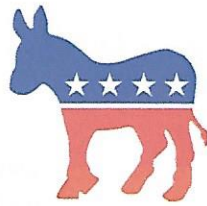


# What Do the Major Party Platforms Say on Issues of Interest to Christians?



## Republican

## Democrat

**Abortion:** “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. 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” (13) “We affirm our moral obligation to assist, rather than penalize, women who face an unplanned pregnancy”(Page 14).

**Marriage & Family:** “Foremost among those institutions is the American family. It is the foundation of civil society, and the cornerstone of the family is natural marriage, the union of one man and one woman. 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” (31).

**Religious Liberty:** “Our First Amendment rights are not given to us by the government but are rights we inherently possess. The government cannot use subsequent amendments to limit First Amendment rights. The Free Exercise Clause is both an individual and a collective liberty protecting a right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience”(12).

**Educational Diversity:** “Parents are a child’s first and foremost educators, and have primary responsibility for the education of their children. 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, vouchers, and tuition tax credits”(33).

**Taxation & Competitive America:** “American businesses now face the world’s highest corporate tax rates. We propose to level the international

**Abortion:** “...every woman should have access to quality reproductive healthcare services, including safe and legal abortion.”(37). “We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers...”(31). “We will continue to oppose-and seek to overturn-federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman’s access to abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment”(page 37). \*(Hyde Amendment prohibits tax payer funding of abortion)

**Marriage and Family:** “Democrats believe that LGBT rights are human rights and that American foreign policy should advance the ability of all persons to live with dignity, security, and respect, regardless of who they love”(46).

**Religious Liberty:** “We support a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate”(29).

**Educational Diversity:** “Democrats are committed to making good public schools available to every child... and at last making debt-free college a reality for all Americans”(30). “...working families should not have to pay any tuition to go to public colleges and universities”(30). “Democrats know that the federal government must play a critical role in making sure every child has access to a world-class education”(32).

**Taxation and Competitive America:** “...we believe the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations must pay their fair share of taxes”(12).

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

**Healthcare:** “Any honest agenda for improving healthcare must start with repeal of the dishonestly name Affordable Care Act of 2010: Obamacare”(36).

**Judicial Qualification:** “Only a Republican president 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...”(10).

**Criminal Justice:** “The men and women of law enforcement-whether patrolling our neighborhoods or our borders, fighting organized crime or guarding against domestic terror-deserve our gratitude and support”(39).

**National Security:** “Republicans continue to support American military superiority which has been the cornerstone of a strategy that seeks to deter aggression or defeat those who threaten our vital national security interests”(42).

**Second Amendment:** “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.

**Illegal Immigration:** “In a time of terrorism, drug cartels, human trafficking, and criminal gangs, the presence of millions of unidentified individuals in this country poses grave risks to the safety and sovereignty of the United States”(26).

**Veterans:** “The VA must strengthen and improve its efforts through partnerships with private enterprises, veteran service organizations, technology and innovation, and competitive bidding to enable the VA to better provide both quality and timely care along with all earned benefits to our nation’s veterans and their families”(45).

**Healthcare:** “...we are the proud party that passed Affordable Care Act (Obama Care)”(34). “We will keep fighting until the ACA’s Medicaid expansion has been adopted in every state”(35).

**Judicial Qualification:** “We will appoint judges who...will protect a woman’s right to safe and legal abortion...”(25).

**Criminal Justice:** “We will reform mandatory minimum sentences and close private prisons and detention centers”(15).

**National Security and Terrorism:** “We will use all tools of American power, especially diplomacy and development, to confront global threats and ensure war is the last resort”(42). “Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our national security”(45). “The Democratic party remains committed to closing Guantanamo Bay and ending indefinite detention without trial or conviction”(47).

**Second Amendment:** “...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...”(39).

**Illegal Immigration:** “Those immigrants (illegal)\* already in the United States should be incorporated completely into our society through legal processes...”(17).

**Veterans:** “We reject attempts by Republicans to sell out the needs of veterans by privatizing the VA”(41).

*\*Added for clarification*

A number of voters, especially younger, ask what the difference is between the two parties. The platforms paint a very clear difference. Members of both parties in Congress tend to vote along the lines of their party’s platform more than 80% of the time.