

# 10 Huge Differences Between Democratic and Republican Platforms

updated Jan 2019

## DEMOCRATS

## REPUBLICANS

**Abortion** "We believe unequivocally, like the majority of Americans, that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion."

Abortion should be illegal in all cases and the Constitution should be amended to ban the procedure. "We assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed," the platform said. The GOP argued that supporting the constitutional right to abortion was the "extreme" position.

**Same Sex Marriage** Applauded the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage.

Condemned the court decision. "Five unelected lawyers robbed 320 million Americans of their legitimate constitutional authority to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman," the platform said.

**Immigration** Called for fixing the "broken immigration system," including a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants.

Embraced Trump's call for a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border though was silent on whether to back their nominee's demand to deport all 11 million.

**Climate Change** "Climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children's health and futures."

Cast doubts on whether the climate is changing, rejecting the findings of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as "a political mechanism, not an unbiased scientific institution" with "intolerance toward scientists and others who dissent from its orthodoxy."

**Medicare** They would not only "fight any attempts by Republicans in Congress to privatize, voucherize, or 'phase out' Medicare," but would allow Americans older than 55 to enroll."

They would end the health care program for the elderly as we know it, requiring seniors to either enroll in a private insurance plan or face limits on how much the government will pay.

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### Wall Street

The party promised to "vigorously implement, enforce, and build on" banking regulations enacted to curb risky practices by financial institutions and "will stop dead in its tracks every Republican effort to weaken it."

Blamed the Great Recession on "the government's own housing policies," not Wall Street actions and called the banking regulations "an excuse to establish unprecedented government control over the nation's financial markets."

### Iran

President Barack Obama's agreement to relax economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program "verifiably cuts off all of Iran's pathways to a bomb without resorting to war."

The deal "gravely threatens our security, our interests, and the survival of our friends." The Republican platform called it "a personal agreement between the president and his negotiating partners and non-binding on the next president."

### Israel

The platform backed a "secure and democratic Jewish state" of Israel and a chance for Palestinians to "govern themselves in their own viable state, in peace and dignity."

While both parties support Israel, the Republicans said nothing about the two-state solution that has been the bipartisan cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy for decades.

### Money in Politics

They want to overturn the Citizens United decision, which eased restrictions on corporate and union campaign spending. "We need to end secret, unaccountable money in politics by requiring through executive order or legislation, significantly more disclosure and transparency - by outside groups, federal contractors, and public corporations to their shareholders," the platform said.

"I have joined the political arena so that the powerful can no longer beat up on people who cannot defend themselves," Trump said in accepting the Republican presidential nomination. The GOP platform would make things much easier for the powerful. It would repeal or raise contribution limits and allow outside groups spending millions on campaigns to hide their donors.

### Voting Rights

The party said it would fight laws requiring certain forms of voter identification "to preserve the fundamental right to vote." A leader of the 1963 landmark Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march, Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), helped nominate Clinton for president on Tuesday.

The GOP platform endorsed state efforts to impose voter identification requirements that the U.S. Justice Department and several federal and state courts have said discriminate against minority and poor voters. The platform called Justice's actions "bullying." Cases of in-person voter fraud, which such voter-ID laws are supposed to prevent, are "nearly non-existent," according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School.