



PARTY PLATFORM COMPARISON 2020



| REPUBLICAN | ISSUE | DEMOCRAT |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •“Proud to be the party that protects human life and offers real solutions for women” and “strongly oppose[s] infanticide,” including specific support for: the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act; a human life constitutional amendment; a ban on abortion at 20 weeks, when unborn babies can feel pain; a ban on abortion based on sex or disability; a ban on dismemberment abortion “in which unborn babies are literally torn apart limb from limb”; abortion clinic safety regulations; a ban on human cloning, and creating or experimenting upon human embryos, including three-parent embryos; a ban on any sale of body parts; and a ban on the “use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood.” | <p>Sanctity of Human Life</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supports “repealing the Hyde Amendment” to allow the government to fund abortion. •Supports “codifying” the right to abortion. •“Democrats believe every woman should be able to access... reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortions.” •Will “oppose and fight to overturn federal and state laws that create barriers to reproductive health and rights.” •Opposes current FDA safety restrictions on chemical abortion pills. •Supports repealing President Trump’s changes to the Title X program that separate abortion from federal family planning grants. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •“The American family... is the foundation of civil society, and the cornerstone of the family is natural marriage, the union of one man and one woman.” •“We condemn the Supreme Court’s ruling in <i>...Obergefell v. Hodges</i>” and “urge its reversal.” | <p>Redefining Marriage</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Silent on marriage and family being the foundation of society. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We “embrace the principle that all Americans should be treated with dignity and respect.” •“We support measures” barring “government discrimination because of [one’s] views on marriage and family.” •Supports “the right of parents to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children.” •Opposes Title IX 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.” •Opposes “reshap[ing] our schools — and our entire society — to fit the mold of an ideology alien to America’s history and traditions.” •Opposes President Obama’s Title IX transgender bathroom edict, saying it is “illegal, dangerous, and ignores privacy issues.” | <p>LGBT Agenda, Transgender Bathrooms, and Women’s Sports in Schools</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •“We will fight to enact the Equality Act”—a bill that would alter our entire federal civil rights framework, gut religious liberty, advance abortion, and allow biological men to play in women’s sports if they identify as a transgender women. •Supports insurance coverage of “gender transition,” including “surgery and hormone therapy.” •“We will ensure that all transgender and non-binary people can procure official government identification documents that accurately reflect their gender identity.” •Supports banning practices aimed at assisting patients with unwanted same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria. •We will work to “guarantee transgender students’ access to facilities based on their gender identity.” •“We will protect the rights of transgender students.” |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Opposes the federal government funding abortion overseas and supports restoring the Mexico City Policy, to prevent federal money from going to NGOs which “provide or promote abortion,” or are complicit in China’s one-child policy. •Condemns the Obama administration for “impos[ing] on foreign recipients, especially the peoples of Africa, its own radical social agenda while excluding faith-based groups.” | <p>Abortion and the LGBT Agenda Internationally</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •“We believe...access to reproductive care and abortion services, are vital to the empowerment of women and girls.” •Supports for repealing President Trump’s expanded Mexico City Policy and the Helms Amendment which bar American funding for abortion abroad. •“We will restore the United States’ position of leadership on LGBTQ+ issues” and appoint “senior leaders directly responsible for driving...LGBTQ+ issues” within the federal government. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •“America’s healthcare professionals should not be forced to choose between following their faith and practicing their profession. We respect the rights of conscience of healthcare professionals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and organizations, especially the faith-based groups which provide a major portion of care for the nation and the needy.” | <p>Conscience Rights in Healthcare</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supports the HHS contraception mandate against faith-based groups like Little Sisters of the Poor. •Condemns the Trump administration’s regulation clarifying the definition of sex discrimination in the Affordable Care Act. This regulation allows doctors, hospitals, and insurance companies to practice medicine and operate in accordance with their conscience. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Strongly support[s] the freedom of Americans to act in accordance with their religious beliefs, not only in their houses of worship, but also in their everyday lives.” • “Ongoing attempts to compel individuals, businesses, and institutions of faith to transgress their beliefs are part of a misguided effort to undermine religion and drive it from the public square.” • “We value the right of America’s religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith.” The government “is constitutionally prohibited from policing or censoring speech based on religious convictions or beliefs.” | <p>Religious Liberty</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Religious freedom is a core American value and a core value of the Democratic Party. Democrats will protect the rights of each American for the free exercise of his or her own religion.” • Celebrates “the paramount importance of maintaining the separation between church and state.” • Rejects “broad religious exemptions” for “businesses, medical providers, social service agencies, and others.” • “We will fight to enact the Equality Act”—a bill that would remove religious liberty protections and even force churches to violate the tenets of their faith. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirms the importance of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. • Promises “a Republican administration will return the advocacy of religious liberty to a central place in its diplomacy.” | <p>International Religious Liberty</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It will be the policy of the Democratic Administration to advocate for religious freedom throughout the world.” • Implies religious freedom is a “cover for discrimination.” • Asserts that there is “politicization” of religious freedom within U.S. foreign policy. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If God-given, natural, inalienable rights come in conflict with government, court, or human-granted rights, God-given, natural, inalienable rights always prevail.” • “We support the public display of the Ten Commandments as a reflection of our history and our country’s Judeo-Christian heritage.” • Entire platform mentions God 15 times. | <p>God in Government</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent on the role of God in government. • Silent on the source of human rights. • Celebrates “the paramount importance of maintaining the separation between church and state.” • Entire platform mentions God one time. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.” • Seeks to “enable courts to begin to reverse the long line of activist decisions—including <i>Roe</i>, <i>Obergefell</i>, and the Obamacare cases.” | <p>The Courts</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who...will respect and enforce foundational precedents, including... <i>Roe v. Wade</i>.” • “Applaud[s]” the decision in <i>Bostock v. Clayton County</i>, which redefined the word sex in Title VII to include sexual orientation and gender identity. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports “sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior.” | <p>Sex Education</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports “LGBTQ+ inclusive” sex education with a full range of “family planning services.” |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will “fight for school choice” and “local control.” • Recognizes that “parents,” not the government, “are a child’s first and foremost educators.” • Supports homeschooling, private schools, vouchers, and tuition tax credits. • Encourages teaching the Bible as an elective in public schools. | <p>Education Choice</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Democrats oppose private school vouchers and other policies that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from the public-school system, including the program at issue in the recent <i>Espinoza</i> decision.” • No mention of homeschooling. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We reject the use of the military as a platform for social experimentation and will not accept...attempts to undermine military priorities and mission readiness.” • “Support[s] the religious freedom of all military members, especially chaplains, and will not tolerate attempts to ban Bibles or religious symbols from military facilities.” • Opposes the “Selective Service registration of women for a possible future draft.” | <p>Social Experimentation in the Military</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We will reverse the Trump Administration’s...ban [DOD policy on Gender Dysphoric individuals serving in the military].” • Silent on service members’ religious liberty rights. • Calls for VA medical benefits to include abortion and gender “transition” services. |