



## **“Mitt Romney’s Two Faces”**

by Daniel B. Newby

### **Executive Summary**

Voters increasingly question Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney on two fronts: (1) his flip-flopping on issues such as abortion, and (2) whether his affiliation with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affects his ability to put America's interests first.

Contrary to his public claims, Romney expanded taxpayer-funded abortions as Massachusetts governor through his much-celebrated 2006 universal health care statute. As governor, he also expanded gun control in 2004 and raised taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars in 2003 alone.

Romney’s claim of being an active, faithful member of the Mormon Church is also troubling for the following reasons:

1. Mormon doctrine commands men and women to be “subject to kings” and other tyrants, and to obey statutes and directives that are clearly immoral and unconscionable. Under the Mormon belief system, rights are granted by governments and can therefore be taken away by the same. This flies in the face of America’s revolution and founding.
2. Mormon doctrine teaches members to be absolutely obedient to their prophets, who are, in all practical essence, infallible with regard to their teachings. Thinking or acting contrary to their commands risks a person’s eternal salvation.
3. Mormon leadership has a demonstrable track record of asserting its influence in American politics in a manner that weakens individual rights and national sovereignty. It promotes public policies such as Most Favored Nation Status for China, gun control, thought crimes legislation, and violating illegal immigration statues with selective immunity. It also publicly endorses Mormon politicians with heinous records on basic human rights.
4. Romney does not possess the independent, consistent character realistically required to effectively resist the influence of the Mormon leadership. Americans would be foolish and reckless to ignore his past political behavior, or the past performance of other Mormon candidates.

These concerns have broader application than to Romney or other Mormon political candidates. Whenever a person affiliates with an organization that commands its adherents to believe that some people inherently have more rights than others, we should be alarmed. This alone constitutes sufficient grounds to distrust that candidate’s ability to represent our interests and to protect our rights.