

Senator

## Bernie Sanders



Political Experience: Mayor of Burlington, Vt., 1981-1989; U.S. Representative, 1991-2007; U.S. Senator, 2007-present

Education: University of Chicago, B.A. in Political Science

Twitter: [@BernieSanders](https://twitter.com/BernieSanders)

Website: <https://berniesanders.com/>

AFT Votes Town Hall: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqNTupMtJ\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqNTupMtJ_Y)

### Workers' Voice & Labor

**Increasing Minimum Wage:** [Proposes](#) \$15-per-hour minimum wage to protect low-wage workers.

**Strengthening Unions & Workers:** Supports empowering unions and strengthening collective bargaining, and [supported](#) the Employee Free Choice Act, which would have protected workers' right to form and join unions without threat. Also [supports](#) the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure equal pay for equal work.

**Labor Law Reform:** [Supports](#) legislation to make it easier for workers to join unions.

## Education

**Public Education:** [Proposes](#) boosting teacher pay to a \$60,000 starting salary, tripling Title I funding, banning for-profit charter schools, and halting public funding on new charter schools.

**Early Education:** [Supports](#) universal child care and pre-K for “all children six weeks old through kindergarten.” Also [proposes](#) adding hundreds of thousands of early childhood educators to provide quality care to young children.

**College Affordability:** [Supports](#) free public colleges and universities and [canceling](#) the \$1.6 trillion in outstanding student debt for 45 million borrowers.

**Freedom to Teach & Student Testing:** [Supports](#) creating a grant and tripling the tax deduction for educator expenses to cover out-of-pocket costs and ending the conditioning of federal funding on standardized test scores.

**Teachers Strikes:** [Stood](#) in solidarity with teacher walkouts.

**Vouchers & Privatization:** [Opposes](#) the DeVos-style privatization of our nation’s schools and will not allow public resources to be drained from public schools.

## Healthcare & Workplace Safety

**“Medicare for All”:** [Supports](#) a single-payer healthcare system with the goal of ensuring that Americans can get the care they need, when they need it, without going into debt.

**Public Option:** [Believes](#) a public option does not go far enough, and instead proposes Medicare for All.

**Prescription Drug Costs:** [Proposes](#) allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices; allowing patients, pharmacists and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from other countries; and cutting prescription drug prices in half by pegging prices to the median drug price in five major countries.

**Opioid Epidemic:** [Proposes](#) expanding access to public addiction recovery services, including inpatient and outpatient substance abuse and mental health services with no copayments or deductibles, and legalizing safe injection sites and needle exchanges around the country.

**Gun Violence Reform:** [Supports](#) expanding background checks and ending the distribution of assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

## Jobs & the Economy

**Trump’s Tax Cuts for the Wealthy:** [Proposes](#) breaking up big banks, reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act, and auditing the Federal Reserve. Also [supports](#) a tax on multimillionaires’ and billionaires’ inheritance.

**Rural America:** [Proposes](#) policies that would level the playing field for farmers and farmworkers, empower them to address climate change and protect ecosystems, and foster investment in rural communities.

**Social Security:** Opposes raising the retirement age and privatization and instead [supports](#) protecting and expanding Social Security.

**Infrastructure:** [Supports](#) a plan that would add millions of workers to rebuild crumbling infrastructure, such as schools, roads, bridges and affordable housing, into a 100 percent sustainable energy system.

## **Democracy**

**Voting Rights:** [Proposes](#) restoring the Voting Rights Act, re-enfranchising convicted felons, abolishing voter ID laws, and making Election Day a national holiday.

**Citizens United:** [Proposes](#) overturning *Citizens United*, replacing corporate elections funding and donations from millionaires and billionaires with public funding of elections, and amplifying small-dollar donations.

**Immigration & DACA:** [Supports](#) a path to citizenship for immigrants, providing immediate legal status for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients, completely restructuring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ending cruel deportation programs and detention centers, and establishing independent oversight within the Department of Homeland Security, and opposes family separation.

**Civil Rights:** [Supports](#) passing the Equality Act and other bills to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ people, eliminating private prisons, and ending all mandatory sentencing minimums and cash bail.