United States Transhumanist Party – Results of Platform Vote #3

Results of Platform Vote #3

Vote Conducted on March 26 – April 1, 2017
Results Tabulated by Gennady Stolyarov II, Chairman
Results Published on April 7, 2017

Official ballot options can be found here.

The resulting platform planks have been incorporated into the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution, Article III, here.

Note: The nomenclature of the Sections in the compiled Article III of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution differs from the nomenclature on the ballot to reflect the numbering conventions within the Constitution. However, the substance of the adopted Sections is reflective of the votes of the membership. Also, the titles of the ballot questions were intended for informational purposes only during the vote and will not become part of the official Platform.

Total Ballots Cast: 82

Navigate to the results for individual questions:

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Question I. Section E3-A. Thorium Fuel Cycle

Yes: 62 votes – 75.6%
No: 7 votes – 8.5%
Abstain: 13 votes – 15.9%

The result of the Question I vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XI of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“In supporting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the United States Transhumanist Party endorses the thorium fuel cycle, which provides for a safe and nearly limitless energy source in the absence of the development of practical thermonuclear fusion.”

Question II. Section E3-B. Education – Language on Technological Improvements

Yes: 78 votes – 95.1%
No: 3 votes – 3.7%
Abstain: 1 vote – 1.2%

The result of the Question II vote is “Yes”.

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Question III. Section E3-B. Education – Language on Free College

Yes: 59 votes – 72.0%
No: 16 votes – 19.5%
Abstain: 7 votes – 8.5%

The result of the Question III vote is “Yes”.

Question IV. Section E3-B. Education – Language on Desirable Educational Systems

Yes: 76 votes – 92.7%
No: 4 votes – 4.9%
Abstain: 2 votes – 2.4%

The result of the Question IV vote is “Yes”.

(92 responses)
The text of Article III, Section XII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party holds that present and future societies should provide education systems accessible and available to all in pursuit of factual knowledge to increase intellectual acuity; promote critical thinking and logic; foster creativity; form an enlightened collective; attain health; secure the bounty of liberty for all sentient entities for our posterity; and forge new ideas, meanings, and values.

The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to reduce the cost of education while improving its access. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party supports freely available, open-source, methods of learning, teaching, credentialing, and cultural creation that integrate emerging technologies into every facet of the learning process. The United States Transhumanist Party primarily advocates private innovation to deliver such educational improvements, but also advocates the application of these improvements to all publicly funded educational institutions. The United States Transhumanist Party holds that every person should aspire toward intellectual, moral, and esthetic enlightenment and sophistication and should contribute toward bringing about a new Age of Reason, where the highest reaches of intellectual activity are attainable and eagerly pursued by the majority of the population.

The United States has upheld basic education since the American Revolution. The United States Transhumanist Party believes, in keeping with what basic education was in the 1700s, relative to the state of technology given the advancement in society at the time, that ‘basic’ education should be defined as college, and that a key part of our agenda is to help encourage a more successful generation by paying for a ‘basic’ education up to and including college degrees.”

**Question V. Section E3-C. Involvement in the Political Process**

**Question V. Section E3-C. Involvement in the Political Process** (82 responses)

![Pie chart showing the results of the vote.](image)

Yes: 72 votes – 87.8%
No: 5 votes – 6.1%
Abstain: 5 votes – 6.1%

The result of the Question V vote is “Yes”.
The text of Article III, Section XIII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports the involvement of intelligent laypersons in the political process to counteract and neutralize the influence of politically connected special interests and their paid representatives. The United States Transhumanist Party supports all electronic and other technologies that can inform and empower intelligent laypersons to monitor and contribute to political discussions and decisions.”

**Question VI. Section E3-D. End to Drug War**

**Yes:** 76 votes – 92.7%

No: 2 votes – 2.4%

Abstain: 4 votes – 4.9%

The result of the Question VI vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XIV of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports an end to the costly drug war, which is often an infringement upon the lives and liberties of innocent citizens who do not use drugs but fall victim to militant enforcement of drug prohibitions. The United States Transhumanist Party supports legalization of mild recreational drugs such as marijuana.”
Question VII. Section E3-E. Prison Reform

Yes: 69 votes – 84.1%
No: 8 votes – 9.8%
Abstain: 5 votes – 6.1%

The result of the Question VII vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XV of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to significantly reduce the massive incarcerated population in America by using innovative technologies to monitor criminals outside of prison. All mandatory sentencing laws should be abolished, and each individual should be sentenced based solely on the consideration of the nature of that individual’s crime, its context, and its severity.”

Question VIII. Section E3-F. Universal Basic Income

Total votes: 76

Round 1: Tally of First Choices
Option E3-F-1: 27 votes – 35.5%
Option E3-F-2: 24 votes – 31.6%
Option E3-F-3: 7 votes – 9.2%
Option E3-F-4: 10 votes – 13.2%
Option E3-F-NO: 8 votes – 10.5%

In Round 1, no option receives a clear majority. Option E3-F-3 is eliminated, and its votes are re-assigned to the #2 preferences selected by the voter who favored that option. All voter preferences ranked below Option E3-F-3 are shifted up by one ranking.


**Round 2: Tally of First Choices**

Total votes: 76

- Option E3-F-1: 28 votes – 36.8%
- Option E3-F-2: 26 votes – 34.2%
- Option E3-F-4: 14 votes – 18.4%
- Option E3-F-NO: 8 votes – 10.5%

In Round 2, no option receives a clear majority. **Option E3-F-NO is eliminated, and its votes are re-assigned to the #2 preferences selected by the voter who favored that option.** All voter preferences ranked below Option E3-F-NO are shifted up by one ranking. Any ballots that have no remaining preferences are not considered beyond this round.

**Round 3: Tally of First Choices**

Total votes: 72
(Round 3 had 72 ballots considered, since four ballots only indicated the eliminated Option E3-F-NO as the revised first preference, and had no other preference indications.)

- Option E3-F-1: 29 votes – 40.3%
- Option E3-F-2: 27 votes – 37.5%
- Option E3-F-4: 16 votes – 22.2%

In Round 3, no option receives a clear majority. **Option E3-F-4 is eliminated, and its votes are re-assigned to the #2 preferences selected by the voter who favored that option.** All voter preferences ranked below Option E3-F-4 are shifted up by one ranking. Any ballots that have no remaining preferences are not considered beyond this round.

**Round 4: Tally of First Choices**

Total votes: 71
(Round 4 had 71 ballots considered, since one ballot only indicated the eliminated Option E3-F-4 as the revised first preference, and had no other preference indications.)

- Option E3-F-1: 35 votes – 49.3%
- **Option E3-F-2: 36 votes – 50.7%**

After Round 4, Option E3-F-2 wins.

The text of Article III, Section XVI of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“Given the inevitability of technology eventually replacing the need for the labor of sentient entities, the United States Transhumanist Party holds that all sentient entities should be the
beneficiaries of an unconditional universal basic income, whereby the same minimum amount of money or other resources is provided irrespective of a sentient entity’s life circumstances, occupations, or other income sources, so as to provide a means for the basic requirements of existence and liberty to be met.”

Question IX. Section E3-G. Space Colonization

Total votes: 74

**Round 1: Tally of First Choices**
Option E3-G-1: 27 votes – 36.5%
Option E3-G-2: 16 votes – 21.6%
Option E3-G-3: 29 votes – 39.2%
Option E3-G-NO: 2 votes – 2.7%

In Round 1, no option receives a clear majority. Option E3-G-NO is eliminated, and its votes are re-assigned to the #2 preferences selected by the voter who favored that option. All voter preferences ranked below Option E3-G-NO are shifted up by one ranking.

**Round 2: Tally of First Choices**
Total votes: 74

Option E3-G-1: 29 votes – 39.2%
Option E3-G-2: 16 votes – 21.6%
Option E3-G-3: 29 votes – 39.2%

In Round 2, no option receives a clear majority. Option E3-G-2 is eliminated, and its votes are re-assigned to the #2 preferences selected by the voter who favored that option. All voter preferences ranked below Option E3-G-2 are shifted up by one ranking.

**Round 3: Tally of First Choices**
Total votes: 74

Option E3-G-1: 33 votes – 44.6%
**Option E3-G-3: 41 votes – 55.4%**

After Round 3, Option E3-G-3 wins.

The text of Article III, Section XVII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party holds that present and future societies should take all reasonable measures to embrace and fund space travel, not only for the spirit of adventure and to gain knowledge by exploring the universe, but as an ultimate safeguard to its citizens and transhumanity should planet Earth become uninhabitable or be destroyed.”
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**Question X. Section E3-H. Elimination of Disabilities**

*Question X. Section E3-H. Elimination of Disabilities (82 responses)*

Yes: 71 votes – 86.6%
No: 5 votes – 6.1%
Abstain: 6 votes – 7.3%

The result of the Question X vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XVIII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports work to use science and technology to be able to eliminate all disabilities in humans who have them.”

**Question XI. Section E3-I. End to Two-Party Political System**

*Question XI. Section E3-I. End to Two-Party Political System (82 responses)*

Yes: 68 votes – 82.9%
No: 10 votes – 12.2%
Abstain: 4 votes – 4.9%

The result of the Question XI vote is “Yes”.
The text of Article III, Section XIX of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports an end to the two-party political system in the United States and a substantially greater inclusion of “third parties” in the political process through mechanisms such as proportional representation and the elimination of stringent ballot-access requirements. The United States Transhumanist Party also seeks to limit the influence of lobbying by politically connected special interests, while increasing the influence of advocacy by intelligent laypersons.”

**Question XII. Section E3-J. Freedom of Speech**

Yes: 75 votes – 91.5%
No: 5 votes – 6.1%
Abstain: 2 votes – 2.4%

The result of the Question XII vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XX of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party strongly supports the freedom of peaceful speech; religious, non-religious, and anti-religious philosophical espousal; assembly; protest; petition; and expression of grievances. The United States Transhumanist Party therefore strongly opposes all censorship, including censorship that arises out of identity politics and the desire to avoid perceived offensive behavior.”
Question XIII. Section E3-K. Eradication of Police Brutality

Yes: 66 votes – 80.5%
No: 12 votes – 14.6%
Abstain: 4 votes – 4.9%

The result of the Question XIII vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXI of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports a concerted effort by governments and by public opinion to eradicate police brutality against peaceful citizens, such that violent force is only utilized against individuals who actually pose an imminent threat to human lives.”

Question XIV. Section E3-L. Seasteads and Micronations

Yes: 58 votes – 70.7%
No: 11 votes – 13.4%
Abstain: 13 votes – 15.9%

The result of the Question XIV vote is “Yes”.
The text of Article III, Section XXII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts at political, economic, and cultural experimentation in the form of seasteads and micronations. Specifically, the United States Transhumanist Party recognizes the existence and sovereignty of the Principality of Sealand, the Republic of Molossia, and the Free Republic of Liberland, and supports the recognition of these entities by all governments and political parties of the world.”

**Question XV. Section E3-M. Children’s Rights**

Yes: 71 votes – 86.6%
No: 7 votes – 8.5%
Abstain: 4 votes – 4.9%

The result of the Question XV vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXIII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports the rights of children to exercise liberty in proportion to their rational faculties and capacity for autonomous judgment. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party strongly opposes all forms of bullying, child abuse, and censorship of intellectual self-development by children and teenagers.”
Question XVI. Section E3-N. Animal Welfare

The result of the Question XVI vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXIV of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports the promotion of animal welfare to the extent it does not conflict with human well-being. However, the United States Transhumanist Party opposes “animal liberation” movements that seek to return animals to the wilderness or espouse any attempts to separate domesticated animals from human influence. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party supports the prohibition of cruelty to animals and a complete abolition of euthanasia of healthy animals by animal shelters. The United States Transhumanist Party supports a complete prohibition on the killing of non-contagious, non-aggressive dogs, cats, dolphins, whales, elephants, horses, tortoises, parrots, and primates. Furthermore, the United States Transhumanist Party supports the development and widespread consumption of artificially grown, biologically identical meat products that do not involve the killing of animals.”
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Question XVII. Section E3-O. Position on Religious Doctrines

The result of the Question XVII vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXV of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party welcomes both religious and non-religious individuals who support life extension and emerging technologies. The United States Transhumanist Party recognizes that some religious individuals and interpretations may be receptive to technological progress and, if so, are valuable allies to the transhumanist movement. On the other hand, the United States Transhumanist Party is also opposed to any interpretation of a religious doctrine that results in the rejection of reason, censorship, violation of individual rights, suppression of technological advancement, and attempts to impose religious belief by force and/or by legal compulsion.”
Question XVIII. Section E3-P. “Vote Your Conscience” Plank

Yes: 68 votes – 82.9%
No: 7 votes – 8.5%
Abstain: 7 votes – 8.5%

The result of the Question XVIII vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXVI of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party holds that each of its members should vote or abstain from voting in accordance with that member’s own individual conscience and judgment. If an official or candidate of the United States Transhumanist Party expresses a preference for any particular non-transhumanist candidate for office, then no national or State-level Transhumanist Party, nor any individual transhumanist, ought to be in any manner bound to support that same non-transhumanist candidate.”

Question XIX. Section E3-Q. Abolition of the Electoral College

Yes: 62 votes – 75.6%
No: 12 votes – 14.6%
Abstain: 8 votes – 9.8%

The result of the Question XIX vote is “Yes”.
The text of Article III, Section XXVII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party advocates Constitutional reform to abolish the Electoral College in the United States Presidential elections and render the plurality of the popular vote the sole criterion for the election of President. While the original intent of the Electoral College as a deliberative body to check the passions of the poorly informed masses and potentially overturn the election of a demagogue may have been noble, the reality has not reflected this intention. Instead, the Electoral College has enabled votes from less cosmopolitan, less tolerant, more culturally ossified and monolithic areas of the country to disproportionately sway the outcome of Presidential elections, to the detriment of individual liberty and progress.”

Question XX. Section E3-R. Shortening of Electoral Campaigns

The result of the Question XX vote is “Yes”. The text of Article III, Section XXVIII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party advocates greatly shortening the timeframe for electoral campaigns. The current two-year election season, combined with voters’ short memories, renders it possible for both genuine merits and egregious transgressions of candidates to be forgotten by the time of voting. Longer campaign seasons also perpetuate the “horse-race” mentality on the part of the media and result in the search for contrived election drama in order to drive views and campaign contributions. The ensuing acrimony, misinformation, and outright violence are detrimental to the fabric of a civilized society. Election seasons should be as short as possible, to enable all relevant information to be disseminated quickly and be considered by most voters within the same timeframe as their decisions are made.”
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**Question XXI. Section E3-S. Abolition of Staggered Party Primaries**

Yes: 66 votes – 80.5%
No: 10 votes – 12.2%
Abstain: 6 votes – 7.3%

The result of the Question XXI vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXIX of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party advocates abolishing all staggered party primaries and for all primary elections to be held on the same day across the entire country. With staggered party primaries, individuals voting later – solely because of the jurisdiction in which they reside – find their choices severely constrained due to the prior elimination of candidates they might have preferred. The staggered primary system tends to elevate the candidates who are least palatable to reasonable voters – but have the support of a vociferous, crass, and often violent fringe – toward frontrunner positions that create the pressure for other members of the political party to follow suit and reluctantly support the worst of the nominees.”

**Question XXII. Section E3-T. Replacement of “Winner Take All” Electoral System**
Yes: 69 votes – 84.1%
No: 7 votes – 8.5%
Abstain: 6 votes – 7.3%

The result of the Question XXII vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXX of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports replacing the current “winner-take-all” electoral system with proportional representation, ranked preference voting, and other devices to minimize the temptations by voters to favor a perceived “lesser evil” rather than the candidates closest to those voters’ own preferences.”

Question XXIII. Section E3-U. Secession under Certain Conditions

Yes: 47 votes – 57.3%
No: 25 votes – 30.5%
Abstain: 10 votes – 12.2%

The result of the Question XXIII vote is “Yes”.

The text of Article III, Section XXXI of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party supports the right of any jurisdiction to secede from the United States specifically in opposition to policies that institutionalize racism, xenophobia, criminalization of dissent, and persecution of peaceful persons. The United States Transhumanist Party does not, however, condone any secession for the purposes of oppressing others. Therefore, the secession of the Confederate States in 1860 was illegitimate, but a future secession of a State may be justified in reaction to violent crackdowns by the federal government against individuals based on individuals’ national origin or ancestry.”
Question XXIV. Section E3-V. Existential Risk

Total votes: 74

Round 1: Tally of First Choices
Option E3-V-1: 26 votes – 35.1%
Option E3-V-2: 18 votes – 24.3%
Option E3-V-3: 22 votes – 29.7%
Option E3-V-NO: 8 votes – 10.8%

In Round 1, no option receives a clear majority. Option E3-V-NO is eliminated, and its votes are re-assigned to the #2 preferences selected by the voters who favored that option. All voter preferences ranked below Option E3-V-NO are shifted up by one ranking. Any ballots that have no remaining preferences are not considered beyond this round.

Round 2: Tally of First Choices
Total votes: 71 (Round 2 had 71 ballots considered, since three ballots only indicated the eliminated Option E3-V-NO as the first preference, and had no other preference indications.)

Option E3-V-1: 27 votes – 38.0%
Option E3-V-2: 22 votes – 31.0%
Option E3-V-3: 22 votes – 31.0%

In Round 2, no option receives a clear majority. Option E3-V-2 and E3-V-3, being tied for the smallest number of reassigned votes, are both eliminated, and their votes are re-assigned to the #2 or #3 preferences selected by the voters who favored one or both of those options.

By default, the only remaining option is Option E3-V-1, which would receive all of the remaining votes (70) of the members who indicated this option anywhere within their rank-ordering.

Accordingly, after Round 2, Option E3-V-1 wins.
The text of Article III, Section XXXII of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution will therefore read as follows:

“The United States Transhumanist Party encourages every reasonable precaution to prevent existential risks that endanger sentient life. While some existential risks arise from certain technologies, many existential risks also stem from the unaltered “natural” circumstances in which humans and other life forms find themselves. For both technological and “natural” existential risks, the strongest safeguards can be achieved through responsible development of protective technologies that empower rational and moral beings.”