

OperationWildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

October 7, 2024

On the Issues: Healthcare

Healthcare issues, especially those related to cost of and access to care, are an important top-of-mind policy area for many American voters. Yet, a new poll from West Health and Gallup shows that a majority of Americans say healthcare is not receiving enough attention in the 2024 presidential campaign so far. So where do the candidates stand on healthcare? Operation Wildfire took a look.

	Vice President Kamala Harris¹	Former President Donald Trump²
Affordable Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will continue to protect and expand the Affordable Care Act, making quality care more accessible and affordable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase transparency, promote choice and competition, and expand access to new Affordable Healthcare and prescription drug options.Protect Medicare, and ensure seniors receive the care they need without being burdened by excessive costs.
Strengthen Medicare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reject any effort to privatize Social Security or to cut any of the benefits that the American people have earned.Strengthen Medicare and expand benefits by asking the wealthiest Americans and corporations to pay their fair share.Expand traditional Medicare coverage to include dental, vision, and hearing services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protect Medicare's finances from being financially crushed by the Democrat plan to add tens of millions of new illegal immigrants to the rolls of Medicare.Vow to strengthen Medicare for future generations.
Prescription Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Capped the price of insulin at \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400, for nearly 4 million seniors on Medicare.Will fight to expand that \$35 cap to cover everyone.Cap total out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000 a year for millions of seniors and others on Medicare through the Inflation Reduction Act.Lead the charge against Big Pharma price gouging, by requiring drug makers that raise prices faster than inflation to pay the difference back to Medicare, which will then pass savings on to consumers.Fight to expand rebates, applying them when drug makers overcharge not just	<p>https://www.aol.com/news/guide-presidential-candidates-views-healthcare-100018506.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Trump administration enacted a \$35 cap on insulin copayments via executive order. In effect, it made participating Medicare Part D programs limit the price of just one of each type of insulin product to \$35. These price changes did not go into effect during Trump's presidency.Replace the Affordable Care Act if a better plan is devised, but would "run it as good as it can be run" until then. To-date, Trump has not provided a detailed plan on what he would implement in its place.Opposes premium subsidies that Harris wants to make permanent, telling the Washington Post that they "benefit big insurance companies and

¹ '24 Democratic Party Platform, <https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/FINAL-MASTER-PLATFORM.pdf>

² The 2024 Republican Platform, <https://www.2024gopplatform.com/assets/files/RNC2024-Platform.pdf>

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	Medicare, but private insurers as well.	<p>brokers more than American patients."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved the way for states to import prescription drugs from Canada. • Trump issued an executive order on price transparency, which led to hospitals having to reveal information online about their standard charges.
Support Active and Healthy Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to invest in new mobile health clinics. • Keep community and rural health centers, lifelines for tens of millions of people, open, well-staffed, and well-equipped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support increased focus on chronic disease prevention and management, long-term care, and benefit flexibility. • Expand access to primary care and support policies that help seniors remain in their homes and maintain financial security.
Protect Care at Home for the Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and expand home- and community-based services, working toward eliminating the 700,000-person Medicaid waiting list. • Improve pay and benefits for care workers by fighting to get many of them a bigger share of Medicaid home care payments. • Overhaul the quality of care and quality of life for our nation's 1.3 million nursing home residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift resources back to at-home senior care. • Overturn disincentives that lead to care worker shortages. • Support unpaid family caregivers through tax credits and reduced red tape.
Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass national legislation to make Roe the law of the land again. • Strengthen access to contraception so every woman who needs it is able to get and afford it. • Protect a woman's right to access IVF. • Repeal the Hyde Amendment. (A U.S. law that prohibits the use of federal funds for most abortions, except in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand for families and life. • Believe that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that no person can be denied life or liberty without due process, and that the states are, therefore, free to pass laws protecting those rights. After 51 years that power has been given to the states and to a vote of the people. • Oppose late term abortion. • Supports mothers and policies that advance prenatal care, access to birth control, and IVF (fertility treatments). • Pro-life but supports exceptions: rape, incest and life of the mother.
Gender Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep students safe on campus by restoring and strengthening protections under Title IX, including explicit protections for LGBTQI+ students. • Pass the Equality Act to codify protections for LGBTQI+ Americans and their families. • Prohibit employment discrimination in the federal government, including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep men out of women's sports. • Ban taxpayer funding for sex change surgeries. • Stop taxpayer-funded schools from promoting gender transition. • Reverse Biden's radical rewrite of Title IX education regulations. • Restore protections for women and girls.

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	<p>contractors, and make federally-funded seniors programs LGBTQI+ inclusive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect transgender Americans' access to health care and coverage.• End violence against transgender Americans, especially black and brown transgender women, and prioritize the investigation of hate crimes against trans and non-binary people. <p>Note: During her Democratic primary run five years ago, Harris told the ACLU she supported policies ensuring prisoners, who rely on the state for their care, can access "medically necessary care for gender transition." Courts have since weighed in on that issue, and a Harris-Walz campaign communications director recently told Fox News that that is "not what she is proposing" now.</p> <p>https://www.aol.com/news/guide-presidential-candidates-views-healthcare-100018506.html</p>	
Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand Medicaid-like coverage to the 2.8 million uninsured low-income adults.• Remove financial barriers for the Children's Health Insurance Program to keep kids on Medicaid. <p>https://www.aol.com/news/guide-presidential-candidates-views-healthcare-100018506.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biden Administration withdrew approval for work requirements in state Medicaid programs and encouraged states to expand coverage.• Harris urged states to extend postpartum coverage under Medicaid from two months to a year, promoting it as a way to combat maternal mortality.	<p>https://www.aol.com/news/guide-presidential-candidates-views-healthcare-100018506.html</p> <p>Trump administration approved work requirements in some states as a condition for being eligible for Medicaid. He also proposed major changes in how Medicaid is financed that could have capped its federal funding.</p>