



A COMPARISON OF THE 2016-2020 REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT PARTY PLATFORMS



Issue

Republican

Catholic Catechism

Democrat

Sanctity of Life

“The Constitution’s guarantee that no one can “be deprived 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 a form that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution ... Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to children before birth.”¹

Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. CCC 2270

“The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right.”³
Supports “codifying” the right to abortion. Opposes current FDA safety restrictions on chemical abortion pills. Supports repealing President Trump’s changes to the Title X program that separate abortion from federal family planning grants.⁴

Religious Liberty

“[W]e strongly support the freedom of Americans to act in accordance with their religious beliefs, not only in their houses of worship, but also in their everyday lives. We value the right of America’s religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith.”⁴

The right to the exercise of freedom, especially in religious and moral matters, is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of man. CCC 1747

Rejects “broad religious exemptions” for “businesses, medical providers, social service agencies, and others...”
“We will fight to enact the Equality Act” – a bill that would remove religious liberty protections and even force churches to violate the tenets of their faith.⁴

Health Care

Our goal is to ensure that all Americans have improved access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including those struggling with mental illness. We believe that individuals with preexisting conditions who maintain continuous coverage should be protected from discrimination. Consumer choice is the most powerful factor in healthcare reform. 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.¹

Certainly, it is the proper function of authority to arbitrate, in the name of the common good, between various particular interests; but it should make accessible to each what is needed to lead a truly human life.
CCC 1908

We must guarantee health care not as a privilege for some, but as a right for every single American. For a century, Democrats have fought to secure universal health care. We will re-open the Affordable Care Act marketplaces, even outside of the normal open enrollment season, and expand subsidies to make it easier for people to buy health coverage.²

Migrants

[T]oday’s legal immigrants are making vital contributions in every aspect of national life. America’s immigration policy must serve the national interest of the United States. Our highest priority ... secure our borders and to enforce our immigration laws.¹

[A]uthorities make ... the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions... duties... to obey its laws. See CCC 2241

Democrats know the importance of our country’s history as a nation of immigrants. We honor our fundamental values by treating all people who come to the United States with dignity and respect, and we always seek to embrace — not to attack — immigrants.²

Issue	Republican	Catechism	Democrat
Schools	[E]ducation reform movement calls for choice-based, parent-driven accountability at every stage of schooling. It recognizes the wisdom of local control of our schools. Supports homeschooling, private schools, vouchers, and tuition tax credits. Encourages teaching the Bible as an elective in public schools. ^{1,5}	Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. CCC 2223	“Democrats oppose private school vouchers and other policies that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from the public-school system, including the program at issue in the recent Espinoza decision.” No mention of homeschooling. ^{2,5}
Sex Ed.	“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.” ¹	"Sex education, which is a basic right and duty of parents, must always be carried out under their attentive guidance whether at home or in educational centers chosen and controlled by them" St. Pope JP II, <i>Familiaris Consortio</i> , no. 37	“We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care; medically accurate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education; and the full range of family planning services are all essential to ensuring that people can decide if, when, and how to start a family.” ²
Courts	"Only a Republican president will appoint judges who respect the rule of law expressed within the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, including the inalienable right to life and the laws of nature and nature’s God, as did the late Justice Antonin Scalia." ¹	Authority is exercised legitimately if it is committed to the common good of society ...must employ morally acceptable means. CCC 1921	"We will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who ... will respect and enforce foundational precedents, including ... Roe v. Wade." "Applaud[s]" the decision in <i>Bostock v. Clayton County</i> , which redefined the word sex in Title VII to include sexual orientation and gender identity. ⁵
Economy	Americans have earned and deserve a strong and healthy economy. We are the party of a growing economy that gives everyone a chance in life, an opportunity to learn, work, and realize the prosperity freedom makes possible. ¹	[T]ask of the state is that of overseeing and directing the exercise of human rights in the economic sector. However, primary responsibility in this area belongs not to the state but to individuals and (groups and associations) CCC 2431	We are committed to helping all Americans meet the challenges of the 21st century by supporting job creation and rebuilding our infrastructure, investing in clean-energy technologies and small businesses, and making sure corporations, the wealthy and Wall Street pay their fair share. ⁵
Taxes	Republicans consider the establishment of a pro-growth tax code a moral imperative. Getting our tax system right will be the most important factor in driving the entire economy back to prosperity. More than any other public policy, the way government raises revenue — how much, at what rates, under what circumstances, from whom, and for whom — has the greatest impact on our economy’s performance. ¹	Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country. CCC 2240	Democrats will take action to reverse the Trump Administration’s tax cuts benefiting the wealthiest Americans and rewarding corporations for shipping American jobs overseas. We will make sure the wealthy pay their fair share in taxes. Corporate tax rates, which were cut sharply by the 2017 Republican tax cut, must be raised, and “trickle-down” tax cuts must be rejected. ²

Sources: ¹2016 Republican Platform, ²2020 Democrat Platform, ³On the Issues, ⁴FRC Platform Comparison, ⁵Church Militant Platform Comparison