

YOUR **GUIDE** TO THE

2024
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION



A nonpartisan guide to help understand how 2024 presidential policies affect families.

An election guide from the University of Maryland Council on Family Relations and Maryland Family Policy Impact Seminar.



# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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# (01) CHILD CARE

Prepared by Dara Gleeson, MPH, CHES, and Chidinma Nwankwo



- More than two-thirds of children in the U.S. have all available parents in the workforce, making child care access a topic of interest for families.[1]
- Child care access and affordability creates challenges for many families. [1]
- Election topics focus on cost of care, subsidization and tax credits.

## CHILD CARE

#### KAMALA HARRIS



#### **Expand Child Tax Credit**

According to the Harris campaign website:
"Vice President Harris and Governor Walz are fighting for
a future with affordable, high-quality child care and pre-K,
long-term care, and paid leave, while supporting care

- workers and family caregivers." [2]
  - The Harris administration plans to restore the expanded Child Tax Credit and expand it further to provide up to a \$6,000 tax cut to families with newborn children [2]
  - This is meant to support families during the first year of their child's life so that they are able to purchase essential items (ex. diapers, clothes, etc.) [2]



#### **Cap Child Care Costs**

As reported in a CNN article: At a National Association of Black Journalists event on September 17, 2024, Harris noted that she would cap child care costs at 7% of working families' income [3]

- The administration will look to lower the costs of high-quality child care and preschool for working families [2]
- Harris did not provide details on how this social reform would be enacted or paid for [3]



#### **Protect Child Care Programs**

As explained in her speech to accept the Democratic nomination on August 22, 2024, the Harris administration would not let conservatives, like Donald Trump end "programs like Head Start that provide preschool and child care for our children. America, we are not going back." [4]

#### **DONALD J. TRUMP**



#### **Child Care Costs**

During his talk with the Economic Club of New York, Trump shared:

- "...as much as childcare is talked about as being expensive, it's, relatively speaking, not very expensive compared to the kind of numbers we'll be taking in."[5]
- The administration suggests that childcare costs are not a large problem within the country, and suggests resolving with funds raised through raised tariffs. [6]



#### **Support for Caregiving**

As reported by The New York Times, when asked whether he would support legislation to make child care more affordable, and how he would seek to do so, Trump responded "Well, I would do that".[7]

Additionally, Trump asserted that "you have to have it" when responding to a question, suggesting support for making childcare more affordable. [8]

As reported in a CNN article: When speaking to conservative activists in Arizona, Vance stated that "parents should look to grandparents, aunts and uncles for those who have them," and also suggested cutting down on training and certification requirements for day care workers."[6]

• The Trump administration identified additional individuals who can assist families in child-rearing in response to questions on how to bring down the cost of childcare.[6]

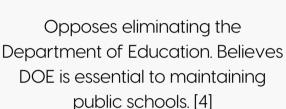


Prepared by Sasha Tolliver, MS, and Naomi Whitaker, MPH

- Education is recognized as a key factor in shaping the health and well-being of individuals as it influences opportunities for social mobility. [1]
- The public education system in the United States is responsible for over 80% of all students attending schools. [2]
- Schools play a much larger role than simply the academic development of children; they also contribute to the development of their identities, relationships mental health, and overall well-being. [3]
- Education policy shapes much more than the educational attainment of K-12 students.

## **K-12 EDUCATION**





**1**5



Eliminate the Department of Education to move control of education to the states [4]

Establish a minimum salary for teachers to establish a sense of financial security. [6]

Abolish "teacher tenure" for grades K-12 and adopt "merit pay," [4]

Against policies that infringe on the "freedom to learn." Has explicitly called out book bans as an example of this infringement [4]

Believes students should be taught reading, writing, and math in the classroom and not gender, sex and race [4,5]

Opposes school choice as it is believed to be a way of divesting from public education systems [5,6] Promotes School Choice with a focus on parental rights, universal school choice and a fight for "patriotic education" in schools. [7,8]

Promotes a holistic approach to addressing school violence and mental health by embedding socio-emotional supports, social services, and mental health resources in schools. [6]

Advocates for increased funding for school resource officers and safety infrastructure for schools to address school violence [4]



(03)

# GUN CONTROL & GUN VIOLENCE

Prepared by Cheyenne Schad, MPH + Naomi Whitaker, MPH

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), injuries from firearms is in the top five leading causes of death for Americans aged 1 - 44 years. [1]
- CDC also reports firearms as the leading cause of death for children and adolescents aged 1 - 19 years. [2]
- The 2nd Amendment of U.S. Constitution protects American's right to bear arms.

#### **GUN CONTROL & GUN VIOLENCE**

#### KAMALA HARRIS



#### **Stricter Gun Laws**

- Supports implementing universal background checks to purchase a gun [3]
- Advocates for red-flag laws to temporarily remove
   guns from those deemed a threat to others or themselves. [3]
- proposes a ban on assault-style weapons. [3]

#### **Supports the Safer Communities Act**

- Expands community violence intervention programs
- Expands access to mental health services in schools
- Establishes federal offenses for straw purchasing\* and trafficking of guns [3]

\*buying a firearm for someone who is prohibited by law from possessing one, or for someone who doesn't want their name associated with it.

#### **Mental Health**

Believes addressing mental health alongside access to guns as a key preventative measure to reducing the prevalence of gun violence. Supports policies to increase access to mental health services through telehealth services, in-school programming, and other avenues. [1,4,5]

Second Amendment
Has voiced support for the second
ammendment as a gun owner. Explicitly stated
that it is not the goal of her administration to take
away guns, but to implement "common sense" gun
laws. [3]

#### **DONALD J. TRUMP**

#### **Less Restrictive Gun Laws**



- Distanced himself from the idea of universal background checks [5]
- Sided with interests of the National Rifle
   Association promising not to impose laws that would infringe upon gun ownership. [5]

#### **Opposes Zero-Tolerance Policy**

 Revokes federal licenses from firearms dealers who violate gun laws [5]

#### **Mental Health**

Believes "mental illness" to be the primary contributor to gun violence, not access to guns. Also advocates for cuts to programs such as the ACA and public health entities that would impact access to mental health care that would help to address what has been deemed as the issue. [6]

#### **Second Amendment**

Donald Trump is a gun owner, has voiced support for the second amendment, and received endorsement from the NRA. There have also been instances where he has called for restrictions on guns in the past. [7,8,9]

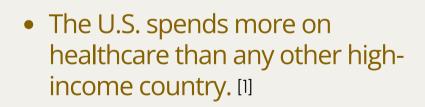
"Tim Walz and I are both gun owners. ..We're not taking anybody's guns away" [3]

"No one will lay a finger on your firearms." -Trump to the NRA [10]



# HEALTH CARE

Prepared by Amani Wynter, MPH



 Each candidate offers a distinct vision for the future of healthcare in America, with important implications for families dealing with rising medical costs, access to care, and long-term health security.

## **HEALTH CARE**







Supports expanding and strengthening the Affordable Care Act (ACA). 2

Opposes the ACA, "Obamacare was lousy health care...if we come up with something, and we are working on things, we're going to do it and we're going to replace it." 3

Supports expanding Medicare coverage by lowering the eligibility age to 60 and strengthening Medicaid by encouraging states that have not expanded the program to do so.<sup>2</sup>

Opposes Medicare expansion, advocates for giving states the power to design their own programs based on their populations' needs.<sup>4</sup>

Supports allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices to lower prescription costs.

"Thanks to our historic work to allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, millions of Americans who rely on these drugs will save on their out-of-pocket costs." <sup>5</sup>

Advocates for lowering drug prices by increasing competition and reducing government regulations.6

# (05) HIGHER EDUCATION

Prepared by Khiara Makayla Lee, MPH & Naomi Whitaker, MPH



- Education is proven to be an important social determinant of health for families. [1]
- Understanding policies that shape higher education is crucial to ensure equitable and fair outcomes for students.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

#### KAMALA HARRIS



#### **Expand DEI**

Has voiced the value of DEI programing and seeks to increase funding for programs to boost resources and visibility.

As part of this effort, she calls for increased investment in minority-serving institutions (i.e. HBCUs) who have been key actors in increased educational opportunities for underrepresented minority students. [2,3,4]

"...we understand that you can't truly invest in the strength of our nation if you don't pay attention to diversity, equity, and inclusion," [5]

#### **Department of Education**

Opposes the dismantling of the DOE

#### **Affordable Education**

Harris plans to continue the efforts of the Biden Administration with respect to eliminate student loan debt. Views debt accrued from higher education as an "unreasonable burden" and the relief of such debt as a key to social mobility.

During her time as VP Harris increased the Pell Grant by \$900 allowing more students to afford college. [3]

In addition, Harris has also proposed trade school and community college as free to all Americans . [2]

#### DONALD J. TRUMP



#### **Eliminate DEI**

Opposes policy in support of DEI. Views DEI policy as a "governmental overreach". Has plans to overturn Title XI protections for transgendered students enacted under the Biden Administration and programs with the goal of advancing equity. [6]

"Every institution in America is under attack from this Marxist concept of 'equity," [7]

#### **Department of Education**

Supports abolishing of the DOE as an effort to give power to states to oversee education policy.

#### **Patriotic Education**

Aims to implement policies to make college campuses more "sane" and "patriotic". To eliminate those efforts viewed as "indoctrinating" (i.e. Critical Race Theory) and against the values of patriotism. Views the restoration of "classical liberal arts education" as a solution. [6]



#### Affordable Education

Proposes that affordable education can be achieved through the creation of an "American Academy" which will serve as a free, online education institution for all Americans to access. The academy will be funded through the "taxing, fining, and suing excessively large private university endowments."

Opposes the student loan debt cancellation plan put forward by Harris. [6,8]



Prepared by Raya Francis, MS

- Nearly 14% of the U.S. population is foreign-born and around 26% of children have at least one foreign-born parent [1,2].
- The U.S. has an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants, the majority of whom come from Latin American countries [3].
- Republicans support strict measures to curb illegal immigration, emphasizing the need to restore law and order at the southern border.
- Democrats support an approach that combines border security with comprehensive immigration reform.

## **IMMIGRATION**

#### KAMALA HARRIS [4]

#### DONALD J. TRUMP [7]



#### **BORDER SECURITY**

#### Plans to:

- Pass the Bipartisan Border Security Bill
- Deploy more detection technology to intercept drugs like fentanyl
- Add 1,500 border security agents to strengthen the southern border
- Continue securing funding for an increase in border agents.



#### Plans to:

- · Complete the border wall.
- · Increase law enforcement focus on immigration.
- Use technology to monitor and secure the border.
- Deploy military resources, including troops and the U.S. Navy.
- Implement a fentanyl blockade to prevent drug trafficking at the southern border.



"The United States Congress including some of the most conservative members of the United States Senate came up with a border security bill which I supported and that bill would have put 1,500 more border agents on the border to help those folks who are working there right now overtime trying to do their job, it would have allowed us to stem the flow of fentanyl coming into the United States. That bill would have put more resources to allow us to prosecute transnational criminal organizations for trafficking in guns, drugs, and human beings."

- Kamala Harris [5]



# ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAW

- Strengthen Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Increase penalties for illegal entry and visa overstays.
- Reinstate policies like "Remain in Mexico", which mandate that non-Mexican asylum seekers be sent south of the border until their court dates.
- Use existing laws to remove suspected criminals, gang members, and cartel members.
- Reintroduce the travel ban.
- Use Title 42, which enables border officials to expel migrants without allowing them to apply for asylum, to address child trafficking by returning trafficked children to their home countries.



#### **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

 Supports an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants:

"There's no way to know if the border bill is going to come back, right? If it were to come back, I hope that there's going to be a conversation with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus on that bill," Harris said, arguing that it could use revision.

"That's really a border bill. It's not, in my opinion, an immigration bill. I would like to see more. I would like to see pathways to citizenship added in there where there's real negotiation."

- Kamala Harris [6]



#### **DEPORTATION PROGRAM**

- Implement a large-scale deportation program.
- Remove individuals who have entered or remained in the U.S. illegally:

"People need to be deported", "No one should be off the table."

- Tom Homan, top Trump adviser, former acting head of ICE [8]

# **IMMIGRATION**

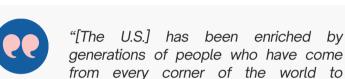
#### KAMALA HARRIS<sup>[4]</sup>

#### DONALD J. TRUMP [7]



#### **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

- Focus on fixing the broken immigration system while ensuring strong border security.
- Pass and sign the bipartisan border bill to enhance overall immigration police.



contribute to our country and to become part of the American story. And so we must reform our immigration system to ensure that it works in an orderly way, that it is humane and that makes our country

- Kamala Harris [6]

stronger."



#### STRICT VETTING

- Use extreme vetting to prevent individuals with extremist views from entering the U.S.
- Ensure immigrants align with what he considers American values: "They [illegal immigrants] destroyed our social fabric." - Donald J. Trump [5]



#### **STOP SANCTUARY** CITIES

- Cut federal funding to sanctuary cities [7].
- Require local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement [7].



#### **LEGAL IMMIGRATION** REFORM [7]

- Prioritize merit-based immigration.
- End chain migration, a process allowing citizens and lawful permanent residents to bring their relatives to the U.S.
- Focus on immigrants who contribute positively to the U.S. economy and workforce.





Prepared by Sara Murry, MSW, LCSW-C, and Alexandra DiOrio

- Over 11 million adult Americans and approximately 3.2 million young Americans identify as LGBTQ+ [1, 2]
- The presidential candidate's views differ on marriage equality, protections against discrimination based on LGBTQ+ identity, and the inclusion of LGBTQ+ topics in publicly funded education
   [3]

# LGBTQ+ RIGHTS/HEALTH







Supports marriage equality as a fundamental right. "She'll always defend the freedom to love who you love openly and with pride." [1, 3]

Opposes Federal marriage equality and Supports State-level decisions. "Republicans will promote a Culture that values the Sanctity of Marriage." [2]

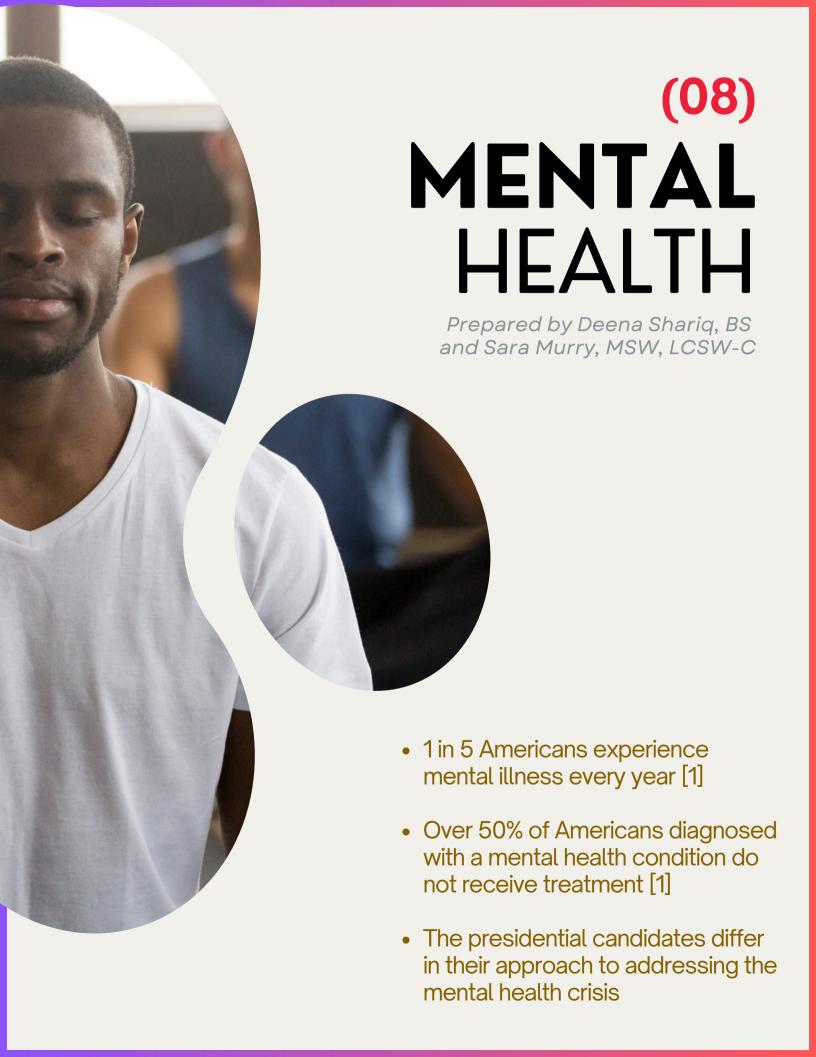
Supports anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Americans

Harris will "fight to pass the Equality Act to enshrine anti-discrimination protections for [LGBTQ+] Americans in health care, housing, education..." This includes support for gender-affirming care and opposition to a ban on military service for transgender people. [4, 6]

Opposes expanded protections for LGBTQ+ Americans
"We will keep men out of women's sports, ban Taxpayer funding for sex change surgeries, and stop Taxpayer-funded Schools from promoting gender transition."
This includes support for a federal genderaffirming care ban for minors and punishing doctors who provide care. [2, 6]

Supports updated Title IX regulations that outlaw sex-based, sexual-orientation-based, and gender-identity-based discrimination in schools that receive federal funding. [5]

Opposes updated Title IX regulations and plans to "reverse Title IX Education Regulations." Furthermore, plans to "cut federal funding for any school pushing...radical gender ideology," or "political indoctrination of our children." [2]



## MENTAL HEALTH

#### KAMALA HARRIS & TIM WALZ

#### "The plan has to be to strengthen the ACA, not get rid of it" [2]

- When the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed in 2013, it set regulations that required health insurance companies to cover mental health and substance use disorder services. [3]
- Supported the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which invested over \$11 billion to expand mental health and substance use disorder services, including crisis intervention, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and community-based mental health programs. [4, 5]

# "Committed to ending the opioid epidemic and tackling the scourge of fentanyl" [6]

- Worked with the FDA to make Naloxone, an overdose-reversal drug, available over-the-counter in 2023. [6]
- Plans to disrupt the influx of opioids into the US by signing the bipartisan border bill, which includes funding for enhanced drug detection technology at the southwest border. [6]

"[Harris and Walz] will fight to end Veteran homelessness, investing in mental health and suicide prevention efforts, and eliminating barriers to employment and expanding economic opportunity for military and Veteran families." [6]

#### DONALD J. TRUMP & JD VANCE

- As president, Trump issued an executive order, that lifted ACA regulations that expanded access to health insurance plans that exclude coverage of mental health care benefits. [7]
- During the presidential debate for his 2024 campaign, Trump reaffirmed his opposition to the ACA and stated that he will repeal or modify it if re-elected. [2]

"And for those who are severely mentally ill and deeply disturbed, we will bring them back to mental institutions, where they belong, with the goal of reintegrating them back into society once they are well enough to manage." [8]

 Aims to increase funding for faith-based drug addiction treatment programs, expand career training opportunities for recovered persons, expand FMLA for caregivers of a person in recovery, and "[impose] the death penalty for drug traffickers." [9]

"I will make it a personal mission to totally eradicate Veterans' homelessness in America by the end of next term." [10]

- Signed the VA MISSION Act of 2018 during his presidency, which expanded Veterans' access to healthcare, including mental and behavioral health services. [11]
- If re-elected, Trump intends to increase Veterans' access to private healthcare options. [12]



# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCESS

Alexandra Diorio MPH CHES, Gabriel Dogbanya MD MPH, and Kerra Mercon MS

- Abortion is currently banned in 13 states, restricted to 20 weeks gestation or less in 11 states, and protected under the state constitution in 5 states. [1]
- 15 states and DC require abstinence-only sex education in schools with limited or no discussion of contraceptive options. [2]
- 15 states require the option for insurance companies to cover fertility treatments, such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF). [3]
- 14 states are considering bills that assign personhood to fetuses. [4]

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCESS

#### KAMALA HARRIS



#### **ABORTION**

- Supports federal access to abortion using the framework of Roe v. Wade which allowed access until fetal viability. [16]
- Said she would sign legislation passed by Congress restoring federal access to abortion if elected. [10]
- Supports repealing the Hyde Amendment which prevents using federal funds for abortions with few exceptions. [9]
- Supports FDA approval of mifepristone. [17]
- Supports rolling back the filibuster in the Senate to pass federal abortion protections, [17]

"Ours is a fight for the future and it is a fight for freedom, like the freedom of a woman to make decisions about her own body and not have her government tell her what to do" [14]



#### CONTRACEPTION

- Supports coverage of over-the-counter contraceptives. [5]
- Supported the proposed Right to Contraceptive Act. [5]
- Focused on access to contraception among college students. [6]

"...contraception is health care and that every person in America should have the right to access the health care they need." [6]



#### **IN-VITRO FERTILIZATION**

- Supports IVF access. [15]
- Backs a Senate bill that establishes rights and protections for IVF nationwide. [18]

"...I will always support access to

#### DONALD J. TRUMP



#### **ABORTION**

- Stance has shifted during his campaign. He has not said he supports a federal ban but in a radio interview he said he was considering 15 weeks.
- Has not said that he would veto a federal abortion ban if he is re-elected. [10]
- Supports state regulation of abortion access, including monitoring pregnancies and prosecuting violations. [12, 18]
- Initially criticized Florida's current six-week ban, but plans to vote "no" on Florida's legislatively referred constitutional amendment (Amendment 4) which would remove the ban and enable access until fetal viability or for the health of the mother. [13]
- Open to restricting access to abortion pills such as mifepristone. [18]
- Takes responsibility for the overturning of Roe v. Wade. [19]

[On the overturning of Roe v. Wade] "...we've done something on abortion that nobody thought was possible" [19]



#### CONTRACEPTION

Stance on contraceptives has been unclear, with Trump repeatedly mentioning a forthcoming policy on contraception.

"I have never, and will never advocate imposina restrictions on birth control or other contraceptives." [7]

- Trump 05/2024

[on potentially restricting contraception acccess], "We're looking at that...some states are going to have different policy than others."

- Trump 05/2024



#### **IN-VITRO FERTILIZATION**

- Supports IVF access. [13]
- Supports government or health insurance companies paying for all associated costs. [13]

"We want to make it easier for mothers and fathers to have babies, not harder!" [20]



MATERNAL MORTALITY & HEALTH EQUITY

Prepared by Dara Gleeson, MPH, CHES & Khiara Makayla Lee, MPH

- The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality compared with all other high-income nations: approximately two times higher than South Korea, three times higher than Canada, and nearly four times higher than the United Kingdom .[1]
- Most maternal deaths are considered preventable. [2]
- Significant disparities persist across racial/ethnic groups: Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than White women. [3]

# MATERNAL MORTALITY & HEALTH EQUITY

#### KAMALA HARRIS

Harris' campaign website states: "...led the Administration's [Biden-Harris] efforts to combat maternal mortality" [4]. Harris plans to continue such efforts as President.

#### As Vice President

- December 2021: Harris called on states to extend their postpartum Medicaid coverage to a full year.
   [5]
- April 2021: Harris hosted a roundtable at the White House to address Black maternal health issues in the United States, and to highlight disparities that Black women face in maternal health. [6]
- April 2022: Harris initiated a meeting of the President's Cabinet to address maternal and child health issues in the United States, particularly those related to rising maternal mortality and morbidity rates, and associated racial/ethnic disparities. [7]
- June 2022: Harris announced the Biden-Harris Administration's Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis, which focuses on reducing disparities in maternal health outcomes. [8]
- May 2023: Harris introduced a new program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to distribute a one-time only Newborn Supply Kit to new mothers. [9]

#### Tim Walz, as Governor of Minnesota

- 2021: Walz signed the Dignity in Childbirth and Pregnancy Act, which requires hospitals to implement training for healthcare providers to understand the impact of structural racism within maternal healthcare. [10]
- 2021: Walz signed the Minnesota Department of Corrections Healthy Start Act, to provide resources to incarcerated mothers and their newborn children. [11]

#### **DONALD J. TRUMP**

Former President Donald Trump made moves during his presidency to improve maternal mortality rates for American women. He has not mentioned specifics about maternal mortality during this campaign cycle.

#### **During First Presidency**

- Trump signed the Preventing Maternal Death Act[12] in 2018, which was supported by the American Hospital Association, provides funding for states to develop maternal mortality review committees to better understand maternal complications and identify solutions.
- Implemented the MOM model [13] to provide care for low-income and postpartum moms who have opioid use disorder.
- Created a rural health plan [14] that included expanding the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategy (RMOMS) Program to address lack of pregnancy care access in rural communities.
- Roe v. Wade was overturned during Trump's presidency which may have led to riskier abortion practices, delayed care for mothers experiencing adverse pregnancy outcomes, and doctors being afraid to perform potentially life-saving services.[15,16]

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# GENERAL ELECTION DAY

Nov 5th

