



**A Comparison:
Presidential Candidates and Political Parties**

**ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016**

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PLEDGE TO VOTE

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton

Judicial Appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court

MR. TRUMP has said he will appoint conservative judges.¹ Donald Trump has also said the judges he appoints will be pro-life.²

MRS. CLINTON is expected to appoint liberal judges and has said she will appoint only pro-abortion judges.³

Immigration and Border Security

MR. TRUMP wants to place a temporary ban on Muslim refugees entering the U.S. until the screening process is improved.⁴ Donald Trump said “Immigration security is national security.”⁵

MRS. CLINTON wants to substantially increase the number of Muslim refugees without changes in the vetting process.⁶

Terrorism

MR. TRUMP claims the United States is at war with “radical Islamic terrorism.”⁷

MRS. CLINTON refuses to use the term “war on radical Islam”⁸ and says America can successfully negotiate with nations that oppose the U.S.⁹

U.S. Constitution and the Second Amendment

MR. TRUMP wants the U.S. Supreme Court to protect the Second Amendment and the right of private citizens to keep firearms in their house.¹⁰

MRS. CLINTON believes the federal government has the authority and should regulate gun ownership of private citizens.¹¹

Abortion

MR. TRUMP is committed to nominating pro-life judges, banning Planned Parenthood funding as long they perform abortions, signing into law the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act to end late-term abortions nationwide, and preventing taxpayer funded abortions.¹²

MRS. CLINTON said she will expand abortion rights, increase Planned Parenthood funding and access to abortion.¹³ Hillary Clinton said “religious beliefs” opposing abortion “have to be changed.”¹⁴

1. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/18/trump-releases-list-potential-supreme-court-picks/> (Accessed 9/21/16).

2. <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/06/21/donald-trump-tells-pro-life-leaders-ill-pick-pro-life-judges-promote-religious-liberty/> (Accessed 9/12/16).

3. <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/03/29/hillary-clinton-i-would-not-appoint-someone-to-the-supreme-court-who-didnt-support-abortion/> (Accessed 9/21/16).

4. <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/09/19/where-stand-trump-clinton-clash-on-islamic-extremism.html> (Accessed 9/21/16).

5. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/09/20/donald-trump-north-carolina-clinton/90730336/> (Accessed 9/22/2016).

6. <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/09/19/where-stand-trump-clinton-clash-on-islamic-extremism.html> (Accessed 9/21/16).

7. <http://www.breitbart.com/2016-presidential-race/2016/09/19/donald-trump-time-law-enforcement-start-profiling-muslims/> (Accessed 9/21/16).

8. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/09/us/politics/hillary-clinton-israel.html> (Accessed 9/21/16).

9. <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/07/commander-in-chief-5-things-matt-lauer-wont-ask-hillary-clinton/> (Accessed 9/21/16).

10. <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/positions/second-amendment-rights> (Accessed 9/21/16).

11. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/06/05/hillary-clinton-wavers-on-second-amendment-right-to-bear-arms/> (Accessed 9/21/16).

12. <https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Trump-Letter-on-ProLife-Coalition.pdf> (Accessed 9/22/16)

13. <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/01/22/lifelong-record-roe-anniversary/> (Accessed 9/22/16)

14. <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/08/08/hillary-clinton-make-christians-change-their-religious-views-to-support-abortion/> (Accessed 9/22/16)

10 KEY ISSUES

taken directly from official party platforms*

Democratic Party

Republican Party

Human Life

Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion – regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured. We believe that reproductive health is core to women’s, men’s, and young people’s health and wellbeing. ...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. (p.37)

The Constitution’s guarantee that no one can “bedeprived of life, liberty or property” deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence’s proclamation that “all” are “endowed by their Creator” with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. 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. (p.13)

Planned Parenthood

We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people. (p.37)

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 health care. (p.13)

Judges

We will appoint judges who defend the constitutional principles of liberty and equality for all, protect a woman’s right to safe and legal abortion, curb billionaires’ influence over elections because they understand that Citizens United has fundamentally damaged our democracy, and see the Constitution as a blueprint for progress. (p.25)

We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life. We condemn attempts by activist judges at any level of government to seize the power of the purse from the people’s elected representatives by ordering higher taxes. (p.13)

Religious Liberty

Democrats know that our nation, our communities, and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith in many forms and the countless acts of justice, mercy, and tolerance it inspires. We believe in lifting up and valuing the good work of people of faith and religious organizations and finding ways to support that work where possible. (p.19)

We value the right of America’s religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith. Republicans believe the federal government, specifically the IRS, is constitutionally prohibited from policing or censoring speech based on religious convictions or beliefs, and therefore we urge the repeal of the Johnson Amendment. (p.11)

Education/ School Choice

Democrats are also committed to providing parents with high-quality public school options and expanding these options for low-income youth. We support democratically governed, great neighborhood public schools and high-quality public charter schools, and we will help them disseminate best practices to other school leaders and educators. Democrats oppose for-profit charter schools focused on making a profit off of public resources. (p.34)

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 (ESAs), vouchers, and tuition tax credits. (p.34)

Democratic Party

Republican Party

Sex Education

We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care, evidence-based sex education, and a full range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. (p.37)

We renew our call for replacing “family planning” programs for teens with sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior. (p.34)

Obamacare

Thanks to the hard work of President Obama and Democrats in Congress, we took a critically important step towards the goal of universal health care by passing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which has offered coverage to 20 million more Americans and ensured millions more will never be denied coverage on account of a pre-existing condition. (p.34)

Any honest agenda for improving health care must start with repeal of the dishonestly named Affordable Care Act of 2010: Obamacare. ...To simplify the system for both patients and providers, we will reduce mandates and enable insurers and providers of care to increase health care options and contain costs. (p.36)

Marriage

Democrats applaud last year’s decision by the Supreme Court that recognized LGBT people – like every other American – have the right to marry the person they love. But there is still much work to be done. ... Democrats will fight for the continued development of sex discrimination law to cover LGBT people. We will also fight for comprehensive federal non-discrimination protections for all LGBT Americans ... (p.19)

We condemn the Supreme Court’s ruling in United States v Windsor, which wrongly removed the ability of Congress to define marriage policy in federal law. We also condemn the Supreme Court’s lawless ruling in Obergefell v Hodges. ... In Obergefell, five unelected lawyers robbed 320 million Americans of their legitimate constitutional authority to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. (p.11)

Biomedical Research

Democrats believe we must accelerate the pace of medical progress, ensuring that we invest more in our scientists and give them the resources they need to invigorate our fundamental studies in the life sciences in a growing, stable, and predictable way. ...We recognize the critical importance of a fully funded National Institutes of Health to accelerate the pace of medical progress. (p.36)

We call for expanded support for the stem cell research that now offers the greatest hope for many afflictions – through adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and cells reprogrammed into pluripotent stem cells – without the destruction of embryonic human life. We urge a ban on human cloning for research or reproduction, and a ban on the creation of, or experimentation on, human embryos for research. (p.37-38)

Iran

We support the nuclear agreement with Iran because, if vigorously enforced and implemented, it verifiably cuts off all of Iran’s pathways to a bomb without resorting to war. (p.43)

We consider the Administration’s deal with Iran, to lift international sanctions and make hundreds of billions of dollars available to the Mullahs, a personal agreement between the President and his negotiating partners. ... Because of it, the defiant and emboldened regime in Tehran continues to sponsor terrorism across the region, develop a nuclear weapon, test-fire ballistic missiles inscribed with “Death to Israel,” and abuse the basic human rights of its citizens. A Republican president will not be bound by it. (p.46)

*Full text of party platforms available at:
democrats.org/party-platform
gop.com/the-2016-republican-party-platform