

2020 presidential contenders

An overview of Donald Trump and Joe Biden's policy stances
by issue area

2020 presidential candidates



**President
Donald Trump**

Background:

- 45th president of the United States
- Received a BS degree from Penn's Wharton School of Business
- Born and raised in New York City
- Appointed president of his family's real estate business in 1971; made his fortune from building and renovating skyscrapers, hotels, casinos, and golf courses as well as brand licensing
- Starred in the reality TV competition, *The Apprentice* from 2003-15
- Managed The Trump Organization until his presidential inauguration
- Birthday: 6/14/46



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Background:

- Served as vice president to Pres. Obama for both terms, 2009-2017
- Received a BA from U. of Delaware and a JD from Syracuse University
- Was a key advisor to Obama and an experienced leader of the Senate
- Served as US senator for Delaware from 1973-2009
- Served as chairman of both the Judiciary and Foreign Relation Committees
- Known most widely for his work on criminal justice reform and the Violence Against Women Act
- Birthday: 11/20/42

Agriculture: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on agriculture policy:

- Pres. Trump signed the 2018 farm bill, which reauthorized programs related to agriculture, forestry, nutrition, energy, and more
- Trump has imposed tariffs on agricultural imports from a number of countries; as a result, China, the EU, India, and Turkey have responded with retaliatory tariffs on US products
- Trump's USDA has issued two rounds of trade assistance to farmers; \$12 billion in 2018 and \$16 billion in 2019
- Trump has sought to limit the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by calling for reductions to SNAP funding during the farm bill process and by proposing a rule which would restrict the ability of states to expand eligibility beyond federal levels



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on agriculture policy:

- Former VP Biden released a plan for rural America that includes support programs for beginning farmers, investment in regional food systems and local supply chains, increased funding for land-grant universities, greater agricultural antitrust enforcement, and various investments in renewable farming methods
- Biden supports a substantial expansion of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to incentivize lowering carbon emissions from agriculture
- As a senator, Biden pushed for limits on farm program payments to large farms in order to help family farmers

Climate Change: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on climate change:

- In 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord; in November of 2019, the administration formally notified the UN that it would withdraw
- Replaced the Clean Power Plan with the less burdensome, more coal-friendly Affordable Clean Energy rule
- Approved the Keystone XL Pipeline and Dakota Access Pipeline
- His administration initiated 85 rollbacks of environmental rules as of September 2019, and he has pushed for increased oil and gas drilling on federal lands and offshore
- Emphasizes the detrimental impact of green policies on U.S. industry, labor, and economy



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on climate change:

- A strong environmental advocate as a senator, introducing one of Congress' first climate change-related pieces of legislation: the 1986 Global Climate Protection Act
- Cosponsored the Boxer-Sanders Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act, which proposed a federal cap-and-trade program
- In the Senate, he was the primary cosponsor of the resolution calling for the U.S. to participate in UN climate negotiations in 2007
- He is an outspoken opponent of climate denial claims
- Was VP during Paris Accord signing and the Clean Power Plan creation
- Has published a climate plan to achieve a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice

Overview

Federal funding used:
\$1.7 trillion

Timeline:

- Ten year mobilization
- 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050

Goals

- Achieve a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050
- Reenter the Paris Accord on day one of the Biden administration
- Invest in resilient infrastructure, energy and climate research, and innovation
- Update fuel economy standards and install 500,000 public EV charging outlets
- Ban new oil and gas leases on public lands and waters

Funding

- Invests \$1.7 trillion in federal funding over 10 years, leveraging an additional \$5 trillion in private sector and state and local investments
- Rolls back tax incentives for corporations to pay for this proposal

Enforcement

- Commits Biden to work with Congress to establish an emissions enforcement mechanism, including 2025 targets
- Directs EPA and Justice Department to hold polluters accountable

Environmental justice

- Protects drinking water and deploys clean energy innovation, especially in areas most impacted by climate change and pollution
- Invests in coal and power plant communities during the energy transition

Nuclear:

2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on nuclear power:

- Pres. Trump has attempted to expand the US domestic nuclear power industry, largely through executive orders and memoranda
- Signed an executive order in March 2017 calling for federal agencies to review regulations for any roadblocks to expanding domestic energy production, “with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy resources”
- Signed the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act in 2018
- On July 12, 2019, Trump issued an executive order establishing the United States Nuclear Fuel Working Group, which he tasked with examining the nuclear supply chain and making recommendations about ways to expand domestic nuclear production; the deadline for the group’s recommendations was extended in October 2019



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on nuclear power:

- Would support nuclear energy through ARPA-C, a cross-agency Advanced Research Projects Agency that Biden will establish to focus on climate change
- ARPA-C research would investigate various issues that currently affect nuclear power, such as cost, safety, and waste disposal systems
- Biden’s plan specifically mentions investing in developing “small modular nuclear reactors at half the construction cost of today’s reactors”

Oceans Policy: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on oceans policy:

- Issued an executive order in June 2018 aimed at growing the ocean economy and “streamlining” regulations
- Has worked to expand drilling; his efforts have been challenged in court
- The Trump administration has threatened to revoke the protected status of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Monument
- Has moved to permit incidental harm to marine mammals in construction projects
- Trump’s proposal to divert California water for farmers in the state was predicted by NOAA scientists to jeopardize vulnerable fish populations
- Rolled back Obama-era oil and gas well safety rules put in place after the BP oil spill



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on oceans policy:

- Supports a ban on offshore drilling
- His climate plan pledges to preserve 30% of US lands and waters before 2030
- The Obama administration, with Biden as vice president, protected marine spaces such as the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument
- The Obama administration also imposed oil well safety rules after the BP oil spill
- Supports strengthening the Endangered Species Act

Renewable Fuel Standard: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on the Renewable Fuel Standard:

- Under Pres. Trump, the EPA finalized a rule in June of 2019 expanding fuel waivers for E15 and increasing transparency in the Renewable Identification Number (RIN) market
- In December 2019, Trump's EPA finalized its 2020 blending levels, which require large refineries to use more biofuel in order to compensate for biofuel exempted under EPA waivers
- During the 2016 election, Pres. Trump championed ethanol and the RFS



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on the Renewable Fuel Standard:

- Former Vice Pres. Biden worked with former Pres. Obama to orchestrate blending cuts under the RFS in 2014, later struck down in federal court in 2016
- In Iowa, an important presidential polling state, corn growers and ethanol producers have sent a joint letter to Biden requesting an explanation for his actions during the Obama administration and a personal meeting regarding the ethanol industry
- In the "Biden Plan for Rural America," Biden includes a provision on using "every tool at his disposal" to promote and advance ethanol and biofuels, which he believes will contribute to addressing climate change and reducing emissions

Infrastructure: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on infrastructure:

- President Trump's infrastructure plan proposes a \$200 billion federal investment in infrastructure projects at the state, local, tribal, and private level with \$50 billion allocated for a new rural infrastructure program and broadband access in underdeveloped areas
- Supported allocating \$14 billion to transportation, water, and other related infrastructure projects and \$10 billion to fund construction of federal office buildings
- Earlier this year, President Trump and lawmakers met several times to work on a \$2 trillion infrastructure plan; however, as a result of issues with funding levels, the plan did not move forward



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on infrastructure:

- Former VP Biden supports a \$400 billion investment over ten years to build green infrastructure in order to reduce emissions and fossil fuels use
- Plans to invest \$20 billion towards rural broadband infrastructure and triple "Community Connect" broadband grants
- Proposes using infrastructure funding to modernize the lock and dam system to help get rural products to market, as well as building more roads to give farms and small town businesses access to larger markets
- Supports investing in infrastructure upgrades that can withstand the impacts of climate change
- Plans to invest in the climate resilience of military bases

Labor Policy: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on labor policy:

- The Trump administration has initiated a variety of rule rollbacks, including the likely reduction of a proposal that would have made more than four million additional salaried employees eligible for overtime pay and several other health and safety regulations
- Both of Trump's appointees to the Supreme Court – Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh – have tended to side with employers over workers
- The White House's top economic advisor, Larry Kudlow, has vocally opposed increasing the federal minimum wage. However, Trump's position on minimum wage is unclear; in the primaries, he supported a minimum wage increase to \$10
- During his 2016 campaign, Trump put forth a policy proposal for six weeks of paid maternity leave for new mothers



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on labor policy:

Wages: Has supported a \$15/hour minimum wage since 2015, when President Obama's official stance was \$12/hour

Paid leave: Rallied with Gov. Andrew Cuomo for New York's paid family leave program

Unions: Supports workers' rights to form unions & collective bargain

Other proposals

- Plans to strengthen benefits for older Americans by ensuring long-run solvency for social security and implementing a minimum benefit for lifelong workers
- Supports measures that protect workers who discuss their pay from employer retaliation and measures against wage theft
- Supports ending misclassification of workers to avoid paying them overtime
- Supports banning non-compete clauses
- Was instrumental in the development of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (2014) while Vice President

Legislation supported: *S.1306 - Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019*; *H.R.7 - Paycheck Fairness Act*

Tax Policy: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President
Donald Trump**

Views on tax policy:

- Signed into law the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” (TCJA), a \$1.5 trillion overhaul of the US tax code, in 2017
 - The law permanently reduced corporate tax rates from 35% to 21% and temporarily decreased individual income tax rates for most brackets
- Campaigned on enacting middle class tax cuts during his 2016 presidential bid
- Proposed a “major” middle-class tax cut if Republicans win the White House and retake the House in 2020



**Former Vice President
Joe Biden**

Views on tax policy:

- *In his tax proposal, the former Vice President says he will:*
 - Increase income and payroll taxes for individuals with high incomes
 - Repeal various TCJA provisions
 - Reduce tax subsidies for certain industries (like the fossil fuel industry), and increase subsidies for investments in renewable energy
 - Tax capital gains at the rate of ordinary labor income for those earning more than \$1 million
 - Ensure that earnings over \$400,000 are subject to the Social Security payroll tax
 - Raise the corporate tax rate to 28% and implement a 15% corporate minimum tax
- An analysis by the Tax Policy Center found that Biden’s plan would increase federal revenues by \$4 trillion over the next 10 years