



Joe Biden—The Leader America Needs

America is simultaneously confronting three crises that threaten our future as a nation. Americans need a proven leader who won't abandon them in the ongoing fight to overcome a public health pandemic, an economic recession and systemic racial injustice.

Joe Biden's lifetime of service has led him to this moment. From his first election he has been driven by a deep desire to extend opportunity and justice to all and to ensure everyone in our country can live without fear and pursue a better life for themselves, their families and their communities.

Biden's character was forged in Scranton, Pa., where his family faced the economic and social ups and downs familiar to so many families. He has been tested by unspeakable loss and grief in his life, and maintained his decency, compassion, honesty and the drive to bring people together and get things done.

He has championed public schools and higher education; he believes that healthcare is a basic human right; and he understands that a strong labor movement and civil rights protections are essential to a just and free society.

- As a senator, Biden earned a near 100 percent AFT voting record. He took on the National Rifle Association, spearheaded the Violence Against Women Act, and introduced one of the first climate bills.
- As Barack Obama's vice president, he helped shape and pass the Economic Recovery Act, which saved millions of jobs, and then oversaw its implementation as America climbed out of the Great Recession.
- He worked with Obama and leaders on Capitol Hill to secure passage of the Affordable Care Act.
- He was the AFT's "go to" person in the Obama administration, always willing to listen and help when we had concerns with policy—such as the overemphasis on high-stakes standardized testing, which was ultimately mitigated in the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, passed in 2015.

And what's more, Joe Biden has a teacher by his side. Jill Biden, a community college professor, has spoken with our members many times and understands what we do to make lives better.

In this time of crisis, America needs a leader of decency, commitment, compassion and vision. With Biden in the White House, that's what we will get. His agenda reflects these values. His priorities for a Biden administration include:

- A comprehensive/coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Accelerate a coordinated global approach to develop, manufacture and distribute a safe, effective vaccine. Once a vaccine is ready, guarantee everyone—not just the wealthy and well-connected—in America receives the protection and care they deserve, without price gouging as new drugs and therapies come to market.



For more information on Joe Biden's Vision for America, visit aftvotes.org.

- Ensure all frontline workers have high-quality and appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Secure paid family and medical sick leave.
- Expand assistance to federal child care centers and to schools—particularly Title I schools.
- Access to high-quality public education.
 - Triple Title I funding to reach disadvantaged students and help districts offer competitive salaries to educators.
 - End high-stakes standardized testing.
 - Create and expand community schools to provide wraparound services to 300,000 more students and families.
 - Ban for-profit charter schools, increase accountability for existing charters, and oppose private school vouchers.
 - Offer free tuition to attend public colleges and universities for families making less than \$125,000, and provide \$10,000 per year of student debt relief for those working in public service.
- Access to high-quality and affordable healthcare.
 - Ensure healthcare as a right, not a privilege.
 - Build on the ACA to provide affordable health insurance to everyone, including offering a public option.
 - Allow Medicare to negotiate lower prescription prices with pharmaceutical companies, and enable consumers to access lower drug prices in other countries.
- Building an economy that works for everyone.
 - Repeal the Trump/Republican tax cuts benefiting corporations and the wealthiest Americans.
 - Support the American economy by investing \$400 billion in products made by American workers. Biden’s clean energy plan alone would create an estimated 10 million new jobs.
 - Support a \$15-an-hour minimum wage.
 - Support legislation banning states from enacting “right-to-work” laws.
 - Invest in rural broadband infrastructure.
- Protecting civil and human rights—and fight for justice reform
 - Restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act.
 - Make it a Justice Department priority to prosecute hate crimes against people of color, LGBTQ people, and people for their religious beliefs.
 - Strengthen Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and expand protections for undocumented immigrants.

