

## ON THE ISSUES

### General program

<b>Trump</b>	<b>Harris</b>
<p>Rebuild the Greatest Economy in history                      Fair trade for the American worker                      Unleash energy dominance                      Secure borders and reclaim national sovereignty                      War on the drug cartels                      Stop crime and restore safety                      Renew American strength and leadership                      Reject globalism and embrace patriotism                      Care for our veterans                      Protect parents' rights                      Defend law and liberty                      End censorship and reclaim free speech                      Free, honest and lawful elections                      Drain the swamp of Washington corruption                      Better health care choices at lower costs</p>	<p><b>Build an opportunity economy and lower costs for families</b>                      Cut taxes for middle class families                      Make rent more affordable and homeownership more attainable                      Grow small businesses and invest in entrepreneurs                      Take on bad actors and bring down costs                      Strengthen and bring down the cost of health care                      Protect and strengthen social security and medicare                      Support American innovation and workers                      Provide a pathway to the middle class through quality, affordable education                      Invest in affordable child care and long term care                      Lower energy costs and tackle the climate crisis  <b>Saveguard our fundamental freedoms</b>                      Restore and protect reproductive reforms                      Protect civil rights and freedoms  <b>Ensure safety and justice for all</b>                      Make our communities safer from gun violence and crime                      Secure our borders and fix our broken immigration system                      Tackle the opioid and fentanyl crisis                      Ensure no one is above the law  <b>Keep America safe, secure, and prosperous</b>                      Stand with our allies, stand up to dictators, and lead on the world stage                      Invest in America's sources of strength                      Support service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors</p>

### On abortion

Trump defends a strong health and thriving American model of family and is staunchly prolife. He wants to support fertility treatments and IVF and considers late abortion and the murdering of children.

*Example used: The Alabama legislature has passed an IVF immunity law, intended to restart IVF treatments by shielding patients and providers from civil and criminal charges, and affirming the Supreme Court's ruling that embryos are children, even when it comes to IVF.*

Kamala Harris argues that the fight for abortion is about the fundamental freedom that is the promise of America. The right to make decisions around our own body is ours by right and should not be bestowed or taken away. Reproductive care should not be criminalized.

*Example used:*

- *Arizona's State Supreme Court last April rendered a decision that brought the State back to a Civil-War-era law banning abortion, with no exception for rape or incest and condemning doctors and nurses to prison time.*
- *More than 20 States today have banned abortion and 1 in 3 women in reproductive age lives in a State that has a Trump-abortion ban.*

### **On asylum and immigration**

Trump denounces the invasion that mass immigration represents and Biden's Amnesty Plan. For him, illegal immigrants that are given food stamps and free healthcare on taxpayer money is catastrophe and goes against those who would deserve help more like veterans. He accuses him of encouraging illegal immigration.

- *Explanation: He is referring to Biden's new immigration plan that gives some undocumented migrants a path to citizenship. In June, he announced an initiative that can offer citizenship to roughly half a million undocumented immigrants married to US citizens in a move ahead of the November presidential election. The move will also pave the way for the children of these immigrants to attain US citizenship. A White House statement said the move will "ensure that US citizens with non-citizen spouses and children can keep their families together". To be eligible, the spouses have to be married and living in the US for at least 10 years as of June 17, 2024, and "not pose a threat to public safety or national security". Before this plan was introduced, spouses living in the US without documents would have to travel to their home country and apply for citizenship at a consulate – a process that could take anywhere from three to 10 years.*

Kamala Harris believes the immigration system is broken and comprehensive reform is necessary, including strong border security and an earned pathway to citizenship.

- *Explanation: She refers to a bipartisan border security bill that was blocked by Republicans last May. In February, after months of negotiations, a bipartisan group of senators had unveiled an immigration compromise – legislation*

*Republicans said was necessary to unlock their support for a foreign aid package that included assistance to Ukraine. The legislation, which would have made major changes to immigration law and received endorsements from the National Border Patrol Council and the US Chamber of Commerce, initially appeared to have the support to pass. But then Trump denounced the plan as weak and demanded his allies in the Senate abandon it. They quickly followed his lead. The measure was designed to clamp down on illegal border crossings, which reached record levels last year, though the overall numbers have dropped in recent months. Among its provisions, the bill proposed provisions that would make it more difficult to seek asylum in the United States, while expanding detention facilities and speeding up the deportation process for those who enter the country unlawfully. It would also institute a new emergency authority that would in effect close the border if the number of migrants encountered by immigration officials averaged more than 4,000 people a day at the border over the course of one week. The authority would be triggered automatically if the average surpassed 5,000 a day or if 8,500 try to enter unlawfully in a single day.*

## **On economics**

Trump denounces inflation, sky high energy prices, the lack of borders and protection with drugs and criminals, gangs members and terrorists pouring in, the decline buying power, all because of a corrupt, incompetent and weak President. He promises a stronger, richer and safer America, in other words, to make America Great Again. He argues that when he was President, gasoline was at \$1,80 and there was no inflation. Under Biden, the average monthly mortgage payment has gone from \$1746 to \$3322. He accuses Biden of making the banks richer, banks which discriminate against conservatives and religions. He promises to revive the American Dream.

- *Additional information: In September, Trump further laid out his economic plan. He said the economic policies he would enact in a second term would create an environment to "steal" manufacturing jobs that have moved overseas through tax cuts and tariffs. He talked about a "manufacturing renaissance" that he says would bring millions of jobs back to the U.S. from overseas. Trump called for lowering the corporate tax rate from 21% to 15% for "those who make their product in the USA," continued a push for "substantial tariffs" on imported goods and proposed special manufacturing zones on federal land "with ultra low taxes and regulations for American producers." He attacked Vice President Harris as the "tax queen" whose proposals to tax unrealized investment gains for certain ultra-wealthy Americans would lead to a financial depression.*

Kamala Harris promises to lower the cost of living for America's families. She would bring down the cost of groceries by making sure that markets are competitive and fair.

She wants to take on big pharma and cap the cost of prescription medication for all Americans. She also wants to take on the high cost of housing and help people reach the American Dream. She already announced a plan to build millions of new homes and help first-time home buyers with a down payment. (*She has promised to build 3 million more homes over 4 years and proposed \$25k in down-payment support for 1<sup>st</sup>-time buyers*). She also promises tax cuts to families in the first year of child's life. She promises to always put the middle class and American families first.

- *Additional information: Although many of Harris's other proposals remain vague, she would seem to represent a continuation of President Joe Biden's economic policies. She would support efforts to reshore manufacturing and create an "opportunity economy" with more inclusive growth. She would not shy away from state intervention, especially industrial policies to support the economic sectors and technologies of the future. And she would attempt to rein in the power of large oligopolistic firms through regulation. In terms of fiscal policy, Harris proposes capping the cost of childcare at 7% of household income (implying a subsidy), reviving the child tax credit, and giving a \$25,000 tax credit to first-time homebuyers. Since these measures might increase demand and prices, she also has plans to increase the supply of affordable housing. She would introduce some new tax credits for small businesses, and extend the Trump tax cuts for households earning less than \$400,000 per year. To pay for these policies, she would raise the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%, raise taxes on the very wealthy (those currently with a top marginal rate of 39%), and explore the possibility of a tax on unrealized capital gains. Finally, she has no plans to reform entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare. All told, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that Harris's proposals would cost \$3.5 trillion over a decade, whereas Trump's would cost \$7.5 trillion unless other taxes (such as tariffs) are introduced.*

## **On Education**

Donald Trump want to reclaim universities from what he calls the "Communist left". He considers that America's higher education is dominated by anti-Americans and wants to choke off money to schools that assault the American heritage. He no longer wants to subsidize "Communist indoctrination". He wants to "smash the diversity, equity and inclusion bureaucracy that is driving up tuition costs" and any university who wants Federal student loan dollars will be required to offer "real job placement and career services as well as options for accelerated and low-cost degrees".

- *Explanation: He makes a references to the Supreme Court striking down Biden's student-loan forgiveness program which would have cost \$400 billion.*
- *Additional information: Some of his proposals for education are:*

- *Cut federal funding for any school or program pushing Critical Race Theory, gender ideology, or other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content on our children.*
- *Direct the Departments of Justice and Education to open Civil Rights investigations into any school district that has engaged in race-based discrimination, including discrimination against Asian Americans.*
- *Keep men out of women's sports.*
- *Create a new credentialing body to certify teachers who embrace patriotic values, and understand that their job is not to indoctrinate children, but to educate them.*
- *Trump has called for shutting down the U.S. Department of Education and said he wants to "move education back to the states." the Democratic Party's 2024 platform calls for recruiting "more new teachers, paraprofessionals and school related personnel, and education support professionals, with the option for some to even start training in high school."*

Kamala Harris believes that good jobs should be available to everyone, not only those who have college degrees. A four-year college degree is not the only path to success. Apprenticeships and technical programs should be better recognized. So she plans to get rid of the unnecessary degree requirements for federal jobs. And she will encourage the private sector to do the same.

➤ *Additional elements:*

- *Harris has opposed attempts to limit how race can be taught in schools and has characterized their proponents as extremists who don't "acknowledge our nation's true and full history." In 2023, she denounced Florida lawmakers for enacting African American history standards that included teaching that enslaved people benefited from slavery.*
- *Harris has spoken out against bans or restrictions on books about LGBTQ+ experiences and against laws restricting what teachers can discuss in the classroom. She has characterized attempts to remove discussion of sexuality and racism from classrooms as part of attacks on fundamental freedoms, including marriage equality and on the freedom to learn.*
- *Harris has opposed state laws denying transgender people access to bathrooms that match their gender identities and has contended that such laws constitute discrimination based on gender identity. The Biden-Harris administration issued rules prohibiting schools from discriminating against students based on gender identity, but did not address transgender students in sports.*

- *She promised to push for universal prekindergarten, expanded career and technical education, a reduced emphasis on standardized testing, and efforts to improve teachers' working conditions if elected.*
- *The Democratic Party's 2024 platform calls for recruiting "more new teachers, paraprofessionals and school related personnel, and education support professionals, with the option for some to even start training in high school."*

## **On employment and wages**

Trump's key objectives are to restore "vision, strength, competence" and he denounces the fact that wages no longer allow to saving money because of inflation. He plans on opposing illegal immigration that "squeezes out" Americans of the labor force.

### ➤ *Fact checking:*

- *Using his control of the executive branch of the U.S. government, Trump repeatedly undermined the wages of American workers by blocking raises and imposing wage reductions. In July 2019, with the pathetically low federal minimum wage stuck at \$7.25 per hour for a decade and some 13 million workers holding two or more jobs to support their families, the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives passed the Raise the Wage Act. If enacted, the legislation would have gradually increased the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour over a six-year period. But, instead of supporting the legislation or proposing an alternative, the Trump White House announced that, if the Senate passed the House bill, Trump would veto it. Consequently, the measure died in the Republican-controlled Senate. In August 2018, Trump canceled a scheduled 2% pay raise for millions of civilian federal employees.*
- *Although the "real wages" (after adjusting for inflation) of American workers did rise during Trump's presidency, the rise was minimal. According to a 2020 Congressional report, during Trump's first three years in office, workers' "real average hourly earnings increased by an average of just 0.9 percent." Admittedly, there was a very substantial jump in real average earnings in the fourth year. But this jump reflected the fact that, in 2020, a disproportionate number of low-wage workers lost their jobs thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, were not included in wage calculations.*

Kamala Harris