

How Mike Pence and Donald Trump Compare on the Issues

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[Mike Pence](#), who has served as governor of Indiana since 2013, will be [Donald J. Trump](#)'s running mate on the Republican presidential ticket. Mr. Pence, a staunch social conservative, was elected in 2000 to the House of Representatives, where he served in the party leadership. Here is a look at his stand on important issues, and how he compares with Mr. Trump.

Immigration

Mr. Pence is opposed to granting amnesty for people who have come to the United States without authorization. He has supported increased border security measures, strict enforcement of laws prohibiting unauthorized residents from working in the United States and a government-run guest worker program that would place prospective immigrants with employers who cannot find American workers to fill open jobs. Earlier this year, he sought to bar the resettlement of Syrian refugees in his state.

Where they differ After Mr. Trump called for a ban on Muslim migration to the United States, Mr. Pence said on Twitter that the proposal was "offensive and unconstitutional." Mr. Trump also initially said that Syrian refugees should be taken in, but he quickly reversed that opinion.

Gay Rights

Mr. Pence, who has supported numerous legislative efforts to ban [same-sex marriage](#) in Indiana, was at the center of the national debate over so-called religious freedom laws that critics said could make it easier for businesses to refuse service to gay couples. As a congressman, Mr. Pence opposed federal funding that would support treatment for people suffering from H.I.V. and AIDS, unless the government simultaneously invested in programs to discourage people from engaging in same-sex relationships. He also resisted changes to hate-crime laws that would have included acts against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. And he opposed the end of "don't ask, don't tell," a Clinton administration policy that allowed closeted L.G.B.T. people to serve in the military.

Where they differ In the 1980s and 1990s, Mr. Trump donated to charities that worked to combat the AIDS crisis, and in 2000 he said that he supported [amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act](#) to "include a ban of discrimination based on sexual orientation."

Abortion

As governor, Mr. Pence signed into law several regulations that add broad limits to women's access to abortions. He [approved](#) a [bill](#) in March that outlawed abortions based on a fetus's "race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, or diagnosis or potential diagnosis of the fetus having Down syndrome or any other disability." The bill led to [backlash](#) on social media from opponents of the regulation. Mr. Pence also [called](#) for an investigation of Planned Parenthood after footage leaked by abortion rights opponents that outraged many abortion rights advocates. The videos turned out to have been [altered](#) by the people who released them and the videographers were later [indicted](#) on a charge of tampering with a government record.

Where they differ Mr. Trump supported abortion rights until 2011. Earlier this year, he said that abortion should be banned and then said that women violating the ban should face "[some sort of punishment](#)." He recanted within hours, after he was criticized — even by some conservatives — and

said that doctors who perform abortions should be held legally responsible; women, he said, were the victims.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Pence's foreign policy views mesh well with Mr. Trump's "America First" framework, which is built around the idea of a robust American military. The Indiana governor called for big increases in military spending during a speech in 2015 and he has criticized Democrats who do not use the phrase "Islamic extremism" when discussing jihadists. As a member of Congress, where he was on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Pence was a strong supporter of Israel and a [proponent of tough interrogation measures](#) for prisoners at Guantánamo Bay. Mr. Pence voted to authorize military action in Iraq in 2002 and opposed proposals to set a date to withdraw troops from Iraq.

Where they differ The biggest difference between the Mr. Trump and Mr. Pence when it comes to foreign policy is their respective stances on the Iraq war. Mr. Pence supported it, while Mr. Trump claims that he was against it from the beginning.

Gun Rights

Mr. Pence has received an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association, which has financially [supported](#) his campaigns for the House and for governor. He supports a national right to carry a firearm in public and in 2004, as a member of the House, he voted to repeal gun control laws in Washington, D.C. He wrote on [Twitter](#) in June that he "will always be a strong proponent of the Second Amendment."

Where they differ Mr. Trump is also very pro-gun, but he has expressed openness to restricting people on terrorist watch lists from buying firearms.

Education

Mr. Pence was one of only [25 Republican congressmen](#) who voted against President George W. Bush's [No Child Left Behind](#) policy. As governor, he challenged conservative Republicans in the State Senate to support legislation to establish a preschool program that would primarily serve children in poor families. He vocally supported school choice and setting learning standards at the local level, and pushed to direct state support toward technical and vocational education programs.

Where they differ Mr. Trump has said little about his education plans other than that he is against Common Core and that "education has to be at a local level."

Possible Response Questions

1. In which areas do your political views match up with Donald Trump and Mike Pence? In which ways do you disagree with their political views? Explain.
2. Pick a passage and respond to it.