

# 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidates

- Declared - Ordered by poll data, each of these candidates got over .2% support
  - Joe Biden
    - 47th vice president of the U.S.
      - Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama for his service as Vice President in 2017
    - Senator from Delaware from 1973-2009
    - He is the very definition of a career politician. When he was elected to the Senate in 1973, he was the sixth youngest Senator ever elected. When he left the role to become Vice President, he was the 4th oldest
    - Immediately a product of tragedy after his election. His wife and 1-year-old daughter were killed in a car accident. His two sons survived the accident. He considered resigning to deal with the grief, but was persuaded by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield not to do so
      - Biden refers to the event as a hazard of drunk driving, but the police released a statement that all parties were checked and nobody was drinking. The driver that hit his family, furthermore, was cleared of all wrongdoing after a lengthy trial where it was determined he had obeyed all laws and the incident was nothing more than a mistake by Neilia, Biden's wife, in thinking she had enough time to get through the intersection before the truck arrived
      - Re-married 5 years after the accident to Jill, who is his wife today

- Problems at Syracuse Law College
  - Caught plagiarizing five of his fifteen pages reviewing an article
  - Ordinarily, plagiarizing is an immediate disqualifier from the BAR, but he protested and was granted leniency because he claimed he didn't know he had to issue citation for that type of article
  - In 1987, well after he had graduated, journalists found that he plagiarized almost everything he submitted during his time at the school. In a confession, Biden admitted what he had done, but said that it "wasn't malevolent."
    - Due to the length of time that had passed, this discovery was ineligible as evidence before the BAR
- Trump has called him "One Percent Joe" because of his failed bids for president in 1988 and 2008, where he failed to get 2% of the vote for his nomination
- On most issues, he predictably votes left
  - War is, sometimes, an exception
    - Vocally supported Obama's foreign interventions and, as Senator, led the charge for American troops in the Bosnian conflict in both 1994 and 1995, and pushed for intervention in Iraq in 2002
    - Opposed the Gulf War and changed course on Iraq in 2007, where he voted against sending additional troops
  - One of the few politicians who supported the stimulus for both Bush and Obama
    - During Obama's three consecutive emergency spending bills, 2010-2012, it was Biden who was tasked with getting Republican votes for

each to pass, which he successfully negotiated each time

- Granted Republicans additional spending on their projects
- Biden was the leading voice in passing the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which he helped to author
  - At 356 pages, it is the largest crime bill in the history of the United States and instituted many of the policies that shape law enforcement today, from police officers to prisons to sentencing
  - Banned “Assault Weapons”
  - Expanded use of the the death penalty
  - Created new classes of individuals who were not allowed to possess firearms
  - Made harsher punishments for illegal immigrants who possessed firearms or had drugs on them
  - Established the, now infamous, “hate crime” laws as well as additional penalties for crimes involving sex and gangs
  - Established federal sanctions against states and counties who did not enforce these laws or have enough names in their sex offender registry by September of 1997
    - This led to a slew of “sex crimes” like public urination and consensual sex among teens because police departments and the District Attorney’s offices were under pressure to populate this list
  - Illegalized grants and funding, both private and public, that would give inmates access to higher education while incarcerated
- Also drafted the Violence Against Women Act

- Ended up being passed as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, but it was originally its own legislation
  - Struck down by the Supreme Court 5-4, ruling that Congress did not have the power under the Commerce Clause to force counties to spend money in this way
  - The finished bill did not change, rather the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act did not make it to the Supreme Court to be challenged
- Required mandatory funding from all districts towards investigating and prosecuting violent crimes against women
- Imposed automatic and mandatory restitution on the offenders who commit such crimes towards the women they violated
- Allows civil redress for women who's prosecutors don't press charges due to lack of evidence or faulty cases
- Currently dealing with "Creepy Joe Biden" pictures and memes, as hundreds of pictures with him posing in pictures with women and children were released where his hands were placed inappropriately on them and his nose is often in their hair
- Bernie Sanders
  - Senator from Vermont
    - Previously Mayor of Burlington and Representative of Vermont
    - Independent, Caucuses with the Democrats
  - Self describes as a "socialist" and "progressive"
  - Became a political activist while studying Political Science at the University of Chicago

- Noting his own Jewish heritage, Sanders said "A guy named Adolf Hitler won an election in 1932. He won an election, and 50 million people died as a result of that election in World War II, including 6 million Jews. So what I learned as a little kid is that politics is, in fact, very important."
- Early member of the Young People's Socialist League
- Also in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- Issues of rape and sexual assault from his campaign staff in 2016
  - When he did not ever address or apologize for the incidents, it was assumed he was not running
  - In early 2019, he finally apologized for never taking action or investigating the hundreds of sexual conduct complaints from his office
    - It was widely believed that he would declare soon afterwards
- Consistently votes left, always on lists for the top 10 most partisan voters in Congress
  - Some exceptions
    - While he supported manufacturers being held liable for crimes committed with their guns, bans on assault rifles, and mandatory minimums of 10 years for crimes committed while in possession of a gun, he opposed the Brady Bill, which mandated federal background checks when buying a gun
    - Voted against unemployment extensions when Bush was the the White House

- To his credit, co-sponsored a Balanced Budget Amendment with Rand Paul.
  - His contribution was adding an alteration so that Social Security and Medicare would still remain fully funded
- Became nationally recognized on December 10th, 2010, when he issued a rebuttal against the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010
  - Sanders said, "Enough is enough! How many homes can you own?"
  - A Republican retorted, "You'd know the answer to that better than any of us."
- Elizabeth Warren
  - Senator from Massachusetts
  - Fauxcahontas
    - Her family has carried on a tradition that they had Native American history
    - Recently released a DNA study saying she likely had a Native American relative between six and ten generations ago. The 1/1024th jokes were rampant
    - She did not ever get a scholarship for being a Native American, however, she did list it as a demographic information for her Law School, Rutgers, and that would have been taken into account for both Affirmative Action and diversification. To be considered a Native American for these purposes, she would have had to be at least 1/8 Native American, which far more genetic correlation than even she knew she had
    - She gave a recipe to a cookbook about traditional Native American cuisine. It was a chicken salad-esque recipe and featured the use of mayo.

- She has frequently spoken at events and was recognized officially during Indigenous People's Day.
- Native Americans themselves follow cultural heritage instead of genetic heritage when recognizing belonging to a tribe
  - To Warren's credit, she has always admitted this. It's her claims to genetic heritage that have gotten her in trouble, she has always denied belonging to a tribe
- She was appointed to several committees even before she became Senator
  - National Bankruptcy Review Commission
  - TARP Oversight Panel
  - Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- She was a Republican until 1996
  - Cited market failures as her reason for switching parties
- First female Senator from Massachusetts
- Gained national fame in 2013, when she questioned members of Wall Street while serving on the Banking Committee
  - Famously said: "I'm really concerned that 'too big to fail' has become 'too big for trial'."
  - Had over one million views in 24 hours
- Encounter with the Federal Reserve
  - The Federal Reserve had been giving loans out to political sponsors and their business affiliates at a rate of 0.75% APR. The average rate in America, at the time, was 8.5%
  - After defaulting on the insanely low rate loans, they accepted settlements for small portions of the loan

- Putting two and two together, this amounted to giving away money to political allies for free, since the loans would be for million or even billions, and the settlements would be for a few thousand dollars
  - This practice still continues today, by the way
- Warren protested the settlements, sending letters to the Justice Department, Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Federal Reserve
- In an act of protest, she drafted a bill to make student loans have the same rates as these allies were paying, 0.75%
  - It did not pass, it was never intended to pass, but be seen as a message
- She is a fundraising machine
  - In both elections that she has run in, she set the record for donations to a Senate campaign
- Kamala Harris
  - Senator from California
  - As District Attorney of San Francisco
    - Successes
      - Increased conviction rate from 52% to 67%, the highest in a decade
      - 85% conviction rate among homicides
      - Drug crime convictions went from 56% to 74%
    - Failures
      - Her conviction rates were largely because of plea deals, of 73 first degree homicide convictions, she accepted manslaughter, third degree murder, on 32 of them and second degree for nearly all of the others.
      - In 2012, Superior Court Judge Anne-Christine Massullo ruled that San Francisco District Attorney Harris's office violated defendant's

rights by hiding damaging information from police crime lab technicians, destroying evidence, and ignored demands from lawyers and judges in responding to what happened to missing evidence

- Opened a special Hate Crimes Unit that focused on bullying LGBT kids
- When it was discovered that she defeated a bill that would have paid prisoners \$1 per hour instead of 8 to 32 cents per hour for hard labor, she explained: “The way that argument played out in court does not reflect my priorities... The idea that we incarcerate people to have indentured servants is one of the worst possible perceptions. I feel very strongly about that. It evokes images of chain gangs.”
- She lead the discussion to reach a settlement with five large banks in California, getting them to pay \$26 billion to homeowners and those affected by the subprime mortgage crisis.
- In 2015, an appeals court summoned her for review of three cases
  - In one, she had allowed a fake confession to be used in court
  - In another, she committed perjury by telling a prosecutor to change his story based on evidence he wouldn't have known. By repeating his false testimony in court, she perjured herself
  - In a third case, she gave evidence to a technician that was not obtained from the scene of the crime in order to make a fingerprint connection
  - Though guilty, a federal judge nullified any penalty she would receive, but told Harris' lawyers to “talk

to the attorney general and make sure she understands the gravity of the situation.”

- Harris made the first arrest of Backpage CEO Carl Ferrer
  - He was not convicted on these arrest and charges, but eventually plead guilty after another arrest for similar charges were filed
    - Backpage was a site that “unknowingly” offered young prostitutes to buyers on top of illegal substance sales
    - Harris alleged 99% of the girls were under 18
- Harris was the first person of prominence to call Trump’s travel restriction to certain countries a “Muslim ban”
- In her most famous instance as a Senator, she questioned both James Comey and Jeff Sessions, each time, she was stopped by her colleagues for being mean during her questions. The media, and public at large, saw this as sexist and possibly even racist.
  - She was also one of the ones who was able to ask questions of Brett Kavanaugh
- Pete Buttigieg
  - Mayor of South Bend, Indiana
  - He is the first openly gay Democratic Presidential Candidate. He came out in 2015, while currently serving as mayor
  - In 2012, a tape, never revealed to the public, allegedly contained an exchange between black and white police officers where the white officers used racial slurs. Buttigieg demoted the black police chief and fired the black communications director but did not issue any punishment towards the white police officers. He settled the issue with half a million taxpayer dollars with the two fired individuals.

- The Washington post, Gov Fresh, and The New York Times have all, at one time or another, said he was the best mayor in America.
- By 2015, he accomplished “1,000 properties in 1,00 days” an initiative to either refurbish or demolish buildings in South Bend
- He served on the Navy Reserves and actually had to serve seven months in Afghanistan while he was mayor.
- Completed a project that cost \$25 million to add bike lanes and pedestrian crossing zones in South Bend
- Beto O’Rourke
  - House of Representatives in Texas from 2013 to 2016
  - Gained national recognition for his speech about taking a knee during the anthem
    - Said the players should be recognized for protesting "nonviolently, peacefully, while the eyes of this country are watching."
  - Narrowly lost election against Ted Cruz
  - One of the few on this list with extensive liberal arts experience
    - Bounced around several bands during and after college (bands like “Fragile Gang” and “The Sheeps”)
    - Wrote short stories and songs after that
    - Later moved on to moving art pieces
    - Became a full-time caretaker for hire
    - Eventually moved on to internet service provider work
  - Founded his own ISP company “Stanton Street Technology Group”
    - Still runs and operates today with his wife taking the reins after he ran for office
  - Racial controversy

- To be fair to O’Rourke, he has always claimed to have no Hispanic heritage
- After the defeat of his opponent in the election, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus noted that they were losing a member. After discussing it with O’Rourke, they decided to change the bylaws to allow him to become a member because he represented a district that was over 80% Hispanic
  - O’Rourke simply said that “respected the caucus's bylaws”
- Occasional renegade
  - Eventually supported Clinton’s run for president, but was one of the last sitting Democrats to do so
  - Endorsed Tim Ryan to defeat Nancy Pelosi in the Speaker of the House race, saying “it [is] time for new leadership”
- Cory Booker
  - Mayor of Newark
    - Made headlines when he showed up to shovel snow off of driveways and city streets when the city failed to show up to some residencies.
  - Senator from New Jersey
    - Once a friend of the Freedom Caucus in the house (he once referred to himself as a libertarian), he ended up rejecting them and then some. The New York Times ranked his voting record as the third most liberal. He also did not register a single vote outside of party lines during his tenure
      - This tells you enough about his stances on the issues
    - Part of the “Hell No” Caucus that is dedicated to rejecting any administrator Trump selects
  - Kavanaugh incident

- Booker declared that he was going to release documents showing Kavanaugh supported racial profiling after September 11th and also announced that what he was doing was illegal
  - In fact, the documents had already been released with Kavanaugh's permission the day before through Committee Member Chuck Grassley
  - Even his own party said he was engaging in "theatrics" and "histrionics"
- Amy Klobuchar
  - Senator from Minnesota
    - According to Rasmussen, her 67% approval rating in 2010 led all Senators for the year
  - In 2016, she broke the record for being the legislator voting to pass the most measures of all time (According to GovTrack and Congress.gov)
    - That means she votes yes on a lot... Both Republican and Democratic plans
    - Sponsored 111 bills
    - Approved of a Democrat-high 31.1% of Trump bills
  - This is a BuzzFeed Report, so take it with a grain of salt
    - Klobuchar's Congressional office was "controlled by fear, anger, and shame"
    - Klobuchar was also listed as one of the "worst bosses in Congress", with an annual staff turnover rate between 2011 and 2016 of 36%, the highest of any senator.
  - Gained more recent notoriety for being the Senator that accused Kavanaugh during the hearing about being a blackout drinker, resulting in Kavanaugh getting heated and then apologizing
- Julian Castro

- Obama's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- Former mayor of San Antonio
- Gave the DNC Keynote address in 2012
- Accidentally violated the Hatch Act by supporting Hillary Clinton for President while still a cabinet member. He was not punished, but did order his staff to receive extra training on the Hatch Act
- As Sec of HUD
  - Successes
    - Spent \$1 billion to restore cities hit by natural disaster
    - Expanded the Fair Housing Act to require establishments to report mortgage approval rates to the federal government, making sure that all ethnicities had the same approval/denial rate regardless of credit or qualifications, as is outlined by the FHA.
  - Failures
    - As detailed in Thomas Sowell's "Basic Economics", the HUD built more public housing and orchestrated fixed rent control pricing, but it expanded homelessness and accelerated gentrification.
    - Costs of living in Urban areas exploded under his tenure
- Andrew Yang
  - Founder of Venture for America
    - Their goal is "to create economic opportunity in American cities by mobilizing the next generation of entrepreneurs and equipping them with the skills and resources they need to create jobs"

- Venture for America was launched with \$200,000 and trained 40 graduates in 2012 and 69 in 2013, sending them to major cities.
- Yang's book *Smart People Should Build Things* argues that “the top universities in the country cherry-pick the smartest kids out of small towns and funnel them into the same corporate jobs in the same big cities”
- He has become synonymous with UBI, pledging \$1,000 to every American every month if he is elected
  - Originally not suggested as part of UBI, but to help offset jobs threatened by “automation” and then expanded to everyone
- Tulsi Gabbard
  - Representative from Hawaii
  - Former Vice Chair of the DNC
    - Resigned to support Bernie Sanders
  - She is both the first Samoan American and the first Hindu to be elected to Congress
  - Proposed the Helping Heroes Fly Act which created a special screening station for severely wounded veterans and commercial airports. It passed unanimously and was signed into law.
  - Cosponsored the Filipino Veterans of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act, which passed. It gave Filipino veterans Medals of Honor.
  - She criticised Clinton and Obama, saying, “If you or I gave money, weapons or support to al-Qaeda or ISIS, we would be thrown in jail. Yet the U.S. government has been violating this law for years, quietly supporting allies and partners of al-Qaeda, ISIL ... and other terrorist groups with money, weapons and intelligence support, in their fight to overthrow the Syrian government.””

- Her policies are classically socialist: she supports a \$15 minimum wage, Universal Healthcare, free college, and additional private business regulation.
- Kirsten Gillibrand
  - Representative from New York
  - Early in her career, she was a member of the conservative Blue Dog Democrats
  - Later on, she shifted her views and left that faction, calling for “abolition” of guns, jobs guarantees, and changed her stance on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” to repeal it.
  - She was a leading voice condemning sexual harassment in the military and called for Al Franken and Bill Clinton to stay out of the picture for their sexual harassment in the past.
  - Sponsored a bill with Ted Cruz and Rand Paul to remove sexual assault cases to be dealt with by chain of command.
    - This bill failed, but it brought her name to prominence since it was viewed favorably by the public, even if Congress did not pass it
  - In 2018, she detailed her journey from conservative democrat to a member of the “Hell No” Caucus that vowed to oppose every policy and nomination Trump put forward. She said she was "embarrassed and ashamed" to have ever been conservative on any issues
- Tim Ryan
  - Ohio House of Representatives since 2013
  - Most notable for running against Nancy Pelosi in the Speaker of the House race
    - Also notable that he ended up having a change of heart and voted for her himself when the vote was called
  - Changed from pro-life to pro-choice in 2015
    - Now supports federal funding for abortions

- Supports increasing all business taxes, even on small businesses
  - In an October 2010 interview with conservative magazine *Human Events*, Ryan said tax increases on small businesses were necessary "because we have huge deficits. We gotta shore up Social Security. We gotta shrink our deficits"
- Made an odd name for himself in 2004 when he delivered a passionate speech criticizing Bush for not reinstating the draft
- Supports tariffs against countries that manipulate their currency
- Bill de Blasio
  - Mayor of New York since 2014
  - Previously a campaign manager for both Hillary Clinton and Charles Rangel
  - Leader in police reform
    - Established de-escalation tactics for the NYPD
    - Reduced quantity of prosecution over arrests related to cannabis.
    - Mandated body cameras for officers
    - Ended mandate that placed all Muslim New Yorkers under surveillance
  - Signed a bill guaranteeing free pre-K within the city.
    - As a result, all pre-K programs not conducted online or by the public school left or closed down
  - Attempted to institute a local millionaire tax
    - Struck down by Governor Andrew Cuomo
      - de Blasio and Cuomo have a notable feud on many issues
        - New York, notoriously, takes takes from upstate and siphons it into the city for projects. De Blasio, native to Manhattan,

wants to see more of these funds since, he believes, strengthening New York City strengthens the state. Cuomo pushes back because the counties of Western New York have the highest tax rates in the entire nation by substantial margins

- de Blasio has referred to his own city as “A Tale of Two Cities” with the gap between the rich and poor
  - To fix the dichotomy, he has called for complete urban planning, freezing all rent prices, an end to privatization, and a ban on private schooling, homeschooling, and internet classes
- Seth Moulton
  - Representative from Massachusetts
  - Winner of the Medal of Valor by the Navy and Marine Corp for going back to rescue and injured comrade during his time fighting the war in Iraq
    - Part of the invasion of Baghdad
  - Started his own show called “Moulton and Mohammed” with his interpreter in Iraq, Mohammed Harba
    - Detailed the issues ongoing in Iraq due to American occupation
    - His work was featured heavily in the Academy Award nominated series, “No End in Sight,” also about the problems with ongoing Iraqi occupation
    - Even so, he did support troop occupation until 2014, when he first voted against sending additional troops to Iraq for the first time
  - Popularity for being outspoken in Massachusetts
    - Regularly compares Trump to Hitler
    - Appeared on the cover of a local magazine, saying “No Civilian Should Own This Gun” with a handgun

- Supports the more audacious points within the Green New Deal
    - Including banning airline travel
- Marianne Williamson
  - Spiritual teacher and author
  - Has appeared on Oprah several times, also Real Time and Good Morning America
  - Calling for "a moral and spiritual awakening in the country"
  - “It is a task of our generation to recreate the American politeia, to awaken from our culture of distraction and re-engage the process of democracy with soulfulness and hope. Yes, we see there are problems in the world. But we believe in a universal force that, when activated by the human heart, has the power to make all things right. Such is the divine authority of love: to renew the heart, renew the nations, and ultimately, renew the world.” -From her book “Healing the Soul of America”
  - Studied Philosophy and Theatre in College, dropped out to become a cabaret singer
  - Started numerous charities and organizations
    - Centers for Living
      - Refuge for those with HIV/AIDS
    - Project Angel Food
      - Provides over 12,000 meals per week to those with life threatening illnesses
    - Sister Giant Conferences
      - Women’s Advocacy Seminars
      - Encourage women to run for office
    - The Peace Alliance
      - Advocacy group to encourage peace-building in international relationships
    - RESULTS

- Lobbies officials and speaks to the media about poverty related solutions
- Love America Tour
  - 2018
  - Set out to speak about “Our own disconnection from the political process, lack of knowledge of how our system operates, lack of understanding of our history, and confusion about many of the issues that confront us now, have led in too many cases to a dangerous emotional disconnection between our country and ourselves.”
  - Supports \$15 minimum wage, the Green New Deal, and Sanders’ Healthcare for all plans
- Michael Bennet
  - Senator from Colorado
    - Mixed record on the issues
      - C+ from the NRA
        - Voted against the federal assault weapons ban
        - Supports universal background checks
      - Urged the USDA to subsidize dairy more
      - Co-Sponsor of the Equality Act also supports same-sex marriage
      - Supported the Affordable Care Act, but with major caveats
        - Said fixing the ACA was “next to impossible” because of how badly it was written and with the incorporation of bribes and money sent to phantom districts and projects placed into the bill itself
        - Opposed Sanders’ “Medicare for All” bill



"That was my hope," O'Malley told attorneys in a deposition. "It was also my intent to create ... a district where the people would be more likely to elect a Democrat than a Republican."

- Wrote the Open Our Democracy Act of 2017 which would have:
  - Allowed all Republican or Democrat voters to vote in any primary
  - Created independent counsels to gerrymander districts
  - It was submitted, but he never got around to putting it up for a vote
- According to The Bipartisan Index and GovTrack, he was ranked the 53rd most bipartisan members of Congress and the 3rd most bipartisan Democrat
- His only proposed legislation as a candidate is a 23% corporate tax increase to pay for infrastructure
- Steve Bullock
  - Governor of Montana since 2012
  - Former Attorney General of Montana
    - As AG, he increased prison time for prescription drug abuse and increased sentences for drunk driving convictions
    - Broke apart big businesses under monopoly laws
      - Stopped the merger from two meat packing companies
      - Forced the railroad to sell to assets to competitors
      - FedEx had to give a portion of their shipping business to be completed by local businesses
    - Passed a rule that all repeat DUI offenders must pass a breathalyzer twice every day

- Passed a rule that reinstated the “Citizens United” decision which banned corporate campaign expenditures
      - Supreme Court struck down Bullock’s rule by a 5-4 decision
    - Though an active AG, Bullock was far less active as Governor
      - While he expresses support for the liberal side of virtually every issue, Bullock has passed less legislation than any other Governor during the length of his terms
      - While supporting government interventions, especially into business, a key to his popularity (4th highest in the nation) is his opposition from doing so from the Governor’s Desk
        - Instead, he allows the AG and other offices to pass bills and either signs or vetos them when they get to his desk
  - Jay Inslee
    - Been a politician for over three decades, as a member of the House and Governor in Washington State
    - Referred to himself as “The Climate Change Candidate”
      - Has not released a plan as of yet, but says it is his “main focus” for the presidency
    - Sued Trump for the Travel Ban
    - Blatantly sponsored a bill to have the taxpayers pay for 5 new buildings on the Washington State Campus, which had several donors for his campaign
      - Instead of hiding or not addressing the issue, he lamented he could not write a bill that added more. House Speaker Joe King said, "He's not afraid to incur the wrath of the speaker or the caucus."
    - Successfully lobbied to legalize gay marriage in Washington while Governor

- Promised to “oppose tax increases,” but failed miserably and has even signed many new ones into law
      - Became the first state in the nation to institute a second estate tax
    - Problems in Seattle have largely tainted his statistics as governor
      - Minimum wage and increases in corporate tax rates saw the departure and reduction for companies like Alaska Airlines, Amazon, Boeing, Microsoft, and Kaiser Permanente
      - Of all Governors in the US over the last 20 years, none have presided over larger increase in unemployment and homelessness than Inslee
- The following are all registered, but polled below .1%
  - Wayne Messam
    - Mayor of Miramar City, Florida
    - Owned a construction company prior to this
    - Most extreme position is gun control, frequently stating that anything project he ever works on will be “gun free.”
    - He is a child of Jamaican immigrants, would like to reform immigration but has not yet released a plan to say how
  - Eric Swalwell
    - Member of the California House of Representatives
    - Has become a “staple” on cable news when an interview is needed to deliver criticism of Trump
      - The Hill called him “The Snapchat King of Congress”
      - Recorded a Vine of himself voting against a ban on 20 week and later abortions
        - Technically illegal
        - Defended himself, saying "We operate under rules that were created in the eighteenth

century, and I think it's time that the Congress start to act more like regular Americans do. I did not see this as impairing the decorum. I think what this did was highlight, for all to see, the democratic process."

- Focused on combating gun violence and limiting gun ownership
- Co-founder of "March for Our Lives"
- Travelling Iowa, the first primary state, with Cameron Kasky, a survivor from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting
- Supports an increase to the cap on Social Security tax, which would allow the rich to pay taxes in excess on \$110,000 per year but still cap their Social Security income after retirement to the prior amount
- Advocates repealing "No Child Left Behind"
- Perhaps proposes "a mandatory buyback of "military style semi-automatic assault weapons", with prosecution for anyone who fails to comply after the allotted timeline"
- John Hickenlooper
  - Governor of Colorado from 2011 to 2019
  - Mayor of Denver for 8 years before that
  - Owned a brewery and bar before that
  - His popularity alone has taken Colorado from a swing state to one of the most consistently blue states in the nation. During the red tide 6 years into Obama's presidency, Colorado was the only state in the nation to gain Democratic seats in either the House or Senate
  - In 2008, his referendums which all passed on a ballot took the city income tax rate from 2.9% to 22%
    - For perspective, Bridgeport Connecticut has the highest tax today at 20%

- After sales taxes and fees, residents would end up losing over one third of their checks to Denver
- As Governor, he then got Referendums C and D to pass, which moved the tax burden on to the entire state of Colorado
  - Now Denver is down to an 8.31% income tax rate
  - Colorado's tax rate, once the lowest in the nation before Hickenlooper, is at 4.31%, right in the middle of the road
- “Stimulus Done Right”
  - Colorado's Debt per citizen has skyrocketed under Hickenlooper
  - Before his tenure, their debt per citizen was among the lowest in the nation
  - It now is the 4th highest behind only New York, California, and Illinois
  - Still, citizens have approved because, unlike those other states, the jobs and money spent have actually grown the size of the city of Denver and the State. The “jobs” that never appeared in New York, Denver, and Illinois (especially Chicago) actually did show up to Denver
    - This coincided with marijuana legalization, which also helped a great deal and he favored the measure against the wishes of his own police chief
- Richard Ojeda
  - State Senator from West Virginia
  - He is running on three primary issues
    - Medicare for all
    - Marijuana legalization
    - Anti-lobbying

- While he has claimed to be a moderate at times, he embraces left-wing populism. He once said, "back when I was in high school, being a Republican was like cursing"
  - He served 24 years in the US Army
    - He said about it, "Where I come from, when you graduate high school, there's only three choices—dig coal, sell dope, or join the Army. And I chose the military"
  - Ojeda has stated "I don't think I've ever voted for a Democrat for president" and supported Donald Trump in 2016. He told *Politico* that he voted for Trump because he initially believed Trump would do something for West Virginians. By 2018, he expressed regret for voting for Trump, saying that "he hasn't done shit" and he is "taking care of the daggone people he's supposed to be getting rid of". Ojeda supported Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary.
  - He is most famous for his role in Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 11/9*, where he said, "I'm sick and tired of people telling me America is the greatest country—because we can whip your ass?", and "I don't give a shit who you are. I'll fight you in the damn street right now."
- Still in exploratory committees
  - Michael Arth
    - Artist, architect, and political scientist out of Florida
    - Ran as an Independent for Governor in the last election
  - Harry Braun
    - Renewable Energy Consultant and Researcher
    - Has run for president twice, 2012 and 2016.
    - Switches between Independent and Democrat
  - Ken Nwadike Jr
    - Documentary Filmmaker

- Robby Wells
  - High School Football Coach

## Sources

WNDU - “Largest Ever”

<https://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/Largest-settlement-yet-on-SB-poilce-tapes-case--246962351.html>

Navigate - “Housing as a Platform for Opportunity”

<https://www.navigatehousing.com/hud-secretary-castros-exit-memo-to-the-american-people-housing-as-a-platform-for-opportunity/>

CATO - “Public Housing and Rental Subsidies”

<https://www.downsizinggovernment.org/hud/public-housing-rental-subsidies>

The Baltimore Sun - “Lawsuit”

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-redistricting-case-20170601-story.html>

SF Gate - “Judge Rips Harris’ Office”

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Judge-rips-Harris-office-for-hiding-problems-3263797.php>

Politifact - “The truth behind Elizabeth Warren”

<https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2017/dec/01/facts-behind-elizabeth-warren-and-her-native-ameri/>

Real Clear Politics - “Election 2020 Poll”

[https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/us/2020\\_democratic\\_presidential\\_nomination-6730.html](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/us/2020_democratic_presidential_nomination-6730.html)