

Comparison of Texas Republican and Democrat 2014 Platforms

Issue	Republican	Democrat
Misc.	Repeal Patriot Act (5)	Repeal provisions of Patriot Act inconsistent with Bill of Rights and right of habeas corpus (51)
	Oppose fairness doctrine (9)	Reinstatement of Fairness Doctrine (51)
Environment and Energy	Strongly oppose all efforts of the extreme environmental groups that stymie legitimate business interests and private property use. EPA should be abolished (8)	Support EPA’s historic carbon pollution reduction initiative (32) Work closely with EPA to end current hostile litigious relationship (34) Environmental protection should be a model of cooperative federalism (35) Support EPA in efforts to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants through Clean Power Plan (35) Support EPA’s proposed rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from power plants (35)
	<p>“Climate change” is a political agenda which attempts to control every aspect of our lives. (8)</p> <p>Current evidence is not conclusive on the cause of climate change; we reject the use of this natural process to promote more government regulation of the private economy. (34)</p> <p>We reject the idea of “climate justice” and the accompanying redistribution of wealth that comes with accepting it (34)</p>	<p>Climate change is a real and serious threat causing drought, crop failures, heatwaves, storms and extreme climate events (33)</p> <p>Climate change is likely due to human activity that requires urgent action (33)</p> <p>Climate change has accelerated there are man-made droughts and floods (34)</p> <p>Encourage large-scale planting of native trees and drought hearty species to absorb greenhouse gases (37)</p> <p>Climate change is security issue – should continue President’s leadership in reducing US greenhouse gas emissions, promoting clean energy and mitigating effects of global climate change (61)</p>

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	<p>Need comprehensive Texas energy plan that ensures development of domestic energy sources and reduce or eventually eliminate our need for foreign energy and ensure export of compressed natural gas and distillates with elimination of onerous environmental regulations (30)</p> <p>Insist on expedited design, construction, and implementation of facilities required to export LNG, CNG and natural gas worldwide and elimination of federal government onerous restriction and interference</p> <p>Remove government barriers to free market solutions to production and distribution of energy (31)</p> <p>Oppose implementation of any cap and trade system through legislation or regulation (31)</p>	<p>Support President's Climate Action Plan, and the EPA's historic carbon pollution reduction initiative, the Clean Power Plan and proposed rules to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants by 30% by 2030 (32)</p> <p>Energy audits, efficiency standards, green building policies (32)</p> <p>Develop natural gas resources as bridge in transition to renewable (32)</p> <p>Need State clean air plan (35)</p> <p>Need more pollution violation penalties (35)</p> <p>Need rules to protect from environmental racism and environmental injustice (35)</p> <p>Impact of methane emissions should be recognized and controlled (36)</p> <p>Implement President's rules to reduce emissions from old power plants (33)</p>
	<p>Texas energy plan should include development of coal energy resources</p>	<p>Reduce reliance on coal-fired plants (32)</p> <p>No coal strip mining (35)</p>
	<p>Urge completion of Keystone Pipeline Project (30)</p> <p>Support the immediate approval and construction of the Keystone XL and other pipelines (31)</p>	<p>Greater scrutiny and regulation of pipelines which transport Canadian tar sands oil (32)</p> <p>Oppose Keystone Pipeline (35)</p> <p>More federal regulation for all proposed Canadian tar sands pipelines (36)</p> <p>Railroad Commission should have increased authority over pipelines and establish a state pipeline liability trust fund (36-37)</p>
	<p>Support land drilling and production operations including hydraulic fracturing (31)</p>	<p>Thoroughly review deleterious effects of fracking (32)</p> <p>Require green completions of wells (more regulations on fracking) (36)</p> <p>Texas Railroad Commission should look at with greater scrutiny (36)</p> <p>Regulate water (type and how much) used (38)</p>

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	Repeal legislation mandating ethanol as a fuel additive and/or primary fuel (31)	Serious re-examination of the environmental and economic benefits of corn-based ethanol (32)
	Urge use of natural gas as alternative transportation fuel and as a complimentary fuel to gasoline and diesel Support the manufacture of vehicles that utilize natural gas Support conversion of existing private fleets to natural gas Support use of natural gas in electric power generation and other industrial uses (31)	Encourage electric and alternative fueled vehicles (32)
	Encourage development and use of wind energy, coal-fired plants, solar, and nuclear power, and bio-sources without government subsidies (31) Oppose mandated use of Smart Meters (25)	Subsidize and incentivize renewable energy (many ways) (32) Moratorium on building of new coal or petroleum coke burning power plants (35)
	Encourage Texas Legislature to ensure our electrical grid is kept independent, safe and secure from attack (31)	Ensure critical infrastructure meets baseline security standards (61)
	Education	Abolish Department of Education - education is not enumerated power of federal government (22)
Parents are best suited to train their children in early development, and oppose mandatory pre-school and kindergarten (19)		Every eligible Texas child must have access to high-quality, full-day Pre-K and kindergarten. TEA establishes Pre-K standard. (5)
Parents may choose to educate their children in private schools to include, but not limited to, home schools and parochial schools without government (federal or state) interference (21)		Strengthen state oversight of home schooling
Encourage non-English speaking students to transition to English within three years (19)		Reject efforts to destroy bilingual education

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	<p>Return to traditional basics of reading, writing, arithmetic and citizenship (19)</p> <p>We support career and technology education in public schools (19)</p>	<p>Develop curriculum for and provide ethnic studies classes (8)</p> <p>Environmental education programs (7)</p> <p>Multi-language instruction from elementary (7)</p> <p>More “reality-based” substance abuse education at the primary school level (22)</p> <p>Define and fund programs to increase proficiency in STEM subjects (7)</p> <p>Provide and fund high-quality career and technical education programs (7)</p>
	<p>Support frequent post-tenure review in order to maintain the quality of teaching staff (22)</p>	<p>Oppose test based performance pay (6)</p>
	<p>Support school choice encouraging parental involvement, protecting parental rights and maximizing local ISD control (20)</p> <p>Encourage child-centered funding options which fund the student, not schools or districts, to allow maximum freedom of choice in public, private, or parochial education (21)</p> <p>Oppose public funding of charter schools which receive money from foreign entities. Demand accountability and transparency as public schools including US citizenship of public school trustees (20)</p>	<p>In favor of real local control, which is parental and community involvement (7)</p> <p>Expansion of neighborhood charter schools that are run by parents and teachers who establish elements of curriculum and policy within state standards (7)</p> <p>Strengthen state oversight and academic and financial standards for charter schools to provide same level of accountability required of neighborhood schools (7)</p> <p>Reject providing state funds for “virtual schools”</p> <p>Oppose private school vouchers in all forms (7)</p> <p>Halt voucher/charter funding schemes (38)</p>
	<p>Sex education is parent’s responsibility and they must be allowed to review material prior to giving their consent. We oppose any sex education other than the biology of reproduction and abstinence until marriage. Social aspects of sexuality should be left to the family. (22)</p>	<p>Comprehensive age-appropriate sex education programs with an abstinence and contraception component (8)</p>

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Higher Education	Three levels of college tuition - in-state, out-of-state, nonresident legal alien Non-US citizens should not be eligible for state or federal grants. (19)	Oppose any effort to repeal in-state tuition benefits to Texas undocumented students (56) Free community college for all (12)
	Oppose the use of quotas, diversity, and the ten percent rule. Texas college admissions should be based solely on merit (20)	Support innovative approaches to ensure diversity in every Texas institution of higher education.
	Since data is clear that additional money does not translate into educational achievement, and higher education costs are out of control, we support reducing taxpayer funding to all levels of education institutions (27)	Spending as solutions all throughout education policy
Elections	Strongly support the Electoral College (11)	Require presidential electors to cast votes consistent with the popular vote (49)
	Oppose use of race, origin, or creed for purposes of creating voting districts (11)	Redistricting standards should not dilute voting strength of any group (48)
	Voting Rights Act repealed (11)	Restore parts of Voting Rights Act struck down by US Supreme Court with legislation (47) Passage of State Voting Rights Act (48)
	For protecting Texas' Voter ID law (11)	Return to previous voter ID requirements (47)
	Prohibition of internet voting, need paper trail in electronic voting, prohibition of mobile voting (11)	Electronic voting needs paper trail (48)
	Repeal of McCain-Feingold (12) No lobbying by any org. receiving federal grants except that relating to its tax status (12)	Amend Texas and US constitutions - money is not speech, corporations aren't entitled to constitutional rights (49) Ban on corporate campaign contributions (49)
	Consent of union member should be required before member's dues can be used for political purposes (10)	Right of unions to engage in political activity must not be infringed (15)
	Repeal all motor voter laws Re registering voters every four years Require photo ID of all registrants Proof of residency and citizenship 30 day registration deadline (11)	Automatic, lifetime registration at 18 (48) Same day registration (49) Improve Motor Voter Registration process (49)

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Employment	Minimum wage should be repealed (32)	Raise and index minimum wage (26) (14)
	Oppose card check and FOR right to work (32)	Repeal right to work (15)
	Government can't coerce business owners and employees to violate consciences, beliefs and principles (9)	See healthcare
	Equal opportunity for all citizens regardless of race or gender. No affirmative action (6)	Enact Texas Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (26)
	Worker's compensation should not be mandatory for all Texas employers (32)	Worker's compensation insurance should be mandatory for all employers (15)
Foreign Policy and National Security	Support free trade (37)	Require all trade agreements to establish a "level playing field" by prohibiting child and other exploitative labor practices, mandating environmental standards, require wage practices (61)
	Encourage continuation of peace talks but oppose pressuring Israel to compromise their sovereignty or security (37)	Jewish homeland in Israel and a Palestinian homeland can only result from direct negotiations between willing and responsible partners (61)
	Support US policies which help Mexico strengthen its Constitution. Support aggressive military and law enforcement cooperation to address corruption, the drug cartels, and human trafficking (37)	Assist economic development of our allies, particularly neighbors where high unemployment creates immigration pressures (61)
	Encourage fed govt and NASA to partner with American citizens and business to maintain leadership in space exploration (36)	US space program should be continued and supported (15)

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Guns	Oppose all laws that infringe on right to bear arms (23) Oppose monitoring of gun ownership, taxation and regulation of guns, ammunition, and gun magazines (23) Federal restrictions void in Texas (23)	Strengthen background checks by including all records including criminal, domestic violence, mental health records, and terrorists watch lists Apply checks to all firearm sales (41) Sensible gun control laws to curtail availability of automatic weapons and extended magazines (41) Preserve right to self-defense while restoring duty to retreat when outside the home (45) More Federal restrictions and intrusion (41)
Health Care	Demand immediate repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (18) Support reform which uses a market-based, competitive system to make more affordable (18)	Support full implementation of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act at state level (19) (24) (53) Support setting up state exchange (20) Most efficient and universal and adequate way to provide health care is through a single payer system (20)
	Health care decisions should be between a patient and health care professional (18)	Agree (20)
	Support Medicaid block grants to the states and returning Medicaid to its original purpose (to be a temporary assistance) (17)	Expand Medicaid (19)(26) (38) (20) (22) (24) (53)
Immigration	No amnesty (39)	Continuation of Texas DREAM Act and passage of the federal DREAM Act (11) (55) Preserve family reunification (55) Continuation and expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (55) Moratorium on deportations of immigrants who have meaningful ties to US

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	<p>State of TX has the right to protect citizens, businesses and ranches if federal government fails to do enforce applicable laws (4) (5)</p> <p>Protect ability of law enforcement to inquire of the status of someone in custody (39)</p> <p>Reasonable use of profiling (5)</p>	<p>Oppose participation by state and local jurisdictions in enforcing federal immigration laws (56)</p> <p>Oppose any law requiring state and local law enforcement to inquire about immigration status (56)</p> <p>No profiling (56) (40) (41)</p>
	<p>US border must be secured immediately (4)</p> <p>Fence w electronic, infrared and visual monitoring (38)</p> <p>Once border secure then E-Verify in place and then reform of visas/system (39)</p>	<p>Oppose any effort to expand existing border fence without regard to border economy, environmental impact or property rights</p> <p>Comprehensive reform w path to citizenship(55)</p> <p>Secure borders w/border patrol (should be sure they are lawful and humane) (55)</p> <p>Support Obama and Congressional Democrats comprehensive immigration reform (56)</p>
	<p>Citizenship should be those born to a US citizen or gained through naturalization (35)</p>	<p>All persons born in this country are citizens (55)</p>
	<p>Prohibit knowing employment of illegal immigrants (38)</p>	<p>Punish those who exploit workers (55)</p>
	<p>Driver's licenses must indicate if US citizen. No license issued to anyone not legally in country (8)</p>	<p>All TX residents allowed to obtain driver's license and liability insurance (55)</p>
	<p>No welfare benefits to those who cannot prove citizenship (17)</p> <p>No in-state tuition for illegal immigrants (38)</p>	<p>Healthcare benefits (55)</p> <p>In-state tuition for illegal immigrants (56)</p> <p>Housing benefits -- access to housing programs, benefits, rights and legal protections (31)</p>
<p>Judicial System</p>	<p>Direct election of State Judges (9)</p>	<p>Judges nominated (46)</p>
	<p>Strengthen Tort Reform (10)</p>	<p>Reversal of unjust provisions of Proposition 12 (46)</p> <p>No mandatory arbitration proceedings (46)</p>

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	<p>Support capital punishment (25)</p> <p>Reform to discourage frivolous lawsuits and abusive class action lawsuits (34)</p> <p>Illegal dealers and manufacturers of addictive substances should be severely prosecuted (26)</p> <p>Oppose legalization of illicit and synthetic drugs (26)</p>	<p>Abolish death penalty (45)</p> <p>Support ability to join together to seek redress (46)</p> <p>Revise sentencing guidelines for non-violent offenders including making not a felony (42)</p> <p>Implement laws to legally possess up to one ounce of marijuana and regulate its use and sale and taxing (43) (Colorado and Washington used as example of model of success)</p>
Life Issue	<p>All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death (14)</p> <p>Person who injures or kills an unborn child should be subject to criminal and civil litigation (26)</p> <p>Support reversal of Roe v Wade (14)</p> <p>Support elimination of public funding or use of public facilities to advocate, perform, or support elective abortions (15)</p> <p>Applaud TX Legislature for passing strong women's health and pro-life legislation (14)</p> <p>Parental consent</p> <p>No gender selection</p> <p>No abortion because of genetic diagnosis</p> <p>Licensing, liability, and malpractice for abortionists and facilities</p> <p>Prohibition of partial-birth, late-term abortions</p> <p>Prohibit abortifacients</p> <p>Repeal judicial bypass (15)</p> <p>Support legislature assist in educating public regarding alternatives to abortion, especially adoption (15)</p>	<p>Product of a joined egg and sperm has no independent status, standing, entitlements or rights that would usurp or supersede in any way the rights, status, standing and decisions of the mother or woman (24)</p> <p>Oppose any and all attempts to overturn Roe v. Wade (26)</p> <p>Support family planning funding for pregnancy prevention and preventive health care by all qualified providers in regulated, licensed medical facilities (25)</p> <p>No restrictions on contraception or abortions (including facilities/doctors) listed</p> <p>Support access to accurate information about adoption (25)</p>

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	<p>Conscience Clause - all persons and all legal entities (15)</p> <p>Abortion is not health care (18)</p> <p>Protect rights of commercial establishments to refuse to provide any service or product that would infringe upon their freedom of conscience of religious expression as stated in the 1st Amendment (24)</p> <p>Health insurance coverage for abortion services and abortifacients should be considered supplemental coverage (15)</p>	<p>Support right of woman to acquire contraception or other reproductive services through her health insurance provider; this may not be impinged or abridged by an employer for any reason (including religious reasons, although we state we support religious liberty) (25)</p>
	<p>Support prohibiting experimentation or commercial use of human fetal tissue (15)</p> <p>Encourage stem cell research which doesn't kill human embryos (15)</p>	<p>Support research into stem cell therapies and state funding for research into stem cell therapies at our state's public universities (25)</p>
Marriage	<p>Marriage only between a natural man and a natural woman (13)</p> <p>Support State DoMA (14)</p>	<p>Support repeal of Fed DoMA, support passage of Fed Respect for Marriage Act and Texas Constitutional Marriage Amendment oppose other attempts to deny freedom to marry to same sex couples (51) (52)</p>
Money and Banking	<p>Repeal Sarbanes Oxley (33)</p>	
	<p>Repeal Dodd Frank (33)</p>	<p>More regulation on banking system (13) (15)</p>
Property rights	<p>Eminent domain should exclude seizing private property for public or private economic development or for increased tax revenues</p> <p>Oppose use of eminent domain for private gain for toll projects (30)</p>	<p>Oppose use of eminent domain and takings to deprive any property owner of the possession, use, or ability to control their property for private gain. Should only be used for compelling public purpose (39)</p> <p>No private land should be taken for toll roads to be operated by private companies (59)</p>
Social issues	<p>Homosexuality is a chosen behavior (14)</p>	<p>Homosexuality is a normal, natural and positive variation of human sexual orientation (51)</p>

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	Family should not be redefined to include homosexual couples (14)	Support adoption of children by loving qualified parents regardless of marital status, sexual orientation gender identity, or expression, and the rights of families created by those adoptions (27)
	No granting of special status for homosexual behavior (14)	Support inclusion of “actual or perceived gender-related characteristics” in the Texas James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act (51) Support workplace protections codified in the fed Employment Non-Discrimination Act for LGBTQ (52) Support decision for transgender employees to be included within Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (52)
	If patients are seeking reparative therapy they should not be prevented from doing so (14)	Oppose public funding for reparative therapy and call on practitioners who engage in this to be investigated and sanctioned (51) (even though the person might want to try to change for religious reasons)
	Deplore all discrimination. Deplore forced sensitivity training. Repeal Hate Crimes Law (25)	Support strong enforcement of federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act (51)
Taxes and spending	Support immediate and orderly transition to a system of private pensions and gradually phasing out SS tax. SS benefits should be non-taxable (17)	Private savings accounts and other pension programs should be additions to the guaranteed Social Security benefit, not a substitute for any portion of it (28) Remove cap on contributions to Social Security (29)
	Support “Fair Tax” and Flat Tax (28)	Affirm support for progressive tax system (18)
	Narrow permissible uses of the Economic Stabilization Fund to cover revenue shortfalls in current biennium, debt retirement, one-time infrastructure projects, and expenses related to a state of disaster (29)	Use Economic Stabilization fund both to maintain essential services and meet increased need (17)

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Trans- portation	All transportation and fuel taxes should be used for road construction, improvement, and maintenance only and not be diverted to any other use, including mass transit, rail, and bicycle paths. (30)	Require TxDOT to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle modes into transportation projects including connecting them to mass transit (59) Require TxDOT to build water detention ponds with unpaved floors to create green space for hike and bike trails (59) Use mobility fund to convert existing freight lines into passage rail (59) Development of state rail plan to get federal funding (59) Light rail and mass transit improvements as key initiatives (59)
	Ban use of red light cameras (8)	Oppose unfair adjustment of automatic red light cameras (59)
	Oppose Trans–Texas Corridor (30) Oppose construction of transportation projects which surrender control to foreign interests (30) Tolls should come off the road when debt is retired (30) Oppose use of taxpayer money to subsidize, guarantee, prop–up, or bail out any toll projects, whether public or private (30)	Oppose Trans–Texas Corridor and other foreign toll ways (39) Oppose foreign–owned US toll roads (62) Prohibit use of any new or existing, publicly–owned roadway facility or right of way to be operated, leased, or managed by private companies for profit (59) Oppose double taxation imposed by conversion of existing roads to toll roads (59)
Utilities and Insurance	Encourage free market solutions for providing utilities (33) Property insurance rates should be set through free–market forces alone (33) Support shrinking the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (33)	More regulation on utilities and insurance (15) Government regulating, denying, approving insurance rates (29) Reduce and eliminate unfair underwriting and rate setting practices such as the use of credit scoring, redlining and other discriminatory practices (29) Regulation of utilities (30)

Eliminating disparities

Equality

Invented rights

Diversity

Spending

Environment over people