

## REASONS TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS

### Democrats have given us:

1. The **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act** (known as Obamacare), extending health insurance to 32 million Americans and providing numerous rights and protections that make health coverage fairer and easier to understand.
2. The **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**, which protects workers against pay discrimination.
3. The **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**, which cut taxes for 95% of American families and led the way to creating two million new private sector jobs.
4. The **Social Security Act**, with benefits for the elderly, the blind, and children without parental support, unemployment compensation, and maternal and child health services. The Republican Party has consistently tried to defund Social Security and is intent on dismantling it through privatization.
5. The first **minimum wage**. Since then, Democrats have advocated keeping the minimum wage high enough to live on and are calling to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
6. The **Civil Rights Act**, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
7. The **Voting Rights Act**, which outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states, including literacy tests and poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting. Republicans have increased efforts to restrict voting and undermine the electoral process, pushing legislation that would open the door to manipulating election results for partisan reasons.
8. The **Head Start Program**, which provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and families.
9. The **Medicare and Medicaid Act**, establishing Medicare, a health insurance program for the elderly, and Medicaid, a health insurance program for people with limited income. Republicans are bent on defunding the programs.
10. The **Family and Medical Leave Act**, requiring covered employers (public agencies and private companies with 50 or more employees) to provide employees with 12 weeks per year unpaid leave for qualified medical and family reasons. It also requires that employers covered by the law maintain the health benefits for eligible workers just as if they were working.
11. The **Earned Income Tax Credit**, a tax break for working people with low to moderate income that the federal government, many states and some local communities offer.

Democrats believe that the economy should work for everyone, health care is a right, our diversity is our strength, and democracy is worth defending.

### Biden/Harris accomplishments in one year as of early 2022:

1. Passed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan to address food insecurity, health equity, unemployment benefits, and housing insecurity with emergency COVID-19 relief.
2. Passed the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to repair bridges and roads, create good-paying jobs, and expand high-speed internet to all Americans, including rural populations.
3. Regained more than 90 percent of the jobs lost in the early weeks of the pandemic, with the unemployment rate falling from 6.4 percent to 3.6 percent.
4. Worked to increase wages an average of 5.6 percent over the past year. Pay has increased 14.9 percent for workers in the leisure and hospitality industry, and workers in transportation and warehousing have also received double-digit pay gains. Those figures are for workers who are not supervisors.
5. Reformed the federal procurement process to increase equity, help close the racial wealth gap, and level the playing field for underserved small businesses.

6. Released the first-ever United States Strategy on Countering Corruption, outlining a whole-of-government approach to elevating the fight against corruption both at home and abroad.
7. Rejoined the Paris Agreement (also known as the Paris Climate Accord) on President Biden's first day in office in 2021 after the Trump Administration embarrassingly withdrew the US from the Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 countries/parties in 2015.
8. Created the first-ever National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism.
9. Prioritized diversity for the group of 40 federal judges confirmed in the Senate in one year, the most for a new president since the Reagan era, and named more Black women to circuit courts than any other president. Named the first Black woman Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court.
10. Issued an Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, launching a first-of-its-kind effort to expand access to voter registration and election information.
11. Issued an Executive Order repealing the prior administration's harmful actions on workplace protections, restoring the collective bargaining power of federal employee unions and protections for career civil servants and contractors.
12. Signed an Executive Order requiring administration officials to take a stringent ethics pledge, which extends lobbying bans, limits shadow lobbying, and makes ethics waivers more transparent.
13. Reestablished the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, which was originally established by President George W. Bush and continued by the Obama-Biden administration, to serve people in need by working with religious and secular organizations and to ensure that the voices of religious and community leaders are heard throughout the administration.
14. Reinstated a policy to voluntarily disclose White House visitor logs, ensuring that the American public knows whom the President, the Vice President, and their staffs meet with at the White House.
15. Released their 2020 federal income tax returns, as well as their financial disclosure reports. With this release, President Biden has shared a total of 23 years of tax returns with the American public.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/08/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-administration-is-taking-action-to-restore-and-strengthen-american-democracy/>

The 7th Generation Principle, taught by Native Americans, is based on the ancient Iroquois philosophy that: "In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations." Democrats understand that philosophy and work to ensure that future generations are protected.

#### **Republicans/Trump have given us:**

1. "Alternative facts", pushing blatant lies instead of facts. Teaching our children that it is OK to lie.
2. Disastrous campaign finance laws, which have made it easier to hide campaign money connections, easier to get around the limits on direct donations, and have allowed corporations to give to political parties, declaring corporations are persons and money is speech. This undermines the public's right to know who is funding candidates, and it undermines accountability in elections.
3. A violent insurrection and attempted coup at the US Capitol that left five dead and hundreds injured as Trump and his allies spread the falsehood that fraud took place in the 2020 election. Trump was impeached (his second) for inciting the violence and is facing potential criminal charges. Trump's refusal to concede breaks from a democratic tradition in the US that dates back to its earliest days. Every president prior to Trump allowed for a peaceful transition of power after they'd served two terms or lost an election. This Trump/Republican effort to undermine American democracy is ongoing, as they continue to make the big lie about the 2020 election the organizing doctrine of the party and work to corrupt the electoral process for future elections.
4. Violations of ethics laws, campaign finance laws, open records laws and record retention laws.

5. Commerce programs meant to help low-and-middle income people get good jobs redirected to corporate welfare.
6. Tax cuts for the very rich, including the three richest Americans who have more wealth than the bottom 50 percent of the US population, totaling over 150 million people. These tax cuts were a windfall for massive corporations at the expense of the middle class and resulted in record deficits.
7. One of the most devastating health disasters in US history with the worst coronavirus outbreak in the world and hundreds of thousands of Americans dying as Trump privately admitted to veteran reporter Bob Woodward (on tape) that he was deliberately misleading the public on the dangers of the virus and contradicted top public-health experts. Covid death rates have been much higher in counties that voted for Donald Trump than those that voted for Joe Biden.
8. Loosened standards companies had to meet for how much methane they could allow to leak out of pipelines, storage tanks and other oil field infrastructure. This is the polar opposite of what China and European countries pledged to do to rein in emissions of a gas considered one of the leading causes of climate change. The Trump rollbacks were considered so out of the norm that even oil companies such as BP and Shell publicly spoke out against them.
9. Rolled back vehicle emissions standards. Trump officials also muzzled scientists and civil servants at the Environmental Protection Agency and crafted narrow approaches to assessing chemicals' dangers that have massive loopholes, ignoring certain ways Americans are exposed to toxins and having less stringent regulation of toxic chemicals.
10. Support and praise of autocrats proven to have murdered their own citizens. Historians have stated that Trump's tactics (such as having peaceful protesters tear-gassed near the White House so he could pose for a photo with a Bible at a nearby church) mirror those of authoritarian regimes. Trump's relentless dissemination of disinformation on an array of topics led historians and experts on fascism to compare him to dictators like Benito Mussolini. US intelligence officials determined Russia paid bounties to Taliban-linked Afghan militants to kill US troops and Trump stated in an interview that he had not confronted Russian President Vladimir Putin on the matter.
11. Support of hatred and racism. Hiring noted rightwing white supremacists such as Steve Bannon (previous executive chairman of Breitbart, a right-wing news site that traffics in incendiary headlines that are outwardly racist, misogynist, anti-Semitic) and Stephen Miller (who promoted articles from white nationalist publications VDARE and American Renaissance and is on the Southern Poverty Law Center's list of extremists). After a deadly neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, Trump suggested that there was moral equivalency between the violent white supremacist, neo-Nazis, and KKK members and the people protesting against their hate.
12. Support of illegal activities. At least eighteen people who played a role in Trump's presidential campaigns or his administration have been charged with crimes. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/all-of-the-trumpworld-figures-whove-been-arrested-indicted-or-jailed> *You can judge a man by the company he keeps.*
13. Refusal to support sensible gun laws, leading to higher murder rates. Murder rates in the 25 states Trump carried in 2020 are 40% higher overall than in the states Biden won. The five states with the highest per capita murder rate — Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama and Missouri — all lean Republican and voted for Trump.
14. Accusations of human-rights abuses and violating international law by the United Nations with Trump's "zero tolerance" policy on illegal border crossings leading to the separations of at least 5,500 families, the detention of children in cages, and the deaths of at least 6 children in custody,
15. Unilateral withdrawal of the US from the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018 that has induced chaos throughout the Middle East and has been condemned by top US allies who were also signatories to the deal.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-biggest-accomplishments-and-failures-heading-into-2020-2019-12>