

## 2016 Republican Party Platform

**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." Republicans also oppose the government funding of Planned Parenthood.

**Climate Change:** Republicans say "climate change is far from this nation's most pressing national security issue." They oppose international accords like the agreement crafted in Paris last year that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow the climb in global temperatures.

The platform also blasts President Obama's "clean power plan," which would cut emissions by shifting away from coal-powered power plants. Environmental problems are best solved with "incentives for human ingenuity ... not through top-down, command-and-control regulations," the platform says.

**College Tuition:** Republicans do not support free college tuition. "The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans. In order to bring down college costs and give students access to a multitude of financing options, private sector participation in student financing should be restored."

**Criminal Justice:** "In the past, judicial discretion about sentences led to serious mistakes concerning dangerous criminals. Mandatory minimum sentencing became an important tool for keeping them off the streets. Modifications to it should be targeted toward particular categories, especially nonviolent offenders and persons with drug, alcohol, or mental health issues. The constitutionality of the death penalty is firmly settled by its explicit mention in the Fifth Amendment. With the murder rate soaring in our great cities, we condemn the Supreme Court's erosion of the right of the people to enact capital punishment in their states."

**Gun Control:** "We support firearm reciprocity legislation to recognize the right of law-abiding Americans to carry firearms to protect themselves and their families in all 50 states. We support constitutional carry statutes and salute the states that have passed them. We oppose ill-conceived laws that would restrict magazine capacity or ban the sale of the most popular and common modern rifle. We condemn frivolous lawsuits against gun manufacturers and the current Administration's illegal harassment of firearm dealers."

**Healthcare:** Republicans vow to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Congressional Republicans have held dozens of unsuccessful votes to roll back the legislation. In its place, they want to "simplify the system" to increase healthcare options and reduce costs. The platform calls for allowing consumers to shop for insurance across state lines. It promotes modernizing Medicare and transforming Medicaid into a block grant program that gives states flexibility in how the money is spent.

**Immigration:** The Republican platform explicitly states: "We support building a wall along our southern border and protecting all ports of entry. The border wall must cover the entirety of the southern border and must be sufficient to stop both vehicular and pedestrian traffic." They also oppose President Obama's executive orders protecting illegal immigrants from deportation, and call for a decrease in federal funding of "sanctuary cities" that shelter illegal immigrants.

**Iran:** Republicans have staunchly opposed the nuclear agreement with Iran, stating it dangerously enables a longtime adversary; a GOP-led effort to block the deal in Congress failed last fall. The GOP platform rejects the Iran nuclear deal and states flatly, "A Republican president will not be bound by it." The party vows to "retain all options" in dealing with Iran. (Will launch attack if necessary).

**LBGT Issues:** Republicans denounce the court's same sex marriage decision. Their platform supports so-called religious liberty laws that allow businesses the right to refuse services that violate their faith, such as baking a cake for a same-sex wedding. It also says efforts to allow transgender people to use bathrooms that conform with their gender identity, instead of biological sex, are "illegal, dangerous and [ignorant of] privacy issues."

**Marijuana Legalization:** The Republican Platform opposes the decriminalization of marijuana, and does not support its use as a medical treatment. “In many jurisdictions, marijuana is virtually legalized despite its illegality under federal law.

**Minimum Wage:** Republicans say minimum wage is “an issue that should be handled on the state and local level.”

**North Korea:** “The United States will continue to demand the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program with full accounting of its proliferation activities. We also pledge to counter any threats from the North Korean regime.”

**Social Security:** “All options should be considered to preserve Social Security. As Republicans, we oppose tax increases and believe in the power of markets to create wealth and to help secure the future of our Social Security system.”

**Taxes:** “Republicans consider the establishment of a pro-growth tax code a moral imperative.” They oppose tax policies that force the wealthier to pay high tax rates, which they believe will stunt economic growth. “We oppose tax policies that deliberately divide Americans or promote class warfare.”

**Terrorism:** “A Republican administration will restore our nation’s credibility. We must stand up for our friends, challenge our foes, and destroy ISIS. Defeating ISIS means more than pushing back its fighters while abandoning its victims. It must mean aiding those who have suffered the most — and doing so before they starve.”

**Trade:** Republicans believe the corporate tax rate needs to be lowered in order to encourage American companies to stay here and not move their operations abroad. Republicans believe free trade policies that don’t restrict companies’ ability to profit will result in more jobs for Americans.