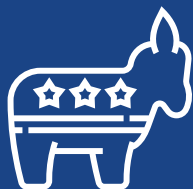


# 2020 VOTER INFORMATION GUIDELINE



## DEMOCRAT PARTY

### ABORTION

The *Democratic Party Platform* addresses abortion under the subheading titled “Securing Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice.”

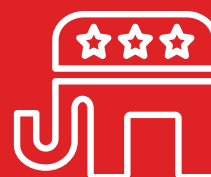
Democrats believe “that every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion.” *Democratic Party Platform*, 32

- Favors federal funding for Planned Parenthood.
- Favors repeal of the Hyde Amendment, a measure which bans federal funding of abortions except in cases to save a mother’s life, or in cases of rape or incest.

### EDUCATION

The *Democratic Party Platform* says, “Using property taxes to fund public K-12 schools results in inequitable treatment for students in low-income school districts, compared to those in wealthier areas. Democrats are committed to closing the school funding gap by tripling Title I funding, which benefits schools that serve low-income students, and incentivizing states to adopt progressive funding formulas that direct resources to the schools that need it most.” *Democratic Party Platform*, 66

- Supports federal funding for universal early childhood (pre-K) education. Vice President Biden’s campaign site says he will, “Offer low-income and middle-class families an up to \$8,000 tax credit to help pay for child care.”
- Supports “medically accurate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education.” *Democratic Party Platform*, 32
- Vice President Biden’s campaign site says he proposes to “Double the number of psychologists, counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals in our schools.”



## REPUBLICAN PARTY

### ABORTION

The *Republican Party Platform* addresses abortion under a subheading regarding the Fifth Amendment.

Republicans believe in “the sanctity of human life and affirm the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed.”

*Republican Party Platform*, 13

- Opposes federal funding for Planned Parenthood “as long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare.”
- Opposes federal funding “to perform or promote abortion” (supports Hyde Amendment).

### EDUCATION

The *Republican Party Platform* says, “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.” *Republican Party Platform*, 34

- President Trump’s campaign site says, “President Trump’s proposed budgets have made school choice a priority.”
- “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.” *Republican Party Platform*, 34

## EDUCATION: COLLEGES

Wants to make “public colleges and universities tuition-free for students whose families earn less than \$125,000” and will double the maximum Pell Grant award for low-income students. *Democratic Party Platform, 69*

Supports forgiving all undergraduate tuition-related federal student debt for those earning less than \$125,000. *Democratic Party Platform, 70*

## ENVIRONMENT

Affirms the Paris Climate Agreement and will rejoin the agreement. *Democratic Party Platform, 50*

## HEALTHCARE

Supports the Affordable Care Act.

“Everyone will be able to choose the public option or another Affordable Care Act marketplace plan.” *Democratic Party Platform, 28*

“We will incentivize states to expand Medicaid and enroll low-income people who do not otherwise have health insurance in a new, high-quality public option without premiums.” *Democratic Party Platform, 24*

## IMMIGRATION

Opposes a border wall. *Democratic Party Platform, 61*

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

“We will ensure that our military has no peer. We owe it to our men and women in uniform and to the American public to spend our defense dollars more wisely and strategically – focused on building a force that can deter and win conflicts in the 21st century.” *Democratic Party Platform, 73*

Favors defense spending cuts: “We can maintain a strong defense and protect our safety and security for less.” *Democratic Party Platform, 77*

## POLICE / CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“Democrats will establish strict national standards governing the use of force [by police], including banning the use of chokeholds and carotid holds, and permitting deadly force only when necessary and a last resort to prevent an imminent threat to life.” *Democratic Party Platform, 36*

Vice President Biden’s website says he supports a \$300 million investment in community policing programs on the condition that the officers hired mirror the racial diversity of a particular community. Vice President Biden also said in a USA Today editorial, “While I do not believe federal dollars should go to police departments violating people’s rights or turning to violence as the first resort, I do not support defunding police.”

Democrats “continue to support abolishing the death penalty.” *Democratic Party Platform, 38*

“Democrats will decriminalize marijuana use and reschedule it through executive action on the federal level.” *Democratic Party Platform 37*

## EDUCATION: COLLEGES

“The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans.” Also says “private sector participation in student financing should be restored.” *Republican Party Platform, 35*

President Trump’s website says administration “implemented the year-round distribution of Pell grants, instead of limiting these grants to the spring and fall semesters” in order to enable quicker graduation and lower costs.

## ENVIRONMENT

President Trump’s website says he has announced his intent to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. U.S. initiated process of withdrawing on November 4, 2019. (According to the Paris Agreement itself, the earliest date the US can withdraw from the agreement is November 4, 2020, the day after the election.)

## HEALTHCARE

Repeal Affordable Care Act. *Republican Party Platform, 36.*

Focus is on adequate funding of Medicare and Medicaid. Concerning Medicare, proposes no changes for persons 55 or older and giving an option of traditional Medicare or transition to a premium-support model. Favors “block-granting” Medicaid money to states. *Republican Party Platform, 23 - 24*

## IMMIGRATION

President Trump’s website says the administration has “secured funding for approximately 445 miles of the total 722 miles of border wall requested.”

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

Wants the U.S. military to be “the strongest on earth, with vast superiority over any other nation or group of nations in the world.” *Republican Party Platform, 41*

President Trump’s website says defense spending has increased during his administration.

## POLICE / CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In remarks delivered at the Whitehouse, President Trump said, “Americans must hold their city leaders accountable. They must insist that community officials fully support, fully back, and fully fund their local police departments. There is simply no substitute for a police department that has the strong backing of city leaders.”

President Trump’s website says he “signed Executive Order 13809 to restore state and local law enforcement’s access to surplus equipment from the Defense Department, such as armored vehicles.”

“The constitutionality of the death penalty is firmly settled by its explicit mention in the Fifth Amendment.” *Republican Party Platform, 40*

## RACE

"We believe Black lives matter, and will establish a national commission to examine the lasting economic effects of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and racially discriminatory federal policies on income, wealth, educational, health, and employment outcomes; to pursue truth and promote racial healing; and to study reparations." *Democratic Party Platform*, 40

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Supports appointing justices who support Roe and Obergefell.

## TAXES

Wants to reverse Trump-era tax cuts. "We will make sure the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes." *Democratic Party Platform*, 22

- Vice President Biden's website says he will not raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000.
- Plans to raise the corporate tax rate to 28% (currently 21%).
- Plans to raise the top individual income tax rate to 39.6% (currently 37%).

## RESOURCES

The official website of the Democratic Party is available at <https://democrats.org/>.

The 2020 *Democratic Party Platform* is available at <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-07-31-Democratic-Party-Platform-For-Distribution.pdf>.

Vice President Biden's various stances can be found at <https://joebiden.com/joes-vision/>.

See a Vice President Biden editorial on police funding at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/06/10/biden-root-out-systemic-racism-not-just-divisive-trump-talk-column/5327631002/>.

See also <https://2020election.procon.org/>.

## RACE

"We denounce bigotry, racism, anti-Semitism, ethnic prejudice, and religious intolerance. Therefore, we oppose discrimination based on race, religion, creed, disability, or national origin and support statutes to end such discrimination." *Republican Party Platform*, 9

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Supports appointing justices who do not support Roe and Obergefell. *Republican Party Platform*, 10

"We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life." *Republican Party Platform*, 13

## TAXES

Supports continuation of Trump-era tax cuts.

"Wherever tax rates penalize thrift or discourage investment, they must be lowered." *Republican Party Platform*, 2

- 2017 tax cuts lowered corporate tax rates from 35% to 21%.
- 2017 tax cuts lowered the top individual income tax rate from 39.6% to 37%.

## RESOURCES

The official website of the Republican Party is available at <https://www.gop.com/>.

The Republican Party is using its platform from 2016 available at [https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/docs/Resolution\\_Platform\\_2020.pdf](https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/docs/Resolution_Platform_2020.pdf).

President Trump's various stances can be found at <https://www.promiseskept.com/>.

See President Trump's comments on police and violence at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-operation-legend-combatting-violent-crime-american-cities/>.

See also <https://2020election.procon.org/>.