

transform the EPA into an independent bi-partisan commission. (Page 21)  
We reject the agendas of both the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, which represent only the personal commitments of their signatories; no such agreement can be binding upon the United States until it is submitted to and ratified by the Senate. (Page 22)”

on public lands. We will phase down extraction of fossil fuels from our public lands. (Page 29)  
Democrats oppose efforts to undermine the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened and endangered species. (Page 30)”

## Statements about Criminal Justice & Anti-Trafficking:

“We call for mandatory prison time for all assaults involving serious injury to law enforcement officers. (Page 40)

We encourage states to continue to fight (pornography) ... and pledge our commitment to children’s safety and well-being. We urge energetic prosecution of child pornography, which is closely linked to human trafficking. (Page 40)

We will use the full force of the law against those who engage in commercial sexual exploitation and forced or bonded labor of men, women, or children; involuntary domestic servitude; trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal; and the illegal recruitment and use of child soldiers. (Page 53)

A Republican administration will strategize with partners around the world to prevent the demand for trafficking victims that makes exploitation lucrative and will prosecute sex tourists and domestic buyers to the fullest extent of the law. (Page 53)

“‘Equal Justice Under Law’ will not just be words engraved on the entrance of the Supreme Court. It will be the standard that applies to Wall Street and all Americans. (Page 11)

We will work with police chiefs to invest in training for officers on issues such as de-escalation and the creation of national guidelines for the appropriate use of force. (Page 15)

We will end racial profiling that targets individuals solely on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin ... We will require the Department of Justice to investigate all questionable or suspicious police-involved shootings ... (Page 15)

Because of conflicting federal and state laws concerning marijuana, we encourage the federal government to remove marijuana from the list of “Schedule 1” controlled substances ... providing a reasoned pathway for future legalization. (Page 16)

We will remove barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society by “banning the box,” (indicating criminal records), expanding reentry programs, and restoring voting rights ... (Page 16)

We will continue to support the Violence Against Women Act to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to combat this problem. (Page 38)”

## Statements about Election and Campaign Laws:

“We support legislation to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote and secure photo ID when voting. (Page 16)

We urge our elected representatives to ensure that citizenship rather than mere residency, be made the basis for the apportionment of representatives among the states. (Page 16)”

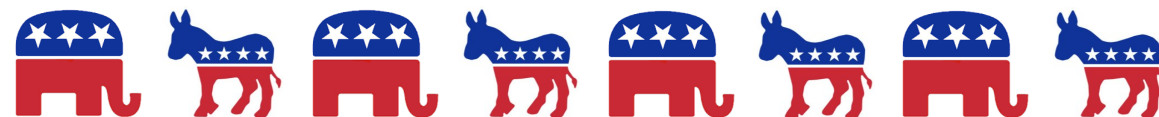
“Democrats believe we are stronger when we protect citizens’ right to vote, while stopping corporations’ outsized influence in elections. ... restore the full power of the Voting Rights Act. (Page 2)

We must rectify the Supreme Court decision gutting the Voting Rights Act, which is a profound injustice. We will stop efforts by Republican governors and legislatures to disenfranchise people of color, low-income people, and young people, and prevent these voters from exercising their right to vote through onerous restrictions. (Page 24)

We will bring our democracy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing universal automatic voter registration and same day voter registration, ending partisan and racial gerrymandering and making Election Day a national holiday. (Page 24)

Democrats support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court’s decisions in *Citizens United* and *Buckley v. Valeo*. We need to end secret, unaccountable money in politics by requiring, through executive order or legislation, significantly more disclosure and transparency. (Page 25)

... we will preserve and enhance the integrity and accuracy of the census and the American Community Survey (ACS). ... improve counting segments of the population ... persistently undercounted, specifically communities of color, immigrants, LGBT people, young children, those with disabilities, and rural and low-income populations. (Page 26)”



# 2016 Party Platform Comparison

The following excerpts were taken from the 2016 Republican Party and Democratic Party National Platforms. They are abbreviated and compiled in comparison form. Republican quotes are in red; Democratic quotes are in blue. Material in parenthesis and section titles are by the compiler.

The complete platforms are available at the following web-sites:

The 58 page 2016 Republican Platform: <https://prod-static-ngop-pbl.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/2012GOPPlatform.pdf>

The 51 page 2016 Democratic Platform: <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Democratic-Party-Platform-7.21.16-no-lines.pdf>

## Statements about Sanctity of Life:

“... we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. (Page 13)  
We urge all states and Congress to make it a crime to acquire, transfer, or sell fetal tissues from elective abortions for research ... (Page 13)  
We condemn the Supreme Court’s activist decision in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* striking down commonsense Texas laws providing for basic health and safety standards in abortion clinics. (Page 14)  
We respect the states’ authority and flexibility to exclude abortion providers from federal programs such as Medicaid and other healthcare and family planning programs so long as they continue to perform or refer for elective abortions or sell the body parts of aborted children. (Page 24)  
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 ... empowers teens to achieve optimal health outcomes. (Page 34)  
... the current Administration has promoted the notion of abortion as healthcare. We, however, affirm the dignity of women by protecting the sanctity of human life. Numerous studies have shown that abortion endangers the health and well-being of women, and we stand firmly against it. (Page 36)  
We call for a permanent ban on federal funding and subsidies for abortion and healthcare plans that include abortion coverage. (Page 37)  
We oppose the non-consensual withholding of care or treatment from people with disabilities, including newborns, the elderly, and inform, just as we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide ... (Page 39)  
The Republican Party, a party of law and order, must make clear in words and action that every human life matters. (Page 39)”

## Statements about Gender:

“Our laws and our government’s regulations should recognize marriage as the union of one man and one woman and actively promote married family life as the basis of a stable and prosperous society. (Page 31)  
We ... support the original, authentic meaning of Title IX ... is now 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 ... Their edict to the states concerning restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities is at once illegal, dangerous, and ignores privacy issues. (Page 35)”

“We believe in protecting civil liberties and guaranteeing civil rights and voting rights, women’s rights and workers’ rights LGBT rights, and rights for people with disabilities. (Page 2)  
Democrats will always fight to end discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. (Page 18)  
After 240 years, we will finally enshrine the rights of women in the Constitution by passing the Equal Rights Amendment. (Page 18)  
We will also fight for comprehensive federal non-discrimination protections for all LGBT Americans, to guarantee equal rights in areas such as housing, employment, public accommodations, credit, jury service, education, and federal funding. We will oppose all state efforts to discriminate against LGBT individuals, including legislation that restricts the right to access public spaces. (Page 19)  
Democrats believe that LBGT rights are human rights and that American foreign policy should advance the ability of all persons to live with dignity, security, and respect, regardless of who they are or who they love. (Page 46)”

“We will abolish the death penalty ... (Page 16)  
We will fight Republican efforts to roll back the clock on women’s health and reproductive rights, and stand up for Planned Parenthood. (Page 34)  
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 and thereby also reduce the need for abortions. (Page 37)  
... we believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women’s health care and included as part of America’s global health programming. (Page 46)  
We will push for a societal transformation to make it clear that black lives matter and that there is no place for racism in our country. (Page 14)”

playing field by lowering the corporate tax rate to be on a par with, or below, the rates of other industrial nations. (Page 2)  
We cannot allow foreign governments to limit American access to their markets while stealing our designs, patents, brands, know-how, and technology. (Page 2)  
In response to the financial institutions crisis of 2008-2009, the ... Congress enacted ... known as Dodd-Frank ... to establish unprecedented government control over the nation’s financial markets ... the (Consumer Financial Protection) Bureau ... should be subjected to congressional appropriation. (Page 3)  
Minimum wage is an issue that should be handled at the state and local level. (Page 8)  
We must impose firm caps on future debt ... spending restraint is a necessary component that must be vigorously pursued. (Page 8)  
The Republican path to fiscal sanity and economic expansion begins with a constitutional requirement for a federal balanced budget. (Page 23)”

## Statements about the Environment:

“The EPA’s ... rule (WOTUS) ... is a travesty. It extends the government’s jurisdiction over navigable waters into the micro-management of puddles and ditches on farms, ranches, and other privately-held property ... We must never allow federal agencies to seize control of state waters, watersheds, or groundwater. (Page 18)  
... coal is an abundant, clean, affordable, reliable domestic energy resource. Those who mine it and their families should be protected from the ... radical anti-coal agenda. (Page 19)  
We intend to finish that pipeline (Keystone XL Pipeline) and others as part of our commitment to North American energy security. ... We support the development of all forms of energy that are marketable in a free economy without subsidies, including coal, oil natural gas, nuclear power, and hydropower. ... We encourage the cost-effective development of renewable energy sources – wind, solar, biomass, biofuel, geothermal, and tidal energy – by private capital. (Page 20)  
We propose to shift responsibility for environmental regulation from the federal bureaucracy to the states and to

expanding incentives to ease local barriers to building new affordable rental housing developments in areas of economic opportunity. (Page 5)  
And we will fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all ... (Page 6)  
Democrats will expand Social Security ... We will fight every effort to cut, privatize, or weaken Social Security, including attempts to raise the retirement age, diminish benefits by cutting cost-of-living adjustments, or reducing earned benefits ... by asking those at the top to pay more ... by taxing some of the income of people above \$250,000. (Page 6)  
We will also vigorously implement, enforce, and build on President Obama’s landmark Dodd-Frank financial reform law, and we will stop dead in its tracks every Republican effort to weaken it. (Page 11)  
We support a financial transactions tax on Wall Street to curb excessive speculation and high-frequency trading ... (Page 11)  
At a time of massive income and wealth inequality, we believe the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations must pay their fair share of taxes. (Page 12)  
We will ensure those at the top contribute to our country’s future by establishing a multimillionaire surtax to ensure millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share ... restore fair taxation on multimillion dollar estates, ... (Page 13)  
Democrats believe that we need to give Americans affordable banking options, including by empowering the United States Postal Service to facilitate the delivery of basic banking services. (Page 12)  
Disparities in wealth cannot be solved by the free market alone, but instead, the federal government must play a role in eliminating systemic barriers to wealth accumulation. (Page 15)”

“We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and help them to mitigate its effects by investing in green and resilient infrastructure. (Page 8)  
We must make American manufacturing more internationally competitive by make it the greenest and most efficient in the world, including by investing in industrial energy efficiency. (Page 8)  
Climate change is an urgent threat and a defining challenge of our time ... We believe America must be running entirely on clean energy by mid-century ... We will cut energy waste in American homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements. (Page 27)  
... we support taking steps to power the government with 100 percent clean electricity. (Page 28)  
We believe hydraulic fracturing should not take place where states and local communities oppose it. (Page 28)  
We support President Obama’s decision to reject the Keystone XL pipeline. (Page 28)  
We oppose drilling in the Arctic and off the Atlantic coast, and believe we need to reform fossil fuel leasing

## Statements about National Sovereignty:

“To protect our national security interests and foster innovation and competitiveness, we must sustain our preeminence in space by launching more scientific missions, guaranteeing unfettered access, and ensuring that our space-related industries remain a source of scientific leadership and education. (Page 6)

America’s Electric Grid ... is aging, vulnerable to cyber and terrorist threats, and unprepared to serve our energy needs of tomorrow. ... We support ... expedited siting processes and the thoughtful expansion of the grid ... (Page 6)

We recommend ... enactment by the full Congress ... ways to secure the integrity of our currency. (Page 7)

We therefore oppose the adoption or ratification of treaties that would weaken or encroach upon American sovereignty or that could be construed by courts to do so. We will not recognize as binding upon the United States any international agreement forged without the constitutionally required assent of two-thirds of the United States Senate. (Page 10)

We call on Congress to begin reclaiming its constitutional powers from the bureaucratic state by requiring that major new federal regulations be approved by Congress before they can take effect ... (Page 10)

We do not support the U.N. Convention on Women’s Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty as well as various declarations from the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development. ... We have deep reservations about ... the Law of the Sea Treaty. We emphatically reject U.N. Agenda 21, ... and we oppose any form of Global Tax. (Page 51)

The Republican Party does not accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. ... Our service members must be subject only to American law. (Page 51)

Radical Islamic terrorism poses an existential threat to personal freedom and peace around the world. ... The Republican Party stands united with all victims of terrorism and will fight at home and abroad to destroy terrorist organizations and protect the lives and fundamental liberties of all people. (Page 52)”

## Statements about Israel:

“We recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state and call for the American embassy to be moved there in fulfillment of U.S. law. ...

We reaffirm America’s commitment to Israel’s security and will ensure that Israel maintains a qualitative military edge over any and all adversaries. ... We reject the false notion that Israel is an occupier and specifically recognize that the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS) is anti-Semitic in nature and seeks to destroy Israel. (Page 47)”

“A strong Israel is vital to the United States ... we will always support Israel’s right to defend itself, including by retaining its qualitative military edge, and oppose any effort to delegitimize Israel, including at the United Nations or through the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement. We will continue to work toward a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ... (Page 49) While Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations, it should remain the capital of Israel, an undivided city (Page 50)”

“And we will urge U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (Page 19)

And we will continue to fight for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (Page 19)

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

Democrats will protect our industry, infrastructure, and government from cyberattacks. (Page 44)

We will work to end the epidemic of gender-based violence around the world. We will urge ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (Page 46)

Democrats believe that global institutions—most prominently the United Nations—and multilateral organizations have a powerful role to play and are an important amplifier of American strength and influence. (Page 51)”

## Statements about the Military:

“... the Republican Party is committed to rebuilding the U.S. military into the strongest on earth, with vast superiority over any other nation or group of nations in the world. (Page 41)

We oppose the reinstatement of the draft, except in dire circumstances like world war, whether directly or through compulsory national service. ... We reiterate our support for both the advancement of women in the military and their exemption from direct ground combat units and infantry battalions. (Page 43)

America has a sacred trust with our veterans, and we are committed to ensuring them and their families’ care and dignity. (Page 44) That includes allowing veterans to choose to access care in the community and not just in VA facilities, because the best care in the world is not effective if it is not accessible. (Page 45)”

## Statements about Immigration:

“Our immigration system must protect American working families and their wages, for citizens and legal immigrants alike, in a way that will improve the economy. (Page 25)

We oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by breaking the law, have disadvantaged those who have obeyed it. (Page 25)

... we support stiffer penalties, such as a mandatory minimum sentence of five years, for any illegal alien who illegally re-enters our nation after already having been deported. (Page 26)

Because “sanctuary cities” violate federal law and endanger their own citizens, they should not be eligible for federal funding. (Page 26)

To ensure our national security, refugees who cannot be carefully vetted cannot be admitted to the country, ... (Page 26)

To keep our people safe, we must secure our borders, enforce our immigration laws, and properly screen refugees and other immigrants entering from any country. (Page 42)”

“We believe our military should be the best-trained, best equipped fighting force in the world, and that we must do everything we can to honor and support our veterans. And we know that only the United States can mobilize common action on a truly global scale, to take on the challenges that transcend borders, from international terrorism to climate change to health pandemics. (page 2)

We are proud of the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and we commit ourselves to insuring fair treatment for LGBT veterans, including by proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who were discharged because of their sexual orientation. ... Our military is strongest when people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities are honored for their service to our country. (Page 41)

Democrats will seek an updated Authorization for Use of Military Force ... that is more precise about our efforts to defeat ISIS and that does not involve large-scale combat deployment of American troops. (Page 42)

We will strengthen the (Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) push for the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and stop the spread of loose nuclear material. ... be informed by a new Nuclear Posture Review ... with the aim of reducing our reliance on nuclear weapons while meeting our national security obligations. (Page 44)

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our national security, ... According to the military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts. (Page 45)”

“Democrats believe we need to urgently fix our broken immigration system ... and create a path to citizenship for law-abiding families ... (Page 17)

...we will defend and implement President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action of Parents of Americans executive actions to help DREAMers, parents of citizens, and lawful permanent resident avoid deportation. (Page 17)

We will work to ensure that all Americans—regardless of immigration status—have access to quality health care. That means expanding community health centers ... (Page 18)

Given the immense sale of human suffering in Syria, it is also imperative that we lead the international community in providing greater humanitarian assistance to the civilian victims of war in Syria and Iraq, especially displaced refugees. (Page 42)”

## Statements about **Gun Control:**

“We support firearm reciprocity legislation to recognize the right of law-abiding Americans to carry firearms to protect themselves and their families in all 50 states. ... We also oppose any effort to deprive individuals of their right to keep and bear arms without due process of law. (Page 12)”

“With 33,000 Americans dying every year, Democrats believe that we must finally take sensible action to address gun violence, ... we will expand and strengthen background check and close dangerous loopholes in our current laws; repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to revoke the dangerous legal immunity protections gun makers and sellers now enjoy; and keep weapons of war—such as assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines ... off our streets. (Page 39)”

## Statements about **Health:**

“(For Medicare) ... we propose these reforms: Impose no changes for persons 55 or older. Give others the option of traditional Medicare or transition to a premium-support model designed to strengthen patient choice, promote cost-saving competition among providers, and better guard against the fraud and abuse that now diverts billions of dollars every year away from patient care. Guarantee to every enrollee an income-adjusted contribution toward a plan of their choice, with catastrophic protection. Without disadvantaging present retirees or those nearing retirement, set a more realistic age for eligibility in light of today’s longer life span. (Page 24) (For Medicaid) we applaud the Republican governors and state legislators who have undertaken the hard work of modernizing Medicaid. We will give them a free hand ... by block-granting the program without strings. (Page 24)

America’s healthcare professionals should not be forced to choose between following their faith and practicing their profession. (Page 37)

We support the ability of all organizations to provide, purchase, or enroll in healthcare coverage consistent with their religious, moral, or ethical convictions without discrimination or penalty. (Page 37)”

“Democrats believe that climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children’s health and futures, ... (Page 2)

Democrats will make sure that the United States finally enacts national paid family and medical leave by passing a family and medical leave act that would provide all workers at least 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a new child or address a personal or family member’s serious health issue. (Page 5)

Democrats believe that health care is a right, not a privilege, and our health care system should put people before profits. ... never falter in our generations-long fight to guarantee health care as a fundamental right for every American. (Page 34)

Democrats have been fighting to secure universal health care for the American people for generations ... (Page 34) ... we will work with health professionals to ensure that all children have access to mental health care. (Page 37)

We continue to see unacceptable differences in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. A growing body of research demonstrates the link between social factors—such as poverty, unemployment, experience of discrimination, and housing instability—and poor health. (Page 38)”

## Statements about **Fiscal Responsibility:**

“Republicans consider the establishment of a pro-growth tax code a moral imperative. (Page 1)

To guard against hypertaxation of the American people in any restructuring of the federal tax system, any value added tax or national sales tax must be tied to the simultaneous repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment, which established the federal income tax. (Page 2)

We propose to level the international

“We believe that today’s extreme level of income and wealth inequality—where the majority of the economic gains go to the top one percent ... makes our economy weaker, our communities poorer, and our politics poisonous. (Page 1)

We believe that Americans should earn at least \$15 an hour and have the right to form or join a union ... (Page 3)

We will increase investments to make quality childcare more affordable, boost wages for childcare workers, and support the millions of people paying for, coordinating, or providing care for aging relatives or those with disabilities. (Page 5)

We will preserve and increase the supply of affordable rental housing by

## Statements about **Education:**

“We will continue our fight for school choice until all parents can find good, safe schools for their children. (Page 32)

Parents are a child’s first and foremost educators, and have primary responsibility for the education of their children. Parents have a right to direct their children’s education, care, and upbringing. (Page 33)

We applaud America’s great teachers, who should be protected against frivolous lawsuits and should be able to take reasonable actions to maintain discipline and order in the classroom. (Page 33)

We support options for learning, including homeschooling, career and technical education, private or parochial schools, magnet schools, charter schools, online learning, and early-college high schools. (Page 34)

## Statements about **Freedom of Religion:**

“Because of the vital role of religious organizations, charities, and fraternal benevolent societies in fostering generosity and patriotism, they should not be subject to taxation and donations to them should remain deductible. (Page 2)

Religious freedom in the Bill of Rights protects the right of the people to practice their faith in their everyday lives. (Page 11)

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. (Page 11)

We support the right of the people to conduct their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs and condemn public officials who have proposed boycotts against businesses that support traditional marriage. (Page 12)

We likewise call for an end to the so-called Fairness Doctrine, and support free-market approaches to free speech unregulated by government. (Page 12)

We support the rights of conscience of military chaplains of all faiths to practice their faith free from political interference. ...will protect the religious freedom of all military members, especially chaplains, and will not tolerate attempts to ban Bibles or religious symbols from military facilities. (Page 43)

... a Republican administration will return the advocacy of religious liberty to a central place in its diplomacy, will quickly designate the systematic killing of religious and ethnic minorities a genocide, and will work with leaders of other nations to condemn and combat genocidal acts. (Page 52)”

“We believe a good education is a basic right of all Americans, no matter what zip code they live in. (Page 2) ... and at last making debt-free college a reality for all Americans. (Page 30) ... and working families should not have to pay any tuition to go to public colleges and universities. (Page 30)

The federal government will push more colleges and universities to take quantifiable, affirmative steps in increasing the percentages of racial and ethnic minority, low-income, and first generation students they enroll and graduate. (Page 31)

Democrats believe we must have the best-educated population and workforce in the world. That means making early childhood education and universal preschool a priority ... (Page 32)

We will end the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing discipline policies which disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, students with disabilities, and youth who identify as LGBT. ... And we will work to improve school culture and combat bullying of all kinds. (Page 33)”

“We support a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate. ... 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. (Page 19)”