

Ohio Senate

THE ISSUES

TIM
RYAN

DEMOCRAT



J.D.
VANCE

REPUBLICAN



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Legal. Cosponsored a bill to codify Roe v. Wade. “Every Ohioan should be able to access the health care that’s right for them... that includes... a safe, legal abortion.”	Ban. “100 percent pro-life... Eliminating abortion is ...about protecting the unborn, but it’s also about making our society more pro-child and pro-family.” No exceptions for rape or incest. “Two wrongs don’t make a right.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	Yes. “The threat of global climate change is one of the most critical issues facing our nation.” Voted for infrastructure bill offering Ohioans “historic investments in cleaner, more convenient transportation.”	Mostly no. “Certainly the climate is changing. I think the big question is, how much is man causing it?” If people were serious about addressing climate change, they should turn to nuclear power.
ECONOMY Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Increase investment. Voted for the Build Back Better Act , to finance education, childcare, healthcare and environment. Also backed the infrastructure bill to finance railroads and electric grid improvements.	Decrease investment. “We can’t spend money that we don’t have.” Opposed infrastructure bill . “We can’t let some good parts of a bill justify spending hundreds of billions of dollars that we don’t have on bad priorities.”
EDUCATION How to address teaching the history of race and racism in the United States?	We need to “to reflect on the sins of our not-too-distant past and recognize the systemic racism born out of slavery.” Calls to ban critical race theory distract from talking about jobs, healthcare, retirement security, and high prescription drug costs.	“The Left... take hundreds of billions of American tax dollars and send it to universities that teach that America is an evil, racist nation.... We need to force our schools to give an honest, patriotic account of American history.”
ELECTIONS Did Joe Biden legitimately win the 2020 Presidential election?	Yes. Trump “clearly lost,” yet encouraged people “to attack the US Capitol Building.... to try to steal an election.”	No. The election was stolen from Trump. “We had a massive effort to shift the election by very powerful people in this country.” Calling January 6 an insurrection is the “dumbest thing in the world.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. Voted to keep a rule to protect streams from the impact of coal mining operations. Wants environmental and financial incentives aligned.	Loosen. Sees “environmental justice” policies causing jobs to be shipped to China. Opposes “liberal environmental regulations that hurt businesses.”
FOREIGN POLICY How strongly should the United States respond to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine?	Strong. “We cannot let this monster Vladimir Putin keep one inch of soil in Ukraine.” “Ensure Ukraine’s military has the equipment and resources to defend itself.”	Limited. Ukraine aid is “excessive.” We should “solve our problems here at home.” “I don’t really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another.”
GUN RULES Pass more or less restrictive legislation on guns? Or keep the same?	More restrictive. “We are not completely powerless to prevent future tragedies.” Calls for universal background checks, “red flag” laws, and an assault weapons ban.	Less restrictive. “I will fight the gun grabbers, whether they’re federal bureaucrats enacting regulations or multinational companies punishing people for exercising their rights.”

ISSUES	RYAN (D)	VANCE (R)
HEALTH CARE Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid or limiting drug prices?	Yes. “Proud supporter of the Affordable Care Act.” “It is unacceptable that anyone should go broke because they had to go to the hospital.”	No. Medicaid should be “a safety net” for people who fall on hard times or can’t work. Need work requirements. Don’t “deincentivize” people getting a better job with a “benefits cliff”
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	Make legal immigration easier. Create “a path to citizenship for the workers and small business owners” already in the US. Increase support for DACA participants.	“The open-border policy of President Biden and his Democrat allies have already led to rising crime, lower wages for American citizens and a drug epidemic crushing too many Ohio families.” No position found on DACA.
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Easier. Voted in Congress for more union protections. “Labor unions are the backbone of our economy. My grandfather received better pay...because he and his co-workers could collectively bargain.”	Unclear. Has mentioned positive social effects from union membership; blames diminished unions on US companies exploiting cheap labor overseas. But says labor laws “have minimal effect.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. Cosponsored the Equality Act , addressing discrimination based on sexual orientation. Would choose judicial nominees to ensure “our LGBTQ+ friends...enjoy equal protections under the law.”	Limit. Criticized a 2020 Supreme Court ruling that employees can’t be fired for being transgender or gay. Says U.S. won’t be viewed as a world leader “if we keep on pushing ridiculous notions of gender.”
MARIJUANA/DRUG POLICY Ban or legal? How to address the opioid crisis?	Legal. Voted to decriminalize marijuana. Marijuana arrests are “morally wrong, economically nonsensical,” and needlessly strain law enforcement. Introduced bill to monitor diversion of prescription drugs and support addiction and recovery treatment.	No position found on marijuana. On drugs in general, “I’ll work to tackle the drug epidemic, eliminate the drugs coming into our community, and help those devastated by addiction.”
MINIMUM WAGE Keep or raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour? If so, how much?	Yes. Voted for a 2019 bill to gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025. But that’s only a minimum: “It’s time to cut workers in on the deal and pay them more.”	No recent position found. In 2016 called a \$15 minimum wage a Democrat “solution from the 1960s,” and “a medicine worse than the disease.”
POLICE AND COMMUNITY Should police oversight be increased?	Yes. Voted for a 2021 bill to increase accountability for police misconduct. Wants “more cops— not less,” with expanded racial bias training and better responses to mental health crises.	No. “We have a massive spike in violent crime because police officers are afraid to do their jobs. Any ‘crime prevention’ effort that focuses on job training or gun seizures is a giant distraction.”
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	Yes. Expand loan forgiveness, particularly for public service workers, but don’t cancel all student debt. Allow student borrowers to negotiate interest down to 1% or 2%.	No. “Forgiving student debt is a massive windfall to the rich, to the college educated, and ...corrupt university administrators.... Republicans must fight this with every ounce of our energy.”
TAXES Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	More. Opposed the \$1.5 trillion 2017 tax bill, which cut corporate tax rates and top-bracket income taxes. Increase taxes on billionaires while increasing the child tax credit for working families. “A tax system that lets the super-rich off the hook while working families are struggling just to stay afloat is a system that’s broken.”	Mixed on corporations, less for individuals. “Let’s cut the taxes of the companies that invest in our country. But... raise taxes on companies that ship jobs overseas and use their money to fund anti-American radical movements.” Calls Ryan’s push for middle class tax cuts “a gimmick,” criticizes his opposing 2017 tax cuts.
VOTING RULES Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	No. Cosponsored the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would prevent state discrimination against minority voters. “The right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy and it must be protected.”	Yes. Supports voter ID, signature verification on absentee ballots, and limiting mail-in and early voting. “We need to go back to having an election day in this country, not an election season.”

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