

Where do the candidates stand on **evergreen health policy issues**?

	Issue	Trump	Biden
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Level of consensus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">High</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↑</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Low</p>	Telehealth	Recent executive order expands telehealth access for rural communities and veterans during the PHE ¹ ; proposal in place to expand Medicare telehealth benefits permanently	Rural health plan includes expansion of telehealth services for rural areas
	Drug pricing	Has taken steps to increase approval of generic drugs ; September executive orders allow the importation of certain drugs from Canada, begin plan to base Medicare drug prices on global prices , and require FQHCs ² and drug manufacturers to pass along more discounts to certain patients	Supports plan to boost generic drug development ; would permit importation of HHS certified drugs, and base Medicare drug prices on the average price in other countries ; would prohibit pharmaceutical companies from raising prices more than inflation , and roll back the rule blocking Medicare drug price negotiations
	Risk and value-based care	Maintained most Obama-era payment innovation programs designed to reduce Medicare spending, but heightened focus on performance , demanding participants take on more downside risk and shifting toward physician-led models	Would likely continue Trump administration programs like Pathways to Success and Primary Cares initiative, but could potentially refocus on maximizing participation by embracing hospitals and health systems as drivers of value
	Surprise billing	Executive order instructs HHS to work with Congress to find a solution to surprise billing by the end of the year	Prohibits providers from charging out of network rates for care when the patient doesn't have control over which provider they see (e.g. in a hospital); has not addressed payment disputes
	Provider consolidation	Released executive orders to promote " choice and competition " and investigate the impact of provider consolidation on health care prices	Supports aggressively using antitrust powers to prevent market concentration within the health care industry
	Price transparency	Executive order requires HHS to update the Hospital Compare website to indicate whether hospitals are compliant with the hospital price transparency final rule, provide patients with a list of itemized services, and how often a hospital pursues legal action against patients	Allies of Biden have advocated for increasing price transparency "across all payers" but it has not been highlighted as a major feature of Biden's platform
	Medicaid	Has focused on lowering Medicaid spending through recently-retracted MFAR ³ , Medicaid block grant guidelines, and the approval of 1115 waivers to permit work requirements and cost-sharing	Hopes to bolster Obama's Medicaid expansion efforts by moving all expansion adults in non-expansion states onto premium-free public option plans and automating Medicaid enrollment when individuals interact with certain public programs
	Health care coverage (the Affordable Care Act)	Supports overturning the ACA either by Congressional action or Supreme Court intervention; has blocked cost-sharing reductions and risk corridor payments to insurers and expanded the availability of association and short-term health insurance plans that were limited by the ACA	Wants to protect and build upon the ACA by removing the 400% FPL ⁴ cap for individual market subsidies and guaranteeing no one on the exchanges pays more than 8.5% of their income for coverage; would offer a government-run public option that any person can purchase, regardless of if their employer offers coverage

1. Public health emergency.
 2. Federally qualified health center.
 3. Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule.
 4. Federal poverty line.

Where do the candidates stand on the Covid-19 pandemic?

	Issue	Trump	Biden
<p>High</p> <p>↑</p> <p>Level of consensus</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Low</p>	Supply chain	Signed executive order requiring federal agencies to prioritize U.S. bids for government contracts ; used the Defense Production Act (DPA) to a limited extent to increase domestic manufacturing testing supplies, ventilators, and PPE	Would use the DPA “to the fullest extent of the law” and promote the sourcing of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies domestically in the aftermath of the pandemic; meanwhile, would incentivize supply production however necessary , including removing trade barriers
	Vaccine and treatment	Created Operation Warp Speed to fast-track vaccine development and distribution; supported an emergency use authorization (EUA) for possible Covid-19 treatments hydroxychloroquine, remdesivir, and convalescent plasma	Would take steps to accelerate the production of treatments and vaccines , including by creating an Emerging Infectious Disease Clinical Trial Network to coordinate knowledge and resources during vaccine trials
	Deregulation	CMS issued over 100 waivers increasing flexibility during pandemic ; White House executive order directed agencies to find waivers that should be made permanent in order to support the economy	While not being an advocate for broad deregulation, supports increased telehealth use during and after the pandemic; track-record would suggest a positive view of waivers decreasing burden on providers in the short-term
	Virus tracking	Moved data collection and tracking from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Would charge CDC with tracking both the spread of Covid-19 and supply chain needs, and build a national contact tracing workforce
	Covid-19 coverage	Created the Covid-19 Uninsured Program to reimburse hospitals at Medicare rates for testing and treating uninsured Covid-19 patients, subject to available provider relief funds	Would direct the National Disaster Medical System to cover all out-of-pocket costs for Covid-19 testing and treatment for uninsured patients and patients insured under public or private plans; mandate that all health plans cover Covid-19 testing and treatment
	Relief funding	Administration is reticent to allocate further resources for testing, tracing, and response; suspended U.S. funding for the World Health Organization	Plan to create a state and local emergency fund : 45% to state governments, 45% to local governments, 10% reserved for virus hot-spots
	Authority	Has deferred to states for most testing operations, re-opening plans, and supply procurement; federal government to act as supplier of last resort	Supports a coordinated, federal response that would apply consistently across the nation; would establish a board of experts and guidelines for free testing sites to ensure accessibility