

THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON IMPORTANT HEALTH EQUITY ISSUES



THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the 2016 presidential election fast approaching, it is important to understand where candidates stand on important issues. This report explores each candidate's position on health equity topics including: LGBT equality, HIV/AIDS, healthcare, substance use, mental health, and housing. In our research, we found striking differences among the four leading candidates: Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Jill Stein, and Gary Johnson.

LGBT EQUALITY

Republican Donald Trump's stance on LGBT equality is unclear. He has given mixed responses on the topic of LGBT civil rights and discrimination, but he does align with the Republican Party Platform in his support of the First Amendment Defense Act, which would prohibit the government from discriminating against people or businesses for acting on the belief that marriage is only between a man and a woman. Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, has an extensive record supporting religious liberty and opposing same-sex marriage and sexual orientation nondiscrimination laws.

Democrat Hillary Clinton has a long history of support for legal equality for LGBT people. She supports the Equality Act, which would protect LGBT people from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, federal funding, credit, education, and jury duty. Her stance on same-sex marriage has changed over the years. While once opposed to same-sex marriage, Clinton now firmly supports marriage equality. She opposes the use of religious freedom legislation to allow LGBT discrimination. When she was Secretary of State, Clinton said "gay rights are human rights," and she supported LGBT activists in developing countries and the former Soviet bloc countries.

The Green Party candidate, Jill Stein, supports same-sex marriage and LGBT civil rights. She believes that businesses must respect the rights of LGBT people. The Libertarian Party Candidate, Gary Johnson, supports same-sex marriage and opposes discrimination of LGBT people. The Libertarian Platform supports religious freedom that does not violate the rights of others.

HIV/AIDS

Donald Trump's position on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention is unclear, but his running mate, Mike Pence, has a history of opposing funding for public health programs and HIV prevention strategies. In

2000, Pence called for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program to redirect funding to gay conversion therapy programs.

Hillary Clinton supports expanding HIV care and prevention by using harm reduction strategies like needle exchange programs, strengthening the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, increasing access to care domestically and globally, and ending discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Jill Stein supports improving HIV prevention, increasing access to treatment, protecting people living with HIV/AIDS from discrimination, and making HIV medications affordable in all countries. Gary Johnson's position on HIV/AIDS is unclear, but he has stated that he supports harm reduction techniques like needle exchanges programs.

HEALTHCARE

Donald Trump's healthcare reform plan includes the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, under which 20 million Americans have accessed health insurance. Trump believes that his healthcare plan will be more effective and cost less. He calls for more free market competition in health insurance to lower costs. He also supports the use of Health Savings Accounts, block-granting Medicaid, price transparency from providers, and free markets for generic drug providers to reduce costs.

Hillary Clinton supports the Affordable Care Act and seeks to build upon it by increasing insurance subsidies, expanding Medicaid eligibility and coverage in non-expansion states, reducing drug costs, promoting enrollment in health exchanges, increasing funding for health centers, and supporting efforts to improve women's health and reproductive rights as well as mental health.

Jill Stein seeks to establish a single-payer public health insurance program to provide everyone with quality universal healthcare. She also places importance on improving environmental health, and supporting women's reproductive health. Gary Johnson supports a free-market, competitive approach to healthcare. Johnson does not support the Affordable Care Act, saying in 2016 that "government should not be involved in healthcare." The Libertarian Platform supports establishing Medical Savings Accounts, deregulating the healthcare industry, and removing barriers to safe and affordable medicines.

"Government should not be involved in healthcare."

Gary Johnson, 2016

SUBSTANCE USE

Donald Trump has spoken generally about substance use issues, saying that he would "spend the money" to help people with addictions, and that he would "cut off the source" of drugs into the country. The Republican Platform offers some policy solutions to more tightly control access to prescription opioids.

Clinton and the Democratic Platform both support proposals and policies to address substance use and addiction disorders, including expanding access to addiction services and ensuring that insurance coverage is equal to that of other health conditions, implementing evidence-based prevention

programs, and prioritizing treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration for low-level and nonviolent drug charges.

Jill Stein and Gary Johnson both call for an end to the “war on drugs,” criminal justice reforms for low-level and nonviolent drug charges, and the decriminalization of marijuana.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Republican Party Platform calls for improving mental healthcare by turning Medicaid into a block grant system. This would give more control to the states, allowing state and local government to test and create innovative solutions for “individuals and families in desperate need of help in addressing mental illness.”

Clinton and the Democratic Platform call for treating “mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health.” Clinton calls for increased integration of mental healthcare services into general healthcare systems. She also calls for early diagnosis and intervention, improving access to housing and employment for those suffering from mental health conditions, and investing in research and development for treatments.

Jill Stein advocates for comprehensive mental healthcare as a part of her single-payer, public health insurance program. Johnson once vetoed the state Mental Health Parity Act as governor of New Mexico, and the Libertarian Party Platform does not specifically address mental health.

HOUSING

Donald Trump and the Republican Party Platform call for a decreased federal role in the housing market, which includes avoiding future taxpayer bailouts. They also advocate for clear standards on acceptable lending practices, as well as a comprehensive review of federal regulations that make it more difficult for Americans to rent, buy, or sell homes.

Clinton and the Democratic Party Platform call for increasing the supply of affordable rental housing, fighting to end homelessness, defending and strengthening the Fair Housing Act, and addressing racial and economic injustice that leads to unaffordable and unstable housing.

Stein calls for an immediate moratorium on foreclosures and evictions. She also wants to offer more federal grants to incentivize the building of affordable housing. Johnson once said that he would eliminate the Department of Housing and Urban Development if the legislation was presented to him.

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DONALD TRUMP, REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUMMARY

Donald Trump does not mention LGBT equality on his official campaign website. He has expressed opposition to same-sex marriage, but his stance on LGBT discrimination is unclear. Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, has a record of supporting legislation like the First Amendment Defense Act and opposing legal equality for LGBT people, including employment nondiscrimination and same-sex marriage. The 2016 Republican Party Platform does not directly mention LGBT rights or issues. It defends "traditional marriage and family, based on the marriage between one man and one woman," and it condemns the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that guarantees the fundamental right to marry for same-sex couples.¹ In regard to religious freedom and discrimination, the platform endorses the First Amendment Defense Act, which prohibits government from discriminating against individuals and businesses for "acting on the belief that marriage is the union between one man and one woman."²

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The Republican Party Platform states that marriage is between a man and a woman, and it condemns the Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Donald Trump's official campaign website does not mention marriage equality. When asked about same-sex marriage, his responses are mixed. For example:

- In 2000, Trump stated in an interview with the LGBT magazine *The Advocate* that while he believed that marriage should be between a man and a woman, he supports strong domestic-partnership laws that afford gay people the same legal protections and rights.³
- In 2011, Trump expressed opposition to legal recognition for gay couples. According to a 2011 interview with *Des Moines Register*, he said his "attitude on [benefits for gay couples] has not been fully formed...as of this moment, I would say no and no [to marriage and civil benefits]."⁴
- Following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide, Trump said on Fox News in July 2015 that the Supreme Court made its decision and he rejected the idea of overturning the decision with a constitutional amendment.⁵

Republican Platform:

"Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for free society and has for millennia been entrusted with rearing children and instilling cultural values. We condemn the Supreme Court's ruling in United States v. Windsor, which wrongly removed the ability of Congress to define marriage policy in federal law. We also condemn the Supreme Court's lawless ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges... which robbed 320 million Americans of their legitimate constitutional authority to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

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- However, in an appearance on Fox News in January 2016, when asked if he would appoint Supreme Court justices to overrule the decision on same-sex marriage, Trump responded, “I would strongly consider that, yes.”⁶

While Trump may have mixed responses regarding marriage equality, his running mate, Mike Pence, has a long record of opposing same-sex marriage. For example:

- In 2000, Pence said that “Congress should oppose any effort to put gay and lesbian relationships on an equal status with heterosexual marriage.”⁷
- In 2006, Pence said that he supported a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex weddings.⁸
- In 2013, Pence signed a bill that made it a felony for same-sex couples to apply for a marriage license in Indiana.⁹
- In 2013, Pence expressed disapproval when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Defense of Marriage Act, saying “I believe marriage is the union between a man and a woman and is a unique institution worth defending in our state and nation.”¹⁰
- In 2015, when the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, Pence stated that he was “disappointed that the Supreme Court failed to recognize the historic role of the states in setting marriage policy.”¹¹

LGBT NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS

The 2016 Republican Party Platform references Title IX, which outlaws sex discrimination, saying that it is being used “to impose a social and cultural revolution upon the American people by wrongly redefining sex discrimination to include sexual orientation or other categories...They are determined to reshape our schools – and our entire society – to fit the mold of an ideology alien to America’s history and traditions. Their edict to the states concerning restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities is at once illegal, dangerous, and ignores privacy issues.”¹²

Donald Trump’s official campaign website does not mention LGBT discrimination or civil rights. Trump’s position on LGBT nondiscrimination laws is unclear.

- In an interview with *The Advocate* in 2000, Trump said that “he liked the idea of amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include a ban of discrimination based on sexual orientation” and that gay people should be allowed to serve in the military.¹³
- In a 2011 interview with CBN News, Trump said that while he had not totally formed an opinion on civil unions, he believed that “there can be no discrimination against gays.”¹⁴
- In a town hall meeting in April 2016, Trump said that the law in North Carolina preventing transgender people from accessing bathrooms consistent with their gender identity caused “strife” and that the law should have been left the way it was, stating “people...use the bathroom that they feel is appropriate, there has been so little trouble.”¹⁵ When asked whether transgender celebrity, Caitlyn Jenner, would be allowed to use whichever bathroom she preferred in Trump Tower, Trump responded, “That is correct.”¹⁶

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- Less than a day later, Trump amended his stance, telling Fox News that while he felt the North Carolina law was wrong, he did believe North Carolina had a right to enact it and that “local communities and states should make the decision.”¹⁷

While Trump’s position on LGBT civil rights is unclear, Mike Pence has a clear record in terms of LGBT civil rights. For example:

- In the 1990s, Pence served as the head of the Indiana Policy Review. According to *Out Magazine*, under his tenure the Indiana Policy Review published an article that said that homosexuality is a “pathological condition.” Another article published during Pence’s tenure said, “Homosexuals are not as a group able-bodied. They are known to carry extremely high rates of disease brought on because of the nature of their sexual practices and the promiscuity which is a hallmark of their lifestyle.”¹⁸
- During his 2000 run for Congress, Pence wrote on his official campaign website that “Congress should oppose any effort to recognize homosexual’s [sic] as a ‘discreet [sic] and insular minority’ entitled to the protection of anti-discrimination laws similar to those extended to women and ethnic minorities.”¹⁹
- In Congress in 2007, Pence voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act which would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, stating that it “wages war on the freedom of religion in the workplace.”²⁰
- In 2009, Pence opposed federal hate crime legislation which was expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity, stating that President Obama was trying to “advance a radical social agenda” and that the law could be used to curb free speech within religions that consider homosexuality a sin.²¹
- Pence was a longtime supporter of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy and in 2010, he said that he did not want the military to become “a backdrop for social experimentation.”²²
- In 2015, Pence signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in Indiana which states that the government “may not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion.”²³ In response to LGBT civil rights proposals sent to him by Indiana lawmakers, Pence cautioned lawmakers to carefully consider and protect religious liberties as a priority over LGBT civil rights.²⁴
- However, at Pence’s State of the State address in January 2016, he said that “no one should be harassed or mistreated because of who they are, who they love, or what they believe.”²⁵

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In regard to religious freedom legislation that would allow business owners to deny service to LGBT people for religious or moral reasons, the Republican Platform states, “We endorse the First Amendment Defense Act, Republican legislation in the House and Senate which will bar government discrimination against individuals and businesses for acting on the belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.”²⁶ The platform also states that it supports the use of the First Amendment Defense Act to ensure that adoption agencies “do not face discrimination because of their views on marriage and family.”²⁷ In a speech to members of the Faith and Freedom Coalition, Trump said he

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supported the importance of protecting religious freedom.²⁸ However, in response to the Indiana religious freedom law, Trump criticized Governor Pence, saying that he “didn’t do a good job,” and that protecting religious freedom and preventing discrimination are not mutually exclusive.²⁹

Trump created a 35-member Catholic Advisory Council to advise him on issues important to Catholics, including the protection of religious liberty and opposition to abortion.³⁰ Trump also seems to take a stance on religious freedom laws as it relates to same-sex marriage and LGBT discrimination, stating that protection of religious liberty is “the most important protection in that it protects our right of conscience. Activist judges and executive orders issued by Presidents who have no regard for the Constitution have put these protections in jeopardy.”³¹ Trump also created a new executive board to provide advisory support on issues important to Evangelicals and people of faith. This executive board includes many people who have histories of opposing LGBT rights and same-sex marriage, such as former Congresswoman Michele Bachmann and *Focus on the Family* founder James Dobson.³²

Mike Pence has a strong record of supporting religious freedom and the right to deny services based on religious or moral objections. In 2007, Pence voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill prohibiting workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. He said that the bill “wages war on the freedom of religion in the workplace.”³³ In 2015, Pence signed Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which prohibited the government from burdening a business owner’s free exercise of religion. The law received national backlash because of implications that it could be used to discriminate against LGBT people, and after the law was passed, some restaurants refused to cater same-sex weddings, stating that it would burden their free exercise of religion.³⁴ Pence argued that the original wording of the bill was just misunderstood, but he signed an amended version of the law that clarified that services could not be denied “on the basis of sexual orientation, race, religion or disability.”³⁵ In his State of the State address in January 2016, he stated, “I will not support any bill that diminishes the religious freedom of Hoosiers or that interferes with the Constitutional rights of our citizens to live out their beliefs in worship, service or work.”³⁶

HILLARY CLINTON, DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SUMMARY

Hillary Clinton includes LGBT equality as a main issue on her official campaign website. She has a strategy to improve the lives of LGBT people by ensuring that their rights are protected by law. Clinton has a history of advocating for LGBT rights throughout her career as a senator, First Lady, and Secretary of State. Hillary’s stance on marriage equality has evolved over the years, from support of the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 2000, to full support of marriage equality in 2013. The 2016 Democratic Party Platform emphasizes LGBT rights and strategies for improving the well-being of LGBT Americans. The platform states that the party believes in protecting LGBT rights and protecting LGBT people from discrimination. The platform also supports efforts to improve the lives of LGBT people by combatting LGBT youth homelessness, improving school climates for LGBT youth, supporting LGBT elders, protecting

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LGBT people from violence, and ensuring America's foreign policy is supportive of LGBT people who experience oppression around the world.³⁷

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The 2016 Democratic Party Platform and Hillary Clinton both fully support the legalization of same-sex marriage and will make no efforts to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalizing same-sex marriage. On her official campaign website, Clinton states, "Thanks to the hard work of generations of LGBT advocates and activists who fought to make it possible, our country won a landmark victory last June when the Supreme Court recognized that in America, LGBT couples—like everyone else—have the right to marry the person they love."³⁸

"Our country won a landmark victory last June when the Supreme Court recognized that in America, LGBT couples – like everyone else – have the right to marry the person they love."

Hillary Clinton, 2016

Hillary Clinton's position on same-sex marriage has evolved throughout her career. For example:

- In 1996, First Lady Hillary Clinton expressed support when President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined federal marriage as a union between one man and one woman. At the time, she expressed support for civil unions, stating that "same-sex unions should be recognized and same-sex unions should be entitled to all the rights and privileges that every other American gets."³⁹
- In 2006, Senator Clinton said she would not block a same-sex marriage law in New York if a future governor and legislature decided to enact one.⁴⁰
- In a 2007 questionnaire from the Human Rights Campaign, Senator Clinton said that she supported repealing "the provision of DOMA that may prohibit the federal government from providing benefits to people in states that recognize same-sex marriage," but still indicated that she was opposed to same-sex marriage.⁴¹
- In 2013, former Secretary of State Clinton announced her full support for same-sex marriage in a video for the Human Rights Campaign. Clinton stated, "LGBT Americans are our colleagues, our teachers, our soldiers, our friends, our loved ones. And they are full and equal citizens, and they deserve the rights of citizenship. That includes marriage. That's why I support marriage for lesbian and gay couples. I support it personally and as a matter of policy and law, embedded in a broader effort to advance equality and opportunity for LGBT Americans and all Americans."⁴²

Clinton's running mate, Tim Kaine, has also evolved on the subject of same-sex marriage. When he was running for lieutenant governor in Virginia in 2001, he told the Associated Press, "I have never said I supported gay civil unions, gay marriages."⁴³ In 2006, as governor, Kaine campaigned against a measure that amended the Virginia Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.⁴⁴ As a U.S. Senator in 2013, Kaine announced his support for marriage equality.⁴⁵

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LGBT NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS

The 2016 Democratic Party Platform supports inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in nondiscrimination laws in order to protect LGBT people from discrimination. The platform also supports a federal nondiscrimination law to guarantee equal rights for LGBT people in areas including housing, employment, public accommodations, credit, jury service, education, and federal funding. Hillary Clinton supports the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in civil rights legislation and advocates for the protection of LGBT people from discrimination. On her official campaign website, she states, “Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans deserve to live their lives free from discrimination.” Clinton supports:

“As President, I will fight for passage of the Equality Act to secure full federal equality for LGBT Americans.”

**Hillary Clinton, GMHC 2016
Presidential Report**

- Fighting for full federal equality for LGBT Americans.
- Ending discriminatory treatment of LGBT families in adoption.
- Protecting LGBT elders against discrimination.
- Protecting the rights of transgender people.
- Ensuring America’s foreign policy is inclusive of LGBT people.⁴⁶

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton advocated for the civil rights of LGBT people across the globe. For example, she led the effort to pass the first-ever U.N. Resolution on LGBT Human Rights in 2011.⁴⁷ She also helped launch the Global Equality Fund which funds LGBT rights organizations across the world, ended State Department regulations that denied same-sex couples and their families equal rights, and updated the State Department’s policy so that transgender individuals’ passports reflect their gender identity.⁴⁸ In 2011, at the United Nations in Geneva, Clinton stated, “Gay rights are human rights...gay people are born into and belong to every society in the world...being gay is not a Western invention. It is a human reality.”⁴⁹ This statement has been described by the White House as “the first U.S government strategy to combat human rights abuses against gays and lesbians abroad.”⁵⁰ After same-sex marriage was legalized across the country, Clinton turned her focus to protecting LGBT people from discrimination, saying, “For too many LGBT Americans who are subjected to discriminatory laws, true equality is still just out of reach. While we celebrate today, our work won’t be finished until every American can not only marry, but live, work, pray, learn and raise a family free from discrimination and prejudice. We cannot settle for anything less.”⁵¹

Clinton has also advocated for the civil rights of transgender people. In response to North Carolina’s HB2, which repealed local nondiscrimination ordinances that included sexual orientation and gender identity and banned transgender people from using restrooms in accordance with their gender identity, Clinton said that “LGBT people should be protected from discrimination under the law—period.”⁵² She also stated, “As we’ve seen in North Carolina, discrimination isn’t only wrong – it’s bad for business. North Carolina’s egregious HB2 measure has caused companies to pull jobs and millions of dollars out of the state... As President, I’ll keep fighting for equality and opportunity for LGBT Americans by passing the Equality Act.”⁵³ In response to the Obama administration’s issued guidance on allowing transgender

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students to use restrooms according to their gender identity, Clinton applauded the administration for standing up for the rights of transgender Americans.⁵⁴ On her official campaign website, Hillary states that as president, she would increase data collection on transgender hate crimes in order to protect transgender individuals from violence.

Tim Kaine is largely in agreement with Hillary Clinton and her stance on LGBT civil rights. In an interview with Chuck Todd on *Meet the Press*, Kaine highlighted the Clinton-Kaine campaign's support of five key issues that young voters should consider in their voting decision this year. These issues include LGBTQ equality, women's reproductive rights, immigration reform, college affordability, and addressing climate change.⁵⁵

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The 2016 Democratic Party Platform supports "a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate." Clinton supports this stance on religious freedom, stating, "I've been fighting to defend religious freedom for years. As Secretary of State, I made it a cornerstone of our foreign policy to protect the rights of religious minorities around the world — from Coptic Christians in Egypt to Buddhists in Tibet. And along with Jon Huntsman, our then-ambassador in Beijing, I stood in solidarity with Chinese Christians facing persecution from their government. We stood up for these oppressed communities because Americans know that democracy ceases to exist when a leader or ruling faction can impose a particular faith on everyone else."⁵⁶

Hillary supported the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) which was signed by President Bill Clinton. She has spoken about the original intent of the RFRA, stating, "The reason that was passed and Bill signed it in the '90s was because at that point there were legitimate cases of discrimination against religions."⁵⁷ Democrats have said that the original intent of this law was to protect an individual's religious expression, but the new religious freedom acts passed in states like Indiana are meant to "shield employers or service providers opposed to gay rights."⁵⁸ Clinton agrees with this sentiment, and when asked whether the Supreme Court's ruling on Hobby Lobby was a "perverse" reading of the intent of the original RFRA, Clinton replied, "This is certainly a use that no one foresaw."⁵⁹

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY:

SUMMARY

In 2012, Jill Stein said that all people are "entitled to full civil and human rights in America," regardless of "race, religion, culture, gender, or sexual preference."⁶⁰ The official 2016 Green Party Platform supports "full legal and political equality for all persons, regardless of

"All people are entitled to full civil and human rights in America...regardless of race, religion, culture, gender, or sexual preference."

Jill Stein, 2012

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sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, characteristics, and expression.”⁶¹

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Jill Stein came out in support of full same-sex marriage, not just civil unions, in her 2002 gubernatorial run in Massachusetts.⁶² She advocated for marriage equality nationwide in her 2012 presidential campaign.⁶³ She still supports marriage equality nationwide.

LGBT NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS

The 2016 Green Party Platform supports inclusion of language in local, state, and federal nondiscrimination laws that “prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, characteristics, and expression as well as on sex, gender, or sexual orientation.”⁶⁴ The Green Party also supports equal rights of LGBT people in housing, jobs, medical benefits, child custody, and tax treatment.⁶⁵ Jill Stein’s 2016 presidential campaign platform includes protecting LGBT from discrimination.⁶⁶ In a 2016 interview for non-profit organization On The Issues, Stein stated that after marriage equality, her next goal would be to “end discrimination in the workplace and housing” against LGBT people.⁶⁷

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Regarding the issue of businesses and religious freedom, Jill Stein said in a 2016 interview with On The Issues, a non-partisan and non-profit voter information organization, that “businesses cannot discriminate based on gender or religion or lack thereof.” She went on to say that businesses in the public marketplace are required to respect the human rights of all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. On the topic of the Supreme Court Hobby Lobby decision, which allowed a business to be exempt from requirements to provide contraception to female employee on the basis of freedom of religion, Stein said that it was an “abuse of the concept of religion.”⁶⁸

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PARTY

SUMMARY

The 2016 Libertarian Party Platform states that sexual orientation and gender identity “should have no impact on the government’s treatment of individuals,” including in areas such as marriage, adoption, and military service. The platform also states that government should not infringe upon an individual’s human rights on the basis of sex and sexual orientation.⁶⁹

MARRIAGE

A long-time supporter of civil unions, Gary Johnson released a statement in December 2011 in support of same-sex marriage, saying “it has become clear to me that denying those rights and benefits to gay

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couples is discrimination, plain and simple.”⁷⁰ In 2013, he signed an amicus brief to oppose California Proposition 8. Johnson continues to support marriage equality nationally.⁷¹

LGBT NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS

Gary Johnson and the Libertarian Party Platform both oppose discriminatory treatment of LGBT individuals. In a 2014 interview, Johnson stated that there should not be workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and that such discrimination should be prohibited by law.⁷²

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The 2016 Libertarian Party Platform supports “the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others.”⁷³ When asked in an interview about the scenario of a baker being forced to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, Johnson replied that business owners do not have the ability to discriminate, and that that type of treatment would be an infringement on the rights of the same-sex couple. He also said that he sees business owners discriminating on the basis of religion as a “black hole.”⁷⁴

DONALD TRUMP, REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUMMARY

Donald Trump does not mention HIV/AIDS on his official website, and his stances on the issue are mostly speculative. However, he is a supporter of repealing the Affordable Care Act, which could have many implications for people living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, Mike Pence has a record of supporting cuts to funding for HIV prevention. The 2016 Republican Platform also does not explicitly address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States. It does state that Republicans have “led the way in promoting initiatives that have protected and rescued millions of the world’s most vulnerable and persecuted,” and that standing up for those suffering from disease is consistent with American values and advances security and economic interests. In regard to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, the 2016 Republican Party Platform does state that “The Republican Congress has extended to 2025 the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and President George W. Bush’s health initiatives—AIDS relief under PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.” Although the platform does not mention the Ryan White Care Act specifically, the Ryan White Care Act has historically received bipartisan support.

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

Trump’s position on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy is unclear as he does not mention it on his official campaign website. Gay Men’s Health Crisis sent a survey about HIV/AIDS policies to many of the 2016 presidential candidates, but Trump did not provide answers to the questionnaire.

PROGRAMS AND PREVENTION

Donald Trump’s position on HIV programs and prevention is unclear. Mike Pence has historically opposed funding for HIV prevention programs and strategies. For example:

- In his 2000 run for Congress, Pence said on his official campaign website that the Ryan White Care Act should only be reauthorized if it could be ensured that funding was not given to “organizations that celebrate and encourage the types of behaviors that facilitate the spreading of the HIV virus,” and that those resources should instead be diverted to “institutions which provide assistance to those seeking to change their sexual behavior.”⁷⁵
- During the HIV outbreak in Scott County, Indiana in 2015, Pence was opposed to changing state legislation that made it illegal to operate syringe exchanges. As the outbreak worsened, Pence signed an emergency declaration allowing syringe exchanges programs in Scott County. Pence then signed a bill that would allow counties to ask for permission to start a needle exchange program.⁷⁶

ON HIV/AIDS

TREATMENT AND CARE

Donald Trump supports repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which would reduce access to HIV treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS. The ACA assists people living with HIV/AIDS by:

- Ensuring coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, such as HIV infection.
- Increasing coordinated care for people with chronic health conditions.
- Ensuring coverage of preventative services, including HIV testing.
- Providing more affordable private health insurance.
- Expanding Medicaid coverage to include adults without children.⁷⁷

Trump's strategy for reducing healthcare costs include "removing barriers to entry into free markets for drug providers that offer safe, reliable and cheaper products," which would allow consumers to access cheaper options.⁷⁸ Whether or not medications for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS would be among those offered products is unclear.

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Trump's position on stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS is unclear as he does not mention it on his official campaign website. Gay Men's Health Crisis sent a survey about HIV/AIDS policies to many of the 2016 presidential candidates, but Trump did not provide answers to the questionnaire.

GLOBAL

The 2016 Republican Party Platform expresses support for global programs that aid in HIV treatment and prevention, such as PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In addition, when asked "whether or not he would commit to doubling the number of people receiving HIV/AIDS treatment worldwide through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)," Trump responded, "Yes, I believe so strongly in that and we're going to lead the way."⁷⁹

HILLARY CLINTON, DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SUMMARY

The 2016 Democratic Platform lists the fight against HIV/AIDS as an important issue. It states the importance of funding medical research to make progress against HIV/AIDS, continuing global efforts and increasing global funding, implementing the National AIDS Strategy, expanding access to healthcare, and protecting people living with HIV/AIDS from discrimination. Hillary Clinton's stance on HIV/AIDS aligns with the Democratic Platform. Her official campaign website includes an in-depth plan to address

Democratic Platform:

"Democrats believe an AIDS-free generation is within our grasp. But today far too many Americans living with HIV are without access to quality care and too many new infections occur each year."

ON HIV/AIDS

multiple aspects of the fight against HIV/AIDS epidemic. She states, “We do have the tools to end this epidemic once and for all, but we need to rededicate ourselves to fighting HIV and AIDS, and leaving no one behind. That means continuing to increase research and expanding the use of medications like PrEP. It means capping out-of-pocket expenses and drug costs, and building on President Obama’s National HIV and AIDS Strategy to increase the number of people on HIV treatment worldwide.”⁸⁰

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

On her official campaign website, Clinton vows to fully implement and strengthen the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, launched in 2010 by President Obama. Clinton plans to:

- Organize an “End the Epidemic” working group composed of experts, advocates, and key stakeholders to establish concrete goals and achievable timelines for ending HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and globally.
- Strengthen the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and align it with the timelines developed by the “End the Epidemic” working groups.
- Expand programs, remove disparities and barriers to care, and address stigma and discrimination.
- Emphasize evidence-based prevention, treatment, and community programs for at-risk groups.⁸¹

PROGRAMS AND PREVENTION

Clinton plans to expand and invest in necessary programs for effective HIV prevention. In addition to making healthcare and prescription drugs accessible and affordable, Clinton believes that support for housing stability, drug addiction, and comprehensive family support is important to addressing HIV/AIDS. As president, Clinton would:

- Defend and provide continued support to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, which provides health and supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Protect funding for housing programs for people living with HIV/AIDS, such as Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS, and address housing insecurity for people living with HIV/AIDS by incentivizing affordable rental housing development, expanding the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and establishing a \$10,000 matching program for homeowners making less than the local median income to put towards a down payment.
- Launch a \$10 billion program to prevent and treat drug addiction through partnerships between federal government, states, and local communities.⁸²

“I advocated for a comprehensive approach incorporating both prevention and treatment—focusing on ending mother-to-child transmission, expanding voluntary medical male circumcision, and scaling up treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. As President, I will ensure we continue to focus on prevention, and decades of research are beginning to offer a promising path forward.”

Hillary Clinton, 2016 Gay Men’s Health Crisis survey

ON HIV/AIDS

Clinton is also dedicated to HIV/AIDS prevention, and plans to:

- Increase investment in preventive medicines such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to ensure that vulnerable populations can access preventive medicines.
- Increase investment in HIV/AIDS research.
- Defend the Affordable Care Act, which mandates that new health insurance plans cover preventive services such as HIV testing.⁸³

In her response to the 2016 Gay Men's Health Crisis survey on HIV/AIDS policies, Clinton said that she would improve HIV/AIDS prevention by increasing harm reduction strategies such as syringe exchange programs, supporting comprehensive and medically accurate sex education, expanding women's access to preventative HIV/AIDS treatment like PrEP, and continuing funding of Planned Parenthood.⁸⁴

TREATMENT AND CARE

Clinton plans to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare and treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS. Her plans include:

- Fighting for states to expand Medicaid eligibility.
- Expanding Medicare to allow people 55 and older to opt in, which could benefit nearly 4,000 Americans who are newly diagnosed with HIV between ages 55 and 65.
- Lowering the price of prescription drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS by capping out-of-pocket costs at \$250, providing refundable tax for excessive out-of-pocket costs, ending subsidies for direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs, and encouraging Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices.⁸⁵

Clinton has a history of supporting efforts to increase research and access to HIV treatments. As first lady, she advocated for increased funding for HIV treatment research. In the Senate, Clinton co-sponsored legislation to expand Medicaid to cover low-income people with HIV/AIDS. In October of 2015, Clinton sent letters to the Food & Drug Administration and Federal Trade Commission in response to Turing Pharmaceuticals raising the price of Daraprim, a vital medication for many HIV-positive people, by over 5000%. Clinton urged the FDA to expedite reviews for generic alternatives or allow for temporary importation and asked the FTC to investigate whether this counts as anticompetitive behavior under federal law.⁸⁶

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Clinton has a long history of combating the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS. For example, as Secretary of State, Clinton oversaw the repeal of the HIV travel ban which prevented people with HIV and AIDS from entering the United States.⁸⁷ As president, she would launch a campaign to end HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. Her plans include:

ON HIV/AIDS

- Reviewing and reforming outdated HIV criminalization laws and enforcing the American's with Disabilities Act.
- Educating the public through advocacy groups and community organizations.
- Addressing stigma around the world by working with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria on public education campaigns in key countries.
- Ensuring the Department of Justice enforces housing laws combating discrimination, such as the Fair Housing Act's Section 504.⁸⁸

GLOBAL

Clinton plans to increase global funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention through programs such as PEPFAR. She also has a long history of supporting legislation aimed at combatting HIV/AIDS globally:

- As First Lady, Clinton "brought together global leaders to strategize and coordinate efforts to take on HIV and AIDS."
- Co-sponsored the HIV Prevention Act of 2007 with Joe Biden, which would end the requirement that one third of HIV funding overseas go to abstinence-only sex education, moving to more comprehensive sex education.⁸⁹
- Co-sponsored the International AIDS Treatment Act of 2002 to increase assistance to countries with high rates of HIV/AIDS.⁹⁰
- Co-sponsored the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007 to improve health systems capacity.⁹¹
- Supports making medications developed in the U.S. affordable to developing countries.⁹²

Additionally, The Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) was created as an initiative of the Clinton Foundation in 2002 with a goal to help save the lives of millions of people living with HIV/AIDS in the developing world by scaling up antiretroviral treatment. From 2002 to 2010, as an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, 4 million patients were able to access CHAI-negotiated anti-retroviral drugs. In 2010, CHAI became a separate 501(c)(3), and now has over 11.5 million patients accessing treatment. Whereas HIV/AIDS treatment used to cost \$10,000 per person per year, CHAI helped reduce the cost to \$100-\$200 per person per year.⁹³

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY

SUMMARY

The official 2016 Green Party Platform calls for the "comprehensive, humane, and competent care of all people with AIDS/HIV," as well as an "all-out campaign" against the HIV/AIDS epidemic.⁹⁴ The platform calls for a number of actions which include increased prevention and awareness efforts, increased research funding, and the production of cheaper generic drugs for HIV treatment and prevention.

ON HIV/AIDS

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

Stein's position on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy is unclear as she does not mention it on her official campaign website. Gay Men's Health Crisis sent a survey about HIV/AIDS policies to many of the 2016 presidential candidates, but Stein did not provide answers to the questionnaire.

PROGRAMS AND PREVENTION

The 2016 Green Party Platform supports the following actions to improve HIV prevention:

- Increased funding for comprehensive sex-education that includes AIDS education, targeting younger students with age-appropriate education on HIV/AIDS, condom distribution programs in schools.
- Support for needle exchange programs.
- Increased research into better methods of HIV infection, including methods such as microbicides.⁹⁵

TREATMENT AND CARE

The 2016 Green Party Platform supports a number of HIV/AIDS treatment initiatives, including increased access to HIV treatment for prisoners and homeless people, as well as the creation of generic alternatives to current available HIV medications. Much of the Green Party's stance on HIV/AIDS treatment revolves around shifting the focus from treatments for HIV to a cure for HIV. The Green Party Platform advocates for:

- Increased funding for research focusing on a cure or bolstering the immune system.
- Improved technology, facilities, laboratories, and personnel all focused on a cure for HIV/AIDS.
- Expanded clinical trials for HIV vaccines.⁹⁶

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

The 2016 Green Party Platform states, "We condemn HIV-related discrimination." The Green Party supports protecting the confidentiality of all people living with HIV. The Green Party also supports providing housing for homeless and poor people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as anonymous screening for HIV.⁹⁷

GLOBAL

The Green Party and Jill Stein both advocate for the creation and distribution of generic and affordable alternatives to current HIV medications in all countries.⁹⁸

ON HIV/AIDS

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PARTY

SUMMARY

Johnson does not mention HIV/AIDS on his official campaign website, and the 2016 Libertarian Party Platform does not mention HIV/AIDS either.

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

Johnson's position on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy is unclear as he does not mention it on his official campaign website. Gay Men's Health Crisis did not send the 2016 survey about HIV/AIDS policies to Gary Johnson.

PROGRAMS AND PREVENTION

In a 2016 CNN Libertarian Town Hall, Johnson stated that he supported harm reduction techniques including needle exchanges in order to lessen the risk of HIV among drug users.⁹⁹

TREATMENT AND CARE

Johnson's position on the HIV treatment and care is unclear as he does not mention it on his official campaign website. Gay Men's Health Crisis did not send a survey about HIV/AIDS policies to Gary Johnson.

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Johnson's position on stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS is unclear as he does not mention it on his official campaign website. Gay Men's Health Crisis did not send the 2016 survey about HIV/AIDS policies to Gary Johnson.

GLOBAL

Johnson's position on global HIV issues is unclear as he does not mention it on his official campaign website. The Gay Men's Health Crisis did not send the 2016 survey about HIV/AIDS policies to Gary Johnson.

ON HEALTHCARE

DONALD TRUMP, REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUMMARY

The 2016 Republican Platform states that the Affordable Care Act, which has helped 20 million Americans access health insurance, must be repealed.¹⁰⁰ It also states that it will simplify the new healthcare system by reducing mandates and enabling providers and insurers to increase options and contain costs. The Republican Platform's goal "is to ensure that all Americans have improved access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including those struggling with mental illness."¹⁰¹ Their proposals include promoting price transparency so consumers know the cost of treatments before agreeing to them, protecting those with pre-existing conditions from discrimination, proposing a block grant system of Medicaid, proposing to end the individual mandate, and allowing consumers to purchase insurance across state lines. Donald Trump proposes a seven-step healthcare reform that includes all of the Platform's proposals. His reform is based on free-market principles to "broaden healthcare access, make healthcare more affordable and improve the quality of the care available to all Americans."¹⁰²

Republican Platform:

"Our goal is to ensure that all Americans have improved access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including those struggling with mental illness."

HEALTHCARE PLANS AND POLICIES

Trump believes that the most important step in healthcare reform is the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. On his official campaign website, he states that the Affordable Care Act has brought "incredible economic burden" onto the American people, and that it has resulted in "runaway costs, websites that don't work, greater rationing of care, higher premiums, less competition and fewer choices."¹⁰³ Trump's health reform policies include:

- The complete repeal of the Affordable Care Act and the individual mandate.
- Modification of existing laws that inhibit the sale of health insurance across state lines to allow for full competition in the health insurance market, which in turn lowers insurance costs.
- Allow individuals to fully deduct health insurance premium payments from their tax returns so that people who want health insurance do not slip through the cracks due to financial burden.
- Review basic options for Medicaid and work with states to ensure that those who want healthcare coverage can have it.
- Allow individuals to make tax-free, accumulating contributions to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). These funds would be accessible to any member of a family without penalty. HSAs would offer flexibility and security.
- Require price transparency from all healthcare providers, especially doctors and healthcare organizations like clinics and hospitals, so that individuals can shop around and find the best options for them for specific medical procedures.
- Block-grant Medicaid to the states, and incentivize states to seek out and eliminate waste to preserve resources.

ON HEALTHCARE

- Remove barriers to entry into free markets for drug providers that offer cheaper alternatives that are proven safe and effective. Though the pharmaceutical industry is in the private sector, drug companies provide a public service. Allowing consumers access to safe, effective drugs from overseas will bring more options to consumers.¹⁰⁴

While Trump has called the Affordable Care Act a “catastrophe” on multiple occasions, in his book *The America We Deserve*, which was published in 2000, he wrote that he is a “liberal on health” and that America “must have universal healthcare.”¹⁰⁵ Trump opposes the individual mandate, but one aspect of the Affordable Care Act that he wants to keep is insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. In a CNN Republican debate on February 25, 2016, he said “I would absolutely get rid of ObamaCare. I want to keep pre-existing conditions. It’s a modern age, and I think we have to have it.”¹⁰⁶ On the topics of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, Trump said that he would save the programs “without cutting it to the bone” by “making the country rich again.”¹⁰⁷

In a fiscal analysis of Donald Trump’s healthcare plan, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget projected that the plan would cost \$550 billion over a decade, or \$330 billion using a dynamic scoring model which accounts for possible economic growth created as a result of his policies.¹⁰⁸ Block-granting of Medicaid could also generate a wide range of savings, but more exact details are required to effectively estimate these savings.¹⁰⁹ Trump also believes that immigration laws should be enforced to save the billions of dollars in healthcare costs spent on caring for illegal immigrants.¹¹⁰

HILLARY CLINTON, DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SUMMARY

Hillary Clinton supports the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and proposes to build upon it with strategies including increasing insurance subsidies, expanding Medicaid to more states, promoting enrollment in health exchanges, increasing funding for federally qualified health centers, and reducing drug costs.¹¹¹ The 2016 Democratic Party Platform widely supports the ACA. It advocates for affordable and accessible healthcare as a human right, not a privilege. The Democratic Party Platform calls for increased insurance access by offering a public health coverage option, expanding Medicare to people who are 55 years of age and older, and fighting for the 19 states that have not expanded Medicaid eligibility or coverage to adopt the ACA’s Medicaid expansion. Hillary Clinton and the platform both support increased emphasis on mental health and women’s health and reproductive rights.¹¹²

Democratic Platform:

“Thanks to the hard work of President Obama and Democrats in Congress, we took a critically important step toward the goal of universal health care by passing the Affordable Care Act, which has covered 20 million more Americans and ensured millions more will never be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition.”

ON HEALTHCARE

HEALTHCARE PLANS AND POLICIES

Hillary Clinton has a long history of advocating for affordable and accessible healthcare for all. For example:

- As first lady, Clinton played an instrumental role in the passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP has been instrumental in lowering the number of uninsured children from 14% of all children in 1997 to 7% of all children in 2012.¹¹³ In Fiscal Year 2013, 8.1 million children were enrolled in CHIP.¹¹⁴ Senator Edward Kennedy was later quoted by the *Associated Press*, saying, "The children's health program wouldn't be in existence today if we didn't have Hillary pushing for it from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue."¹¹⁵
- She supported President Bill Clinton's Health Security Act, which would "reform the healthcare system so that all Americans are guaranteed comprehensive health coverage."¹¹⁶
- In her 2008 presidential campaign, Clinton proposed a healthcare plan that mandated insurance coverage for all Americans through either private or employer-based insurance plans.¹¹⁷
- In October 2015, Clinton urged the Food and Drug Administration to review Turing Pharmaceuticals for dramatically increasing the price of their drug, Daraprim, which is used to treat and prevent infections in HIV-positive people.¹¹⁸

Hillary Clinton plans to defend and expand the ACA to achieve universal healthcare coverage for all Americans. In particular, she would:

- Make care more affordable by lowering out-of-pocket costs, allowing people to visit their doctor three times without it counting toward their annual deductibles, and giving families who are ineligible for Medicare a tax credit of up to \$5000 for healthcare expenses.
- Lower prescription drug costs and protect consumers from price gouging on prescription drugs where little or no competition exists by:
 - Banning "corporate write-offs" for direct-to-consumer advertising to keep prescription drug costs low.
 - Require federally-supported pharmaceutical companies to invest a significant amount of their revenue on research & development rather than on marketing or profits.
 - Requiring insurance plans to cap covered out-of-pocket drug costs at \$250 per month for people with chronic or serious health conditions.
 - Increasing competition for prescription drugs to lower prices and increase choices by clearing out the multi-year generic drug approval backlog at the FDA's Office of Generic Drugs.
 - Decreasing the biologic exclusivity period from 12 to 7 years to spur greater competition. Biologics are pharmaceutical drug products that are created from biologic or organic sources, rather than synthesized chemically like most drugs, and they include products like vaccines, proteins, tissues, and gene therapies.
 - Banning "pay for delay" agreements that allow pharmaceutical companies to keep generic drugs off the market.
 - Allowing importation of prescription drugs that are safe and effective.

ON HEALTHCARE

- Requiring pharmaceutical companies to provide higher rebates on prescription drugs for Medicare recipients.
- Allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices.¹¹⁹
- Give all Americans the choice of a public-option insurance plan, incentivize Medicaid expansion, and allow individuals to voluntarily join Medicare at age 55¹²⁰
- Allow families to purchase health insurance on the health exchange regardless of immigration status¹²¹
- Expand access to care for rural Americans by increasing the number of health providers eligible for telehealth reimbursement under Medicare and other programs¹²²

Clinton has also called for increased funding for the treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's disease,¹²³ as well as expanded autism insurance and access to early screening.¹²⁴ She supports efforts to ensure that all women have access to reproductive healthcare services, including contraception and abortion. Clinton also seeks to double the funding for primary care services at federally qualified health centers over the next decade, and triple the size of the National Health Service Corps.¹²⁵

According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, Clinton's proposed healthcare plan would cost approximately \$450 billion, \$250 billion of which could possibly be offset by her proposed policies to reduce drug costs, reform Medicare payment models, and adopting public-option insurance plans in state healthcare exchanges.¹²⁶

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY

SUMMARY

Jill Stein believes that healthcare is a right. As president, she would establish an "improved 'Medicare For All' single-payer public health insurance program to provide everyone with quality healthcare, at huge savings."¹²⁷ The 2016 Green Party Platform lists healthcare as an important social justice issue. It supports single-payer universal healthcare and preventative care. It recognizes that health is tied to communities and environments. and as such, the quality of air, water, and food in workplaces, homes, and schools must be improved. It also supports women's reproductive choice and the availability of contraception and safe, legal abortion procedures.¹²⁸

Green Party Platform:

"The Green Party supports single-payer universal health care and preventative care for all. We believe that health care is a right, not a privilege... Greens recognize that our own health is also intimately tied to the health of our communities and environment. To improve our own health, we must improve the quality of our air, water and food and the health of our workplaces, homes and schools"

ON HEALTHCARE

HEALTHCARE PLANS AND POLICIES

According to Stein's official campaign website, she aligns with the Green Party and plans to establish a single-payer public health program to provide everyone with quality care. According to Stein, this would eliminate the \$400 billion spent on paperwork and the bureaucracy of health insurance. Her plan includes:

- No co-pays, premiums or deductibles.
- No restrictions based on pre-existing illness, employment, immigration status or age.
- Eliminate health insurance.
- Use bulk purchasing negotiations to end overcharging for prescription drugs.
- Through community health centers, ensure easy access to healthcare in communities of color and eliminate health disparities.
- Full access to contraceptive and reproductive care.
- Lift the Obama Administration ban and expand access to "morning after" contraception.
- Invest in community health infrastructure including local food systems, renewable energy, and active transportation such as bike paths and safe sidewalks.
- Expand product labeling requirements for country of origin, GMOs and toxic chemical ingredients.
- Prioritize preventative healthcare.¹²⁹

The official 2016 Green Party platform proposes to enact a universal, comprehensive, national single-payer health plan with no increase in cost. They plan to provide the following:

- An insurance program administered at the state and local level that is publicly funded and provides comprehensive lifetime benefits including dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse treatment and hospice care.
- Participation of all licensed/certified health providers with freedom of patients to choose the type of healthcare provider.
- Portability of coverage regardless of geographical location or employment.
- Cost controls.
- Prioritize primary and preventive care, including wellness education, holistic health and medical marijuana.
- Expanded comprehensive services for those with special needs.
- Improved mental healthcare system.
- Reduced paperwork for patients and providers.
- Full reimbursement for providers.
- Safe and sufficient staffing levels in hospitals.
- Establishment of health policy boards at national, state and local levels for performance evaluation.
- Establishment of National Health Trust Fund.¹³⁰

ON HEALTHCARE

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PARTY

SUMMARY

Gary Johnson, the Libertarian Party candidate, does not list healthcare as an issue on his official campaign webpage. However, according to interviews and statements, he supports a free-market, competitive approach to healthcare. The 2016 Libertarian Party Platform lists healthcare as an important issue. It favors a free-market healthcare system that recognizes the freedom of individuals to make decisions on all aspects of their medical care. It also proposes that individuals should be allowed to purchase health insurance across state lines.¹³¹ In his 2012 presidential campaign, Johnson expressed opposition to the Affordable Care Act and the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit.¹³²

Libertarian Platform:

"We favor a free-market health care system. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions."

HEALTHCARE PLANS AND POLICIES

Gary Johnson's official website does not address healthcare. As the Libertarian Party candidate, it can be assumed that his stance on healthcare aligns with the platform's stance, which includes:

- Establishing Medical Savings Accounts that individuals can use to deposit savings tax-free, which can then be withdrawn as necessary to pay medical bills. For those without an MSA, the Libertarian Party will work to make all healthcare expenditures 100% tax deductible.
- Deregulating the healthcare industry by repealing government policies that increase costs and decrease availability of medical services. The platform argues that mandated benefits make insurance more expensive, which in turn increases the number of uninsured American workers.
- Removing barriers to safe and affordable medicines by replacing government agencies like the FDA with free-market alternatives. According to the Libertarian Platform, the FDA has increased healthcare costs and deprived Americans of necessary treatments. It argues that bureaucratic roadblocks are fatal to sick Americans.¹³³

During a 2016 CNN Libertarian Presidential Town Hall, Johnson said that he would "sign on to any plan that brings a free-market, competitive approach to healthcare."¹³⁴ He also stated that bringing genuine competition to healthcare could make healthcare cost one-fifth of what it costs now. In addition, with a free-market approach, insurance would not be used for ongoing medical needs but rather only to cover catastrophic injury and illness.¹³⁵ On March 10, 2016, Johnson told ISideWith.com, a non-partisan voter education resource, that he did not support the Affordable Care Act, and that "government should not be involved in healthcare."¹³⁶

According to his 2012 presidential campaign website, his plans for healthcare reform were to:

ON HEALTHCARE

- Implement common-sense cost savings for Medicare.
- Block grant Medicare and Medicaid funds to the states.
- Repeal ObamaCare and the failed Medicare prescription drug benefit.
- Fix Social Security by changing the base from wage growth to inflation.¹³⁷

ON SUBSTANCE USE

DONALD TRUMP, REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUMMARY

At a Town Hall meeting in Columbus, OH in August 2016, Donald Trump spoke about prescription opioid and heroin use, saying that he would “spend the money” to help those with substance use addictions.¹³⁸ Trump has also emphasized the need to stop the flow of drugs into the country, saying that he would “cut off the source.”¹³⁹

The 2016 Republican Platform proposes policy solutions to more tightly control access to prescription opioids, such as allowing Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans to limit patients to a single pharmacy and calling upon the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ensure that no physician will be penalized for limiting opioid prescriptions.¹⁴⁰

HILLARY CLINTON, DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SUMMARY

On her campaign website, Hillary Clinton includes proposals and policies to address substance use. She states, “We’re not just now ‘discovering’ this problem. But we should be saying enough is enough. It’s time we recognize as a nation that for too long, we have had a quiet epidemic on our hands. Plain and simple, drug and alcohol addiction is a disease, not a moral failing—and we must treat it as such.”

¹⁴¹ Her proposals include:

- Ensuring access to comprehensive drug and alcohol treatment for everyone who needs it.
- Ensuring that all first responders have access to naloxone to help prevent overdose-related deaths.
- Requiring licensed prescribers to participate in ongoing prescription drug monitoring programs and have a minimum amount of training before writing a prescription for controlled medications.
- Prioritizing rehabilitation and treatment for low-level and nonviolent drug offenses rather than incarceration.¹⁴²

“It’s time we recognize as a nation that for too long, we have had a quiet epidemic on our hands. Plain and simple, drug and alcohol addiction is a disease, not a moral failing—and we must treat it as such.”

Hillary Clinton, 2016

The 2016 Democratic Party Platform commits to assisting the estimated 20 million people struggling with addiction in this country by encouraging full recovery and integration into society and by working to remove common barriers to gainful employment, housing, and education.¹⁴³ Specific policies include:

ON SUBSTANCE USE

- Expanding access to addiction services and ensuring that insurance coverage is equal to that for any other health condition.
- Calling on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor, and state regulatory agencies to fully implement the Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act of 2008, which means that insurers, including the federal government, will be required to disclose how they make their medical management decisions.
- Helping state and local leaders to establish “evidence-based, age-appropriate, and locally-tailored” prevention programs, such as school-based drug education programs that have been shown to be effective in reducing risky behaviors.¹⁴⁴

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY

SUMMARY

In an interview in May 2016, Jill Stein said, “We call for the end of the racist war on drugs. Substance abuse should be treated as a health issue, not as a crime. We demand the freeing of nonviolent drug offenders, who never should have been incarcerated in the first place. They not only deserve rehabilitation and education, they deserve jobs.”¹⁴⁵ The 2016 Green Party Platform also calls for an end to the war on drugs.¹⁴⁶

Stein supports the decriminalization of marijuana. In a 2012 interview, Stein framed her call for marijuana decriminalization within the context of addressing drug use as a public health issue rather than a criminal issue. She stated, “If people have issues of dependency which would apply to legal drugs as well as illegal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and heavier drugs they need to be treated within the public health system. These are psychological problems not criminal problems.”¹⁴⁷

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PARTY

SUMMARY

Gary Johnson calls for an end to the war on drugs within his criminal justice reform proposals, citing that the people who are most harmed by the war on drugs are minorities and the poor.¹⁴⁸ The 2016 Libertarian Party Platform calls for the “repeal of all laws creating ‘crimes’ without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes.”¹⁴⁹ However, during an interview in June 2016, Johnson said, “We are not espousing the legalization of any drugs outside of marijuana.”¹⁵⁰ Johnson has supported harm reduction strategies in the past, such as access to clean syringes and assistance in preventing accidental heroin overdoses in supervised injection facilities.¹⁵¹ In fact, in an interview published in 2001, he supported prescriptions for heroin and the sale of methadone at drug stores.¹⁵² Johnson has a long history of supporting the decriminalization of marijuana and openly discussing his

ON SUBSTANCE USE

personal use since age 17, including that he was the “President and CEO of a publicly traded marijuana company up until January 1st [2016].”¹⁵³

ON MENTAL HEALTH

DONALD TRUMP, REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUMMARY

Donald Trump linked mental health to gun violence; he explained to CNBC moderators in 2015 that he felt that people who were “mentally ill” would “look around for gun-free zones.”¹⁵⁴ He continued, “You have people that are mentally ill and they’re going to come through the cracks and they’re going to do things that people will not even believe are possible.”¹⁵⁵ On his official campaign website he addresses mental health generally, stating that, “We need to reform our mental health programs and institutions in this country...There are promising reforms being developed in Congress that should receive bipartisan support.”¹⁵⁶

Republican Platform:

“Using block grants would allow states to experiment with different systems to address mental health and develop successful models to be replicated in states across the nation.”

The 2016 Republican Party Platform calls for turning Medicaid into a block grant program which would increase state control over mental health-related programs and services. The platform addresses improving care for people with mental health issues, stating that “moving to a block grant approach would allow for state and local governments to create solutions for individuals and families in desperate need of help in addressing mental illness.”¹⁵⁷

HILLARY CLINTON, DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SUMMARY

On her presidential campaign website, Secretary Clinton wrote, “I believe that together we can make sure that the next generation gets quality mental healthcare without shame, without stigma, without barriers. And that we can do so much more to help people right here and now.”¹⁵⁸ Clinton proposes to:

- Promote early diagnosis and intervention of mental health disorders, which includes launching a national initiative for suicide prevention.
- Promote treatment of the “whole person” by integrating the mental and physical healthcare systems and significantly enhancing community-based treatment.
- Train law enforcement officers in crisis intervention and prioritize treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration for nonviolent, low-level offenders.
- Enforce mental health parity to the full extent of the law.
- Improve access to housing and job opportunities for those who suffer from mental health disorders.
- Invest in research and development for safe and effective treatments.¹⁵⁹

ON MENTAL HEALTH

The 2016 Democratic Party Platform calls for treating “mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health.” It also supports the importance of maintaining good mental health, especially for children. The platform calls for the inclusion and integration of mental health as part of a comprehensive system of primary health care.¹⁶⁰

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY

SUMMARY

The 2016 Green Party Platform includes mental health as part of an overall commitment to a single-payer, public health program. In 2012, Jill Stein said that “ensuring that mental health services are available to everyone” was necessary to address “drivers of community violence.”¹⁶¹ The 2016 Green Party Platform also specifically calls for police training that includes “de-escalating mental health crises” and “mental health self-checks.”¹⁶²

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PARTY

SUMMARY

While he was governor of New Mexico in 1998, Gary Johnson vetoed the state’s Mental Health Parity Act, a bill that would have ensured state employees had access to mental health care services equivalent to the coverage afforded to other physical illnesses.¹⁶³ The 2016 Libertarian Party Platform does not specifically address mental health care.

ON HOUSING

DONALD TRUMP, REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUMMARY

In a speech before the National Association of Home Builders in August 2016, Donald Trump argued, “There’s no industry, other than probably the energy industry, that is more overregulated than the housing industry.”¹⁶⁴ He promised to cut back on government regulations of the housing industry, which includes avoiding future taxpayer bailouts, in order to promote responsibility on the part of the lenders and borrowers.¹⁶⁵ His promises to focus on deregulation reflect the housing policy positions of the 2016 Republican Party Platform, which include:

- Reduction of the federal role in the housing market, promotion of responsibility on the part of borrowers and lenders, and avoiding future taxpayer bailouts.
- Reforms that provide clear underwriting standards and guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable lending practices.
- Compliance with regulatory standards which should constitute a “legal safe harbor to guard against opportunistic litigation by trial lawyers.”
- Comprehensive review of federal regulations, especially environmental regulations, that make more difficult for Americans to rent, buy, or sell homes.¹⁶⁶

HILLARY CLINTON, DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SUMMARY

According to Secretary Clinton, “Housing can and should be a springboard to opportunity. But to get there, we need to make pathways to sustainable homeownership, and invest in communities that have been left out and left behind.”¹⁶⁷ Her housing policy commitments focus on addressing racial and economic injustice that leads to unaffordable and unstable housing and homelessness.

“We need to make pathways to sustainable homeownership, and invest in communities that have been left out and left behind.”

Hillary Clinton, 2016

The 2016 Democratic Party platform calls for related housing policy solutions. It focuses on housing opportunities for communities of color and veterans that are either supported or provided by government and in collaboration with neighborhood-serving, nonprofit organization and small businesses. These include:

- Preserving and increasing the supply of affordable rental housing by expanding incentives to ease local barriers to building new affordable rental housing in areas of economic opportunity.
- Substantially increasing the funding for the National Housing Trust Fund to construct, preserve, and rehabilitate millions of affordable housing rental units.

ON HOUSING

- Expanding efforts to address the lingering effects of the foreclosure crisis through programs like the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The platform also calls for expanding programs to prevent displacements of existing residents, especially in communities of color, and preserving neighborhood-serving nonprofit organizations and small businesses.
- Reinvigorating housing production programs, repairing public housing, and increasing funding for the housing choice voucher program and other rental assistance programs.
- Fighting to end homelessness once and for all, through targeted investments to provide the necessary outreach, social services, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness.
- Defending and strengthening the Fair Housing Act; and ensuring that regulators have the clear direction, resources, and authority to enforce those rules effectively.¹⁶⁸

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY

SUMMARY

In 2012, Jill Stein said that she would “honor the right to decent affordable housing” through several policies that are reaffirmed in the 2016 Green Party Platform.¹⁶⁹ The housing policies and proposals in Stein’s personal platform include:

- Putting an end to unfair foreclosures and evictions.
- Offering grants to nonprofit developers of affordable housing so that all people would be able to obtain decent housing at no more than 25% of their income.
- Creating a federal bank with local branches that will either restructure distressed mortgages to make them more affordable, or if the occupants still cannot afford the mortgage, rent the homes to the occupants.
- Expanding homeowners and rental assistance and increasing funding for public housing projects.
- Using the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s authority to grant or withhold funds in order to “encourage state and local governments to take steps to desegregate housing, including ending zoning laws that effectively prohibit multi-family housing, prohibiting landlords from refusing to accept Section 8 vouchers, increasing Section 8 voucher amounts so that poor people can move into middle income neighborhoods, prohibiting the use of Low Income Housing Tax Credits to increase low income housing in already segregated neighborhoods, and building new public housing in middle income communities that is high quality and mixed income.”¹⁷⁰

ON HOUSING

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PARTY

SUMMARY

In an interview in 2011, Gary Johnson said that he would eliminate the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) if presented with the legislation to do so.¹⁷¹ HUD's \$48 billion budget goes toward funding multiple programs and activities, including delivering housing counseling services, improving public housing, transforming high-poverty neighborhoods, enforcing the Fair Housing Act, and ending chronic homelessness.¹⁷² The budget provides \$35 billion to preserve rental housing assistance to 4.7 million low-income families.¹⁷³ The 2016 Libertarian Party Platform frames housing as a function of "economic liberty," but it does not directly address public or affordable housing for those who are not property owners.¹⁷⁴

In 2011, Gary Johnson said he would eliminate the federal department of Housing and Urban Development.

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