

Who do I Vote For?

With the election coming there are many questions. When do I vote? Where do I vote? Why do I vote? However, the most critical question of them all is WHO do I vote for? In a time of uncertainty, these questions might be more arduous than ever. Below is information on where each candidate stands on certain healthcare issues that I hope bring you more clarity when casting your vote on Tuesday, November 3rd. This information is directly from [nursesvote.org](https://nursesvote.org/candidates/) and more information can be found at: <https://nursesvote.org/candidates/>.



Donald Trump (R)
President of the United States

- Restoring Patient Control and Preserving Quality in Healthcare
 - Repeal and replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with the goal of ensuring that all Americans have improved access to affordable, high-quality healthcare.
 - Block grant Medicaid and other payments to assist all patients, including those with pre-existing conditions, to obtain coverage in a robust consumer market. Patients with pre-existing conditions maintaining continuous coverage should also be protected from discrimination
 - Promote price transparency so consumers know the cost of treatments in advance
- Protecting Individual Conscience in Healthcare
 - Respect the rights of conscience of healthcare professionals, including *nurses*

- Permanent ban on federal funding and subsidies for abortion and healthcare plans that include abortion coverage
- Better Care and Lower Costs: Tort Reform
 - Support state and federal legislation to cap non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits, relieving conscientious providers of burdens that are not rightly theirs
- Advancing Research and Development in Healthcare
 - Continue marrying significant public and private investment with the world's best talent
 - Research must consider the needs of formerly neglected demographic groups
 - Expanded support for stem cell research
 - Cut funding for entities that perform abortions in a manner inconsistent with federal law
- Putting Patients First: Reforming the FDA
 - The increasing burden of governmental regulation and red tape is taking its toll on innovative companies and slowly diminishing the pipeline of new life-saving devices and drugs. The platform pledges that the FDA will no longer waste U.S. taxpayer and innovators' resources through bureaucratic red tape and legal uncertainty
- Combatting Drug Use
 - To combat the opioid epidemic, the platform cites support for Republican legislation allowing Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans to limit patients to a single pharmacy, as well as the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) which addresses the epidemic from both the supply and demand sides of the problem. Note that CARA became law in July of 2016.

More information on Donald Trump's Healthcare Stance:
<https://nursesvote.org/candidate/donald-trump/>



Joe Biden (D)

Former Vice President of the United States

- Securing Universal Health Care Through a Public Option
 - Give all Americans the choice to select a high-quality, affordable public option through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. The public option will provide at least one plan choice without deductibles; will be administered by CMS, not private companies; and will cover all primary care without any co-payments and control costs for other treatments by negotiating prices.
 - Noting that the public and private insurance system alone is not enough to guarantee universal access, Democrats support doubling investments in community health centers and rural health clinics in underserved urban and rural areas, as well as mobile health clinics. Democrats will enact longer, multi-year funding cycles for these critical health services so they can operate with greater certainty.
 - Expand the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program to grow a diverse

primary care workforce and to address critical shortages of health care providers in medically underserved rural and urban areas, including primary care *nurses*.

- Bringing Down Drug Prices and Taking on the Pharmaceutical Industry
 - Take aggressive action to ensure that Americans do not pay more for prescription drugs than people in other advanced economies, and ensure that all necessary medications are covered.
 - Empower Medicare to be able to negotiate prescription drug prices for all public and private purchasers.
 - Prevent the price of brand-name and outlier generic drugs from rising faster than the inflation rate, cap out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors, and ensure that effective treatments for chronic health conditions are available at little or no cost.
- Reducing Health Care Costs and Improving Health Care Quality
 - Make it easier for working families to afford high-quality insurance in the Affordable Care Act marketplaces by ensuring that no one pays more than 8.5 percent of their income in premiums and eliminating the cap on subsidies.
 - Outlaw surprise medical billing and work to increase price transparency in the health care system across all payers, and reduce paperwork through uniform medical billing.
 - Support finding financially sustainable policies to expand Medicare to cover dental, vision, and hearing.
 - Support policies that increase the number of primary care practitioners, including *registered nurses*, especially in rural and low-income metropolitan areas
 - Expand access to mental health and substance use treatment, including by enforcing the federal mental health and substance use disorder parity law, investing in hiring and training more healthcare providers, and making medication-assisted treatment available to all who need it
 - Pursue policies to improve nursing home staffing and quality standards, strengthen accreditation processes, and combat corporate abuses in nursing homes and independent living facilities.
- Eliminate Racial, Gender, and Geographic Health Inequities
 - Launch a sustained, government-wide effort, with leadership at the highest levels, to eliminate racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic gaps in insurance rates, access to quality care, and health outcomes. That includes tackling the social, economic, and environmental inequities—the social determinants of health like poor housing, hunger, inadequate

transportation, mass incarceration, air and water pollution, and gun violence—that contribute to worse health outcomes for low-income Americans and people of color.

- Extend Affordable Care Act coverage to Dreamers, and work with Congress to lift the five-year waiting period for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program eligibility for low-income, lawfully present immigrants
- Democrats remain committed to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic
- Native American tribes have for too long been forced to cope with insufficient access to health care and mental health services, nutrition services, and modern infrastructure. Democrats are committed to pursuing environmental justice and climate justice, including for Indigenous peoples and communities, and will make mandatory and work toward full funding for the Indian Health Service
- Secure reproductive health, rights, and justice, including by repealing the Title X domestic gag rule and restoring federal funding for Planned Parenthood, fighting to overturn federal and state laws that create barriers to reproductive health and rights, repealing the Hyde Amendment, and protect and codify the right to reproductive freedom.
- Protect and promote maternal health, including by expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage to a full year after giving birth, investing in rural maternal health, promoting a diverse perinatal workforce, and implementing implicit bias training for health professionals.
- Restore nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV/AIDS in health insurance, including coverage of all medically necessary care for gender transition. Democrats will also take action to guarantee that LGBTQ+ people and those living with HIV/AIDS have full access to needed health care and resources
- Strengthening and Supporting the Health Care Workforce
 - Referring to *nurses* and other frontline healthcare providers as heroes, the Democratic platform states that that all jobs in the caring economy must come with family-sustaining wages, good benefits, access to paid leave, fair and predictable schedules, access to training and professional development, and the ability to join a union and collectively bargain.
 - Democrats will also invest in community health worker care-forces around the nation, close provider gaps and increase diversity in the health care profession by creating a robust pipeline of talent with career ladders for advancement, and increase opportunities for community health workers to come from the communities they serve.

- Investing in Health Science and Research
 - Support increased and sustainable funding for health and medical research and federal grants across agencies, including at the National Cancer Institute and other components of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the CDC, and the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.
 - Democrats also support increasing funding for research into health disparities by race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, geographic area, and socioeconomic status, with a particular focus on how the social determinants of health contribute to differences in health outcomes.
- Support for Schools to Hire Nurses
 - Democrats are committed to safe and supportive school climates for students and educators, including through ensuring adequate resources for schools to hire

More information on Joe Biden's Healthcare Stance:
<https://nursesvote.org/candidate/joe-biden/>