

Comparison of the Texas 2024 Republican and Democratic Platforms

June 27, 2024

Policy Area	Texas Republican 2024 Platform Paragraph	Texas Democratic 2024 Platform Page
<p>Note: This summary was created by the Center for Policy Progress for legislative candidates in Texas. It contains selected portions of each platform that illustrate significant differences in policy areas that are important to Texans. It does not replace reading the full platforms, which address many other issues and contain more details on these issues. Questions and comments can be sent to info@centerforpolicyprogress.org.</p>		
<p>Link to Full Platforms:</p>	<p>https://texasgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-RPT-Platform.pdf</p>	<p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WQy7fxJ9mqj5ws7pqlZwOCJCePjKHtbc3tKpHKXRAdO/edit#heading=h.f7z7v179stew</p>
<p>Environment - Climate Change</p>	<p>43 We oppose environmentalism, or “climate change” initiatives, that obstruct legitimate business interests and private property use, including the regulatory use limitation and confiscation by governmental agencies. We support the reclassification of carbon dioxide as a non-pollutant, abolition of the Environmental Protection Agency, and repeal of the Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>49 We oppose climate mandates like Net Zero, Vision Zero, or declarations of a climate emergency that threaten our freedom to travel, impose any sort of state or federal mileage tax, or institute diversity, equity, and inclusion policies on taxpayers and drivers.</p>	<p>23 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;</p> <p>65 Restore U.S. leadership in mitigating the effects of climate change</p> <p>23 Reinvigorate a muscular Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that sets and achieves a net zero carbon emissions goal in the U.S. by 2050, with the goal of a complete transition to renewable energy for transportation and electricity generation</p>
<p>Healthcare - Access to Healthcare</p>	<p>126 We oppose any further expansion of Medicaid and stand in opposition to Medicaid for non-citizens.</p> <p>121 Texas HSA: We recommend the creation of the State of Texas Health Savings Account, with funds in excess of those needed in the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) set aside for the purpose of enabling the state to develop reserves sufficient to exit the federal Medicaid program. Funds in this Texas HSA shall not expire nor be utilized for any other purpose.</p> <p>128 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”): We demand the immediate repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which we believe to be unconstitutional.</p>	<p>19 Expand Medicaid coverage to improve healthcare access throughout Texas;</p> <p>19 Implement an affordable and universal “single-payer” healthcare system that would provide high-quality, privately delivered, publicly funded healthcare for all residents of Texas within three (3) years, including prescription drugs, vision, hearing, dental, and mental healthcare;</p> <p>19 Protect and improve the Affordable Care Act to further reduce disparities in health coverage and outcomes, as we move toward universal healthcare</p>

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- Reproductive Rights	23	We urge lawmakers to enact legislation to abolish abortion by immediately securing the right to life and equal protection of the laws to all preborn children from the moment of fertilization, because abortion violates the United States Constitution by denying such persons the equal protection of the law.	19	Expand access to contraception and reinstate the right to an abortion;
	145	Preserving the Dignity of Human Embryos: We support continued efforts to preserve the inherent dignity of human embryos, including adoption of human embryos and the banning of human embryo trafficking.	33	Uphold the rights of women to control their bodies and decide how, when and with whom they will have children
- Sex Education	87	We demand that the Legislature pass a law prohibiting the teaching of sex education, sexual health, or sexual choice or identity in any government school in any grade whatsoever, or disseminating or permitting the dissemination by any party of any material regarding the same.	19	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;
- Gender related care	87	We demand that the Legislature pass a law prohibiting the teaching of sex education, sexual health, or sexual choice or identity in any government school in any grade whatsoever, or disseminating or permitting the dissemination by any party of any material regarding the same.	21	Offer comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education, including information about communication strategies, consent, and healthy relationships, as well as support the rights of adolescents to access and consent to their own contraception and other reproductive healthcare, and end failed abstinence-only sex education policies
	133	Gender Identity: We oppose all efforts to validate transgender identity. We believe gender modification and any form of gender affirming care for minors does not constitute medical care and is, in fact, child abuse. Further, there shall be no attempt to engage in so-called "gender affirming" medical or mental health intervention for persons between the ages of 18 and 26, including: a) Intervening in any way to prevent natural progression of puberty. b) Administering or providing opposite sex hormones. c) Performing any surgery on healthy body parts of that person. d) Assigning name and/or pronoun changes. Any agency, individual, or other entity promoting, performing, or facilitating gender-transitioning or gender-modification of a minor child shall be criminally prosecuted for child abuse and exposed to civil actions, enjoying no immunity regardless of profession, relation, or standing.	22	Guarantee access to gender-affirming healthcare for all ages based on the data-backed consensus of medical experts who deem it medically necessary.

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Education - Public Schools - Teacher pay - Diversity education	84 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. (not mentioned) 106 Defund Political Correctness, Fund and Support Western Civilization Instruction: We believe colleges and universities should reject diversity as understood by the Left and instead promote diversity of thought in order to reverse the Left-wing politicization of higher education.	11 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; 11 Fund schools to reflect the actual cost of educating all students; 12 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, with median salaries commensurate with the national averages, expanding collective bargaining rights and expanding one year contracts to three years, and funding out-of-pocket expenses for classroom materials; 16 Develop, implement, and facilitate peer-reviewed curriculum for mandatory, fact-based ethnic studies classes, such as Indigenous, Mexican American, and African American studies; 16 Mandate instruction for all students in studies of diverse cultures and the benefits of diversity to the U.S economy and society; 18 Repeal legislation that closed diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices on campuses and led to the unjust termination of Texas public university employees. 42 Restore the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, funding, and staffing at our public colleges and universities that help our youth thrive in higher education.

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Border Security and Immigration				
- Border Security	236	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.	50	Maintain the independence of local law enforcement from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
			50	Restore the long-standing, historical treatment of unauthorized border crossings as a civil matter
			50	Demilitarize and scale back policing saturation of border communities, particularly halting the fiscally wasteful Operation Lone Star
			49	Enact comprehensive immigration reform, including an attainable path to citizenship;
- Immigration	7e	Support a change to the 14th Amendment to eliminate “birth tourism” or anchor babies by granting citizenship only to those with at least one biological parent who is a US citizen.	49	Reform family-based immigration, including expanding visa availability, especially for populous countries, to expedite family reunification and lessen visa wait times;
	95	Illegal Aliens and Foreign Students: We believe the role of the public education system is to educate American citizens. We support the instruction of lawfully present residents and foreign exchange students at cost, but we oppose allowing illegal aliens into government schools and oppose the instruction of core classes in languages other than English.	49	Reform employment and education-based immigration, including an increase in visas, to continue to attract and retain innovative and talented individuals from across the world;
			49	Remove limits placed on asylum claims or Temporary Protected Status for refugees fleeing wars, natural disasters, family violence, political violence, and gang violence and forced recruitment
	243	Aid to Illegal Aliens: We call for prohibition of federal or state funding to any entity or organization that provides material aid or benefit to illegal aliens, and to revoke tax-exempt status and/or business licenses of any entity or organization found to have done so.	49	Expand coverage under the Affordable Care Act to undocumented immigrants;
		50	Ensure asylum seekers are treated humanely	
		50	Forbid separating children from their parents and housing children in tent cities and cages	
		50	Support better foreign aid, policies toward more regionally-based supply chains, and other economic development in the Americas, home to over 1 billion people in the world, in order to expand economic opportunities in the Americas and reduce the need of migrants to leave their home countries and migrate to our southern border.	

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Democracy - Voting Rights	21 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	8 Eliminate barriers to voting and encourage full participation in elections and governance;
	220 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. Election Day statutes must be used for the entire voting period.	9 Repeal the highly restrictive and discriminatory Texas Photo Voter ID law;
	221e That mail-in ballots must be requested and only granted to voters who cannot physically appear in-person, that the request must utilize the official application form only, and the ballots must arrive before 7 p.m. on Election Day (with the exception of APO addresses).	
	222 Voter Registration: We support restoring integrity to the voter registration rolls and reducing voter fraud by: a) Repealing all motor voter laws. b) Requiring voters to re-register if they have not voted in a five-year period.	
	224 We urge that the Voting Rights Act of 1965, codified and updated in 1973, be repealed and not reauthorized.	9 Protect voting rights by enforcing the Texas Voting Rights Act and the federal Voting Rights Act with restored preclearance provisions;
- Campaign Finance	202 Campaign Contribution Limits: We urge immediate repeal of all limits on campaign contributions by American citizens to the candidates or causes of their choice. However, the State of Texas should pass legislation for non-federal elections which bans campaign contributions and expenditures that originate from outside the State of Texas, including those by individuals, organizations, and political action committees, and including those on any questions, propositions, and amendments on any ballots.	9 Overturn the decisions in Buckley v. Valeo and Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission that make money the most privileged form of speech;
		9 Move towards transparent public financing of campaigns and elections;
		9 Support the establishment of a limit on campaign donations in Texas elections;
		9 Disclose the funding sources for all political advertisements in a readily accessible manner, for candidate campaigns, ballot measures, independent expenditures, and issue advocacy;

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Safe Communities				
- Reducing Gun Violence	2f	Support amending the language of the Texas Constitution to mirror the language of the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution, ensuring clarity and consistency in the protection of the people’s right to keep and bear arms. In addition, licensed concealed carry holders may legally carry firearms in public sporting venues, including, but not limited to, ball parks, arenas, sporting events, airshows, car shows, rodeos, or if financed in part with taxpayer funds or hold tax exemptions	30	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.
	2g	Pass unrestricted Constitutional Carry by amending Article 1, Section 23, of the Texas Constitution by removing, “but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with a view to prevent crime.”	30	Support research promoting gun safety, such as child safety locks and other “smart gun” technology; and
	19b	Nullify any gun laws that violate the 2nd Amendment or rights of due process.	30	Lift all restrictions on research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into gun violence and allow physicians, mental health counselors, and family counselors to freely discuss gun safety with their patients.
	19d	Recognize the right of License to Carry holders to carry anywhere, off-duty or retired law enforcement personnel to carry anywhere, including any federal property accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to waterways, lakes, dams, and postal offices.	30	Support compiling a registry of people with violent histories, including family violence, to ensure these individuals cannot purchase guns until their records are cleared;
	19i	Require that businesses or commercial property owners that prohibit licensed permit holders from carrying a firearm into their establishments assume liability for their safety since the owners are denying those persons the right to protect themselves.	30	Enact an Extreme Risk Protection Order Law, and provide that these decisions are made equitably without consideration of information on name, race, or ethnicity
	100	We support passage of legislation encouraging local law enforcement to provide handgun safety and proficiency training for all educators and allowing LTC (License to Carry) holders to carry concealed firearms on all school campuses for security and protection purposes.	30	Require universal background checks coupled with a reasonable waiting period, with the exception of an exchange of firearms within families or by inheritance, to ensure those charged with violent crimes cannot possess or acquire firearms while their charges remain pending;
			30	Remove loopholes that exempt gun shows and private sales to non-family members from background checks and other safety requirements prior to the sale of a firearm
			31	Repeal laws that insulate manufacturers and distributors of firearms from civil liability
		31	Restore the prior federal prohibition on the purchase of assault weapons, as well as prohibit the manufacture, sale, or possession of bump stocks, binary trigger systems, trigger cranks, attachable silencers, and magazine clips that hold over 10 rounds;	

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Reducing Gun Violence (Cont.)	205 Gun-Free Zones in Texas: There shall be no gun-free zones in Texas. Any public access property owner who demands law-abiding citizens disarm themselves shall assume liability for injuries they incur while on the “posted premises.”	31	Prohibit the open carry of all firearms and repeal “campus carry” policies;
		31	Require gun owners to carry liability insurance in the event of negligent or willful acts causing harm to others in order to reimburse victims and public entities for medical, police, court, and/or incarceration costs;
		31	Enact and enforce responsible gun storage laws
- LGBTQ Rights and Protections	103 Gender Identity Ideology in Schools: 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. We support the total prohibition of so-called social transitioning. We oppose transgender normalizing curriculum, library materials, and pronoun use.	42	Ensure that people are entitled to equal rights and treatment, and that no one should be denied these basic rights because of race, color, creed, class, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, ethnicity, language, culture, sexual orientation, sexual traits/characteristics, gender, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, disability, tribal affiliation, immigration status, and/or justice involvement
	132 Homosexuality: Homosexuality is an abnormal lifestyle choice. We believe there should be no granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for homosexual behavior, regardless of state of origin, and we oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values. No one should be granted special legal status based on their LGBTQ+ identification.	42	Ensure equal protections and rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and other non-cis non-heterosexual or LGBTQIA+ people
	183 Human Sexuality: We affirm God’s biblical design for marriage and family between one biological man and one biological woman, which has proven to be the foundation for all great nations in Western Civilization. We oppose homosexual marriage, regardless of state of origin. We urge the Texas Legislature to pass religious liberty protections for individuals, businesses, and government officials who believe marriage is between one man and one woman		

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- Marijuana legalization	<p>137 The State of Texas shall retain cannabis as a Schedule I drug. (Note: The Texas State Board of Pharmacy defines a Schedule 1 drug as: "Schedule I — drugs with a high abuse risk. These drugs have NO safe, accepted medical use in the United States. Some examples are heroin, marijuana, LSD, PCP, and crack cocaine."</p> <p>204 Marijuana Remains Illegal: We oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana and we support offering opportunities for drug treatment before penalties for its illegal possession or use.</p>	<p>37 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</p>
- Foreign Affairs	<p>244 Defeating the Globalist Agenda: We recognize that we are living in a time of geopolitical upheaval and unprecedented complexity of threats to our liberties, constitutional governance, and national sovereignty. These threats emanate from "globalist" agents both within and outside our borders. The United States is a sovereign nation founded on the principles of freedom. We reject any assertion of authority over our nation or its citizens from foreign individuals or entities, such as the World Economic Forum, World Health Organization, and the United Nations. We stand firmly against the concept of a One World Government or The Great Reset</p> <p>251 United Nations: The United Nations is a detriment to the sovereignty of the United States and other countries. We support the immediate withdrawal from the current United Nations and the removal of the United Nations from United States soil. We oppose participation in any United Nations entity, program, or initiative that would compromise American sovereignty to an external entity.</p>	<p>64 Restore the United States to a leadership role in world affairs</p> <p>64 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</p> <p>64 Reaffirm our commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its subsequent specific conventions</p> <p>65 Lead international efforts to prevent the further spread of nuclear arms and to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, including reinstating the Iran nuclear deal with appropriate conditions and supporting verified efforts to denuclearize North Korea as a prerequisite for lifting sanctions;</p> <p>65 Lead efforts to prevent Iran from developing and constructing nuclear weapons</p> <p>65 Restore U.S. leadership in international institutions such as the United Nations and other alliances;</p> <p>65 Oppose authoritarian regimes' threats to free peoples and democratic countries</p>

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- Ukraine	247 ...we urge the United States to cease all military engagements, across all domains of warfare, in the Ukraine-Russia conflict and on the periphery of the Russian Federation's borders, advocating instead for diplomatic solutions and national sovereignty.	65	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 as well as intelligence, training and logistical support with the goal of restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity, protecting the freedom of the Ukrainian people, and supporting Ukraine's democracy
- Israel and Palestine	<p>249 Israel. We strongly condemn the violence, harassment and hatred directed toward Jews and Israel worldwide. We respect Israel's rights of sovereignty, self-determination, and self-defense, and therefore we support: a) The relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, Israel's eternal and indivisible capital. b) Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. c) Israel's right to exist, right to secure borders, and right to the land secured by practicing selfdefense from aggressive enemies. d) Prohibition of a Palestinian state within the historical borders of Israel, as it would jeopardize Israel's security, and it would force Israel to give up land that God gave to the Jewish people, as referenced in Genesis.</p> <p>249h Opposition to any two-state solutions (Land for Peace).</p>	67	<p>Recognize the creation of the state of Israel and its ongoing right to exist in safe and secure borders;</p> <p>Support the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state;</p> <p>The United States should recognize and champion Palestine as a member of the United Nations.</p> <p>Assist in facilitating the rebuilding of Gaza and the West Bank;</p> <p>Support the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes or receive compensation for their forceful dispossession.</p> <p>Recognize and oppose the genocidal actions and goals of Hamas as stated in their founding covenant and support the removal of Hamas from any governmental positions and from the ability to utilize armed conflict.</p> <p>Support the dismantling of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem</p>
- Religious Freedom	90 Religious Freedom and Government Schools: We demand school administrators and officials protect the rights of students and staff to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property, without government interference. We urge the Legislature and the State Board of Education to require instruction on the Bible, servant leadership, and Christian self-governance. We support the use of chaplains in schools to counsel and give guidance from a traditional biblical perspective based on Judeo-Christian principles with the informed consent of a parent.	40	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 — in other words, we encourage and promote secularism, which is the separation of church and state, in government;