





Legislation is required for the major healthcare reforms proposed by Biden and Trump. Therefore, the makeup of Congress will impact how much of the President’s agenda is actually enacted into law.

Key: ✓ represents policies supported by the candidate in campaign and other written materials
 — represents policies not included in campaign platform statements or that the candidate is likely to oppose
 X represents policies actively opposed by the candidate.

Where both candidates pledge action on an issue but the proposed actions vary significantly, a short description is captured under the check mark. Candidate positions that are materially the same are indicated in purple.

<i>Position</i>	 <i>Joe Biden</i>	 <i>Donald Trump¹</i>
<i>Healthcare Reform</i>		
Preserve and Protect the ACA	✓ Defend the ACA from congressional and legal challenges	X Supports a lawsuit in the Supreme Court to repeal the ACA
Promote Non-ACA-Compliant Plans	—	✓ Encourage short-term, limited duration health plans and Association Health Plans
Promote State Flexibility	✓ Allow 1332 flexibility to pursue universal health access	✓ Support Medicaid waivers for block grants, per-capita caps and work requirements
Changes to the ACA Marketplace	✓ Eliminate 400% income cap on tax credit eligibility; lower maximum income cost contribution; base subsidies on higher-value plans	✓ Reduce enrollment support for consumers; restrict silver-loading; end auto-re-enrollment
Changes to the Medicare Program	✓ Extend Medicare eligibility to Americans aged 60–64	✓ Expand the use of private insurers in Medicare Advantage; move away from fee-for-service; implement new consumer-transparency measures
Eliminate Payroll Taxes	X	✓ Reduced contributions to the Social Security and Disability Insurance Trust Funds
Changes to Surprise Billing	✓ Curtail surprise billing	
Implement a New Federal Public Option Healthcare Plan	✓ Offer a Medicare-like public insurance option in the Marketplace	—

¹ In this infographic, Donald Trump’s positions are based on campaign statements as well as executive activity during his first term that is expected to continue; legislative activity supported by the Administration is noted specifically.



Joe Biden



Donald Trump

Position	Joe Biden	Donald Trump
COVID-19 Response		
Testing and Treatment	✓ Provide free testing, treatment and future vaccine for all regardless of insurance	✓ Launch “Operation Warp Speed” to accelerate the development, manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics by January 2021 Investing in point-of-care and pooled testing, and distribution in nursing homes and hot spots
Economic Reopening	✓ Increase federal resources to state and local emergency funds to give local leaders economic assistance	✓ Advance a three-phase approach to reopen the economy, get people back to work and protect American lives
Expand Health Capacity	✓ Increase hospital capacity and strengthen the Strategic National Stockpile	
State Fiscal Relief	✓ Increase Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) by at least 10% during the crisis, with upward adjustments for states that are facing particularly high unemployment rates	—
Prescription Drug Pricing		
Import Drugs From Other Countries	✓ Allow the importation of some drugs	
Use International Reference Pricing	✓ Establish an independent review board to recommend reasonable prices for new drugs	✓ Explore an International Pricing Index Model for Medicare Part D
Limit Drug Price Increases	✓ Restrict price increases relative to the inflation rate	✓ Limit price increases in exchange for lower cost-sharing in Part D; require Medicare rebates for increases above inflation
Redesign Medicare Part D	✓ Both candidates have expressed support for reducing out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries	
Negotiate Drug Prices	✓ Repeal law explicitly barring Medicare from negotiating lower prices with drug companies	? <i>President Trump previously voiced support for Medicare negotiation of drug prices, but cited a proposal to allow the HHS Secretary to negotiate drug prices as the reason he would veto a House bill²</i>

² H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act
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Position	Joe Biden	Donald Trump
<i>Substance Use Disorders and the Opioid Crisis</i>		
Reduce Supply of Illicit Drugs	—	✓ Increase efforts by the Department of Justice to stop opioid sales online; strengthen criminal penalties for dealing and trafficking
Hold Companies and Individuals Accountable	✓ Hold pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers and distributors accountable for inappropriate practices	✓ Support Department of Justice efforts to prosecute corrupt or criminally negligent individual doctors, pharmacies and distributors
Implement Advertising Oversight	✓ Encourage the Federal Trade Commission and the Food and Drug Administration to “crack down” on misleading advertisements	—
Reduce Opioid Prescriptions and Promote Alternative Pain Treatment	✓ Develop less-addictive pain medications and alternative pain treatments	✓ Require best practices for opioid prescriptions; transition states to nationally interoperable network of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs; research alternative treatments
Decriminalize Addiction	✓ Require federal courts to divert individuals charged with drug offenses to drug courts	—
Fund Local Intervention	✓ Secure funding for new grants to state and local entities to address prevention, treatment and recovery activities	
Increase Access to Treatment	✓ Expand health insurance coverage; expand funding for mental health services and providers; enforce mental health parity laws	✓ Remove Institution for Mental Diseases exclusion to allow residential treatment facilities with more than 16 beds to receive Medicaid reimbursements



Joe Biden



Donald Trump

Position	Joe Biden	Donald Trump
Health Equity		
Improving Rural Health	✓ Provide rural hospitals with funding and flexibilities to identify, test and deploy innovative approaches to provide care to rural communities; double funding for community health centers and equip them to be hubs for health communities; deploy telehealth	✓ Expand access to broadband and telemedicine services; modify payments to Rural Health Clinics; ³ remove requirements on rural hospitals to address trends in hospital closures; maintain funding for Rural Health Outreach grants
Improve Racial and Gender Health Disparities	✓ Invest in expanded healthcare coverage and expand resources to train black healthcare workers in order to end racial health disparities Support legislation to establish a permanent Infectious Disease Racial and Ethnic Disparities Task Force Improve health for women, Native Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans and people with disabilities ⁴	—

³ Note that the President’s proposed budget included a \$1.8 billion cut to Medicare payments to Rural Health Clinics over ten years.

⁴ Details can be found in the specific plans listed on the resources page.

Resources:

- Biden, Joe. [*Joe Biden Outlines New Steps to Ease Economic Burden on Working People*](#). April 9, 2020.
- Biden for President. [*The Biden Plan to Protect & Build on the Affordable Care Act; The Biden Plan for Rural America; The Biden Plan for Full Participation and Equality for People with Disabilities; The Biden Plan to Combat Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Prepare for Future Global Health Threats; The Biden Plan to End the Opioid Crisis; The Biden Plan to Advance LBGTO+ Equality in America and Around the World; Joe Biden's Agenda and the Latino Community; Joe Biden's Commitment to Indian Country; The Biden Plan for Strengthening America's Commitment to Justice; Lift Every Voice: The Biden Plan for Black America; Women for Biden*](#).
- Democratic National Committee. [*2020 Democratic Party Platform*](#)
- Donald J. Trump for President. [*Trump Campaign Announces President Trump's 2nd Term Agenda: Fighting for You!*](#)
- Republican National Committee. [*Resolution Regarding the Republican Party Platform*](#).
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. [*Trump Administration Finalizes Policies to Advance Rural Health and Medical Innovation*](#). August 2, 2019.
- House Committee on the Budget. [*Trump Budget Devastates Rural America*](#). February 13, 2020.
- Mangan, Dan. [*Trump declares cutting drug prices is a top priority, wants to allow patients quick access to experimental treatments*](#). January 30, 2018.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [*Trump Administration Announces Framework and Leadership for 'Operation Warp Speed.'*](#) May 15, 2020.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [*Reforming America's Healthcare System Through Choice and Competition*](#).
- White House. [*A President That Puts the Needs of Rural Americans Front and Center; Investing in Rural America; Opening Up American Again; President Donald J. Trump's Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand*](#) (October 24, 2018); [*President Donald J. Trump Wants to Protect Patients and Their Families From Surprise Billing*](#) (May 9, 2020).



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