



Former HUD Secretary

Julián Castro



Political Experience: Mayor, San Antonio, 2009-2014; U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 2014-2017

Education: Stanford University, B.A. in Political Science and Communications; Harvard Law School, J.D.

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

Website: www.julianforthefuture.com/

AFT Town Hall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C1FRT6HGE4&t=1s>

Workers' Voice & Labor

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

Strengthening Unions & Workers: Recruited a charter school advocate to run against an AFT member on the San Antonio school board. He [proposes](#) making it easier for workers to organize, ensuring workers have a role in corporate governance and strengthening overtime rules.

Labor Law Reform: [Supports](#) raising the standard of proof for employers to implement pay disparities by passing and building on the Paycheck Fairness Act and banning discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity by passing and expanding the Equality Act.

Education

Public Education: [Proposes](#) making a \$150 billion investment in school infrastructure and boosting teacher pay by \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year with a federal tax credit. He also proposes extending the community schools model.

Early Education: [Proposes](#) child care for families so they would not pay more than 7 percent of their income for child care. Also, he is [committed](#) to investing in universal pre-K and tribal school infrastructure.

College Affordability: [Proposes](#) eliminating tuition at public colleges, universities, community colleges, and technical and vocational schools. Also, he proposes ensuring no student pays more on their student loan than their income allows.

Freedom to Teach & Student Testing: [Proposes](#) equipping educators with the resources they need to be successful, [recruiting](#) and retaining teachers from indigenous communities, and aligning standards across pre-K and K-12 systems.

Teachers Strikes: [Tweeted](#): “Chicago public school teachers have voted to strike, not for their own benefit, but for the wellbeing of their students and schools. I support [@CTULocal1](#) pushing for smaller class sizes, better staffing & higher pay.”

Vouchers & Privatization: Supported Choose to Succeed, a vehicle that recruited six charter schools into San Antonio, and created a pre-K public charter school funded by a sales tax where the cost per student is double that of public schools, in excess of \$20,000 per student.

Healthcare & Workplace Safety

“Medicare for All”: [Proposes](#) strengthening Medicare for those who have it, and expanding it to achieve universal healthcare coverage by including all Americans in the program.

Public Option: [Proposes](#) allowing individuals to obtain supplementary private insurance or opt out of Medicare if they have insurance through an employer or organization that is regulated under the Affordable Care Act.

Prescription Drug Costs: [Proposes](#) lowering prescription drug costs by empowering Medicare to negotiate drug prices using international prices as a reference point and promoting generic drugs.

Opioid Epidemic: [Proposes](#) combating the opioid crisis in Native communities by ensuring that the Indian Health Service and tribes have access to both funding and training to put best practices in place, in partnership with tribal governments and in combination with a broader plan to end this public health crisis.

Gun Violence Reform: [Proposes](#) ending dangerous loopholes, banning assault weapons, requiring universal background checks, and requiring a license to purchase firearms.

Jobs & the Economy

Trump's Tax Cuts for the Wealthy: [Proposes](#) defending and rebuilding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, creating an inherited wealth tax, repealing the Trump tax law, and expanding the child and earned income tax credits.

Rural America: [Proposes](#) implementing universal coverage through Medicare, investing in rural hospitals, and expanding reliable, high-speed internet access to both rural and tribal communities.

Social Security: [Opposes](#) raising the retirement age for Social Security.

Infrastructure: [Proposes](#) to establish a \$200 billion Green Infrastructure Fund as part of a broader climate-conscious infrastructure plan.

Democracy

Voting Rights: [Supports](#) lowering the voting age to 17, restoring rights to people who have served their prison time, reversing voter ID laws, expanding automatic voter registration, and working with tribal governments to eliminate barriers to voting.

Citizens United: [Supports](#) repealing *Citizens United* with a constitutional amendment and advocates for federally funded elections with small-dollar donation matching.

Immigration & DACA: [Proposes](#) a detailed and comprehensive immigration plan that includes reforming our immigration system, creating a humane border policy, and establishing a 21st-century "Marshall Plan" for Central America.

Civil Rights: [Proposes](#) passing the Equality Act, other bills to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ people, and bills to [combat](#) racially discriminatory policing and increase accountability and transparency in law enforcement.