



Union 2020 Michigan
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NAVIGATING BACK TO SCHOOL

No one wants to be back in the classroom with students more than our educators. That's why unions like the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) are advocating to ensure that teachers and students have the funding, supplies, and guidance they need to stay safe.

Guidance From the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers:

1. HEALTH EXPERTISE:

Protect the health and safety of all as advised by science.

2. EDUCATORS' VOICES:

Center educator expertise in decision-making and implementation.

3. LEADING WITH EQUITY:

Racial and social justice is an imperative, not an expendable goal.

4. ACCESS TO PROTECTION:

Schools need reliable funds for personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectants.

Source: "All Hands on Deck: Initial Guidance Regarding Reopening School Buildings," National Education Association, accessed 7/21/20

EDUCATORS WEIGH IN:

"It makes a huge difference that Joe Biden supports teachers and their unions, because that means he respects us as professionals and respects our ability to work together to make sure we are protecting educators, schools, and our students."

— Jennifer Mason, High School Teacher
Flint, Michigan



"I had 39 sixth graders one year in my class. I double-dog dare Donald Trump to sit in a class of 39 sixth graders and breathe that air without any preparation for how we're going to bring our kids back safely."

— Lily Eskelsen Garcia, President of the
National Education Association (NEA)



IN UNION

UNION
 2020
MICHIGAN

4TH AUGUST
2020
EDITION

A NEWSLETTER OF, BY, AND FOR WORKING PEOPLE



IN THIS EDITION:

We heard you!

Thank you to our readers for providing us with feedback about what information you'd find most helpful as you dig into the candidates' backgrounds, records, and plans for moving our country forward.

This issue will dig into Joe Biden's plan for rebuilding our economy and how to pay for it.

We've also made some additions to help you continue your own research on the issues and candidates—look for the "Dig Deeper" section. Lastly, we bring you some guidance from educators on the debate about schools reopening.



JOE BIDEN'S VISION FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY:

"We will mobilize the biggest investment in rebuilding our country since World War II, creating millions of good-paying union jobs."

— Vice President Joe Biden

Source: Courthouse News Service, 7/28/20

Union 2020 is a project supported by a group of unions aimed at researching the candidates' positions on issues important to working families in the 2020 election. It is not affiliated with and does not accept contributions from any candidates or political party committees.

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THE *IN UNION* UPDATE

In this edition of *In Union*, we are examining Joe Biden's plan to rebuild America's economy. We've done the initial research to help you get started as you consider how you will vote this November.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

JOE BIDEN'S ECONOMIC PLAN

Joe Biden has released an ambitious and achievable economic recovery plan to rebound and rebuild our economy stronger and more equitable than before. His plan's key points include investing in roads, bridges, rails, and water systems; buying American; fully funding education; and producing clean energy while creating good union jobs.

What's the plan?

- **Rebuild vital infrastructure** like roads, bridges, rails, and ports¹
- **Improve and expand sustainable public transportation** that serves all who need it
- Repair water pipelines and sewer systems, **so everyone has access to clean water**²
- **Expand affordable WiFi access to rural areas**, so no one is left out as our economy and information spheres move more and more online³
- **Invest in the American auto industry** to incentivize the manufacture and purchase of clean vehicles, creating one million new jobs in auto manufacturing, supply chains, and infrastructure⁴
- Mandate that these millions of new **jobs will be unionized and pay at least \$15/hour**⁵

How will it be paid for?

- Increase the corporate tax rate so that large corporations like Amazon, which paid nothing in federal taxes in 2017 or 2018, start paying what they owe⁶
- Raise taxes on the super-rich so they pay their fair share like the rest of us—and pledge not to raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 a year⁷

CHECK THE FACTS:

1. *Washington Post*, 7/14/20
2. *CNBC*, 7/14/20; *National Law Review*, 7/16/20
3. *CNN*, 7/16/19; *Politico*, 3/5/20
4. *Yahoo Finance*, 7/14/20
5. *Bloomberg News*, 7/14/20
6. *CNBC*, 7/14/20; *New York Times*, 7/14/20
7. *Washington Post*, 5/22/20



Meeting the Moment: Joe Biden's Credentials for Economic Recovery

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, Vice President Biden was charged with implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He revitalized the economy through targeted investments in infrastructure and education, created millions of jobs, and headed one of the most waste-free government projects in our history.

BIDEN IN HIS OWN WORDS

FIVE EXCERPTS FROM A RECENT UNION ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Virtual Roundtable with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), 7/22/20

1. "I've said from the very start **I'm running to rebuild the backbone of this country, the middle class**, and this time to make sure everyone comes along."
2. "Wall Street didn't build this country, the middle class did. **And unions built the middle class.**"
3. "Governments should not only defend workers' rights to organize, but **encourage collective bargaining across the board.**"
4. "Everyone should be entitled to sick leave and a minimum wage of 15 bucks an hour, **not as a ceiling, but as a floor.**"
5. "**Crack down on employers who are trying to block organizing**, including holding CEOs accountable for labor law violations."

– Joe Biden

Want to see the full discussion for yourself? Visit rev.com/blog/transcripts/joe-biden-roundtable-with-seiu-transcript-july-22

DIG DEEPER

We understand that readers will begin conducting their own research on Joe Biden and Donald Trump's policies, accomplishments, and plans for handling the COVID-19 pandemic. We've done this research on Biden's economic plan as a starting point and included the source information to assist our readers as they dig deeper.

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