

# THE LATINO Presidential QUESTIONNAIRE

LATINO  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
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## Elizabeth Warren

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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?

It starts with ensuring that every kid in America has access to a high-quality public education. [My plan](#) invests \$800 billion in America's public schools, fights segregation and protects the rights of Black and Brown, special education, LGBTQ+, and immigrant students, supports a warm, nurturing, and safe school climate, and provides better access to career and college readiness. I'll also fight to ensure English Language Learners -- who comprise 20% of California's K-12 public school population -- have meaningful access to rigorous coursework, teachers, special education services, and integration, while fostering their home language. And I'll build a more diverse educator and school leadership pipeline, which research shows can boost academic outcomes and improve graduation rates among students of color.

[My plan for affordable higher education](#) will cancel student debt for more than 95% of borrowers, substantially increasing wealth for Black and Latino families and reducing the Black-White and Latino-White wealth gaps. My universal free college plan will eliminate tuition and fees at 2-year and 4-year public colleges. I'll invest another \$100 billion over 10 years in Pell Grants and expand eligibility to make sure that lower-income and middle-class students

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have a better chance of graduating without debt. My plan would make additional federal funding available to states that improve enrollment and graduation for lower-income students and students of color. I'll also invest a minimum of \$50 billion in Hispanic Serving Institutions, HBCUs, , and other MSIs, and I'll prohibit

*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?*

Last year [37 million](#) American adults didn't fill a prescription; 40 million people didn't go to a doctor to check out a health problem -- all because of costs. Tens of millions of people are one bad diagnosis away from going broke.

My plan is to help as many people as possible, as fast as possible. Starting on day one of my presidency, I will protect people with pre-existing conditions, reverse the Trump Administration's sabotage of our health care system, and take immediate action to reduce the costs of many common prescription drugs, including Insulin and EpiPens.

Within my first 100 days, I will push Congress to give everyone the option to join an improved Medicare program that covers vision, hearing, mental health, dental, and long term care. We'll do this by lowering the Medicare age to 50, and giving everyone else the opportunity to join a Medicare for All option that will be free for nearly 135 million Americans. Everyone else who wants to opt-in would pay a modest fee.

Once everyone has the chance to try out the improved Medicare option, I will push Congress, no later than my third year in office, to complete the transition to Medicare for All -- to put \$11 trillion back in the pockets of American families that will never pay another premium or deductible, without raising middle class taxes by one penny.

You can read more about my plans for improving health care [here](#) and [here](#).

*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, I'll fight for affordable housing. [My American Housing and Economic Mobility Act](#) would build or rehabilitate 3.2 million affordable units over the next decade, reducing rents by 10 percent and creating 1.5 million new jobs.

My housing bill also takes a first step toward addressing historic discrimination against

communities of color by creating a first-of-its-kind down-payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers who live in formerly redlined neighborhoods or communities that were segregated by law and are still currently low-income. I'll also strengthen the Fair Housing Act by prohibiting housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, and the source of one's income, like a housing voucher. And my bill invests \$2 billion to support borrowers still underwater because of the financial crisis so they can build more economic security.

I'll also fight [to protect and empower](#) renters. Gentrification is displacing communities of color, rising rents are crushing millions of families, and landlords are exploiting their power over tenants. Research has shown that low-income women in Black and Latina/o/x neighborhoods face a heightened risk of eviction. I'll tackle rising rent, invest in safe, healthy, and green public housing, protect and uphold the rights of tenants, and fight exploitation by corporate landlords. I'll also expand protection from housing immigration-status based discrimination, withdraw Trump's racist proposed HUD "mixed status" rule, and direct HUD to recognize strategies that prevent gentrification and displacement of long time communities.

*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?*

I have a plan to create big structural change in our immigration system: to create a fair immigration system that preserves our security, grows our economy, and reflects our values. I have proposed to decriminalize migration and significantly reduce immigration detention by focusing on community-based alternatives. I'll also remake ICE from top to bottom, in a way that reflects our values. Additionally, I'll reverse Trump's bigoted Muslim Ban on my first day in office, and reinstate Temporary Protected Status designations and Deferred Enforced Departure to protect individuals at risk in their home countries. I'll also raise the refugee cap to welcome 175,000 refugees per year by the end of my first term, and reaffirm asylum protections for those fleeing violence.

I support expanded legal immigration to grow our economy, reunite families, and meet our labor market demands. I have a plan to reduce the family reunification backlog and remove the bars that make it harder to apply for legal status. I will also reinstate DACA and protections for our Dreamers and their families, and expand the program to cover more young people. And I'll extend the individual exercise of discretion to offer deferred action protections to immigrants who have contributed to our country for years and have built careers and families here, while pushing for a far-reaching legislative fix that provides a fair but achievable path to citizenship for them.

You can read more about my immigration plan [here](#).

*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?*

As president, I will pursue an agenda of economic patriotism, the most progressive and comprehensive agenda for workers since the New Deal. Unions built America's middle class, and with the strong support of my administration, they will help rebuild America's middle class.

My plan also ensures fair wages for workers, protects pensions, expands worker protections, and strengthens collective bargaining, including by extending labor protections to farmworkers and domestic workers – because we cannot have sustained and inclusive economic growth without a stronger labor movement. And we will raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

But economic justice is not—and has never been—sufficient to ensure racial justice. That's why I've proposed plans to help close the racial wealth gap, including my affordable housing, universal free public college, student debt cancellation, and universal child care plans. I've also proposed creating a \$7 billion Small Business Equity Fund to help close the startup capital gap for entrepreneurs of color, and I've proposed a new set of executive actions that I will take on day one as president to boost wages for women of color and open up new pathways to the leadership positions they deserve.

As of 2014, **40% of Latina/o/x beneficiaries relied on Social Security benefits as their only source of retirement income.** I also have a plan to [provide the biggest and most progressive increase](#) —\$200 a month—in Social Security benefits in nearly 50 years to ensure everyone has a secure retirement.

*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?*

From day one, I will fight for a Green New Deal, using all the tools of the federal government. We won't meet our climate goals with a one-time, one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, we need big, structural change -- and I am prepared to use the full power of the presidency. I've proposed spending \$3 trillion to combat climate change, a fully-offset federal investment that will leverage additional trillions in private investment and create millions of good union jobs. But there's also a lot that a president can do, herself.

I'll immediately issue a sweeping executive order to show Americans and the rest of the world

that defeating the climate crisis is a top priority for my administration. I will reinstate Obama-era environmental protections that protect the air we breathe and the water we drink. I will reinstitute the clean water rule, make agribusinesses pay the full costs of the damage they wreak, ban new fossil fuel leases on public lands, and end offshore drilling. And I will commit the United States to rejoin the Paris Agreement.

I'll fight to strengthen USDA's focus on farmworkers, because climate change is creating more environmental hazards like extreme heat and I'll also push for sector specific clean energy standards to accelerate the transition to 100% clean energy. And a Warren administration will ensure justice is at the center of the administration's response to climate change and will elevate the voices of frontline and fence-line community leaders to the highest levels of our government.

*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?*

From raising the federal minimum wage to combating systemic discrimination and protecting the right of Latina women to unionize, I'm ready to fight from day one to close the wage gap. That is why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would make it easier to challenge pay discrimination and hold employers responsible for discriminatory practices.

I've also proposed a new set of executive actions that I will take on day one as president to boost wages for women of color and open up new pathways to the leadership positions they deserve.

I'll build on existing disclosure requirements by requiring every federal contractor to disclose data on employees' pay and role, broken out by race, gender, and age and direct agencies not to enter into contracts with companies with poor track records on diversity in management and equal pay for equal work. I'll ban companies that want federal contracts from using forced arbitration and non-compete clauses that restrict workers' rights. I will ban contractors from asking applicants for past salary information and criminal histories, and I'll ensure federal contractors extend a \$15 minimum wage and benefits to all employees.

Additionally, I'll strengthen and target enforcement against systemic discrimination by ensuring the EEOC closely monitor and enforce regulations in sectors that disproportionately employ Black and Brown women and have higher rates of discriminatory practices. My EEOC will also issue first-of-its-kind guidance on enforcing claims involving the intersectional discrimination that women of color face from the interlocking biases of racism and sexism.

*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?*

Gun violence is a public health crisis, and Black and Latina/o/x people have borne the brunt of it. In 2017, almost 40,000 people died from guns in the United States. My goal as president, and our goal as a society, will be to reduce that number by 80%. We might not know how to get all the way there yet. But we'll start by implementing solutions that we believe will work.

As president, I will immediately take executive action to rein in an out-of-control gun industry by expanding background checks, and directing my government to investigate and prosecute those who violate existing federal gun laws.

I support common sense reforms including federal licensing, universal background checks, waiting periods, reporting on multiple purchases, raising the minimum age to purchase a gun, and more. I believe we need a new federal assault weapons ban and a ban on high-capacity magazines. And as president, I'll establish a grant program to invest in and pilot community-focused, evidence-based intervention programs at scale.

To achieve all this, we need to break the NRA's stranglehold on Congress. We'll do that by passing sweeping anti-corruption legislation and eliminating the filibuster. Then I will send Congress comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation. I will sign it into law within my first 100 days. And we will revisit this comprehensive legislation every single year to continually reduce the number of gun deaths in America.

You can read my full gun safety plan [here](#).