
Having a Hard Time Deciding Which Candidates to Support? Party Platform Comparisons, A Decision-Making Tool In a Nutshell

“If you want life, traditional marriage and the right to bear arms, then vote Republican.

If you want partial birth-abortion, abortion on demand, same-sex marriage and gun control, then vote Democrat!”
- U.D. Roberts¹, Brentwood News Service

Party platforms reveal how political parties expect their candidates to vote after they’re elected. The following provides platform positions of Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians.

Right to Life

Republican Platform: includes a pro-life agenda. “[T]he unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment ... we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to unborn children. Our purpose is to have legislation and judicial protection of that right against those who perform abortions.... We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.... We oppose abortion, but our pro-life agenda does not include punitive action against women who have an abortion.”

Democrat Platform: pro-abortion. “The Democratic Party stands behind the right of every woman to choose, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, and regardless of ability to pay.... [I]t is a fundamental constitutional liberty that individual Americans – not government – can best take responsibility for making the most difficult and intensely personal decisions regarding reproduction ... will appoint justices to the Supreme Court who have a demonstrated concern for and commitment to the individual rights protected by our Constitution, including the right to privacy.”

Libertarian Platform: pro-abortion. “We oppose all laws likely to impose restrictions on free choice.... [W]e believe the government should ... [allow] all individuals to be guided by their own consciences. We oppose legislation restricting or subsidizing women’s access to abortion or other reproductive health services; this includes requiring consent of the prospective father, waiting periods, and mandatory indoctrination on fetal development.”

Gun Control

Republican Platform: supports the right to bear arms. “We defend the constitutional right to keep and bear arms ... affirm the individual responsibilities to safely use and store firearms.... Although we support background checks ... we oppose federal licensing of law-abiding gun owners and national gun registration as a violation of the Second Amendment and an invasion of privacy of honest citizens.”

Democrat Platform: supports stricter gun control. “...[K]eep guns away from those who shouldn’t have them.... [W]e should fight gun crime on all fronts – with stronger laws and stronger enforcement.... We need mandatory child safety locks....”

¹ Party platform research by U.D. Roberts, Brentwood News Service, Columbus, Georgia, reprinted by permission.

Family Values/Heterosexuality

Republican Platform: supports marriage between a man and a woman, only. “We support the traditional definition of ‘marriage’ as the legal union of one man and one woman ... federal judges and bureaucrats should not force states to recognize other living arrangements as marriages. That belief led Congress to enact the Defense of Marriage Act, which a Republican Department of Justice will energetically defend in the courts.... [W]e do not believe sexual preference should be given special legal protection or standing in law.”

Democrat Platform: promises to normalize variant sexual behavior. “We continue to lead the fight to end discrimination on the basis of ... sexual orientation.... We support ... the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to end workplace discrimination against gay men and lesbians. We support the full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation.”

Libertarian Platform goal: repeal marriage laws. “We hold that individual rights should not be denied or abridged on the basis of sex or sexual preference.... We affirm the right of adults to private choice in consensual sexual activity. Government must neither dictate, prohibit, control, nor encourage any private lifestyle, living arrangement or contractual relationship. We therefore call for repeal of all legislation and state policies intended to condemn, affirm, encourage or discourage sexual lifestyles or any set of attitudes about such lifestyles.”

Voluntary School Prayer & Posting of the Ten Commandments

Republican Platform: supports voluntary school prayer and equal treatment of religious groups. “We will continue to work for the return of voluntary school prayer in our schools and will strongly enforce the Republican legislation that guarantees equal access to school facilities by student religious groups. We strongly support voluntary student-initiated prayer in school without governmental interference.... We affirm the right of public schools, courthouses, and other public buildings to post copies of the Ten Commandments.”

Democrat Platform: no reference to school prayer or the Ten Commandments.

Libertarian Platform: contradicts itself on this issue. “We defend the rights of individuals to engage in, [abstain from], any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others.... [W]e advocate a strict separation of Church and State. We oppose government actions that either aid, or attack any religion.” [However, after Indiana authorized Ten Commandments displays, Libertarian Jeffrey Adkins sued a county for posting it in the courthouse.]

Homosexual Platform¹ of 1972: Preamble

Since candidates may embrace or endorse variant sexual behaviors, the Homosexual Platform is another resource for discerning which candidates reflect the values voters desire in elected officials.

“We affirm the right of all persons to define and express their own sensibility, emotionality, and sexuality, and to choose their own lifestyle....

“We demand the repeal of all laws forbidding voluntary sex acts involving consenting persons in private.

“We demand the repeal of all laws prohibiting solicitation for a voluntary, private sexual liaison. We demand ... civil rights legislation, which will prohibit discrimination [based on] sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodation, and public services.”

¹ Selected quotes in preamble of platform adopted by National Coalition of Gay Organizations, Chicago, Illinois, 2-13-72

Selected Bills Defeated in the 2010 Session

Victories: Bad Bills That Were Defeated

H.B. 582, S.B. 304 and H.B. 1256
Removed Penalty for Juvenile Sex Acts
H.B. 999 PMO, End-of-Life Treatment of
No Food, Water or Pain Relief
H.B. 1011 Offshore Gambling
H.R. 1177, H.B. 1168 Pari-Mutuel Betting
H.B. 987 Cockfighting
S.B. 347 Auxiliary Law Enforcement
S.B. 406 Online Voter Registration
H.B. 401 Four-Percent Grocery Tax

House: Other Defeated Bills

H.B. 938, H.B. 945, S.B. 306 Texting/Driving
(Accomplished in S.B. 360 and H.B. 23.)
H.R. 1146, S.B. 393, S.R. 1013 No Czar power
H.B. 940 and H.B. 927 Adjust Bullying Law
(H.B. 927 amended onto S.B. 250.)
H.B. 1238 Guns Made in Georgia
H.R. 1086 Opt-Out of Obamacare
H.B. 1238 Guns Made in Georgia
H.B. 1235 Must Opt-In to be Organ Donor
H.B. 1097 Later School-Start Date

Selected Bills That Passed in the 2010 Session

Senate: Legislation That Passed

S.B. 308 Firearms, Lawful Carry Act
S.R. 840 Feb. 11, Boy Scouts Appreciation Day
S.B. 447 In-state Contractors & Builders
(Amended with H.B. 1164, E-Verify)
S.B. 411 Opt-Out of Obamacare
(S.B. 317 was attached to it.)
S.B. 136 ID and Deport Illegal Alien Parolees
S.B. 291 Guns: Licensing; No Seizure;
Immigration Status Checked at Renewal
S.R. 1395 Stop Illegal Border Crossing
S.B. 367 Revise Flu Vaccine Definition
(H.B. 999 PMO section was attached.)
S.B. 250 Disruptive Behavior in School
(H.B. 927 Bullying Policy was attached.)
S.B. 360 and H.B. 23, Texting & Driving
S.B. 299 Revise Zero Tolerance Policies
S.R. 277 License Plate, \$10.00 Tax Added

Painful Losses: Bills that Needed to Pass

S.B. 235 Prohibit Forced Microchip Impants
S.B. 529 & H.B. 1155
Prohibit Forced Abortion for Sex or Race
H.B. 1235 Organ Donor Opt-Out
H.B. 1097 Start School Closer to Labor Day
H.B. 1164 E-Verify (Passed on S.B. 447.)

Senate: Other Defeated Bills

S.B. 303 Microchip Large Reptile Pets
S.R. 830 Opposes Federal Health Care
S.R. 794 Freedom of Choice in Health Care
S.B. 460 Contractors Must E-Verify Hirees
S.B. 439, H.B. 1183, H.B. 1201 Sex Crime
Laws Apply to Same-Sex Contact, Also
(Amended onto another bill that passed.)
S.B. 333 Display Flag in Subdivisions
S.B. 334 Create Crime of Medical Fraud
S.B. 317 Opt-Out of Obamacare
(Amended onto S.B. 411 that passed.)
S.B. 385 ID Incarcerated Aliens, Use 287(g)
S.B. 342 Gun Rights
(See S.B. 308 and S.B. 291 that passed.)

House: Legislation That Passed

H.B. 16 Electronic Tracking of Vehicles
H.B. 1094 Notify Patient of Drug Substitute
H.B. 567 Crime Victims Bill of Rights
H.B. 1154 Nasal Flu Vaccine Protocol
H.B. 1179 Flu Vaccine, Health Employees

Editor's note: Bills and resolutions on this page were outlined in Georgia Insight issued during the session. Each piece of legislation was selected for special action, because of its affect on Georgia culture. Because you made the appropriate contacts, some good bills passed and some bad bills were killed. Although the session is over for 2010, the same troublesome bills will be reintroduced, as will some good bills that were defeated. The next session begins January 10, 2011.
