

## Statements about Criminal Justice and Trafficking:

“We call for mandatory prison time for all assaults involving serious injury to law enforcement officers. (Page 40)

We encourage states to continue to fight (pornography) ... and pledge our commitment to children’s safety and well-being. We urge energetic prosecution of child pornography, which is closely linked to human trafficking. (Page 40)

We will use the full force of the law against those who engage in commercial sexual exploitation and forced or bonded labor of men, women, or children; involuntary domestic servitude; trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal; and the illegal recruitment and use of child soldiers. (Page 53)

A Republican administration will strategize with partners around the world to prevent the demand for trafficking victims that makes exploitation lucrative and will prosecute sex tourists and domestic buyers to the fullest extent of the law.” (Page 53)

## Statements about Election and Campaign Laws:

“We support legislation to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote and secure photo ID when voting. (Page 16)

We urge our elected representatives to ensure that citizenship rather than mere residency, be made the basis for the apportionment of representatives among the states.” (Page 16)

“Democrats believe we need to overhaul the criminal justice system from top to bottom. Police brutality is a stain on the soul of our nation...(Page 35)

Democrats will establish strict national standards governing the use of force, including banning the use of chokeholds and carotid holds and permitting deadly force only when necessary and a last resort to prevent an imminent threat to life. And we will ban racial and religious profiling in law enforcement...Democrats will support measures to improve training education for judges, corrections officers, prosecutors, public defenders and police officers to ensure transgender and gender non-conforming people receive fair and equitable treatment in the criminal justice system.

We will ensure no one is incarcerated solely for drug use, and support increased use of drug courts, harm reduction interventions, and treatment diversion programs. (Page 30)

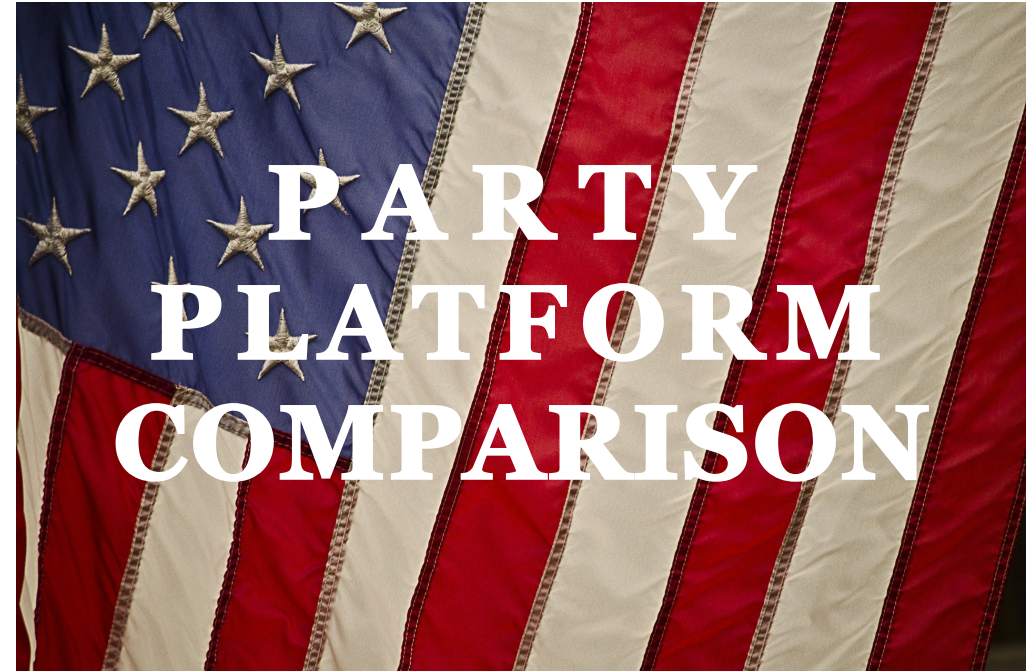
Democrats believe weapons of war have no place on our streets, and will once again limit the sale and transfer of surplus military weapons to domestic law enforcement agencies—a policy President Trump reversed immediately upon taking office.” (Page 37)

“Democrats will restore the full powers of the Voting Rights act and go further to roll back discriminatory policies that have been put in place in recent years to prevent people of color from voting. We will ensure all federal agencies produce materials in languages commonly spoken in the United States, including languages spoken by Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and that voting materials are also easily accessible for citizens with limited English proficiency. (Page 42)

We will make voting easier and more accessible for all Americans by supporting automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, early voting, and universal vote-from-home and vote-by-mail options...Election officials must be provided with sufficient time after election day to process count, and audit all ballots.

The formerly incarcerated should not be blocked from exercising their voting rights or accessing public services...Continuing to punish a person after they have rejoined the community is both cruel and counterproductive. (Page 39)

We will bring an end to “dark money” by requiring full disclosure of contributors to any group that advocates for or against candidates, and bar 501(c) (4) organizations from spending money on elections.” (Page 57)



**The following excerpts were taken from the 2020 Republican Party and Democratic Party National Platforms. They are abbreviated and compiled in comparison form. Republican quotes are in red; Democratic quotes are in blue. Material in parenthesis and section titles are by the compiler.**

The complete platforms are available at the following web-sites:

The 58 page 2016 Republican Platform was readopted for 2020:

[https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/static/home/data/platform.pdf?\\_ga=2.62891624.536443634.1600438844-1952546666.1600438844](https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/static/home/data/platform.pdf?_ga=2.62891624.536443634.1600438844-1952546666.1600438844)

The 91 page 2016 Democratic Platform: <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-07-31-Democratic-Party-Platform-For-Distribution.pdf>

## Statements about Sanctity of Life:

“... we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. (Page 13)  
We urge all states and Congress to make it a crime to acquire, transfer, or sell fetal tissues from elective abortions for research ... (Page 13)  
We condemn the Supreme Court’s activist decision in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* striking down commonsense Texas laws providing for basic health and safety standards in abortion clinics. (Page 14)  
We respect the states’ authority and flexibility to exclude abortion providers from federal programs such as Medicaid and other healthcare and family planning programs so long as they continue to perform or refer for elective abortions or sell the body parts of aborted children. (Page 24)  
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 ... empowers teens to achieve optimal health outcomes. (Page 34)  
We call for a permanent ban on federal funding and subsidies for abortion and healthcare plans that include abortion coverage. (Page 37)  
We oppose the non-consensual withholding of care or treatment from people with disabilities, including newborns, the elderly, and inform, just as we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide ...” (Page 39)

## Statements about Gender:

“Our laws and our government’s regulations should recognize marriage as the union of one man and one woman and actively promote married family life as the basis of a stable and prosperous society. (Page 31)  
We ... support the original, authentic meaning of Title IX ... is now being used ... to impose a social and cultural revolution upon the American people by wrongly redefining sex discrimination to include sexual orientation or other categories ... Their edict to the states concerning restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities is at once illegal, dangerous, and ignores privacy issues.” (Page 35)

“Democrats oppose and will fight to overturn federal and state laws that create barriers to reproductive health and rights....every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion. We will repeal the Title X domestic gag rule and restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood....Democrats oppose restrictions on medication abortion care..” (Page 32)  
Democrats continue to support abolishing the death penalty.” (Page 38)  
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“We will fight to enact the Equality Act and at last outlaw discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in housing, public accommodations, access to credit, education, jury service, and federal programs. We will work to ensure LGBTQ+ people are not discriminated against ...and guarantee transgender students’ access to facilities based on their gender identity....Democrats will expand mental health and suicide prevention services, and ban harmful “conversion therapy” practices. (Page 42)  
We will ...take action to guarantee that LGBTQ+ people have full access to needed health care and resources, including...gender confirmation surgery, and hormone therapy. (Page 33)  
We will act swiftly to end homelessness among veterans and will enact strong protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth, especially Black, Latino, and Native American LGBTQ+ youth, who too often find themselves on the streets. (Page 21.)  
Democrats will fight to guarantee equal rights for women, including by ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment and at long last enshrining gender equality in the U.S. Constitution.” (Page 42)

## Statements about Education:

“We will continue our fight for school choice until all parents can find good, safe schools for their children. (Page 32)  
Parents are a child’s first and foremost educators, and have primary responsibility for the education of their children. Parents have a right to direct their children’s education, care, and upbringing. (Page 33)  
We applaud America’s great teachers, who should be protected against frivolous lawsuits and should be able to take reasonable actions to maintain discipline and order in the classroom. (Page 33)  
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. (Page 34)  
We support the right of parents to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children...” (Page 37)

## Statements about Freedom of Religion and Civil Rights:

“Because of the vital role of religious organizations, charities, and fraternal benevolent societies in fostering generosity and patriotism, they should not be subject to taxation and donations to them should remain deductible. (Page 2)  
Religious freedom in the Bill of Rights protects the right of the people to practice their faith in their everyday lives. (Page 11)  
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. (Page 11)  
We support the right of the people to conduct their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs and condemn public officials who have proposed boycotts against businesses that support traditional marriage. (Page 12)  
We likewise call for an end to the so-called Fairness Doctrine, and support free-market approaches to free speech unregulated by government. (Page 12)  
We support the rights of conscience of military chaplains of all faiths to practice their faith free from political interference. ... will protect the religious freedom of all military members, especially chaplains, and will not tolerate attempts to ban Bibles or religious symbols from military facilities. (Page 43)  
... a Republican administration will return the advocacy of religious liberty to a central place in its diplomacy, will quickly designate the systematic killing of religious and ethnic minorities a genocide, and will work with leaders of other nations to condemn and combat genocidal acts.” (Page 52)

“We believe education is a critical public good, and will increase investments to guarantee all students can access high-quality public schools, no matter where they live... (Page 41)  
We support public funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and for art and music education in public schools. (Page 49)  
We will reimagine our education system guided by the stakeholders and qualified, first-class, well-trained, passionate educators who know these issues best: young people, educators, parents, and community leaders....We will work with the states to offer pre-K for all three-and four-year-olds and expand Head Start and Early Head Start. (Page 65)  
Democrats oppose private school vouchers and other policies that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from the public school system...” (Page 67)

“The Republican Party has packed our federal courts with unqualified, partisan judges who consistently rule for corporations, the wealthy, and Republican interests. They have undermined the legitimacy of our courts...” (Page 58)  
Democrats will commit to creating new federal district and circuit judgeships consistent with recommendations from the Judicial Conference. (Page 38)  
Democrats are committed to ending discrimination...We will enforce and strengthen the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and will end racial and religious profiling in law enforcement. (Page 39)  
We believe Black lives matter, and will establish a national commission to examine the lasting economic effects of slavery...to pursue truth and promote racial healing and to study reparations. (Page 40)  
We will reject the Trump Administration’s use of broad religious exemptions to allow businesses, medical providers, social service agencies, and other to discriminate...We will hold accountable those who engage in or enable violent or other illegal activity targeting religious minorities, including by directing the federal government to address the growing and violent threat of white supremacist, neo-Nazi and anti-government groups. (Page 48)  
“Democrats will appoint an independent media professional to head the U.S. Agency for Global Media, to ensure that the news and information projected around the world by the federal government meets the highest standards of fact-based and unbiased journalism.” (Page 48-49)

## Statements about National Sovereignty:

“To protect our national security interests and foster innovation and competitiveness, we must sustain our preeminence in space by launching more scientific missions, guaranteeing unfettered access, and ensuring that our space-related industries remain a source of scientific leadership and education. (Page 6) America’s Electric Grid ... is aging, vulnerable to cyber and terrorist threats, and unprepared to serve our energy needs of tomorrow. ... We support ... expedited siting processes and the thoughtful expansion of the grid ... (Page 6) We recommend ... enactment by the full Congress ... ways to secure the integrity of our currency. (Page 7)

We therefore oppose the adoption or ratification of treaties that would weaken or encroach upon American sovereignty or that could be construed by courts to do so. We will not recognize as binding upon the United States any international agreement forged without the constitutionally required assent of two-thirds of the United States Senate. (Page 10)

We call on Congress to begin reclaiming its constitutional powers from the bureaucratic state by requiring that major new federal regulations be approved by Congress before they can take effect ... (Page 10) We do not support the U.N. Convention on Women’s Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty as well as various declarations from the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development. ... We have deep reservations about .... the Law of the Sea Treaty. We emphatically reject U.N. Agenda 21, ... and we oppose any form of Global Tax. (Page 51)

The Republican Party does not accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. ... Our service members must be subject only to American law. (Page 51)

Radical Islamic terrorism poses an existential threat to personal freedom and peace around the world. ... The Republican Party stands united with all victims of terrorism and will fight at home and abroad to destroy terrorist organizations and protect the lives and fundamental liberties of all people.” (Page 52) Radical Islamic terrorism poses an existential threat to personal freedom and peace around the world. ... The Republican Party stands united with all victims of terrorism and will fight at home and abroad to destroy terrorist organizations and protect the lives and fundamental liberties of all people.” (Page 52)

## Statements about Israel:

“We reaffirm America’s commitment to Israel’s security and will ensure that Israel maintains a qualitative military edge over any and all adversaries. ... We reject the false notion that Israel is an occupier and specifically recognize that the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS) is anti-Semitic in nature and seeks to destroy Israel.”(Page 47)

“Democrats unequivocally support statehood for Washington, D.C., so the citizens of the district can at last have full and equal representation in Congress and the rights of self-determination...The American citizens of the U.S. territories should have the right to vote for the President of the United States. (Page 59) Democrats believe four more years of Donald Trump will damage our influence beyond repair. But closing the chapter on “America First” is just the beginning of the work ahead. (Page 72) Rather than militarize our foreign policy, treat our diplomats with contempt, and call for reckless budget cuts, Democrats will put diplomacy back in the hands of professionals, and ensure they are better prepared to advance American interests...like disruptive technology and climate change. (Page 73) Democrats will devote the resources and implement the reforms necessary to further multiply the impact of foreign assistance. We will reaffirm America’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and promote data efforts and transparency measures that ensure accountability and help identify areas for strategic investment.” Page 75)

“Democrats recognize the worth of every Israeli and every Palestinian...We support a negotiated two-state solution that ensures Israel’s future as a Jewish and democratic state with recognized borders and upholds the right of Palestinians to live in freedom and security in a viable state of their own.” (Page 91)

## Statements about the Military:

“... the Republican Party is committed to rebuilding the U.S. military into the strongest on earth, with vast superiority over any other nation or group of nations in the world. (Page 41) We oppose the reinstatement of the draft, except in dire circumstances like world war, whether directly or through compulsory national service. ... We reiterate our support for both the advancement of women in the military and their exemption from direct ground combat units and infantry battalions. (Page 43) America has a sacred trust with our veterans, and we are committed to ensuring them and their families’ care and dignity. (Page 44) That includes allowing veterans to choose to access care in the community and not just in VA facilities, because the best care in the world is not effective if it is not accessible.” (Page 45)

## Statements about Immigration:

“Our immigration system must protect American working families and their wages, for citizens and legal immigrants alike, in a way that will improve the economy. (Page 25) We oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by breaking the law, have disadvantaged those who have obeyed it. (Page 25) ... we support stiffer penalties, such as a mandatory minimum sentence of five years, for any illegal alien who illegally re-enters our nation after already having been deported. (Page 26) Because “sanctuary cities” violate federal law and endanger their own citizens, they should not be eligible for federal funding. (Page 26) To ensure our national security, refugees who cannot be carefully vetted cannot be admitted to the country, ... (Page 26) To keep our people safe, we must secure our borders, enforce our immigration laws, and properly screen refugees and other immigrants entering from any country.” (Page 42)

“We owe it to our men and women in uniform and to the American public to spend our defense dollars more wisely and strategically...” (Page 73) Democrats believe the measure of our security is not how much we spend on defense, but how we spend our defense dollars and in what proportion to other tools in our foreign policy toolbox and other urgent domestic investments.... We will reverse the Trump Administration’s hateful transgender ban, discriminatory exclusions in military health care, and policies that stigmatize and discriminate against people living with HIV and AIDS, and ensure that LGBTQ+ service members and families enjoy equal respect, benefits and care. We will root out systemic racism from our military justice system.” (Page 77)

“The Trump Administration has repudiated...and abandoned our values as a diverse, compassionate, and welcoming country...immigration policies have made our communities less safe, undermined our economy, and tarnished our image around the world. (Page 61) Democrats believe it is long past time to provide a roadmap to citizenship for the millions of undocumented workers, caregivers, students, and children who are an essential part of our economy and of the fabric of our nation. (Page 62) Democrats will rescind President Trump’s fabricated “National Emergency,” which siphons funding away from our men and women in uniform to construct an unnecessary, wasteful, and ineffective wall on the southern border. We will immediately terminate...discriminatory travel and immigration bans that disproportionately impact Muslim, Arab, and African people, ...We will support legislation to ensure that no president can enact discriminatory bans ever again.” (Page 61)

## Statements about Gun Control:

“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 also oppose any effort to deprive individuals of their right to keep and bear arms without due process of law.” (Page 12)

“Gun violence is a public health crisis in the United States...Democrats will enact universal background checks, end online sales of guns and ammunition, (Page 47)

We will...prevent individuals who have been convicted of hate crimes from possessing firearms. Democrats will ban the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Democrats believe that gun companies should be held responsible for their products...(Page 48)

Guns have no place in our schools. We disagree strongly with the Trump Administration’s dangerous and short-sighted suggestion that teachers should bring firearms into the classroom.” (Page 67)

## Statements about Health Care:

“(For Medicare) ... we propose these reforms: Impose no changes for persons 55 or older. Give others the option of traditional Medicare or transition to a premium-support model designed to strengthen patient choice, promote cost-saving competition among providers, and better guard against the fraud and abuse that now diverts billions of dollars every year away from patient care. Guarantee to every enrollee an income-adjusted contribution toward a plan of their choice, with catastrophic protection. Without disadvantaging present retirees or those nearing retirement, set a more realistic age for eligibility in light of today’s longer life span. (Page 24)

(For Medicaid) we applaud the Republican governors and state legislators who have undertaken the hard work of modernizing Medicaid. We will give them a free hand ... by block-granting the program without strings. (Page 24)

America’s healthcare professionals should not be forced to choose between following their faith and practicing their profession. (Page 37)

We support the ability of all organizations to provide, purchase, or enroll in healthcare coverage consistent with their religious, moral, or ethical convictions without discrimination or penalty.” (Page 37)

“...as Democrats, we fundamentally believe health care is a right for all, not a privilege for the few...We are going to at last build the health care system the American people have always deserved: one that finally provides universal health care coverage; reduces prescription drug prices, premiums...and tackles the deep-seated inequities in our health care system....We are proud our party welcomes advocates who want to build on and strengthen the Affordable Care Act and those who support a Medicare for All approach...” (Page 27)

## Statements about Fiscal Responsibility:

“Republicans consider the establishment of a pro-growth tax code a moral imperative. (Page 1)

To guard against hypertaxation of the American people in any restructuring of the federal tax system, any value added tax or national sales tax must be tied to the simultaneous repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment, which established the federal income tax. (Page 2)

We propose to level the international playing field by lowering the corporate tax rate to be on a par with, or below, the rates of other industrial nations. (Page 2)

We cannot allow foreign governments to limit American access to their markets while stealing our designs, patents, brands, know-how, and technology. (Page 2)

In response to the financial institutions crisis of 2008-2009, the ... Congress enacted ... known as Dodd-Frank ... to establish unprecedented government control over the nation’s financial markets ... the (Consumer Financial Protection) Bureau ... should be subjected to congressional appropriation. (Page 3)

Minimum wage is an issue that should be handled at the state and local level. (Page 8)

We must impose firm caps on future debt ... spending restraint is a necessary component that must be vigorously pursued. (Page 8)

The Republican path to fiscal sanity and economic expansion begins with a constitutional requirement for a federal balanced budget.” (Page 23)

## Statements about the Environment:

... “(C) coal is an abundant, clean, affordable, reliable domestic energy resource. Those who mine it and their families should be protected from the ... radical anti-coal agenda. (Page 19)

... We support the development of all forms of energy that are marketable in a free economy without subsidies, including coal, oil natural gas, nuclear power, and hydropower. ... We encourage the cost-effective development of renewable energy sources – wind, solar, biomass, biofuel, geothermal, and tidal energy – by private capital. (Page 20)

We propose to shift responsibility for environmental regulation from the federal bureaucracy to the states and to transform the EPA into an independent bi-partisan commission. (Page 21)

We reject the agendas of both the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, which represent only the personal commitments of their signatories; no such agreement can be binding upon the United States until it is submitted to and ratified by the Senate.” (Page 22)

“Democrats will take action to reverse the Trump Administration’s tax cuts benefiting the wealthiest Americans ... We will make sure the wealthy pay their fair share in taxes...Corporate tax rates, which were cut... must be raised, and “trickle-down” tax cuts must be rejected. Estate taxes should also be raised back to the historical norm. (Page 22)

We will raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and guarantee equal pay for women... (Page 24)

Democrats will close the digital divide that deprives more than 20 million Americans of high-speed internet access by investing in broadband and 5G technology,...while ensuring those investments support good jobs and include strong protections for workers’ rights to organize and restoring the FCC’s authority to take strong enforcement action against internet service providers who violate net neutrality principles.” (Page 17)

“Climate change is a global emergency. We can and must build a thriving, equitable, and globally competitive clean energy economy that puts workers and communities first and leaves no one behind. (Page 49)

Democrats believe we must embed environmental justice, economic justice, and climate justice at the heart of our policy and governing agenda. We will rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. (Page 50)

We will hold fossil fuel companies accountable for cleaning up abandoned mine lands, oil and gas wells, and industrial sites, so these facilities no longer pollute local environments and can be safely repurposed to support new economic activity, including in the heart of coal country. (Page 54)

We support banning new oil and gas permitting on public lands and waters, modifying royalties to account for climate costs, and establishing targeted programs to enhance reforestation and develop renewable on federal lands and waters. (Page 55)

...installing 500,000 public charging stations for electric vehicles, ensuring our passenger transportation systems are resilient to the impacts of climate change....We will modernize and green our public schools and ensure they are accessible to students with disabilities. (Page 17)

We will protect our oceans...through fisheries management programs and additional designations of marine protected areas.” (Page 79)