

TABLE 10.3 Comparison of 2014 Texas Party Platforms

Issue	2014 Texas Republican Party Platform	2014 Texas Democratic Party Platform
Abortion	“Until our final goal of total constitutional rights for the unborn child is achieved, we support laws that restrict and regulate abortion....”	“Texas Democrats...trust the women of Texas to make personal and responsible decisions about when and whether to bear children.”
Bilingual education	“We encourage non-English speaking students to transition to English within three years.”	“Texas should...reject efforts to destroy bilingual education.”
Capital punishment	“Properly applied capital punishment is legitimate, is an effective deterrent, and should be swift and unencumbered.”	“[T]o promote public confidence and fairness in the Texas Criminal Justice system, Texas Democrats call for...legislation that would abolish the death penalty...and replace it with the punishment of life in prison without parole.”
Drugs	“We oppose legalization of illicit and synthetic drugs. We support an effective abstinence-based educational program for children.”	“Texas Democrats urge...the passage of legislation to decriminalize the possession of marijuana and regulate its use, production, and sale as is done with tobacco and alcohol.”
Higher education	“Since data is clear that additional money does not translate into educational achievement, and higher education costs are out of control, we support reducing taxpayer funding to all levels of education institutions.”	“To offer affordable access to higher education, we support...restoration of formula contact hour funding to the level prior to Republican cuts, adjusted for inflation and student growth.”
Homosexuality	“Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable alternative lifestyle, in public policy, nor should family be redefined to include homosexual couples....We recognize the legitimacy and efficacy of counseling, which offers reparative therapy and treatment for those patients seeking healing and wholeness from their homosexual lifestyle.”	“Texas Democrats call for the immediate repeal of the Texas Defense of Marriage Act and the Texas Constitutional Marriage Amendment and oppose other attempts to deny the freedom to marry to loving same-sex couples....We recognize and applaud the many unions and businesses whose standard contracts prohibit LGBTQ employment discrimination.”
Immigration	Texas Republicans support ending in-state tuition for illegal immigrants.	“We strongly oppose...any effort to repeal in-state tuition benefits to Texas undocumented students.”
Minimum wage	“We believe the Minimum Wage Law should be repealed.”	“We believe the minimum wage must be raised, enforced, and applied meaningfully across-the-board to restore lost purchasing power for all workers.”
Right to bear arms	“We oppose the monitoring of gun ownership, the taxation and regulation of guns, ammunition, and gun magazines. We collectively urge the legislature to pass ‘constitutional carry’ legislation, whereby law-abiding citizens that possess firearms can legally exercise their God-given right to carry that firearm as well.”	“Texas Democrats support just and smart policies, including: requiring that all persons who sell guns of any kind through employment at a gun manufacturer or through a FFL Dealer pass a Brady background check; strengthening programs designed to trace crime gun purchases to shut down unscrupulous firearms dealers; removing restrictions on the ability of local, state, and federal law enforcement to access important gun trace information....”

Sources: Excerpted from the 2014 Texas Democratic Party Platform, <http://txdemocrats.bytrilogy.com/pdf/2014-Platform.pdf> (accessed September 3, 2014) and from the 2014 Republican Party of Texas Platform, www.texasgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2014-Platform-Final.pdf (accessed September 3, 2014).