

# A Comparison of the Republican and Democratic Party 2016 Platforms



Republican Party

Democratic Party

<p>“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 and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to children before birth.” (p.13)</p>	<p>Human Life</p>	<p>“Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion—regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured. We believe that reproductive health is core to women’s, men’s, and young people’s health and wellbeing.... We will continue to oppose—and seek to overturn—federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman’s access to abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment.” (p.37)</p>
<p>“We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare.” (p.13)</p>	<p>Planned Parenthood</p>	<p>“We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people.” (p.37)</p>
<p>“We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.” (p.13)</p>	<p>Appointing Judges</p>	<p>“We will appoint judges who defend the constitutional principles of liberty and equality for all, protect a woman’s right to safe and legal abortion, curb billionaires’ influence over elections because they understand that <i>Citizens United</i> has fundamentally damaged our democracy, and see the Constitution as a blueprint for progress.” (p.25)</p>
<p>“We condemn the Supreme Court’s ruling in <i>United States v. Windsor</i>, which wrongly removed the ability of Congress to deny marriage policy in federal law. We also condemn the Supreme Court’s lawless ruling in <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>. In <i>Obergefell</i>, five unelected lawyers robbed 320 million Americans of their legitimate constitutional authority to deny marriage as the union of one man and one woman.” (p.11)</p>	<p>Marriage</p>	<p>“Democrats applaud last year’s decision by the Supreme Court that recognized LGBT people—like every other American—have the right to marry the person they love. But there is still much work to be done.” (p.19)</p>
<p>“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.” (p.34)</p>	<p>Sex Education</p>	<p>“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.” (p.37)</p>
<p>“We call for expanded support for the stem cell research that now offers the greatest hope for many afflictions — through adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and cells reprogrammed into pluripotent stem cells — without the destruction of embryonic human life. We urge a ban on human cloning for research or reproduction, and a ban on the creation of, or experimentation on, human embryos for research.” (p.37-38)</p>	<p>Medical Research</p>	<p>“Democrats believe we must accelerate the pace of medical progress, ensuring that we invest more in our scientists and give them the resources they need to invigorate our fundamental studies in the life sciences in a growing, stable, and predictable way.... We recognize the critical importance of a fully funded National Institutes of Health to accelerate the pace of medical progress.” (p.36)</p>
<p>“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.” (p.34)</p>	<p>Educational Choice</p>	<p>“Democrats are also committed to providing parents with high-quality public school options and expanding these options for low-income youth. We support great neighborhood public schools and high-quality public charter schools, and we will help them disseminate best practices to other school leaders and educators. Democrats oppose for profit charter schools focused on making a profit off of public resources.” (p.34)</p>
<p>“We value the right of America’s religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith. 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.” (p.11)</p>	<p>Religious Liberty</p>	<p>“Democrats know that our nation, our communities, and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith in many forms and the countless acts of justice, mercy, and tolerance it inspires. 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.”(p.19)</p>

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