

## Comparison of the Texas 2024 Republican and Democratic Platforms

July 4, 2024

This summary contains selected portions of each platform that illustrate significant policy differences. The paragraph or page on which each quote appears in the platform is noted. The summary does not replace reading the full platforms, which address many other issues and contain more details on these issues.

This was created by the Center for Policy Progress. Questions and comments can be sent to [info@centerforpolicyprogress.org](mailto:info@centerforpolicyprogress.org).

Republican Platform: <https://texasgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-RPT-Platform.pdf>

Democratic Platform: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WQy7fxJ9mjq5ws7pqLZwOCJCePjKHtbc3tKpHKXRAdQ/edit#heading=h.f7z7y179stew>

| Policy Area    | Party Positions  | Quotes from party platforms   |
|----------------|--|---|
| Education      | <b>R: Support vouchers, no mention of supporting public schools or teacher pay</b>     | <b>We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children’s education and funding which shall follow the student with no strings attached. (Paragraph 84)</b>   |
|                | <b>D: Support for public schools, oppose vouchers, support pay raises for teachers</b> | <b>Protect and enhance Texas public education, so that our students are prepared for a diverse and changing labor market and to participate as engaged citizens (page 11)</b><br><br><b>Recognize the critical role teachers play in students’ lives by setting a starting salary for teachers sufficient to attract appropriately certified teachers and eliminate vacancies (page 12)</b> |
| Climate Change | <b>R: Oppose action</b>  | <b>We oppose environmentalism, or “climate change“ initiatives, that obstruct legitimate business interests and private property use... (paragraph 43)</b><br><br><b>We support the reclassification of carbon dioxide as a non-pollutant, abolition of the Environmental Protection Agency, and repeal of the Endangered Species Act. (paragraph 43)</b>                                   |
|                | <b>D: Support action</b>   | <b>Support the transition to clean energy to advance just, equitable and rapid decarbonization, through investment in transmission infrastructure, job training, innovation, and equitable access to clean energy for America, both nationally and in Texas; (page 23)</b><br><br><b>Restore U.S. leadership in mitigating the effects of climate change (page 65)</b>                      |

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|--------------------|--|--|
| Immigration        | <b>R: State involvement in border enforcement, deportation</b>                                     | <b>Combating Illegal Immigration: We recognize illegal immigration as the greatest threat to American security and sovereignty. To combat the invasion at our border, we demand that both the federal government and the State of Texas enforce laws to their fullest extent, implement an entry/exit tracking system for all visa holders and biometric tracking of all inadmissible aliens, end Catch and Release by requiring the federal government to keep all suspected illegal aliens in custody pending final determination of immigration status, and devote all available resources to deportations. (paragraph 236)</b> |
|                    | <b>D: End Operation Lone Star, comprehensive immigration reform</b>                                | <b>Demilitarize and scale back policing saturation of border communities, particularly halting the fiscally wasteful Operation Lone Star (page 50)</b><br><b>Enact comprehensive immigration reform, including an attainable path to citizenship; (page 49)</b>  |
| Gun Violence       | <b>R: Increase access to guns</b>  | <b>Pass unrestricted Constitutional Carry (paragraph 2g)</b><br><b>Nullify any gun laws that violate the 2nd Amendment or rights of due process. (pararaph 19b)</b>  |
|                    | <b>D: Enact reasonable gun laws to reduce gun violence, within the limits of the 2nd amendment</b> | <b>We call on state leaders to preserve Second Amendment rights while implementing prudent safeguards against needless suicides, senseless mass murders, tragic accidents, and interpersonal violence. (page 30)</b><br><b>Support research promoting gun safety, such as child safety locks and other “smart gun” technology; (page 30)</b><br><b>Require universal background checks coupled with a reasonable waiting period, with the exception of an exchange of firearms within families or by inheritance (page 30)</b>   |
| Expanding Medicaid | <b>R: Oppose</b>   | <b>We oppose any further expansion of Medicaid. (paragraph 126)</b>  |
|                    | <b>D; Support</b>  | <b>Expand Medicaid coverage to improve healthcare access throughout Texas; (page 19)</b>   |

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|---------------------|---|---|
| Reproductive Rights | <b>R: Ban Abortion, restrict IVF</b>  | <p>We urge lawmakers to enact legislation to abolish abortion (paragraph 23)</p> <p>We support continued efforts to preserve the inherent dignity of human embryos, including adoption of human embryos and the banning of human embryo trafficking. (paragraph 145)</p>  |
|                     | <b>D: Restore abortion rights, protect the right to contraception and IVF</b>   | <p>Uphold the rights of women to control their bodies and decide how, when and with whom they will have children (page 33)</p> <p>Expand access to contraception and reinstate the right to an abortion; (pg. 19)</p> <p>Protect the right to in-vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment and oppose laws and judicial interpretation of laws that could and would result in closing IVF facilities; (page 19)</p>   |
| LGBT Rights         | <b>R: Oppose. Oppose same sex marriage and recognition of trans people.</b>   | <p>Homosexuality is an abnormal lifestyle choice. (paragraph 132)</p> <p>We oppose homosexual marriage (paragraph 183)</p> <p>The official position of the Texas schools shall be that there are only two genders: biological male and biological female, which are immutable and cannot be changed. (paragraph 103)</p>  |
|                     | <b>D: Support</b>   | <p>Ensure equal protections and rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and other non-cis non-heterosexual or LGBTQIA+ people (page 42)</p>   |
| Voting Rights       | <b>R: Restrict voting rights, repeal Voting Rights Act, require any statewide candidate to win a majority of Texas counties</b> | <p>In-Person Election Voting: In-person voting shall be conducted as a single period of time of no more than three days with no time gap between the first day of voting and Election Day. (paragraph 220)</p> <p>The Legislature shall cause to be enacted a State Constitutional Amendment to add the additional criteria for election to a statewide office to include the majority vote of the counties with each individual county being assigned one vote allocated to the popular majority vote winner of each individual county (paragraph 21)</p> <p>We urge that the Voting Rights Act of 1965, codified and updated in 1973, be repealed and not reauthorized. (paragraph 224)</p> |
|                     | <b>D. Protect voting rights and the Voting Rights Act</b>   | <p>Eliminate barriers to voting and encourage full participation in elections and governance; (page 8)</p> <p>Protect voting rights by enforcing the Texas Voting Rights Act and the federal Voting Rights Act with restored preclearance provisions; (page 9);</p>   |

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| Religious Freedom      | <b>R: Christian focused</b>                           | <b>We urge the Legislature and the State Board of Education to require instruction on the Bible, servant leadership, and Christian self-governance. (paragraph 90)</b>   |
|                        | <b>D: Protect religious freedom for all religions</b> | <b>Safeguard the free exercise of religion and prohibit government establishment of religion, of one religion or denomination over others, religion over nonreligion, or nonreligion over religion (page 40)</b>   |
| Marijuana Legalization | <b>R: Oppose</b>                                      | <b>The State of Texas shall retain cannabis as a Schedule I drug. (paragraph 137)</b><br><b>Note: The Texas State Board of Pharmacy defines a Schedule 1 drug as: " drugs with a high abuse risk. These drugs have NO safe, accepted medical use..."</b><br><br><b>Marijuana Remains Illegal: We oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana (paragraph 204)</b>   |
|                        | <b>D: Support</b>                                     | <b>Legalize the possession and use of cannabis, medicinal and recreational, and its derivatives in Texas, and regulate its use, production, and sale for public health and safety as other states do and as is already done with alcohol and tobacco (page 37)</b>   |
| Foreign Affairs        | <b>R: Isolationism; withdraw from the UN</b>          | <b>We support the immediate withdrawal from the current United Nations and the removal of the United Nations from United States soil. (paragraph 251)</b>  |
|                        | <b>D: Engagement with the world</b>                   | <b>Restore the United States to a leadership role in world affairs (page 64)</b><br><br><b>Affirm our relations with other countries based on equality, democracy, and respect for the struggles of those seeking freedom, not on defense of corporate profits or on the false and destructive premise that any country has a right to dominate others (page 64)</b><br><br><b>Restore U.S. leadership in international institutions such as the United Nations and other alliances; (page 65)</b> |
| Support for Ukraine    | <b>R: Oppose military support for Ukraine</b>         | <b>...we urge the United States to cease all military engagements, across all domains of warfare, in the Ukraine-Russia conflict (pargraph 247)</b>  |
|                        | <b>D: Support Ukraine</b>                             | <b>Support the defense of Ukraine in concert with our allies against the full scale illegal invasion by Russia through the provision of sufficient military and humanitarian aid (page 65)</b>   |