

THE LATINO Presidential QUESTIONNAIRE

LATINO
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
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Bernie Sanders

1. By 2030, California will need [1.65 million](#) more college degrees to stay economically competitive. When fifty-four percent of the state's K-12 public school students are Latino, and in the higher education space, Latinos make up more than one million students, what are your plans to ensure that more Latinos in California attain a college degree?

We must extend the concept of public education beyond the 12th grade and make public colleges and universities tuition and fee-free. Every young person, regardless of the income of their family, immigration status, or incarceration history, should have the opportunity to earn a college degree — this includes providing equitable educational resources to prepare students for success.

Latino children are the least likely group of children to be enrolled in early child education programs like pre-kindergarten. When Bernie is President, we will ensure all children have the right to a high-quality early education and pre-K to level the playing field and all parents have the right to universal childcare to help balance work and home.

As president, Bernie Sanders will transform our K-12 education system into a high-quality public good, like sustainable community schools that connect education, health, and social-services to young people. We will also ensure every child has access to summer and

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after-school programs, teen centers, and tutoring, regardless of their zip-code or family income.

The percentage of Latinos who graduate within six years from a college or university are still 10 percentage points lower than the proportion of white students. Latino student loan borrowers are more than twice as likely to default on their loans than white student loan borrowers. As President, Bernie will cancel all student debt and make public colleges and universities tuition and debt free. We will expand Pell Grants, food assistance programs, and other supports so all students can afford their living expenses.

2. There remains [2.9 million](#) uninsured people in California and nearly three out of five of these uninsured are Latino. The uninsured is expected to rise to [4.4 million](#) in the next five years, with Latinos and undocumented residents driving that growth. As president, what policies will you pursue to ensure that Latinos can obtain high-quality, affordable health care?

As President, Bernie will guarantee health care to all as a human right, regardless of income or immigration status. Bernie's Medicare for All program will guarantee comprehensive health care to the nearly 3 in 5 uninsured Latinos in California. When we are in the White House, we will stand up to the large health insurance companies and Big Pharma and cap the cost of prescription drug prices at \$200 a year through Medicare for All.

Bernie will also expand Community Health Centers to increase access to health care services in underserved communities. Community health centers serve 28 million patients a year in underserved communities, 63 percent of which are a racial or ethnic minority. Bernie is also proud to have secured \$11 billion for Community Health Centers in the Affordable Care Act.

Bernie will educate, train, and hire more Latino health care providers. Bernie understands and will address the need for more Latino doctors, dentists, nurses, and psychologists to provide culturally competent care in their communities, and require a study of racial and geographic disparities in our healthcare system as well as an actionable plan to address them.

3. [Sixty-one](#) percent of Latinos in California face high-rental costs and only 42 percent of Latinos own homes (compared to 64 percent of whites). How will you address the rising costs of rental housing and expand homeownership opportunities for Latinos?

As President, Bernie will guarantee every person – regardless of income – a fundamental right to a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home. Latino households are disproportionately more likely to be extremely low-income renters – 16 percent of all Latino households. Bernie's Housing for All plan will address this crisis by building millions of permanently affordable units, revitalizing public housing, enacting a national rent control standard, ending predatory

lending and modern day redlining, ensuring fair housing for all and ensuring everyone the American dream, regardless of race or income.

As a part of Bernie's Housing for All plan, we will:

- Build nearly 10 million permanently affordable units to close the 7.4 million unit shortfall of affordable housing we currently have.
- Enact a national rent control standard.
- Make Section 8 housing vouchers a mandatory entitlement and eliminate the backlogs and waitlists in the program, as well as prohibit landlords from discriminating against renters with vouchers.
- Invest \$50 billion over 10 years to provide grants to start and expand community land trusts and other shared equity homeownership models. This funding will enable over 1 million households to purchase affordable homes over the next 25 years.
- Invest an additional \$2 billion at USDA and an additional \$6 billion at HUD to create a first-time homebuyer assistance program that will increase home ownership.
- Expand pre-purchase housing counseling to all prospective homebuyers.

4. California is home to approximately [2.9 million](#) undocumented immigrants. What steps will you take to protect immigrants in California and what is your timeline for action?

Trump has terrorized immigrant communities in America. This community desperately needs relief and support, and Bernie will not wait to take action. On day one of his administration, Bernie will undo all of Trump's executive actions to demonize and harm immigrants, and will immediately:

- Place a moratorium on deportations until a thorough audit of current and past practices and policies is complete and end terrorizing ICE raids.
- Reinstate and expand the DACA program to extend protections to undocumented youth and their parents.
- Defer action for undocumented immigrants who have been in the United States for more than 5 years.
- Convene a summit of Latin American leaders and develop actionable steps to stabilize the region.

- Expand and authorize support for immigrants at the border to ensure access to social workers, community groups, and legal aid.
- Close private detention centers and connect detained immigrants to sponsors and supports.
- Allow all asylum seekers to make their claims in the United States, to qualified asylum officials.
- End “zero tolerance” policies and handle border crossings as a civil, not criminal, matter.

In his first 100 days, Bernie will submit humane immigration reform to Congress that includes:

- A broad, inclusive path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented in the United States.
- Breaking up ICE and CBP and redistributing their functions outside DHS.
- Ending the exploitation of immigrant workers and ensure immigrant workers in the U.S. are protected by law.
- Fully funding and staffing independent immigration courts and guaranteeing a right to counsel.

5. Latinos are overrepresented in blue-collar occupations like agriculture and construction. Latinos also have the highest poverty rate in the state and possess a median household income that is more than [\\$20k](#) less than non-Latinos. What would your administration do to close the income inequality gap among Latinos and other racial/ethnic groups?

Our country is morally bound to close the racial wealth and income divide. Bernie will guarantee all people living and working in the U.S. economic rights. These include the right to a decent job with good pay, affordable housing, quality health care, a clean environment, and a secure retirement. He'll guarantee a good-paying job to all workers through a federal job guarantee program to ensure everyone has a decent quality of life. He'll create a \$20 billion program to provide grants to entrepreneurs of color who continue to face discrimination in access to capital. He'll raise the minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour and make it easier for workers to join unions, not harder. Bernie is fighting alongside workers for their right to unionize, demand better working conditions, and basic rights to benefits like paid time off, family, sick, and maternity leave.

Many immigrant workers in the U.S. are Latinos and when Bernie is President, will be granted long-term visas and a pathway to citizenship. We'll enforce fair and just labor laws, which protect workers' rights to organize and provide just overtime compensation. We'll end wage theft, discrimination, harassment, abuse, and fear-inducing mass immigration raids.

Bernie will pass inclusive labor protection laws for farm and domestic workers, who have historically been intentionally excluded to allow the exploitation of disproportionately minority workers. Bernie understands when labor unions are strong, the U.S. economy is strong, and those who have been historically marginalized will see the most benefits.

6. The recent Kincaid Fire in California demonstrated that climate change is a real threat to Latino and immigrant communities across the state. In the first 100 days, what actions are you prepared to take to address the urgent issue of climate change?

Bernie understands that we must enact a Green New Deal to act boldly enough to confront the climate crisis and end the scourge of environmental racism. As President, Bernie will use all executive and regulatory authority available to fully decarbonize the production of electricity by 2030:

- Declare climate change a national emergency and take immediate, large-scale action to reverse its effects.
- Direct the EPA to regulate and aggressively enforce greenhouse gas emissions regulations.
- Rejoin and strengthen the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Appoint an AG who will launch a criminal investigation into the fossil fuel industry and hold executives accountable.
- Ban fossil fuel extraction on public lands, fracking and mountaintop removal coal mining, offshore drilling, imports and exports of all fossil fuels and end all new federal fossil fuel infrastructure permits.
- Repeal Trump's Executive Orders that fast-tracked construction of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, and revoke all federal permits for those projects.
- Place a fee on imported carbon pollution-intensive goods.
- Instruct the Treasury Department to impose sanctions on corporations and entities that threaten national and global emissions reduction goals.
- Enforce the Clean Air and Water Acts on large factory farms.

- Focus the United State's \$500 billion annual procurement expenditures on transitioning to a 100 percent clean energy economy.
- Ensure that all agencies abide by Executive Order 12898, requiring they identify and address human health or environmental impacts of agency actions on minority and low-income populations.
- Require the EPA's Office of Civil Rights to improve environmental justice violations investigations.

7. Latinas in California make 43 cents on the dollar for every man in the state. As Latinas make up half the Latino population in the state, this hurts our ability to grow our economy. How will you use the presidential pulpit to close the gender pay gap for Latinas in California?

Bernie believes it is outrageous that women are paid pennies on the dollar for the same work as their male coworkers. As President, Bernie will require Equal Pay for Equal Work through the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would require employers to prove that pay discrepancies are based on qualifications, not gender.

Bernie will also raise the minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour. By doing so, 39.7 million workers and 33 percent of all Latino workers, disproportionately women, will receive a long overdue raise.

Bernie will also strengthen labor protections for historically under-regulated industries that rely heavily on immigrant and undocumented workforces, including farmworkers, domestic workers, and gig economy workers. He will enact a Workplace Democracy plan and Domestic Bill of Rights to guarantee the right to unionize and collectively bargain to all workers.

Bernie will go further to ensure women of color are afforded the same fundamental rights by guaranteeing the right to quality health care, public education, affordable housing, and a secure retirement. He will:

- Enact Medicare for All.
- Make public colleges, universities, and trade-schools tuition and debt-free.
- Cancel all student debt for 45 million borrowers.
- Cap credit card interest rates at 15 percent, allowing every post office to offer basic and affordable banking services, and end lending discrimination.

- Implement a Housing for All plan ensuring every person a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home.
- Enact a national paid family leave and universal child care plan.

8. The recent mass shootings in Gilroy, CA and El Paso, TX have left the Latino community fearful. What are your plans to curb gun violence in our country that have left too many Latino families grieving?

We can and will end the epidemic of gun violence in this country. We need leadership in this country that is unequivocal in condemning violence and hatred. Instead, we have a president who actively demonizes racial and religious minorities, who coddles Nazis and Klansmen, and who wields white supremacy as a political weapon.

Latinos are more than twice as likely to become victims of homicide than white individuals, homicide is the second leading cause of death for Latinos ages 15 to 24, and over two-thirds of homicides involving a Latino victim were committed with guns.

As President, Bernie will:

- Take on the NRA and its corrupting effect on Washington.
- Expand background checks.
- End the gun show loophole. All gun purchases should be subject to the same background check standards.
- End the “boyfriend” loophole to get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and stalkers.
- Ban the sale and distribution of assault weapons. Assault weapons are designed and sold as tools of war. There is absolutely no reason why these firearms should be sold to civilians.
- Prohibit high-capacity ammunition magazines.
- Implement a voluntary buyback program to get assault weapons off the streets.
- Regulate assault weapons in the same way that we currently regulate fully automatic weapons — a system that essentially makes them unlawful to own.
- Crack down on “straw purchases,” where people buy guns for criminals.

- Support “red flag” laws and legislation to ensure we keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and stalkers