



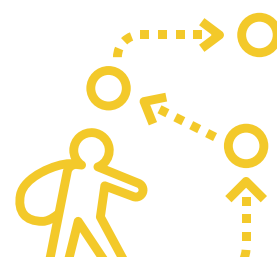
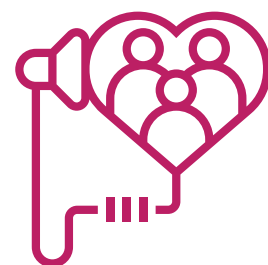
2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



Voter Guide

CREATED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

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Culturally Relevant K-12 Support

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Donald Trump (R)

SEARAC did not receive a response from the Trump campaign.

Joe Biden (D)

I have proposed tripling Title 1 funding, which goes to schools serving a high number of children from low-income families. This new funding must first be used to ensure teachers at Title I schools are paid competitively, three- and four-year-olds have access to pre-school, and districts provide access to rigorous coursework across all of their schools, not just a few. But once these three conditions are met, districts will have the flexibility to use these funds for other local priorities, such as ethnic studies and English language learner support.

Additionally, I am proposing to dramatically expand our investment in community schools, which work with families, students, teachers and community organizations to identify families' unmet needs and then develop a plan to leverage community resources to address these needs in the school building, turning schools into community hubs. By investing in this collaborative partnership, these community schools will be able to identify and meet the needs of the SEAA community, including culturally relevant parental engagement. And, I am proposing to double the number of mental health professionals in our schools. This will enable many schools with a large number of SEAA students to hire culturally and linguistically competent mental health professionals.

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Culturally Relevant K-12 Support

Bernie Sanders (D)

As part of Bernie's plan to reinvest in public education, he will triple Title I funding to ensure low-income schools have the resources they need, and ensure access to English as a Second Language instruction, as well as making massive investments in educator diversity.

We will invest in the education, training, mentorship, residencies, and hiring of teachers of color to diversify the public school teacher workforce. This includes establishing a dedicated fund of \$5 billion to create and expand teacher-training programs at HBCUs, MSIs and tribal colleges and universities to increase educator diversity and providing \$5 billion to programs that increase recruitment, retention, and professional development of diverse K-12 teachers.

And we will empower our teachers to provide a teacher-supported curriculum that gives students the best possible education.

Our public schools can and should be more than just places where children learn - they can be community centers that build the health and well-being of students. We must act to transform our education system into a high-quality public good that connects education, health, and social-services to young people and facilitates culturally relevant parental engagement. A strong investment in sustainable community school programs can help us achieve that. President Trump has proposed eliminating funding for community school programs. We have a better idea: a \$50 billion investment in sustainable community schools over the next decade to provide a holistic, full-service approach to learning and the wellbeing of our young people that engages.

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College Access, Affordability, and Completion

Joe Biden (D)

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My plan will:

- Target additional financial support to low-income and middle-class individuals by doubling the maximum value of Pell grants, significantly increasing the number of middle-class Americans who can participate in the program. As president, I will also take care of young immigrants by ensuring DREAMers are eligible for financial aid if they meet other requirements for that aid. And, I will restore formerly incarcerated individuals' eligibility for Pell.
- Under the Biden plan, individuals making \$25,000 or less a year will not owe any payments on their undergraduate federal student loans and also won't accrue any interest on those loans.
- Make under-resourced MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs more affordable for their students. My plan will invest \$18 billion in grants to these four-year schools, equivalent to up to two years of tuition per low-income and middle class student, including DREAMers and students who transfer to a four-year HBCU, TCU, AANAPISI, or other MSI from a tuition-free community college.
- Provide support to continuously improve the value of MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs by investing \$10 billion in programs that increase enrollment, retention, completion, and employment rates.
- Triple and make permanent the capacity-building and student support for MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs in Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act. These funds serve as a lifeline to under-resourced MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs year over year, ensuring that the most vulnerable students have the support they need to succeed. My administration will make permanent \$750 million per year in Title III and Title V funding, which will provide a dedicated revenue stream of \$7.5 billion over the first ten years.

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College Access, Affordability, and Completion

Bernie Sanders (D)

When Bernie is President, we will guarantee tuition and debt-free public colleges, universities, HBCUs, Minority Serving Institutions and trade-schools to all, regardless of family income or immigration status. As President, Bernie will ensure all students have access to continue their education without fear of insurmountable loan debt. We will also cancel all student debt for every person in the AANAPISI community, regardless of income.

In addition to making public colleges, universities, HBCUs, Minority Serving Institutions and trade-schools tuition and debt-free, Bernie will:

- Double funding for the TRIO Programs and increase funding for the GEAR UP Program so more low-income students, students with disabilities, and first-generation students can attend and graduate college with a degree.
- Provide Pell Grants to low-income students to cover the non-tuition and fee costs of school, including: housing, books, supplies, transportation, and other costs of living.
- Require participating states and tribes to cover the full cost of obtaining a degree for low-income students (normally those with a family income of less than \$25,000) by covering any gap that may still exist after we eliminate tuition, fees, and grants.
- Place a cap on student loan interest rates going forward. The federal government shouldn't make billions of dollars in profit off of student loans while students are drowning in debt. We should invest in young Americans - not leverage their futures. Today, the average interest rate on undergraduate student loans is more than 5 percent. Under this proposal, we will cap student loan interest rates at 1.88 percent.

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College Access, Affordability, and Completion

Donald Trump (R)

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Access to Affordable Healthcare

Joe Biden (D)

“ My plan takes a number of steps to build on Obamacare, including allowing Americans who are uninsured or who don't like their coverage to buy into a Medicare-like public option. My plan also increases premium tax credits so more people will have lower premiums and lower deductibles. My plan will help middle class families by eliminating the 400% income cap on tax credit eligibility and lowering the limit on the cost of coverage from 9.86% of income to 8.5%. This means that no family buying insurance on the individual marketplace, regardless of income, will have to spend more than 8.5% of their income on health insurance.

My plan will ensure low-income individuals get covered by offering premium-free access to the public option for the roughly 4 million individuals who would be eligible for Medicaid but for their state's inaction, and making sure their public option covers the full scope of Medicaid benefits. States that have already expanded Medicaid will have the choice of moving the expansion population to the premium-free public option as long as the states continue to pay their current share of the cost of covering those individuals. Additionally, I will ensure people making below 138% of the federal poverty line get covered. I'll do this by automatically enrolling these individuals when they interact with certain institutions (such as public schools) or other programs for low-income populations (such as SNAP).

I believe that Medicaid plays an absolutely critical role in our health care system and it must be protected and strongly funded going forward. As president, I will fight all efforts to undermine it - such as work requirements and other tactics to reduce enrollment.

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Access to Affordable Healthcare

Bernie Sanders (D)

Bernie's Medicare for All program will guarantee comprehensive health care to everyone in this country, including the more than one million uninsured Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Health care is not a commodity. It is a human right. The goal of a health care system should be to keep people well, not to make stockholders rich. Bernie's Medicare for All program would provide comprehensive health coverage to all with no premiums, deductibles, copayments, or surprise bills.

Medicare coverage will be expanded and improved to include: dental, hearing, vision, and home- and community-based long-term care, in-patient and out-patient services, mental health and substance abuse treatment, reproductive and maternity care, prescription drugs, and more.

Bernie will also expand Community Health Centers to increase access to health care services in underserved communities. Community Health Centers serve 28 million patients a year in underserved communities, 63 percent of which are a racial or ethnic minority. Bernie is also proud to have secured \$11 billion for Community Health Centers in the Affordable Care Act.

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Donald Trump (R)

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Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Mental Health Services

Joe Biden (D)

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As president, I will make sure enforcing our mental health parity laws is a priority. Currently states vary in how they define essential health benefits when it comes to mental health. In my Administration, we will set clear standards raising the bar for mental health coverage, including habilitative services and other forms of behavioral health care.

I will also build on the Affordable Care Act to make sure low-income individuals with mental health disabilities have access to insurance. Access to affordable health insurance that includes coverage for mental health shouldn't depend on your zip code or income.

And because I also want to make sure that our kids get the mental health care they need, I will make an unprecedented investment in school mental health professionals in order to double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals employed in our schools, and partner with colleges to expand the pipeline of these professionals. My plan will allow school districts with a large number of SEAA students to hire culturally and linguistically competent mental health professionals.

Donald Trump (R)

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Bernie **Sanders (D)**

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Mental Health Services

Bernie will ensure all providers receive training to provide culturally competent care, and when we are in the White House, we will address the need for more minority doctors, dentists, nurses, and mental health providers who can provide the care that is so desperately needed in their communities.

Bernie's Medicare for All plan would address the mental health crisis by providing comprehensive coverage for mental health and substance abuse treatment services as well as prescription drugs. Mental health care, under Medicare for All, will be free at the time of service, with no co-payments that can be a barrier to treatment.

This country has a serious shortage of mental health practitioners. We will address this health workforce shortage crisis by increasing funding for the National Health Service Corps, which provides scholarships and loan repayment to clinicians working in underserved communities. Through Medicare for All, we will bring more providers to underserved communities by increasing federal funding for community health centers, which currently serve nearly 30 million people in underserved communities.

Bernie's Medicare for All plan requires an evaluation of health disparities, including racial and geographic disparities, and a plan for addressing the disparities found in the evaluation. It creates an Office of Primary Health to figure out how to increase access to care, including how to train the workforce we need to address these disparities. Under Bernie's Medicare for All, mental health care will be just as important as physical health care.

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Government Programs to Support Low-Income Families

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Joe Biden (D)

As president, I will increase funding for the program and roll back President Trump's actions to restrict SNAP. SNAP beneficiaries should have as many options for purchasing food as other people, and they shouldn't have to be pushed to use any one option. As president, I will oppose any proposals like President Trump's Harvest Box plan that restricts choices of SNAP beneficiaries. And, I will address food deserts so people in low income communities are not forced to use online shopping as their only option. To protect income support and increase employment and opportunities, I will protect and enhance Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, which millions of people rely on to survive.

Donald Trump (R)

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Government Programs to Support Low-Income Families

Bernie Sanders (D)

We will expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by \$311 billion to increase the benefits from the "thrifty" plan which provides inadequate benefits to the more generous "low-cost" food plan, include those with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty line, remove punitive work requirements, remove barriers for college students to access SNAP, and ensure people are not denied benefits due to past interaction with the criminal justice system. We will expand the SNAP program and benefits to the people of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa so they are on par with the benefits in the continental United States. And we will allow SNAP recipients to purchase hot and prepared foods with their benefits.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is an earned benefit that covers more than 150 million workers and lifts millions of people with disabilities and their families out of poverty. Currently, the SSDI program faces a massive backlog and a wait time for applicants that can stretch into years. Thousands of Americans have died waiting for a hearing. This is unacceptable. The United States spends far less than other rich nations on assistance for people with disabilities. We must ensure dignity for Americans with disabilities by expanding benefit levels and giving them access to their earned benefits in a timely manner.

Additionally, Supplemental Security Insurance provides a small but crucial lifeline for those with disabilities and low incomes, including children. SSI supports 1.2 million children with disabilities, lifting hundreds of thousands out of poverty and substantially reducing deep poverty. But SSI benefits do not even reach the federal poverty line and have been targeted for cuts by Trump and the GOP. We must protect and expand SSI for those who need it the most.

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Ending Unjust Mandatory Detention and Deportations

Joe Biden (D)

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I will end prolonged detention and reinvest in a case management program. I will codify protections to safeguard children to make sure their treatment is consistent with their best interest and invest in community-based case management programs, including those supported by faith-based organizations such as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, to move migrants into safe environments as quickly as possible. I will also end the use of for-profit detention centers, because no business should profit from the suffering of desperate people fleeing violence. I will ensure that facilities that temporarily house migrants seeking asylum are held to the highest standards of care and prioritize the safety and dignity of families above all. And, I will make clear that the federal government should not use private facilities for any detention, including detention of undocumented immigrants.

Furthermore, targeting people who have never been convicted of a serious criminal offense and who have lived, worked, and contributed to our economy and our communities for decades is the definition of counterproductive. I will direct enforcement efforts toward threats to public safety and national security, while ensuring that individuals are treated with the due process to which they are entitled and their human rights are protected. I will end workplace raids to ensure that threats based on workers' status do not interfere with their ability to organize and improve their wages and working conditions. I will also protect sensitive locations from immigration enforcement actions.

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Ending Unjust Mandatory Detention and Deportations

Bernie Sanders (D)

On day one of his Administration, Bernie will put a moratorium on deportations until a thorough audit of current and past practices and policies is complete.

He will also direct the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to end all federal contracts with private prisons and detention centers. He will direct the Department of Health and Human Services to reunite families separated by the federal government swiftly, and will connect detainees and unaccompanied minors with family members, sponsors, and supports, such as legal counsel.

Bernie will also work with Congress to pass the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, introduced by Rep. Pramila Jayapal, which will virtually end detention entirely for asylum seekers and other vulnerable persons, requiring release on recognizance or alternatives to detention. We will establish a presumption of release for all detained immigrants, ensuring that detention is only used in rare cases of flight risk or demonstrated and proven threat to another individual.

He will repeal the 1996 immigration laws, restoring case by case discretion for independent immigration judges and ending mandatory detention and expedited removal.

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Donald Trump (R)

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Strengthening Naturalization Programs

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Joe Biden (D)

Donald Trump (R)

SEARAC did not receive a response from the Trump campaign.

My administration will streamline and improve the naturalization process to make it more accessible to qualified green card holders. I will restore faith in the citizenship process by removing roadblocks to naturalization and obtaining the right to vote, addressing the application backlog by prioritizing the adjudication workstream and ensuring applications are processed quickly, and rejecting the imposition of unreasonable fees.

As president, I will marshal federal resources, through the reestablishment of the Task Force for New Americans, to support community efforts to welcome immigrants. Concrete efforts will most often happen within individual communities, but federal agencies have tremendous information and resources to support community-led efforts. By adopting initiatives promoted by organizations like Welcoming America, my administration will improve access to federal agencies and better support local initiatives, such as:

- Creating neighborhood resource centers or welcome centers to help all residents find jobs; access services and English-language learning opportunities; and navigate the school system, health care system, and other important facets of daily life;
- Driving campaigns to help lawful permanent residents naturalize;
- Ensuring that all public schools have sufficient English-language learning support to help all children reach their potential

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Strengthening Naturalization Programs

Bernie Sanders (D)

Bernie will reverse Trump's posture and ensure all agencies tasked with distributing benefits and reviewing immigration applications are fully funded and staffed, and cut waiting times, costs, and bureaucratic complexities for those pursuing legal permanent residency and naturalization.

As President, Bernie will:

- Ensure customs and immigrations agencies have the funding and personnel necessary to eliminate the backlog of pending applications and cut wait times for immigration applications.
- Work with Congress to provide funding to swiftly unify families stuck in pending backlogs.
- Provide necessary funding for outreach, integration, and naturalization programs.
- Protect and expand family-based visas and cut waiting times and backlogs.
- Overhaul and streamline the visa system to reduce errors and costs and eliminate burdensome fees.
- Eliminate discrimination facing LGBTQ+ families throughout immigration laws, including making sure that all children born to U.S. citizen parents have acquired citizenship, regardless of a biological relationship.
- Direct the newly created National Office of Disability Coordination to work with agencies to ensure the immigration and citizenship process is fully accessible to people with disabilities.
 - This includes streamlining our visa and citizenship system and making it easier to navigate, fully accessible, and broadly inclusive.
 - Ensure customs and immigration agencies make reasonable accommodations and, where necessary, disability waivers for the English and civics test broadly available and publicized for people with disabilities to access.

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Protecting and Expanding Family Immigration

“ **Bernie Sanders (D)**

Bernie supports a family-based immigration system grounded in civil and human rights. He believes we must stand up for our values and accept refugees, asylum-seekers, and families who come to the United States in search of the American Dream. This is how America was built and it has made our country strong.

We will ensure any path to citizenship does not come with a reduction in traditional, family-based visas, and we will protect and expand family-based visas, as well as cut waiting times and backlogs.

Donald Trump (R)

SEARAC did not receive a response from the Trump campaign.

Joe Biden (D)

As president, I will support family-based immigration by preserving family unification as a foundation of our immigration system; by allowing any approved applicant to receive a temporary non-immigrant visa until the permanent visa is processed; and by supporting legislation that treats the spouse and children of green card holders as the immediate relatives they are, exempting them from caps, and allowing parents to bring their minor children with them at the time they immigrate.

America has been strengthened culturally and economically by immigrants and refugees from Southeast Asia countries who have made their homes in the United States. Offering hope and safe haven to refugees is part of who we are as a country, which is why I will embrace the core values that have made us who we are and will prioritize restoring refugee admissions in line with our historic practice under both Democratic and Republican Administrations. I will set the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000, and seek to raise it over time commensurate with our responsibility, our values, and the unprecedented global need.

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