

Set 1: feder, texa, govern, size, role, differ, vice, priorit

Set 2: school, teacher, parent, educ, public, children, choic, student

Set 3: energi, coal, gas, oil, clean, land, technolog, wind

Set 4: colleg, young, opportun, kid, abl, teacher, loan, grant

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MODERATOR That is a terrific segue to our next segment, and is the role of government. And — and lets see. Role of government. And it is — you are first on this, Mr. President. And the question is this. Do you believe, both of you — but you had the first two minutes on this, Mr. President — do you believe theres a fundamental difference between the two of you as to how you view the mission of the federal government?

BARACK OBAMA Well, I definitely think there are differences.

MODERATOR And do you — yeah.

BARACK OBAMA The first role of the federal government is to keep the American people safe. Thats its most basic function. And as commander- in- chief, that is something that Ive worked on and thought about every single day that Ive been in the Oval Office. But I also believe that government has the capacity, the federal government has the capacity to help open up opportunity and create ladders of opportunity and to create frameworks where the American people can succeed. Look, the genius of America is the free enterprise system and freedom and the fact that people can go out there and start a business, work on an idea, make their own decisions. But as Abraham Lincoln understood, there are also some things we do better together. So, in the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln said, lets help to finance the Transcontinental Railroad, lets start the National Academy of Sciences, lets start land grant colleges, because we want to give these gateways of opportunity for all Americans, because if all Americans are getting opportunity, were all going to be better off. That doesnt restrict peoples freedom. That enhances it. And so what Ive tried to do as president is to apply those same principles. And when it comes to education what Ive said is weve got to reform schools that are not working. We use something called Race to the Top. Wasnt a top- down approach, Governor. What weve said is to states, well give you more money if you initiate reforms. And as a consequence, you had 46 states around the country who have made a real difference. But what Ive also said is lets hire another 100, 000 math and science teachers to make sure we maintain our technological lead and our people are skilled and able to succeed. And hard- pressed states right now cant all do that. In fact weve seen layoffs of hundreds of thousands of teachers over the last several years, and Governor Romney doesnt think we need more teachers. I do, because I think that that is the kind of investment where the federal government can help. It cant do it all, but it can make a difference. And as a consequence well have a better trained workforce and that will create jobs because companies want to locate in places where weve got a skilled workforce.

MODERATOR Two minutes, Governor, on the role of government. Your view?

MITT ROMNEY Well, first, I love great schools. Massachusetts, our schools are ranked number one of all 50 states. And the key to great schools, great teachers. So I reject the idea that I dont believe in great teachers or more teachers. Every school district, every state should make that decision on their own. The role of government; Look behind us. The

Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The role of government is to promote and protect the principles of those documents. First, life and liberty. We have a responsibility to protect the lives and liberties of our people, and that means a military second to none. I do not believe in cutting our military. I believe in maintaining the strength of Americas military. Second, in that line that says we are endowed by our creator with our rights, I believe we must maintain our commitment to religious tolerance and freedom in this country. That statement also says that we are endowed by our creator with the right to pursue happiness as we choose. I interpret that as, one, making sure that those people who are less fortunate and cant care for themselves are cared by — by one another. Were a nation that believes that were all children of the same god and we care for those that have difficulties, those that are elderly and have problems and challenges, those that are disabled. We care for them. And we — we look for discovery and innovation, all these things desired out of the American heart to provide the pursuit of happiness for our citizens. But we also believe in maintaining for individuals the right to pursue their dreams and not to have the government substitute itself for the rights of free individuals. And what were seeing right now is, in my view, a — a trickle- down government approach, which has government thinking it can do a better job than free people pursuing their dreams. And its not working. And the proof of that is 23 million people out of work. The proof of that is 1 out of 6 people in poverty. The proof of that is weve gone from 32 million on food stamps to 47 million on food stamps. The proof of that is that 50 percent of college graduates this year cant find work.

MODERATOR All right.

MITT ROMNEY We know that the path were taking is not working. Its time for a new path.

MODERATOR All right. Lets go through some specifics in terms of what — how each of you views the role of government. How do — education. Does the federal government have a responsibility to improve the quality of public education in America?

MITT ROMNEY Well, the primary responsibility for education is — is, of course, at the state and local level. But the federal government also can play a very important role. And I — and I agree with Secretary Arne Duncan, hes — some ideas hes put forward on Race to the Top, not all of them, but some of them I agree with and — and congratulate him for pursuing that. The federal government can get local and — and state schools to do a better job. My own view, by the way, is Ive added to that. I happen to believe, I want the kids that are getting federal dollars from IDEA or Title I — these are disabled kids or — or — or poor kids or — or lower- income kids, rather, I want them to be able to go to the school of their choice. So all federal funds, instead of going to the — to the state or to the school district, Id have go, if you will, follow the child and let the parent and the child decide where to send their — their — their student.

MODERATOR How do you see the federal governments responsibility to, as I say, to improve the quality of public education in this country?

BARACK OBAMA Well, as Ive indicated, I think that it has a significant role to play. Through our Race to the Top program, weve worked with Republican and Democratic governors to initiate major reforms, and theyre having an impact right now.

MODERATOR Do you think you have a difference with your views and — and those of

Governor Romney on — about education and the federal government?