



Council on American-Islamic Relations

2024 PRESIDENTIAL VOTER GUIDE

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CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

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INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Presidential Election is a pivotal moment for the United States. It is essential for every voter, including American Muslims, to be well-informed about candidates and their platforms up-and-down the ballot, including in the presidential race. This 2024 Presidential Candidate Voter Guide developed by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) provides a comprehensive overview of each major candidate, their party affiliation, vice-presidential running mate, and key policies.

THE CANDIDATES INCLUDE:

- **Kamala Harris (Democratic Party) with Tim Walz**
- **Donald Trump (Republican Party) with JD Vance**
- **Chase Oliver (Libertarian Party) with Mike ter Maat**
- **Jill Stein (Green Party) with Butch Ware**
- **Cornel West (Independent Party) with Melina Abdullah**

The purpose of this guide is to empower American Muslim voters by providing clear, comprehensive information about the candidates' positions on critical issues. This guide is designed to help you navigate the complex landscape of the 2024 Presidential Election, offering insight into each candidate's key policies on the economy, healthcare, education, immigration, national security and more.

As American Muslims, our voices and votes have the power to shape the future of our nation. By turning out to vote, we can advance the well-being of our community and contribute to building a more just and equitable society for all.

The list of candidates for president featured in this resource is not exhaustive, and CAIR encourages the American Muslim community to do further research on other candidates running for president.

Disclaimer: *As a 501(c)(3) organization, CAIR does not endorse or oppose any candidate or political party. This resource is provided solely for educational purposes to help the Muslim community engage in the democratic process effectively. We encourage all eligible voters to participate in the upcoming election and make their voices heard based on their informed judgment*

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE



KAMALA HARRIS

Age: 59

Place of Birth: Oakland, California

Residential City and State:

Washington, D.C.

Religion: Baptist

Ethnicity: Harris is the daughter of two immigrants, one from India and one from Jamaica.

Vice Presidential Running Mate:

Tim Walz, a politician and former educator who has served as the 41st Governor of Minnesota since January 2019. Born in 1964, in West Point, Nebraska, Walz is a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL). Before becoming governor, Walz served in the U.S. House of Representatives (MI-1) from 2007 to 2019. His background includes 24 years of service in the Army National Guard, retiring as a Master Sergeant includes 24 years of service in the Army National Guard, retiring as a Master Sergeant.

Kamala Harris Background:

- **Current Position:** 49th Vice President of the United States.
- **Political Experience:** Former U.S. Senator from California (2017-2021), Attorney General of California (2011-2017).

Kamala Harris Key Policies:

- **Economy:** Kamala Harris' economic policy focuses on infrastructure investment, raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, and tax reforms that target higher-income earners. She says that she plans to create jobs and reduce income inequality by modernizing infrastructure, supporting green initiatives, and ensuring that the wealthy contribute their fair share in taxes.
- **Healthcare:** Harris says that she is committed to strengthening and expanding the Affordable Care Act by increasing coverage and introducing a public option. She also says that she prioritizes lowering prescription drug costs through Medicare negotiation and capping prices on essential medications to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for all Americans.
- **Climate Change:** Harris' stated climate policy is centered on achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 through investments in clean energy, job creation in green industries, and rejoining international climate agreements. She says that she aims to position the U.S. as a leader in combating climate change while transitioning the economy to sustainable energy sources.
- **Immigration:** Harris has expressed support for what she calls comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, ending family separations, and reversing restrictive policies. She has also expressed support for congressional legislation that would impose new restrictions and limits at the southern border.

KAMALA HARRIS

- **Palestine/Lebanon/Iran:** Vice President Harris has pledged to maintain the Biden administration's "unwavering commitment to the security of Israel" and has said that she opposes an "arms embargo" on the Israeli government. Harris has said that she supports a ceasefire in Gaza that frees Israeli hostages and ends the suffering of Palestinians. In response to Iran's October 1 retaliatory missile strike on Israel, Harris stated the U.S. would "never hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to defend U.S. forces and interests against Iran and Iran-backed terrorists."
- **Defense/Military/National Security:** Harris' defense policy prioritizes strengthening cybersecurity, countering domestic terrorism, and maintaining strong international alliances while reducing military interventions.
- **Education:** Harris' education policy includes universal pre-K, reducing student debt, and increasing funding for public schools. She advocates for making community college tuition-free and raising teacher salaries.
- **Civil Rights:** Harris supports restoring the Voting Rights Act and The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, ending qualified immunity for police officers,

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATE



DONALD TRUMP

Age: 78

Place of Birth: Queens, New York City, New York

Residential City and State: Palm Beach, Florida

Religion: Presbyterian

Vice Presidential Running Mate:

JD Vance, an American author, venture capitalist, and politician who currently serves as a first-term U.S. Senator from Ohio, having taken office in January 2023. Born on August 2, 1984, in Middletown, Ohio, Vance gained national prominence with his 2016 memoir, *Hillbilly Elegy*, which chronicles his upbringing in a working-class Appalachian family and explores the struggles of rural white Americans.

Donald Trump Background:

- **Current Position:** Founder of The Trump Organization
- **Political Experience:** 45th President of the United States (2017-2021). Businessman and television personality before his presidency.

Donald Trump Key Policies:

- **Economy:** Donald Trump says that his economic policy focuses on stimulating growth through significant tax cuts, deregulation, and revitalizing American manufacturing. His administration enacted the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to lower corporate tax rates and reduce individual tax burdens, aiming to boost economic activity. Trump's approach includes rolling back numerous federal regulations, which he believes stifled business expansion, and using tariffs and trade renegotiations to encourage domestic production and reduce reliance on foreign manufacturing.
- **Healthcare:** Trump's healthcare policy aims to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), promoting a system with greater reliance on private insurance. His administration sought to dismantle ACA provisions and expand private healthcare options, such as Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and short-term plans.
- **Climate Change:** Trump's stance on climate change involves skepticism about the extent of human impact on global warming, leading to the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. His administration prioritized energy independence by expanding fossil fuel production and deregulating the energy sector, focusing on enhancing domestic energy resources rather than investing in renewable energy.
- **Immigration:** Trump's immigration policy centers on strict enforcement and border security measures, including the construction of a U.S.-Mexico border wall to prevent illegal crossings. He advocates for stringent immigration enforcement,

increased deportations, and reducing legal immigration levels by curbing family-based immigration and promoting a merit-based system that favors skilled workers. Trump has also stated that if re-elected, he plans to reinstate his previous administration's Muslim and African travel ban, expanding it to be "even bigger than before," particularly targeting what he referred to as "terror-plagued countries." This ban predominantly impacted travelers from majority-Muslim nations. Additionally, Trump has proposed implementing a "strong ideological screening" for immigrants, which would require them to affirm their support for Israel's "right to exist."

- **Palestine/Lebanon/Iran:** Former President Trump has urged Israel to "finish what they started," suggesting that Israel should conclude its military operations in Gaza and "get it over with fast" due to waning global support. Trump's stated policy and past policy regarding Palestine and Israel has been marked by staunch support for Israel, including the controversial relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and the termination of aid to Palestinian humanitarian relief programs. Trump attempted to insult President Joe Biden by claiming he had "become like a Palestinian" and similarly referred to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who is Jewish, as "becoming a Palestinian" during a rally. In response to Iran's October 7 retaliatory missile strike on Israel, Trump stated that Israel should respond by targeting Iran's "nuclear [sites] first and worry about the rest later."
- **Defense/Military/National Security:** Trump's defense policy emphasizes increasing military spending to bolster U.S. global dominance and counter what he says are threats from China and Iran. Trump's approach includes strengthening military infrastructure and investing in new technologies.
- **Education:** Trump advocates for education reforms that promote school choice through vouchers and charter schools. He supports reducing federal involvement in education and advocating for more local control and decision-making by states and communities to shape curricula and standards.
- **Civil Rights:** Trump's civil rights policy emphasizes increased law-enforcement responses and protections for officers and agents, opposing critical race theory and focusing on strong policing measures in response to pro-Palestinian human rights protests and civil unrest. His administration has been critical of calls for police reform and has prioritized conservative judicial appointments, aiming to influence U.S. law on issues such as abortion, gun rights, and religious freedom.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY CANDIDATE



CHASE OLIVER

Age: 39

Place of Birth: Nashville Tennessee

Residential City and State:

Atlanta, Georgia

Religion: Agnostic

Vice Presidential Running Mate:

Mike ter Maat, a former Libertarian Party candidate in Florida's District 20 special Congressional election (2021-22), has a diverse background in law enforcement, finance, and education. He served as a Broward County police officer from 2010 to 2021. Prior to his police work, Maat says that he had a successful career as a commercial loan officer, financial economist at the White House Office of Management and Budget, and consultant to federal and international agencies.

Chase Oliver Background:

- **Political activist and former U.S. Senate candidate from Georgia.**
- **Political Experience: Known for his advocacy for criminal justice reform and individual liberties.**

Chase Oliver Key Policies:

- **Economy:** Chase Oliver advocates for a significant reduction in government spending and a drastic overhaul of the tax system. His economic policy centers on the elimination of the federal income tax, which he views as an undue burden on individuals and businesses. Oliver supports deregulation to promote free-market principles, believing that reducing government interference will lead to increased innovation, competition, and economic growth. He says that he aims to create an economic environment where businesses are free to operate without excessive government oversight, which he believes will lead to greater prosperity and opportunity for all.
- **Healthcare:** Oliver says that his healthcare policy is grounded in the belief that a free-market system will deliver better outcomes than government-controlled healthcare. He advocates for minimal government intervention, arguing that competition among healthcare providers will drive down costs and improve the quality of care. Oliver opposes mandates and regulations that restrict patient choice or impose unnecessary costs on the healthcare system. He supports reforms that would allow for the purchase of health insurance across state lines.
- **Climate Change:** Oliver opposes government-mandated climate policies, arguing that the free market is better equipped to address environmental challenges through innovation and technological advancements. He believes that government regulations often stifle progress and lead to unintended consequences. Instead, Oliver advocates for encouraging private sector solutions to climate change, such as investing

in clean energy technologies and sustainable practices. He trusts that individuals and businesses, driven by market incentives, will develop effective ways to reduce environmental impact without the need for heavy-handed government intervention.

- **Immigration:** Oliver supports open borders and the free movement of people, a position that aligns with his broader libertarian philosophy of individual liberty. He believes that immigration should be simplified and streamlined, allowing people to move freely across borders to live, work, and contribute to society. Oliver opposes strict immigration controls, viewing them as an infringement on personal freedom and a barrier to economic opportunity. He advocates for an immigration system that focuses on human rights and the economic benefits of immigration.
- **Palestine/Lebanon/Iran:** Oliver's foreign policy is rooted in non-interventionism. He advocates for ending all U.S. foreign aid, including aid to Israel and Ukraine, and allowing nations to resolve their own conflicts without external interference. His policy is consistent with a broader libertarian approach that seeks to reduce U.S. involvement in global conflicts and prioritize diplomatic solutions over military interventions.
- **Defense/Military/National Security:** Oliver supports a reduction in military spending, arguing that the U.S. should focus on defending its own borders rather than engaging in military interventions abroad. He advocates for closing most overseas military bases and bringing troops home, believing that the U.S. should not act as the world's police force. Oliver's defense policy emphasizes a strong national defense that is focused on protecting U.S. citizens and interests, rather than pursuing interventionist or imperialist agendas. He also supports reforming the military-industrial complex to reduce waste and ensure that defense spending is aligned with actual security needs.
- **Education:** Oliver is a strong proponent of school choice. Oliver believes that education should be decentralized, with minimal federal involvement, and that local communities and parents are better positioned to make decisions about their children's education. He opposes federal mandates and regulations that restrict educational freedom or impose a one-size-fits-all approach to education.
- **Civil Rights:** Oliver believes that the government should play a minimal role in regulating personal behavior. He is a vocal advocate for criminal justice reform, including ending the war on drugs, legalizing marijuana, and addressing systemic injustices in the legal system. Oliver also supports policies advocated by LGBTQ+ groups, including same-sex marriage and anti-discrimination protections. His civil rights policy is centered on the belief that individuals should be free to live their lives as they see fit, without government interference, as long as they do not harm others.

GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE



JILL STEIN

Age: 74

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois

Residential City and State:

Lexington, Massachusetts

Religion: Secular Jewish

Vice Presidential Running Mate:

Professor Butch Ware, a lifelong American Muslim activist, educator, and public intellectual specializing in the history of empire, colonialism, genocide, and revolution. For over two decades, he has used his recent scholarship to focus on issues like the genocide in Gaza and the 2020 George Floyd murder. Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Minneapolis, Ware earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004.

Jill Stein Background:

- **Current Position:** Physician and environmental health advocate.
- **Political Experience:** Green Party presidential candidate in 2012 and 2016.

Jill Stein Key Policies:

- **Economy:** Jill Stein is a strong proponent of the Green New Deal, a comprehensive plan to transform the economy through massive investments in renewable energy and green infrastructure. Her economic policy aims to create millions of jobs by funding projects that promote environmental sustainability, such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy. Stein also advocates for economic justice initiatives, including raising the minimum wage, expanding workers' rights, and addressing wealth inequality. Her approach includes reforming the tax system to ensure that the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share, while also supporting small businesses and local economies.
- **Healthcare:** Stein supports the implementation of a universal healthcare system, specifically Medicare for All, which would provide comprehensive healthcare coverage to all U.S. residents. Her healthcare policy emphasizes preventive care and addressing the social determinants of health, such as poverty, housing, and access to nutritious food. Stein believes that healthcare is a human right and that a single-payer system is the most efficient and equitable way to deliver care. She advocates for reducing the influence of pharmaceutical and insurance companies in healthcare, which she sees as major contributors to the current system's inefficiencies and inequalities.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change is at the core of Stein's platform, and she advocates for the most aggressive climate action possible. Her goal is to transition the United States to 100% renewable energy by 2030, which she believes is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Stein

supports a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels and a ban on fracking, offshore drilling, and new fossil fuel infrastructure. Her climate policy also includes reforestation, investment in public transportation, and promoting sustainable agriculture. Stein believes that addressing climate change requires systemic change, and she views it as an opportunity to create a more just and equitable society.

- **Immigration:** Stein calls for the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which she views as an agency that has perpetuated inhumane practices and violated civil liberties. Stein supports providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, particularly those who have lived in the U.S. for many years and have contributed to society. Her immigration policy also includes ending mass deportations, reuniting families, and addressing the root causes of migration, which she views as U.S. foreign policy and economic exploitation in other countries.
- **Palestine/Lebanon/Iran:** Jill Stein is an advocate for a significant shift in U.S. policy towards the Israel-Palestine conflict. She supports ceasing U.S. military aid to Israel, arguing that such aid perpetuates the occupation and fuels human rights abuses against Palestinians. Stein endorses the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement as a nonviolent means to pressure Israel into compliance with international law and respect for Palestinian rights. Her policy recommendations overall aim for a negotiated solution that ensures peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians. Regarding Lebanon, Stein has criticized Israel's military actions, labeling them *"indiscriminate murder."* She has urged the U.S. to withdraw support from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom she described as *"genocidal,"* stating, *"It's time to cut off U.S. support for Netanyahu's genocidal land grab NOW."* In response to Iran's retaliatory missile strike on Israel on October 1, Stein posted on X.com, *"Iran is attacking Tel Aviv, after Israel attacked Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iran to expand its genocidal war on Gaza. Biden can stop this war with one call to Israel demanding an immediate ceasefire and negotiations. [Netanyahu] is dragging us into WWII but WE DO NOT CONSENT."*
- **Defense/Military/National Security:** Stein's defense and national security policy includes significant cuts to military spending, which she argues is necessary to redirect resources toward addressing pressing domestic and global challenges, such as climate change and poverty. She advocates for closing U.S. military bases abroad, which she views as instruments of American imperialism, and focusing on diplomacy and peacebuilding. Stein's approach emphasizes nonviolence and cooperation with other nations to address global issues, rather than relying on military force. She also supports disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation efforts, aiming to reduce the global threat of war.

JILL STEIN

- **Education:** Stein supports free public education from pre-K through college, viewing education as a public good that should be accessible to all. She advocates for student debt forgiveness, arguing that no one should be burdened with debt for pursuing an education. Stein’s education policy includes increased investment in public schools, particularly in underserved communities, and ensuring that teachers are paid a living wage. She also supports expanding access to early childhood education, vocational training, and lifelong learning opportunities. Stein believes that education is essential for a healthy democracy and a just society, and she opposes efforts to privatize public education.
- **Civil Rights:** Stein is an advocate for systemic changes to address what she views as racial and economic inequality in the United States. Her civil rights policy includes ending racial profiling, demilitarizing police forces, and holding law enforcement accountable for misconduct. Stein supports ending “mass incarceration,” decriminalizing drugs, and addressing the school-to-prison pipeline. She also advocates for raising the minimum wage, expanding affordable housing, and ensuring access to healthcare and education for all.

INDEPENDENT PARTY CANDIDATE



CORNEL WEST

Age: 71

Place of Birth: Tulsa, Oklahoma

Residential City and State:

Princeton, New Jersey

Religion: Christian

Vice Presidential Running Mate:

Professor Melina Abdullah, is an American Muslim scholar of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA and Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter - Los Angeles and Black Lives Matter Grassroots, where she also serves as Director. A leader in the California Faculty Association, she is a dedicated activist and mother of three. Dr. Abdullah holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Southern California and a B.A. in African American Studies from Howard University. She is a recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements.

Cornel West Background:

- **Current Position: Philosopher, political activist, and social critic.**
- **Longtime advocate for social justice, racial equality, and economic reform; known for his work as a professor and public intellectual.**

Cornel West Key Policies:

- **Economy:** Cornel West is an advocate for economic justice and wealth redistribution, focusing on what he calls the deep-rooted inequalities in the U.S. economic system. He supports policies that ensure a living wage for all workers, aiming to raise the minimum wage to a level that provides a decent standard of living. West is critical of the current capitalist system, which he views as benefiting the wealthy at the expense of the poor and working-class. He advocates for progressive taxation, where the wealthy and corporations pay a larger share to fund social programs. His economic policy also includes support for labor unions and workers' rights, ensuring that workers have the power to negotiate for better wages and conditions.
- **Healthcare:** West supports the implementation of Medicare for All, a universal healthcare system that guarantees comprehensive healthcare coverage to all Americans. He emphasizes the need to address health disparities, particularly those affecting marginalized communities, and believes that healthcare is a fundamental human right. West's healthcare policy focuses on preventive care and addressing the social determinants of health, such as poverty, housing, and access to nutritious food. He advocates for reducing the influence of private insurance companies and pharmaceutical corporations in the healthcare system, which he views as major obstacles to achieving equitable healthcare for all.

- **Climate Change:** West is a strong proponent of the Green New Deal, a plan to address climate change while also tackling economic and social injustices. His climate policy emphasizes environmental justice, ensuring that the transition to renewable energy benefits all communities, particularly those that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation. West advocates for aggressive action to reduce carbon emissions and transition to 100% renewable energy as quickly as possible. He supports policies that invest in green infrastructure, create jobs in sustainable industries, and ensure that the benefits of the green economy are shared equitably.
- **Immigration:** West advocates for humane immigration policies that respect the dignity and rights of all individuals. He supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and opposes policies that criminalize or dehumanize immigrants. West believes in addressing the root causes of migration, such as violence, poverty, and political instability in migrants' home countries, and advocates for U.S. foreign policy that promotes peace and development in those regions. His immigration policy also includes ending family separations, closing detention centers, and ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees are treated with compassion and fairness.
- **Palestine/Lebanon/Iran:** Cornel West is pushing for a significant transformation in U.S. policy towards Israel and Palestine. He advocates for the cessation of U.S. military aid to Israel and supports the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement as a nonviolent strategy to urge Israel to adhere to international law and recognize Palestinian rights. West critiques Israeli apartheid and occupation policies as being oppressive and discriminatory. Regarding the U.S.-backed Israeli military actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and attacks on Iran, West has articulated a policy centered around "*Ceasing Support for Conflicts*" on his campaign website. This policy emphasizes that resources currently fueling conflicts could be better allocated to promote understanding, reconciliation, and peaceful resolutions.
- **Defense/Military/National Security:** West's defense policy emphasizes reducing U.S. military spending and focusing on diplomacy and peacebuilding. He advocates for closing most U.S. military bases abroad and withdrawing from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which he views as instruments of American imperialism, and redirecting resources toward domestic needs, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. West is critical of the U.S. military-industrial complex and calls for dismantling the structures that perpetuate endless wars and military interventions. He supports nuclear disarmament and opposes the use of military force as a primary tool of foreign policy, advocating instead for cooperative international efforts to address global challenges.

- **Education:** West is an advocate for education as a fundamental human right and supports free public education from pre-K through college. His education policy includes student debt forgiveness, arguing that no one should be burdened with debt for pursuing an education. West also supports increased investment in public schools, particularly in underserved communities, to ensure that all students have access to high-quality education. He believes in a curriculum that promotes what he calls critical thinking, civic engagement, and a deep understanding of history, social justice, and the struggles of marginalized communities. West opposes the privatization of public education and supports strong public-school systems that serve all students equitably.
- **Civil Rights:** West's civil rights policy is centered on addressing what he calls systemic racism and economic inequality. He advocates for comprehensive criminal justice reform, including ending mass incarceration, decriminalizing drugs, and abolishing the death penalty. West is a strong supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement and calls for police reform, including demilitarization, increased accountability, and community control of law enforcement.