

2016 Democratic Party Platform

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." Democrats are including in their platform the goal of overturning the Hyde Amendment, which bans the use of federal money for abortion. They also say "we will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers."

Climate Change: Democrats describe climate change as a "real and urgent threat," and they call for setting a price on greenhouse gas emissions. The platform calls for the country to generate half of its electricity from clean sources in the next decade and for cleaner transportation fuels, more public transit and a tax code that creates incentives for renewable energy. The platform also beats back suggestions that protecting the environment would be bad for business. "Democrats reject the notion that we have to choose between protecting our planet and creating good-paying jobs," it says.

College Tuition: "Democrats are unified in their strong belief that every student should be able to go to college debt-free, and working families should not have to pay any tuition to go to public colleges and universities. Democrats believe that in America, if you want a higher education, you should always be able to get one: money should never stand in the way. Cost should not be a barrier to getting a degree or credential, and debt should not hold you back after you graduate."

Criminal Justice: Democrats call for ending the era of mass incarceration, shutting down private prisons, ending racial profiling, reforming the grand jury process, investing in re-entry programs, banning the box to help give Convicted felons a second chance, and prioritizing treatment over incarceration for individuals suffering addiction." We will abolish the death penalty, which has proven to be a cruel and unusual form of punishment. It has no place in the United States of America. The application of the death penalty is arbitrary and unjust. The cost to taxpayers far exceeds those of life imprisonment."

Gun Control: "Democrats believe that we must finally take sensible action to address gun violence. We can respect the rights of responsible gun owners while keeping our communities safe. We will expand and strengthen background checks and close dangerous loopholes in our current laws." Democrats want to revoke legislation that protects gun makers and sellers from legal liability for deaths associated with the use of their firearms, and "keep weapons of war—such as assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines off our streets"

Healthcare: Democrats believe "healthcare is a right, not a privilege," and they support Obama's Affordable Care Act. They vow to "keep fighting" to ensure more states expand government coverage for low-income people. New steps are urged to reduce costs, and they want to make government-run insurance like Medicare available to more people. "For too many of us, healthcare costs are still too high, even for those with insurance," the platform says. "And medical debt is a problem for far too many working families."

Immigration: The Democrats urge the passage of a pathway to citizenship for the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants who live in the US. It also commits to defending and implementing Barack Obama's executive orders on immigration which provided temporary relief from deportation for millions of undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, known as Dreamers, and undocumented immigrant parents of US citizens and lawful permanent residents.

Iran: Democrats support the nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers, including the U.S., "if vigorously enforced and implemented." They also say the country should "not hesitate to take military action if Iran violates the agreement." The deal, struck last year, aims to curtail Iran's nuclear capability in exchange for lifting debilitating economic sanctions.

LGBT Issues: Support the Supreme Court decision allowing Americans to “marry the person they love.” They call for more steps to fight discrimination against LGBT people, including new federal laws. “LGBT kids continue to be bullied at school, restaurants can refuse to serve transgender people, and same-sex couples are at risk of being evicted from their homes,” the platform says. “That is unacceptable and must change.”

Marijuana Legalization: Democrats support the notion that individual states should have the freedom to decriminalize marijuana if they choose. They also support the medical use of marijuana for a treatment for some ailments.

Minimum Wage: Democrats want to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$15 an hour and index it with inflation.

North Korea: “North Korea is perhaps the most repressive regime on the planet, run by a sadistic dictator. It has conducted several nuclear tests and is attempting to develop the capability to put a nuclear warhead on a long-range missile that could directly threaten the United States. Democrats will protect America and our allies, press China to restrain North Korea, and sharpen the choices for (North Korea) to compel it to abandon its illegal nuclear and missile programs.”

Social Security: “We will fight every effort to cut, privatize, or weaken Social Security, including attempts to raise the retirement age, diminish benefits by cutting cost-of-living adjustments, or reducing earned benefits. We will make sure Social Security’s guaranteed benefits continue for generations to come by asking those at the top to pay more, and will achieve this goal by taxing some of the income of people above \$250,000.”

Taxes: “We believe the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations must pay their fair share of taxes. Democrats will claw back tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, eliminate tax breaks for big oil and gas companies, and crack down on inversions and other methods companies use to dodge their tax responsibilities.”

Terrorism: “We must defeat ISIS, al Qaeda, and their affiliates, and prevent other groups from emerging in their place. Democrats will continue to lead a broad coalition of allies and partners to destroy ISIS’ stronghold in Iraq and Syria. We will press those in the region, especially the Gulf countries and local forces on the ground, to carry their weight in prosecuting this fight. We will dismantle the global network of terror, which supplies terrorists with money, arms, and fighters, and stop them from recruiting and inspiring potential radicals

Trade: Democrats want to penalize American companies that move factories abroad and hide profits overseas to avoid paying taxes in the United States. Democrats also support trade policies that benefit the American worker, not just wealthy business owners.