

Comparison of Democratic and Republican Platforms, 2022

Democrats Believe:	Republicans Believe:
<p>Preamble excerpt: Maine Democrats believe in a government that lives up to its constitutional promises and responsibilities...[and] will battle to ensure that our state protects, values, and serves the dignity of every individual. Success in governance is measured not by what we oppose, but by how our service nurtures our people and their potential...</p>	<p>Introduction excerpt: We support policies designed to help Maine workers, families, and businesses thrive by lowering tax burdens, reducing government regulations and mandates, promoting a vibrant private sector, and encouraging individual initiative. *</p>
<p>Fundamental rights: Every person deserves adequate food, housing, health care, education, and reproductive freedom.</p>	SILENCE
<p>Our fight will not end until every person enjoys social justice and full equality under the law...regardless of their race, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, socioeconomic status, or national origin.</p>	<p>Recognize the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman</p>
<p>Health care: Healthcare reform must be structured so that all people receive high-quality, comprehensive physical and mental health services when and where they need them...Systemic health disparities...and third party interference in clinician-patient decisions must be eliminated...</p>	<p>Providing health care and continuing to protect those with pre-existing conditions through free market solutions</p>
<p>People have the right to safety, bodily autonomy and reproductive justice...including abortion....people's reproductive rights...shall be preserved and protected according to long-standing law and the constitutional right to privacy.</p>	<p>Support prohibiting the use of state funds for abortions..</p>
<p>Public health: An effective public health system is based on science...and is necessary to protect the well-being of all people in Maine</p>	SILENCE
<p>Climate action: Climate change is a clear and present threat to our society...to preserve a livable planet we must act now...to reduce greenhouse gas emissions...through rapid deployment of green technologies,...and by increasing energy efficiency.</p>	SILENCE
<p>Natural resources: We must conserve and protect our air, water, and land, while supporting biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, and greenhouse gas mitigation.</p>	<p>...comprehensive and thoughtful energy policy that minimizes adverse environmental impacts</p>
<p>Economy: We will build a resilient, environmentally sustainable economy in which all Mainers—rural and urban—...have equitable access to the infrastructure and capital and enable us to develop new businesses...We will create new jobs...bringing a revitalization of local communities.</p>	<p>We support policies designed to help Maine workers, families, and businesses thrive by lowering tax burdens, reducing government regulations and mandates, promoting a vibrant private sector, and encouraging individual initiative.</p>

*The yellow highlighted sections faithfully reflect the wording of the GOP platform, but we believe the political intent is not reflected in this wording.

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<p>Gun rights and safety: We believe in preserving our outdoor heritage and in maintaining responsible and accountable gun ownership, including universal background checks, while protecting the safety of all Maine people.</p> <p>We believe that gun safety measures are compatible with Maine’s long-standing tradition of hunting and firearm ownership.</p>	<p>Defend the individual’s right to keep and bear arms</p>
<p>Education: We support full funding of public education... Our educators deserve compensation consistent with their experience, qualifications and importance to society. Our students deserve an honest treatment of all subjects, with a curriculum guided by educators, not corrupted by political agendas rooted in prejudice or unhinged from reality.</p> <p>Universal access..ensures the opportunity for all people to learn, grow, provide for themselves and their families, contribute to their communities, and thrive in an increasingly multicultural, multilingual, and connected world.</p>	<p>Prohibits public school curriculum in pre-K through 12 from promoting the subject matter of hormone replacement therapy or surgical gender reassignment practices.</p> <p>Defines as child sexual abuse in public schools, the teaching or promotion of biological genders other than those of male and female homo sapiens, while accepting those approximate 0.06% who exhibit physical intersex traits from birth.</p> <p>Prohibits school district personnel from withholding or encouraging a student to withhold from a parent or legal guardian any information regarding school-provided or sanctioned healthcare services, identity changes, or group activities involving a student under 18 years of age.</p> <p>Prohibits school district personnel, volunteers, or hired special interest groups from presenting sexually- based material of any kind to students through grade 12.</p> <p>Allows parents to bring legal action against a school district, its personnel, volunteers, or outside consultant who engages in child physical, mental, or sexual abuse activities from within the sphere of influence of the school district.</p>
<p>Preservation of democracy: The Maine Democratic Party rejects the use and acceptance of violence and intimidation as legitimate political discourse...The preservation of democracy requires an informed electorate, an independent and responsible press...Legitimate political discourse depends upon truth and good faith action by all parties, and repudiation of hate speech and violent imagery.</p>	<p>SILENCE</p>
<p>Government accountability: Government institutions can only earn the trust of the people through accountability, transparency, oversight, and consequences for those who violate the public trust.</p>	<p>SILENCE</p>
<p>Voting rights: Democracy thrives when election laws guarantee equal access to the ballot box, ensure that every vote is counted and the outcome honored, and safeguard election security and integrity.</p> <p>We support nonpartisan apportionment of legislative districts...and auditable paper trail...expansion of ranked-choice voting, and elimination of barriers in underrepresented communities...</p>	<p>Adopting legislation that requires an individual to prove that he or she is a United States citizen when registering to vote, and have Maine photo identification with proof of registry in the district to vote in in the State of Maine, whether in person or by absentee ballot;</p> <p>Repealing taxpayer funding for political campaigns;</p> <p>Repealing ranked choice voting; and</p> <p>Rejecting efforts to abolish or undermine the Electoral College, including National Popular Vote.</p>
<p>Workers’ rights: Every individual has the right to equal pay for equal work, a living wage, a safe workplace, and freedom from discrimination and harassment.</p>	<p>Enacting “Right to Work” laws</p>

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All employees have the right to organize, form unions...and bargain collectively.	
Economic rights: We will fight for progressive taxation of all income,...so that everyone pays their fair share of taxes.	Eliminating all forms of Maine's income tax Sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, and oppose any and all efforts to increase taxes and fees
We support a social safety net to end poverty and affirm the inherent dignity of each person...we are all stronger when we help each other succeed.	...comprehensive welfare reform
Criminal justice reform: We need fundamental criminal justice reform that emphasizes ...rehabilitation ..and provides appropriate...alternatives to incarceration for those with mental illness or substance use disorder.	Support addressing Maine's drug crisis through...law enforcement efforts and partnerships with private sector organizations to address addiction and promote effective rehabilitation...
Court reform: We support an independent court system, unhindered by a nomination process vulnerable to political agendas...court reform that addresses overburdened courts...diversion and reentry programs, [that] ensures access to affordable justice...	SILENCE
Indigenous rights: We must recognize, honor, and uphold the sovereignty and self governance of all tribes in Maine...	SILENCE
Immigrant rights: We [welcome] new Mainers. We support laws, policies, and practices that protect the human rights of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees.	Secure the U.S. borders in accordance with current federal law; Support enforcement of all federal immigration laws by state and local government entities and expedite expulsion of illegal aliens; Support English as the official language of the State of Maine and the United States; Reject all categories of amnesty for illegal aliens
Military service: Veterans, Servicemembers and their families must be treated with dignity and respect...	SILENCE
Global economy: We support national and international partnerships that honor workers' rights and fair trade...while protecting the environment and addressing climate change...	SILENCE
International relations: International relations and diplomacy must support freedom, peace, and justice, while enhancing security, upholding self-determination for all peoples, and striving to limit military action.	SILENCE

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