President Trump's campaign website lacks mention of his proposed health care policies, though his actions in his first term as President shed light on his priorities. In the last four years, the Trump Administration has supported Congressional proposals to rescind the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and long promised a replacement for the ACA, but has yet to offer a plan. Some progress has been made in addressing prescription drug prices by capping insulin costs for some on Medicare, but no other proposals in this area have been implemented. With respect to reproductive health, Trump has prohibited federal funds to family planning clinics that refer or provide abortion services, in addition to rescinding anti-discrimination provisions for LGBTQIA+ patients and patients that have chosen to terminate a pregnancy. His healthcare agenda has also been connected to his immigration policies, restricting lawful immigration of persons who would be eligible for Medicaid and other non-cash benefits.

Former Vice President Biden, in contrast, seeks to build on the ACA and lower the age of eligibility for Medicare to age 60. Biden has proposed a plan for prescription drug prices that would allow the federal government to negotiate drug prices for Medicare and other buyers that are consistent with those of other high-income countries, while also capping out of pocket drug costs for Medicare. With reproductive health, Biden plans to reverse actions under the Trump administration, reinstating anti-discrimination policies and additionally plans to nominate judges that will uphold abortion rights. For lawfully present immigrants, Biden plans to remove the current five-year waiting period for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Citation: Levitt L. Trump vs Biden on Health Care. JAMA Health Forum. Published online September 3, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2020.1110
2020 Presidential Election
Meet the Candidates

About the Democratic Presidential Nominee:

QUICK FACTS:
- From Scranton, PA and New Castle County, DE
- Previously served as 46th Vice President of the United States, US Senator (Delaware), Chair of the International Narcotics Control Caucus, and Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees
- Attended University of Delaware (BA) & Syracuse University (JD)

NOTEWORTHY POSITIONS:
- Supports protection of Obamacare (i.e., the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010).
- Supports a public option for health insurance that would negotiate lower prices from hospitals and healthcare providers.
- Supports offering premium free access to the public option for individuals in states that have not expanded Medicare and making sure it covers the full scope of Medicaid benefits.
- Supports eliminating the 600% income cap on tax credit eligibility and lowering the limit on the cost of coverage from 9.86% of income to 8.5%.

Joseph (Joe) Biden, JD

About the Republican Presidential Nominee:

QUICK FACTS:
- From Queens, NY
- Currently the 45th President of the United States
- Before entering politics, he was a businessman and television personality.
- Formerly a member of the Democratic (until 1987, 2001-2009), Reform (1999-2001), and Independent (2011-2012) parties
- Attended University of Pennsylvania (BS)

NOTEWORTHY POSITIONS:
- Reversal of non-discrimination protections provided by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA).
- Supports repealing the ACA and replacing it with a free market plan that turns Medicaid into a grant program, ends the individual health insurance mandate, and allows private insurance companies to compete across state lines.
- Ended funding to the WHO during the COVID-19 pandemic and announced that the US would not participate in WHO’s COVID-19 Vaccine Access Facility.
- Disbanded the Global Health Security and Biodefense Unit.
- Supports harsh immigration policies against asylum seekers, migrants, undocumented immigrants, and more.
- Signed an executive order to guide and incentivize police reform.

Donald John Trump

About the Vice-Presidential Nominee:

About the Vice-Presidential Nominee:

QUICK FACTS:
- From Oakland, CA
- Current US Senator from California
- Previously served as 27th District Attorney from San Francisco and 32nd Attorney General from California
- Attended Howard University (BA) & University of California, Hastings (JD)

NOTEWORTHY POSITIONS:
- Supports overhaul of the criminal justice system to address the disproportionate toll the system takes on communities of color, which includes eliminating private prisons and mandatory minimum sentences.
- Supported a ban on housing evictions and foreclosures and implementation of stipends to alleviate economic concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supports giving all American citizens access to Medicare. Her former healthcare plan known as “Medicare Advantage for All” proposed allowing all citizens to buy into Medicare and expanding benefits, while permitting the sale of private insurance.

Democratic Vice-Presidential Nominee: Kamala Devi Harris, JD

Republican Vice-Presidential Nominee: Michael (Mike) Pence, JD

There are 28 days left until the election. SNMA wants you to have a healthy, safe voting experience. Visit vot-er.org/votehealth to register to vote, confirm your voter registration status, and request a mail-in ballot TODAY. Also, Spread the Vote provides printable voter ID education cards that you can access at spreadtheyvote.org/resources to have a handy resource to help patients who are in need.
How will the passing of RBG impact the future of health policy?

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) was one of America’s most respected legal minds and a cornerstone of the Supreme Court for the last two and a half decades. Ginsburg was a reliable member of the court’s liberal wing and a champion for healthcare rights ever since she was appointed by President Bill Clinton. Her passing is critical for health policy as the Supreme Court has and will play a large role in shaping America’s healthcare landscape.

In the last Supreme Court term, the court issued a ruling striking down controversial requirements that some states placed on abortion providers. Ginsburg joined the majority opinion on this ruling that helped prevent further curtailing of Americans’ access to safe abortions. Ginsburg had long been a stalwart supporter of the precedent set by Roe v Wade and generally fought for women’s health and reproductive rights. In July 2020, she wrote a lengthy dissent to the Court’s opinion that allowed nearly any company to avoid providing insurance that covers contraception.

Beyond reproductive health, the Court also has a role in upholding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The court is expected to hear oral arguments for a major challenge to the ACA this fall and deliver a ruling in 2021. Without Ginsburg voting to protect the ACA, the fate of the nation’s most impactful recent health care legislation is truly in question. Judge Barrett, who has been named by the President as Ginsburg’s replacement, has been publicly critical of the court’s previous decision upholding the act. Her stance on Roe v. Wade also appears to be directly opposed to that of Ginsburg. Of course, we won’t know how she votes until she is confirmed and sworn in. When and if that happens, the world of health policy and healthcare should be prepared for potentially momentous changes.