

Wisconsin Senate

THE ISSUES

**MANDELA
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DEMOCRAT



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REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Legal. Supports Women’s Health Protection Act to codify abortion protections. “Abortion is health care. The right to choose is fundamental.”	Ban, but says it’s an issue for each state. Won’t commit to a new proposed national ban on abortions at 15 weeks , but has cosponsored six 20-week federal bans, most recently in 2021 . Supported overturning Roe v. Wade and bans at 15 and 20 weeks.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	Yes. “We need bold, powerful action to address climate change that breathes new life into our manufacturing industry.” Supports the Inflation Reduction Act, including \$369 billion in renewable energy incentives.	No. Has called climate change “bullshit.” “I am not a climate change denier, but I also am not a climate change alarmist. Climate... has always changed and always will change.” Voted against Inflation Reduction Act , which includes renewable energy incentives.
ECONOMY Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Increase. Supports Infrastructure Act , bipartisan federal legislation that “would invest billions in critical infrastructure for Wisconsin.” Supports Made in America Act, which would require federal contracts to use American goods and services.	Mostly decrease. Would cut federal spending. Make all federal spending, including Social Security and Medicare, subject to yearly evaluations and adjustments. Voted against 2021 Infrastructure Act. In 2018 supported state investment in a new Foxconn plant in Wisconsin.
EDUCATION How to address the teaching of issues around racism and gender identity?	Regarding racism, “We have to teach the reality” of U.S. power and prosperity coming from “forced labor on stolen land.” Supports the Equality Act , including banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in education.	Parents should “have control over what is taught to their children.” Opposes “teaching wokeness,” which he has blamed for school shootings.
ELECTIONS Did Joe Biden legitimately win the 2020 Presidential election?	Yes. Calls claims that Donald Trump won the 2020 election “the big lie.”	Unclear. Said election was legitimate, but held a Senate hearing to discuss voter fraud after the Electoral College confirmed Biden. Called for an audit of the election, and his chief of staff tried to deliver to VP Mike Pence a slate of fake-electors backing Trump.
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. As Wisconsin lieutenant governor, is “proud to be part of an administration that has proposed legislation to establish drinking water standards and fund critical cleanup.”	Loosen. Opposes new National Environmental Policy Act regulations because they place a burden on building projects.
GUN RULES Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	More. Supported the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act as “a historic first step.” “We need to pass common sense gun safety reforms now.”	Less. Voted against the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act because it would erode “second amendment protections.”

ISSUES	BARNES (D)	JOHNSON (R)
HEALTH CARE Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, and promoting COVID safety?	Yes. Supports Medicaid expansion. “I believe everyone should have access to quality health care.” Supported more COVID relief funding . Supported a mask mandate in January 2021.	No. Has called health care “more of a privilege than a right.” Supports repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), which features Medicaid expansion. Has questioned COVID vaccine safety . Supported ivermectin as a COVID treatment , despite FDA disapproval .
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	Supports “comprehensive immigration reform” and a path to citizenship for DACA “Dreamers.” “A path to citizenship isn’t just the humane thing to do—it’s good for our economy.”	Says he won’t support immigration reform, including legislation on Dreamers, before the US-Mexico border is more secure. “The first step in [immigration reform] is to secure the border.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Easier. Supports the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which would increase protections for “employees’ rights to organize and collectively bargain in the workplace.”	Harder. Cosponsored the Employee Rights Act, which offers “protections against union coercion” and “counters” the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. Will “fight to...make sure that LGBTQ people have equal rights.” Supports the Equality Act, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation.	Limit. Opposes the Respect for Marriage Act, which would protect same-sex marriage , after saying in July 2022 that he saw “no reason to oppose it.” Opposes transgender women using women’s bathrooms and playing women’s sports.
MARIJUANA Ban or legal?	Legal. “In the Senate, I’ll fight to legalize marijuana..., expunge the records of those with nonviolent marijuana offenses, and make sure that Wisconsin’s economy can benefit from this growing industry.”	No recent position found. In 2014 said legalization is a state issue, but he did not personally support it. Since then, has cosponsored bills to end federal banning of industrial hemp and cannabidiol (CBD).
MINIMUM WAGE Keep or raise federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour? If raise, how much?	Raise to \$15 per hour. “Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would help over 32 million American workers, many of them frontline and essential staff.”	Raise to less than \$15 per hour. “I think \$15 is just simply way too high and I think many, many economists would agree with me as well as most business owners who are paying people less than \$15 an hour.”
POLICE AND COMMUNITY How to address police use of force?	Supports de-escalation training and banning chokeholds , while giving “law enforcement officers what they need to keep us safe.” “The more money we invest in communities, the more opportunity we offer to residents in all parts of our state, the less money we’ll have to spend on police work.”	Supported a 2020 bill to train police and collect data on use of force, with a limited chokehold ban. Said law enforcement is “having trouble recruiting police officers because of the defund police movement.”
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	Yes, limited relief. Supports proposals to lower costs, “including some student loan relief and a middle class tax cut” and support for technical education.	No. Said that Biden’s loan forgiveness was “grossly unfair to families who didn’t send their kids to college or managed to pay off their student debt.”
TAXES Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	More. “When I’m in the Senate, the middle class is getting a tax cut and the billionaires are going to pay their fair share.”	Less. Supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%. Supports “pro-growth tax reform.”
VOTING RULES Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	No. Supports the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would restore parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Supports online, automatic, and same-day voter registration.	Yes. Opposes drop-boxes used during 2020 election. Says that voter suppression is not happening. “We’ve made voting incredibly easy. Nobody’s suppressing the vote.” “There’s nothing racist about voter ID.”

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