



# ELECTION 2012

## WHAT'S AT STAKE: PRESIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS

Access to health care remains a top concern for many Americans, including Asian Americans & Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (AA&NHOPIs). The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) upheld the constitutionality of the law, including a requirement for most Americans to have health insurance by 2014. This document summarizes the health care proposals and stances of two of the Presidential candidates—the Democratic nominee, Barack Obama, and the Republican nominee, Mitt Romney. President Obama’s stances are pulled from the ACA and Mitt Romney’s stances are from his campaign proposals. This document only considers the candidate’s positions on private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and women’s health care.

ISSUE	BARACK OBAMA	MITT ROMNEY
<p><b>PRIVATE INSURANCE:</b> Currently, 71% of AA&amp;NHOPIs are covered by private insurance plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today, the ACA eliminates lifetime limits on health coverage provided by private insurance plans and allows an estimated 97,000 AA&amp;NHOPi young adults, up to age 26, to stay enrolled under their parent’s plan.<sup>i</sup></li> <li>• Beginning in 2014, insurance companies will be prohibited from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions.</li> <li>• Individuals will be required to purchase health insurance or pay a fine, starting in 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposes to repeal the ACA, which would eliminate health insurance coverage for an estimated 2 million AA&amp;NHOPIs<sup>ii</sup> who would have received insurance coverage and would lift regulations on health insurance companies under the law.</li> <li>• Supports providing coverage for people with pre-existing conditions who have had continuous coverage.<sup>iii</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>MEDICAID:</b> 1.7 million AA&amp;NHOPIs currently receive coverage through Medicaid. Community health centers also rely on Medicaid reimbursements as a significant source of revenue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ACA seeks to expand the Medicaid program to all individuals with incomes up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level with the federal government paying 100% of the expansion for the first three years and 90% thereafter.<sup>iv</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposes to provide states with a fixed block grant, capping Medicaid spending at 2011 levels, adjusted for inflation.</li> <li>• Does not support expanding Medicaid and has stated that uninsured individuals, who would otherwise have</li> </ul>

		gained coverage under the program's expansion, can receive health care at hospital emergency rooms. <sup>v</sup>
<p><b>MEDICARE:</b> Medicare is an important public health insurance program for the low income, elderly and infirm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ACA created \$716 billion in savings by cutting payments to Medicare Advantage plans.</li> <li>• By 2010, savings per traditional beneficiary were estimated to rise to \$649 and \$2,217 in prescription drug savings for a Medicare Part D beneficiary.<sup>vi</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposes to rescind the payment cuts, thereby eliminating the Medicare savings under the ACA.</li> <li>• Instead, supports Paul Ryan's plan whereby seniors receive a fixed payment to purchase insurance (i.e., voucher).</li> </ul>
<p><b>WOMEN'S HEALTH:</b> Women's reproductive health has become a major issue for AA&amp;NHOPi women in this election.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, new insurance plans are required to cover certain women's preventive care without cost to the individual and maintains funding for Planned Parenthood.</li> <li>• Maintains existing prohibitions on federal funding for abortions.<sup>vii</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposes to repeal the ACA, eliminating the Women's Health Amendment, and supports a ban on abortions with exceptions for the mother's life, rape, and incest.</li> <li>• Has also stated support to end funding of Planned Parenthood and reversing Roe v. Wade.<sup>viii</sup></li> </ul>

**Protecting the right for everyone to vote is key to keeping our communities healthy!**

**VOTE ON NOV. 6<sup>TH</sup>!**



*This fall, the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) and its member community health centers worked with communities across the nation to provide voter registration, voter education, and voter engagement activities for the AA&NHOPi community. This is an important effort to uphold the values of democracy that community health centers hold. For more information, contact Albert Ayson, Jr. at AAPCHO at [aayson@aapcho.org](mailto:aayson@aapcho.org).*

<sup>i</sup> Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Why Protecting Medicaid Matters for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Washington, DC: APIAHF; October 2011

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The Affordable Care Act and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; April 2012.

<sup>iii</sup> Mitt Romney for President. Health Care – Repeal and Replace Obamacare. <http://www.mittromney.com/issues/health-care>

<sup>iv</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Affordable Care Act Financing. Baltimore, MD: CMS; accessed October 2012. <http://www.medicare.gov/AffordableCareAct/Provisions/Financing.html>

<sup>v</sup> Weiner, R. Romney: Uninsured have emergency rooms. Washington, DC: The Washington Post. September 24, 2012.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/election-2012/wp/2012/09/24/romney-calls-emergency-room-a-health-care-option-for-uninsured/>

<sup>vi</sup> Lavarreda SA, Snyder S, and Roby DH. Health Care Proposals in the 2012 Presidential Campaign. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, October 2012.

<sup>vii</sup> Democrats Senate.gov. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Abortion Provisions. Washington, DC: DPC; accessed October 2012. [dpc.senate.gov/healthreformbill/healthbill18.pdf](http://dpc.senate.gov/healthreformbill/healthbill18.pdf)

<sup>viii</sup> Friedman, E. Mitt Romney Clarifies Abortion Stance, Re-Affirms Desire to Defund Planned Parenthood. Delaware, OH: ABC News; October 10, 2012. <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/10/mitt-romney-clarifies-abortion-stance-re-affirms-desire-to-defund-planned-parenthood/>