



2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

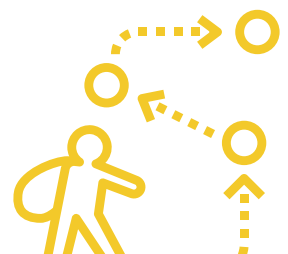
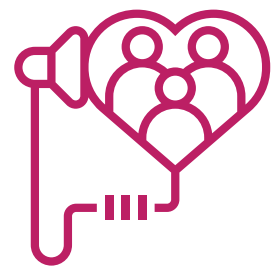


Voter Guide



CREATED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

SEARAC invited each presidential campaign to respond to the same questionnaire, created from our equity agenda and policy priorities for issues directly impacting the Southeast Asian American (SEAA) community. We present excerpts from their responses here, word for word. SEARAC does not support or oppose candidates for public office.





SEARAC



Data Disaggregation and Data Equity

Joe Biden (D)

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In 2016, the Obama-Biden Administration launched the Asian American and Pacific Islander Data Disaggregation Initiative, a grant program that worked with states "to improve data collection, helping to identify educational opportunity gaps and tailor support to improve the college- and career-readiness of underserved AAPI students and English learners." This followed a 2012 initiative from the Obama-Biden Administration that asked school districts, states and higher education institutions to share their data disaggregation efforts.

As president, I will recommit to these efforts and ensure that federal agencies and relevant federal programs obtain accurate data on SEAA communities, and ensure that information is properly analyzed and reviewed to ensure communities within the SEAA umbrella are receiving adequate resources and support.

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Donald Trump (R)

SEARAC did not receive a response from the Trump campaign.

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Culturally Relevant K-12 Support

Donald Trump (R)

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Joe Biden (D)

“ I have proposed tripling Title 1 funding, which goes to schools serving a high number of children from low-income families. This new funding must first be used to ensure teachers at Title I schools are paid competitively, three- and four-year-olds have access to pre-school, and districts provide access to rigorous coursework across all of their schools, not just a few. But once these three conditions are met, districts will have the flexibility to use these funds for other local priorities, such as ethnic studies and English language learner support.

Additionally, I am proposing to dramatically expand our investment in community schools, which work with families, students, teachers and community organizations to identify families' unmet needs and then develop a plan to leverage community resources to address these needs in the school building, turning schools into community hubs. By investing in this collaborative partnership, these community schools will be able to identify and meet the needs of the SEAA community, including culturally relevant parental engagement. And, I am proposing to double the number of mental health professionals in our schools. This will enable many schools with a large number of SEAA students to hire culturally and linguistically competent mental health professionals.

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College Access, Affordability, and Completion

Joe Biden (D)

“ My plan will:

- Target additional financial support to low-income and middle-class individuals by doubling the maximum value of Pell grants, significantly increasing the number of middle-class Americans who can participate in the program. As president, I will also take care of young immigrants by ensuring DREAMers are eligible for financial aid if they meet other requirements for that aid. And, I will restore formerly incarcerated individuals' eligibility for Pell.
- Under the Biden plan, individuals making \$25,000 or less a year will not owe any payments on their undergraduate federal student loans and also won't accrue any interest on those loans.
- Make under-resourced MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs more affordable for their students. My plan will invest \$18 billion in grants to these four-year schools, equivalent to up to two years of tuition per low-income and middle class student, including DREAMers and students who transfer to a four-year HBCU, TCU, AANAPISI, or other MSI from a tuition-free community college.
- Provide support to continuously improve the value of MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs by investing \$10 billion in programs that increase enrollment, retention, completion, and employment rates.
- Triple and make permanent the capacity-building and student support for MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs in Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act. These funds serve as a lifeline to under-resourced MSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs year over year, ensuring that the most vulnerable students have the support they need to succeed. My administration will make permanent \$750 million per year in Title III and Title V funding, which will provide a dedicated revenue stream of \$7.5 billion over the first ten years.

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Access to Affordable Healthcare

Joe Biden (D)

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My plan takes a number of steps to build on Obamacare, including allowing Americans who are uninsured or who don't like their coverage to buy into a Medicare-like public option. My plan also increases premium tax credits so more people will have lower premiums and lower deductibles. My plan 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.

My plan will ensure low-income individuals get covered by offering premium-free access to the public option for the roughly 4 million individuals who would be eligible for Medicaid but for their state's inaction, and making 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 line 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).

I believe that Medicaid plays an absolutely critical role in our health care system and it must be protected and strongly funded going forward. As president, I will fight all efforts to undermine it - such as work requirements and other tactics to reduce enrollment.

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Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Mental Health Services

Joe Biden (D)

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As president, I will make sure enforcing our mental health parity laws is a priority. Currently states vary in how they define essential health benefits when it comes to mental health. In my Administration, we will set clear standards raising the bar for mental health coverage, including habilitative services and other forms of behavioral health care.

I will also build on the Affordable Care Act to make sure low-income individuals with mental health disabilities have access to insurance. Access to affordable health insurance that includes coverage for mental health shouldn't depend on your zip code or income.

And because I also want to make sure that our kids get the mental health care they need, I will make an unprecedented investment in school mental health professionals in order to double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals employed in our schools, and partner with colleges to expand the pipeline of these professionals. My plan will allow school districts with a large number of SEAA students to hire culturally and linguistically competent mental health professionals.

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Government Programs to Support Low-Income Families

Donald Trump (R)

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Joe Biden (D)

“ As president, I will increase funding for the program and roll back President Trump's actions to restrict SNAP. SNAP beneficiaries should have as many options for purchasing food as other people, and they shouldn't have to be pushed to use any one option. As president, I will oppose any proposals like President Trump's Harvest Box plan that restricts choices of SNAP beneficiaries. And, I will address food deserts so people in low income communities are not forced to use online shopping as their only option. To protect income support and increase employment and opportunities, I will protect and enhance Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, which millions of people rely on to survive. ”

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Ending Unjust Mandatory Detention and Deportations

Donald Trump (R)

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Joe Biden (D)

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I will end prolonged detention and reinvest in a case management program. I will codify protections to safeguard children to make sure their treatment is consistent with their best interest and invest in community-based case management programs, including those supported by faith-based organizations such as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, to move migrants into safe environments as quickly as possible. I will also end the use of for-profit detention centers, because no business should profit from the suffering of desperate people fleeing violence. I will ensure that facilities that temporarily house migrants seeking asylum are held to the highest standards of care and prioritize the safety and dignity of families above all. And, I will make clear that the federal government should not use private facilities for any detention, including detention of undocumented immigrants.

Furthermore, targeting people who have never been convicted of a serious criminal offense and who have lived, worked, and contributed to our economy and our communities for decades is the definition of counterproductive. I will direct enforcement efforts toward threats to public safety and national security, while ensuring that individuals are treated with the due process to which they are entitled and their human rights are protected. I will end workplace raids to ensure that threats based on workers' status do not interfere with their ability to organize and improve their wages and working conditions. I will also protect sensitive locations from immigration enforcement actions.

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Strengthening Naturalization Programs

Donald Trump (R)

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Joe Biden (D)

“ My administration will streamline and improve the naturalization process to make it more accessible to qualified green card holders. I will restore faith in the citizenship process by removing roadblocks to naturalization and obtaining the right to vote, addressing the application backlog by prioritizing the adjudication workstream and ensuring applications are processed quickly, and rejecting the imposition of unreasonable fees.

As president, I will marshal federal resources, through the reestablishment of the Task Force for New Americans, to support community efforts to welcome immigrants. Concrete efforts will most often happen within individual communities, but federal agencies have tremendous information and resources to support community-led efforts. By adopting initiatives promoted by organizations like Welcoming America, my administration will improve access to federal agencies and better support local initiatives, such as:

- Creating neighborhood resource centers or welcome centers to help all residents find jobs; access services and English-language learning opportunities; and navigate the school system, health care system, and other important facets of daily life;
- Driving campaigns to help lawful permanent residents naturalize;
- Ensuring that all public schools have sufficient English-language learning support to help all children reach their potential

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Protecting and Expanding Family Immigration

Joe Biden (D)

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As president, I will support family-based immigration by preserving family unification as a foundation of our immigration system; by allowing any approved applicant to receive a temporary non-immigrant visa until the permanent visa is processed; and by supporting legislation that treats the spouse and children of green card holders as the immediate relatives they are, exempting them from caps, and allowing parents to bring their minor children with them at the time they immigrate.

America has been strengthened culturally and economically by immigrants and refugees from Southeast Asia countries who have made their homes in the United States. Offering hope and safe haven to refugees is part of who we are as a country, which is why I will 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. I will set the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000, and seek to raise it over time commensurate with our responsibility, our values, and the unprecedented global need.

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