

A Mormon in the White House?



A research project by:

Daniel L. Doornbos

A member of Golden State College,
Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis

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About the Author

Daniel L. Doornbos joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon Church) in 1976 while serving in the United States Army.

Upon completing his enlistment, he served a proselyting mission for the Church in Venezuela from 1980 to 1982. He was later married in the Logan, Utah LDS Temple and served in a variety of teaching and leadership positions in his local congregation.

In 1999, he dropped his membership in the LDS Church to pursue an independent spiritual path. He studied under Dr. Lewis S. Keizer and was consecrated an Independent Bishop in 2007. He is currently a member of the Home Temple Synod of Bishops and the Home Temple Board of Directors.

He is a Past Master of Fraternity Lodge No. 399 and currently a member of Friendship Lodge No. 210, F&AM of California.

He is a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of San Jose and was recently coroneted 33° IGH.

He also serves as an officer in the San Jose York Rite and in Golden State College, SRICF.

A Mormon in the White House?

This paper was written to assist members of SRICF, Freemasons, and any other interested individuals who are confused and uncertain regarding the suitability of a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also known as the LDS or Mormon Church, to serve as president of the United States of America.

A careful and focused examination of the Mormon Church, its development, history, teachings, and interaction with the rest of America, is necessary to identify relevant information and to avoid being lost in tangential and unending study.

Politics and religion are volatile topics, so as Freemasons, we avoid discussing them in our lodges. But as Americans, we must exercise our right to vote according to our conscience and in support of those candidates and laws that we believe to be in the best interest of our nation.

At the time of this writing, two members of the Mormon Church are running for the Republican presidential nomination, and one of them is likely to win that nomination. As a result, Americans of all parties and persuasions will have the opportunity to vote for a Mormon to serve in our nation's highest office. Our usual practice of avoiding discussion of politics and religion is temporarily superseded by our need as voters to be informed.

Without question, religious beliefs and values played a central role in the 2008 U.S. presidential election. And they are again as we approach the next election in 2012. A Mormon may be elected to the White House. What does that mean for America? What does it mean to you?

This paper will:

- Recount the American presidents whose election involved, or could have involved, issues of religion.
- Provide a brief history of Mormonism in the United States.
- Review some past and current Mormon candidates for national office.
- Explore public opinion about the Mormon faith and how that opinion might affect a Mormon presidential candidate.

A list of recommended reading and a table of religious and other information about our U.S. presidents complete the paper. Online sources have been used wherever possible to make it easy for the reader to quickly access sources of additional information.

Religion and the Presidency

There were several incidents in U.S. history when the religious beliefs and values of presidential candidates did not conform to the mainstream. In some cases, that condition resulted in major issues. In others, it made no difference.

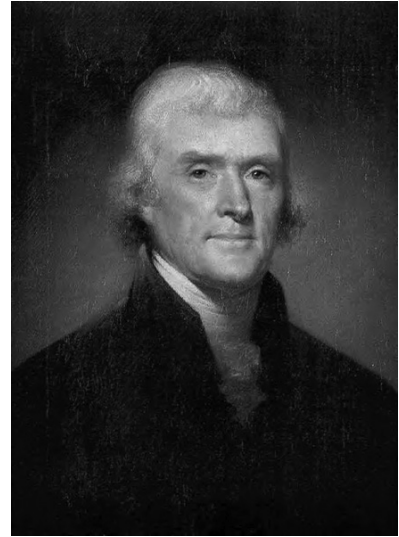
Thomas Jefferson, Deist

The presidential election of 1800 was a problem for Thomas Jefferson, who many considered to be a Deist.¹

¹ "Deism is knowledge of God based on the application of our reason on the designs/laws found throughout Nature."
Quoted from http://www.deism.com/deism_defined.htm.

Jefferson was accused of being an “infidel” and an enemy of the Christian faith.² Yet, Jefferson made a compilation of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, extracted from the Gospels of the King James Bible, commonly known as the *Jefferson Bible*.³ The exclusive focus on the accounts of Jesus might suggest that Jefferson saw himself as a pure disciple of Jesus, rather than a member of mainstream Christianity, with its 1,800 years of historical baggage.

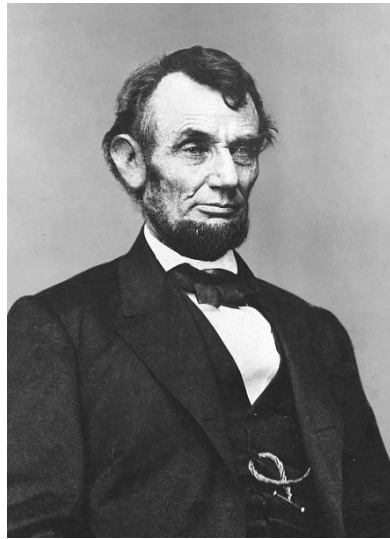
Not surprisingly, Jefferson is remembered as a strong proponent of the separation of Church and State. Among other things, that belief contributed to the First Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits a state-sponsored church or religion, and which in turn proscribes any religious test for candidates for government office.



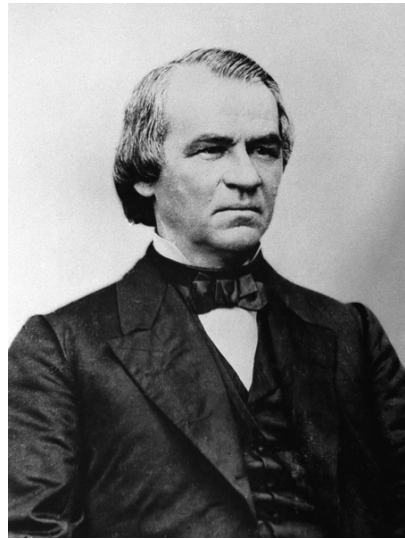
Thomas Jefferson

Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, Unchurched

Religion was not a problem for Abraham Lincoln, who had no stated religion.⁴ However, because Lincoln stood against the expansion of slavery in the presidential campaign of 1860, the public apparently did not question his moral and religious qualifications.



Abraham Lincoln



Andrew Johnson

Perhaps the same was true of Andrew Johnson, Lincoln’s running mate in the presidential campaign of 1864, who was a nominal Christian without a church.⁵

2 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson_and_religion.

3 See <http://www.angelfire.com/co/JeffersonBible/>.

4 See http://www.adherents.com/people/pl/Abraham_Lincoln.html.

5 See <http://millercenter.org/academic/americanpresident/johnson/essays/biography/7>.

The Catholics

In this paper, the term *Catholic*⁶ refers to members of the Roman Catholic Church, headquartered at the Vatican and led by the Pope. About one-half of the world's 2.2 billion Christians are Roman Catholic.⁷ In the U.S. today, Catholics represent about 24 percent of the population.⁸ There are many varieties of Catholics, however with exception of the Roman Catholic Church, their numbers are very small and not significant in this study.

Catholic and Protestant Christianity

Certain well-known historical events mark the establishment of Catholic and Protestant Christianity as discussed in this paper:

- The first Council at Nicea in 325, which standardized the Christian religion and firmly established the proto-Orthodox worldview.
- The Great Schism of 1054, which divided the Latin-speaking Catholic Church in the West from the Greek-speaking Orthodox Church in the East.
- The Protestant Reformation, triggered by Martin Luther's 95 Theses, in 1517.
- England's break from the Catholic church under King Henry VIII in 1534.

The Influence of Protestant Christianity

Protestant Christianity distinguishes itself by two key principles:

- *Sola Scriptura*. Christian authority rests in the Bible, not in church tradition or ecclesiastical interpretation.
- *Sola Fide*. Salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ, not through good works.

These events and principles resulted in a deep and enduring conflict between Protestants and Catholics in England, and by extension, the American colonies.⁹

John Kennedy was the first Roman Catholic to become U.S. president. However, he was not the first Catholic to run for president.

Charles O'Connor, Catholic

Attorney Charles O'Connor (1770-1855) of New York was the first Catholic nominated for president in 1872. O'Connor declined the Democratic nomination but still came in second after New York Congressman Horace Greely, who was defeated by incumbent Ulysses S Grant.¹⁰

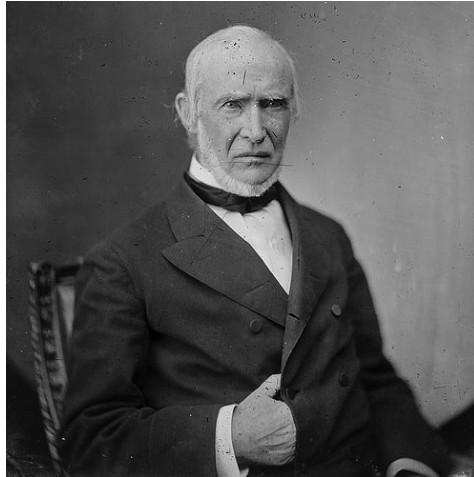
⁶ The word *catholic* means *universal*. There was, for a few centuries, one universal Christian church. That is obviously no longer the case.

⁷ *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*, 2011 edition, page 698.

⁸ See <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>. Also see the 2008 U.S. Religious Landscape Survey.

⁹ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church_in_England_and_Wales and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church_in_the_United_States.

¹⁰ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_O%27Connor.



Charles O'Connor



Al Smith

Alfred Smith, Catholic

Alfred “Al” Smith (1873-1944), three-time Democratic governor of New York, was the first Catholic to receive his party’s nomination for president of the United States in 1928. He lost the election to Republican Herbert Hoover.

Smith first sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1924 but lost to John W. Davis, who in turn was defeated by incumbent Calvin Coolidge.¹¹

John Kennedy, Catholic

John Kennedy (1917-1963) Congressman and later Senator from Massachusetts, won the presidential election of 1960 and became the first Catholic president.¹² The fact that Kennedy was Catholic caused a major campaign issue, with some Protestants believing that, if elected, Kennedy would take orders from the Pope.¹³

Kennedy addressed the issue in a speech to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, saying, “I am not the Catholic candidate for President. I am the Democratic Party’s candidate for President who also happens to be a Catholic. I do not speak for my Church on public matters — and the Church does not speak for me.”¹⁴

Of course, many factors led to Kennedy’s narrow victory over Republican Richard Nixon to win the presidency.¹⁵ Kennedy’s service was cut short November 22, 1963 by an assassin’s bullets.

11 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Smith and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1928.

12 See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/johnfkennedy>.

13 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1960#Campaign_issues.

14 See <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/jfkhoustonministers.html>.

15 See <http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/national.php?year=1960>.



John Kennedy



Barack Obama

Barack Obama, accused Muslim

Barack Obama represented a major change in the American political scene for several reasons, including:

- He challenged the policies and results of eight years of the previous administration, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- His father was Kenyan, and a Muslim, in his early life.
- He is the first African-American to win his party's nomination for president of the United States.
- He is the first African-American to hold the office of president.

In post-9/11 America, that was a lot for the voters to deal with. The issues and developments of the presidential election of 2008 are complex and induce strong feelings in many people. And they are too numerous and varied to discuss in this paper. But one issue, that of the candidate's religion, is especially relevant to this discussion.

Obama was the target of the two contrasting charges: that he is a *Muslim* and that his *Christian* church is racist and anti-American.

There is a large number of articles and YouTube videos of Obama's remarks, usually taken out-of-context, that "prove" him to be a Muslim.¹⁶ Those ideas have been refuted.¹⁷ However, according to the Pew Forum, a growing number of Americans believe Obama is Muslim.¹⁸

16 See a representative example at <http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/14120> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKGdkqtBICw>.

17 See <http://www.snopes.com/politics/obama/muslim.asp> and http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl_barack_obama_muslim.htm.

18 See <http://pewforum.org/Politics-and-Elections/Growing-Number-of-Americans-Say-Obama-is-a-Muslim.aspx>.

Pastor Jeremiah Wright, now retired from the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, did indeed preach a number of sermons taken to demonstrate hatred and damnation of America.¹⁹ Obama dropped his church membership in response.²⁰

Obama's spiritual journey is beyond the scope of this paper. The July 11, 2008 issue of *Newsweek* magazine includes an in-depth article on this topic by Lisa Miller. The article is available online.²¹

Mormons in National Politics

The involvement of Mormons in American politics did not start with the candidacy of Mitt Romney in 2008. A number of individuals preceded Romney, including his own father. Their stories cast additional light on the prospect of a Mormon president.

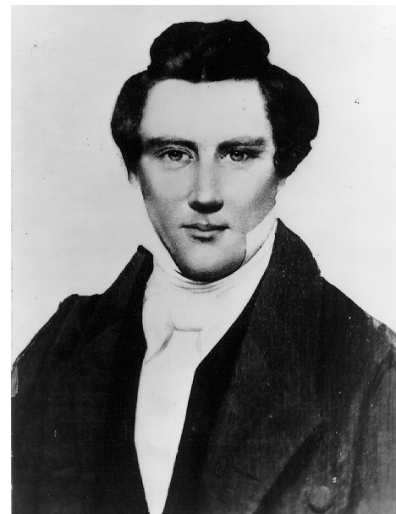
Joseph Smith

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints owes its existence to Joseph Smith (1805-1844). Smith and five others organized The Church of Christ²² on April 6, 1830 near Manchester, New York, making Mormonism a true American-born religion.²³

Joseph's church offered a number of revolutionary ideas, such as *The Book of Mormon*, a scripture in addition to the Bible; the restoration of the original church started by Jesus of Nazareth;²⁴ restoration of the Biblical priesthood, the doctrine that one's salvation depended on one's own efforts, and later, plural marriage or polygamy.

These new ideas directly contradicted the Protestant landmarks of *Sola Scriptura* and *Sola Fide*. At the same time, they contradicted the apostolic authority of Roman Catholic Church.

If the Mormon Church had remained obscure, these offenses would have mattered little. But these ideas were widely disseminated by the early Mormon missionaries, and church membership grew to over 26,000 by the time of Smith's assassination in 1844.²⁵ Most of those new members came from existing Protestant Christian churches, making Mormonism a threatening competitor to the traditional institutions.



Joseph Smith

19 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremiah_Wright_controversy. Also see the church's website at <http://www.trinitychicago.org/>.

20 See http://articles.nydailynews.com/2008-05-31/news/29433794_1_chicago-s-trinity-united-church-barack-obama-longtime-pastor.

21 See <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2008/07/11/finding-his-faith.html>.

22 In 1838, the church was eventually renamed *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.
See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Christ_%28Latter_Day_Saints%29.

23 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints for a neutral, concise history of the Church and its leaders. Follow the footnote links for additional information from other sources.
For a concise history from the Church's perspective, see <http://www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/58765/Historical-chronology-of-The-Church-of-Jesus-Christ-of-Latter-day-Saints.html>.

24 A number of modern Bible scholars believe it was Paul, and not Jesus, who formed the beginnings of the Christian church.

25 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints_membership_history#Table_for_LDS_Church_membership_numbers.

The Mormons were in conflict with their neighbors from the start. The Church moved its operations to Independence, Missouri, then Kirtland, Ohio, where they built their first temple, then Far West, Missouri, and finally to Nauvoo, Illinois. While in Far West, the relations with the locals soured to the point where the Governor issued an *extermination order* making it legal to kill Mormons in the state.²⁶

In November of 1839, Joseph Smith complained to U.S. President, Martin Van Buren, and sought his support for Mormon civil rights. Van Buren declined, saying, “Your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you.” As the Mormons had supported Van Buren in the presidential election of 1836, his reply was unexpected and most disappointing.²⁷

At their new home in Nauvoo, the Mormons enjoyed a degree of prosperity, where they built their second temple and Smith rose to a tremendous level of political power. That is also when Nauvoo Lodge, UD was formed under the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Smith became a Freemason there, followed by literally hundreds of other Mormon men. Shortly after receiving his Third Degree, Smith introduced a temple endowment ceremony, which borrowed many elements from Masonic ritual.²⁸

Smith had created a virtual theocratic kingdom in Nauvoo.²⁹ As with all theocracies,³⁰ God was conspicuously absent and humans ran the show. Nauvoo had its own police force and its own military legion with Smith at the head. Again the neighbors grew fearful and problems arose. With the Van Buren experience still in mind, Smith believed, accurately, that he could not count on the federal government for help. So he announced his candidacy for president of the United States.³¹ He was dead six months later. Smith’s candidacy for president has not rated so much as a footnote in the history books.

The Twin Relics of Barbarism

Eighteen months after the death of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young became president of the Church.³² The change in leadership was controversial.³³ Only half of Smith’s disciples followed Young to the Great Salt Lake valley. In the mid-1840s, Utah was a place so isolated and desolate that it offered genuine protection against people with violent anti-Mormon sentiments.

In 1847, when the Mormons first arrived in what is today Utah, the land was still part of Mexico. The region was part of the New Mexico Territory acquired by the United States from Mexico through the

26 See *Missouri’s 1838 Extermination Order*, by William G. Hartley, Spring 2001 issue of *Mormon Historical Studies*, downloadable as a PDF from mormonhistoricsitesfoundation.org/.

27 See page 102 of *The Mormon Hierarchy: Origins of Power* by Michael Quinn, 1994, Signature Books.

28 For more information, see *Mormonism and Masonry: The Illinois Episode* by Mervin Hogan, PM, 1977, Macoy Publishing. And *Similarity of Priesthood in Masonry: The Relationship between Freemasonry and Mormonism* by Michael Homer, in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Volume 24, Number 3, Fall 1994.

29 Ibid, Quinn, see Chapter 4.

30 A theocracy is government by God directly or through a priestly order. The Mormon Church hierarchy was the priestly order in this case.

31 Ibid, Quinn, pages 117-119, 132-133.

32 Ibid, Quinn, page 245.

33 Ibid, Quinn, pages 143-241.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.³⁴ It became the Utah Territory as part of the Great Compromise of 1850.³⁵ Without moving an inch, the Mormons found themselves back in the United States.

Initially, Mormon community leadership was purely ecclesiastical. Then in March 1849 the Mormons held a constitutional convention and created the State of Deseret.³⁶ The word *deseret* (pronounced: dez er ET) is taken from the Book of Mormon word for honeybee. The U.S. government never recognized the State of Deseret. But President Millard Fillmore did appoint Brigham Young as the Utah Territorial Governor.³⁷

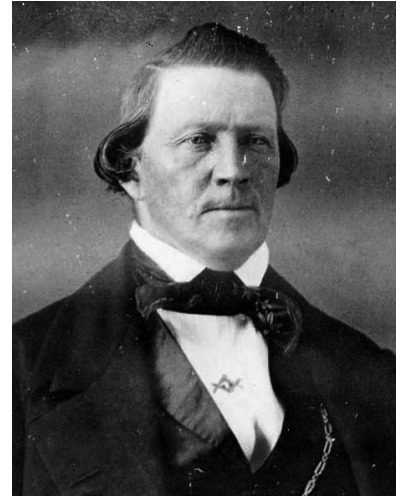
In 1852, Mormon apostle Orson Pratt made the first official public announcement of *Celestial Marriage*, commonly known as polygamy. Since the majority of Mormons came from Protestant Christian backgrounds, they viewed polygamy as a scandalous evil. The media portrayed polygamy as a dehumanization of women. But for the Mormons, it was a practice entered into as a religious obligation.

There is much debate over how many Mormons actually engaged in polygamy. One estimate holds that five percent of the men and 12 percent of the women were involved. But there is no question that the practice of polygamy affected every member of the Church for decades to follow.³⁸

The arrival of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 marked the end of Mormon isolationism in the Rocky Mountains. The railroad brought jobs, commerce, technology, improved transportation, and many more non-Mormons, who had no tolerance for polygamy. In the presidential campaign of 1856, the Republican party denounced polygamy and slavery as “the twin relics of barbarism.”³⁹

The U.S. Congress passed several pieces of legislation to stop polygamy, including:

- The Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act of 1862, which banned polygamy in U.S. territories.⁴⁰
- The Edmunds Act of 1882, which banned cohabitation (living with multiple spouses).⁴¹
- The Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887, which legally dissolved the Church.⁴²



Brigham Young
(never a presidential candidate)

34 See page 343, *An American History*, Third edition, Rebecca Brooks Gruver, 1981, Addison Wesley.

35 Ibid., page 347.

36 See page 162, *The Mormon Experience*, Arrington and Bitton, 1992, University of Illinois Press.

The Hebrew word for honeybee is *devorah*, from which we derive the female given name Deborah.

37 Ibid., page 163.

38 Ibid., page 198-199.

39 Ibid., page 164.

40 Ibid., page 172. Also see <http://rs6.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=012/llsl012.db&recNum=532>.

41 Ibid., page 181. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmunds_Act and <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h734.html>.

42 Ibid., page 183. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmunds-Tucker_Act.

In 1890, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the seizure and redistribution of the Church's holdings under Edmunds-Tucker.⁴³

Utah had first applied for statehood in 1862. Congress denied the application and responded with the Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act. With the Edmunds Act, federal authorities launched "polygamy raids" which broke up families, landed men in jail, and drove Church leaders underground.

At Church's General Conference in the Fall of 1890, then-president Wilford Woodruff issued what is known as "The Manifesto" which officially ended polygamy. Woodruff said, in part, "And I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land." The Manifesto was adopted as part of the canon of scripture.⁴⁴

During the Reed Smoot hearings, reports of new polygamous marriages surfaced.⁴⁵ Therefore, the new Church president, Joseph F. Smith (nephew of Joseph Smith), issued what it known as "The Second Manifesto," during the General Conference in the spring of 1904.⁴⁶ The Second Manifesto was never canonized and many Mormons know nothing about it.⁴⁷ In 1905, two members of the Church's Quorum of Twelve (apostles) resigned after they were caught performing polygamous marriages. One was later excommunicated when he took a plural wife for himself.⁴⁸

B. H. Roberts

Utah finally gained statehood in 1896. In 1898, Church leader Brigham Henry Roberts (1857-1933), commonly known as "B.H. Roberts," was elected to the 56th House of Representatives. The House refused to seat him because he had three wives.⁴⁹ He married the last one, Dr. Margaret Curtis Shipp, a divorcee, shortly *after* the 1890 Manifesto was announced.⁵⁰

Roberts went on to serve as Chaplain to the 148th Field Artillery in France in 1918, at age 60. He also served as Assistant Church Historian from 1902 until his death in 1933.



B.H. Roberts

43 *ibid.*, page 183. Also see <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=136&invol=1>.

44 See *Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Declaration 1*, page 292, 1981, LDS Church.

45 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reed_Smoot_hearings.

46 See Conference Report, Apr. 1904, p. 75, cited in <http://institute.lds.org/manuals/doctrine-and-covenants-institute-student-manual/dc-in-131-od1.asp>.

47 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Manifesto.

48 *Ibid.*, Conference Report.

49 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BH_Roberts.

50 See page 499, *The Mormon Hierarchy, Extensions of Power*, D. Michael Quinn, 1997, Signature Books. Also see http://nevillefamilyhistory.blogspot.com/2008/08/blog-post_3906.html.

The People say Yes but Congress says No

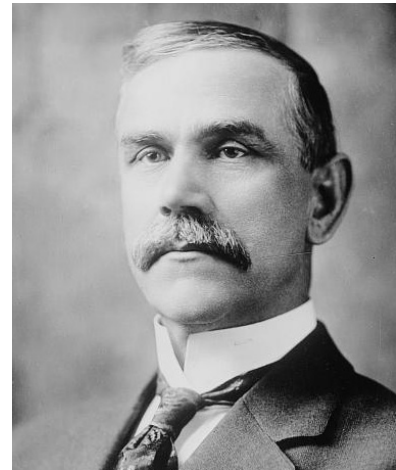
How can the Senate or House of Representatives refuse to seat a duly elected Senator or Congressman? The U.S. Constitution, Article 1, section 5 states:

“Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two-thirds, expel a Member.”

Reed Smoot

Reed Smoot (1864-1941) was elected by the Utah State legislature⁵¹ in 1903, to serve as a U.S. Senator from Utah in the 58th U.S. Congress beside the other Republican Senator from Utah, Thomas Kearns, a Catholic. Smoot was a monogamist and became a Mormon Apostle in 1900.⁵² This situation resulted in the famous “Reed Smoot Hearings,” a four-year-long debate, at first over polygamy and later over the Mormon concept of ongoing divine revelation and the virtual theocracy the Mormons had created in Utah. In the end, the Senate voted to exclude him by a majority vote, which was less than the two-thirds vote required. Unlike B.H. Roberts, Smoot was allowed to serve without waiting for the outcome of the hearings.⁵³ He served until 1933.



Reed Smoot

Smoot found a supporter in Republican Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania, who reportedly glared at some of his Senate colleagues who had a reputation for philandering and said, “As for me, I would rather have seated beside me in this chamber a polygamist who doesn’t polyg than a monogamist who doesn’t monag.”⁵⁴ Despite his use of invented words “polyg” and “monag,” Penrose was, in fact, a graduate of Harvard Law School.⁵⁵

George Romney

George Romney (1907-1995) ran for the Republican nomination in the 1968 presidential election, but when the Gallup Poll showed his support at seven percent in February, he dropped out before the Republican national convention. He was passed up as the nominee for vice president in favor of Spiro

51 The 17th Amendment, which established the direct election of Senators by popular vote, took effect in 1913. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Kearns.

52 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reed_Smoot.

53 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoot_Hearings. Also see <http://uncpress.unc.edu/browse/page/336>.

54 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boies_Penrose.

55 Ibid.

Agnew.⁵⁶ Romney's church affiliation was not a major factor in his campaign, except when his pro-civil-rights stance contrasted with the Mormon Church policy disallowing Blacks to hold the priesthood.⁵⁷ That policy was reversed in 1978, 14 years *after* the Civil Rights Movement.⁵⁸

Richard Nixon named Romney as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, hoping Romney's missionary zeal would make a difference in mobilizing volunteer organizations to fight poverty and disease in America. Romney served in that position from 1969 to 1973.⁵⁹

Romney was born in the Mormon colony of Colonia Dublán, near the city of Nuevo Casas Grandes, in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. Romney's grandparents were polygamous Mormons, who fled to Mexico to avoid arrest and incarceration at the hands of U. S. government officials. The family moved back to the States to escape the Mexican Revolution of 1910.⁶⁰



George Romney

Romney served a mission in Scotland and England. At first he was unsuccessful at finding converts but he eventually developed public speaking skills that attracted media attention and resulted in hundreds of converts. He attended the University of Utah and LDS Business College, and later George Washington University without graduating from any of them. He married his high school sweetheart in the Salt Lake Mormon Temple. They had four children, the youngest of whom is Willard Mitt Romney.⁶¹

The elder Romney was a lobbyist for Alcoa Aluminum and later he worked for Nash-Kelvinator, maker of cars and refrigerators. The company later sold off Kelvinator and merged with Hudson Motor Car Company to form American Motors Corporation. Romney was named Chairman and CEO in 1954. In 1962, Romney resigned from AMC and entered Michigan politics, eventually serving as Governor of that state from 1963 to 1969.⁶²

Romney followed Mormon teachings assiduously. He avoided alcohol, tobacco, and course language. He paid tithing and observed Sunday as the sabbath. He served numerous leadership positions, including president of the Detroit Stake.⁶³ However, in 1964, while serving as Governor of Michigan, Romney was chastised for his support of the Civil Rights Movement by Mormon Apostle Delbert L. Stapley. Romney

56 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Romney_presidential_campaign,_1968.
Also see <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/18/us/politics/18romney.html>.

57 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_people_and_The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints.

58 See *Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Declaration 2*, page 293, 1981, LDS Church.
Also see <http://www.blacklds.org/priesthood>.

59 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Romney.
Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Housing_and_Urban_Development.

60 Ibid., George W. Romney. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormon_colonies_in_Mexico.

61 Ibid. Also see http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/specials/romney/articles/part1_main/. Serving a mission and marrying in the Temple are highlights of a Mormon man's life and demonstrate that he is living up to the standards and expectations of his religion.

62 Ibid. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Motors_Corporation.

63 Ibid. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stake_%28Latter_Day_Saints%29.

ignored the Church leader's council and *increased* his promotion of civil rights.⁶⁴ There is no record of any retaliation from the Church.

Life magazine ran an extensive article on Romney in the May 5, 1967 issue.⁶⁵

Orrin Hatch

Orrin Hatch (1934-) first won election the U.S. Senate in 1976, beating incumbent Democrat Frank Moss. Moss had served two terms in the Senate and was also a Mormon.⁶⁶ Hatch has beaten every challenger since 1976 by a comfortable margin.⁶⁷ The *Deseret News*, which is owned by the Mormon Church, once criticized Hatch for accepting campaign money from wine, tobacco, and gambling interests.⁶⁸

Hatch was born in Pennsylvania, but his ancestors were Mormon pioneers of Utah and Nauvoo, Illinois. He served a mission in what was then the Great Lakes States Mission, which included parts of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in history and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School. Hatch served in many positions in the Mormon Church, including as a local bishop.⁶⁹

Hatch was an also-ran in the Republican presidential primaries of 2000, which eventually nominated Texas Governor George W. Bush. Hatch campaigned on a traditional Republican platform of opposition to legalized abortion and in favor of reducing taxes.⁷⁰

Religion was not a significant issue in Hatch's short-lived presidential bid. On the other hand, being a Mormon is an obvious asset in any state or local political contest in Utah.



Orrin Hatch

64 Download a PDF of the letter from the Boston Globe at [Delbert L. Stapley letter to Governor George W. Romney](#).

To kindly receive and then defy the directions of an apostle is a very serious action. People have lost their church membership that way. In a conflict between church and civic duty, Romney's chose his duty. There is no record of disciplinary action against him.

65 Available online at <http://books.google.com>.

66 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Moss_%28politician%29.

67 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orrin_Hatch.

68 See <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/615154461/Wine-beer-liquor-cash-flows-into-Hatch-coffers.html>.

69 A bishop leads a local congregation of church members. A Latter-day Saint bishop is like a pastor or priest in other Christian denominations. The job of a bishop is one of the most demanding callings in the Mormon Church. Bishops receive no compensation for their service.

70 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_%28United_States%29_presidential_primaries,_2000.

Mitt Romney

Willard Mitt Romney (1947-) is the youngest child of George Romney and named after the Mormon hotel magnate, J. Willard Marriott.

The younger Romney worked on his father's political campaigns and interned in the Michigan Governor's office during the elder's tenure.

Like his father, Mitt Romney served a Mormon mission, in France. And like his father, he devised a method for more successful proselyting. Having been raised in Michigan, the younger Romney had better personal skills in dealing with the French people, compared to missionaries born and raised in Utah.

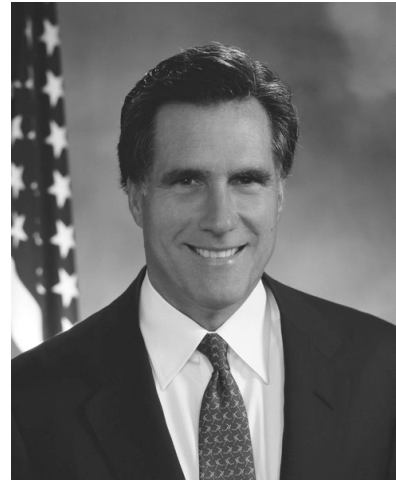
Unlike his father, while a missionary, he was involved in a serious car crash that nearly killed him.⁷¹ After the mission, he married his high-school sweetheart Ann Davis, who attended Brigham Young University and joined the Mormon Church while he was away. The couple has five children.⁷²

Romney was deferred from military service in Vietnam due to his mission. After he returned, he drew a draft number of 300, virtually guaranteeing that he would not be drafted.⁷³

After his mission, Romney earned a combined MBA/JD degree from Harvard University. He then worked for Boston Consulting Group (BCG)⁷⁴ as a management consultant. He was recruited to Bain & Company,⁷⁵ started by Bill Bain and others from BCG. In 1984, Romney and two others co-founded a spin-off private equity investment company, Bain Capital.⁷⁶ After many successes, disasters, and recoveries, Romney turned over leadership of Bain in 1992, and left in 1999 to become involved in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.⁷⁷

During his time in Boston, Romney served in the Mormon Church as a Bishop and a Stake President. During that time he acquired a good reputation in interfaith relations but, as a church leader, he sometimes seemed to favor doctrine over people.⁷⁸

Romney made a name for himself as replacement CEO of the Salt Lake City Olympic Games Organizing Committee, after the initial CEO and a vice president were forced to resign over a bribery scandal. The



Mitt Romney

71 See http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/specials/romney/articles/part1_side/?page=.

72 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitt_Romney.

73 Ibid., Wikipedia.

74 See <http://www.bcg.com/>.

75 See <http://www.bain.com/>.

76 See <http://www.baincapital.com/>.

77 Ibid., Wikipedia.

78 See http://www.sltrib.com/ci_7943560.

Games ended up clearing a profit of \$100 million⁷⁹ and Utahns gave Romney an 87 percent job approval rating.

In 1994, Romney changed his political affiliation from Independent to Republican⁸⁰ in order to run for the office of U.S. Senator from Massachusetts against incumbent Democrat Teddy Kennedy. Issues of religion arose, as well as contrasting political views, and a debate ensued over which candidate had derived more benefit from shady investments. After a protracted fight, Kennedy won by 17 points.⁸¹ Romney returned to Bain Capital.⁸²

Romney served as Governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007. During his tenure, Romney pushed for universal health care. In 2006, he signed the Massachusetts Health Care Insurance Reform Law,⁸³ which received widespread support among Massachusetts voters. In the 2012 presidential primary, the law is pejoratively referred to as “Romney Care.”

Romney announced his bid for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.⁸⁴ He lost the nomination to Arizona Senator John McCain, who in turn lost to Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

On June 2, 2011, Romney formally announced the start of his campaign for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination at a farm in New Hampshire. At this writing, Romney appears to have an advantage,⁸⁵ but the first primary elections don’t happen until January.⁸⁶ Yet on October 31, the Obama Administration released details on their strategy against Romney in the 2012 presidential race.⁸⁷

Unlike his father, Mitt Romney has never been in a position where he had to defy a directive from his church in the interest of his constituents.

Romney has homes in Belmont, Massachusetts; Wolfeboro, New Hampshire; and San Diego, California.⁸⁸

79 See <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/print?id=1433186&type=news>.

80 See <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/680196334/Romney-determined-to-make-mark-early.html?pg=6>.

81 Ibid., page 9.

82 Ibid., Wikipedia.

83 See <https://www.mahealthconnector.org/portal/site/connector/>.

84 See <http://detnews.com/article/20070214/POLITICS/702140383/Native-son-Romney-targets--values-vote->.

85 See <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/240005/20111029/new-hampshire-primary-primaries-republicans-super-tuesday.htm>.

86 See <http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012-republican-primary-schedule/>.

87 See http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/31/barack-obama-mitt-romney-president-2012_n_1067715.html.

88 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitt_Romney.

Jon Huntsman

Jon Huntsman, Jr. (1960-) was the Republican governor of Utah from 2005 through 2009 and received an 84 percent approval rating.⁸⁹ He resigned that office to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to China in the Obama administration. He lost that job when he was photographed among anti-government protesters in Beijing.⁹⁰

Huntsman also spent a year as a staff assistant in the Reagan White House, a U.S. Trade Representative in the first Bush administration, and briefly as U.S. Ambassador to Singapore during the second Bush administration.

Huntsman served as CEO of Huntsman Corporation,⁹¹ founded in 1970 by his father, John Huntsman, Sr.

Huntsman dropped out of high school to play keyboard in a rock band. He later earned a GED, then enrolled at the University of Utah, his father's alma mater. After serving a mission in Taiwan, Huntsman earned a bachelor's degree in International Politics at the University of Pennsylvania.⁹²

Huntsman and his wife Mary Kaye Huntsman (née Cooper), met in high school. She was an Episcopalian but later joined the Mormon Church. The couple has five natural children and two adopted children, one from China and one from India.

Huntsman's home is in Washington D.C., although they recently bought a condominium in Salt Lake City.⁹³ Huntsman is a third-cousin, once-removed of Mitt Romney.



Jon Huntsman, Jr.

Challenges for a Mormon Presidential Candidate

On October 7, 2011, Baptist pastor Robert Jeffress, called Mormonism a “cult.”⁹⁴ The next day at the Value Voter's Summit, Christian radical Bryan Fischer insisted that only a *true* Christian can serve in the White House.⁹⁵

In a recent poll, Protestant Christian pastors were asked to respond to the statement, “I personally consider Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) to be Christians.” Sixty percent strongly

89 See <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705292540/Huntsman-lawmakers-ratings-soar.html>.

90 See <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2011/02/the-huntsman-walk.html>.

91 See <http://huntsman.com/>.

92 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Huntsman,_Jr.

93 See <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/6190bda2024f431382872af24327c9f0/UT--Huntsman-Condo/>.

94 See http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/08/mormons-are-not-christian-survey_n_1001712.html. Jeffress is the senior pastor of the 10,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas and supports Rick Perry for the Republican nomination.

95 See www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/08/bryan-fischer-mitt-romney-values-voters-summit_n_1001371.html. At the same gathering, Fischer railed against the imposition of Sharia law in the United States, called homosexuality a “threat to public health,” insisted that Muslims and Christians don’t worship the same God, and argued that crowds singing “God Bless America” at Major League Baseball games has prevented terrorist attacks on American soil.

disagreed and 15 percent somewhat disagreed. Just 11 percent somewhat agreed, 6 percent strongly agreed, and 9 percent did not know.⁹⁶

Journalist and author Warren Smith, says that the Mormon concept of continuing revelation⁹⁷ causes their beliefs to change, citing the cessation of polygamy [1890] and enabling blacks to hold the priesthood [1978], as evidence that Mormon beliefs, and therefore Mormon values, could change in any way and at any time.⁹⁸

In a Pew Research study of over 3,000 Americans, 51 percent said they knew little or nothing about Mormons, while 62 percent view Mormonism as very different from their own religion. Just 23 percent had a favorable opinion of Mormonism, while 27 percent saw it negatively.⁹⁹

According to David Woodard, political science professor at Clemson University in South Carolina, “The only thing worse than being a Mormon is being a nothing. That might work in California, but it’s not going to work very well in South Carolina. They’re suspicious of people who are not believers.”¹⁰⁰

According to Susan Thistlewaite,¹⁰¹ the negative numbers from the Pew study happen because the Mormons suffer from a “branding problem.”¹⁰² She notes that commentator Glenn Beck,¹⁰³ a convert to the Mormon church, contributes to the misunderstanding of Mormonism.

On the other hand, author and editor Jeremy Lott suggests that, “this prejudicial reflex” is simply bigotry.¹⁰⁴ Lott cites Schaeffer’s¹⁰⁵ idea of *co-belligerency*, “the notion that we need not agree about philosophy, or theology, or even pray together to work together toward necessary social change.”

96 See <http://www.lifeway.com/ArticleView?storeId=10054&catalogId=10001&langId=-1&article=Research-LifeWay-Poll-Pastors-say-Mormons-not-Christians>. Refers to a poll of 1,000 Protestant Christian ministers that LifeWay released on October 20, 2011. Note that “Latter Day Saints” is incorrect. It should be “Latter-day Saints.” LifeWay sells Bible-study products for Christian churches.

97 Continuing revelation, both prophetic and personal, is described in *Fundamental to Our Faith*, Dallin Oaks, 2011, cited on <http://lds.org/ensign/2011/01/fundamental-to-our-faith?lang=eng>.

98 See <http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Vote-for-Romney-Is-a-Vote-for-the-LDS-Church-Warren-Cole-Smith-05-24-2011.html>. Author’s note: Even harsh critics of the Mormon church seemed pleased with the two changes that Smith cited.

99 See <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/602/public-expresses-mixed-views-of-islam-mormonism>.

100 See <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705372498/Huntsman-says-his-Mormon-church-membership-is-tough-to-define.html>.

101 Thistlewaite is a professor of theology at Chicago Theological Seminary. See <http://www.ctschicago.edu/index.php/mnuacademicprograms/faculty/85-susan-thistlethwaite>.

102 See http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/susan_brooks_thistlethwaite/.

103 See Glenn Beck’s website at <http://www.glennbeck.com/>.

104 See <http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Defense-of-Mormons-Jeremy-Lott-05-18-2011.html>.

105 Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984) was an American Evangelical Christian theologian, philosopher, and pastor. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Schaeffer.

Evangelical educator Richard Mouw¹⁰⁶ disputes the idea that the Mormon Church is a cult:

“Religious cults are very much us-versus-them. Their adherents are taught to think that they are the only ones who benefit from divine approval. They don’t like to engage in serious, respectful give-and-take dialogue with people with whom they disagree.”

“Those of us who have made the effort to engage Mormons in friendly and sustained give-and-take conversations have come to see them as good citizens whose life of faith often exhibits qualities that are worthy of the Christian label, even as we continue to engage in friendly arguments with them about crucial theological issues.”¹⁰⁷

Conclusion

In his avatar of religious critic, Humanities and English professor Harold Bloom wrote a book about American Religions, referring to the religions and religious movements that came into being in the United States. Among these, are the Mormons.¹⁰⁸

With the exception of Jefferson, Lincoln, and Andrew Johnson, who did not embrace organized religion, all U.S. presidents have belonged to old-world faith communities, that is, churches that formed in Europe. If elected, Romney would be the first U.S. president who belongs to a church that started in the U.S. In other words, the first American president with a truly American religion.

Huntsman and Romney are Mormons who take their faith seriously and live by its teachings, as much as humanly possible. Both married once and are still married to their respective spouses. The same cannot be said about many of the other politicians.

Neither Huntsman nor Romney is a “Utah Mormon,” meaning somebody who lived his entire life immersed in Mormon culture, and whose worldview is limited by that culture.

The Mormons, like the Freemasons, are often misunderstood. Some people believe them to be misguided or evil in some way. In reality, Mormons and Freemasons are just people with a slightly different perspective on life. The Freemasons have proven their worth in early American history. Perhaps now is the time for the Mormons to prove themselves.

Therefore, this author believes that Richard Mouw makes the best recommendation:

“Mitt Romney deserves what every politician running for office deserves: a careful examination of his views on policy and his philosophy of government.”¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁶ Mouw is the president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

¹⁰⁷ See <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2011/10/09/my-take-this-evangelical-says-mormonism-isnt-a-cult/?iref=obinsitecult?%20christian?>.

¹⁰⁸ See pages 79 through 128 of *The American Religion*, Harold Bloom, 1992, Simon & Schuster.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., Mouw, CNN.

Further Reading

This paper barely touches on topics such as the Masonic influence in the Mormon temple rituals, the practice and challenges of plural marriage, the struggles between the Mormon church and its neighbors, the momentous colonizing effort lead by Brigham Young, the Utah territory's quest for statehood, and the Mormon church's role in modern society. Each of these has an essential human aspect. They are not just a collection of cold facts from a forgotten time. All are a part of America's history.

For more information on the topics discussed in this paper, read:

The Jefferson Bible, downloadable PDF from www.pattonhq.com/links/uccministry/jeffbible.pdf.

The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and *Pearl of Great Price*, Mormon scriptures in addition to the Bible are available as free PDFs and for Kindle from <http://freebookofmormon.wordpress.com/>

Gospel Principles, 2009 edition. A comprehensive introduction to the teachings of the Mormon Church. Available as a free PDF download from <http://lds.org>.

U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, 2008, Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. Download a PDF of the report from <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>.

The Mormon Experience, Second Edition, Arrington and Bitton, 1992, University of Illinois Press.

Mormon Polygamy A History, Richard Van Wagoner, 1992, Signature Books

The Practice of Polygamy: The Free Exercise of Religion or Legitimate Public Menace?, Richard A. Vasquez, *Journal of Legislation and Public Policy*. (New York University School of Law), Volume 5, Number 1, Fall 2001.

Mormonism and Masonry, Samuel H. Goodwin, 1992, Kessinger Publishing Co.

Mormonism and Masonry: The Illinois Episode, Mervin B. Hogan, 1977, Macoy Publishing

A Vote for Romney Is a Vote for the LDS Church, Warren Smith, May 24, 2011, on the Patheos website: <http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Vote-for-Romney-Is-a-Vote-for-the-LDS-Church-Warren-Cole-Smith-05-24-2011.html>. Warren Smith is a journalist and author of *A Lover's Quarrel with the Evangelical Church*, available from Amazon.

Mormons & Romney Presidency "Dangerous" According to Evangelical Author, Johanna Brooks, May 27, 2011 in *Religious Digest* magazine, viewable on the Ask Mormon Girl website: <http://www.askmormongirl.com/>. Brooks is the Department Chair of English at San Diego State University.

In Defense of Mormons, Jeremy Lott, May 17, 2011, on the Patheos website: <http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Defense-of-Mormons-Jeremy-Lott-05-18-2011.html>. Lott is the editor of *Real Clear Religion*. See <http://www.RealClearReligion.org>.

Five myths about Mormonism, Johanna Brooks, August 5, 2011, in *The Washington Post*, viewable at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-mormonism/2011/08/03/gIQAYlhTwI_story.html.

The Shaping of a candidate: A look at Mitt Romney's faith journey, Jessica Ravits, October 29, 2011, viewable on the CNN Belief blog: http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2011/10/29/the-shaping-of-mitt-romney-a-look-at-his-faith-journey-2/?hpt=hp_c1. Ravits is a writer and producer for CNN.

My Take: This evangelical says Mormonism isn't a cult, Richard Mouw, October 9, 2011, on the CNN website at <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2011/10/09/my-take-this-evangelical-says-mormonism-isnt-a-cult/?iref=obinsitecult?%20christian?>. Mouw is the President of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

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Orrin Hatch, hatch.senate.gov

Jon Huntsman, Reason.com

Thomas Jefferson, Department of History, Texas A&M University-Commerce

Andrew Johnson, Library of Congress

John Kennedy, This History Place

Abraham Lincoln, Library of Congress

Barack Obama, whitehouse.gov

Charles O'Connor, Library of Congress

B. H. Roberts, Deseret News

George Romney, FindGrave.com

Mitt Romney, Reason.com

Al Smith, Library of Congress

Joseph Smith, The Randall Co.¹¹⁰

Reed Smoot, Library of Congress

Brigham Young, Intellectual Reserve Inc.

¹¹⁰ This photograph is believed to be a copy of an original daguerreotype taken of Joseph Smith, Jr. at Nauvoo, Illinois just before his death in 1844. It is probably the only photograph of Joseph Smith, Jr. ever taken.

U.S. Presidents

	Name	Years in Office	Primary Careers	Political Party	Religious Affiliation	Comments
1	George Washington	1789-1797	Farmer, Military Officer	None	Episcopal	
2	John Adams	1797-1801	Lawyer	Federalist	Unitarian	
3	Thomas Jefferson	1801-1809	Farmer, Lawyer, Teacher	Democratic-Republican	Deist See note 1	Faith an election issue
4	James Madison	1809-1817	Farmer	Democratic-Republican	Episcopal	...by loose association
5	James Monroe	1817-1825	Farmer, Lawyer	Democratic-Republican	Episcopal	
6	John Quincy Adams	1825-1829	Lawyer	Democratic-Republican	Unitarian	Son of John Adams
7	Andrew Jackson	1829-1837	Farmer, Prosecutor, Judge, Military Officer	Democratic	Presbyterian	
8	Martin Van Buren	1837-1841	Lawyer	Democratic	Dutch Reformed	
9	William Henry Harrison	1841	Military Officer	Whig	Episcopal	Died after 32 days in office
10	John Tyler	1841-1845	Lawyer	Whig	Episcopal	Harrison's VP
11	James K. Polk	1845-1849	Farmer, Lawyer	Democratic	Presbyterian	
12	Zachary Taylor	1849-1850	Military Officer	Whig	Episcopal	
13	Millard Fillmore	1850-1853	Lawyer	Anti-Masonic, Whig	Unitarian	Taylor's VP
14	Franklin Pierce	1853-1857	Lawyer	Democratic	Episcopal	
15	James Buchanan	1857-1861	Lawyer, Diplomat	Democratic	Presbyterian	
16	Abraham Lincoln	1861-1865	Lawyer	Republican (1860), National Union (1864)	Unchurched Bible believer	Assassinated
17	Andrew Johnson	1865-1869	Tailor	Democratic (before 1864), National Union	Non-denominational Christian	Lincoln's VP
18	Ulysses S Grant	1869-1877	Military Officer	Republican	Methodist	
19	Rutherford B. Hayes	1877-1881	Lawyer	Republican	Methodist	
20	James A. Garfield	1881	Lawyer, Teacher	Republican	Disciples of Christ	Assassinated
21	Chester A. Arthur	1881-1885	Lawyer, Civil Servant	Republican	Episcopal	Garfield's VP
22/ 24	Grover Cleveland	1885-1889, 1893-1897	Lawyer	Democratic	Presbyterian	
23	Benjamin Harrison	1897-1899	Lawyer	Republican	Presbyterian	
25	William McKinley	1897-1901	Lawyer	Republican	Methodist	Assassinated
26	Theodore Roosevelt	1901-1909	Historian, Explorer, Conservationist	Republican	Dutch Reformed	
27	William Howard Taft	1909-1913	Lawyer, Judge	Republican	Unitarian	
28	Woodrow Wilson	1913-1921	Academic, Historian, Political Scientist	Democratic	Presbyterian	
29	Warren G. Harding	1921-1923	Journalist	Republican	Baptist	Died in office
30	Calvin Coolidge	1923-1929	Lawyer	Republican	Congregationalist	Harding's VP

	Name	Years in Office	Primary Careers	Political Party	Religious Affiliation	Comments
31	Herbert Hoover	1929-1933	Engineer, Businessman, Humanitarian	Republican	Quaker	
32	Franklin D. Roosevelt	1933-1945	Corporate Lawyer	Democratic	Episcopal	Died in office
33	Harry S. Truman	1945-1953	Men's clothing, Farmer	Democratic	Southern Baptist	Roosevelt's VP
34	Dwight D. Eisenhower	1953-1961	Military Officer	Republican	Presbyterian	See note 2
35	John F. Kennedy	1961-1963	Author	Democratic	Roman Catholic	Assassinated
36	Lyndon B. Johnson	1963-1969	Teacher	Democratic	Disciples of Christ	Kennedy's VP
37	Richard Nixon	1969-1974	Lawyer	Republican	Quaker	Resigned office
38	Gerald Ford	1974-1977	Lawyer	Republican	Episcopal	Appointed as Nixon's VP
39	Jimmy Carter	1977-1981	Farmer	Democratic	Baptist	
40	Ronald Reagan	1981-1989	Actor	Republican	Presbyterian	Raised as Disciples of Christ
41	George H. W. Bush	1989-1993	Oil entrepreneur	Republican	Episcopal	
42	Bill Clinton	1993-2001	Lawyer	Democratic	Baptist	
43	George W. Bush	2001-2009	Businessman	Republican	United Methodist	Son of George H.W. Bush
44	Barack Obama	2009-present	Community organizer, Lawyer, Professor	Democratic	Non-denominational Christian	Accused of being Muslim

Note 1: Some sources list different religious affiliations for Jefferson. Deism seems to be the most accurate reflection of Jefferson's belief system.

Note 2: The Eisenhower family was Mennonite and later Jehovah's Witness. Dwight D. joined the Presbyterian Church.

Sources: <http://www.adherents.com/>, <http://en.wikipedia.org/>, and <http://pewforum.org/>.