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The More You Know

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INTRODUCTION

Background on the Candidates



Born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California, is the 49th Vice President of the United States (2021-present). She is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first Asian American to hold the post. She was an attorney general of California (2011-2017) and US Senate (2017-2021). Biden abandoned his reelection in July and Harris became the Democratic Nominee in the election of 2024.



Donald Trump: Born on June 14, 1946 in New York City, was the 45th President of the United States (2017-2021) and is the 2024 Republican nominee. He is a real estate developer and golf course owner, and a TV personality known for his role on "The Apprentice." On May 30, 2024, Trump became the first former president to be convicted of a crime when a New York state jury convicted him on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in connection with a hush-money payment in 2016 to the adult-film star Stephanie Clifford.

Summary of the Candidates' Policies

Harris in Her Own Words

Build an Opportunity Economy and
Lower Cost for Families:

- Make rent more affordable and home ownership more attainable
- Support American innovation and workers

Safeguard our Fundamental
Freedoms

- Restore and protect reproductive freedoms

Ensure safety and justice for all

- Make our communities safer from gun violence and crime
- Secure our borders and fix our broken immigration system

Keep America Safe, Secure, and
Prosperous

- Stand with our allies, stand up to dictators, and lead on the world stage
- Support service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors

Trump in His Own Words

- Seal the border and stop the migrant invasion
- End inflation, and make America affordable again
- Defend our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and our fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to keep and bear arms
- End the weaponization of government against the American people
- Strengthen and modernize our military, making it, without question, the strongest and most powerful in the world
- Cut federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, radical gender ideology, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content on our children

Gun Policy

Kamala Harris

- Worked to enact the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)
- Plans to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Plans to require universal background checks
- Supports red flag laws
- Plans to invest in law enforcement, specifically hiring and training officers in gun violence prevention programs
- Has no plan to take people's guns away

Donald Trump

- Has no official position on gun regulations on his campaign website
- Plans to safeguard gun rights by appointing federal judges who oppose firearm limits
- Has pledged to undo all gun-related restrictions enacted by the Biden-Harris Administration
- Signed a bill into law that reversed regulations that made it harder for people with mental illness to purchase guns



Climate Change

Kamala Harris

- Promotes a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Goal to significantly reduce U.S. carbon emissions by 2030
- Supports subsidies for solar and wind power and electric vehicles
- Aims to develop the wind and solar power and electric vehicle industries
 - Aims to create jobs in the clean energy sector
- Supports the Inflation Reduction Act
- Prioritize closing coal-fired power plants and accelerate clean energy infrastructure with the goal of being coal-free by 2035
 - Includes financial incentives for companies to opt for sustainable energy solutions
- No ban on hydraulic drilling (aka fracking)

Donald Trump

- Plans to expand the use of fossil fuels
- Proposes lifting restrictions on drilling permits, speeding up pipeline approvals, and opening up public lands to fossil fuel extraction
- Plans to dismantle the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Will withdraw again from the Paris Agreement, and the Inflation Reduction Act
- Opposes electric vehicle mandates
- Believes fracking is an essential aspect of U.S. energy independence
- Places a strong emphasis on “energy dominance” through maximizing the extraction of the country’s fossil fuel resources

Abortion

Kamala Harris

What she has done:

- Co-sponsored 2017 legislation that would have prohibited states from imposing restrictions on abortion
- Advocated for federal legislation to protect abortion rights (The Women's Health Protection Act)
- Condemns the Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade
- Promoted access to abortion medication
- Supported efforts of states to protect abortion rights

What she plans to do:

- Reproductive rights is one of the central themes of her campaign
- Wants to restore Roe v. Wade
- Committed to preserving access to essential medicines and defends the FDA's approval and regulation of safe and effective drugs
- Denounced laws that prohibit or severely restrict the practice of abortion

Donald Trump

What he has done:

- Appointed conservative justices to SCOTUS leading to the overturning of Roe v. Wade
- Defunded Planned Parenthood and other organizations that provide abortion services
- Supported the Hyde Amendment which bars the use of federal funds for abortions
- Endorsed anti-abortion legislation (Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act which aimed to ban abortions after 20 weeks)

What he plans to do:

- Believes abortion policy should be left to individual states
- Declared that IVF will be covered by insurance companies or the government
- Won't sign a national abortion ban into law

Immigration

Kamala Harris

Comprehensive Reform:

- Supports an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and strong border security.

Family Reunification:

- Advocates for policies that prioritize keeping families together and reversing the family separation policies.

Diversity Visas:

- Supports the Diversity Visa Lottery program, which provides opportunities for immigrants from underrepresented countries.

Humanitarian Approach:

- Emphasizes a humane approach to immigration, addressing root causes of migration like poverty.

Critique of Enforcement Policies:

- Has criticized aggressive enforcement policies and advocated for a more smoother immigration system.

Donald Trump

Border Security:

- Advocated for building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and significantly increased funding for border security.

Immigration Policy:

- Implemented a zero-tolerance policy leading to family separations at the border.

Travel Ban:

- Enforced a travel ban on several Muslim countries, citing national security.

Deportations:

- Plans mass deportations of undocumented immigrants

Merit-Based Immigration:

- Pushed for a merit-based immigration system to prioritize skilled workers over family reunification.

Human Rights

Kamala Harris

- Freedom of expression: Defends freedom of the press and expression.
- Women's rights: Committed to gender equality in various areas, including pay equity and access to healthcare.
- Prisoners' rights: Seeks to reduce mass incarceration and address mistreatment in prisons by advocating for criminal justice reform.
- LGBTQ+ rights: Supports LGBTQ+ rights, including marriage equality.
- Ethnic minority rights: Defends the rights of Latino, Indigenous, and African American communities, supporting reforms to combat discrimination in education, housing, and employment.
- Criminal justice: Advocates for reforms aimed at reducing police abuse and racial inequalities in the justice system.
- Racial justice: Supports proposals aimed at reducing racial disparities, including policies addressing discrimination in employment, housing, and education.

Donald Trump

- Freedom of expression: Frequently criticized the media, raising concerns about freedom of the press and expression.
- Women's rights: Opposes federal policies aimed at ensuring gender equality in various areas, including reproductive healthcare.
- Prisoners' rights: Defends detention conditions that have been deemed controversial for both prisoners and migrants.
- LGBTQ+ rights: During his first term, he limited protections for LGBTQ+ people.
- Ethnic minority rights: Criticized for his lack of support for marginalized communities, including Latinos and African Americans, due to his handling of racial inequalities and issues of police brutality.
- Criminal justice: Supports a punitive approach, including controversial law enforcement tactics.
- Racial justice: Has rarely spoken on racial justice issues.

NATO

Kamala Harris

- Condemned recent attacks on NATO and reaffirmed U.S. support.
- Stated that the “sacred commitment to NATO remains ironclad.”
- Emphasized that NATO is central to the U.S.’s approach to global security
- Warned against abandoning allies and cozying up to dictators like Vladimir Putin.
- Asserted that failing to impose consequences on Russia would embolden other authoritarians globally.
- Noted that isolation would only increase threats, as “isolation is not insulation.”

Donald Trump

- Donald Trump has frequently threatened to leave NATO, raising concerns about the alliance’s future if he’s reelected.
- Trump has not outlined a new NATO agenda or named a national security team for a second term.
- Proposed plans include reducing America's security role in NATO and shifting more military responsibility to Europe.

Ukraine

Kamala Harris

- Strongly supports Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty
- Condemns Russia's invasion of Ukraine, referring to it as a violation of international law
- Biden-Harris administration supports providing military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine
- Supports the implementation of harsh economic sanctions on Russia, targeting financial sector, political elites, and industries vital to its economy
- Advocates for a strategic framework that includes strengthening NATO's eastern flank and ensuring long-term deterrence against Russian aggression
- Has called for an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by Russia
- Supports Ukraine's democratic institutions and governance reforms

Donald Trump

- Opposed to any direct U.S. military involvement in Ukraine
- Is skeptic about deep U.S. involvement in Ukraine
- Focused on diplomacy with Russia
- Has hinted that, if re-elected, he would pursue direct talks with both Ukraine and Russia
- Believes a strong personal relationship with Putin could have prevented the Ukraine war
- Criticized U.S.'s military aid to Ukraine
- Criticized President Biden's approach to Ukraine war, claiming it has been ineffective and weak

Education

Kamala Harris

- Free and universal preschool across the country
- Proposed an expansion to the Child Tax Credit which would reduce the amount of income tax owed by families with children
- Supports Head Start, a program that provides child care to low-income families
- Against book bans in schools
- Helped expand protections under Title IX to include gender identity and sexual orientation
- Has supported raising funding for students with low income and/or disabilities.

Student Debt Cancellation

- Biden-Harris Administration, has forgiven over \$170 Billion in student loan debt for around 5 million Americans.
- Under the Biden-Harris Administration, one million American public service workers have received student debt cancellation

Donald Trump

- Supports universal school choice, families choosing schooling without income or zip code limitations
- Believes funding should be allocated to families to pay for school expenses instead of to public schools
- Decrease in federal government's involvement in education
- Proposes closing the Department of Education
- Supports state and local control of schools
- Against expansion of Title IX protections
- Believed principals should be elected by parents

Student Loan Forgiveness

- Celebrated the Supreme Court in striking down the student loan forgiveness, stating, "President Biden isn't allowed to wipe out hundreds and hundreds of billions...in student loan debt, which would be very unfair to the... people who have paid their debt through hard work".
- Plans to tax private universities to create an endowment for a free online "woke-free" university, the American Academy.

Incarceration & Crime Rates

Kamala Harris

- Supports Biden administration's American Rescue Plan, and pledged to continue investing in law enforcement
- Supported Biden's signing of an executive order to construct a national database of police misconduct
- Created the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which increases accountability for police misconduct and banning racial profiling
- Pushed for more community intervention funding in the White House

In California, as DA and then AG:

- Developed "Back on Track" program
- Gave second chances to low-level offenders who agreed to plead guilty
- Supported an anti-truancy program that targeted parents of kids who skipped school and threatened them with prosecution and punishment
- Harris pushed back against California's "three strikes" law, which triggered mandatory prison time after a 3rd felony
- Harris started a racial bias training for police officers and expanded her prison diversion program throughout the state
- She also made the California Department of Justice the first statewide agency to require body cameras and launched a platform that allows the public to track reported killings by police officers

Donald Trump

- Focus on enforcement
- Advocated for increased police powers, and giving police officers immunity from prosecution
- Requires local police depts, to reinstate stop and frisk or lose federal funding
- Advocated for the death penalty for drug dealers
- Supported rehabilitation-focused measures for non-violent crimes

Signed the **First Step Act** into law in December 2018:

- Provides prisoners with a second chance through rehabilitation programs, fair sentencing, and smart confinement
- Over 16,000 inmates enrolled in a drug treatment program
- Expanded avenues for eligible elderly and terminally ill prisoners to get their sentences reduced
- Authorized eligible low-risk and elderly inmates to be transferred to home confinement when possible

Project 2025

A

Calls for the elimination of the Department of Education which will reduce the access of public schools to low-income communities

B

Calls for the repeal of climate change initiatives

C

Eliminate the new Housing Supply Fund; the budget to build housing to combat the current affordable housing crisis

D

Will outlaw the purchase of abortion medication online

E

The abolition of diversity equity and inclusion in the National Institute of Health; a lack of diversity in the field of healthcare lead to not only misinformation but dire consequence. Calls for the end of funding for organizations "promoting" diversity equity inclusion

Trump states he has no knowledge of Project 2025, or who is behind it. In the past, however, he has used Heritage Foundation policy recommendations like the "Mandate for Leadership," and many of the Project 2025 authors have worked for Trump.

Third Party Candidates



Environmental Lawyer and Anti-Vaccine Activist

He suspended his campaign August 23rd and endorsed Donald Trump, but his name remains on the ballot in many states.

States on Ballot: Alaska, CA, DE, GA, HI, IN, ME, MI, MN, NE, NJ, NM, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT.



Green Party Candidate

- Proposes an Economic Bill of Rights
- UK-Style Nationalized Healthcare System
- Supports the disbanding of NATO

On the ballot in 39 states,

Not on the Ballot: NY, VT, IN, IL, IA, SD, ND, WY, KS, OK, NV



Libertarian Party Candidate

- Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution
- Direct Primary Care Model for Insurance
- End Discretionary Military Interventionism

On the ballot in 39 states,

Not on the Ballot: NY, VT, IN, IL, IA, SD, ND, WY, KS, OK, NV



Independent Presidential Candidate

- Create sanctuary health and abuse treatments and end the use of credit scores on essential services
- Nationalize Healthcare Industries
- Establish Truth & Reconciliation Committee concerning US interventions abroad

On the Ballot in 15 states:

ME, VT, VA, NC, SC, LA, MI, WI, MN, NE, CO, UT, AK, OR, WA

Thank You

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