

# Let's Talk About it

## Republicans vs. Democrats

Here are key points from the Democratic Party platform, Agenda 47 (Trump's official platform) [+] and Project 2025 [\*] (initiated by the Heritage Foundation). While Trump has officially distanced himself from Project 2025, many believe that if Trump is elected, Project 2025 will be implemented.

### Education

- \*\*Eliminate Department of Education
- \*Cut federal loan programs
- \*Deny loans to students at schools providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants
- \*Cut Title IX protections for LGBTQ+ students
- \*Reorganize Title I so states can decide where funds go
- \*Eliminate Head Start and reduce free school meals
- \*End gender-affirming care policies; stop any education about gender or sex transition, and impose severe consequences
- \*Allow parents to fire school principals
- \*Give preferential funding to schools that "abolish teacher tenure for grades K-12"
- \*Cut federal funding for any schools teaching "Critical Race Theory" or "transgender ideology"
- \*Allow teachers to carry concealed weapons at school
- \*Support "universal school choice"
- \*Fire "radical Left" university accreditors
- \*Pursue civil rights cases against universities that "engage in racial discrimination" (i.e. affirmative action)

- "Significantly increase federal investments in rural, urban, and Tribal areas"
- "Support K-12 instruction in civics and climate literacy...[and] evidence-based programs and pedagogical approaches, including assessments that consider the well-being of the whole student"
- Work to "offer pre-K for all three- and four-year-olds and expand Head Start and Early Head Start...drive increased resources to communities with the highest need"
- "Closing the school funding gap by tripling Title I funding"
- "Guns have no place in our schools"
- "Increase funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, expand the civil rights data collection..., and build on the Strength in Diversity Act to increase federal funding for community-driven strategies to desegregate schools"

### Climate

- \*"The next conservative Administration should rescind all climate policies from its foreign aid programs (specifically USAID's Climate Strategy 2022-20307 )
- Shut down the agency's offices, programs, and directives designed to advance the Paris Climate Agreement
- Narrowly limit funding to traditional climate mitigation efforts"

- Scale up solar, wind, geothermal projects through the Inflation Reduction Act and invest in clean energy R&D
- Expand clean energy workforce — ensuring jobs are open and accessible to all people
- Triple size of American Climate Corps
- Eliminate tens of thousands of unfair and destructive oil and gas subsidies
- Hold oil and gas executives accountable for collusion and price gouging

# Foreign Policy

- \*Encourage US allies to take more responsibility for defense
- \*Defeat a Chinese invasion of Taiwan
- +Reevaluate NATO's purpose
- \*Sustain support for Israel
- \*\*"Enable South Korea to take the lead in its conventional defense against North Korea"
- \*Expand US nuclear arsenal
- +Negotiate peace between Ukraine and Russia
- +Build missile defense shield for US
- \*\*"Force China to give up any U.S. holdings that put national security at risk"
- \*\*"Hunting down Chinese spies"
- \*\*"Impose whatever visa sanctions and travel restrictions are necessary to shut off Chinese access to American secrets"

- Strengthen NATO and stand with Ukraine against Russia
- Focus on outcompeting China
- Manage relationship with China to avoid conflict
- Peace in the Middle East via a negotiated two-state solution that ensures Israel's future as a democratic state with recognized borders — while upholding the right of Palestinians to reside peacefully in a state of their own
- Support foreign policy that "accelerates our domestic renewal"

# Immigration

- \*Eliminate visas for victims of trafficking
- \*\*"Assist in aggressively building the border wall system on America's southern border"
- \*\*"Using military personnel and hardware to prevent illegal crossings between ports of entry and channel all cross-border traffic to legal ports of entry"
- \*\*"Strengthen ICE, increase penalties for illegal entry and overstaying Visas, and reinstate "Remain in Mexico" and other Policies... Invoke the Alien Enemies Act to remove all known or suspected gang members, drug dealers, or cartel members from the United States... Bring back the Travel Ban"
- \*\*"Cut federal Funding to sanctuary jurisdictions... Require local cooperation with Federal Immigration Enforcement"
- + "Prioritize Merit-based immigration... End chain migration, the process in which family members help each other migrate"

- Pass legislation to "secure the border," fix "broken immigration system", and expand legal immigration
- Reform the asylum system by strengthening the screening process
- Keep families together by supporting "long-term undocumented individuals" - including DREAMers
- Encourage long-lasting congressional actions to cultivate comprehensive reforms

◆ Note: According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), between 2019 and 2023, our immigrant labor force grew yearly on average 2.3 percent; yet there's no evidence of harm to the native-born, as our economy has also been growing. In fact, EPI also found that for U.S.-born workers, 2022-2023 was a time of "very low unemployment—and strong employment growth."

# Crime and Gun Violence

- \*\*Pursue policies and legislation that encourage prosecution of violent crimes as well as appropriate sentences for such offenses”
- \*\*Enforce the death penalty where appropriate and applicable”

- Undertake a “common sense” approach
- Strengthen universal background checks, safe storage requirements, ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Advance Safer America Plan, invest \$37 billion in law enforcement and crime prevention
- Commit \$5 billion to community violence prevention
- Expunge federal marijuana-only convictions

# Equity and Democracy

- \*Eliminate “divisive critical race theory programs and abolish newly established diversity, equity, and inclusion offices and staff”
- \*\*Abolish” the White House Gender Policy Council
- \*\*Ask Congress to pass a bill establishing that the only genders recognized by the United States government are male and female—and they are determined at birth”

- Appoint more justices and judges “committed to defending American rights and freedoms”
- Sign the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and Freedom to Vote Act addressing the right to vote, fair congressional maps, and curtailing money in politics

# Economic Growth

- \*Consolidate/eliminate Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs for disaster supplemental projects, public works, and other local technical assistance programs
- \*Impose 10 percent universal tariff on all imports and a 60 percent tariff on all imports from China

- Accelerate Investing in America to bring back manufacturing and rebuild infrastructure
- Raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour
- Strengthen the right to organize for better pay and working conditions
- Expand access to capital for growing small businesses

# Taxes

- \* “End current loan forgiveness”
- + “Make permanent the provisions of the Trump Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that doubled the standard deduction, expanded the Child Tax Credit, and spurred Economic Growth for all Americans....eliminate Taxes on Tips for millions of Restaurant and Hospitality Workers, and pursue additional Tax Cuts”
- +Decrease corporate tax rate

- Make the wealthy and big corporations pay more in taxes, not raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400k
- Cut working families’ taxes and make permanent the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit
- “End special interest giveaways and... make sure all Americans play by the same rules”
- Cut the deficit by \$3 trillion over the next decade

# Healthcare

- \*Reinstate the overturn of Roe, limit access to birth control and IVF treatments
- \*Remove FDA approval of mifepristone for medication abortions
- \*Build a surveillance system to track women and health care providers involved in abortions
- \*Terminate the Affordable Care Act
- \*Repeal Medicare’s negotiation ability under the IRA
- \*Instruct the department of Health and Human Services to repeal a 2016 regulation that ensures foster youth placed in homes supporting their sexual orientation and gender identity
- \*Urge private health care over Medicare
- +Restrict health and safety standards for youth gender transitioning

- Pass legislation to ensure the protections of Roe, support FDA-approved medication abortion, strengthen contraception access, protect women’s access to IVF
- Continue critical investments to curb opioid overdose and expand access to life-saving medication
- Increase access to mental health care and the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- “Strengthen data privacy...protect kids online”

\*indicates Project 2025, +indicates Agenda47