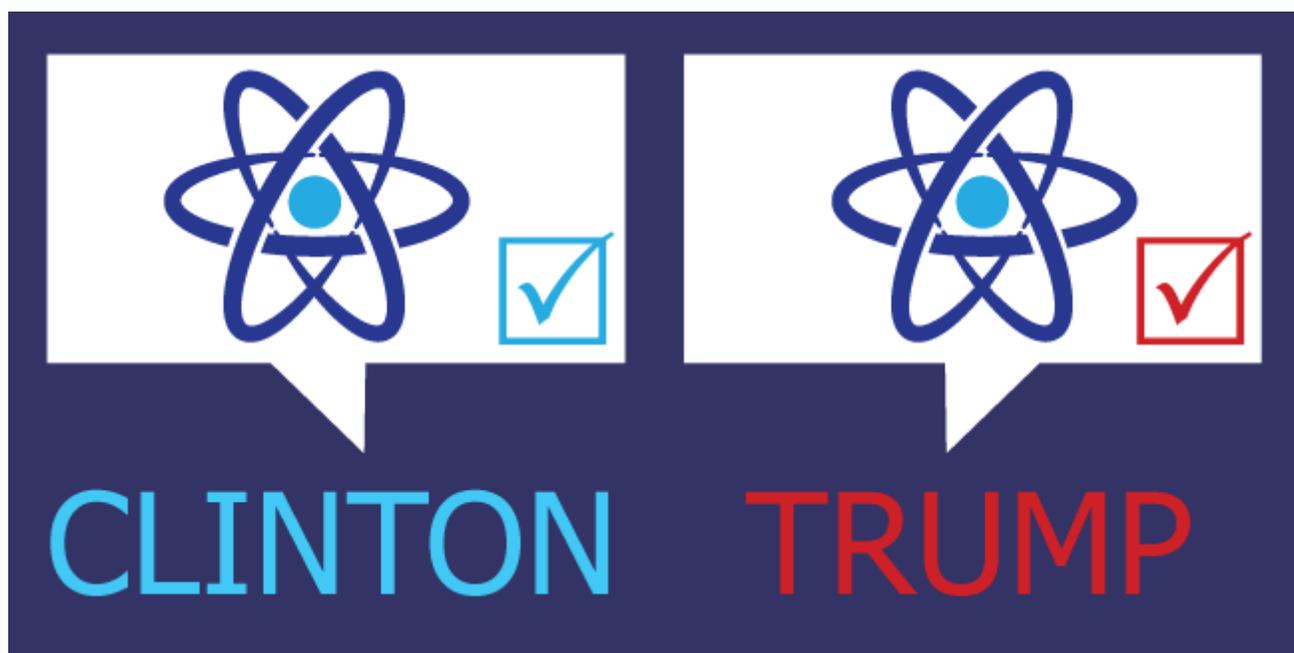


Clinton, Trump Both Support Nuclear Energy

- Clinton sees nuclear as tool in climate change challenge
- Trump promotes nuclear energy's role in energy independence
- Candidates diverge on government role for energy investment

Oct. 19, 2016—Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee for president, and Republican candidate Donald Trump have enough policy space between them that deciding which lever to pull on Nov. 8 should be relatively simple. But their usually stark differences do not extend to nuclear energy. Both support it—though they focus on different reasons for doing so.

Nuclear energy fits in with both candidates' professed energy policies. Trump has said that nuclear is tailored to his vision of energy independence while Clinton concentrates on its ability to mitigate the climate change threat.



"Support for nuclear energy is not a partisan issue," Nuclear Energy Institute Senior Director of Political Affairs Hannah Simone notes.

"In recent years, we have seen an evolution in support for nuclear energy from public and elected officials at the federal, state and local levels. This support will be an important part of either candidate's new administrations, and we look forward to working with them and the next Congress in the days ahead."

Last month, ScienceDebate.org, which bills itself as a "blue-ribbon coalition of fifty-six leading U.S. nonpartisan organizations representing more than 10 million scientists and engineers," published the leading candidates' responses to 20 questions on science, engineering, health and environmental topics.

Clinton sees nuclear energy playing an important role in responding to the threat of climate change—and correctly notes that it produces more carbon-free electricity than all other sources combined.

"Meeting the climate challenge is too important to limit the tools available in this fight. Nuclear power—which accounts for more than 60 percent of our zero carbon power generation today—is one of those tools. I will work to ensure that the climate benefits of our existing nuclear power plants that are safe to operate are appropriately valued and increase investment in the research, development and deployment of advanced nuclear power," she says.

On her campaign website, Clinton expands on [her support for nuclear energy](#). She proposes awarding competitive grants through a "clean energy challenge" to "states, cities and rural communities that take

the lead in reducing carbon pollution by investing in renewable energy, nuclear energy and carbon capture and sequestration.” She also wants to increase public investment in clean energy research and development, including advanced nuclear energy technologies.

Donald Trump sees his support for nuclear energy through the lens of energy independence.

“It should be the goal of the American people and their government to achieve energy independence as soon as possible. Energy independence means exploring and developing every possible energy source including wind, solar, nuclear and bio-fuels,” says a response to one of the ScienceDebate questions.

“Nuclear power is a valuable source of energy and should be part of an all-the-above program for providing power for America long into the future. ... Nuclear power must be an integral part of energy independence for America.”

Trump’s [energy plan proposes](#) to remove “bureaucratic blocks” to innovation and energy exploration. He says he will ensure that government does not favor one energy generator over another and will allow the energy marketplace to determine the best mix of domestic energy sources.

NEI’s Simone emphasizes that both candidates recognize the strengths of nuclear energy.

“It is important and heartening that both candidates have recognized and are promoting nuclear energy as key components in addressing climate concerns, securing energy independence for the United States and creating the many thousands of jobs our industry can offer,” she says.