

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:30 AM ET, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2020

***Biden for President and Friends of Bernie Sanders Announce Leaders of
Biden-Sanders Unity Task Forces***

Today, *Biden for President* and *Friends of Bernie Sanders* released the following statements on the members named to the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Forces.

“A united party is key to defeating Donald Trump this November and moving our country forward through an unprecedented crisis. As we work toward our shared goal, it is especially critical that we not lose sight of the pressing issues facing Americans,” said **Vice President Joe Biden**. “From health care to reforming our justice system to rebuilding a more inclusive and fair economy, the work of the task forces will be essential to identifying ways to build on our progress and not simply turn the clock back to a time before Donald Trump, but transform our country.”

“In the midst of the unprecedented economic and pandemic crises we face, the Democratic Party must think big, act boldly, and fight to change the direction of this country,” said **Senator Bernie Sanders**. “To create an agenda that the working class of this country desperately needs, and moves us toward a more just society, we must solicit the best ideas. I commend Joe Biden for working together with my campaign to assemble a group of leading thinkers and activists who can and will unify our party in a transformational and progressive direction.”

The full joint announcement is available below.



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Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders have named a diverse group of respected leaders and experts to Biden-Sanders Unity Task Forces to explore possible policy initiatives in six areas covering: climate change, criminal justice reform, economy, education, health care, and immigration. Biden and Sanders also appointed Analilia Mejia of *Friends of Bernie Sanders* and Carmel Martin of *Biden for President* as representatives of the respective campaigns to coordinate and support the work of the Task Forces.

The Task Forces will meet in advance of the Democratic National Convention to make recommendations to the DNC Platform Committee and to Vice President Biden directly. Building upon the work of the Democratic campaigns to date, the ultimate goal of the Unity Task Forces is to develop the most successful possible agenda for Democrats in 2020.

Co-Chairs: Chiraag Bains, Rep. Karen Bass, Rep. Marcia Fudge, Dr. Heather Gautney, Marielena Hincapié, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, former Secretary of State John Kerry, former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Sara Nelson, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Rep. Bobby Scott.

Biden-Sanders Unity Task Forces

Climate Change

Rep. Kathy Castor
Kerry Duggan
Catherine Flowers
Former Secretary of State John Kerry, **Co-chair**
Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy
Rep. Donald McEachin
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, **Co-chair**
Varshini Parkash

Criminal Justice Reform

TN State Senator Raumesh Akbari
Chiraag Bains, **Co-Chair**
SC State Rep. Justin Bamberg
Former Acting Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta
Former Attorney General Eric Holder
Symone Sanders
Rep. Bobby Scott, **Co-chair**
County Supervisor Stacey Walker

Economy

Rep. Karen Bass, **Co-chair**
Dr. Jared Bernstein
Dr. Darrick Hamilton
Dr. Ben Harris
Stephanie Kelton
Sara Nelson, **Co-chair**
Lee Saunders
Sonal Shah

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Education

Professor Alejandro Adler
Rep. Marcia Fudge, **Co-chair**
Lily Eskelsen Garcia
Dr. Heather Gautney, **Co-chair**
Maggie Thompson
Christie Vilsack
Randi Weingarten
Professor Hirokazu Yoshikawa

Health Care

Dr. Don Berwick
Dr. Abdul El-Sayed
Professor Sherry Glied
Mary Kay Henry
Rep. Pramila Jayapal, **Co-chair**
Chris Jennings
Rep. Robin Kelly
Former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, **Co-chair**

Immigration

Cristóbal Alex
Rep. Veronica Escobar
Marisa Franco
Juan Gonzalez
Marielena Hincapié, **Co-chair**
Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, **Co-chair**
Javier Valdés

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