



Senator

Michael Bennet



Political Experience: Superintendent, Denver Public Schools, 2005-2009; U.S. Senator, 2009-present

Education: Wesleyan University, B.A. in History; Yale Law School, J.D.

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Workers' Voice & Labor

Increasing Minimum Wage: [Proposes](#) \$15-per-hour minimum wage to protect low-wage workers, with an exemption for rural and lower-cost communities where \$15 would potentially harm employment and small businesses.

Strengthening Unions & Workers: [Supports empowering](#) unions and strengthening collective bargaining, making union dues deductible, strengthening the National Labor Relations Board, and banning noncompete agreements.

Labor Law Reform: [Supports](#) strengthening the ability of workers to organize and collectively bargain, including pushing back against "right-to-work" laws at the state level, making union dues deductible and appointing strong NLRB representatives to prioritize the interests of workers, not special interests.

Education

Public Schools: Supports [expanding](#) Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, would invest \$50 billion over five years to create 500 Regional Opportunity Compacts to help bridge the divide between what is taught in schools and the needs of local employers, calls for increasing teacher pay, and supports improving career and technical training.

Early Education: [Expanded](#) early childhood education as superintendent in Denver, and proposes establishing free universal preschool for all 4-year-olds by 2024 and for all 3-year-olds by 2027, with the federal government paying \$1 for every \$3 spent by local and state governments to fund preschool.

College Affordability: [Would](#) make community college free and four-year public college debt-free for low- and middle-income families through Pell Grants and other aid.

Freedom to Teach & Student Testing: [Proposes](#) recruiting and retaining a diverse group of teachers and administrators.

Teachers Strikes: Did not take a position on the Denver teachers strike, as it occurred in protest of many of the reforms he put in place as school superintendent.

Vouchers & Privatization: Opposes private school vouchers but has supported charter school expansion; introduced a Senate resolution supporting National Charter Schools Week.

Healthcare & Workplace Safety

Medicare-X: [Proposes](#) a public insurance option people can buy if they choose to; rollout would begin in rural areas and expand to every county over the course of two years.

Public Option: [Proposes](#) building on the Affordable Care Act to achieve universal healthcare and allowing those who are covered by their employer or choose private insurance to opt out of Medicare-X.

Prescription Drug Costs: [Proposes](#) requiring the federal government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare and Medicare-X, ending tactics that keep affordable generic drugs off the market, and requiring manufacturers to justify price increases and pay penalties when prices increase faster than inflation.

Opioid Epidemic: [Supports](#) holding manufacturers and distributors criminally liable and requiring them to fund the treatment and prevention of opioid-use disorders.

Gun Violence Reform: [Supports](#) a ban on assault weapons, and supports universal background checks.

Jobs & the Economy

Trump's Tax Cuts for the Wealthy: [Proposes](#) expanding the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit, and proposes investing \$500 billion in active labor market policies such as job training, subsidizing employment opportunities, establishing wage insurance and more.

Rural America: [Proposes](#) starting the individual Medicare exchange in rural areas, increasing access to rural health providers, and providing tax credits to close existing coverage gaps.

Social Security: [Opposes](#) privatization of Social Security.

Infrastructure: [Proposes](#) creating a bank to catalyze \$10 trillion in private sector investment in innovation and enabling states to compete for federal infrastructure funding by aggressively reducing emissions and climate risks.

Democracy

Voting Rights: [Proposes](#) automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, and expanded early voting.

Citizens United: [Proposes](#) overturning *Citizens United* through a constitutional amendment and new reforms to drive money out of politics.

Immigration & DACA: [Supports](#) a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who pass a background check, pay a fine and back taxes, and learn English, and opposes family separation policies.

Strengthen Democracy: [Proposes](#) ranked-choice voting (an approach to reduce partisanship and increase choices for voters); supports protections against partisan gerrymandering, voter suppression and foreign interference in our elections; and [proposes](#) a lifetime lobbying ban for members of Congress and steps to dismantle Washington's pay-to-play politics.

Civil Rights: Voted to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and co-sponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act.