

TABLE 10.2

Comparison of 2016 Texas Party Platforms

| Issue | 2016 Texas Republican Party Platform | 2016 Texas Democratic Party Platform |
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| Abortion | “We call upon the Texas Legislature to enact legislation stopping the murder of unborn children; and to ignore and refuse to enforce any and all federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, and court rulings, which would deprive an unborn child of the right to life.” | “The Texas Democratic Party will . . . preserve confidential, unrestricted access to affordable, high quality, culturally sensitive health care services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, without requiring a guardian, judicial, parental, or spousal consent.” |
| Bilingual education | “We encourage non-English speaking students to transition, via best practices, to English within one year.” | “Texas should . . . reject efforts to destroy bilingual education.” |
| Higher education | “All Texas students shall have equal access to all state supported grants, scholarships and loans, based upon measurable academic criteria.” | “We support policies that provide opportunity, free from debt, and a vision for tuition-free higher education system for college students.” |
| Homosexuality | “Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable alternative lifestyle, in public policy, nor should family be redefined to include homosexual couples. . . . We oppose the granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for homosexual behavior.” | “Texas Democrats take pride in and support the continued progress of the LGBTQ movement.... We therefore . . . support municipal, state, and federal nondiscrimination laws which protect LGBTQ individuals in all aspects of their lives.” |
| Immigration | “Any form of amnesty with regard to immigration policy should not be granted, including the granting of legal status to persons in the country illegally.” | “We . . . support comprehensive immigration reform, including an attainable path to citizenship.” |
| 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.” | “We strongly support . . . enacting sensible gun control laws to curtail the availability of weapons with extended ammunition magazines . . . repealing laws that allow the open carry of firearms; improving training and licensing requirements for all Texans wishing to carry a firearm.” |

Sources: Excerpted from the 2016 Texas Democratic Party Platform, <http://texasdemocraticconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/platform2016.pdf> (accessed August 18, 2016) and from the 2016 Republican Party of Texas Platform, <https://www.texasgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/PERM-PLATFORM.pdf> (accessed August 18, 2016).