

A Resource Guide for the Election 2020: Presidential Candidates' Proposed Policies on Issues Affecting the Disability Community

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This is a resource guide for anyone who seeks information on key issues affecting the entire disability community. The proposed policies of candidates for the President of the United States on these issues are listed, if they could be found.

Joe Biden

Donald Trump

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<p>Child Care: Provide families with up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave and 7 days of paid sick leave. Biden supports the Child Care for Working Families Act which will offer sliding scale subsidies for low-income families, increase access to high-quality education and child care, and invest in care for children of parents in college or the military. Biden also plans to increase income for child care workers, provide health care, and protect their right to organize. The plan will be paid for by taxing high-income Americans. Biden will also build on the Early Head Start and the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs.</p>	<p>Child Care: Supports paid family leave by borrowing from future federal benefits, such as Social Security. Trump's principles for Child Care Reform include reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant and adjusting co-payments using a sliding fee scale. He has proposed increased background checks for early childhood teachers and funding child care centers in underserved populations and rural areas. Trump aims to encourage businesses to offer child care benefits.</p>
<p>COVID-19: Biden has a seven-point plan to beat COVID-19. This includes ensuring Americans have regular, reliable and free COVID-19 tests, increase the production of PPE, provide clear, evidence-based guidance on how to reopen schools and small businesses, planning for effective and equitable distribution of vaccines (invest 25 billion dollars here) and protect the communities that are at higher risk. Biden also will rebuild and expand defenses that will dismantle and mitigate pandemic threats, which includes immediately restoring the</p>	<p>COVID-19: Trump has taken early action and pride in stopping travel from China in an aim to limit COVID-19 spread. Since COVID has become rampant in America, Trump has created a COVID-19 taskforce and assisted in building the testing policies and administering over 65 million tests to Americans all over the country. It is unclear of how Trump plans to move forward with regards to COVID-19 policies, but he is making an effort to reopen businesses and improve the economy as soon as possible. He also seems to be shifting strategies to protect the nation's most valuable</p>

<p>relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO). Finally, Biden will implement mandatory mask regulations, claiming it can save around 70,000 lives.</p>	<p>groups and maintaining a sense of normalcy since containing COVID-19 at this point is unrealistic.</p>
<p>Disability Policy: Biden will appoint a director of disability policy within the Domestic Policy Council and recruit people with disabilities to fill leadership positions across the Administration. He plans to enforce the Olmstead Decision and support the Disabled Access Credit Expansion Act, which increases tax credits for small businesses to improve accessibility. Biden will also nominate judges who support the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and protect the parental rights of people with disabilities. He aims to pass the Accessible Voting Act, which will require states and localities to provide accessible voting information and accommodations. Biden also plans to create incentives for employers to hire people with disabilities and expand assistive technology programs.</p>	<p>Disability Policy: No official statement released yet. In response to the “disability racket,” Trump proposed tightening eligibility standards for disability benefits to avoid fraudulent claims. These changes include reducing full-time work from 40 to 30 hours a week and requiring proof of disability every two years. During his administration, the Justice Department withdrew technical assistance and guidance documents that required states to help people with disabilities access integrated workplaces.</p>
<p>Economy: Biden’s economic policies are heavily defined by raising the backbone of America, which he classifies as the middle class. Historically, the middle class has been the class that built up America. Biden plans to create millions of jobs, extend COVID-19 crisis unemployment and provide national aid to prevent essential worker layoffs. Biden also believes that addressing racial inequities and assisting in small businesses in corporate America will help alleviate the disparities of wealth within this country.</p>	<p>Economy: When looking at Trump's economic accomplishments and policies, it is valuable to look at his gains before COVID-19 and future economic policies. Before COVID-19, the national debt increased, unemployment was very low and the stock market was doing well. For future economic policies post COVID-19, Trump states he will be bringing jobs back, changing tax policies (see tax section), and focus on building up businesses.</p>
<p>Education: Biden will fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). He plans to expand assistive technology programs and increase access to the Internet. He will support the transition to employment and postsecondary education for youth with disabilities. Biden will triple funding for schools with students from low-</p>	<p>Education: Trump will keep the budget for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) the same or minimally increase it. He has proposed a voucher program for “school choice,” which would remove the school’s obligation to provide needed support or services. He will also build on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which allows</p>

<p>income families and help teachers pay off their student loans. He also plans to double the number of mental health professionals in schools and improve teacher diversity. Biden will provide universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds. He aims to make public colleges and universities tuition-free for low-income families and double the value of Pell grants. He will also make Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) more affordable.</p>	<p>each state to set its own general education standards and coursework, and limit federal control of education. He has implemented year-round Pell grants instead of limiting these grants to spring and fall semesters. Trump has also reformed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be more accessible.</p>
<p>Employment for PWD: Biden will enforce the ADA to ensure that employers do not discriminate against people with disabilities. He will safeguard the rights of workers with disabilities to workplace accommodations and equal employment opportunities, and plans to eliminate the subminimum wage based on disability. Biden will pass the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act, ensure that state and local employment services are in accordance with the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision, enforce the of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, increase tax credits to employers, including small businesses, by passing the Disability Employment Incentive Act, and increase funding for state vocational rehabilitation agencies. In addition, Biden will provide small business resources for people with disabilities. Finally, he will make sure that those working in the federal government or for government contractors reflect the diversity of our country, including people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Employment for PWD: A Trump campaign official made a statement that his 2021 budget for the Department of Labor included funding for vocational rehabilitation grants to help individuals with significant disabilities prepare for and remain in the workforce. This funding supports services including counseling, job placement assistance, and rehabilitation technology. However, the Trump Administration revoked the Supreme Court’s <i>Olmstead</i> decision to state and local employment services, which requires government programs to provide people with disabilities the ability to “live, work, and receive services in integrated settings” appropriate to their needs.</p>
<p>Healthcare (Medicare and Medicaid): Biden has various policies that will affect healthcare, medicare and medicaid. For healthcare, Biden plans to protect and build the affordable care act, increase insurance rates for the uninsured Americans, lower premiums by increasing the value of tax credit, stop surprise billing, negotiate drug</p>	<p>Healthcare (Medicare and Medicaid): Trump has not given much details of how healthcare policies will change if he is elected for a second term. He has currently stated he will lower drug prices and has backed cuts to federal healthcare programs, like medicaid and planned parenthood. He also plans to place further reductions and restrictions on</p>

<p>prices and expand the right for contraception. For Medicare, Biden plans to lower the eligibility age and allow the government to negotiate prescription drug prices. For medicaid, Biden plans to expand home and community based care and specify that states cannot refuse medicaid funding for planned parenthood.</p>	<p>who qualifies for medicaid. For medicare, Trump plans to expand it and has stated he lowered premiums and will continue to do so, while also sending \$200 drug discount cards to medicare beneficiaries.</p>
<p>HIV/AIDS: As President, Joe Biden will re-commit to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2025. Biden will update and implement the nation’s comprehensive HIV/AIDS strategy, first launched by the Obama-Biden Administration. This strategy will aggressively reduce new HIV cases, while increasing access to treatment and eliminating inequitable access to services and supports. In addition, Biden will fully fund the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, which provides services to individuals with HIV/AIDS, and will increase federal funding for HIV/AIDS research and support increased funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program. He will work to end discrimination and stigma to reduce “barriers to HIV prevention, testing, and care” through education, outreach, and convening key stakeholders and groups. He will provide funding to implement evidence-based programs designed to stop the spread of diseases like HIV, including syringe service programs.</p>	<p>HIV/AIDS: In 2019, Trump announced his Administration’s plan to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030. The plan takes advantage of critical scientific advances in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and outbreak response by coordinating the programs, resources, and infrastructure of many HHS agencies and offices. At first, it focuses on areas where HIV transmission occurs most frequently and provides them with additional resources, expertise, and technology to develop and implement locally tailored strategies.</p>
<p>Homophobia & Transphobia: Biden will make enactment of the Equality Act during his first 100 days as President a top legislative priority. He will protect LGBTQ+ individuals from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity by reaffirming that the Civil Rights Act prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, supporting transgender and non-binary people in the workforce, and ending employment discrimination in the federal government. Joe</p>	<p>Homophobia & Transphobia: Trump has made conflicting statements and policies on this issue. His administration is launching a global campaign to end the criminalization of homosexuality in dozens of nations where it's still illegal to be gay. However, when asked if he supports same-sex marriage, he said that he was “for traditional marriage”. As a candidate, Trump said he would “strongly consider” appointing judges to overturn the Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage. Once elected, he said it was “the law of the</p>

<p>Biden believes that LGBTQ+ service members and veterans should be treated with the respect that they deserve. He will reverse the transgender military ban, reverse Department of Defense policies that perpetuate stigmatization of and discrimination against people living with HIV, and support LGBTQ+ veterans. He will also support the freedom to build and protect families, end the misuse of “religious freedom” to discriminate, reinstate protections for LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness, and support LGBTQ+ seniors.</p>	<p>land,” but aggressively targeted protections for LGBT Americans. In addition, the Trump administration seeks to fund religious foster-care groups that reject LGBTQ parents.</p>
<p>Housing: Biden will work with Congress to pass legislation ensuring adherence to the Olmstead Supreme Court decision, which mandates that government programs must provide people with disabilities the choice to “live, work, and receive services in integrated settings” appropriate to their needs. He will also expand the availability of accessible, integrated, and affordable housing for people with disabilities in America through reforming federal programs to ensure they take a ‘housing first’ approach to ending homelessness; enforcing nondiscrimination legislation (such as the Fair Housing Act and ADA prohibitions on discrimination based on disability in providing housing); and investing in the construction and/or renovation of accessible housing (such as through supportive housing programs like Section 811).</p>	<p>Housing: Trump has not released an official housing plan. During his presidency, he has pushed to reduce federal regulatory influence over housing policy, placing control over how to implement affordable housing in the hands of State and local communities in the name of protecting local decision-making and preserving American suburbs. Most recently, the Trump administration terminated the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) regulation, replacing it with the “Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice” rule. Under Trump’s new rule, communities need only certify that they “[have] taken some active step to promote fair housing” to receive federal funding from the Department of Housing and Development (HUD), rather than having to first submit and then wait for the HUD’s approval of plans to proactively combat housing discrimination.</p>
<p>Immigration: Biden claims to take great pride in the diversity within America and thinks diversity is one of America’s greatest strengths. As president, Biden will reassert America’s commitment to asylum seekers and refugees, secure the border but also ensure dignity and rights of those seeking migration, reverse the separation from children and families at the border, end prolonged detention at border sites, protect dreamers,</p>	<p>Immigration: Trump has made many immigration policy moves during his presidency. Most of Trump’s immigration policies have dealt with securing the borders, making the citizenship process more difficult to navigate, and issuing bans for immigration from several countries. Trump claims that if re-elected, he will restore the rule and law of our borders, end chain migration, encourage a merit-based entry system, end DACA,</p>

<p>rescind the “muslim ban”, hold ICE and boarder protection accountable for inhumane actions and restore and defend the naturalizaiton process for green card holders.</p>	<p>continue his “zero tolerance” policy, and continue with deportation of immigrants who do not meet his criteria.</p>
<p>Mental Health Policy: Biden supports the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and access to mental health care. He will raise the standards of mental health coverage, including rehabilitation and other forms of behavioral health care. Biden plans to integrate mental health and substance use disorder treatment into primary care. He will enforce mental health parity laws, improve access to mental health care, and eliminate stigma around mental health. Biden will also increase the number of mental health professionals and guarantee high-quality care for veterans and military dependents.</p>	<p>Mental Health Policy: Trump has said “we must reform our mental health laws to better identify mentally disturbed individuals who may commit acts of violence.” He has proposed opening more psychiatric institutions in response to mass shootings and expanding mental health services. Previous budgets approved by Trump have reduced or kept funding the same for treatment programs provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA).</p>
<p>Police bias and killings of PWD(especially POC with Disabilities): Joe Biden wants to ensure our criminal justice system treats people with disabilities fairly. Biden will fund initiatives to partner mental health, disability, and substance use disorder experts and social workers with police departments and first responders. These service providers will train police officers and other frontline responders to better de-escalate interactions with people in severe emotional distress, as well as to respectfully and appropriately interact with individuals with disabilities. Biden will also appoint Justice Department leadership that will prioritize the role of using pattern-or-practice investigations to strengthen our justice system, under authority in legislation spearheaded by Biden as Senator. Biden will also ensure greater enforcement of the ADA across the justice system so that people with disabilities are not denied accommodations whether they are victims, defendants, or witnesses. He will also ensure that young people with disabilities who are incarcerated receive accommodations for their education.</p>	<p>Police bias and killings of PWD(especially POC with Disabilities): Trump has defended law enforcement against calls from activists to “defund the police” or to abolish police, saying that most in law enforcement are “doing an incredible job. He has called the idea of ending qualified immunity for police “crazy.””</p>

Racism: Biden plans to advance the economic mobility of African Americans and close the racial wealth and income gaps, tackle racial inequity in our education system, work to end racial health disparities, strengthen America’s commitment to equal justice and voting rights, and address environmental justice. He also intends to invest in opportunities for small businesses and affordable homeownership for people of color, as well as management, training, and higher education opportunities connected to the jobs of the future. Biden will boost retirement security for people of color and ensure workers of color are compensated fairly and treated with dignity. Furthermore, Biden will fully implement [regulations](#) addressing racial disparities in special education programs, including disproportionate identification. He will provide educators the resources that they need to provide students with disabilities a high-quality education.

Racism: The Trump administration has dismantled the civil rights offices at the Departments of Education and Justice; it supports making it harder to register housing discrimination complaints; it rolled back guidance on racial disparities in school suspensions; it eliminated protections for transgender students; instituted a travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries; and supports monuments of Confederate generals. With an equally lengthy record of racially offensive language, Trump claims that “he is the least racist person there is anywhere in the world,” but describes efforts to ensure racial and social justice as a “merciless campaign to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values and indoctrinate our children...under the banner of social justice.”

Social Security: As president, Joe Biden will strengthen benefits for the most vulnerable older Americans. Specifically, he will put the program on a path to long-term solvency by asking Americans with especially high wages to pay the same taxes on those earnings that middle-class families pay. Biden believes that Social Security should be a program that Americans can universally rely on to make their retirement more secure. He will provide the [oldest beneficiaries](#) with a higher monthly check and implement a true minimum [benefit](#) for lifelong workers. He will raise the monthly payment to [widows and widowers](#) by about 20%. He will ensure that teachers not eligible for Social Security will begin receiving benefits sooner, [rather than the current ten-year period for many teachers](#). Lastly, he will get rid of the benefit cuts for workers and surviving beneficiaries who happen to be covered by both Social Security and another pension.

Social Security: Trump claims that making changes to entitlement spending is “the easiest of all things.” Before he was elected, he promised not to cut Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. However, if elected to a second term, Trump has signaled that he is open to cuts to Medicare, and he would propose deeper cuts to Medicaid and Social Security disability programs. According to him, “at the right time, we will take a look at that.” The Trump Administration has systematically attacked the Social Security disability programs—from [proposing monitoring people with disabilities](#) through social media in order to cancel their benefits, including their health care, to tightening eligibility through a proposal to [redefine](#) the number of hours in a work week so some applicants do not receive benefits.

<p>Sub-minimum wage: If elected, Biden plans to reaffirm his plan for raising minimum wage, end the “tipped minimum wage,” supports an end to the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities, and hold employers accountable for wage theft, union busting and worker classification.</p>	<p>Sub-minimum wage: While Trump has been in office, several states have raised the minimum wage, but Trump has shown minimal support in raising the minimum wage. As for raising sub-minimum wage, Trump has not given information on that, but it seems unlikely given his stances on past policies.</p>
<p>Taxes: Biden plans to raise taxes for those who make over \$400,000 and keep the taxes the same for those who make less than \$400,000. Biden also plans to raise the top tax bracket from 37% to 39.6% for those who make more than \$400,000. Finally, Biden plans to raise the corporate income tax from 21% to 28% and raise taxes on foreign profits.</p>	<p>Taxes: Trump’s general tax plans are to decrease taxes as much as possible, including for the wealthy. For example, for the middle class, Trump plans to have a middle class tax cut, but has not given specifics as to how this will occur and if this will affect the national debt. Trump also wants to reduce tax-rates on long-term capital gains, which would likely disproportionately affect the wealthy. Finally, Trump plans to have several tax breaks for businesses based on various criteria.</p>
<p>Technology: Biden will increase both access to and development of assistive technologies for people with disabilities at home, school, and work. He will work with Congress to pass the Assistive Technology Act (ATA), which will expand the currently underfunded state assistive technology programs and ensure that they reach all people with disabilities, as well as enforce Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Furthermore, Biden will establish a new Assistive Technology Innovation Fund aimed at financing the creation of new technologies to increase the independence of people with disabilities, as well as support initiatives to create more inclusive workplaces and school settings through increased usage of assistive technology. Biden will also increase access to the internet for people with disabilities by fully implementing and enforcing the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA), passing the Digital Equity Act, and investing \$20 billion in rural broadband infrastructure.</p>	<p>Technology: Trump has stated in his 2020 State of the Union that he is “committed to ensuring that every citizen can have access to high-speed internet, including rural America.” No other official statement concerning a position on technology specifically in relation to people with disabilities has been released.</p>

Transportation: Biden will increase federal funding to expand accessible transportation and services to better meet the needs of travelers with disabilities. He will ensure that in the implementation of his infrastructure plan to create and/or improve public transit systems, they will be accessible to people with disabilities, and that they will be included in the design and implementation of those systems. Biden will also work to improve enforcement of the [Air Carrier Access Act \(ACAA\)](#) to ensure that air travel is accessible to people with disabilities. In addition, Biden plans to create a pilot program with transit agencies that will address transportation challenges in paratransit services as called for in the [Disability Access to Transportation Act](#), such as long wait times in processing applicants for paratransit services and ensuring access to such services across jurisdictions.

Transportation: Trump has voiced support for federal measures to rebuild America’s infrastructure, such as [Senator Barnassos’ bill](#) to increase funding for the construction of bridges and highways. His administration has also [recently announced](#) that it “will invest \$1 billion in American infrastructure through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program,” which supports funding for “roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.” 50% of this funding will be dedicated to rural transportation projects. However, Trump has not released any official written provisions concerning transportation specifically in relation to people with disabilities.

Veteran Affairs (VA) Reform: As president, Joe Biden will unite the country and restore the VA as the premier agency for ensuring our veterans’ overall well-being by providing veterans world class health care to meet their specific needs, driving progress to eliminate veterans homelessness and bring down suicide rates, creating meaningful employment and educational opportunities, and improving VA management and accountability. Biden will ensure that veterans with disabilities that require a prosthesis are able to access the most modern prosthetics technology available, and that they are able to upgrade their equipment at no cost as new developments occur. He will also increase funding for research focused on the needs of veterans with disabilities.

Veteran Affairs (VA) Reform: Trump stated that he intends to protect veterans and improve their healthcare and services. However, he has deported undocumented veterans without checking their record of military service and pursued policies designed to privatize and dismantle the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Voting: Joe Biden will strengthen our democracy by guaranteeing that every American’s vote is protected. He plans to restore the Voting Rights Act, and aggressively enforce the [Help America Vote Act](#). He will make sure that the Justice

Voting: Trump believes that there are “millions of people that are registered to vote that shouldn’t be registered to vote.” He has falsely suggested that vote-by-mail is a significant source of voter fraud, although he casts his ballots by mail. He opposes

<p>Department challenges state laws suppressing the right to vote. He will support automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, and other steps to make exercising one’s right to vote easier. He will support an end to gerrymandering and will protect our voting booths and voter rolls from foreign powers that seek to undermine our democracy and interfere in our elections. He will also work to pass the Accessible Voting Act, which will require states and localities to provide accessible voting information, training for poll workers, and accommodations for older adults and voters with disabilities. He will make sure every vote counts by ending discriminatory state voter identification laws, and promoting automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, curbside voting, e-mail registration, voting by mail, and early voting.</p>	<p>automatically sending ballots to voters but supports people voting absentee with a specific reason.</p>
<p>Welfare and Poverty: Biden promises to help marginalized identities buy homes, start businesses, and amass wealth. He will also fight red-lining and race-based home pricing by providing a \$15,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers. This plan will be paid for by reversing Trump’s tax cuts for corporations and taxing the wealthiest Americans.</p>	<p>Welfare and Poverty: Trump believes that food stamps should be temporary and cut funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. He proposed rebuilding inner cities, which are “absolutely a shame and so sad.”</p>
<p>Women’s Rights: Biden will create a White House Council on Gender Equality to coordinate government policy that impacts women. He intends on passing legislation to encode women’s rights into the law and combat gender-based discrimination, such as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), the Paycheck Fairness Act to address the gender wage gap, and the Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability and Rejecting Discrimination in the Workplace (BE HEARD) Act to fight against workplace harassment and discrimination. As part of his plan to improve the infrastructure of care in America, Biden will also take steps to ensure access to reproductive healthcare (such as restoring federal funding to Planned</p>	<p>Women’s Rights: Trump has maintained a negative stance towards abortion throughout his presidency. He has promised to nominate anti-choice justices who will overturn Roe v Wade, and has also revised Title X to “bar organizations that provide abortion referrals from receiving federal family planning money,” most notably blocking funding from Planned Parenthood through this measure.</p>

Parenthood) and increase healthcare protections for all groups of women, including women with disabilities. In addition, he will aggressively enforce [Title IX](#) protections to ensure women have full access to educational opportunities and will reauthorize the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#), strengthening and expanding its reach to better serve women in marginalized communities.



Main Sources:

Biden Campaign Website (<https://joebiden.com/joes-vision/>)

I Side With (<https://www.isidewith.com/>)

The Washington Post

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/elections/2020/trump-policies-vs-biden-policies/>)

Trump Campaign Website (<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>)

National Education Association

(<https://educationvotes.nea.org/presidential-2020/biden-vs-trump/>)

On The Issues (<https://www.ontheissues.org/>)

Disclaimers

First, we've included homophobia, transphobia, and racism in this document as well as women's rights, immigration and welfare & poverty. This is because there are people with disabilities (PWD) who are multiply-marginalized (disabled people of color, for example.) We want to ensure that the full disability community is included in this guide.

Second, if content for a particular candidate appears brief or lacking, it is in no way a reflection on Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. We researched each candidate intensely to ensure this guide is as accurate as possible. Likely, the candidate may not have proposed policies yet on some issues at the time this document was created. Lastly, check our sources at the end of this document to learn more about each candidates' proposed policies.