



Why the Romney-Ryan Ticket Is Bad for Women

Jessica Arons

When it comes to women's issues, there is little to distinguish Republican presidential nominee and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney from the more radical elements of his party, which includes his running mate Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI). Here are the top four reasons why women and their families should be troubled by the radical positions of the Romney-Ryan ticket.

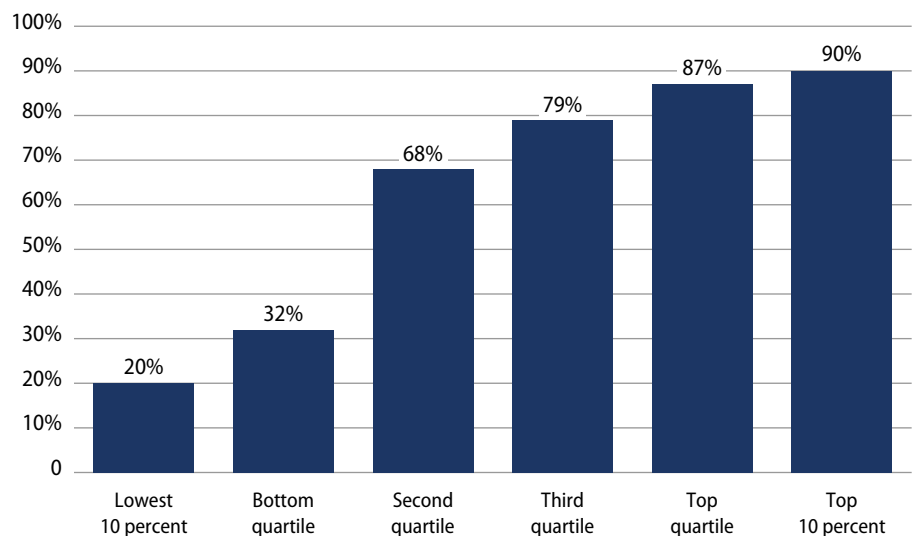
Gov. Romney and Rep. Ryan would threaten women's jobs and economic security

The Romney-Ryan campaign promises to cut jobs in the women-dominated public sector, including downsizing teachers. Gov. Romney also says he would not raise the minimum wage for the 2.5 million women who work at the bottom of the pay scale. Nor will he voice support for the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes in existing pay equity laws and would empower women by enabling them to better determine their market value and negotiate on their own behalf. Similarly, he has not come out in favor of the Healthy Families Act, which would allow workers to earn up to seven paid sick days per year. (see Figure 1)

FIGURE 1

Romney is okay with sick pay only for the affluent in the United States

Percent of workers with access to paid sick days by income, 2012



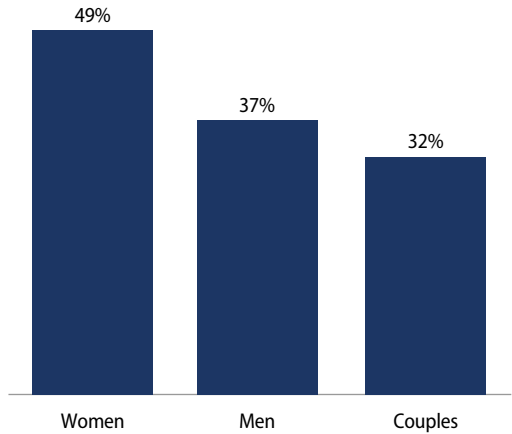
Source: Employee Benefits in the US - March 2012, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table 6

Gov. Romney and Rep. Ryan would raise taxes on working women and severely cut essential safety net programs to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy

Gov. Romney pledges to reduce the federal deficit, cap federal spending, and increase military spending, all while extending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and adding a new tax cut giveaway of \$4.9 trillion for those who least need it. Fulfilling such promises would necessitate raising taxes on the middle class and imposing severe cuts to essential safety net programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. These are all programs upon which middle- and low-income women heavily rely. (see Figure 2)

FIGURE 2
Romney is okay with reducing the benefits of women, who rely more heavily on Social Security

Social Security benefits as a percentage of income, 2010



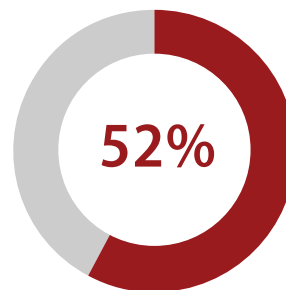
Source: Social Security Administration. "Social Security Is Important to Women." January 2012.

Gov. Romney and Rep. Ryan would end Obamacare and its many benefits for women

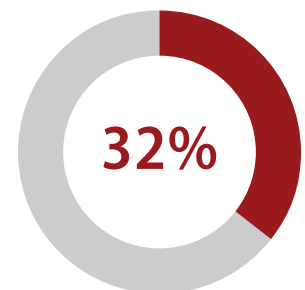
Gov. Romney promises to repeal the Affordable Care Act "on day one" of his presidency and endorses the budget proposed by Rep. Ryan in Congress, which would dismantle the health reform law in a number of ways. This would mean denying guaranteed maternity coverage to 8.7 million women, allowing insurers to continue charging women \$1 billion more than men each year in premiums for the same set of benefits, and denying women insurance coverage for having had a Cesarean section or for being the victim of rape or domestic violence. It would also end no-cost coverage for recommended preventive services—despite the fact that more than half of American women have reported delaying needed medical care because of cost, while one-third of women have given up basic necessities such as food, heat, or rent to pay for health care expenses. (see Figure 3)

FIGURE 3
Women report their health care decisions are affected by cost

The percentage of women who report delaying needed medical care because of cost



The percentage of women who report giving up basic necessities to pay for health care expenses



Source: Sheila D. Rustgi, Michelle M. Doty, and Sara R. Collins, "Women at Risk: Why Many Women Are Forgoing Needed Health Care" (New York: Commonwealth Fund, 2009)

Gov. Romney and Rep. Ryan would take away a woman's right to make decisions about whether and when to have children

Gov. Romney supports state constitutional “personhood” amendments that would define life as beginning at conception. Rep. Ryan co-sponsored a similar federal bill in Congress. Such laws would:

- Outlaw abortion in all circumstances with no exceptions whatsoever
- Criminalize certain forms of contraception
- Restrict options for fertility treatments
- Interfere with the ability to treat ectopic pregnancies, a medical emergency where an embryo implants in the ovaries or fallopian tubes instead of the uterus

Gov. Romney also pledges to “get rid of” Planned Parenthood and eliminate our nation’s family planning program. He supported a law that would have allowed employers to deny women insurance coverage for contraception. (see Figure 4)

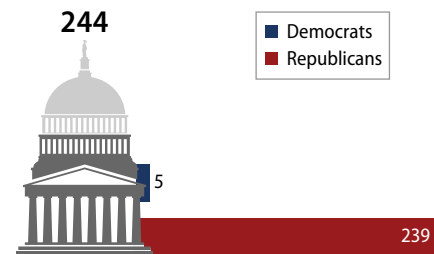
The policies promoted by Gov. Romney and Rep. Ryan are both extreme and costly. Women simply cannot afford the price of this ticket.

All of the details presented in this fact sheet are documented in our series on Gov. Romney’s plans for America, titled “Romney University,” presented by the Center for American Progress Action Fund. Get the facts here.

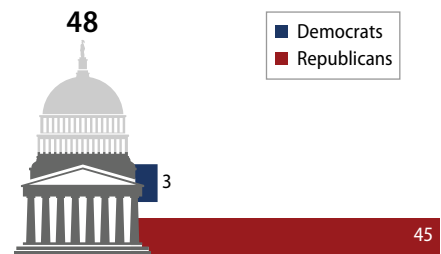
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FIGURE 4
Reproductive health still under attack

The number of representatives who voted on July 11, 2012 to repeal the Affordable Care Act and take away birth control and other preventive women’s services



The number of senators who voted for the Blunt Amendment on March 1, 2012, which would have let bosses deny birth control coverage to their employees



Sources: “Final Vote Results For Roll Call 460: H.R. 6079,” available at <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll460.xml#NV> (last accessed August 2012). “Vote Summary: On the Motion to Table (Motion to Table Blunt Amdt. No. 1520),” available at http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=112&session=2&vote=00024 (last accessed August 2012).