

A Comparison of the 2016 Republican and Democratic Platforms

A non-partisan guide on issues of concern to the electorate

Republican Platform

Democratic Platform

Human Life

"The Constitution's guarantee that no one can **"be deprived of life, liberty or property"** deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that **"all"** are "endowed by their Creator" with the inalienable right to Life" *(meaning your Life is valuable because God created you, not because a government or person states so.) ...*

"Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth.

Numerous studies have shown that abortion endangers the health and wellbeing of women, and we stand firmly against it." (Page 13)

"Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion - regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured..... We will defend the ACA, which extends affordable preventive health care to women, including no-cost contraception, and prohibits discrimination in health care based on gender.

GLOBAL VISION We will support sexual and reproductive health and rights around the globe. In addition to expanding the availability of affordable family planning information and contraceptive supplies We believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care and included as part of America's Global Health programming. (Page.37)

Planned Parenthood

"We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare.... We urge all states and Congress to make it a crime to acquire, transfer, or sell fetal tissues from elective abortions for research, and we call on Congress to enact a ban on any sale of fetal body parts.....In the meantime, we call on Congress to ban the practice of misleading women on so-called fetal harvesting consent forms, a fact revealed by a 2015 investigation."(Page 13)

"We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, provide critical health services to millions of people. We will continue to oppose —and seek to overturn - federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman's access to abortion."(Page 37)

(Abortion defines as using any instrument , medicine, drug, or any other device or substance to kill an unborn human being up to one minute before birth)

Marriage

"A Sacred Contract: Defense of Marriage" "Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for a free society and has for millennia been entrusted with rearing children and instilling cultural values.....The overwhelming evidence is children raised in a two-parent household tend to be physically and emotionally healthier, more likely to do well in school, less likely to use drugs and alcohol, engage in crime or become pregnant outside of marriage...."

...We also condemn the Supreme Court's lawless ruling in *Obergefell vs. Hodges*....In *Obergefell*, five unelected lawyers robbed 320 million Americans of their legitimate constitutional authority to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman." (page 11)

"Freedom to Marry - Democrats applaud last year's decision by the Supreme Court that recognized Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender people—have the right to marry the person they love. But there is still much work to be done." (p.19) **Foreign Policy:** Believe that Lesbian, Gay Bisexual Transgender rights are human rights and that American foreign policy should advance persons regardless of who they love. (page. 46)

(Today it is LGBTQIP2SAAZ -two Q's (queer and questioning); I for Intersex, people with two sets of genitalia, P for Pansexual, people refuse to be either; 2S for Two-Spirit, have both male and female spirits; A for Asexual, people who do not identify with any orientation; A for Allies, supporters of all, and Z for Zoophiliz those who prefer sex with animals.)

First Amendment (Religious Liberty)

"We pledge to defend the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard religious institutions against government control.We value the right of America's religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith. Republicans believe the federal government, specifically the IRS, is constitutionally prohibited from policing or censoring speech based on religious convictions or beliefs, and therefore we urge the repeal of the Johnson Amendment." (page11)

"Democrats know that our nation, our communities, and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith in many forms and the countless acts of justice, mercy, and *tolerance* it inspires. We believe in lifting up and valuing the good work of people of faith and religious organizations and finding ways to support that work where possible." (page19)

Healthcare and Obamacare

"Any honest agenda for improving healthcare must start with repeal of the dishonestly named Affordable Care Act of 2010: Obamacare..... American's insurance premiums have dramatically increased while their deductibles have risen about eight times faster than wages in the last ten years.

We agree with the four dissenting judges of the Supreme Court: "In our view, the entire Act before us is invalid in its entirety." It must be removed and replaced with an approach based on genuine competition, patient choice, excellent care, wellness, and timely access to treatment." (page 36)

"Thanks to the hard work of President Obama and Democrats in Congress we took a critically important step towards the goal of *universal health care* by passing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which has offered coverage to 20 million more Americans and ensured millions more will never be denied coverage on account of a pre-existing condition." (Page.34)

Second Amendment (Firearms)

"We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, a natural inalienable right that predates the Constitution and is secured by the Second Amendment.

Lawful gun ownership enables Americans to exercise their God-given right of self-defense for the safety of their homes, their loved ones, and their communities."We support firearm reciprocity legislation to recognize the right of law-abiding Americans to carry firearms to protect themselves and their families in all 50 states. We support constitutional carry statutes and salute the states that have passed them.

.....Lawful gun ownership enables Americans to exercise their God-given right of self defense for the safety of their homes, their loved ones, & their communities. (p.12)

"We must finally take sensible action to address gun violence. While responsible gun ownership is part of the fabric of many communities, too many families in America have suffered from gun violence. To build on the success of the lifesaving Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, we will expand and strengthen background checks and close dangerous loopholes in our current laws; repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to revoke the dangerous legal immunity protections gun makers and sellers now enjoy; and keep weapons of war—such as assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines (LCAM's)—off our streets."

....There is insufficient research on effective gun prevention policies, which is why the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** must have the resources it needs to study gun violence as a public health issue. (p.41)

Judges

A critical threat to our country's constitutional order is an activist judiciary that usurps powers properly reserved to the people through other branches of government. Will appoint judges who respect the rule of law expressed within the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, including the inalienable right to life and the laws of nature and nature's God, as did the late Justice Antonin Scalia. (p. 10) We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life."(page13) "

"We will appoint judges who defend the constitutional principles of liberty and equality for all, protect a woman's right to safe and legal abortion, curb billionaires' influence over elections because they understand that *Citizens United* has fundamentally damaged our democracy, and they see the Constitution as a blueprint for progress." (p.25)

Education/School Choice

"We support options for learning, including home-schooling, career and technical education, private or parochial schools, magnet schools, charter schools, online learning, and early-college high schools. We especially support the innovative financing mechanisms that make options available to all children: education savings accounts (ESAs), vouchers, and tuition tax credits. A young person's ability to succeed in school must be based on his or her God-given talent and motivation, not an address, ZIP code, or economic status."(p.34)

"Democrats are also committed to providing parents with high-quality public school options and expanding these options for low-income youth. We support great neighborhood public schools and high-quality public charter schools, and we will help them disseminate best practices to other school leaders and educators. Democrats oppose for-profit charter schools focused on making a profit off of public resources." (p.34)

Sex Education

We renew our call for replacing "family planning" programs for teens with sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior." (p.34)

"We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care, evidence-based sex education, and a full range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies." (p.37)

Medical Research

"We call for expanded support for the stem cell research that now offers the greatest hope for many afflictions — through adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and cells reprogrammed into pluripotent stem cells — without the destruction of embryonic human life. We urge a ban on human cloning for research or reproduction, and a ban on the creation of, or experimentation on, human embryos for research." (p.37-38)

"Democrats believe we must accelerate the pace of medical progress, ensuring that we invest more in our scientists and give them the resources they need to invigorate our fundamental studies in the life sciences in a growing, stable, and predictable way.... We recognize the critical importance of a fully funded National Institutes of Health to accelerate the pace of medical progress." (p.36)

Healthcare and Conscience

"Any honest agenda for improving healthcare must start with repeal of the dishonestly named Affordable Care Act of 2010: Obamacare.... To simplify the system for both patients and providers, we will reduce mandates and enable insurers and providers of care to increase healthcare options and contain costs." (p.36)

"Thanks to the hard work of President Obama and Democrats in Congress we took a critically important step towards the goal of universal health care by passing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which has offered coverage to 20 million more Americans and ensured millions more will never be denied coverage on account of a pre-existing condition." (p.34)

Israel

"Like the United States of America, the modern state of Israel is a country born from the aspiration for freedom and stands out among the nations as a beacon of democracy and humanity. Beyond our mutual strategic interests, Israel is likewise an exceptional country that shares our most essential values.

It is the only country in the Middle East where freedom of speech and freedom of religion are found. Therefore, support for Israel is an expression of Americanism, and it is the responsibility of our government to advance policies that reflect Americans' strong desire for a relationship with no daylight between America and Israel. We recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state and call for the American embassy to be moved there in fulfillment of U.S. law." (p.47)

"A strong and secure Israel is vital to the United States because we share overarching strategic interests and the common values of democracy, equality, tolerance, and pluralism.

We will continue to work toward a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated directly by the parties that guarantees Israel's future as a secure and democratic Jewish state with recognized borders and provides the Palestinians with independence, sovereignty, and dignity. While Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations, it should remain the capital of Israel, an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths. Israelis deserve security, recognition, and a normal life free from terror and incitement. Palestinians should be free to govern themselves in their own viable state, in peace and dignity." (p.52)

Iran

"We consider the Administration's deal with Iran, to lift international sanctions and make hundreds of billions of dollars available to the Mullahs, a personal agreement between the President and his negotiating partners and non-binding on the next president....
.....Because of it, the defiant and emboldened regime in Tehran continues to sponsor terrorism across the region, develop a nuclear weapon, test-fire ballistic missiles inscribed with "Death to Israel," and abuse the basic human rights of its citizens." (p.46)

"We support the nuclear agreement with Iran because, if vigorously enforced and implemented, it verifiably cuts off all of Iran's pathways to a bomb without resorting to war." (p.43)

Foreign Assistance

"The integrity of our country's foreign assistance program has been compromised by the current Administration's attempt to impose on foreign recipients, especially the peoples of Africa, its own radical social agenda while excluding faith-based groups — the sector with the best track record in promoting development — because they will not conform to that agenda. We pledge to reverse this course...." (p.52)

"We will support sexual and reproductive health and rights around the globe. In addition to expanding the availability of affordable family planning information and contraceptive supplies, we believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care and included as part of America's global health programming." (p.46)

Climate Change/Global Warming

"We firmly believe environmental problems are best solved by giving incentives for human ingenuity and the development of new technologies, not through top-down, command-and-control regulations that stifle economic growth and cost thousands of jobs." (p.22)
Conservation is inherent in conservatism. As the pioneer of environmentalism a century ago, the Republican Party reaffirms the moral obligation to be good stewards of the God-given natural beauty and resources of our country. (p.20)

"Climate change is an urgent threat and a defining challenge of our time.... We believe America must be running entirely on clean energy by mid-century."(p.27)

We support President Obama's decision to reject the Keystone XL pipeline (in Oklahoma). As we continue working to reduce carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gas emissions, we must ensure federal actions do not "significantly exacerbate" global warming. (p.28)

Wealth, Poverty, and "Economic Fairness"

We will not divide the American people into winners and losers. We will eliminate as many special interest provisions and loopholes as possible and curb corporate welfare, especially where their erosion of the tax base has created pressure for higher rates. We will be mindful of the burdens on families with children and the impact on an aging population. We oppose tax policies that deliberately divide Americans or promote class warfare. (p.2)

We will ensure those at the top contribute to our country's future by establishing a *multimillionaire surtax* to ensure millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. In addition, we will shut down the "private tax system" for those at the top, immediately close egregious loopholes like those enjoyed by hedge fund managers, restore fair taxation on multimillion dollar estates, and ensure millionaires can no longer pay a lower rate than their secretaries. At a time of near-record corporate profits, slow wage growth, and rising costs, we need to offer tax relief to middle-class families—not those at the top. (p.13)

Mention of God

"Name of God is sovereign sixteen times In Republican Platform found on pages i, ii, 9, 10, 12, 20, 31 & 34

We affirm-as did the Declaration of Independence: that all are created equal, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We believe that people are the ultimate resources-and that the people, not the government, are the best stewards of our country's God-given natural resources. (Page i)

Plus every time we sing "God Bless America" we are asking for help. We ask for divine help that our country can fulfill its promise. (Page ii)

That God bestows certain inalienable rights on every individual, thus producing human equality; that government exists first and foremost to protect those inalienable rights; that man-made law must be consistent with God-given, natural rights; and that if God-given, natural, inalienable rights come in conflict with government, court, or human-granted rights, God-given, natural inalienable rights always prevail' that there is a moral law recognized as "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." (page 9)

...Enshrines our God-given individual rights and ensures that all Americans stand equal before the law, defines the purposes and limits of government. In a free society, the primary role of government is to protect the God-given, inalienable rights of its citizens. ...Strong families, depending upon God and one another, advance the cause of liberty by lessening the need for government in their daily lives. (page9)

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Strong families, depending upon God and one another, advance the cause of liberty by lessening the need for government in their daily lives. (page 31)

In 2012 Democrats tried to take the Name of God entirely out of the Platform. There was such an outcry they put it back in. In 2016 the Name of God mentioned three times as follows: Page 2,14,& 45 Using the words; *God given potential*..

We will end the school-to-prison pipeline and build a cradle-to-college pipeline instead, where every child can live up to his or her *God-given potential*. -(Page 2)

Democrats believe that everyone deserves the chance to live up to his or her God-given potential. (Page 14)

Our values of inclusion and tolerance inspire hope around the world and make us safer at home. The world will be more secure, stable, and peaceful when all people are able to reach their *God-given potential* and live in freedom and dignity (Page 45)



Biblical Scriptures To Judge Platforms



Human Life

“Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:4-5

“For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13

“Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” Psalm 82:3-4

“You shall not murder.” Deut. 5:17

“If a man or woman takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death.” Leviticus 24:17

Marriage

There is no clearer definition of marriage in the New Testament than in I Cor. 7 and it is always between a man and a woman.

“Each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.” 1 Cor 7:2

And Jesus said, “Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning made them **MALE AND FEMALE**, and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” Gen 2:24

Education

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Prov 1:7

“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

“Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.” Psalm 119:66

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.” Prov 1:5

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Prov 2:6

HealthCare and Conscience

“Lord said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.” Exodus 15:26

“God clearly explains in the Book of Leviticus that He is against homosexuality. “You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.” Leviticus 18:22

Wealth & Poverty-Economic Fairness

“Jesus saw wealth as a gift from God to be used in His service.” Matt. 25:14-30

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” 1 John 3:17

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 6:17

Planned Parenthood

“Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name... And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength” Isaiah 49:1,5

“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood**, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” Proverbs 6:16-19

Second Amendment-Firearms

“And He said to them, “When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?” They said, “No, nothing.” And He said to them, But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, ‘**AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS**’; for that which refers to Me has *its* fulfillment.” They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.” And He said to them, “It is enough.” Luke 22:35-38

Sex Education

Sex is a gift to us from God and should be viewed as such. God created sex for two purposes: procreation and unity between husband and wife

“God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Gen1:28

“Any other use of sex is sin –“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals.” 1 Cor. 6:9

Israel

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they that love thee shall prosper.” Psalm 122:6

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”- Genesis 12:1-3

“They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews’ spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.” - Romans 15:27

Climate Change/Global Warming

“For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.” Romans 8:19-22

First Amendment- Religious Freedom

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke: 4:18-19

“Nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.” Matthew 5:15

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.” Gal 5:1

Judges

“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully, as knowing this, that law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and unruly, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for abusers of themselves with men, for men stealers, for liars, for false swearers, and if there be any other thing contrary to the sound doctrine;” 1 Timothy 1:8-10

Medical Research

“Is there no medicine in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why is there no healing for the wounds of my people?” Jeremiah 8:22

“All kinds of trees providing food will grow along both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. Each month they will bear fresh fruit because the water comes from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be used for food and their leaves for medicine.” Ezekiel 47:11-12

“Behold, I, the Lord, will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.” Jeremiah 33:6

Iran

“This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The Lord, The God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build a Temple for Him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you - may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build The Temple of The Lord, The God of Israel, The God who is in Jerusalem.” Ezra 1:2-3

Foreign Assistance

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matt. 5:13-16