

A Voter Guide to

# Crime Safety & Justice

In the 2024 Presidential Election

Recreational Drug Policy

Fentanyl Crisis & Opioid Epidemic

Policing and Gun Safety

Criminal Justice Reform

Immigration & Border Security



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October 2024



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# Meet the Candidates

**Kamala Harris**  
Democratic Party



**Donald Trump**  
Republican Party



**Chase Oliver**  
Libertarian Party



**Jill Stein**  
Green Party



## What Is Crime Safety And Justice?

Crime, safety, and justice are interconnected issues that significantly influence U.S. policy.

Crime encompasses illegal activities that violate laws set at different levels of the government (Crime and Safety in America, n.d.). Public safety remains a critical concern, leading to initiatives like crime prevention programs that address the root causes, and data driven approaches for informed policing (Crime and Safety in America, n.d.). The justice system aims to uphold the rule of law, working on due process, juvenile justice, and restorative practice (The Justice System, 2021). Current challenges within these areas include racial disparities in policing, police reform, mass incarceration, and exploring alternative approaches to issues like mental health and addiction. There is an ongoing debate shaping recent policy trends between evidence-based practices, community-led initiatives, and holistic approaches that connect crime with broader social issues. This continuous debate reflects the complexities between public safety, individual rights, and systemic inequalities in the criminal justice system.

# Recreational Drug Policy



## Kamala Harris

- Advocates for federal marijuana legalization, criticizing its Schedule I classification as "absurd" and outdated (Walker, 2024).
- Supports reclassifying marijuana to recognize its medicinal value, easing research restrictions and benefiting cannabis businesses through tax changes (Walker, 2024).

## Chase Oliver

- Strongly supports rapid marijuana legalization and backs the Drug Policy Reform Act, which would decriminalize all drug possession and use (Individual Choice, n.d.).
- Aligns with the Libertarian view that individuals should have the freedom to make personal drug use choices without government interference (Individual Choice, n.d.).



## Jill Stein

- Supports full legalization of marijuana with restrictions.
- Advocates decriminalizing personal possession of hard drugs, viewing misuse as a health issue.
- Proposes legalizing hallucinogens, funding medicinal studies, and backing legalization in Latin America to weaken drug cartels (Prisons and Policing, n.d.).



## Donald Trump

- Holds a mixed stance on marijuana; previously reversed policies limiting federal prosecution in legalized states (2024-Presidential-Guide).
- Recently indicated support for a Florida proposal to legalize marijuana for adult use, but his overall federal recreational drug policy remains unclear (Rivera, 2024).



# Fentanyl Crisis and the Opioid Epidemic

## Kamala Harris



- Plans to sign a bipartisan border bill to fund drug detection technology to intercept illicit drugs (2024 presidential candidates on opioids and drug issues, n.d.).
- Highlights the Biden-Harris Administration's move to make naloxone available over the counter, which contributed to a decrease in overdose deaths for the first time in five years (Issues, n.d.).
- Emphasizes a combined approach addressing both prevention and intervention (Altomara, 2024).

## Chase Oliver

- Calls for decriminalization and harm-reduction strategies, focusing on treating substance abuse as a health issue instead of a criminal one (Oliver, n.d.)
- "I want to legalize all drugs, but to cause overdoses is a real crime" (Gillespie, 2024).
- Oliver supports the decriminalization of drug possession and use (Geraghty, 2024).



## Jill Stein



- Advocates for decriminalizing drug possession and expanding access to federally funded addiction treatment and recovery programs (Jill Stein 2024, n.d.).
- Believes that drug abuse should be treated as a health issue, not a criminal issue (iSideWith, n.d.)
- Advocates for safe injection sites that can help reduce overdose deaths (iSideWith, n.d.)

## Donald Trump

- Intends to declare a "war on cartels" by designating them as terrorist organizations to cut off drug supply lines (Markham et al., 2024).
- Declared the Opioid Crisis a public health emergency during his presidency, resulting in over \$12.9 billion in government funding to address opioid misuse (Altomara, 2024).
- Established a President's Commission on Opioids to guide policy and practices on the crisis, supporting a strong federal response to opioid misuse (The White House, 2017)



# Policing and Gun Safety

## Kamala Harris



- Supports increased funding for hiring and training officers (Issues, n.d.).
- Plans to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, require universal background checks, and implement red flag laws (Cabral, 2024).
- Invests in proven programs to prevent gun violence (Issues, n.d.).

## Chase Oliver

- Advocates for ending qualified immunity for federal and local law enforcement (Oliver, n.d.).
- Ensures safe rights to self-defense (Oliver, n.d.).
- Focuses on removing protections that shield police from liability (Criminal Justice Reform, n.d.).



## Jill Stein



- Proposes ending training facilities that promote a militarized approach.
- Supports an assault rifle ban, buyback program, waiting periods, background checks, and red flag laws.
- Aims to address gun violence through practical safety laws (Prisons and Policing, n.d.).

## Donald Trump

- Seeks to revitalize police departments with funding for hiring and retraining.
- Strongly defends the right to keep and bear arms.
- Emphasizes restoring safety and peace for law-abiding citizens (Platform Donald J. Trump, n.d.).



# Criminal Justice Reform

## Kamala Harris



- Advocates for better police training, banning choke holds, and prosecuting police misconduct.
- Supports funding law enforcement, with a focus on hiring and training; under the Biden-Harris administration, invested \$15 billion in local law enforcement and community safety across the U.S (Issues, n.d.).
- Emphasizes programs that enhance community safety and accountability (2024 Candidates on Opioids and Drug Issues, n.d.).

## Chase Oliver

- Pledges to dismantle the prison-industrial complex and end the War on Drugs (Criminal Justice Reform, n.d.).
- Proposes eliminating qualified immunity, abolishing the death penalty, and pardoning non-violent offenders, starting with Snowden, Assange, and Ulbricht (Oliver, n.d.).
- Seeks a shift from punitive measures to rehabilitation and justice reform focused on fairness and equity (Oliver, n.d.).



## Jill Stein



- Plans to end mass incarceration and create a justice system based on restorative practices (Prisons and Policing, n.d.).
- Emphasizes ending police brutality and systemic injustices, ensuring incarcerated individuals are treated with dignity.
- Proposes banning mandatory minimums, eliminating cash bail and qualified immunity, improving prison conditions, and abolishing unpaid prison labor (Prisons and Policing, n.d.).

## Donald Trump

- Signed the First Step Act in 2018 to reduce overly long federal sentences and improve prison conditions (Grawert, 2020).
- The Act aims to create fairness within the federal justice system, prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment.
- Seeks to maintain law and order, defending police departments and supporting a safe society for all (Platform Donald J. Trump, n.d.).



# Immigration and Border Security

## Kamala Harris



- Plans to reintroduce a bipartisan border security bill and sign it into law (2024 presidential candidates on immigration).
- Supports an immigration reform that combines strong border security with an earned pathway to citizenship (Issues, n.d.).
- Advocates for a balanced approach, emphasizing both security and opportunities for lawful citizenship (Markham et al., 2024).

## Chase Oliver

- Advocates simplifying the visa process to help immigrants contribute to communities.
- Supports eliminating criminalization related to drug offenses, impacting immigration and citizenship pathways.
- Focuses on immigration reforms that enhance individual freedom and reduce bureaucratic barriers (Immigration, n.d.).



## Jill Stein



- Aims to abolish ICE and replace it with an Office of Citizenship, Refugees, and Immigration Services under the Department of Labor.
- Supports DACA and proposes expanding visa availability for immigrants.
- Emphasizes immigration policies focused on humanitarian support and integration (Immigration Stein, n.d.).

## Donald Trump

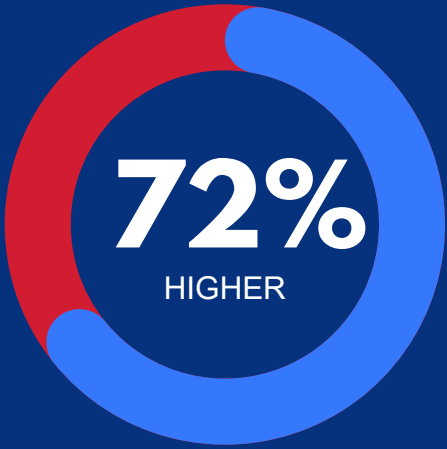
- Enforced a "zero-tolerance" policy during his presidency, prioritizing deportation of migrants without legal entry (Debusmann, 2024).
- Proposes a large-scale deportation plan involving military presence at the border, ICE workplace raids, expanded detention facilities, and restricted legal protections for migrant children.
- Promotes a merit-based immigration system to address unauthorized migration and secure borders (Platform Donald J. Trump, n.d.).



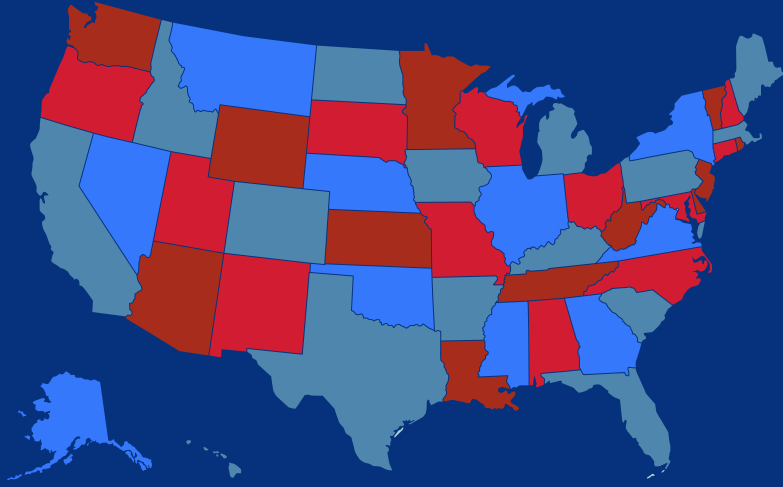


# Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis

Overdose mortality rates related to opioids and fentanyl among 25-54 year olds were



in the Appalachian region than in the rest of the country



(Appalachian Regional Commission, n.d.)

# Gun Control

3 out of 10  
(Parker et al., 2017)



American adults say that they currently own a gun

Among the 7 out of 10 who don't own a gun, roughly 50% say they could see themselves owning one in the future

# Immigration and Border Security

In 1990 the border patrol consisted of roughly  
**3,000 Agents**



By 2010, border patrol was made up of over  
**20,000 Agents**  
(Jones, 2016)

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