

2020 Presidential Election: Nonpartisan Voter Guide

Created by the Lewis University *Campaigns & Elections* class, with support from the Department of Political Science

	Donald Trump, Incumbent (Republican)	Joe Biden (Democrat)
Student Debt	Opposes tuition-free college. Administration proposed cuts to federal financial aid programs and ending public service loan forgiveness. Has said he favors a 15-25-year debt forgiveness plan with monthly payments.	Favors providing 2-years of free community college and making state-colleges tuition free for families earning less than \$125,000. Favors doubling the Pell Grant.
Education	Favors the expansion of school choice to allow families to send their children to private, charter, or public schools.	Favors increasing funding for public schools, with extra money going to low-income schools, establishing universal public Pre-K, and increasing teacher pay.
COVID-19 Plan	Opposes national mask mandate. Testing should be the responsibility of the states. Has publicly criticized widespread virus testing because it makes the country "look bad." Invested heavily in vaccine development. Imposed restrictions on travel from China in early 2020. Removed USA from the World Health Organization after alleging the organization favored China.	Would ask everyone to wear a mask in public and call on all states to enact mask mandates. Calls to adopt nationwide testing and contact-tracing strategy. Favors emergency paid leave for workers. Opposed withdrawal from World Health Organization.
Pandemic Economic Response	Wants to reduce capital gains and payroll taxes. Defer student loan payments for 3 months. Limit the ability to sue employers when employees get sick. Opposed Congressional oversight of stimulus funds distribution.	Calls for a much larger economic stimulus program targeting small businesses and essential workers.
Climate Change	Questions whether climate change is man-made. Called climate change a "hoax." Withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement to cut emissions.	Called climate change an "existential threat." Favors rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement to limit emissions. Proposed \$2 trillion plan to expand clean energy and infrastructure.
Environmental protections	Promised a business-friendly deregulatory agenda; has rolled back many environmental regulations and reduced EPA enforcement of environmental laws.	Wants to start a "Clean Energy Revolution" to build a 100% clean energy economy by 2050. Let fracking continue, but ban new drilling on public lands.
Minimum Wage	Supported in \$10/hr. minimum wage in 2016 but has not supported an increase from \$7.25/hr. as president.	Supports a \$15/hr. minimum wage
Taxes	Signed into law a tax cut for most Americans in 2017. Reduced corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%. Favors further tax cuts to spur economic growth.	Favors raising taxes on individuals making above \$400,000 a year and increasing the corporate income tax rate.
Health Care	Favors repealing the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and filed a brief asking the Supreme Court to strike down the law and end its insurance program.	Opposes repealing the Affordable Care Act; doing so would take away health insurance from millions and allow insurance companies to deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions, including COVID-related conditions. Favors a public option "like Medicare" to build upon the ACA and raising subsidies to purchase insurance.
Abortion	Pro-life – opposes abortion rights	Pro-choice – supports abortion rights
Immigration	Committed to constructing a border wall and ensuring the removal of unlawful entrants. Separated children from the parents of undocumented immigrants and housed them in border detention facilities. Attempt to end DACA was stopped by the Supreme Court. Reform proposal calls for the transition to a merit-based immigration plan.	Supports reforming the immigration system and a path for citizenship for current undocumented immigrants. Supports reinstating DACA and putting it into law.
Gun Control	Said there's "no political appetite" for an assault rifle ban. Has favored "red flag laws" to take guns from potentially dangerous people. Said he would support a bill requiring background checks, but also opposed a House bill mandating them.	Favors assault rifle ban, ban on high-capacity magazines, and universal background checks for gun purchases. Refers to gun violence as a "public health pandemic."
LGBTQ Rights and Religious Liberty	Called same-sex marriage the "law of the land" but later said he'd consider appointing judges to overturn it. Called Supreme Court decision to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation a "horrible" ruling. Rolled back LGBTQ health care and discrimination protections because of religious liberty concerns. Banned transgendered people from serving in the military.	Supported same-sex marriage since 2012. Favors outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
Marijuana and Drug Enforcement	Rescinded Obama-era rule to allow federal prosecutions in states where cannabis is legal. Decisions about the legality of medical cannabis should be left to the states.	Supports legalizing medical cannabis usage and decriminalizing recreational usage. Marijuana use convictions should be expunged.
Police	Opposes defunding police. Proposes raising penalties for assaulting officers. Favors preserving qualified immunity for police officers. Signed an executive order to create a database of police officers with history of using excessive force.	Opposes defunding police. Calls for greater resources for community policing and social services. Proposes the banning of choke holds and wants to root out systemic racism and misconduct. Favors preserving qualified immunity, though it "needs to be reigned in."
Voting Access	Seeks stronger identification requirements.	Favors automatic and same-day voter registration.

Additional Resources and Deadlines

- [TurboVote](http://lewisu.turbovote.org) (lewisu.turbovote.org)
 - Register to Vote
 - Request Absentee Ballot / Vote by Mail
 - Get reminders about upcoming deadlines and elections
 - Find your polling place
 - [Using TurboVote](#)

Illinois Online Voter Registration Deadline: October 18

In-Person Registration on Election Day (November 3) with proof of identity and residency

Illinois Absentee Ballot Deadlines:

Request by October 29 (But earlier is better!)

Return by mail: Postmarked by Nov. 3 (Don't wait to the last minute!)

In-Person Early voting

Sep. 24 - Nov. 2, but dates and hours will vary based on where you live. Check your county Board of Elections for dates, times, and locations.

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 6am-7pm

- Check your [registration status](#)
- At your county's Board of Elections website (e.g. [Will County](#), [Cook County](#), or [DuPage County](#)) you can:
 - Preview your ballot to find out what offices/candidates you can vote for
 - Request a mail-in ballot
 - Find out your polling place location and where you can vote early
- Research the candidates and issues – You're not just able to vote for the presidency!
 - [Project Vote Smart](#)
 - [Ballot Ready](#)
 - [Vote 411 \(League of Women Voters\)](#)
 - The [Illinois State Bar Association](#) evaluates judges running for election and polls their members about their recommendations
 - Information on the proposed Graduated Income Tax Amendment to the Illinois State Constitution (i.e. "Fair Tax Amendment"):
 - Official [Explanation Pamphlet](#) with arguments in favor and against
 - [Fair Tax Calculator](#) on the Governor's Office website
 - [NBC 5 Chicago](#) report on the Fair Tax
 - US Conference of Catholic Bishops – "[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)"