



Yardeni Research Summary of July 8, 2020 Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force Policy Recommendations

Policy Area	Key Recommendations
Environmental Justice:	
Energy	• Eliminate carbon pollution from power plants by 2035. • Install 500 million solar panels and 60,000 onshore & offshore wind turbines, manufactured in the US. • Invest in American-made battery technology. • Implement net-zero emissions standards for all new buildings by 2030. • Upgrade the energy efficiency of 4 million buildings and 2 million households.
Transportation	• Transition fleet of 500,000 school buses to American-made, zero-emissions standards within five years. • Build electric vehicle charging infrastructure. • Institute cash-for-clunkers-style program for passenger vehicles. • Allocate funds for public mass transit and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. • Invest in high-speed passenger and freight rail systems.
Climate	• Reverse Trump administration rollbacks of climate and environmental protections. • Rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. • Penalize corporate polluters. • Create an environmental justice fund to eliminate legacy pollution. • Expand access to capital for marginalized communities. • Fund clean water infrastructure. • Invest in R&D for advanced decarbonization technologies. • Institute regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts from fossil fuel production. • Fund global land, water, and wildlife conservation efforts.
Criminal Justice:	
Policing	• Institute deadly-use-of-force standards as a last resort; ban chokeholds. • End police racial profiling. • Federally fund civilian corps of unarmed first responders and training for police officers.
Oversight	• Create a national police systems review commission.
Prosecution	• Roll back Trump guidance for prosecutors to pursue harsh penalties. • Decriminalize marijuana. • Abolish the death penalty.
Prison Reform	• End private prisons; end solitary confinement with limited exceptions; expand funding for education and skills; abolish forced labor in prisons.
Post-Prison	• Remove barriers to societal reentry. • Provide housing and mental health support for reentrants.

Economic Unity:

Racial Equity	• Commit to an economic plan that promotes racial equity. • Expand access to credit and capital for minority-owned businesses. • Recognize housing as a right and not a privilege. • Roll back Trump administration policies “gutting” fair lending and fair housing protections. • Increase resources for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. • Expand the Federal Reserve’s mandate to include lowering disparate rates of unemployment. • Roll back Trump administration actions to restrict unions and collective bargaining.
Families	• Increase standards for paid leave. • Establish universal access to pre-K. • Expand funding for childcare providers and grant larger tax credits for parents. • Increase funding for food assistance programs. • Reform the tax code to be more progressive and equitable.
Jobs	• Strengthen labor unions. • Penalize employers who violate labor laws. • Restore job opportunities for “47 million Americans” on unemployment during the pandemic. • Enact measures like those used during the New Deal to create jobs with “transformational” federal investment to expand public sector jobs. • Expand public and private “caring jobs” in health care, childcare, and elder care. • Ensure USDA serves the interests of all farmers and farmworkers. • Expand unemployment insurance through coverage and worker classification. • Remove incentives for manufacturers to offshore. • Institute a \$15-per-hour minimum wage for federal procurement contracts.
Retirement	• Expand Social Security. • Shore up public and private pensions and help distressed plans. • Increase support for caregivers.
Progressive Tax System	• Limit the ability of wealthy taxpayers to defer and avoid taxes on income (especially on investments). • Tax the liabilities of ultra large banks. • Expand payroll taxes on upper-income taxpayers.

Education:

K-12	• Establish universal pre-K. • Expand funding for schools with a high percentage of low-income students. • Expand funding for students with disabilities. • Support social and emotional learning programs. • Increase teacher salaries. • Forgive up to \$50,000 in educators’ student loan debt. • Provide a living-wage for school support staff. • Fund professional development for teachers. • Ban for-profit charter schools. • Eliminate “high-stakes” standardized testing. • Provide federal assistance to modernize public school buildings.
Higher Education	• Make public colleges and universities tuition-free for all students whose annual family incomes are below \$125,000. • Provide two years of tuition-free community college, including for Dreamers. • Create a “Title I for postsecondary education” to fund higher education serving lower-income populations. • Forgive up to \$50,000 in student debt for those working in public service (\$10,000 per year). • Forgive undergraduate tuition-related federal student debt from two- and four-year public colleges and universities for debtholders earning up to \$125,000 annually, with phase-outs.

Health Care:*	
Coverage	- Guarantee “free or low-cost health care coverage” for every American, including by expanding Medicaid, subsidizing employer health insurance for people who lose their jobs, and offering a high-quality low or no cost public option available without a deductible and with automatic enrollment for those who qualify throughout the COVID-19 crisis. - Enable Americans to enroll in Medicare at age 60.
Jobs	- Create at least 600,000 good health care jobs that include at least a \$15 an hour minimum wage, benefits, and union rights across the workforce. - Increase the current home-care workforce by 600,000 at positions that pay at least \$30,000 annually and offer benefits. - Fund the mental health workforce.
Costs	- Contain overall healthcare costs by lowering prescription drug prices, premiums, and out-of-pocket costs. - Use antitrust laws to fight mega-mergers in the hospital, insurance, and pharmaceutical industries that raise prices for patients by undermining market competition.
Federal Investment	- Reinvest in the public health system, adding at least 100,000 workers and increase funding of the public health system to \$50/person/year (increasing funding by \$10 billion annually, including the CDC). - Double “funding for federally qualified health centers that are on the frontlines of serving the most vulnerable communities.” - Reestablish the White House Pandemic Response Unit. - Implement emergency measures to guarantee “free public health testing, vaccines, and treatment measures to everyone.”
Immigration:	
Reform	- Provide a roadmap to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented foreign nationals living in the US. - Prioritize family unity. - Provide “a fair and just system that helps grow and enhance our economy, safeguard our security, and restore our cherished values.” - Undo “the harms of the Trump administration” on immigration policy and reform immigration departments and agencies.

* For more details on the public health option recommended, see pages 92 and 93 of the report.

Source: [Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force Recommendations](#); Yardeni Research, Inc.