

## Contrasting the Republican and Democratic 2024 National Platforms

August 24, 2024

The two party's platforms have much in common. Both claim that they will strengthen our economy, improve our schools, invest in our infrastructure, reduce inflation and protect our border. Both pledge to support a strong military, support veterans, and protect religious freedom. **But there are also huge differences.** This document summarizes some of the most significant differences in the platforms.

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

The full platform documents can be found here:

**Republican Platform:** [https://ballotpedia.org/The\\_Republican\\_Party\\_Platform,\\_2024](https://ballotpedia.org/The_Republican_Party_Platform,_2024)

(This is also referred to as Trump's "Agenda 47" on his website - <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/platform>)

**Democratic Platform:** [https://ballotpedia.s3.amazonaws.com/images/9/95/Democratic\\_Party\\_Platform\\_2024.pdf](https://ballotpedia.s3.amazonaws.com/images/9/95/Democratic_Party_Platform_2024.pdf)

*Quotes taken directly from the platforms are in italics.*

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
Jobs	<p><b>The Republican platform focuses on protectionism to avoid international competition.</b></p>	<p><i>The Republican Party stands for a patriotic “America First” Economic Policy. Republicans offer a robust plan to protect American Workers, Farmers, and Industries from unfair Foreign Competition. We commit to rebalancing Trade, securing Strategic Independence, and revitalizing Manufacturing. We will prioritize Domestic Production, and ensure National Independence in essential goods and services. (Page 11)</i></p> <p><i>By protecting American Workers from unfair Foreign Competition and unleashing American Energy, Republicans will restore American Manufacturing, creating Jobs, Wealth, and Investment. (Page 11)</i></p>
	<p><b>The Democratic platform includes investment in job training, enforcement of fair labor laws, and support for unions, in addition to strong Buy American rules for Federal contracts.</b></p>	<p><i>...our Investing in American agenda is expanding job-training partnerships between high schools, community colleges, unions, and employers. We have a million trainees enrolled in registered apprenticeships today. (Page 8)</i></p> <p><i>We’ll strengthen enforcement and penalties for safety, wage, and other labor and employment violations. And, Democrats will continue to aggressively hold companies accountable for violating child labor law. (Page 9)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats will keep fighting to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, to give everyone the right to organize for better pay, benefits, and working conditions, and to hold abusive bosses accountable for violating workers’ rights. (Page 9)</i></p> <p><i>any federally-financed infrastructure job must include wage and labor protections. And we’re making sure that these projects use American-made goods, by strengthening “Buy American” procurement rules to their toughest level in seven decades.</i></p>

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
<b>Fighting Inflation</b>	<b>Republicans plan to fight inflation by increasing energy production, cutting spending and regulations, and stopping illegal immigration.</b>	<p><i>We commit to unleashing American Energy, reining in wasteful spending, cutting excessive Regulations, securing our Borders, and restoring Peace through Strength. (Page 7)</i></p> <p><i>Republicans will secure the Border, deport Illegal Aliens, and reverse the Democrats’ Open Borders Policies that have driven up the cost of Housing, Education, and Healthcare for American families. (Page 7)</i></p> <p>Note: Many economists say that illegal immigration actually helps to reduce inflation (<a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/stuartanderson/2023/05/04/economists-say-increasing-immigration-will-reduce-inflation/">https://www.forbes.com/sites/stuartanderson/2023/05/04/economists-say-increasing-immigration-will-reduce-inflation/</a>)</p>
	<b>The Democratic platform fights inflation by strengthening supply chains, cracking down on price gouging, and negotiating lower prescription drug prices.</b>	<p><i>Through record energy production of clean energy, oil, and gas, we’ve lowered prices at the pump for American families. The Administration also released nearly 200 million barrels of gasoline from the Strategic Petroleum and Northeast Gasoline Supply reserves ... And, the Administration is cracking down to prevent collusion by oil companies that could raise prices more. (Page 22)</i></p> <p><i>To lower prices, Democrats will also keep working to boost supply, fix supply chains and promote competition, especially for essential items like gas and groceries that families depend on. (Page 22)</i></p> <p><i>Medicare now also has the ability to negotiate lower drug prices, as private insurers and the VA have done for decades. It started doing so this year, beginning with 10 commonly used medications for conditions such as diabetes and heart failure. Democrats will push to add at least 50 drugs a year to that list, lowering prices for 500 drugs this decade. (Page 20)</i></p>
<b>LGBTQI+ Rights</b>	<b>The Republican Platform does not mention LGBTQI+ rights.</b>	n/a
	<b>The Democratic platform acknowledges that LGBTQI+ rights are at risk, and commits to defending them.</b>	<p><i>the fight for equality is far from over, as the LGBTQI+ community continues to face attacks and bigotry in states across the country. Democrats are committed to defending LGBTQI+ rights. (Page 56)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats will continue to fight for LGBTQI+ youth by building on President Biden’s historic actions to ban so-called “conversion therapy”; protecting LGBTQI+ children from bullying and discrimination; guaranteeing that transgender students are treated fairly and with respect at school; and ending the homeless crisis among LGBTQI+ youth. (page 57)</i></p>

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
Addressing Climate Change	The Republican Platform does not address climate change, or even acknowledge that it is an issue. The platform does call for aggressive development of oil and gas.	<i>We will DRILL, BABY, DRILL (Page 4)</i>
	The Democratic platform calls for aggressive climate action, including increasing clean energy generation, transmission and storage, incentives for EV's and to make homes more energy efficient. It also calls for restoring US leadership in global efforts to fight climate change.	<p><i>This clean energy boom has already created over 300,000 jobs and lowered energy costs for millions of families. It puts us on track to triple clean-energy generation by 2030, reducing Big Oil's hold on our economy. (Page 31)</i></p> <p><i>We'll also continue to invest in clean energy research and development, building on America's legacy as a nation of new frontiers and possibilities. To help find new ways of generating and storing energy, reducing emissions, and boosting climate resilience, we'll launch an Advanced Research Projects Agency for Climate (ARPA-C) (Page 31)</i></p> <p><i>The Administration has rallied the world to commit for the first time to transitioning away from fossil fuels. It set a bold new goal for nations to triple renewable energy worldwide and to double energy efficiency by 2030 (Page 37)</i></p>
Health Insurance	The Republican platform only contains general promises, as Trump did in his first term (and never delivered on).	<b><i>(This is the complete section on Healthcare in the GOP Platform)</i></b> <i>Healthcare and prescription drug costs are out of control. Republicans will increase Transparency, promote Choice and Competition, and expand access to new Affordable Healthcare and prescription drug options. We will protect Medicare, and ensure Seniors receive the care they need without being burdened by excessive costs. (Page 10)</i>
	The Democratic platform calls for affordable coverage for everyone.	<p><i>Health care should be a right in America, not a privilege. Every American deserves the peace of mind that quality, affordable coverage brings (P. 17)</i></p> <p><i>...we support Medicaid expansion, encouraging states to provide health coverage to low-income Americans on the federal government's tab (P.18)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats are working to protect kids' health coverage as well, by removing financial barriers for the Children's Health Insurance Program; and making it easier for families to keep kids on Medicaid. (Page 18)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats will keep working to grow the health care workforce, so workplace and other provider shortages no longer create barriers to quality care and inflate health care costs. We are investing in programs that train primary care practitioners, registered nurses, mental health specialists, and others to work across our health care system, including in rural and low-income areas. (Page 18)</i></p>

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
<b>Social Security and Medicare</b>	<b>Republicans promise to strengthen these programs, but without providing any specifics.</b>	<p><i>Social Security is a lifeline for millions of Retirees, yet corrupt politicians have robbed Social Security to fund their pet projects. Republicans will restore Economic Stability to ensure the long-term sustainability of Social Security. (Page 12)</i></p> <p><i>Republicans will protect Medicare’s finances from being financially crushed by the Democrat plan to add tens of millions of new illegal immigrants to the rolls of Medicare. We vow to strengthen Medicare for future generations. (Page 12)</i></p> <p><i>(Republican claims that Democrats want to add illegal immigrant so Medicare is rated as "Mostly False" by Politifact - <a href="https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2019/aug/01/donald-trump/fact-checking-trump-ad-democrats-health-care-immig/">https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2019/aug/01/donald-trump/fact-checking-trump-ad-democrats-health-care-immig/</a>)</i></p>
	<b>The Democratic Platform calls for making these programs financially sustainable by raising Social Security and Medicare taxes on the wealthiest Americans, and by enabling Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices.</b>	<p><i>Middle-class Americans pay 6.2 percent of their income to support Social Security, and the self-employed pay twice that. But people with multi-million dollar incomes pay a fraction of 1 percent. We’ll strengthen the program and expand benefits by asking the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share. (Page 28)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats will make Medicare permanently solvent, by making the wealthy pay their fair share in Medicare taxes. (Page 28)</i></p> <p><i>And the President’s prescription drug reforms will save it hundreds of billions of dollars, by finally empowering Medicare to directly negotiate lower prices with drug companies (Page 28)</i></p>
<b>Reproductive Rights</b>	<b>The Republican platform is silent on abortion rights, except for the intention to oppose Late Term Abortion, and the intention to allow states to decide abortion rights. They claim to support birth control and IVF.</b>	<p><i>We proudly stand for families and Life. We believe that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that no person can be denied Life or Liberty without Due Process, and that the States are, therefore, free to pass Laws protecting those Rights. After 51 years, because of us, that power has been given to the States and to a vote of the People. We will oppose Late Term Abortion, while supporting mothers and policies that advance Prenatal Care, access to Birth Control, and IVF (fertility treatments). (Page 15)</i></p>
	<b>Democrats intend to restore the abortion rights protections contained in Roe v. Wade, and increase access to contraception and IVF.</b>	<p><i>Democrats are fighting back to restore reproductive freedom for every woman in every state. (Page 49)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats are committed to restoring the reproductive rights Trump ripped away. With a Democratic Congress, we will pass national legislation to make Roe the law of the land again. We will strengthen access to contraception so every woman who needs it is able to get and afford it. We will protect a woman’s right to access IVF. (Page 50)</i></p>

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
<b>Education</b>	<b>Republicans focus on parental rights, school choice (Vouchers), and eliminating "left wing propaganda".</b>	<p><i>Republicans believe families should be empowered to choose the best Education for their children. We support Universal School Choice in every State in America. We will expand 529 Education Savings Accounts and support Homeschooling Families equally. (Page 13)</i></p> <p><i>Republicans will ensure children are taught fundamentals like Reading, History, Science, and Math, not Leftwing propaganda. (Page 13)</i></p> <p><i>Republicans will reinstate the 1776 Commission, promote Fair and Patriotic Civics Education, and veto efforts to nationalize Civics Education. We will support schools that teach America’s Founding Principles and Western Civilization. (Page 13)</i></p>
	<p><b>The Democratic platform includes actions to improve K-12 schools, universal preschool, and education beyond high school, including affordable career training and affordable college. The platform opposes voucher programs.</b></p>	<p><i>We know that education starts well before kids go to kindergarten. Studies show that children who attend preschool are nearly 50 percent more likely to finish high school and go on to earn a two- or four-year degree, no matter their background. That’s why Democrats will provide free, universal preschool for four-year olds (page 26)</i></p> <p><i>The Administration supports ... reducing chronic absenteeism by building social and emotional supports at schools, offering literacy programs, and setting high expectations for student attendance; providing intensive tutoring; extending the school day and school year; expanding community schools; and helping schools to lift student achievement, rather than punishing them based on state standardized tests (Page 26)</i></p> <p><i>Four year college is not the only pathway to a good career, so Democrats are investing in other forms of education as well, including career and technical education. It’ll make trade school and community college free for every American. (Page 27)</i></p>
<b>Reducing Gun Violence</b>	<b>The Republican Platform contains no plans to reduce gun violence. The only statement related to guns involves protecting the Second Amendment.</b>	<i>DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTION, OUR BILL OF RIGHTS, AND OUR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF RELIGION, AND THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS. (Page 4)</i>
	<b>The Democratic platform highlights actions the Biden administration has already taken, and outlines other actions to reduce gun violence.</b>	<p><i>President Biden also established the first-ever White House Office of Gun Safety Prevention - led by Vice President Harris - and took nearly 40 gun safety executive actions, including going after dangerous “ghost guns.” He launched new law enforcement strike forces within the Department of Justice to crack down on gun trafficking. (Page 39)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats will establish universal background checks, a step supported by the vast majority of Americans, including gun owners. We will once again ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. We will require safe storage for guns. Democrats will end the gun industry’s immunity from liability, so gunmakers can no longer escape accountability. We will pass a national red flag law to prevent tragedies by keeping weapons out of dangerous hands. (Page 40)</i></p>

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
Reducing Crime	<p><b>The platform includes general statements about "restoring safety".</b></p>	<p><i>Republicans will restore safety in our neighborhoods by replenishing Police Departments, restoring Common Sense Policing, and protecting Officers from frivolous lawsuits. We will stand up to Marxist Prosecutors, vigorously defend the Right of every American to live in peace, and we will compassionately address homelessness to restore order to our streets. (Page 14)</i></p> <p><i>Yet after nearly four years of the Biden administration, America is now rocked by Raging Inflation, Open Borders, Rampant Crime, Attacks on our Children, and Global Conflict, Chaos, and Instability. (Page 3)</i></p> <p><i>(Among other inaccuracies, crime is not "Rampant". Since 1990, the violent crime rate has steadily declined, and as of 2022 was lower than the average rate during the Trump administration (<a href="https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend">https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend</a>))</i></p>
	<p><b>The Democratic platform calls for increased resources for policing and public safety, and policing reform.</b></p>	<p><i>Democrats will pass his (Biden's) Safer America Plan, which calls on Congress to invest \$37 billion to support law enforcement and crime prevention. That includes funding 100,000 additional police officers for accountable community policing and \$5 billion in community violence intervention, which will help prevent crime, keep communities safe, and build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. (Page 41)</i></p> <p><i>We need to fund the police, not defund the police. (Page 40)</i></p>
Democracy and Voting	<p><b>The Republican platform focuses on secure voting.</b></p>	<p><i>We will implement measures to secure our Elections, including Voter ID, highly sophisticated paper ballots, proof of Citizenship, and same day Voting. We will not allow the Democrats to give Voting Rights to illegal Aliens. (Page 15)</i></p>
	<p><b>The Democratic platform is focused on protecting the right to vote, secure elections, and reducing the influence of money in politics.</b></p>	<p><i>Within the first 100 days of his presidency, President Biden signed an executive order directing an all-of-government effort to promote access to voting. Agencies have taken historic action to help veterans, college students, Native Americans, and other underserved communities register to vote. (Page 47)</i></p> <p><i>Congress must restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act and take additional steps to ensure access to the ballot box. Democrats will pass and President Biden will sign the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to fully secure the right to vote in every state, ensure fair congressional maps for every American, modernize and secure our elections, and curtail the corrupting influence of money in politics. (Page 48)</i></p>

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
Securing the Border	<p><b>The Republican platform focuses on the Border wall and enforcement at the border (including deploying US troops).</b></p>	<p><i>Republicans will restore every Border Policy of the Trump administration and halt all releases of Illegal Aliens into the interior. We will complete the Border Wall, shift massive portions of Federal Law Enforcement to Immigration Enforcement, and use advanced technology to monitor and secure the Border. We will use all resources needed to stop the Invasion— including moving thousands of Troops currently stationed overseas to our own Southern Border. (Page 8)</i></p>
	<p><b>The Democratic platform includes increasing resources to secure the border and reforming the asylum system so that people with valid claims are protected and those without valid claims are processed and removed quickly. The platform also calls for working with other countries to address the root causes of illegal immigration.</b></p>	<p><i>In President Biden's second term, he will push Congress to provide the resources and authorities that we need to secure the border. This includes additional border patrol agents, immigration judges, asylum officers, cutting-edge inspection machines to help detect and stop the flow of fentanyl, and funding for cities and states that are sheltering migrants. (Page 66)</i></p> <p><i>Democrats believe that asylum processing should be efficient and fair, and that those who are determined not to have a legal basis to remain should be quickly removed. In order to achieve this, we need Congress to strengthen requirements for valid asylum claims. Congress must also finally fund a sufficient number of asylum officers and immigration judges to facilitate timely decisions. In addition, asylum seekers, especially the most vulnerable, including unaccompanied children, should have access to legal counsel. (Page 66)</i></p> <p><i>President Biden has worked closely with partners throughout the region – including, most importantly, the government of Mexico – to undertake coordinated actions to stop the flow of migrants before they reach our border... and efforts to address the root causes of migration. (Page 69)</i></p>
Undocumented immigrants	<p><b>The Republican platform calls for mass deportation of illegal immigrants currently in the country.</b></p>	<p><i>Begin Largest Deportation Program in American History (Page 8)</i></p> <p>Note: Many economists have concluded that deporting illegal immigrants will be harmful to the US economy eliminating necessary labor for agriculture and other industries, and reducing economic growth. (<a href="https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economics/2024/trumps-proposed-mass-deportations-would-backfire-us-workers">https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economics/2024/trumps-proposed-mass-deportations-would-backfire-us-workers</a>)</p>
	<p><b>The Democratic platform includes legal pathways for citizenship, protection of refugees fleeing violence, and expanded employment-based immigration to address our country's labor needs.</b></p>	<p><i>A robust immigration system with accessible lawful pathways and penalties for illegal immigration alleviates pressure at the border and upholds our values. (Page 68)</i></p> <p><i>The United States has long been a leader in refugee resettlement, providing a beacon of hope for persecuted people around the world, facilitating international efforts to address record displacement, and demonstrating the generosity and core values of the American people. (Page 68)</i></p>

Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
<b>Global Leadership</b>	<b>The Republican platform focuses on American interests.</b>	<i>Republicans will promote a Foreign Policy centered on the most essential American Interests, starting with protecting the American Homeland, our People, our Borders, our Great American Flag, and our Rights under God. (Page 16)</i>
	<b>The Democratic platform calls for the US to exercise global leadership.</b>	<p><i>We must rally the world to address the challenges that impact all of us, from climate change and global health to human rights, technology, food security, and inclusive economic growth. (Page 77)</i></p> <p><i>By reinvesting in America’s manufacturing base, leveling the playing field for American workers, and standing alongside our allies to support democracies and push back against autocracy, President Biden has bolstered our national security and is investing in a future where America will continue to lead on the world stage. (Page 77)</i></p>
<b>Israel and Gaza</b>	<b>No mention of Gaza, only a commitment to stand with Israel. No mention of how to respond to the Gaza crisis.</b>	<i>We will stand with Israel (Page 16)</i>
	<b>The Democratic platform recognizes Israel's right to defend itself, condemns the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, but also recognizes the rights of Palestinians. The platform calls for a ceasefire and the return of hostages.</b>	<p><i>President Biden and Vice President Harris believe a strong, secure, and democratic Israel is vital to the interests of the United States. Their commitment to Israel’s security, its qualitative military edge, its right to defend itself, and the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding is ironclad. (Page 83)</i></p> <p><i>President Biden and Vice President Harris have unequivocally denounced Hamas’s brutal attack on Israel on October 7, condemned the gruesome violence – including conflict-related sexual violence – demonstrated by Hamas and made clear that the United States wants to see Hamas defeated. (Page 83)</i></p> <p><i>President Biden has also been determined to broker an immediate and lasting ceasefire deal that once finalized secures the return of all hostages, including the remaining Americans held in Gaza; addresses the immense civilian pain and extreme suffering being caused by the conflict, including the displacement and death of so many innocent people in Gaza; results in a durable end to the war in Gaza; and sets the stage for a lasting regional peace. (Page 84)</i></p>



Issue Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
<b>Ukraine</b>	<p><b>The Republican platform mentions several current areas of conflict, including the Middle East and Asia, but does not mention supporting Ukraine. There is only a general reference to "restoring Peace to Europe".</b></p>	<p><i>Republicans will strengthen Alliances by ensuring that our Allies must meet their obligations to invest in our Common Defense and by restoring Peace to Europe. We will stand with Israel, and seek peace in the Middle East. We will rebuild our Alliance Network in the Region to ensure a future of Peace, Stability, and Prosperity. Likewise, we will champion Strong, Sovereign, and Independent Nations in the Indo-Pacific, thriving in Peace and Commerce with others. (Page 16)</i></p>
	<p><b>The Democratic platform is clear in its support for Ukraine, and opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.</b></p>	<p><i>President Biden has pursued three core objectives in Ukraine: help Ukraine defend its sovereignty, maintain unity in our transatlantic alliances, and prevent escalation into direct conflict with Russia. On all three fronts, the United States has succeeded. (Page 78)</i></p> <p><i>In his second term, he will continue to stand with Ukraine to stop Putin's atrocities and constrain Russia's threat to allied nations and America's vital interests. In addition to continuing to strengthen NATO, he will help Ukraine recover economically and support ongoing efforts to strengthen Ukraine's democracy and deepen its political and economic relationship with European and transatlantic institutions. (Page 79)</i></p>