

Opinion: First Presidential debate, Can't we all just get along?



CAMPAIGN COMMENTARY

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Anyone flipping through the channels on TV would have stumbled upon the first Presidential debate early this month. The theme of the first debate was domestic issues in the U.S.

The first subject on the agenda was employment; how many jobs does the runner plan to create if elected? Both candidates agreed that one of the central questions of this campaign is how does one reduce the national deficit, and make the investments that need to be made, without reducing the number of jobs available?

Obama's administration did not raise taxes in the last four years; the hope was that by sustaining the number from going up it would trickle down and stimulate the amount of hiring. By keeping the amount of taxes from rising, the people are able to go spend more money. That in effect raises business, and then that business can potentially hire more workers. Obama stuck to his pledge to not raise taxes, yet according to Forbes, the Supreme Court ruled that the requirement of having health insurance is a tax. Obamacare is a tax in itself because everyone is required to have health insurance regardless of whether or not it can be afforded.

This increases the amount of money the middle class has to pay for the standard of living.

Romney stated that he would not raise taxes on the middle-class. His plan is to keep taxes low, but minimize loopholes and deductions for the rich so that the revenue stays up and the deficit down. This turned in to a heated part in the debate. Obama stated that economists that have reviewed Romney's tax plan said Romney's plan would not work at reducing the deficit without burdening the middle-class somewhere down the line.

"The fact is that if you are lowering the rates the way you described, Governor, then it is

not possible to come up with enough deductions and loopholes that only affect high-income individuals to avoid either raising the deficit or burdening the middle class," said Obama, "It's math. It's arithmetic."

Romney kept repeating the fact he was going to minimize loopholes for the rich; however he failed to mention the specifics. Are these loopholes going to create enough revenue to reduce our \$8 trillion dollar national deficit?

The debate then shifted to how one would reduce the national debt. The Romney-Ryan campaign has already said they would reduce the number of government employees as well as cut all programs deemed unnecessary to spending.

"Well, first of all, I will eliminate all programs by this test, if they don't pass it: Is the program so critical it's worth borrowing money from China to pay for it?" said Romney, during the debate. "And if not, I'll get rid of it." The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget however projects with reasonable assumptions, that by 2025 the public debt will increase by 91 percent if we continue current spending habits. A \$4 million debt reduction plan is to be presented to Congress by the President two days before the elections are to take place.

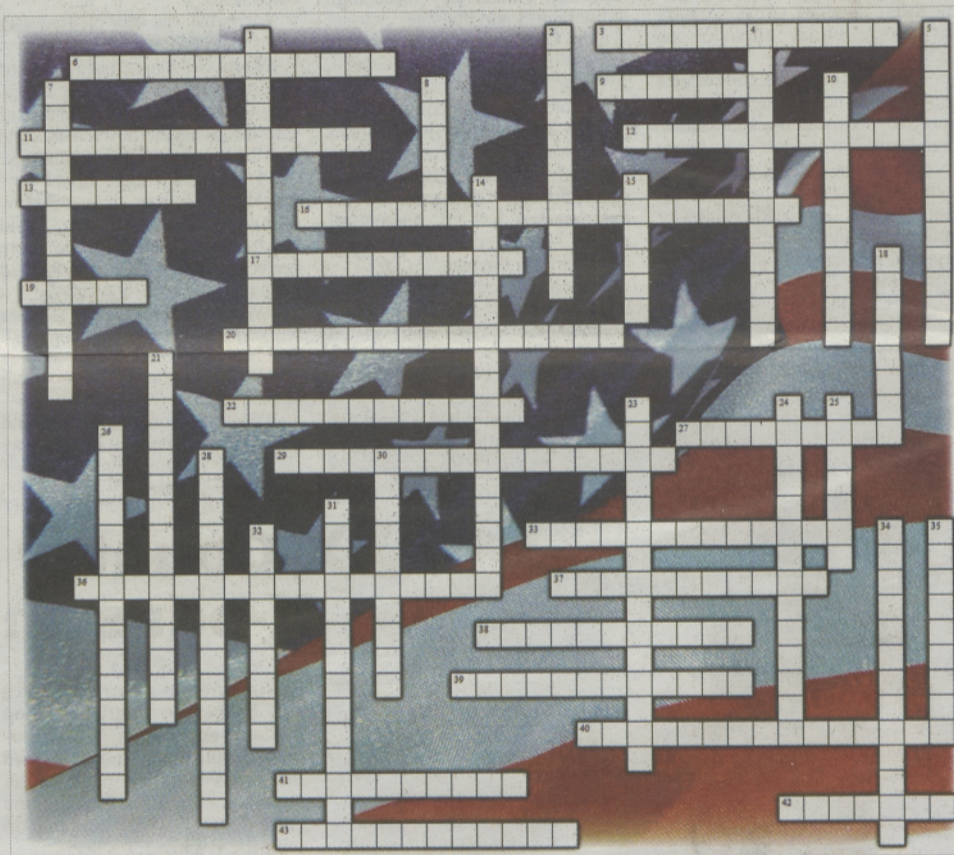
Social Security was one of the only subjects that the two agreed upon. Both agreed that senior citizens and the handicapped depend on these funds, and the elders have a right to the funds they've worked towards all they're lives.

The two painfully disagreed when it came to healthcare. Romney stated that a lot of things about Obamacare didn't make sense, and yet Obama stated it was practically the same plan as Romney's plan in Massachusetts.

The contrast between the two on domestic issues was very apparent. The second debate was held in a town hall setting where citizens selected by the Gallup Organization were able to ask questions about the candidates views about foreign and domestic policy. At press time the debate had not yet happened.



Do you know your presidents?



ACROSS

- 3. The 4th president
- 6. The 7th president
- 9. Eisenhower / The 34th president
- 11. The 14th president
- 12. The 21st president
- 13. Bush / The 43rd president
- 16. The 9th president
- 17. The 42nd president
- 19. Kennedy / The 35th president
- 20. The 23rd president
- 22. The 37th president
- 27. The 2nd president
- 29. The 1st president
- 33. The 15th president
- 36. The 27th president
- 37. The 5th president
- 38. Hayes / The 19th president
- 39. The 33rd president
- 40. The 22nd president
- 41. The 41st president
- 42. Johnson / The 36th president
- 43. The 40th president

DOWN

- 1. The 8th president
- 2. The 39th president
- 4. The 17th president
- 5. The 28th president
- 7. The 31st president
- 8. Garfield / The 20th president
- 10. The 44th president
- 14. The 26th president
- 15. Polk / The 11th president
- 18. Grant / The 18th president
- 21. The 13th president
- 23. The 3rd president
- 24. The 30th president
- 25. Harding / The 29th president
- 26. The 6th president
- 28. The 25th president
- 30. The 38th president
- 31. The 16th president
- 32. The 10th president
- 34. The 12th president
- 35. Roosevelt / The 32nd president

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