

CAPITOL STREET

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Tim Walz is Kamala Harris's VP

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Today, Kamala Harris announced her vice-presidential pick, following a weekend of intense decision-making and vetting her top contenders. Harris's choice reflects a strategic decision aimed at bolstering the campaign's strengths and addressing critical issues. Walz's background as a teacher and veteran, in addition to his history of winning in Republican-dominated elections, has helped his popularity. Notably, Walz coined the recent "Republicans are weird" narrative that attracted viral attention online – a phrase that Harris's campaign quickly jumped on to.

This weekend, Trump backed out of the scheduled ABC debate, instead pushing for a September 4 Fox News debate to take place in Pennsylvania – a key battleground state. Harris pushed back. A location and date are still undecided. Recent polling suggests that Harris and Trump are head-to-head within the 2.1-point margin of error, with Harris is at 50 percent and Trump at 49 percent ([here](#)).

Kamala Harris will hold her first rally with Walz at Temple University in Philadelphia. Afterwards, the pair's next appearance together will be at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago scheduled for Aug.19-22 ([here](#)). Walz's overall achievements and healthcare policy takes can be found below.

»» Key Points

Walz is a retired high-school teacher and veteran, who previously served in the House of Representative and is now serving as the governor from Minnesota. Walz is a popular pick among progressives, and recent entertaining comments on Trump and Vance have put him in the media spotlight ([here](#)).

- Walz's Congressional priorities targeted veterans' issues, including mental health, suicide prevention, and substance abuse ([here](#)).
- As Governor, Walz preserved the Health Care Access Fund, "despite Republican efforts to end the program that 1.2 M Minnesotans rely upon for health care access" ([here](#)).
- Walz took steps to increase transparency in prescription drug costs by requiring price reporting from 300+ drugs ([here](#)).
- In 2021, Walz signed the Alec Smith Insulin Affordability Act into law to provide an emergency safety net to patients struggling to afford their insulin ([here](#)).

Tim Walz (D-MN), 61, has been an advocate for progressive initiatives. He championed the legalization of recreational cannabis ([here](#)). Walz has also been critical of the financial bailouts during the 2008 economic crisis and voted against the \$700 B TARP bill ([here](#)). Walz's economic policy efforts extended to supporting small businesses, agriculture, and education reforms, including opposing merit pay for teachers and advocating for lower tuition costs ([here](#)).

Throughout his career, Walz has also been a vocal supporter of LGBT rights, gun regulation, and veterans' issues. He endorsed federal anti-discrimination laws and was an early supporter of the Respect for Marriage Act ([here](#)). Walz has shifted his stance on gun rights, now backing universal background checks and red-flag laws ([here](#)). Throughout his political career, he has championed enhanced benefits for veterans and mental health care initiatives ([here](#)). He has expressed sympathy for Jewish students and pro-Palestinian protestors in light of October 7, but has been criticized for having state pension holdings in Israel ([here](#)). Walz has been a staunch supporter of women's rights, including abortion rights, a key issue for Harris's campaign ([here](#)).

Our Kamala Harris on healthcare take is [here](#). Harris is expected to extend the enhanced subsidies aimed at reducing healthcare costs, which are slated to expire at the end of 2025. Harris supports IRA (drug pricing reform) and would likely want to go further if she had a Congress who would go along with her. She is not a Medicare for All gal, she supports some type of MA type program, though details are thin and her views have changed since she ran for President in 2020 ([here](#)). She is additionally likely to advocate for the expansion of Medicaid in the ten states that have not yet adopted the ACA's provisions and continue Biden's efforts to broaden Medicare coverage to include dental, vision, and hearing. She would crackdown on anti-competitive behavior among hospitals and insurers, something she focused on as Attorney General ([here](#)). In May, she announced her intention to extend the out-of-pocket caps for seniors (capping insulin costs at \$35 and annual prescription medication costs at \$2,000 on Part D plans) to everyone ([here](#)).

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