

# United States President

## THE ISSUES

**JOE  
BIDEN**

DEMOCRAT



**DONALD  
TRUMP**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

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<b>ABORTION</b> Legal or ban?	Legal. Supports <a href="#">“right to choose.”</a> <a href="#">“Codify Roe v. Wade”</a> into law. Until 2019, <a href="#">backed</a> existing federal abortion funding ban.	Ban. <a href="#">“Strongly pro-life.”</a> First president to <a href="#">attend March for Life</a> . Promised to appoint justices <a href="#">to overturn Roe v. Wade</a> .
<b>AFFORDABLE CARE ACT</b> Support Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare? Support a public option?	Yes. Wants public option <a href="#">“like Medicare” to “build on the Affordable Care Act.”</a> Raise subsidies and tax credits to lower premiums.	No on both. <a href="#">“Terminate”</a> Obamacare and <a href="#">“replace with a plan that’s far better.”</a> Filed <a href="#">Supreme Court brief to overturn</a> .
<b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE</b> Limit campaign contributions? Support public funding and expanded disclosure?	Yes. <a href="#">Eliminate all private donations</a> from federal elections; <a href="#">replace solely by public funding</a> . Would expand required disclosure.	No. <a href="#">Dislikes</a> using taxpayer money for public funding. <a href="#">Opposed</a> House <a href="#">bill</a> that supported it and expanded disclosure rules.
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Is human-caused climate change a serious threat? Limit greenhouse gases or fund renewable energy?	Yes. <a href="#">“An existential threat.”</a> Rejoin Paris Climate Agreement to limit emissions. Introduced \$2 trillion plan <a href="#">to boost clean energy and rebuild infrastructure</a> .	No. <a href="#">“Don’t know that it’s manmade.”</a> Climate scientists have <a href="#">“political agenda”</a> risking <a href="#">“millions of jobs.”</a> <a href="#">Cut renewables funding</a> . <a href="#">Withdrew U.S.</a> from Paris Agreement.
<b>COURTS</b> More justices like Kavanaugh, Gorsuch?	No. See <a href="#">CEEP Supreme Court Guide</a> .	Yes. See <a href="#">CEEP Supreme Court Guide</a> .
<b>COVID-19</b> Plan for dealing with COVID? Support Trump withdrawal from World Health Organization (WHO)?	<a href="#">Emergency paid leave for all affected, more testing, strong federal response, wearing masks, and strengthening social distancing</a> . Opposed WHO withdrawal: <a href="#">“Strengthening global health”</a> makes Americans safer. Says Trump <a href="#">“quit on this country.”</a>	States must take <a href="#">main responsibility for testing</a> . <a href="#">Opposes mandatory masks</a> . <a href="#">Invest in developing vaccines</a> . Ban on China flights saved <a href="#">“thousands and thousands”</a> of lives. WHO <a href="#">“failed to make the requested and greatly needed reforms.”</a>
<b>COVID CRISIS – ECONOMIC RESPONSE</b> What should COVID stimulus bills prioritize?	<a href="#">Much bigger stimulus, with aid to states and cities</a> . Supports <a href="#">“trillion-dollar infrastructure program,”</a> with tougher conditions on business bailouts and focus on <a href="#">small business</a> and <a href="#">essential workers</a> .	Reduce <a href="#">capital gains and payroll taxes</a> , limit business liability. <a href="#">Three-month student loan deferral</a> . Opposes <a href="#">congressional oversight of stimulus bailouts</a> . Payments to workers should include <a href="#">“incentive to work.”</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> Support free (or highly subsidized) public college tuition or loan forgiveness for low-income students?	<a href="#">Yes</a> . Two years free community college. <a href="#">Free public 4-year college</a> if families make below \$125,000. Cover <a href="#">student-debt payments</a> for public college and some others if earning under \$125,000, max payment <a href="#">5% of income</a> .	Unclear. Proposed deep cuts to federal financial aid programs and ending public service loan forgiveness. Proposed <a href="#">borrowers pay</a> 12.5% of discretionary yearly income with loans forgiven after 15-25 years.
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Tighten or loosen environmental protections?	Tighten. <a href="#">Rescind permit for Keystone pipeline</a> . <a href="#">Preserve and implement Clean Air Act</a> , and ban new drilling on public lands. <a href="#">Let existing fracking continue</a> .	Loosen <a href="#">environmental review laws</a> . Supports <a href="#">EPA cutbacks</a> and <a href="#">Keystone pipeline</a> . <a href="#">“We are reclaiming America’s proud heritage</a> as a nation of builders.”

ISSUES	BIDEN (D)	TRUMP (R)
<b>GAY RIGHTS</b> Support LGBTQ rights, including protection from discrimination?	Yes. <a href="#">First supported gay marriage in 2012.</a> <a href="#">“Protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination.”</a> Supports <a href="#">Equality Act</a> .	No. Prohibiting job discrimination for sexual orientation was a <a href="#">“horrible”</a> decision. Rolled back LGBTQ <a href="#">health care protections</a> to protect religious freedom. Previously <a href="#">mixed</a> .
<b>GUN CONTROL</b> More restrictive legislation on guns? Stricter background checks and bans on assault rifles?	Yes. Gun violence is a “public health epidemic.” <a href="#">Ban assault rifles and high-capacity magazines; background checks for all gun sales.</a>	<a href="#">Mostly no</a> . Said <a href="#">would support background checks</a> . Later <a href="#">opposed House bill mandating them</a> . <a href="#">Rescinded rule</a> stopping mentally impaired from owning firearms.
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> Path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented residents, including DACA participants brought to U.S. as children? Position on border walls and limiting asylum?	Yes. Reinstate DACA program. Supports <a href="#">“roadmap to legal status and citizenship for unauthorized immigrants.”</a> <a href="#">“Building a wall will do little to deter criminals and cartels seeking to exploit our borders.”</a> “Modernize” immigration, allow more total visas.	No. <a href="#">Tried to end DACA</a> program; <a href="#">overruled by Supreme Court</a> . Said would <a href="#">veto</a> DACA path to citizenship. Earlier said might <a href="#">support</a> as part of broader deal. <a href="#">Declared national emergency</a> to pay for <a href="#">border wall</a> . Tightened <a href="#">legal immigration</a> and <a href="#">asylum</a> limits.
<b>IRAN</b> Support Trump withdrawal from Iran nuclear treaty? Require congressional approval for military to attack Iran?	Oppose withdrawal. “No illusions” on Iran, but diplomacy is <a href="#">“only way out.”</a> Trump <a href="#">lacks authority</a> to launch attacks. Backs <a href="#">relief from sanctions</a> during pandemic.	Yes. <a href="#">Withdrew from treaty</a> . <a href="#">Imposed sanctions</a> . <a href="#">Ordered killing of Iranian general in Iraq</a> . Vetoed <a href="#">requiring congressional authorization</a> for military attack.
<b>LABOR</b> Support “right-to-work” laws, banning unions from mandating dues for workers they represent?	No. Repeal Taft-Hartley provisions <a href="#">that let states impose right-to-work laws</a> . Penalize “companies that interfere with workers’ organizing efforts.”	Yes. Supports <a href="#">right-to-work laws</a> as creating more flexibility. Issued order <a href="#">making it easier to fire federal employees</a> . Revoked <a href="#">Obama order tightening wage and hour rules</a> .
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Decriminalize or keep illegal?	<a href="#">Decriminalize use</a> . <a href="#">“Expunge all cannabis use convictions, end incarceration for drug use alone.”</a> Don’t interfere with states. But <a href="#">doesn’t support full federal legalization</a> .	Keep illegal. Rescinded rule <a href="#">preventing federal prosecutions in states where legal</a> . Proposed <a href="#">removing medical marijuana protections</a> .
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?	Yes. <a href="#">“\$15 an hour minimum wage is long overdue.”</a> <a href="#">Index to median hourly wage</a> , with automatic minimum increases.	No. <a href="#">Threatened to veto \$15 minimum when House passed it</a> .
<b>PLANNED PARENTHOOD</b> Can Planned Parenthood receive federal funds for non-abortion-related care?	Yes. Will <a href="#">restore federal funding to Planned Parenthood and other family-planning programs</a> .	No. <a href="#">Blocked groups providing abortion referrals from receiving federal family-planning funds</a> .
<b>POLICE</b> Restrict police use of force and increase public oversight? Position on sending federal law enforcement agents to cities against wishes of mayors and governors?	Yes. <a href="#">More community policing, ban chokeholds</a> . <a href="#">Root out</a> unlawful policing, systemic racism, prosecutorial misconduct. <a href="#">Doesn’t support defunding</a> . Trump deployments furthered <a href="#">“chaos and division.”</a>	No. Police are <a href="#">“under siege.”</a> <a href="#">Cut back active federal oversight</a> of excess force, though supported <a href="#">database</a> to track it. Said deployment of federal agents was necessary <a href="#">to restore “law and order.”</a>
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> Partly privatize Social Security or raise retirement age to stabilize program?	No. Make Social Security solvent by adding <a href="#">new tax on high earners to match what middle class already pays</a> . Expand benefits and reject privatization.	Unclear. Proposed <a href="#">\$35 billion cuts</a> to Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income, with <a href="#">possible cuts to overall entitlements</a> .
<b>TAXES</b> Raise or lower taxes on the wealthy and corporations?	Raise <a href="#">corporate tax and capital gains rates</a> . <a href="#">“Get rid of” most of “Trump’s \$2 trillion tax cut,”</a> which wealthy people <a href="#">“don’t need.”</a>	Lower. <a href="#">“Historic tax cut ... unleashing economic growth and jobs”</a> that gave <a href="#">“relief for hard-working Americans.”</a>
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Strict ID and other rules to combat possible fraud, even if limit access?	No. <a href="#">Restore Voting Rights Act</a> . Challenge state laws limiting voting rights. Support automatic and same-day voter registration.	Yes. Seeks <a href="#">stronger voter ID requirements</a> . Voter ID opponents <a href="#">“intend to cheat.”</a>

**Editor’s note:** Also see our [longer version](#) and [Green & Libertarian responses](#). [Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.