

Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, Sr.

BACKGROUND (GENERAL/CAREER)

Personal Information

Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson, Sr.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DOB: 9/18/1951 (GOP Data Center, Accessed 11/21/16)

Education

Yale University

New Haven, CT ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

AND

University of Michigan Medical School

Ann Arbor, MI ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

AND

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, MD ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Work Experience

May 2015: Republican Presidential Candidate (Kathleen Gray, "Ben Carson Announces Presidential Run," [USA Today](#), 5/4/15)

2006: Authored *Think Big* ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

2000: Authored *The Big Picture* ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

1996: Authored *Gifted Hands* ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

1977- 2002: Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Surgeon ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

1982: Chief Resident in Neurosurgery ([Biography](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

QUESTIONS FOR DR. BEN CARSON

Political Vulnerabilities

Persona/Willingness To Back The President

Background: Carson has been a high-profile figure in conservative politics for years and has not worked directly under anyone in decades. Even as one of the President-elect's top surrogates, Carson occasionally criticized him during television appearances.

- **Given your stature and history as a high-profile individual, do you believe you would have any problem publicly supporting each position/action of the President should you join the administration?**

- **Would you be willing to keep a lower-profile and work within the President's media relations strategy?**
- **Will you have any issues or reluctance advancing the President's specific messaging should you join the administration?**

Disclosures To The President-Elect

Background: As a word renowned neurosurgeon and inspirational speaker, Carson has been on the paid speaking circuit for years, even continuing his paid speaking while campaigning for president.

- **Will you agree to privately release to the campaign a full list of every paid speech you have given and who paid you to give each speech?**
 - **Will you provide the dates for each speech?**
 - **Will you provide the name of each entity that paid for a speech?**

Business/Medical Associations

Background: Carson has been a paid promoter of medical companies/products, has served on corporate boards, and is affiliated with certain medical associations.

- **Do you believe any of your current business relationships or affiliations with associations would create a conflict of interest should you join the administration?**
- **Are you willing to temporarily cease existing relationships with certain groups or associations should the President-elect's team find it necessary?**

Mannatech Controversy

Background: In 2009, Mannatech was the defendant in a deceptive-marketing lawsuit, in which the result was a \$7 million settlement. Carson was paid to promote certain products made by Mannatech and was paid thousands of dollars to give speeches to Mannatech employees.

- **Are there any other scenarios from which a similar story could surface should you join the administration?**

TRUMP-PENCE

Regarding Trump's Faith

Carson Attacked Trump's Faith During The Republican Primary. "The Trump attack comes after Carson took a swing at Trump on faith on Wednesday night, saying, 'I've realized where my success has come from and I don't in any way deny my faith in God. And I think that is the big difference,' he told reporters in response to a question asking him to differentiate between the two of them." (John Santucci, "Ben Carson Attacks Donald Trump's Faith, Mogul Fires Back," [ABC News](#), 9/10/15)

Regarding Trump's Attacks On Clinton's Faith

Carson “Rebuked” Trump On His Attacks On Clinton’s Faith. “Carson is one Trump’s Christian whisperers; he speaks the language of faith and has a deep network of devoted followers, especially in the evangelical community. That makes Carson a necessary ally for Trump who has mispronounced Biblical terms, questioned the existence of Heaven and Hell and mused about the prospect of dating his daughter. But after an extensive meeting with hundreds of evangelical leaders in New York City on Tuesday, Carson rebuked Trump on one point: questioning Hillary Clinton’s faith. ‘I think people’s faith is a very private issue,’ Carson said in a wide-ranging interview with *The Daily Beast* on Thursday. ‘The proof is in the pudding.’” (Gideon Resnick, “Ben Carson To Donald Trump Lay Off Hillary Clinton s Faith,” [The Daily Beast](#), 6/23/16)

Regarding Calling Clinton A “Bigot”

Carson Was Critical Of Trump Calling Clinton A “Bigot.” “Ben Carson, the former presidential candidate and adviser to Donald Trump, wants the GOP nominee to stop calling his opponent a racist. ‘I don’t generally get into the name-calling thing,’ Carson said in a phone interview with *The Daily Beast* on Friday morning. ‘I kind of left that behind in the third grade. I certainly don’t encourage it because the issues that we’re facing are incredibly important for us and for the future generations.’” (Gideon Resnick, “Ben Carson to Donald Trump Stop Calling Hillary Clinton A ‘Bigot,’” [The Daily Beast](#), 8/26/16)

Regarding Trump’s Immigration Policies

Carson Criticized Trump’s Hardline Immigration Policy During The Republican Primary. “It sounds really cool, you know, ‘Let’s just round them all up and send them back,’” Carson said during an appearance at the Commonwealth Club of California on Tuesday. ‘People who say that have no idea what that would entail in terms of our legal system, the costs forget about it. Plus, where you gonna send them? It’s a double whammy.’” (Daniel Strauss, “Ben Carson Stops Playing Nice With Trump,” [Politico](#), 9/9/15)

In Response To The Mexican Judge Controversy

Carson Said That Trump “Fully Recogniz[ed] That That Was Not The Right Thing To Say” In Regards To Judge Gonzalo Curiel’s Inability To Fairly Judge The Trump University Case. “Retired neurosurgeon and former 2016 presidential contender Ben Carson said in an interview published Friday that Donald Trump privately acknowledged his attacks on a federal judge’s Mexican heritage were wrong. ‘He fully recognizes that that was not the right thing to say,’ Carson told *Politico*. Carson, one of Trump’s top supporters, told the outlet that he had heard the Manhattan billionaire concede in private that he erred when he suggested US District Court Judge Gonzalo Curiel’s Mexican descent made him unfit to oversee cases involving Trump University.” (Oliver Darcy, “Ben Carson Reveals What Donald Trump Has Said In Private About Judge Attacks,” [Business Insider](#), 6/10/16)

- **Carson Also Called Trump’s Attacks On Judge Curiel “A Phase Of Moral Descent.”** “This is not the first time that Carson has disagreed with Trump’s rhetoric. When the presumptive nominee was spouting off about the ethnicity of a judge handling a lawsuit against Trump University, Carson warned that Trump was nearing ‘a phase of moral descent.’” (Gideon Resnick, “Ben Carson To Donald Trump Lay Off Hillary Clinton s Faith,” [The Daily Beast](#), 6/23/16)

RNC

In February 2016, Carson Called On The RNC To “Get Rid Of Arbitrary Requirements For Debates” So That Americans Can Hear From All Candidates. “With 9 Republicans left, I call on the RNC to get rid of arbitrary requirements for debates. Americans deserve to hear from every candidate.” (Dr. Ben Carson, [Twitter](#), 2/2/16)

GENERAL CONTROVERSY

Carson Lied About Getting A Full Scholarship To West Point

Ben Carson Conceded That Despite His Numerous Public And Written Statements To The Contrary, He Neither Applied Nor Was Granted Admission To West Point Academy. “Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson on Friday conceded that he never applied nor was granted admission to West Point and attempted to recast his previous claims of a full scholarship to the military academy despite numerous public and written statements to the contrary over the last few decades. West Point has occupied a central place in Carson’s personal story for years. According to a tale told in his book, ‘Gifted Hands,’ the then-17 year old was introduced in 1969 to Gen. William Westmoreland, who had just ended his command of U.S. forces in Vietnam, and the two dined together. That meeting, according to Carson’s telling, was followed by the offer of a ‘full scholarship’ to the military academy.” (Kyle Cheney, “Exclusive Carson Claimed West Point ‘Scholarship’ But Never Applied,” [Politico](#), 11/6/15)

- **Carson Wrote About His West Point Claims In At Least Three Of His Books.** “Ben Carson has repeatedly claimed he was offered a full scholarship from West Point. He conveys the story in at least two other books, ‘You Have a Brain’ and ‘Take the Risk.’ Carson repeated his West Point claim as recently as Aug. 13, when he fielded questions from supporters on Facebook.” (Kyle Cheney, “Exclusive Carson Claimed West Point ‘Scholarship’ But Never Applied,” [Politico](#), 11/6/15)

It Is Speculated That Carson Lied About His Temper As A Teenager

Carson Said He Was An Angry Teenager And Detailed In Interviews And His Book Multiple Examples Of His “Pathological Temper,” Including Punching And Stabbing Classmates And Attacking His Mother With A Hammer. “In his 1990 autobiography, “Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story,” Carson describes those acts as flowing from an uncontrollable “pathological temper.” The violent episodes he has detailed in his book, in public statements and in interviews, include punching a classmate in the face with his hand wrapped around a lock, leaving a bloody three-inch gash in the boy’s forehead; attempting to attack his own mother with a hammer following an argument over clothes; hurling a large rock at a boy, which broke the youth’s glasses and smashed his nose; and, finally, thrusting a knife at the belly of his friend with such force that the blade snapped when it luckily struck a belt buckle covered by the boy’s clothes.” (Scott Glover and Maeve Reston, “A Tale Of Two Carsons,” [CNN](#), 11/7/15)

“But Nine Friends, Classmates And Neighbors Who Grew Up With Carson Told CNN They Have No Memory Of The Anger Or Violence The Candidate Has Described.” (Scott Glover and Maeve Reston, “A Tale Of Two Carsons,” [CNN](#) 11/7/15)

Carson Called The Congressional Black Caucus A Racist Organization

Dr. Ben Carson, During An Interview With Jan Hefeld, Called The Congressional Black Caucus Racist For Not Allowing White Members To Join. “Dr. Ben Carson, the now-retired world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, appeared in a recently-uploaded interview with YouTube personality Jan Hefeld where he said that the Congressional Black Caucus is essentially acting in a racist fashion if it does not allow non-blacks to join. “What would you say is racism? How would you define racism?” Hefeld, who regularly uses the Socratic interview technique, asked at the start of the interview. Ben Carson Calls Congressional Black Caucus Refusal to Allow White Members Racist ‘I would define it as people making decisions about others based on superficial characteristics and unfairly doing so,’ Carson responded. ‘And in our society today, I think a lot of racism is paternalism. I mean, you believe that certain people can’t do things and that you must do them for them.’ From there, Hefeld posed a series of questions about group membership exclusion based on race. He specifically asked if Carson would call a club or organization not letting a person in because of his or her race “an example of racism.’ ‘I think that would be a racist policy, yes,’ Carson responded. (Billy Hallowell, “Ben Carson Calls Congressional Black Caucus Refusal To Allow White Members ‘Racist,” [The Blaze](#), 11/12/13)

POLICY STANCES/STATEMENTS

Harriet Tubman On The \$20 Bill

Carson Is Against Putting Harriet Tubman On The \$20 Bill Because She Would Become A Symbol Of The American Debt. “Harriet Tubman would likely be turning over in her grave if she knew she would be the new face of American debt slavery. She would revile the cheap trick being pulled on African Americans in getting them to support this nearly bankrupt symbol of American debt. It is amazing how, just as the currency dwindles down to near worthlessness all of a sudden the Government wants to invoke Harriet Tubman as a symbol on the twenty dollar bill.” (Dr. Ben Carson, “Harriet Tubman Has A Legacy Worth Upholding,” [Independent Journal Review](#), 5/16)

Allowing Clergy To Refuse To Perform Gay Marriages

On March 29th 2016, Carson Wrote In A Tweet That He Was Disappointed In Republican Governor Nathan Deal's Veto Of House Bill 757. “I am very disappointed that Gov. @NathanDeal decided to go against religious liberty, by choosing politics over the voices of the people.” (Ben Carson, [Twitter](#) 3/29/16)

- **On Monday March 28th 2016 Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal Announced He Would Veto House Bill 757 Which Critics Said Promoted Legal Discrimination Against Gays After High Pressure From Corporate And Public Pressure.** “House Bill 757, which critics said promoted legal discrimination against gays, was denounced by both the NFL, Falcons owner Arthur Blank and local business owners. The legislation would have allowed clergy to refuse to perform gay marriages and would have protected people who refuse to attend the ceremonies. Churches and affiliated religious groups also could have declined to serve or hire someone based on their faith,” (Vaughn McClure, “Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal To Veto House Bill 757” [ABC News](#), 3/28/16)

Cybersecurity

Due To The Internet's Prominent Role In Our Economy, Carson Believes We Must Protect Our Internet Users And Infrastructure From Criminals And Foreign Entities. “The Internet economy is only projected to grow further, especially as new technologies and ideas fuel innovative businesses, like the burgeoning “Gig Economy” revolutionizing the service industry today. Our growing reliance on the Internet for every avenue of business and communication makes it a target for not only criminals, but also America's enemies. We cannot allow criminals to prey upon users, nor can we allow other countries to disrupt, infiltrate, or leverage the Internet as a means of attacking our great nation or its people.”

(“Prescription For Winning The 21st Century Cyberspace Race,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

- **Carson Also Believes We Should Balance Our Approach To Cybersecurity To Protect The Internets Freethinking Nature.** “But we must also recognize and protect the very nature and culture which enabled the Internet to flourish in the first place. Hackers, crackers, coders, cypherpunks and other enthusiasts were integral in taking the Internet from a small messaging and bulletin board system to the thriving ecosystem it is today.” (“Prescription For Winning The 21st Century Cyberspace Race,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

ISIS

Carson's Says In Order To Defeat ISIS We Must “Formally Declare War On The Islamic State,” Focus Our National Will, And Target “Our Existential Threat At Its Source.” “It is time to make a change. Atrocities such as the terrorist attack in San Bernardino last year remind us of the ultimate price Americans pay for their political leaders' inaction. As president, I will wage war on radical Islamic terrorists and protect the homeland. I will formally declare war on the Islamic State as part of a comprehensive strategy that focuses the national will, targets our existential threat at its source and protects the American way of life.” (“Prescription For Defeating The Islamic State,” [Ben Carson For President 2016](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

- **“Our country should also have a plan for eliminating the broader threat from transnational organizations that wage jihad against the United States...”** (“Prescription For Defeating The Islamic State,” [Ben Carson For President 2016](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Defense & Foreign Policy

Carson's Defense And Foreign Policy Plan Revolves Around Six Key Principles To "Restore America's Role As The World's Preeminent Leader." The single, most important task of the U.S. government is to keep Americans safe. The Obama administration has failed at confronting the grave threats to our national security and has been content to 'lead from behind.' This cannot stand. A Carson administration will lead from the front, promote peace and prosperity through the power of We the People, and restore America's role as the world's preeminent leader by enforcing six key principles." ("Prescription For A Stronger, Safer America," [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Carson Believes We Must Rearm The U.S. Military, As Our Forces Have Become "Too Small, Too Old, Out Gunned And Under Resourced." "America's national security begins with its military, but draconian budget cuts by the Obama administration have endangered our military supremacy. Our armed forces are too small, too old, out-gunned and under-resourced. A Carson administration will ensure that our military is equipped and authorized to defeat global terrorism, able to deter and respond to regional threats from rogue nations and tyrants, and prepared for other grave contingencies around the world." ("Prescription For A Stronger, Safer America," [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Carson Believes America Needs To "Reform The National Security Establishment" And Streamline Our Agencies And Procurement Processes. "As we rearm and resume our leadership role in the world, we must also reform the national security establishment. As president, I cannot ask the American people to pay for a military build-up without demanding corresponding efficiencies. That includes streamlining agencies, making our defense procurement more responsive to strategic requirements and reforming vast government bureaucracies." ("Prescription For A Stronger, Safer America," [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

As A Part Of Carson's Plan, He Believes America Must Revitalize Critical Alliances, And "Re-Solidify Ties" With NATO Members. "With the best military in the world, the Carson administration will reinvigorate America's global alliances and build new partnerships with any country willing to cooperate in pursuit of peace, stability and freedom. Under a Carson administration, no one will question America's commitment to any ally, especially Israel. As president, I will also re-solidify ties with members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as well as with other friends and allies around the world." ("Prescription For A Stronger, Safer America," [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Carson Would Like To Destroy ISIS, End The Iranian Nuclear Deal, Punish Russia For Its Incursions Into Eastern Europe, And Seek Cooperation With China While Still Holding Them Accountable. "For peace to prevail, America must resume its role as global leader, deterring and defeating aggression where necessary. As president, I will seek to destroy the Islamic State; withdraw from the unfortunate Iran nuclear agreement engineered by the Obama-Clinton administration; punish Russia for its naked land grabs; and seek opportunities for cooperation with China while holding Beijing accountable for any violations of international norms." ("Prescription For A Stronger, Safer America," [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Ben Carson Believes We Must Only Put Our Armed Forces In Harm's Way "When Necessary To Protect America And Her Allies." "There is no more solemn duty for the President of the United States than the execution of his responsibilities as Commander-in-Chief. I will only place America's armed forces in harm's way when necessary to protect America and her allies. Every deployment will begin with a clear vision, a strategy to achieve victory and the necessary resources to succeed." ("Prescription For A Stronger, Safer America," [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Carson's Defense Plan Stresses The Importance Of A "Similarly Sound Economic Plan" To Ensure Our Response To Threats Is Backed By "Economic Strength." "A sound foreign policy approach requires a similarly sound economic plan, and our ability to mount and sustain viable responses to global threats is undergirded by our economic strength. Unfortunately, years of fiscal irresponsibility are threatening to put limitations on our defense capabilities. As president, I will curtail overreaching government and galvanize entrepreneurial endeavors, put the United States on the glide path to a balanced budget and bolster our ability to project power and lead the world." ("Prescription For A Stronger, Safer America," [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Education

Carson Proposed A Five Point Plan To “Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools.”

“Treatment Plan: Five Principles to Restore American Exceptionalism in Our Schools” (“5 Principles To Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

- **“School Choice: I Will Actively Support School Choice Programs, Such As School Vouchers And Charter Schools, So Every Student Has The Opportunity To Fully Realize His Or Her God-Given Potential.”** (“5 Principles To Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **“Empower Parents, Teachers, Local School Districts And The States – Not Washington.”** (“5 Principles To Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **“Rather Than Micromanaging These Educational Innovators With One-Size-Fits-All Regulations That Suppress Their Ingenuity, We Should Promote Innovative Ideas In Education.”** (“5 Principles To Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **“Instead Of An Outdated System That Rewards Teacher Tenure Over Performance, I Will Advocate For Flexible Block Grants To The States To Advance And Reward Teacher Quality...”** (“5 Principles To Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **“We Need A Simpler, More Streamlined And Transparent Financial Aid Process That Gives Students And Their Families The Kind Of Simple, Reliable Information They Need To Make Good Decisions.”** (“5 Principles To Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Carson Pledged That He Would “Take The Federal Bureaucracy Out Of Education,” And Focus On Empowering The American People.

“To be successful, we must take the federal bureaucracy out of education and concentrate on empowering the American people. This is the only way that “We the People” can have the kind of nation that was envisioned by our founders.” (“5 Principles To Restore American Exceptionalism In Our Schools,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Energy

Ben Carson’s Energy Plan Involved Reevaluating Policies That “Rely On Outdated Assumptions,” Ending Government Collusion With Special Interests, And Refocusing Environmental Policies.

“As president, I will apply a bold reform prescription to energy policy. My plan has three components: Reevaluate energy policies that rely on outdated assumptions and conduct a major overhaul of the laws that clutter energy markets; End government collusion with special interests and eliminate all subsidies, mandates, tax incentives and regulatory impediments; and rely on competition and innovation as the primary driver of supply and consumption; Refocus environmental policies to allow our economy to take advantage of our natural resources, while ensuring that we give our children and grandchildren an even better quality of life than our parents gave us.” (“Prescription For An American Energy Renaissance,” [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Federal Spending

Carson Pledged To “Drastically” Cut Federal Spending And Decision Making To The People By Streamlining Government, Eliminating Waste, Reforming Health Care And Entitlement Programs, Divesting Federal Assets, And Achieving A Balanced Budget.

“All Achieved By Instituting Fiscal Discipline In Washington. s president, I will drastically cut federal spending and return to the American people the power and resources to make decisions about their lives. Even more important, I will institute fiscal discipline in Washington in order to restore a bright future for our children and grandchildren. My plan to cut government spending will do the following: Streamline our government; Scale back or eliminate wasteful and inefficient programs; Reform means-tested welfare programs; Reform health care and entitlement programs; Divest federal assets; and Achieve a balanced budget and pursue a

constitutional amendment for long-term fiscal stability.” (“Prescription For A Responsible And Efficient Government,” [Ben Carson For President](#), Accessed 11/21/16)

Government Reform

Carson Has Stated That The Federal Government’s Bureaucracy Is “Out Of Control.” “Diagnosis: A Bureaucracy Out of Control; Federal government employs 8,000 senior executives supervising more than 2.6 million civilian employees. The Congressional Budget Office says it is ‘unaware of any comprehensive information about the size of the federal contracted workforce.’ The GAO estimates that almost \$125 billion was spent through improper payments. This \$125 billion in improper payments and fraud represents a figure larger than the market capitalizations of 17 of the largest 50 American companies. To pay for it all, Washington is projected to spend \$3.7 trillion in 2015, with nearly double the amount of debt since President Barack Obama took office.” (‘Reforming Washington For ‘We The People,’ [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Carson Proposed A Five Point Plan To “Restore Government’s Ability To Serve,” Including Public Reporting, Taxpayer Feedback, Bold Experimentation, Program Analysis, And Government-Wide Accountability. “Treatment Plan: Five Principles to Restore Government’s Ability to Serve; Public Reporting - Treat taxpayers as citizen-owners of their government by readily and visibly communicating our progress in making government more efficient and cost-effective. Taxpayer Feedback - Solicit and utilize feedback from citizens on government services and agency policies. Reforms - Encourage bold experimentation to create efficiencies that eliminate waste and duplication and improve service delivery and remove the existing departmental silos to encourage sharing of what we learn across agency lines. Analysis - Define each program’s performance objectives, identify and evaluate the resources available to meet them and establish objective metrics to measure the cost and value of operations. Accountability - Establish a government-wide culture that holds managers and employees accountable for their success or failure in meeting performance objectives with real consequences in either case.” (‘Reforming Washington For ‘We The People,’ [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Healthcare

Dr. Ben Carson Said That “Obamacare Is The Worst Thing That Has Happened In This Nation Since Slavery,” At The Value Voters Summit. “Dr. Benjamin Carson declared Friday that ‘Obamacare is the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery.’ Carson, a former professor of neurosurgery, oncology and pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, spoke Friday at the Values Voters Summit in Washington. Ben Carson Compares Obamacare with Slavery and Community Dr. Benjamin Carson speaks during the National Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton, Feb. 7, 2013 in Washington. ‘I have to tell you, you know, ‘Obamacare’ is really, I think, the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery,’ Carson said. ‘In a way, it is slavery, in a way because it is making all of us subservient to the government.’” (Fred Lucas, “Who Just Compared Obamacare To American Slavery And Soviet Communism?” [The Blaze](#), 10/11/13)

Ben Carson Proposed A Health Care Plan Which Would “Repeal Obamacare,” Establish “Health Empowerment Accounts” To Put Patients In Charge, And Save Medicare And Medicaid By “Putting Beneficiaries In Control.” “Treatment Plan: Repeal Obamacare and Put “We the People” in Charge Health Empowerment Accounts to put patients in charge, with more choices at lower cost: First-dollar coverage for out-of-pocket expenses and premiums to buy the insurance of your choice. Your Money. Your Account belongs to you, whether you change jobs or cross state lines. Transferable between family members, because each of us has different medical needs. Save Medicare and Medicaid by putting beneficiaries in control: Give Medicare beneficiaries a fixed contribution to buy the health insurance they actually want and need. Give Medicare and Medicaid enrollees HEAs to cover first-dollar expenses and insurance premiums for coverage they get to choose Modernize Medicare to keep pace with medical advances by gradually increasing the eligibility age (by 2 months each year) until it reaches age 70. Treat Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries like the rest of us. Give Medicaid beneficiaries the same insurance coverage, doctors and choices that other Americans enjoy, with HEAs to provide first-dollar coverage,

supplemented by a major medical insurance plan of the patient's choice. Save Medicaid by providing fixed-dollar support to the states, which must use the funds for premium payments and HEAs for beneficiaries not wasteful state bureaucracies." ("We Must Repeal and Replace Obamacare," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Immigration

Ben Carson Stated We Must Fix Our Immigration System By Securing The Border, Implementing Sensible Admission And Removal Procedures, Solve The Problem Of The Current Illegal Immigrant Population, Reform Legal Immigration, And "Restore The Concept Of The American Melting Pot." "We must do better to protect the homeland while continuing the tradition of welcoming new Americans. Legal immigration will always be a valued pillar of our society, but we need to restore the rule of law and keep this country safe and sovereign. As president, I will repair our immigration system and do the following: 1. secure the border 2. implement sensible admission and removal procedures, 3. solve the problem of the existing illegal immigrant population in the United States, 4. address legal immigration and 5. restore the concept of the American melting pot." ("Prescription For A Sovereign America," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Council On American Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Carson Has Called On The Government To "Conduct A Full Investigation" Of The Council On American Islamic Relations Due To Its "Extensive Ties To Foreign Terrorist Groups." "I continue to call for the U.S. government to conduct a full investigation into the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), a U.S. Muslim group. CAIR has extensive ties to foreign terrorist groups, such as Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, and was once named by federal prosecutors as an "unindicted co-conspirator" in a plot to facilitate terrorist financing. CAIR has repeatedly and openly expressed support for terrorism, disdain for the U.S. Constitution and a desire for America to be ruled under Sharia law." ("We Must Investigate CAIR Now," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Tax Reform

Ben Carson Proposed Repealing The Entire Tax Code And Replacing It With A True 14.9 Percent Flat Tax, As Well As Implementing Additional Reforms. "Treatment Plan: Repeal the Entire Tax Code and Replace It With a True 14.9 Percent Flat Tax; Replace the tax code with a true flat tax no deductions, tax shelters or loopholes. Tax all income at a uniform 14.9 percent rate." ("A Simple, Transparent And Fair Tax System For All Americans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

- **"To Protect Those Rising From Poverty, Apply The Flat Tax Only To Income Above 150 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Level (FPL)."** ("A Simple, Transparent And Fair Tax System For All Americans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **"Treat Everyone In America As Citizen-Owners and Require Those Whose Income Is At Or Below 150 Percent Of The FPL To Make A De Minimis Tax Payment Annually."** ("A Simple, Transparent And Fair Tax System For All Americans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **"Tax Income Only Once: No More Double Taxation Of Capital Gains, Dividends And Interest Income At The Personal Level."** ("A Simple, Transparent And Fair Tax System For All Americans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **"Eliminate Deductions For Home Mortgage Interest, Charitable Giving And State And Local Taxes."** ("A Simple, Transparent And Fair Tax System For All Americans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **"Eliminate The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)."** ("A Simple, Transparent And Fair Tax System For All Americans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)
- **"Abolish The Death Tax In Its Entirety."** ("A Simple, Transparent And Fair Tax System For All Americans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Veterans

Ben Carson's Plan To Reform The VA Revolved Around Addressed "Three Unavoidable Realities." "These and other failures have led to numerous calls for VA reform. But most ideas on the subject tinker on the margins and miss three unavoidable realities..." ("Prescription For Caring For America's Veterans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Carson's Reform Plan Involved Ensuring The VA Secretary Has "Full Authority Over Each Arm Of The VA," Reforming Personnel Selection And Performance, Establishing "Full Accountability," "Re-aligning Management Incentives," "Reorganizing Benefit Programs," And "Improving Coordination" Between The VA And Other Agencies. "My proposed comprehensive reform legislation will have the following key elements: Ensuring the Secretary has full authority over each arm of the VA, including budgetary authority; Reforming the personnel selection, training, retention, promotion and performance incentive structures to ensure that all VA personnel, especially those elevated to leadership positions, internalize the core value of service to those who risked all to keep us free; Standardizing acquisition procedures across the VA to help control costs; Ensuring full accountability so that individuals who violate the public trust are not rewarded for their failures; Re-aligning management incentives to make certain only those who provide superior service receive bonuses; Reorganizing benefit programs and bureaucratic infrastructure to better meet 21st century challenges; and Improving coordination between the DOD medical system and the VA to ensure a smooth transition from active duty health care to veterans' health care." ("Prescription For Caring For America's Veterans," [Ben Carson For President](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Political Affiliations

According to GOP Data Center, Benjamin Solomon Carson Is A Republican Voter in Palm Beach County, Florida. (GOP Data Center, Accessed 11/21/16)

DONATIONS

According To Open Secrets, Ben Carson Has Contributed To Various Republicans And Twice To Democrat David Thomas In 2002. ([Center For Responsive Politics](#) Accessed 11/21/16)

Contributor	Occupation	Date	Amount	Recipient
CARSON, BENJAMIN DR [REDACTED]		5/9/16	\$-25,000	Carson, Ben (R)
CARSON, BENJAMIN [REDACTED]	PHYSICIAN	11/6/13	\$2,600	Wehby, Monica
CARSON, BENJAMIN [REDACTED]	PHYSICIAN	11/6/13	\$400	Wehby, Monica
CARSON, BENJAMIN S [REDACTED]	JOHN HOPKINS UNIV	9/28/12	\$250	Bartlett, Roscoe G (R)
CARSON, BENJAMIN DR SR [REDACTED]	JOHN HOPKINS MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS	4/18/12	\$1,000	Romney, Mitt (R)
CARSON, BENJAMIN S DR [REDACTED]		12/19/11	\$520	Kellogg Co
CARSON, BENJAMIN S DR [REDACTED]	JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	8/25/11	\$500	American Assn of Neurological Surgeons
CARSON, BENJAMIN S [REDACTED]	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIV. HOSP.	9/15/06	\$1,000	American Assn of Neurological Surgeons
CARSON, BENJAMIN MD [REDACTED]	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL	9/14/04	\$1,000	American Neurological Surgery PAC
CARSON, BENJAMIN DR [REDACTED]	KELLOGG COMPANY BOARD	9/29/03	\$1,000	Kellogg Co
CARSON, BENJAMIN [REDACTED]	Johns-Hopkins/doctor	8/13/02	\$300	Thomas, David Jeffrey (D)
CARSON, BENJAMIN [REDACTED]	Johns-Hopkins/doctor	2/2/02	\$500	Thomas, David Jeffrey (D)
CARSON, BENJAMIN MD [REDACTED]	Johns Hopkins University	7/13/99	\$250	American Neurological Surgery PAC
CARSON, BENJAMIN MD [REDACTED]	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	7/13/99	\$250	American Neurological Surgery PAC
CARSON, BENJAMIN [REDACTED]	JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE	6/11/99	\$500	Forbes, Steve (R)
CARSON, BENJAMIN [REDACTED]	JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE	4/19/99	\$500	Forbes, Steve (R)

BUSINESSES/ASSOCIATIONS

History With Corporate Board Memberships

Ben Carson Served On The Board Of Kellogg From 1997 To 2015. “Carson, who has made statements that provide ample evidence of homophobia, wasn’t asked about Kellogg, although he got a query about his activities on behalf of a dietary supplements company, Mannatech, that has made questionable claims about its products (he tried to distance himself from the company). But he did serve on Kellogg’s board from 1997 until this year, according to a Detroit News story about his resignation. His association with Costco went back to 1999.” (Trudy Ring, Ben Carson s Surprising History With Pro LGBT Companies Kellogg, Costco,” [The Advocate](#), “10/30/15)

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Business Associations

Dr. Ben Carson Has Over A Decade Long History Of Advocating For Mannatech, A "Controversial Nutritional-Supplement" "There's a company called Mannatech, a maker of nutritional supplements, with which you had a ten-year relationship,' Quintanilla asked. 'They offered claims that they could cure autism and cancer. They paid \$7 million to settle a deceptive-marketing lawsuit in Texas and yet your involvement continued. Why?' 'Well, it's easy to answer," Carson quickly replied. 'I didn't have an involvement with them. That is total propaganda and this is what happens in our society. Total propaganda.' He then backtracked a little. 'I did a couple of speeches for them. I did speeches for other people, they were paid speeches,' he told the crowd before switching back to a full denial. 'It is absolutely absurd to say that I had any kind of relationship with them.' Then he again acknowledged a role. 'Do I take the product? Yes, I think it's a good product.'" (Matt Ford," Ben Carson s Mannatech Problem" [The Atlantic](#), 10/29/16)

- **Although They Admitted No Wrong Doing Mannatech Paid A \$6 Million Settlement In 2009 Following Allegations Of Illegal Marketing Schemes That Promised Unsubstantiated Medical Results.** "Texans will not tolerate illegal marketing schemes that prey upon the sick and unsuspecting,' Abbott's office said at the time. 'Aided by an army of multi-level sellers and their fictitious claims about its products, Mannatech has aggressively marketed supplements to countless unwitting purchasers.' Abbott also emphasized that the company's claims were "not supported by legitimate scientific studies, nor are its products approved as drugs by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.' Mannatech paid a \$6 million settlement in 2009 in which the company admitted no wrongdoing. 'Under the agreed final judgment, Mannatech agreed not to advertise or otherwise claim that its dietary supplements can cure, treat, mitigate, or prevent disease,' according to Abbott's office. The settlement also levied a \$1 million fine against company founder Samuel Caster and banned him from working for Mannatech for five years." (Matt Ford," Ben Carson s Mannatech Problem" [The Atlantic](#), 10/29/16)

Lobbying

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