

Food & Ag on the BALLOT

Food and farm production are playing a bigger part in this election than in recent years. Food prices are front and center as the indicators of economic health, supply chain stability and – crucially – consumer sentiment.

To highlight how the major party candidates address the food supply chain, we've compiled a list of policies that each has put forward on important issues. Former President Donald Trump has promised to continue the policies and strategies that he employed during his first term in the White House. Meanwhile, Vice President Kamala Harris has floated a few plans to change things up without veering too far from the Biden administration's policies.


Policies	Democratic Party Kamala Harris & Tim Walz	Republican Party Donald Trump & JD Vance
Food Prices	<input type="radio"/> Ban "price gouging" ^{1,3}	<input type="radio"/> Cut taxes and regulations on farms ⁴
Trade	<input type="radio"/> Require trade deals to "[protect] American workers and [protect] our environment" ⁵	<input type="radio"/> Place tariffs on Chinese goods ^{3,4} <input type="radio"/> Impose tariffs on companies that move operations out of the U.S. ⁶
Workers	<input type="radio"/> Abolish taxes on tips ¹ <input type="radio"/> Raise minimum wage ¹ <input type="radio"/> Expand union protections ¹ <input type="radio"/> Support immigration for farm labor ⁴	<input type="radio"/> Abolish taxes on tips and overtime ³ <input type="radio"/> Deport millions of immigrant workers ^{2,3} <input type="radio"/> Support immigration for farm labor ⁴
Climate/ Sustainability	<input type="radio"/> Establish voluntary partnerships ⁴ <input type="radio"/> Include sustainability in farm and trade policies ^{1,4}	<input type="radio"/> Establish voluntary partnerships ⁴ <input type="radio"/> Repeal "net-zero" policies ⁴
Farm Policy	<input type="radio"/> Support crop insurance ⁴ <input type="radio"/> "Reduce barriers ... for farmers, ranchers, and other small business owners ... to ... support a family off their hard work" ⁴	<input type="radio"/> Support crop insurance and Dairy Margin Coverage ⁴ <input type="radio"/> "Cancel every Kamala-Biden policy that is brutalizing our farmers" ⁴
Interstate Trade	<input type="radio"/> Oppose California Prop. 12 ⁴	<input type="radio"/> Oppose California Prop. 12 ⁴
Consolidation	<input type="radio"/> Prevent large mergers ^{1,4} <input type="radio"/> Prosecute price-fixing and price gouging ^{1,3,4}	<input type="radio"/> No official policy

“If you want to talk about the climate, economic justice, public health, labor and a host of other issues, you can hardly do better than by beginning with food. It is a linchpin issue.”

– Mark Bittman, cookbook author ([The New York Times](#))

Why this is important:

- Food is common ground for every segment of voters.
- For many, food prices and employment are the most tangible signals of the U.S. economy.
- Both presidential candidates have proposed policies that will affect the entire food supply chain – local and imported, from farms to foodservice.

<p>Further Observations</p>		
<p>Food History</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Posted cooking videos with famous chefs</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Avowed fast-food fan</p>
<p>Debate Quotes</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> “It is important that we move forward, that we turn the page on this same old tired rhetoric. And address the needs of the American people, ... Address what we must do to support our small businesses. Address bringing down the price of groceries.”³</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> “They aren’t gonna have higher prices. What’s gonna have and who’s gonna have higher prices is China and all of the countries that have been ripping us off for years. ... I had no inflation, virtually no inflation.”³</p>
<p>What Others Say</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> “For years, Vice President Harris has shown a real willingness to listen to our members and working people everywhere about the issues that matter most to them.”</p> <p>– Marc Perrone, president, United Food & Commercial Workers International Union</p> <p><input type="radio"/> “I’m not sure the industry will have anything close to a full picture of Harris on ag issues before the November election. Not much of a track record and few days to fill in the blanks.”</p> <p>– Dave Dickey, Investigate Midwest</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> “He reinvested with the farmers, and I think the farming community was very excited about ... the benefit of having shared in those tariffs.”</p> <p>– Leslie Heinemann, farmer and South Dakota state representative (Agri-Pulse)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> “Mr. Trump has contended that his tariffs would lower inflation, because they would increase manufacturing and the productive capacity of the United States. But most economists say that tariffs of the size he is proposing would increase consumer prices and add to inflation.”</p> <p>– Ana Swanson, The New York Times</p>

Sources:

- [Harris-Walz campaign](#)
- [Trump-Vance campaign](#)
- Presidential debate transcript | [ABC News](#)
- Presidential Candidate Questionnaire | [American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
- How Kamala Harris’ platform could differ from Joe Biden’s | [Politico](#)
- Trump Says He’ll Impose a 200% Tariff on John Deere Imports From Mexico | [DTN/Progressive Farmer](#)