

## COMPARING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND PARTIES IN TEN KEY AREAS

<b>Autocracy vs Democracy</b>		
<b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>	<b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Harris vows to uphold the US Constitution and Rule of Law for all. The administration has allowed independence of the Justice Dept which has prosecuted both Democrats and Republicans.	Sought to overturn results of the 2020 Presidential Election. Trump said he would suspend the Constitution on his first day in office, and that this may be the last election. "I alone can fix it."	Democracy is about "rule by the people," solving our problems together when autocrats have failed us, from the time of ancient Greece to our own. Democracy is based on respect for each other and our planet. It is threatened when we emphasize the interests of some over others.
<b>Climate</b>		
<b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>	<b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Would allow fracking.</li> <li>2. Climate change is a problem.</li> <li>3. Inflation Reduction Act made investments in clean energy.</li> <li>4. Would gradually eliminate fossil fuels.</li> <li>5. Would increase royalties for drilling on public lands.</li> <li>6. Would target tailgate emissions.</li> <li>7. Supports federal grants for clean school buses.</li> <li>8. Supports Infrastructure Law to provide incentives for electric cars.</li> <li>9. Manufacturers created 250,000 clean energy jobs.</li> <li>10. Supports Paris climate agreement.</li> <li>11. Supports wind subsidies.</li> <li>12. Halting export of liquified natural gas.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Would allow fracking.</li> <li>2. Climate change is "a hoax."</li> <li>3. Opposed the Inflation Reduction Act and would defund it.</li> <li>4. Would emphasize use of fossil fuels.</li> <li>5. Would increase drilling on public lands.</li> <li>6. Would not limit emissions.</li> <li>7. Would not support clean school buses.</li> <li>8. Would end subsidies for electric cars.</li> <li>9. Not interested in clean energy jobs.</li> <li>10. Withdrew from Paris climate agreement.</li> <li>11. Would end wind subsidies.</li> <li>12. Would resume export of liquified natural gas.</li> </ol>	Climate change is the greatest existential threat we face. Fires and storms have increased due to the air and oceans warming. Insurance cost increases threaten the ability of many to make ends meet or stay in their homes. The emissions of wealthy countries create a threat to poor countries; the wealthy should subsidize clean energy everywhere because we all are threatened.
<b>The Courts</b>		
<b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>	<b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Wants to overturn Citizens United which allows corporations to contribute unlimited funds to political campaigns. Wants to reinstate Roe vs Wade, including a federal right to abortion.	Republican appointments have resulted in Citizens United and overturning Roe vs Wade. Both ignore and violate the rights and needs of the vast majority of people.	The US Supreme Court has lost touch with the key principle of the Constitution that mandates fairness for all, i.e. the greatest good for the greatest number of people. The court system may need adjusting to return us to that principle.

<b>The Economy</b>		
<b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>	<b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p>1. Inflation soared, due to supply chain disruptions and the American Rescue Plan.</p> <p>2. Bipartisan infrastructure bill which has stimulated the economy.</p> <p>3. High interest rates.</p> <p>4. Seeks tax cuts for the middle class and expanding tax credits for low-income Americans.</p> <p>5. Imposing more tariffs on imports which subsidizes American industry but results in higher costs.</p> <p>6. Seeks tax increase for those who earn over \$400 thousand.</p> <p>7. Advocates expanding consumer protections.</p> <p>8. Harris wants to raise the federal minimum wage.</p> <p>9. Pledges not to cut Social Security or Medicare benefits by increasing SS taxes.</p>	<p>1. Inflation tame under his administration, partly due to Covid 19 recession.</p> <p>2. Promised infrastructure bill but never delivered.</p> <p>3. Low interest rates.</p> <p>4. Tax cuts benefited mainly the wealthy; seeking more of the same.</p> <p>5. Proposing more tariffs on imports which subsidizes American industry but results in higher costs.</p> <p>6. Seeks more tax cuts to mainly benefit the rich.</p> <p>7. Advocates ending Consumer Protection Agency.</p> <p>8. Said he would support raising the minimum wage but did not.</p> <p>9. Said he would be “open” to cutting Social Security and Medicare benefits.</p>	<p>Successful economies are based on “economic flow” to all segments of the population which means that those at all levels have jobs that pay enough to meet their needs, while their purchases make prosperity trickle up. Trickle-down theory is “voodoo economics” according to George H. Bush, which he stated during his Presidential Campaign.*</p>
<b>Education</b>		
<b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>	<b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p>Would expand funding for public education. Advocates increasing teacher salaries. Endorsed by National Education Association. Co-sponsored Digital Equity Act of 2019 and STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act of 2024.</p>	<p>According to published education plan, would take back control from the “Radical Left maniacs” indoctrinating our children, provide the high quality, pro-American education they deserve, cut federal funding for Critical Race Theory, gender ideology, or other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content, open investigations into any school district engaged in race-based discrimination, find and remove “radicals” who have infiltrated the federal Department of Education, veto the effort to weaponize civics education, keep men out of women’s sports, only certify teachers who embrace “patriotic” values, abolish teacher tenure and adopt Merit Pay, implement the direct election of school principals by parents.</p>	<p>Education is to prepare students for the future – for viable careers and to be responsible citizens. It is not about telling them what to think, but teaching them how to think so they can determine for themselves the direction of their lives and how to vote for candidates that best represent democratic principles. Looking at the two columns at your left makes it clear which plans are likely to move students in that direction. According to the Trump plan, if parents want to teach their children racial or religious discrimination, or even return to segregation or teaching “the benefits of slavery,” that would be allowed.</p>

<b>Healthcare</b>		
<p><b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>            Would continue current administration efforts to expand the Affordable Care Act, make drugs more affordable, and protect abortion access. Would support scientific evidence for vaccinations.</p>	<p><b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>            Would end the Affordable Care Act. Admitted at his debate with Harris he has no plan to replace it. Claimed during the Covid crisis that injecting bleach would prevent the disease and that nevertheless it would disappear by April 2020. After vaccinations were developed, Covid deaths were double in Republican-led states of what they were in Democratic-led states.</p>	<p><b>Comments</b>            Whether or not you believe that healthcare is a basic right, it is essential that everyone have adequate coverage due to the resurgence of disease that has occurred among people who resist vaccinations or cannot afford them and thus are likely to spread disease. Providing healthcare for everyone limits pregnancy complications and helps keep workers stay healthy who are needed to keep our economy working well.</p>
<b>Immigration</b>		
<p><b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>            Supported recent bipartisan immigration legislation. Has restored some Trump immigration policies such as restrictions on asylum seekers. Illegal border crossings reached a record high, but have significantly dropped in recent months due to executive orders.</p>	<p><b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>            Killed recent bipartisan immigration legislation. Enacted anti-immigrant policies, including separating parents and children. Wants to round up millions of undocumented immigrants and detain them in camps, then deport them. Vows to “close the border.” Studies show that immigration is not a driver of crime.</p>	<p><b>Comments</b>            We all are descendants of those who left their homelands to seek a better place to live. Nearly all immigrants enrich our economy and take on jobs that many Americans refuse to do. There is no division between “us” and “them” – immigrants continue to seek opportunities as did our ancestors. But as we champion human rights around the world, it may eventually reduce the immigration flow here and in Europe.</p>
<b>International Relations</b>		
<p><b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b>            Committed to preserving democracy in European countries where it exists. Has supported maintaining democracy in Ukraine. Abandoned democracy in Afghanistan. Continues to provide support to autocratic allies, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Provides support and weapons to Israel, some of which have killed many innocent civilians, but has put much effort into establishing a ceasefire.</p>	<p><b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b>            Gave little or no support to NATO countries. Shows admiration for autocrats such as Putin and Orban. Refuses to state if he favors Russian or Ukraine in their war. Set up Afghanistan withdrawal. Provided support to autocratic allies, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Sponsored the 2020 Abraham Accords which normalized relations between Israel and United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco.</p>	<p><b>Comments</b>            The dignity of all human beings is an essential element of democracy. This is what democratic nations must pursue, because as democracy declines anywhere it threatens human dignity everywhere. We should not be on the side of specific nations but on the side of human rights and dignity itself.</p>

<b>Rule of Law</b>		
<b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b> Has stood up for equal enforcement of the rule of law by the Department of Justice for everyone, including Democrats and Republicans.	<b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b> Has used the Justice Department for his own purposes and plans to prosecute political opponents. Has vowed to remove civil servants who refuse to support his agenda.	<b>Comments</b> If the Department of Justice is weaponized to prosecute the President's enemies and protect his friends we no longer have a democracy.
<b>Voting Rights</b>		
<b>Biden/Harris/Democrats</b> Supports legislation to expand voting access.	<b>Trump/Vance/Republicans</b> Trying to suppress voting access for minorities and young people. Challenging voter rights across the nation for minorities, including students registered via State ID in Georgia. Established a Voter Fraud Commission that found no fraud.	<b>Comments</b> All adult citizens should be allowed to vote, except those who lose that privilege due to criminal activity. Voting rights should be expanded rather than curtailed.

\*The Trump campaign makes the argument that the country was better off under Trump economically than under Biden where, in 2022, inflation rose to over 9% and some people saw their real wages shrink. But at the heart of the argument is a basic inconsistency.

It was the shift from services to goods, combined with disrupted supply chains, the shuttering of factories in China and elsewhere throughout the world, together with the war in Ukraine cutting down on food and fuel supplies that largely caused the inflation of 2022. There is strong evidence that just as the downturn of 2020 would've happened no matter who was president, so the inflation of 2022 would have happened if Trump had been reelected.

Some economists have ascribed a small part of the inflation in this country to the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan enacted by Biden and the Democrats in 2021. But the ARP also helped spur an impressive economic recovery, in which unemployment, which peaked at 14.8 percent in April 2020, decreased to 3.6 percent by February 2023. This tightening labor market helped produce robust wage growth. Had the Republicans prevailed and blocked any further rescue plan, we might have had less inflation but also more unemployment and less wage growth. Plus we wouldn't have had the historic investments in chip manufacturing, infrastructure and climate resilience that we did under Biden that will make our economy stronger.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/06/15/in-the-u-s-and-around-the-world-inflation-is-high-and-getting-higher/>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/07/11/high-inflation-is-largely-not-bidens-or-trumps-fault-economists-say.html>

<https://www.cbpp.org/blog/american-rescue-plan-act-2-years-later>.

<https://www.epi.org/publication/swa-wages-2023/>