

# 2020 presidential contenders

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

**May 12, 2020**

*Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*

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## 2020 presidential candidates



**President  
Donald Trump**

### Background:

- 45<sup>th</sup> 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

# Roadmap



# 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



# Gun Control: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on gun control:

- President Trump has backed away from his initial support for raising the minimum age to buy certain assault-style rifles
- The Trump administration has moved to ban bump stocks, a device that can be attached to a semiautomatic weapon to make the gun fire more rapidly, by late March 2019
- Following the Parkland shooting in 2018, Trump signaled his support for arming teachers in schools and tasked Education Secretary Betsy DeVos with leading a task force to improve safety in schools
- Following the mass shootings of August 2019, the Trump administration debated new proposals for combatting gun violence but abandoned them in November 2019, according to White House officials
- Trump has threatened a veto on a bill requiring background checks on all gun purchases, saying the bill infringes on the Second Amendment



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on gun control:

- Biden was tasked by President Obama to work with Congress to enact gun control legislation, including background checks and a ban on high-capacity assault weapons
- He has been a staunch advocate for gun control legislation since his time as a United States senator and more recently has endorsed a national assault weapons buyback program
- As a senator, Biden supported the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1994, which banned the manufacture of a number of semi-automatic firearms
- He pushed the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act through Congress in 1993, which established a background check system
- Voted against the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act
- Biden has said that if elected president, he will re-introduce an assault weapons ban and pair it with a buyback program



# Health Care: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on health care:

- President Trump opposes the Affordable Care Act
- In July, President Trump signed an executive order to modernize kidney disease treatment
- Wants to give more power and flexibility to states when it comes to Medicaid
- Supports the idea of allowing people to purchase health insurance across state lines
- Expanded health savings accounts and introduced short-term limited-duration plans that circumvented ACA requirements in his first term
- Advocates for health care reform that is based on “free market principles”
- Supports using an international pricing index to help lower the cost of prescription drugs and allow for more overseas drug providers through decreased regulation



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on health care:

- During his tenure as Vice President of the United States, Biden and the Obama Administration passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- His proposed health plan builds on the ACA by offering a new public insurance option which would compete with private insurance in the market
- The Biden Plan looks to lower drug costs by giving Medicare the authority to negotiate prices directly and tax drug makers whose prices rise above rates of inflation
- Supports the repeal of the Hyde Amendment
- His plan to control prescription drug corporations includes eliminating pharmaceutical corporations’ tax break for advertising spending and support for consumer prescription drug importation from other countries
- Founded the nonprofit Biden Cancer Initiative to build on the White House Cancer Moonshot’s goals to work at enhancing “cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, research, and care.”

Sources: Washington Post, Roll Call, Congressional Research Service, New York Times, Federal Register, The White House.



# Education: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on education:

- President Trump's FY2018 budget request allocated \$1 billion for public school choice grants and \$250 million to promote private school choice; and his FY2019 request proposed a \$5 billion tax credit for scholarship donations
- Implemented year-round distribution of Pell grants to allow for summer funding
- Supports giving states more control to design their own curriculum and how they allocate scholarship funds
- President Trump's FY2021 budget request includes:
  - \$5 billion for scholarships to give students more freedom to choose educational programs
  - \$19.4 billion for a consolidated grant that would combine most existing Department of Education K-12 grant programs into one
  - \$900 million to increase funding for career and technical education programs



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on education:

- Former VP Biden supports universal Pre-K education for all three and four year olds
- Plans to triple Title I funding and will require districts use the funds to improve teacher salaries prior to allocating funding for other purposes
- Supports allocating federal infrastructure funding for improving public school buildings to address health risks
- Will reinstate Department of Education guidelines that legally allow for schools to pursue desegregation strategies
- Plans to pursue partnerships between high schools and community colleges to strengthen vocational education
- Supports debt-free community college and tuition-free public higher education for families earning below \$125K
- Plans to double the maximum value of Pell grants and reducing federal student loan payments by more than half
- Proposes a \$10 billion investment to support and improve the value of HBCUs, TCUs and MSIs

# Immigration: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on immigration:

- President Trump has repeatedly attempted to secure funding for a wall along the US-Mexico border; this was one of his signature campaign promises in 2016
- His administration has also taken action to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) programs
- A new public charge rule with additional programs that are counted is set to go into effect October 15<sup>th</sup>; President Trump has also signed a proclamation that only allows immigrants that either have or can pay for health insurance entry into the US
- President Trump has also shown for ending chain migration and eliminating the visa lottery system



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on immigration:

- During his presidential campaign, Biden has been asked to answer for the deportation and family separation policies during the Obama administration while he was vice president
- Biden has also pointed to the Obama administration's executive action to create the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program
- His immigration reform plans include ending child detention in for-profit prisons and family separation, and improving screening procedures at legal ports of entry in cooperation with Canada and Mexico
- He also plans to terminate the travel ban for individuals from Muslim-majority countries and protect undocumented members of the United States' armed services

# 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

# Marijuana: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on marijuana policy:

- In 2016, Trump expressed support for federal legalization of medical marijuana and said that recreational marijuana policy should be up to the states
- Trump's former Attorney General Jeff Sessions was an outspoken opponent of recreational marijuana distribution; implemented more stringent practices regarding the enforcement of federal law
- Trump's Attorney General nominee William Barr says he would not "go after" marijuana companies if they are adhering to state law



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on marijuana policy:

- During the Obama administration, Joe Biden suggested that using significant federal resources to heavily enforce the federal prohibition on marijuana use was a waste; he has stated that he supports smarter enforcement, but not legalization
- Biden has referred to marijuana as a "gateway drug" during a town hall, but later walked back the comment
- He supports the federal decriminalization of marijuana, but has also voiced his support for moving marijuana to a Schedule II drug in the Controlled Substance Act, which would move marijuana to be in the same category as cocaine and methamphetamine

# National Security: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on national security:

- President Trump has escalated drone and air strike campaigns across the Middle East and North Africa, which had subsided under the Obama administration.
- However, President Trump has also shown a willingness to withdraw from global conflicts in which the US is engaged, such as Syria and Afghanistan.
- President Trump has used national security threats to justify diverse executive actions, including building a wall along the US' southern border and imposing tariffs on foreign imports into the United States.



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on national security:

- As a senator, Joe Biden opposed the Gulf War in 1990.
- He supported the resolution that started the Iraq War in 2002, although he later said he was proud of his involvement in winding down the war in Iraq.
- Former Vice President Biden has advocated for removing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but has cautioned that his successor must be carefully vetted.
- He has said that Iran must be prevented from obtaining nuclear weapons, and that containment was insufficient in pursuing this goal.



# Financial Services: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on financial services:

- Signed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act (EGRRCPA), relaxing 2010 Dodd-Frank Act regulations for small, midsize, and regional banks
- Appointed officials at regulatory agencies who cut back on enforcement against banks, most notably appointing now-acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney as CFPB acting Director
- Appointed Jerome Powell to replace former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen
- Has repeatedly attacked Chairman Powell for not cutting interest rates more aggressively
- The Trump administration is finalizing its plans to return Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to private-shareholder ownership



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on financial services:

- In 1999, Biden voted for the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which repealed the parts of Glass-Steagall that had not already been rolled back, a vote which he deemed the worst he ever cast
- As Senator, Biden worked closely with the financial services industry to shape policy due to the importance of the banking industry to Delaware
- Changed his approach to banking policy after the 2008 financial crisis, and was closely involved with creation of the Dodd-Frank Act
- Strongly supported Elizabeth Warren's work to create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Was an important player in the development of the Volcker rule that placed restrictions on banks engaging in speculative trading



# 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

Sources: Washington Post, Roll Call, Congressional Research Service, New York Times, Federal Register, The White House.

# Trade Policy: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on trade:

- *USMCA/NAFTA*: Refers to NAFTA as “the worst trade deal ever” and has negotiated a new trilateral deal called the US China-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)
- *Trans-Pacific Partnership*: Prefers bilateral trade deals over multilateral deals, and removed the United States from the Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations
- *China*: Has imposed tariffs on Chinese imports with the goal of correcting alleged intellectual property theft by Chinese firms and to rebalance the trade deficit with the country

## Other views

- Views trade deficits as net negatives for the United States and prefers using tariffs and other duties to spur corrections
- Is a critic of the WTO, which he has accused of being unfair to the US



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on trade:

### *USMCA/NAFTA*

- Supports the revised USMCA because it represents a step in a more progressive direction, though does not believe it is an “ideal” agreement

### *Trans-Pacific Partnership*

- Plans to renegotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to hold countries more accountable

### *China*

- Argues the US should “get tough on China” and take more aggressive stances to curb China’s harmful economic behavior and protect intellectual property

# Technology Policy: 2020 presidential candidates stances



**President  
Donald Trump**

## Views on technology policy:

- Criticized China's trade policies and accused China of IP theft and forced technology transfers, which led USTR Lighthizer to issue \$200 billion in tariffs on Chinese imports, including circuit boards, semiconductors, modems, chips and power assemblies.
- In May of 2019 Trump signed an executive order securing the information and communication technology supply chain, barring US companies from using telecom equipment made by firms that pose a national security risk.
- In Feb. 2019, Trump signed an executive order to create an American AI Initiative, directing NIST to develop artificial intelligence standards.
- In Oct. 2018, he signed a memorandum to create a Spectrum Strategy Task Force and direct the secretary of commerce to draft a national spectrum strategy.
- Joined several other Republican leaders in accusing Google, Twitter and other online platforms of anti-conservative bias.



**Former Vice President  
Joe Biden**

## Views on technology policy:

- *Antitrust*: Has said that there needs to be more investigations before breaking up big tech companies.
- *Rural broadband*: Proposes investing \$20 billion in rural broadband infrastructure and tripling Community Connect broadband grants.
- *Social media*: Has suggested stripping platforms of Section 230 protections, which would make them liable to lawsuits over user-generated posts.
- *Electric vehicles*: Supports a full switch to electric vehicles by the year 2030 and proposes a \$500,000 investment in new EV charging stations around the country.