

# Where They Stand: 2012 Presidential Candidates and Housing Issues

*A guide to each candidates' views on hot housing topics in this year's election*

	Mortgage Interest Deduction (MID)	Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs)	Home Affordable Mortgage Program (HAMP)	Underwater Mortgages/Foreclosures	Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP)
 <b>President Barack Obama</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scale back MID</li> <li>Eliminate MID for the "rich"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Fannie and Freddie to help the ailing housing system but eventually phase out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of HAMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow "underwater" borrowers to refinance their mortgages at today's low rates</li> <li>Believes nation's struggling housing market is holding back the economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of HARP</li> <li>"[HARP] helps more people refinance their mortgages at interest rates that are now near 4 percent."</li> </ul>
 <b>Mitt Romney</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of MID</li> <li>"Needs to remain."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shut down Fannie and Freddie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opposed to HAMP</li> <li>Believes HAMP has slowed the housing recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less government interference</li> <li>Foreclosures have to run their course</li> <li>Prices must bottom out to restore confidence and stability</li> <li>"The right course is to let the markets work."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Worth consideration."</li> </ul>
 <b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of maintaining MID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Break-up Fannie and Freddie</li> <li>Smaller privatized institutions would increase competitiveness and accountability</li> <li>Housing GSEs have made an "important contribution" to homeownership</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not favor free market approach</li> <li>Need to renegotiate bad mortgages</li> <li>Make banks share losses with homeowners</li> </ul>	N/A
 <b>Ron Paul</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Privatize Fannie and Freddie</li> <li>Fannie and Freddie is a "deeply flawed" system tied too closely to government.</li> <li>"Very, very dangerous"</li> <li>Fannie and Freddie are a "lender of last resort"</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government should be enforcing contracts, not undermining them.</li> <li>Government assistance for underwater homeowners is prolonging market correction.</li> <li>Leave it to the market</li> </ul>	N/A
 <b>Rick Santorum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of maintaining MID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Privatize Fannie and Freddie</li> <li>Attributes financial crisis to Fannie and Freddie</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A
 <i>Withdrawn from presidential race on Jan. 19, 2012.</i> <b>Rick Perry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of maintaining MID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get rid of mortgage giants like Fannie and Freddie</li> <li>"They're stealing from the people."</li> <li>Labeled mortgage giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are the "modern day Bonnie and Clyde."</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believes job creation and economic growth will spur housing market turnaround</li> </ul>	N/A

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