "both adequate and fair" and controlling health costs. Oppose the "artificial and rigid restraint" of a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. Would cap the effect of Reagan tax cuts for the wealthy, limiting benefits of third-year reduction to individuals with income below $60,000 a year. Would partially defer tax indexation. Would impose a minimum corporate tax of 15%. Would support tax reform aimed at "broadening the tax base, simplifying the tax code, lowering rates, and eliminating unnecessary, unfair, and unproductive deductions." This "fair tax" unlike the GOP "flat tax," would retain some progressivity in the tax code. | **We favor governmental assistance for the deserving poor, but only through programs which encourage individuals to be self-reliant, thus strengthening the family rather than weakening it.** | Oppose any attempts to increase taxes. Instead, favor reducing deficits by continuing the economic recovery, cutting government spending, and providing incentives for more personal savings. Defend three-year cut in income tax rates enacted in 1981 and oppose repeal of tax indexing. Say a "modified flat tax—with specific exemptions for such items as mortgage interest—is a most promising approach" for tax reform. Support constitutional amendments requiring a balanced budget and a line-item veto so the President can reject individual items in appropriations bills. Suggest the gold standard "may be a useful mechanism" for achieving stable prices. Call for reduced federal regulation. |
| **DEFENSE** | | |
| Would reduce the rate of increase in defense spending. Support "military reform" that would produce more cost-effective military policies. Would terminate production of the MX missile and B-1 bomber, and would prohibit production of nerve gas. | **We support a strong national defense as the surest way to protect the security and liberty of American citizens, and to assure peace and freedom in the world.** | Support Reagan administration's increase in defense spending and would make military spending an even larger share of the federal budget. Endorse development and deployment of the MX missile. Support deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe. |

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