

Comparison of the Texas 2026 Republican and Democratic Platforms

August 3, 2026

This summary contains selected portions of each platform that illustrate significant policy differences. The paragraph or page on which each quote appears in the platform is noted. The summary does not replace reading the full platforms, which address many other issues and contain more details on these issues.

This was created by the Center for Policy Progress. Questions and comments can be sent to info@centerforpolicyprogress.org.

Republican Platform: <https://texasgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2026-Republican-Party-of-Texas-Platform-As-Approved.pdf>

Democratic Platform: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WQy7fxJ9mqj5ws7pqLZwOCJCePjKHtbc3tKpHKXRAdQ/edit#heading=h.f7z7y179stew>

Policy Area	Party Positions	Quotes from party platforms
Affordability	R: Affordability or Inflation are not specifically addressed in the platform. Proposals to cut a lot of taxes, which would save some people money but may further cut benefits for others. Several policies would actually worsen affordability for many.	Repeal Minimum Wage Law and prevailing wage laws. (28a) Eliminate mandatory sick or family leave (from Federal and State laws). (28a and b) We support repealing the 16th Amendment to eliminate all federal income taxes. We oppose federal estate taxes, payroll taxes, capital gains taxes, and gift taxes. (73) We support abolishing the following: Inventory taxes, Business Franchise taxes Taxes on phone and internet services, Firearms, ammunition, accessories and safety equipment taxes. (72) We support eliminating the property tax system for businesses and individuals by applying fiscal discipline and restraint at all levels of government, and without imposing new, onerous taxes like an income tax...(79)
	D: Affordability is the first issue in the platform. Multiple proposals to reduce costs and taxes for Texans	To lower the cost of living, we must invest in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, utilities, internet services, water supply and flood control, schools, ports, parks, and public buildings. (page 3) All working Texans should be able to afford a decent, accommodating home within a reasonably commutable distance from their workplace. (page 3) Increase income tax returns for workers by taxing billionaires, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable (page 4)
Voting Rights	R: Restrict voting rights, repeal Voting Rights Act	Support an amendment to the Texas Constitution that will require a majority of the voters in at least 170 counties (two-thirds), instead of a simple majority of the votes, to pass amendments. (2a) We urge that the Voting Rights Act of 1965, codified and updated in 1973, be repealed and not reauthorized. (254)
	D. Protect voting rights, make registration and voting easier	Texas Democrats support policies and programs that eliminate barriers to voting (page 29) Creating a non-partisan, citizen-led redistricting commission to ensure fairer elections and reduce political influence in the structural distribution of voters; (page 32) Increasing ballot access through automatic or same-day registration through the Texas Department of Public Safety, online registration, etc.; (page 32)

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Campaign Finance	R: No limits on campaign contributions	We urge immediate repeal of all limits on campaign contributions by American citizens to the candidates or causes of their choice. (227)
	D: Reduce the impact of money on our elections, especially by corporations	Limit the pervasive influence of money in politics, ensuring level playing fields. (page 29) Remove or vitiate the overwhelming, disproportionate, and inherently corrupting costs and influence of unfettered money on political campaigns; (page 30) Transition Texas to more transparent public financing of campaigns & elections. (page 31) Banning unlimited corporate spending in elections; (page 34)
Education	R: Support vouchers, no mention of increasing public school funding	School Choice: We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education and funding that shall follow the student with no strings attached. Abolish Department of Education (108)
	D: Support for public schools, oppose vouchers, support pay raises for teachers	Universal pre-K; (page 13) Fully-funding public schools; (page 13) Base funding on enrollment, the actual costs of educating all students, including those with disabilities, and multilingual learners; Increase teacher and staff pay to competitive national levels and improve benefits, retirement security, and working conditions; (page 13) Repeal the Texas school voucher scheme and oppose implementation, expansion, and continued public funding of any mechanism that diverts taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions; (page 13) Guaranteeing each classroom has a properly certified/highly qualified teacher; (page 14)
Climate Change	R: Oppose action	We oppose environmentalism or "climate change" initiatives that obstruct legitimate business interests and private property use... (46) We support the reclassification of carbon dioxide as a nonpollutant, abolition of the Environmental Protection Agency, and repeal of the Endangered Species Act. (46)
	D: Support action	Leveraging innovation in clean energy to secure the cleanliness of our air and water, through investment in transmission infrastructure, job training, innovation, & equitable access to clean energy for America, both nationally and in Texas; (page 17) Developing a statewide climate action plan that will achieve emission reductions in Texas; (page 17) Fully fund the "Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Fund" administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to offer incentives for clean vehicles and infrastructure, including electric vehicles and storage; (page 17)

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Immigration	R: State involvement in border enforcement, aggressive deportation	Combating Illegal Immigration: We recognize illegal immigration as the greatest threat to American security and sovereignty. To combat the invasion at our border, we demand that both the federal government and the State of Texas enforce laws to their fullest extent, implement an entry and exit tracking system for all visa holders including biometric tracking of all inadmissible aliens, end “catch and release” by requiring the federal government to keep all suspected illegal aliens in custody pending final determination of immigration status, and devote all available resources to deportations. (268) Resolution Supporting the Largest Deportation Operation in American History: The Republican Party of Texas calls on all elected officials to fully cooperate with ICE, honor detainers, and prioritize worksite enforcement to ensure removal of illegal aliens. (Resolution 2, page 52)
	D: Comprehensive immigration reform, responsible border security, end Operation Lone Star	Enact comprehensive immigration reform; (page 55) Create and/or further an attainable path to citizenship; (page 55) Ensure asylum seekers are treated humanely; (page 55) Secure our borders without wasting tax dollars on expensive and ineffective policies and methods; (page 55) Reform or remove limits placed on Temporary Protected Status for refugees fleeing wars, natural disasters, family violence, political violence, & gang violence and forced recruitment; (page 56) Forbid separating children from their parents;, and Forbid housing children in tent cities and/or cages; (page 56) Halting the fiscally wasteful Operation Lone Star (page 57)

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Gun Violence	R: Increase access to guns	Pass unrestricted Constitutional Carry (2g) <i>(the legal right to carry a handgun in public—either openly or hidden—without needing a government-issued license or permit)</i> Nullify any gun laws that violate the 2nd Amendment or rights of due process. (20b) Republicans believe armor piercing ammunition and chemical dispensing devices (OC spray) are useful for defense and must be legalized in Texas. (20j) We support passage of legislation encouraging local law enforcement agencies to provide handgun safety and proficiency training for all educators and allowing LTC (License to Carry) holders to carry concealed firearms on all school campuses (112) There shall be no gun-free zones in Texas. (230)
	D: Enact reasonable gun laws to reduce gun violence, within the limits of the 2nd amendment	Requiring universal background checks, without permitting the retention of any records or information with respect to any passing check other than a statement the individual passed a firearms background check on a specific date; (page 38) Restricting the manufacture, sale, or possession of bump stocks, binary trigger systems, trigger cranks, attachable suppressors, & large-capacity magazines; (page 38) Restricting the open carry of firearms on school campuses; (page 38) Restricting the manufacture and sale of Teflon & armor-piercing ammunition; (page 38)
Increasing Health Care Access	R: Oppose	We oppose any further expansion of Medicaid (141) We demand the immediate repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), and encourage Congress to replace it with legislation that aligns with free-market principles. (143)
	D: Support	Expanding Medicare & Medicaid/Accepting Federal offer for such expansion; (page 7 and 25) Establish a universal healthcare system, including a public option, while preserving patient choice of providers; (page 10) Expand healthcare access in rural communities through telehealth, rural hospitals, and workforce incentives; (page 12) Increasing state mental health funding to at least the national per capita average, with investment in community mental health centers, crisis stabilization units, and mobile crisis teams; (12)

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Reproductive Rights	R: Ban Abortion, ban sex education	We urge lawmakers to enact legislation to abolish abortion (23) We demand that the Legislature pass a law prohibiting the teaching of sex education, sexual health, or sexual choice or identity in any government school in any grade whatsoever (94) Legislators shall prohibit reproductive healthcare services, including mental health counseling or referrals to outside health services or clinics, and distribution, simulations, or demonstration of condoms, contraception, or obscene devices in public schools. (96) enforce the federal Comstock Act to stop mail-order abortions. (Resolution 4, page 53) (the Comstock Act is a 1873 law that has largely been superceded by later Supreme Court rulings and laws) We support requiring Texas students to learn about the following: the humanity of the preborn child (including life-affirming definitions of life and the study of life), the concept that life begins at fertilization (107)
	D: Restore abortion rights, protect the right to contraception and IVF, access to age-appropriate sex education	Restoring access to abortion care by repealing Texas's abortion ban, the Texas Heartbeat Act, and medication abortion limitations; (page 11) Protecting access to contraception, IVF, prenatal care, postpartum care, and gender-based healthcare; (page 11) Restoring the right of Texans to make personal decisions about pregnancy, childbirth, and reproductive healthcare; (page 11) Comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education that includes consent, healthy relationships, and medically accurate reproductive health information; (page 11) Protecting the right of individuals to seek, provide, assist with, or obtain reproductive healthcare free from criminal, civil, or administrative penalties; (page 40) Protecting the right of healthcare providers to provide, assist with, or facilitate reproductive healthcare, free from criminal, civil, or administrative penalties; (page 40) Repealing laws that criminalize abortion care, miscarriage, stillbirth, or reproductive healthcare decisions. (page 40) Family planning services and access to abortion healthcare; (page 53)

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Access to IVF	R: Restrict access, increase regulations	We oppose public funding for procedures that destroy embryonic life, including IVF. We call for regulation of the assisted reproduction industry to prevent exploitation of embryos, embryo discarding, eugenic practices, and commodification of human life, along with mandatory reporting on embryo creation, storage, and disposition. (158)
	D: Protect access	Restore and protect reproductive freedom rights for women in Texas, including reliable and secure access to abortion, contraception, and IVF with impunity; (page 10)
LGBT Rights	R: Oppose. Oppose same sex marriage and recognition of trans people.	Homosexuality is an abnormal lifestyle choice. (147) We oppose homosexual “marriage,” (207) We are opposed to same-sex parenting (207) the State of Texas should allow children to be adopted only by married or single heterosexuals. (213) The official position of the Texas schools shall be that there are only two genders: biological male and biological female, which are immutable and cannot be changed. (116) We support the prohibition of transgender individuals from serving in any school district positions, including in volunteer roles, and mandate the exclusive use of pronouns corresponding to a person's biological sex at birth. (116) there shall be no attempt to engage in so-called “gender affirming” medical or mental health intervention for persons between the ages of 18 and 26 (148) (Including administering or providing opposite sex hormones)
	D: Support	Ensure equal protections and rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, & other non-cis non-heterosexual or LGBTQIA+ people; (page 45) Support comprehensive non-discrimination protections for LGBTQIA+ Texans in employment, housing, healthcare, education, adoption, public accommodations, marriage, & all other facets of public and private life (page 49) Pass legislation, such as the Equality Act, that protects and guarantees marriage equality, employment nondiscrimination, and the full legal rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans. (page 49) Protecting and expanding access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare based on established medical standards and scientific consensus. (page 12)

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Religious Freedom	R: Christian focused, force religion onto people in schools, etc.	we recognize the historic and continuing influence of Christianity in securing our rights and liberties as endowed by our Creator. (Principle 1) We support affirmation of God, including prayer, the Bible, and the Ten Commandments, being returned to our schools, courthouses, and other government buildings. (19) We urge the Legislature and the State Board of Education to require instruction on the Bible, servant leadership, and Christian self-governance. (97)
	D: Protect religious freedom for all religions	Respecting the constitutional separation of church and state by restoring secular spaces and curriculum in public schools; (page 14) Prohibiting government establishment of religion, of one religion or denomination over others, and we encourage and promote governmental secularism, i.e., the separation of church & state in government; (page 53) Texas should not legislate private moralities. (page 53)
Marijuana Legalization	R: Oppose	The State of Texas shall retain cannabis as a Schedule I drug (152) <i>Note: The Texas State Board of Pharmacy defines a Schedule 1 drug as: "drugs with a high abuse risk. These drugs have NO safe, accepted medical use..."</i> We oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana (229)
	D: Support, and generate tax revenues from it	Legalizing the possession and use of cannabis and its derivatives in Texas, both medicinal and recreational, for adults; - i.e., Regulating and taxing cannabis' use, production, testing and sale; (page 43)
Foreign Affairs	R: Isolationism; withdraw from the UN	We support the immediate withdrawal from the current United Nations and the removal of the United Nations from United States soil. (284)
	D: Engagement with the world	Restore the United States to a leadership role in world affairs; (page 59) Restoring and increasing U.S. involvement and leadership in, and improvement of, international agencies and organizations; (page 59) Restoring and increasing U.S. leadership in mitigating the effects of climate change; (page 59)
Support for Ukraine	R: Oppose military support for Ukraine	we urge the United States to end foreign aid to Ukraine and cease all military engagements—across all domains of warfare—in the Ukraine-Russia conflict (279)
	D: Support Ukraine	Defend Ukraine, in concert with our allies, against the full-scale illegal invasion by Russia; Restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity; Protecting the freedom of the Ukrainian people; and Ukraine's democracy; (page 61)

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Artificial Intelligence	R: Protect personal rights to identity, data, etc.	Artificial Intelligence Protections: We believe that each person is the rightful owner of his or her name, image, signature, likeness, voice, knowledge, opinions, and other personally identifiable characteristics, and we support the individual's natural property right to protect his or her identity, name, image, voice, signature, data, information, and likeness from being collected or otherwise used, or misrepresented to the public, by data brokers or artificial intelligence applications without written consent. Each person has the right to know who is collecting information, when and how the information is being collected, and how the information is being used or sold. Each person has the right to opt out of any data collection or data use. (61)
	D: Protect personal rights to identity, data, etc., and develop guidelines and oversight of AI	Creation of guidelines, tools, benchmarks, and best practices for evaluating dangerous AI capabilities and mitigating AI risk; (page 37) Ensuring that workers get a voice in how AI is used in their workplace; (page 37) Protecting individuals, artists, and public figures from the unauthorized use of their likeness, voice, data, or copyright and intellectual property through AI technologies, including deepfakes and voice cloning; (page 37) Ensure AI cannot be the sole decision-maker in hiring, firing, or promotion decisions. (page 37) Enactment of oversight board(s) for the AI or integrated systems used by government or law enforcement agencies (page 39)
Data Centers	R: Require data centers to bear the full cost of their infrastructure needs	Require high-demand users, including data centers, to bear the full cost of the infrastructure needed to serve their operations. Require data centers to disclose water use, recover infrastructure costs, prioritize reclaimed water, and recycle waste heat to protect the aquifers and the power grid. Support zero water evaporation closed-loop cooling systems being implemented for data centers. (50)
	D: Require data centers to bear the full cost of their infrastructure needs, and impose a moratorium on new data centers until controls are in place.	Require data centers and other high-demand users to bear the full cost of developing new water and electricity infrastructure and report supply impacts; (page 25) Establishing clear regulations governing water usage by data centers to prevent depletion of regional water supplies by ensuring community involvement; (page 25) Require large-scale, industrial developments with significant water demands to implement monitoring systems, and publicly disclose projected and ongoing water usage (page 25) Enact a temporary statewide pause or moratorium on further data center development until such policies are created and acted upon by the State Legislature. (page 25)