

2020 Presidential PAC Questionnaire

Emgage PAC is the largest Muslim American political action committee and is part of a family of organizations dedicated to empowering Muslim voters with Get Out The Vote campaigns, issue advocacy training, and leadership development. In 2020, Emgage Action aims to turn out one million Muslim voters with data-driven GOTV, including canvassing operations in states such as Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, Virginia, and Texas.

Emgage PAC supports candidates for local, state, and federal public office who are committed to protecting our pluralistic democracy, and specifically champion the rights of underrepresented communities. Emgage PAC produces a voter recommendation slate, which is distributed in local communities as part of our Muslim-voter mobilization in key states. For more information, visit <http://emgagepac.org>.

Emgage PAC is currently reviewing presidential candidates for possible endorsement and support during the primaries and general election. Endorsement decisions will be influenced by a number of factors, including the results of an internal survey of our members, the candidate's viability and track record, their engagement with the Muslim American community, and answers to policy questions in this questionnaire.

Top Issues

What Will Be Your Top Three Policy Priorities If Elected President?

I will waste no time undoing the damage that Donald Trump has inflicted on the soul of this nation. My top priorities will be to boost working families, address urgent challenges, and restore the soul of our nation. I'll send Congress legislation building on Obamacare with a public option and immigration reform with a roadmap to citizenship for nearly 11 million people. I'll push to enact the PRO Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act; crack down on employers who try to bust unions; and triple funding for Title I schools. I'll work to pass the Equality Act, protecting sexual orientation and gender identity under civil rights law, and – if it hasn't passed by the time I take office – the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, including

its critical gun safety measures. I'll move to restore the Voting Rights Act, repeal Trump's Muslim ban, and fight for a constitutional amendment to rid federal elections of private funding. I'll rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement and put us on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050, investing \$1.7 trillion to make us the world's clean energy leader and rebuild our infrastructure, creating 10 million jobs. These proposals require working with Congress – something I have more experience doing than any candidate. From the Recovery Act to the 1994 assault weapons ban to key Voting Rights Act extensions, I've led big legislative fights and won progressive victories.

Why Us?

Muslim Americans are essential to the American fabric, and working with community-based leaders like Emgage PAC is critical to ensuring that Muslim Americans are uplifted and empowered, and that their issues of concern are addressed within our democracy. You can't define an American by where their family comes from, what they look like, or what faith they follow. America is an idea--that all men and women are created equal, that everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity. It's an idea that's stronger than any army and more powerful than any dictator, and while we've never perfectly lived up to this idea, generation after generation of Americans have opened wider the doors of opportunity to include more and more people. Muslim Americans are a diverse, vibrant part of the United States, making invaluable cultural and economic contributions to communities all across the nation. But they also face real challenges and threats in our society, including racially-motivated violence and Islamophobia.

Donald Trump ran a campaign for president that targeted the Muslim community--seeking to whip up fear--and within days of his inauguration as president, Trump followed through on his racist threats by signing the so-called "Muslim Ban." Muslim Americans across the country experienced heightened fears for their personal safety or that of their families. It's wrong, and as president, I will immediately repeal the Muslim Ban and end these kinds of fear-based policies. I will work closely with Emgage PAC and other Muslim-American advocacy organizations to address the needs and legitimate concerns of the Muslim American community. I've said from the moment I launched my campaign that we're in a battle for the soul of this nation--to prove that we are not the country Donald Trump thinks we are, that we believe in treating everyone with dignity and respect, that we give hate no safe harbor, that we demonize no one – not the poor, the powerless, the immigrant, the other. America should be a welcome beacon of hope, where men and women of all backgrounds, cultures, and faiths can live freely without fear or intimidation.

I believe it is time we restore respected American leadership on the world stage, and dignified leadership at home.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of Emgage PAC

Polling that captures Muslim Americans' satisfaction with the direction of our country indicates that satisfaction has decreased greatly since 2016. We need to do better as a nation to address the concerns of all our citizens and to stand up for equal opportunity, equal rights, and equal justice. I am seeking the endorsement of Emgage PAC because as president I will ensure that the Muslim American community has a voice in the political process and that the community's needs are addressed, from local government all the way to the White House. I have a long record of fighting to advance civil rights, criminal justice reform, and immigration reform; working to reduce income inequality; expanding access to healthcare; sounding the alarm on the climate crisis; and building partnerships around the world that bolster our national security--all of which are critical issues for Muslim American community.

We need a president who is ready on day one to repair our relationships with our allies, stand up to strongmen and thugs on the international stage, and rally the world to meet global challenges. At a time when the world is facing increasingly complex challenges-- a rapidly changing climate, the risk of nuclear proliferation, 70 million displaced people around the world seeking shelter and security, attacks on universal human rights and fundamental freedoms--I believe that the United States must once more lead with the power of our example, not just the example of our power.

That means renewing our own democracy, including our fundamental American values: inclusivity, tolerance, diversity, respect for the rule of law, freedom of speech, freedom of religion. We must ensure that every American has a voice and that every American's vote is protected--including Muslim Americans.

Emgage PAC provides an incredible platform to engage the Muslim American community politically and civically across the country. The only way we're going to be able to take on these issues is by working together, and I hope I can earn Emgage PAC's endorsement and work with you as a partner--not just in shaping this campaign, but in shaping the policies of a Biden administration.

Engagement with the Muslim Community

What is the extent of your current engagement with the Muslim American community?

Engaging with the Muslim American community is both a priority for me personally, and for my campaign. We have an outreach director focusing on the Muslim American engagement; we have consistent programmatic engagement to hear from the community and address concerns; and I have personally sought out opportunities to connect with Muslim Americans as I travel across the country and have spoken out against Donald Trump's Muslim Ban at my campaign stops and on social media. Recently, I met with Muslim and Asian American leaders in Los Angeles, including Engage PAC Board Member Dilawar Syed, to discuss outreach to the Muslim American community. I also recently spent time with Muslim and Arab American community members at a Muslim-owned restaurant in Dearborn, Michigan, and have met members of the community at several other stops along the campaign trail.

Our grassroots engagement is inclusive across the broad diversity within the Muslim and Arab American community. We host monthly outreach calls to connect with Muslim Americans and keep them apprised of our campaign's developments and outreach efforts, answer questions, hear concerns, solicit ideas, and invite more members of the community to get involved with our campaign. These calls have included senior domestic and foreign policy campaign officials answering questions directly from the community, Gold Star father Khizr Khan, community leaders, and other influential members from the community.

Additionally, my campaign has launched Muslims For Biden, a national affinity group run by grassroots and civic leaders, including Engage PAC Co-founder and Board Member Farooq Mitha and Mellak Beydoun. Muslims For Biden is organizing Muslim American volunteers and supporters across the country to spread the word about Team Joe and our campaign in the community, and to host events, phone banks, canvasses, and much more.

Furthermore, our surrogates are prioritizing outreach to Muslim Americans. Khizr Khan has visited several mosques, Islamic associations, and community centers and held roundtables with Muslim groups and much more throughout Iowa, New Hampshire, and Nevada on behalf of our campaign. Other surrogates, including former New Jersey Governor James Florio, have helped to lead roundtable discussions with the Muslim American community recently, and there are plans for more surrogate engagement as well.

Have you ever visited a Mosque or an Islamic center?

I've had the honor of visiting beautiful mosques around the world, speaking with imams, participating in an Iftar, and learning from Muslim community leaders throughout my career in public service. As Vice President, I was proud to represent our country abroad and lead visits to culturally and historically important religious sites, including the Süleymaniye Mosque and the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, and the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. Perhaps the most meaningful visit I have ever made, though, was on September 29, 2001. Less than three weeks after the terrorist attacks on 9/11, I spoke at the Islamic Society of Delaware in Wilmington. It was an incredibly tense and traumatic time for our country--and especially for Muslim Americans who were being unjustly scapegoated and targeted with harassment and violence by their fellow Americans. I could not offer answers to all the questions the community had in that difficult moment, but I knew it was critical for me to be there and to stand in solidarity with my fellow Delawareans, and my fellow Americans. Sadly, what I said to that community is still applicable today in a nation where Donald Trump is actively fanning the flames of violence and division in our society: "To misdirect hate, because of someone's religion or appearance or accent, not only twists our national identity, it detracts from it."

What are you doing to ensure that qualified Americans who are Muslim will be a part of your political team and, if elected, as part of your administration? Also, do you currently have a Muslim Outreach Director?

Our campaign places the highest importance on ensuring we have a diverse staff that reflects the full strength of the United States. We have an outreach director who focuses on Muslim outreach, and we will continue to strive to recruit the best talent to our campaign from every community, including Muslim Americans. I also commit to staffing my administration so that it reflects the diversity of the country, including at the most senior levels of government, and I will restore the Muslim Community Liaison position in the White House Office of Public Engagement, which was established under the Obama administration.

Please list endorsements that you have received by Muslim or minority groups and leaders

I am proud to have the support of Farooq Mitha, Emgage PAC Co-founder and Board Member, Dilawar Syed, Emgage PAC Board Member and Mallak Beydoun, Senior Official, Office of Mayor Duggan, Detroit. *Biden for President* has organized a broad and diverse coalition of more than 1,300 endorsements from national, state, and local leaders, including current and former

U.S. senators and representatives, governors, state elected officials, community leaders, and national security professionals. These endorsements also include the following leaders:

- Khizr Khan, Gold Star Father
- AAPI Victory Fund
- Ami Bera, U.S. Representative
- Richard Verma, Former Ambassador to India
- Gary Locke, Former Ambassador to China
- Leslie Alexander, Former Ambassador to Ecuador, to Mauritius and to Comoros
- Michael Battle, Former Ambassador to the African Union
- Reuben Brigety, Former Ambassador to the African Union
- Dwight Bush, Former Ambassador to Morocco
- Linda Etim, Former Assistant Administrator for Africa, USAID
- Jose Fernandez, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs
- Irvin Hicks, Former Ambassador to Ethiopia and to Seychelles
- Alejandro Mayorkas, Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security
- Azita Raji, Former Ambassador to Sweden
- Julissa Reynoso, Former Ambassador to Uruguay
- Charles Stith, Former Ambassador to Tanzania
- Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
- Arturo Valenzuela, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs
- Mike Duggan, Mayor of Detroit
- Carol Moseley Braun, Former U.S. Senator and Former U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand
- Sharaf Haseebullah, Biden Nevada AAPI Leadership Council Member, Founder of Masjid Ibrahim and Member of the Southern Nevada Interfaith Council
- Zia Khan, Biden Nevada AAPI Leadership Council Member Physician and AAPI Victory Fund Board Member
- Raja Majid, Biden Nevada AAPI Leadership Council Member, Small Business Owner
- Muhammad Quddus, Biden Nevada AAPI Leadership Council Member, Economist (retired) with State of Nevada

Would you restore the White House Annual Iftar (the breaking of the fast during Ramadan)?

Yes.

Immigration

What is your current position on the Travel Ban prohibiting travel to the United States of citizens from Muslim majority countries?

On day one, I will rescind the un-American travel and refugee bans, also referred to as the “Muslim ban” and now the expanded “African ban.” The Trump Administration’s anti-Muslim bias hurts our economy, betrays our values, and can serve as a powerful terrorist recruiting tool. Prohibiting Muslims from entering the country is morally wrong, and there is no intelligence or evidence that suggests it makes our nation more secure. It is yet another abuse of power by the Trump Administration designed to target primarily black and brown immigrants.

Under a Biden Administration, we will never turn our backs on who we are or that which makes us uniquely and proudly American. The United States deserves an immigration policy that reflects our highest values as a nation and our aspirations for our future. The next president will need to take urgent action to end the Trump Administration’s draconian policies, grounded in fear and racism rather than fact, work to heal the wounds inflicted on immigrant communities, and restore America’s moral leadership. As president, I will move immediately to ensure that the U.S. meets its responsibilities as both a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants.

Would you commit to repealing the Travel Ban within the first 100 days of your presidency?

Yes.

The United States has cut refugee admission targets to a historic low of 18,000 for 2020. If elected, do you pledge to increase the ceiling back to at least 80,000 in your first year in office and 100,000 for every year thereafter?

I will exceed those targets. I will set the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000 to start, and seek to raise it over time commensurate with our responsibility, our values, and the unprecedented global need. With more than 70 million displaced people in the world today, this is a moment that demands American leadership. Offering hope and safe haven to refugees is part of who we are as a country. As a senator, I co-sponsored the legislation creating our refugee program, which Trump has steadily decimated. His Administration has reduced the refugee resettlement ceiling to its lowest levels in decades and slammed the door on thousands of individuals suffering persecution, many of whom face threats of violence or even death in their home countries. We cannot mobilize other countries to meet their humanitarian obligations if we are not ourselves upholding our cherished democratic values and firmly rejecting Trump’s nativist rhetoric and actions. I embrace the core values that have made us who we are and will

prioritize restoring refugee admissions in line with our historic practice under both Democratic and Republican Administrations.

What is your proposal for resolving the crisis at our southern border, including the detention of thousands of migrants and separation of families?

As laid out in my plans on [immigration](#) and [Central America](#), addressing the humanitarian crisis at the southern border will take a holistic approach that reverses the Trump Administration's disastrous and inhumane policies, builds a fair, humane, and modern immigration system, and galvanizes international action to address the violence, poverty and insecurity driving migrants from the Northern Triangle to the United States.

In my first 100 days, to address the crisis directly on the border, I will:

- Immediately reverse the Trump Administration's cruel and senseless policies that separate parents from their children at our border.
- End Trump's detrimental asylum policies, starting with Trump's Migrant Protection Protocols, and restore our asylum laws so that they do what they should be designed to do—protect people fleeing persecution and who cannot return home safely.
- End the mismanagement of the asylum system, including Trump's "metering" policy, which fuels violence and chaos at the border.
- Surge resources to the border and foster public-private initiatives to address the humanitarian crisis.
- End prolonged detention and reinvest in a case management program. Proven alternatives to detention like non-profit case management programs, which support migrants as they navigate their legal obligations, are the best way to ensure that they attend all required immigration appointments. These programs also enable migrants to live with dignity and safety while awaiting their court hearings.
- Reverse Trump's public charge rule, which runs counter to our values as Americans and the history of our nation.
- End the so-called National Emergency that siphons federal dollars from the Department of Defense to build a wall.
- Protect DREAMers and their families.
- Order an immediate review of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for vulnerable populations who cannot find safety in their countries ripped apart by violence or disaster.
- Ensure that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel abide by professional standards and are held accountable for inhumane treatment.

I will also:

- Surge asylum officers to the southern border efficiently review the cases of recent border crossers and keep cases with positive credible-fear findings with the Asylum Division to alleviate the burden on our overwhelmed immigration courts.
- Restore asylum eligibility for domestic violence survivors.
- Ensure U.S. asylum laws are adhered to with respect to those fleeing political persecution.
- Double the number of immigration judges, court staff, and interpreters.
- End for-profit detention centers.

Additionally, as president, I will pursue a comprehensive [strategy](#) to strengthen the security and prosperity of Central America in partnership with the people of the region that:

- Addresses the root causes of migration by fostering greater security, economic development, and respect for the rule of law in Central America, including:
 - Developing a comprehensive four-year, \$4 billion regional strategy to address factors driving migration from Central America;
 - Mobilizing private investment in the region;
 - Improving security and rule of law;
 - Addressing endemic corruption;
 - Prioritizing poverty reduction and economic development.
- Strengthens regional humanitarian responses.
- Manages migration through refugee resettlement and other legal programs.

How will you work with Congress to support a path to citizenship for the roughly 11 million immigrants now living in the country without permission and others in the U.S. under protected status programs?

Immigrants are essential to the strength of our country and the U.S. economy. My immigration plan commits to expending significant political capital to finally deliver legislative immigration reform to ensure that the U.S. remains open and welcoming to people from every part of the world—and to bring hardworking people who have enriched our communities and our country, in some cases for decades, out of the shadows. These are our mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters. They are our neighbors, co-workers, and members of our congregations and Little League teams. They contribute in countless ways to our communities, workforce, and economy. I will aggressively advocate for legislation that creates a clear roadmap to legal status and citizenship for the nearly 11 million unauthorized immigrants who register, are up-to-date on their taxes, and have passed a background check.

If elected, I will build a fair and humane immigration system—restoring the progress Trump has cruelly undone and taking it further. I will secure our border, while ensuring the dignity of

migrants and upholding their legal right to seek asylum. I will enforce our laws without targeting communities, violating due process, or tearing apart families. I will ensure our values are squarely at the center of our immigration and enforcement policies.

DREAMers are Americans in everything but name, and it's past time that Congress made it official. The Obama-Biden Administration created DACA in 2012 to protect DREAMers, and expanded it in 2014. The Trump Administration made the cruel and counterproductive decision to terminate DACA, throwing into turmoil the lives of millions of DREAMers. DREAMers and their parents should have a roadmap to citizenship through legislative immigration reform. But in the meantime, I will remove the uncertainty for DREAMers by reinstating the DACA program, and I will explore all legal options to protect their families from inhumane separation.

I'll also order an immediate review of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for vulnerable populations who cannot find safety in their countries ripped apart by violence or disaster, and extend TPS to Venezuelans who are seeking relief from that country's humanitarian crisis. The Trump Administration's politically-motivated decisions to rescind protected status for hundreds of thousands of people fleeing countries impacted by war and natural disasters — without regard for current country conditions — is a recipe for disaster. I will protect TPS and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders from being returned to countries that are unsafe, and TPS/DED holders who have been in the country for an extended period of time and built lives in the U.S. will also be offered a path to citizenship through legislative immigration reform. I will also provide a path to legalization for agricultural workers who have worked for years on U.S. farms and continue to work in agriculture and increase the number of visas offered for permanent, work-based immigration based on macroeconomic conditions.

Criminal Justice

Please provide your views regarding the U.S. justice system and your position, if any, on criminal justice reform.

Equality, equity, justice – these ideas form the American creed. We have never lived up to it and we haven't always gotten it right, but we've never stopped trying. This is especially true when it comes to our criminal justice system. Today, too many people are incarcerated in the United States – and too many of them are black and brown. To build safe and healthy communities, we need to rethink who we're sending to jail, how we treat those in jail, and how we help them get the health care, education, jobs, and housing they need to successfully rejoin society after they serve their time.

My [plan](#) for for strengthening America's commitment to justice is based on several core principles:

- We can and must reduce the number of people incarcerated in this country while also reducing crime. No one should be incarcerated for drug use alone. Instead, they should be

diverted to drug courts and treatment. Reducing the number of incarcerated individuals will reduce federal spending on incarceration. These savings should be reinvested in the communities impacted by mass incarceration.

- Our criminal justice system cannot be just unless we root out the racial, gender, and income-based disparities in the system. Black mothers and fathers should feel confident that their children are safe walking the streets of America. And, when a police officer pins on that shield and walks out the door, the officer's family should know they'll come home at the end of the day. Additionally, women and children are uniquely impacted by the criminal justice system, and the system needs to address their unique needs.
- Our criminal justice system must be focused on redemption and rehabilitation. Making sure formerly incarcerated individuals have the opportunity to be productive members of our society is not only the right thing to do, it will also grow our economy.
- No one should be profiteering off of our criminal justice system.

I have called for the immediate passage of Congressman Bobby Scott's SAFE Justice Act, an evidence-based, comprehensive bill to reform our criminal justice system "from front-end sentencing reform to back-end release policies." My plan will also go further. I will take bold action to reduce our prison population, create a more just society, and make our communities safer, by:

- Creating a new \$20 billion competitive grant program to spur states to shift from incarceration to prevention.
- Investing in educational opportunity for all.
- Expanding federal funding for mental health and substance use disorder services and research.
- Getting people who should be supported with social services – instead of in our prisons – connected to the help they need.
- Expanding and use the power of the U.S. Justice Department to address systemic misconduct in police departments and prosecutors' office.
- Establishing an independent Task Force on Prosecutorial Discretion.
- Investing in public defenders' offices to ensure defendants' access to quality counsel.
- Eliminate mandatory minimums.
- Ending, once and for all, the federal crack and powder cocaine disparity.
- Decriminalizing the use of cannabis and automatically expunge all prior cannabis use convictions.
- Ending all incarceration for drug use alone and instead divert individuals to drug courts and treatment.
- Expanding other effective alternatives to detention.
- Eliminating the death penalty.
- Using the president's clemency power to secure the release of individuals facing unduly long sentences for certain non-violent and drug crimes.

As president, I will also prioritize reform of the juvenile justice system to make sure we give more children a second chance to live up to their potential. My administration will develop and

implement policies in this space based upon input from children and young adults who interacted with the criminal justice system as children. I will:

- Invest \$1 billion per year in juvenile justice reform.
- End the use of detention as punishment for status offenses.
- Give children a true second chance by protecting juvenile records.
- Incentivize states to stop incarcerating kids.
- End the school to prison pipeline by focusing on prevention.
- Expand funding for after-school programs, community centers, and summer jobs to keep young people active, busy, learning, and having fun.

Do you believe that convicted felons who have served their time should have their right to vote restored?

Yes.

Hate Crimes

Do you believe that legislation can play a role in reducing hate crimes?

Yes.

What policies would you implement to help reduce the increase in hate crimes targeting ethnic and religious minorities, especially the Jewish and Muslim community?

I will tackle the rise in hate crimes through moral leadership that makes clear such vitriol has no place in the United States. And, in the Biden Administration, the Justice Department will prioritize prosecuting hate crimes.

We will pursue evidence-based measures to root out persistent violent crime. Violent offenders need to be held accountable, and survivors need to have access to support to deal with the physical, psychological, and financial consequences of violence. The number of hate crimes in the United States reached a five-year high in 2016, and then went up another 17% in 2017.

We need a comprehensive approach to battling anti-Semitism and Islamophobia that take seriously both the violence that accompanies them and the hateful and dangerous lies that undergird them. Sadly, these hatreds take many different forms and cuts across ideology, political party, groups and nations. So we must remain vigilant and speak out every time we see hate rear its ugly head. It's incumbent on all of us to stand against those who traffic in pernicious

stereotypes, or who seek to scare and divide us for political gain. Silence is complicity, so we must speak out — every time. We must call hate by its proper name, and condemn it.

We must also address the extremist, white supremacist violence that has sparked so much bloodshed, especially with Trump fanning the flames of hatred and hollowing out resources we put in place during the Obama-Biden administration to address domestic extremism. I'll restore that funding and work to pass a federal domestic terrorism law. We can craft legislation that respects free speech and civil liberties, while making the same commitment as a nation to root out domestic terrorism as we have to stopping international terrorism.

And, we must enact measures to keep guns out of dangerous hands, as laid out in my [plan](#) to end our gun violence epidemic. As president, I will ban the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines and require background checks for all gun sales. I will also work to close the "hate crime loophole," prohibiting an individual "who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission" from purchasing or possessing a firearm. I will enact legislation prohibiting someone convicted of a hate crime from purchasing or possessing a firearm. I'll also close the so-called "boyfriend" and "stalking" loopholes, to keep anyone convicted of assault, battery, or stalking from buying or having a gun.

In 2019, Americans witnessed countless mass shootings and tragic loss of innocent lives. Are you willing to call incidents of mass violence "domestic terrorism"?

Yes.

Human Rights & Democracy

Does the United States have a role to play in protecting fundamental human rights abroad, and if so, what would that role look like under your presidency?

Human rights are at the core of the very idea of America, and the United States is safer when fundamental rights are protected worldwide. As president, I will take immediate steps to demonstrate that the United States is prepared to lead the world again, and to defend and advance human rights and the other democratic values that we hold dear. We will revitalize our commitment to building a world based on fairness and opportunity for all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity, nationality, or sexual orientation.

In too many countries -- from Uyghurs forced into internment camps in China, to closing down of democratic accountability from Hungary to Turkey -- we are seeing governments led by

strongmen who refuse to defend the civil and political rights and the dignity of their citizens. For democracies to prevail against the growing threat of authoritarianism, the United States must again put human rights at the center of our engagement with the world.

During my first year in office, I will convene a summit of the world's democracies, to renew the shared purpose of our allies and partners to protect democracy and human rights at home and abroad, and to support civil society organizations from around the globe who stand on the front lines of the growing threats to human rights. As president, I will rebuild American diplomatic capacity to support and defend human rights around the globe, including by rejoining the UN Human Rights Council and once again stepping up to lead international institutions and ensuring they live up to their values. We will stand up for the rights of women and girls, LGBTQ communities, persecuted ethnic and religious minorities, those living with disabilities, and members of other marginalized groups, and ensure that the foreign aid we provide reflects our values. We will push for accountability for those who commit atrocity crimes and other human rights violations, in the spirit of the Nuremberg legacy, 75 years ago this year. And we will end Trump's "Muslim ban," "African ban," and other discriminatory policies that deny the basic rights and that scar America's image across the globe.

I have the credibility and experience necessary to lead a coalition of like-minded nations and international organizations to advance human rights protections and to respond swiftly and meaningfully to human rights threats globally. When a government moves to restrict rights, fails to enforce legal protections in place, or allows a climate of intolerance, I will mobilize this coalition to challenge that government's behavior and consider the full range of tools in America's arsenal, including private diplomacy, public statements, multilateral action through the UN and other bodies, and sanctions, such as Global Magnitsky sanctions and visa bans.

America cannot retreat from the world, and we are less safe when we retreat from our longstanding global leadership on human rights. The defense of human rights and freedom at home and abroad is a responsibility we all share and a common cause that must animate our future together.

What are your views on the Arab Spring and the broader question of democracy in the Arab World? Does the United States have a role to play in promoting democracy in the Arab world, and if so, what should the guiding principles be?

Arab citizens deserve better than the choice between repression and instability. For too long, autocratic governments offered their people only these two options. The Arab Spring was a historic democratic opening, when millions of mostly young people took to the streets to demand justice, dignity, and accountable governance.

We know that peaceful, democratic transitions take time – sometimes decades. Unfortunately, since the early days of 2011, there has been much bloodshed in the Middle East. Yet citizens in the region continue to demand change peacefully, as we have seen recently in Sudan, Algeria, Iraq, and Lebanon. As this process continues, the United States has an important role to play.

While I do not think we have all the answers or that we can dictate the outcomes in complex societies, I believe that as the world's leading democracy, we have a responsibility to defend and advance liberty and human rights around the world. And what we say and do matters. We must not shy away from condemning violations of universal rights or from publicly supporting economic and political reforms. It undermines our moral standing globally when President Trump excuses away Saudi abuses or calls Egypt's leader "my favorite dictator."

My administration will invest in programs that bolster civil society, protect media freedoms, and strengthen judicial institutions all around the world, including in the Middle East.

Diplomatically, we will continue to privilege relationships based on shared values, including democracy. As such, during my first year in office, the United States will organize and host a Global Summit for Democracy to renew the spirit and shared purpose of the nations of the free world. The summit will prioritize results by galvanizing significant new country commitments in three areas: fighting corruption, defending against authoritarianism, and advancing human rights in their own nations and abroad.

Ultimately, to champion these values in the Arab world and beyond, we must also repair and reinvigorate our own democracy. America's ability to be a force for progress in the world and to mobilize collective action starts at home.

What measures would you support in response to the Chinese government's ongoing detention of over one million Muslim Uyghurs and its efforts to erase their identity?

The forced detention of over a million Uyghur Muslims in western China is unconscionable. America should speak out against the internment camps in Xinjiang and hold to account the people and companies complicit in this appalling oppression, including through sanctions and applying the Magnitsky Act. We can't do this alone: the United States should mobilize like-minded countries to speak in unison and challenge China's treatment of its Muslim population.

China must respect the rights of all its citizens, and when I am president, human rights and democracy will once again become non-negotiable American values that sit at the heart of our foreign policy. We will closely monitor and report transparently on the condition of the Uyghurs and other oppressed minorities around the world. As president, I will rejoin the UN Human Rights Council, so that the United States can use that and other international forums to shine a spotlight on China's rampant violations against Uyghurs.

But this challenge doesn't stop at China's borders. Freedom in the 21st century will be won and lost in cyberspace. The free world should come together to compete with China's efforts to proliferate its model of high-tech authoritarianism. The United States should lead in shaping the rules, norms, and institutions that will govern the use of new technologies, like Artificial Intelligence. Through diplomacy and development finance, we can work with democratic allies

to provide countries with a digital alternative to China's dystopian system of surveillance and censorship, which China uses to repress its Uyghur population. These efforts could begin at the global Summit for Democracy that I will host my first year in office.

Most important is that we lead once again by the power of our example. America's commitment to universal values sets us apart from China. I will reinvigorate and repair our democracy by eliminating the Trump administration's "Muslim" and "African" bans, increasing our refugee admissions, and ending the indefensible practice of separating families at the border. That is how to project a model that others want to emulate, rather than following China's authoritarian path.

What measures would you support to hold the Government of Myanmar responsible for the Rohingya Genocide and to enable those displaced by its actions to safely return to their homes?

Systematic discrimination against Burma's Rohingya Muslim minority, including a deliberate and targeted campaign of violence that led to almost a million Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh, is abhorrent to U.S. values and undermines U.S. interests in regional peace and stability. As president, I will start by restoring America's credibility to speak out on violations of fundamental rights by ending Trump's policies at home that undermine American values, including the Muslim ban and the inhumane detention of asylum-seekers. America must mobilize a global coalition to press Burma's elected government to abide by the January 23, 2020 ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which calls for protection of remaining Rohingya in the country. If Burma fails to do so, the United States should request the UN Security Council enforce the ICJ decision, as provided for under the UN Charter. As president, I also will rejoin the UN Human Rights Council, where the United States will lead a global coalition to launch additional international investigations of violations against the Rohingya.

The United States should further include implementation of the ICJ ruling in future bilateral U.S.-ASEAN summit agendas and statements, and meet ASEAN's November 2019 request for assistance with projects in Rakhine state to facilitate repatriation. The United States also should increase assistance to Bangladesh to assist with improving conditions of Rohingya refugees in camps. The Global Summit for Democracy will further highlight the importance of protecting religious and minority rights worldwide, including in Burma, and will secure specific commitments from countries of new protections for the rights of their citizens and residents.

The United States should also stand with the Rohingya in seeking justice for the crimes they have endured. The United States should support processes for collecting evidence and developing legal cases in preparation for the day when a competent neutral body is able to judge the actions of Burma's government and hold perpetrators to account.

What measures would you support to compel the Indian government to end its crackdown against Kashmir, including ending its near-total blockade of the territory?

I am disappointed with measures that the Indian government has taken in recent months in Kashmir. It is important to restore peace, full access to communications, and the rule of law for the people of Kashmir. Many restrictions have been lifted, but some continue, and the people of Kashmir deserve to pursue their lives freely.

The longer the restrictions continue, the more difficult it will be for the parties to come to the table to discuss political solutions. The parties must find a way out of this stalemate using diplomacy and dialogue to reduce tensions.

The U.S. and India share a wide range of enduring interests, including a prosperous and stable Asia-Pacific region and a fair and rules-based global order. We work very closely on some of the world's toughest challenges, and our collaboration has always been underpinned by our shared democratic traditions. As in America, India's strength lies in its diversity and its tolerance.

Raising sensitive issues with close partners is hard work, and a Biden Administration will not shy away from tough conversations. But it requires capable and disciplined diplomats with moral credibility to do so effectively. The Trump Administration has neither, which makes hard conversations like this with our partners nearly impossible to have.

What measures would you support to compel the Indian government to reverse recent discriminatory actions, including the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NCR), that seek to disenfranchise over 200 million Indian Muslims?

I am disappointed by the measures that Prime Minister Modi's BJP government has taken with the implementation and aftermath of the National Register of Citizens in Assam and the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act into law. I think it is clear from the Indian public's reaction that many Indians feel these measures are inconsistent with the country's long tradition of secularism and sustaining a multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracy.

The Indian people who are protesting have a right to do so, and the Indian government should permit peaceful protests, rather than trying to restrict dissent by prohibiting large public gatherings or shutting down the Internet.

Unfortunately, we cannot ignore the fact that U.S. credibility has been severely damaged under President Trump by un-American policies like the so-called "Muslim ban" that go against everything we stand for. I will restore America's credibility to lead on issues like defending religious freedom and protecting democratic principles around the world by restoring our democracy at home. Then, I will host a global Summit for Democracy to strengthen our democratic institutions and honestly confront the challenge of nations that are backsliding. If

countries want to attend, they'll have to make tangible commitments that demonstrate their sense of shared responsibility and interest in preserving free and open societies.

Middle East Peace

UN Resolution 242 calls on Israel to withdraw from Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem and is one of the most widely affirmed resolutions on the Arab–Israeli conflict and formed the basis for later negotiations between the parties. Do you support the decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and if elected, would you uphold that decision?

I would not have moved our embassy to Jerusalem in this manner, at this time. Now that it is done, however, I am not going to move it back. A priority now for the cause of Israeli-Palestinian peace should be resuming our dialogue with the Palestinians and pressing Israel not to take actions that make a two-state solution impossible. I will reopen the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem, find a way to re-open the PLO's diplomatic mission in Washington, and resume the decades long economic and security assistance efforts to the Palestinians that the Trump Administration stopped.

What is your position on Israeli settlements built on land captured during the 1967 War? Do you consider territory Israel captured in 1967 occupied?

I have opposed the expansion of Israeli settlements for decades, and have shared my concerns directly with Israeli leaders from Menachem Begin to Benjamin Netanyahu. Settlement expansion harms diplomacy, and moves us away from what should be shared Israeli, Palestinian, and American goals of achieving a peaceful, two-state solution. Israeli leaders must halt their steady and systematic process of settlement expansion, legalizing outposts, and seizing land. I am worried about the recent discussion of annexing Palestinian territory, which is a unilateral step that will lock in a one state reality and move us farther from peace.

Do you support efforts to criminalize Americans who engage in political, social, or economic boycott of foreign countries?

I do not support efforts by any democracy to criminalize free speech and expression. That is why I spoke out against Israel's decision to deny entry to American lawmakers because they spoke out in favor of boycotting Israel.

That said, I have been unequivocal in condemning calls in the United States to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel. These calls are inconsistent with the treatment of other nations, and they are wrong.

Do you support the Trump Administration's position equating criticism of the actions of the State of Israel with anti-Semitism?

I am very concerned with the serious problem of rising tides of anti-Semitism both in America

and around the world. Yet Israel, like all nations, is subject to legitimate criticism for its policies and actions. I have publicly and privately criticized Israeli and Palestinian leaders alike for moves I viewed as counterproductive for peace, including settlement expansion. Anti-Semitism is a real and dangerous problem across the political spectrum, including among critics of Israel who demonize Jews. However, falsely conflating any criticisms of Israel with anti-Semitism distracts from the real work that must be done to achieve peace.

How will you de-escalate tensions with Iran while safeguarding U.S. personnel, interests, and allies in the region?

I am under no illusions about the Iranian regime, which has engaged in destabilizing behavior across the Middle East, brutally cracked down on protesters at home, and unjustly detained Americans. But there is a smart way to counter the threat that Iran poses to our interests and a self-defeating way—and Trump has chosen the latter. The Iran nuclear deal that the Obama-Biden Administration negotiated blocked Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. Since Donald Trump rashly cast that deal aside, Iran has restarted its nuclear program and become more provocative. The recent killing of Qassem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Quds Force, removed a dangerous actor, but also raised the prospect of an ever-escalating cycle of violence in the region, and it has prompted Tehran to jettison the nuclear limits established under the nuclear deal.

Tehran must return to strict compliance with the deal. If it does so, I would rejoin the agreement and use our renewed commitment to diplomacy to work with our allies to strengthen and extend it, while more effectively pushing back against Iran's other destabilizing activities.

Climate Change

What specific policies would you pursue to combat climate change?

From coastal towns to rural farms to urban centers, climate change poses an existential threat – not just to our environment, but to our health, our communities, our national security, and our economic well-being. It also damages our communities with storms that wreak havoc on our towns and cities and our homes and schools. It puts our national security at risk by leading to regional instability that will likely require U.S. military-supported relief activities and could make areas more vulnerable to terrorist activities.

As laid out in my [plan](#) to advance a Clean Energy Revolution, I believe the Green New Deal is a crucial framework for meeting the climate challenges we face. It powerfully captures two basic truths, which are at the core of this plan: (1) the United States urgently needs to embrace greater ambition on an epic scale to meet the scope of this challenge, and (2) our environment and our economy are completely and totally connected.

As president, I will lead the world to address the climate emergency and lead through the power of example, by ensuring the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions no later than 2050. My plan will:

- Ensure that on day one, I sign a series of new executive orders with unprecedented reach that go well beyond the Obama-Biden Administration platform and put us on the right track. And, I will demand that Congress enact legislation in the first year of my presidency that:
 - 1) establishes an enforcement mechanism that includes milestone targets no later than the end of my first term in 2025;
 - 2) makes a historic investment in clean energy and climate research and innovation;
 - 3) incentivizes the rapid deployment of clean energy innovations across the economy, especially in communities most impacted by climate change.
- Use the convening power of government to boost climate resilience efforts by developing regional climate resilience plans, in partnership with local universities and national labs, for local access to the most relevant science, data, information, tools, and training.
- Lead an effort to get every major country to ramp up the ambition of their domestic climate targets. I will make sure those commitments are transparent and enforceable, and stop countries from cheating by using America's economic leverage and the power of example. I will fully integrate climate change into our foreign policy and national security strategies, as well as our approach to trade.
- Take action against fossil fuel companies and other polluters who put profit over people and knowingly harm our environment and poison our communities' air, land, and water, or conceal information regarding potential environmental and health risks

- Fulfill our obligation to workers and communities who powered our industrial revolution and subsequent decades of economic growth.

What plans, if any, do you have to rapidly help the people of Flint, Michigan, and other communities, who have been impacted by poor environmental policies or practices?

Everyone is already feeling the effects of climate change. But the impacts – on health, economics, and overall quality of life – are far more acute on communities of color, tribal lands, and low-income communities. I will reinstate federal protections, rolled back by the Trump Administration, that were designed to protect communities and make it a priority for all agencies to engage in community-driven approaches to develop solutions for environmental injustices affecting these communities.

I will ensure access to safe drinking water for all communities. Communities across America are experiencing a water crisis, in water infrastructure, contamination, accessibility and so much more. Here in the U.S., from rural areas to cities, from Flint, Michigan to Merrimack, New Hampshire to Martin County, Kentucky, many Americans cannot safely drink their tap water. In much of the southwest and west, the problem is a lack of sufficient water, expected to exacerbate with a changing climate. I will make water infrastructure a top priority, for example, by establishing systems to monitor lead and other contaminants in our water supply and take necessary action to eliminate health risks, including holding polluters accountable and supporting communities in upgrading their systems.

Allowing corporations to continue to pollute – affecting the health and safety of both their workers and surrounding communities – without consequences perpetuates an egregious abuse of power. I will direct my EPA and Justice Department to pursue these cases to the fullest extent permitted by law and, when needed, seek additional legislation as needed to hold corporate executives personally accountable – including jail time where merited.

Low-income communities and communities of color don't equally share in the benefits of well-paying job opportunities that result from our clean energy economy. For example, African Americans hold only 1% of energy jobs. As president, I will make sure these communities receive preference in competitive grant programs in the Clean Economy Revolution.

Gun Violence Prevention

Do you believe that the government has a role in reducing gun violence, and if so, what are your specific recommendations?

Yes. I have taken on the National Rifle Association (NRA) on the national stage and won – twice. In 1993, I shepherded through Congress the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, which established the background check system that has since kept more than 3 million firearms out of dangerous hands. In 1994, I – along with Senator Dianne Feinstein – secured the passage

of 10-year bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. As president, I will defeat the NRA again.

I also know how to make progress on reducing gun violence using executive action. After the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, President Obama tasked me with developing both legislative proposals and executive actions to make our communities safer. As a result of this effort, the Obama-Biden Administration took more than two dozen actions, including narrowing the so-called “gun show loophole,” increasing the number of records in the background check system, and expanding funding for mental health services.

It’s within our grasp to end our gun violence epidemic and respect the Second Amendment, which is limited. As president, I will pursue [constitutional, common-sense gun safety policies](#). I will:

- Ban the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
- Regulate possession of existing assault weapons under the National Firearms Act.
- Buy back the assault weapons and high-capacity magazines already in our communities.
- Reduce stockpiling of weapons.
- Require background checks for all gun sales.
- Close loopholes in the federal background check system, including the “Boyfriend loophole,” the “hate crime loophole,” the “Charleston loophole,” and “fugitive from justice” loophole.
- Reinstate the Obama-Biden policy to keep guns out of the hands of certain people unable to manage their affairs for mental reasons, which President Trump reversed.
- End the online sale of firearms and ammunitions.
- Create an effective program to ensure individuals who become prohibited from possessing firearms relinquish their weapons.
- Incentivize state “extreme risk” laws.
- Give states incentives to set up gun licensing programs.
- Establish a new Task Force on Online Harassment and Abuse to focus on the connection between mass shootings, online harassment, extremism, and violence against women.
- Expand the use of evidence-based lethality assessments by law enforcement in cases of domestic violence.
- Put America on the path to ensuring that 100% of firearms sold in America are smart guns.
- Hold adults accountable for giving minors access to firearms.
- Require gun owners to safely store their weapons.
- Notify law enforcement when a potential firearms purchaser fails a background check.

Healthcare

If elected, would you consider any modifications to the healthcare system, including the Affordable Healthcare Act, and if so, what would they be?

As president, I will protect the Affordable Care Act from continued attacks by Republicans and the Trump administration. I oppose every effort to get rid of this historic law – including efforts by Republicans, and efforts by Democrats. Instead of starting from scratch and getting rid of private insurance, I have a plan to build on the Affordable Care Act by giving Americans more choice, reducing health care costs, and making our health care system less complex to navigate.

Whether someone is covered through their employer, buying insurance on their own, or going without coverage altogether, the Biden Plan will give Americans the choice to purchase a public health insurance option like Medicare. As in Medicare, the Biden public option will reduce costs for patients by negotiating lower prices from hospitals and other health care providers. It also will better coordinate among all of a patient’s doctors to improve the efficacy and quality of care, and cover primary care without any co-payments. And it will bring relief to small businesses struggling to afford coverage for their employees.

I will help middle class families by eliminating the 400% income cap on tax credit eligibility and lowering the limit on the cost of coverage from 9.86% of income to 8.5%. This means that no family buying insurance on the individual marketplace, regardless of income, will have to spend more than 8.5% of their income on health insurance. Additionally, my plan will increase the size of tax credits by calculating them based on the cost of a more generous gold plan, rather than a silver plan. This will give more families the ability to afford more generous coverage, with lower deductibles and out-of-pocket costs. My plan will offer premium-free access to the public option for those 4.9 million individuals who would be eligible for Medicaid but for their state’s inaction, and make sure their public option covers the full scope of Medicaid benefits. States that have already expanded Medicaid will have the choice of moving the expansion population to the premium-free public option as long as the states continue to pay their current share of the cost of covering those individuals. Additionally, I will ensure people making below 138% of the federal poverty level get covered. I’ll do this by automatically enrolling these individuals when they interact with certain institutions (such as public schools) or other programs for low-income populations (such as SNAP)

My plan has several additional proposals aimed directly at cutting the cost of health care and making the health care system less complex to navigate, including:

- Stopping “surprise billing.”
- Tackling market concentration across our health care system.
- Partnering with health care workers and accelerating the testing and deployment of innovative solutions that improve quality of care and increase wages for low-wage health care workers, like home care workers.

- Repealing the outrageous exception allowing drug corporations to avoid negotiating with Medicare over drug prices.
- Limiting launch prices for drugs that face no competition and are being abusively priced by manufacturers.
- Limiting price increases for all brand, biotech, and abusively priced generic drugs to inflation.
- Allowing consumers to buy prescription drugs from other countries.
- Terminating pharmaceutical corporations' tax break for advertisement spending.
- Improving the supply of quality generics.

What measures would you seek to implement to protect Medicare and ensure that it does not go bankrupt?

I will protect and strengthen Medicare as we know it. The Affordable Care Act strengthened Medicare by extending the life of the Medicare Trust Fund; giving Medicare beneficiaries access to free recommended preventive services, such as an annual wellness visit; and closing the prescription drug coverage gap, often referred to as the “donut hole.” As president, I will continue to defend our nation’s commitment to older Americans and people with disabilities through Medicare. I will keep Medicare as a separate and distinct program and ensure there is no disruption to the current Medicare system.

Business and the Economy

What is your plan to promote small and medium business, as well as entrepreneurship among minority communities?

President Trump and Republican leadership think this country was built by CEOs and hedge fund managers, but they’re wrong. I know that our country was built by hard-working Americans, including small and medium business owners and entrepreneurs.

My plan will spark a renaissance in cities, towns, and communities that have been forgotten for too long. I will double down on the State Small Business Credit Initiative. In 2010, the Obama-Biden Administration created the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) to support small businesses. The program transfers funds to state small business lending initiatives, driving \$10 billion in new lending for each \$1 billion in SSBCI funds. I will extend the program through 2025 and double its federal funding to \$3 billion, driving close to \$30 billion of private sector investments to small businesses all told, especially those owned by women and people of color.

To help redirect investments to more communities across the country – not just our biggest cities – I will enact legislation to provide \$5 billion in funding to states with policies to encourage

small business startups, for example by supporting the transfer of technology from public universities to the private sector, or by implementing training programs for new entrepreneurs.

And, entrepreneurs in small towns and rural areas should have access to the capital they need to realize their dreams. My administration will dramatically expand funding for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program to help rural entrepreneurs. I will expand the number of Rural Business Investment Companies to help rural companies obtain capital.