



Mayor

Pete Buttigieg



Political Experience: Mayor, South Bend, Ind., 2012-present

Education: Harvard College, B.A. in History and Literature; Oxford University, B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

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Workers' Voices & Labor

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

Strengthening Unions & Workers: [Supports](#) laws dedicated to pay transparency and equal pay for equal work, and will impose strong, multimillion-dollar penalties that scale with company size when an employer interferes with union elections.

Labor Law Reform: [Proposed](#) passing a law to support the role of organized labor and defend the right of workers to organize.

Education

Public Schools: [Proposed](#) the Douglass Plan, which includes “dramatically” increasing federal support for higher teacher pay targeted to Title I schools, increasing investment in high-quality state and local educational programs, and diversifying the teaching profession.

Early Education: [Proposes](#) investing in high-quality child care and early childhood learning programs. Also, [expanded](#) quality pre-K education in South Bend by setting aside \$100,000 from the city budget in 2018.

College Affordability: [Proposes](#) state and federal partnerships to make public college free for lower-income students, large Pell Grant increases, and confronting the student loan debt crisis.

Freedom to Teach & Student Testing: [Proposes](#) issuing new regulations to diversify the teaching profession.

Teachers Strikes: Supported recent teachers rallies and tweeted, “It’s time to honor the teaching profession with the support, compensation, and respect it deserves. We stand with educators in South Carolina and across the country as they rise up to demand better treatment and the freedom to do their job.”

Vouchers & Privatization: Opposes vouchers and [stated that](#) “voucher programs tend to come at the expense of quality public education. They take dollars out of our public schools at the time when we know the schools don’t have enough resources going into them to begin with.”

Healthcare & Workplace Safety

“Medicare for All Who Want It”: [Proposes a](#) Medicare-type public option with a private option available; if private insurance doesn’t lower rates to compete with the public option, it “will create a natural glide-path to Medicare for All.”

Affordable Care Act: Defended the ACA, [stating](#) in 2017: “Before, millions were unfree because they couldn’t get health insurance. Repealing ACA makes us less free to live a life of our choosing.”

Public Option: [Supports](#) keeping a public option to compete with the private option.

Prescription Drug Cost: [Proposes](#) capping out-of-pocket costs of prescription drugs to \$250 per month, making co-payments for generic drugs \$0 for low-income people, and making insulin more affordable.

Opioid Epidemic: [Proposes](#) ensuring universal access to effective treatment and medication to treat opioid addiction.

Gun Violence Reform: [Proposes](#) instituting universal background checks, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, closing dangerous loopholes, establishing a nationwide gun licensing system, and resuming federal funding for gun violence research.

Jobs & the Economy

Trump's Tax Cuts for the Wealthy: Believes “we had something on the order of a trillion dollars robbed from the Treasury through the Trump tax cuts on the wealthiest.”

Rural America: [Proposes](#) expanding and improving access to healthcare, expanding loan forgiveness to apply to doctors in rural communities, increasing investment in rural transportation services, and more.

Social Security: Supports increasing the cap on income eligible for payroll taxes from what it is now, at \$132,900, to about \$250,000.

Infrastructure: [Proposes](#) investment in clean water and wastewater infrastructure, transportation and mobility, rural broadband, and climate adaptation and resilience. [As mayor](#), Buttigieg refurbished or demolished vacant homes in South Bend to improve quality of life and increase tax revenue, and to decrease inspections and policing costs for the city.

Democracy

Voting Rights: [Proposes](#) preventing voter suppression, expanding voting rights, enabling automatic voter registration, restoring voting rights for the formerly incarcerated, replacing the Electoral College with a popular vote and expanding early voting. Also [proposes](#) increasing election security.

Citizens United: Instead of overturning the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, [proposes](#) a small-donor matching system for federal elections, so the average citizen can run for office, not just those with access to big donors.

Immigration & DACA: [Proposes](#) passing commonsense immigration reform and creating a pathway to citizenship for immigrants living, working, paying taxes and contributing to our American story, including Dreamers, and opposes family separation policies.

Civil Rights: [Proposes](#) passing the Equality Act, enforcing nondiscrimination and harassment laws, combating the spread of HIV, and providing [double](#) funding for federal grants for states to commit to criminal justice reform, eliminate mandatory minimums and abolish private federal prisons.