

THE LATINO Presidential QUESTIONNAIRE

LATINO
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
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Michael Bloomberg

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?

Mike's plan to empower the Latino community includes an ambitious goal to eliminate the college completion gap for Latinos within 10 years. Hispanic students enrolled in college rose to 3.27 million in fall 2017; in fall 2000, just 1.35 million Hispanic students were enrolled. At the same time, college completion rates are lower for Hispanic students. The disparity is particularly acute at 4-year institutions.

If current trends continue, about 40 percent of jobs in California will require at least a bachelor's degree by 2030¹. We also know that cost concerns are a major determining factor in higher education choice. California's lowest income high school graduates start at community colleges, and expanding access to transferring to four-year institutions is key to meeting future workforce requirements.² Mike will enable more Latinos to receive an affordable and quality college education and complete their degrees without taking on crushing debt. His administration will make college tuition-free for the lowest income students. His

¹ <https://www.ppic.org/publication/higher-education-in-california-meeting-californias-workforce-needs/>

² <https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/higher-education-in-california-expanding-college-access-october-2019.pdf>

administration will also fund evidence-based practices that advance enrollment, persistence and graduation rates for Latino college students.

There were 523 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in 2017 in the U.S, and they enrolled two-thirds of Hispanic undergraduates. Mike's administration will increase federal funding for HSIs. His administration will work with higher-education institutions to identify, admit, cultivate and graduate talent from the Latino community.

Dreamers may be unable to afford college because they don't qualify for in-state tuition, despite meeting other requirements. Mike will work with states to expand access to in-state tuition to Dreamers who meet certain eligibility requirements.

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?

Latinos have lower rates of health insurance coverage than other Americans. In 2017, the uninsurance rate among Hispanics was [16.1% versus 6.3% for non-Hispanic whites](#). Some chronic diseases plague Latinos at a higher rate. In 2015-2016, the prevalence of obesity among adults ages 20 and over was [47% for Hispanics](#) versus 37.9% for non-Hispanic whites. The CDC has noted that Hispanics are approximately [50% more likely than whites to die from diabetes or liver disease](#). Among children ages 2-19, [25.8% of Hispanics were obese](#) versus 14.1% of non-Hispanic whites in 2015-2016. [Type 2 diabetes prevalence](#) is significantly higher for Hispanic children compared with non-Hispanic white youth.

Mike's administration will ensure that Latinos have increased access to good health care. He will create a Medicare-like public insurance option. Mike will also build on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to make insurance less expensive for those without employer-sponsored coverage. He will undo the damage that Trump has done to the ACA. He will push to lower health-care costs and eliminate surprise medical bills.

Latinas also face higher rates of [gestational diabetes](#). The rate of cervical cancer is almost [40% higher for Hispanic women](#) than non-Hispanic white women. Mike will lower drug prices and ensure that all women have access to affordable health care. *Read more in [Mike's health coverage, maternal health and drug prices plans](#).*

Mike's administration will also ensure that all Latinos have access to well-trained medical professionals. In 2010, there were only [105 Latino physicians per 100,000 people in the Latino population](#) compared with 315 non-Hispanic white physicians per 100,000 people in that population. Mike's administration will pilot a national program to support doctors, especially primary-care physicians, who [received international medical education](#) and are qualified to

work in the U.S. This will include a requirement to work for at least two years in an underserved area.

Mike will also support the creation and expansion of programs like [Immigrant Bridge](#), which have helped [underemployed, foreign-trained immigrants](#) residing in the U.S. transition back into their fields of expertise, especially in high-demand fields like health care. Community Health Centers often provide care to underserved communities. Health centers reach [1 in 5 rural residents](#), and 36% of their patients are Latino. Mike's administration will increase federal grants to Community Health Centers. Mike will also make freestanding emergency departments and clinics eligible for enhanced Medicare reimbursement. And he will expand the [National Health Service Corps](#). *Read more in [Mike's health coverage plan](#).*

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?

Mike knows that affordable housing is essential for dignity and economic opportunity and is vital in strengthening our cities. He will take immediate steps to ensure that Americans are no longer burdened by excessive housing costs. He will prioritize the most vulnerable Americans, guaranteeing that all extremely-low-income Americans can receive housing assistance. He will work to dismantle systemic barriers to affordable housing – including voucher discrimination and unfair lending practices – that have denied generations of Americans stable housing and the chance to build wealth.

In California, 38 percent of mortgaged homeowners and 55 percent of renters spend more than 30 percent of their total household income on housing, compared with 28 percent and 50 percent nationwide.³ Governor Newsom has set a goal to build 3.5 million new units of housing by 2025. The 2019–20 state budget includes \$1 billion to address homelessness, and \$1.75 billion investment in new housing, and incentives for cities to approve new home construction.⁴

Mike's administration will support policies to put affordable housing in reach of all Americans. He will:

- Guarantee rental assistance for the most vulnerable Americans. Four million additional low-income families – more than double the amount of current low-income recipients – will receive housing assistance. He will also help families stay in their homes after unforeseen financial setbacks by funding emergency financial assistance. Applicants for short-term help will be connected to community support services that will aid them in getting back on their feet.

³ <https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/californias-future-housing-january-2020.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-future-housing/>

- Alleviate the nation's severe shortage of affordable housing, break down barriers to building it in places where people want to live and ensure that it is accessible to those who need it. He will prioritize [new federal infrastructure funding](#) for areas that have undertaken progressive zoning reform and the removal of other regulatory barriers that stymie the development of affordable housing. He will also significantly expand the [Low-Income Housing Tax Credit](#), with conditions to ensure that more new construction is in areas that offer good schools and a safe living environment.
- Cut homelessness by half in four years, from nearly 600,000 to less than 300,000, by more than doubling funding for homelessness assistance and prioritizing housing-first programs that put people in homes instead of shelters and connect them to vital wraparound support.

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?

Mike Bloomberg has been a champion of immigration reform and immigrants' rights. As president, Mike will make passing immigration reform a top priority, and ensure that it includes an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who agree to register, pay necessary fees and taxes owed, and pass criminal background checks. Mike will also take executive action to restore DACA and then work with Congress to provide an expedited path to citizenship for Dreamers. And he will order an administrative review of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations, protecting those that the Trump administration has moved to rescind and extending TPS to Venezuelan nationals in the U.S., and work with Congress to provide an earned path to citizenship for those who have built their lives in the U.S.

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?

The income and wealth gaps between Latinos and whites is real. In 2018, median household income was \$51,450 for Hispanics versus \$70,642 for non-Hispanic whites. In 2015, Latino families had a median net worth of \$19,990 compared with \$139,300 for non-Hispanic white families. Latinas face a significant income gap. In 2018, the median annual earnings for Hispanic women working full-time and year-round was only 54.5% of white non-Hispanic

men's median annual income. Hispanics are projected to have the largest labor force growth of any demographic group from 2018 to 2028 — an estimated rise of 7.4 million people.

Mike's administration will promote several policies to address the income gap:

- Support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour and indexing it to inflation.
- Ensure that states and cities are helping Americans maximize their use of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by providing free assistance with filling out tax returns. Offer an added incentive for businesses to locate and employ people in distressed communities, through a place-based EITC that lowers costs for employers.
- Help more Latina mothers enter the workforce by making quality child care more accessible and affordable.
- Mandate paid sick and family leave.
- Defend and expand the rights of all workers — including gig, contract and franchise employees.

Some of the aforementioned problems are particularly acute in industries that have a high percentage of Latino workers. In 2019, 27.5% of those employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and 24% of those employed in hospitality were Latino. Mike will support legislation to extend job protections, including the minimum wage, to domestic workers and farm workers. His administration will also expand Farm Bill conservation programs to help agriculture workers make their farms more resilient and sustainable.

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?

Mike has been a leader on taking action to curb climate change since his time as mayor of New York, and has been one of the most effective global leaders on climate through his philanthropy. Taking action to address the climate crisis will be one of his absolute highest priorities as president.

Mike's first act as President will be to notify the United Nations that the U.S. is rejoining the Paris Agreement. He will also immediately initiate a series of executive actions to reduce carbon pollution as quickly as possible and prioritize working with Congress to move even faster. Those plans include:

- [100% clean power](#): Mike will enact rules at the Environmental Protection Agency to aggressively reduce pollution from coal and gas plants, not just for carbon pollution but for pollution that causes serious health problems (disproportionately in communities of color). These rules will aim to shift the country 80% clean energy by 2028. Also in his first 100 days, he'll ask Congress to extend and improve clean energy

tax credits and other incentives, including funding to help lower-income families access clean energy. He'll work with Congress on a 100% clean energy standard.

- [Clean transportation](#): Mike will enact EPA rules to rapidly reduce pollution and increase gas mileage for cars, trucks, and buses, shifting the market to pollution-free electric vehicles, with a target of 100% of new vehicles being electric by 2035. Also in his first 100 days he'll ask Congress to fund a program to make electric vehicles affordable for families of all income levels, including reforming tax credits so people can get a discount when they buy an electric vehicle, and bigger one if they trade in an older car.

- [Clean buildings](#): Mike will ask Congress to fund incentives to families and businesses to upgrade homes and buildings, to replace oil and gas furnaces and water heaters, and improve insulation and windows, to reduce energy bills and reduce pollution. He'll use executive authority to improve energy and pollution standards for appliances and equipment, and improve building codes.

- [Environmental justice](#) and a just transition for affected workers and communities: Mike will make environmental justice a national priority -- low-income communities and communities of color have been disproportionately harmed by environmental problems, from toxic pollution to climate change. Mike will reverse Trump's anti-environmental rules and increase funding for EPA and the Department of Justice to enforce environmental laws, prioritizing the most affected communities. He'll also make environmental justice a national priority, directed by his White House, with offices in every relevant federal agency. He'll also prioritize support for workers and communities affected by the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. That includes programs to create new jobs and diversify the economy in areas connected to fossil fuels, including makes that the many jobs created by the programs outlined above are good, well-paying jobs, and that people from affected communities have access to them.

Finally, Mike will invest in making communities around the country [more resilient to climate change](#), able to better withstand and recover from the storms, flooding, drought, and heat waves that are already happening. He will prioritize the low-income communities and communities of color that are too often the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

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?

Latinas face a significant income gap. In 2018, the median annual earnings for Hispanic women working full-time and year-round was only 54.5% of white non-Hispanic men's median annual income. Hispanics are projected to have the largest labor force growth of any demographic group from 2018 to 2028 — an estimated rise of 7.4 million people.

Mike will require employers to provide employees 12 weeks paid family leave and increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, protect overtime hours, and defend and expand the rights of all workers, especially women, from discrimination. Mike will get it done by requiring public companies to report on hiring, pay, and procurement by race and gender.

As President, Mike will set rules for employers to ban the use of an employee's salary history to set wages and prohibit the retaliation against workers who discuss wages with one another. Mike will also take a holistic approach to employee pay, just like he did in the private sector, by establishing "comparable work" standards so that women who perform the same substantive job as men are paid at the same rate regardless of job title.

Additionally, in California there are 1.5 million women-owned businesses that employ over 1 million people.⁵ Mike will ensure all entrepreneurs, particularly women, receive fair access to the support and empower entrepreneurs. He will improve access to capital in order to double the number of Latino-owned businesses with employees in 10 years. He will reform financial systems so that Latinos have greater access to credit and banking costs less.⁶

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?

I would build a better background check system, with a permit and a point-of-sale check for every gun sale, gun sale records that enable law enforcement to identify crime guns, and an extreme risk screening before guns are purchased. I would keep guns out of the wrong hands, by closing the boyfriend loophole, passes a federal red flag law that expands extreme risk orders to 50 states, raising the age to 21 for purchases of handguns and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, and setting a temporary ban on gun possession by people with assault offenses. I would fund \$100 million each annually for local violence interrupter programs, ATF's budget, and public health research into gun violence. I would reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, require secure storage of all firearms in the home, and ban all guns (except for law enforcement) in our schools, colleges and universities. And I

⁵ <https://ventureneer.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018-08-19-SWOB-Summary-tables-2018-FINAL.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.mikebloomberg.com/policies/el-paso-adelante>

would hold the gun industry accountable by repealing their broad immunity from civil lawsuits and allowing the Consumer Product Safety Commission to set standards that treat guns like other household products.

The US gun homicide rate is 25 times the rate of other high-income countries. Mike has been a leader of the gun safety movement for decades -- he co-founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns in 2006, which later merged with Moms Demand Action to become Everytown for Gun Safety. With chapters in every state, Everytown and Moms Demand Action have worked in statehouses across the country to pass common sense gun laws and stem senseless gun violence.