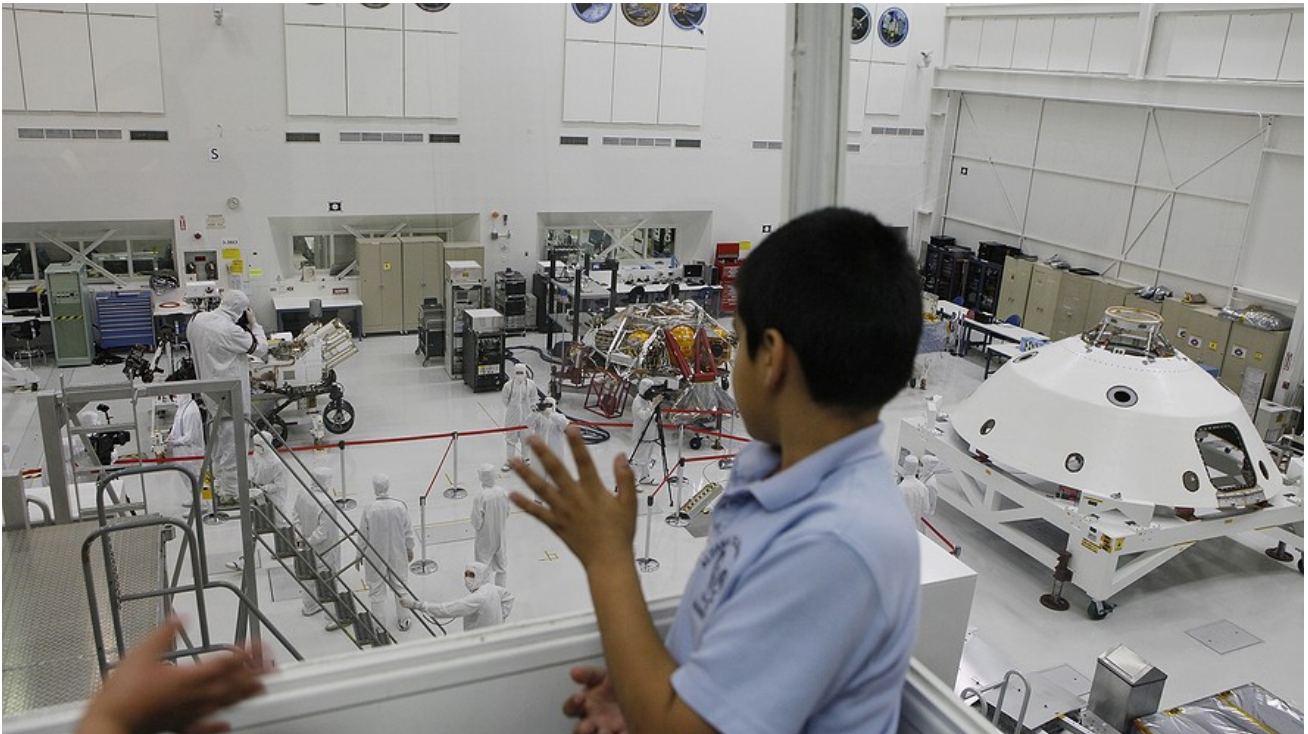


# Q&A: Clinton and Trump share views on overlooked science issues

By Los Angeles Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 10.06.16

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Schoolchildren wave at NASA engineers working on the rover Curiosity at the Mars Science Laboratory at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, April 4, 2011. Photo: AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes

In a presidential election season dominated by talk of birth certificates, tax returns and email servers, science has rarely made headlines. But that doesn't mean it's not important. On the contrary, policy decisions made by the next president will influence the future of the planet and all of its inhabitants for years to come.

ScienceDebate.org asked the candidates, Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, to share their views on some overlooked issues and their responses, adapted by Newsela, are printed below.

## **Space Exploration And Climate Change**

**Question:** *What should America's national goals be for space exploration and earth observation from space and what steps would your administration take to achieve them?*

**Clinton:** President Kennedy challenged us in 1962 to go to the moon, which spurred a whole generation of innovators and American leadership in science. We must maintain our nation's leadership in space with a program that balances science, technology and

exploration. We must protect our security and the future of the planet through international collaboration. We must also expand our robotic presence in the solar system, and promote stronger coordination across federal agencies and cooperation with industry.

As a young girl, I was so inspired by America's leadership and accomplishments in space that I wrote to NASA about becoming an astronaut. As president, I will do what I can to ensure that we have the world's most exciting and advanced space program.

**Trump:** Space exploration has given so much to America, including tremendous pride in our scientific and engineering abilities. A strong space program will encourage our children to learn science and math and will bring millions of jobs and trillions of dollars. We should seek global partners, because space is not the sole property of America. All humankind benefits from reaching into the stars.

**Q:** *What are your views on climate change, and how would your administration act on those views?*

**Clinton:** The science is crystal clear. Climate change is an urgent threat and a defining challenge of our time. I will set three goals that we will achieve within 10 years of taking office:

—Generate half of our electricity from clean sources, including solar power.

—Cut energy waste by a third and make American manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world.

—Reduce American oil consumption by a third through cleaner fuels and more efficient transportation.

**Trump:** There is still much that needs to be investigated in the field of "climate change." Perhaps the best use of our limited financial resources should be in dealing with making sure that every person in the world has clean water. Perhaps we should focus on eliminating diseases around the world like malaria. Perhaps we should focus on efforts to increase food production. Perhaps we should be focused on developing energy sources that get rid of the need for fossil fuels.

## **Biological Diversity And Public Health**

**Q:** *The variety and variability of life is diminishing at an alarming rate. What steps will you take to protect biological diversity?*

**Clinton:** Conserving biodiversity is essential to maintaining our quality of life. Healthy soils provide the foundation for agricultural productivity. Wetlands soak up floodwaters and pollutants and protect our communities. Forests filter our water and keep it clean, and bees are essential to our food supply.

My administration will work collaboratively with other nations to understand the causes of biodiversity loss and take action to diminish them. And we will work collaboratively to end wildlife trafficking and illegal fishing.

**Trump:** In a Trump administration, we will empower state and local governments to protect our wildlife and fisheries. Laws protecting special interests must be changed to balance the needs of society with the preservation of our valuable living resources.

**Q:** *How would you protect Americans from public health threats, such as antibiotic-resistant superbugs?*

**Clinton:** We are not investing in public health preparedness and emergency response the way we should be. As president, I will devote funds to better enable government agencies to quickly and aggressively respond to major public health crises.

In addition, we need to do more to boost our preparedness for biological threats and bioweapons. We need to support research for new tests, treatments and vaccines for emerging diseases. We need to train the next group of public health professionals, and we need to provide resources for states and local governments to plan for public health threats.

**Trump:** The implication of the question is that one must provide more resources to research and public health institutions. We cannot simply throw money at these institutions and assume that the nation will be well served. Our efforts to support research and public health projects will have to be balanced with other demands for scarce resources.

## **Cybersecurity And Mental Illness**

**Q:** *What steps will you take to protect institutions from cyberattack, and to balance national security with personal privacy on electronic devices and the internet?*

**Clinton:** I did a lot of work involving internet security when I was secretary of state. I will build on the Obama administration's work, modernizing our government-wide cybersecurity and empowering a federal chief information security officer. I will also support collaboration between the government and companies to protect cybersecurity.

As president, I will make it clear that the United States will treat cyberattacks just like any other attack, and we will be ready with serious political, economic and military responses. I believe the United States should lead the world in setting the rules of cyberspace. If America doesn't, others will.

**Trump:** The United States government should not spy on its own citizens. That will not happen in a Trump administration. Any attack on the internet should be considered a provocative act that requires the utmost in protection, and, at a minimum, a proportional response that identifies and then eliminates threats to our internet infrastructure.

**Q:** *What will you do to reduce the human and economic costs of mental illness?*

**Clinton:** We'll promote early identification and intervention, including launching a national project on suicide prevention. We'll make it so health care delivery focuses on the "whole person" – both their physical and mental health. We will improve community-based

treatment opportunities, train law enforcement officers in crisis intervention, and prioritize treatment over jail for low-level, nonviolent offenders. And we'll invest in research to develop safe and effective treatments.

My goal is that within my time in office as president, Americans will no longer separate mental health from physical health. The next generation must grow up knowing that mental health is a key part of overall health and that there is no shame or obstacles to seeking out care.

**Trump:** Any mental health reforms must be included in our efforts to reform health care in general. We must ensure that the national government provides the support to state and local governments. A comprehensive solution must be developed so that we can keep people safe and productive.

## **Energy And Education**

***Q:** How do you see the energy landscape evolving over the next four to eight years, and, as president, what will your energy strategy be?*

**Clinton:** My plan will deliver on the pledge President Obama made at the Paris climate conference. This includes:

—Implementing pollution and efficiency standards that help clean our air, save families money and fight climate change.

—Investing in clean energy and expanding clean energy production on public lands and waters tenfold within a decade.

—Ensuring the fossil fuel production is safe and responsible, cutting methane emissions, and putting in place strong standards for reducing leaks.

**Trump:** It should be the goal of the American people and their government to achieve energy independence as soon as possible. This means exploring every possible energy source including wind, solar, nuclear and biofuels. Consumers will determine the best sources of energy.

***Q:** How would your administration work to ensure all students are prepared to address 21st-century challenges?*

**Clinton:** Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science by the time they graduate high school. Strong science and math programming in every public school is critical to our nation's success, and to reducing economic and social inequality.

**Trump:** There are a host of science and math programs already in existence. The federal government should make sure that educational opportunities are available for everyone. This means we must allow market influences to bring better, higher-quality educational circumstances to more children.

## Clean Water And Global Cooperation

**Q:** *If you are elected, what steps will you take to ensure access to clean water for all Americans?*

**Clinton:** Under-investment in our nation's drinking and wastewater systems has sickened and endangered Americans all over the country, including in places like Flint, Michigan. Inadequate wastewater systems pose health risks to humans and wildlife, disrupt ecosystems and disproportionately impact communities of color.

We will establish a new Water Innovation Lab that will bring water managers, farmers and tribes together with engineers, business people and conservationists. Together, they will develop technologies and strategies for local water utilities, agricultural and industrial water users, and environmental projects across the country.

**Trump:** This may be the most important issue we face as a nation for the next generation. Therefore, we must make the investment in our fresh-water infrastructure to ensure access to affordable fresh-water solutions for everyone. We must explore all options. This includes making desalinization more affordable and working to bring this scarce resource to where it is needed.

**Q:** *How would your administration balance national interests with global cooperation when tackling threats that cross national borders?*

**Clinton:** The United States has a responsibility to lead the global response to the climate challenge. President Obama was able to persuade and pressure other major emitters, including China and India, to step up by making strong progress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at home. This process, where domestic policy changes helped spur international action, led to the historic 195-nation Paris climate agreement.

We must work to support more clean energy investment in emerging economies, help developing nations build resilience to climate impacts, and drive clean energy development here at home.

We will create a comprehensive global health strategy that involves a global health system capable of quickly responding to and ending epidemics.

**Trump:** Our best input to helping with global issues is to make sure that the United States has a strong economy. A prosperous America is a much better partner in tackling global problems.

## Quiz

- 1 Which answer choice BEST explains the author's purpose for beginning with this statement?

*In a presidential election season dominated by talk of birth certificates, tax returns and email servers, science has rarely made headlines. But that doesn't mean it's not important.*

- (A) to illustrate that other issues that are less important still need to be discussed
  - (B) to describe the background of both candidates whose views will be outlined
  - (C) to explain why the primary concerns of the candidates in this election are important
  - (D) to suggest that an important issue in the campaign has been ignored until now
- 2 Read the section "Space Exploration And Climate Change." Which of the following would BEST describe Clinton's thoughts on space exploration?
- (A) competitive and private
  - (B) skeptical but willing
  - (C) enthusiastic and determined
  - (D) hopeful but passive
- 3 Based on the section "Biological Diversity And Public Health," which of the following statements BEST represents Trump's approach to funding public health programs?
- (A) Public health is an important issue.
  - (B) These programs should not receive funding.
  - (C) Public health will have to compete for funding with other programs.
  - (D) These issues need to be handled by state and local governments.
- 4 On which of the following topics do Clinton and Trump have perspectives in AGREEMENT with one another?
- (A) climate change
  - (B) cyberattacks
  - (C) public health
  - (D) education

## Answer Key

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