Engaging Educators for a Better Future

Mary Kusler, Senior Director
Center for Advocacy, NEA
Why does NEA do politics?

To create the environment to pass policy that is good for students and the educators that work with them.
First line of defense: State AGs

• In 2018, NEA helped elect 6 new democratic Attorney Generals
• AG’s are fighting the Trump Administration on:
  – Immigration
  – Student Loans
  – For-Profit Colleges
  – Health Care – ACA
  – The Environment
New Government = New Policy

MN – NEA member **Gov Tim Walz** selected NEA member Mary Catherine Ricker Commissioner of Education and signed an $540 million increase for K-12 and $150 million for higher ed.

ME – **Gov Janet Mills** signed legislation removing all test scores in teacher evaluations and allowing evaluations based on professional practice.

CO – **Gov Jared Polis** signed legislation expanding community schools and guaranteeing full day kindergarten.

MI – **Gov Gretchen Witmer** created an Educator Advisory Council to identify and help address issues impacting public ed. MEA will recommend educators for the panel.

PA – **Gov Tom Wolf** is calling to raise starting teacher salaries to $45K.
New Minimum Salary in ID!

• IEA endorsed Lt. Gov. Brad Little in the primary and helped him win the governor’s race
• On March 20th Governor Little signed a new bill to increase minimum teacher salaries:
  • $38,500 (next year)
  • $40,000 (2021-2022)
New Government = New Policy

**VA** – Winning Gov and almost taking the House allowed for teachers to receive a 5% pay raise starting in September and hiring school counselors statewide.

**MD** – New supermajorities in both houses created the opportunity for $1.1 billion for ed over next 3 years.

**CA** – With a new Governor and Secretary of Education, the legislature passed a charter school accountability law allowing for oversight of charter school finances.

**WI** – *Gov Tony Evers* pushed to cap charters and vouchers and increase funding for public schools.
KS – *Gov Laura Kelly* added $90 million to the education budget.

NH – Winning back both chambers protected educator pensions and stopped private school vouchers

OR – Gov Kate Brown signed authorization of $2 billion in revenue for education pending ballot measure approval.

IL – Gov J.B. Pritzker signed a $40,000 minimum teacher salary and raised the cap on salary increases in the last 3 years of service to 6%
Education Success in New Mexico

- Increased minimum salaries to $40K – level 1 teachers, $50K – level 2 teachers, $60K for level 3 and counselors
- Increased minimum wage for ESPs from $7.5 to $9 next year and $12 by 2023
- Created a program of scholarship and loan forgiveness to help ESPs become teachers
- Repealed A-F grading of schools
- Increased funding for CTE
- Expanded Community Schools Act
- Conduct Native American Students Needs Assessments
- Implemented background check on all gun sales
- Prohibited local governments from creating “right to work”
- Enacted same day, voter registration
Welcome Back Speaker Pelosi
RISE Act Signed into Law!

• Recognizing Inspiring School Employees Award Program
  – Directs USDoE to create a program to honor paraeducators, clerical assistants, custodians, food service workers, security professionals, nurses and other classified employees
  – Lots of details still to work out but we will be monitoring
Advancing Change

• **The House passed:**
  – Background Checks Act of 2019
  – Enhanced Background Checks Act
  – Paycheck Fairness Act
  – Equality Act
  – DREAM Act
  – Education Funding including $1 billion increases for Title I and IDEA and Community Schools $ more then doubled

• **The Education & Labor Committee passed:**
  – $100 billion for school construction ($70 billion grants, $30 tax-credit bond program
  – Helped fend off attacks on our FEA members by the Trump administration
  – **The Senate has gotten** judicial nominees on the record that Brown v Board is settled law
**GPO & WEP**

- **Government Pension Offset (GPO):** Reduces, by two-thirds, Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of people not covered by Social Security themselves.

- **Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP):** Reduces, by up to 50%, Social Security benefits of people who work in jobs covered by Social Security and jobs NOT covered by Social Security.
**Time for Cosponsors...**

**Strengthen Social Security Act – HR 141**
- Sponsored by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)
- Already has 190 bipartisan co-sponsors

**Social Security Fairness Act – S 541**
- Sponsored by Sen. Brown (D-OH)
- Already has 30 bipartisan co-sponsors
Reboot of WEP Only Fix

• Ways and Means Chairman Neal (D-MA) and Ranking Member Brady (R-TX) still interested in reviving a WEP only fix
• Revised version would make changes that would take effect in 2025
• After 2025, the WEP goes away and new formula would be used
• In 2020, current retirees would get rebate of an additional $100 per month; their spouses would get an additional $50 per month
• Cost expected to be between $10 billion and $50 billion
WEP Only Fix in Numbers

- **1.5 million** Social Security beneficiaries currently subject to the WEP

- **15 million** retirees now exempt from the WEP would become subject to it

- **7.5 million** would receive lower Social Security benefits than under current law

- **7.5 million** would receive the same or slightly lower Social Security benefits than under current law

- **8 million** people who are now exempt from the WEP with 30+ years of Social Security-covered earnings would become subject to it
The Social Security 2100 Act
HR 860/ S 269

- Comprehensive Soc Sec rewrite by Rep. John Larson (D-CT) (210 cosponsors) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) (1 cosponsor)
- 2% increase for all beneficiaries
- Increase COLA using CPI-E (more health care friendly)
- New minimum benefit 25% above poverty line
- No reduction of SSI or lose of Medicaid or CHIP
- Raises cap on payroll over $400,000
- Increase contribution rate by 2043 by 50 cents per week
• We can do anything if we engage educators around issues and link those issues to the need for pro-public education candidates.
• We saw that success in 2018 has lead to policy changes we wanted.
• Now is the time to engage around the issues central to the 2020 election and keep the pressure on.
2020 Democrats court teachers galvanized by protest movement

Teachers 'Know Their Power' in Politics: NEA Outlines 2020 Endorsement Process

Democrats see energy behind teachers strikes as a force in 2020

For Democrats on 2020 trail, DeVos becoming a favorite foe

AMERICA’S LARGEST UNION LOOKS TO MOBILIZE MEMBERS AHEAD OF 2020
2020 Presidential Candidates

Joe Biden
Elizabeth Warren
Bernie Sanders
Kamala Harris
Cory Booker
Amy Klobuchar
Kirsten Gillibrand
Julian Castro
Pete Buttigieg
Beto O’Rourke
John Hickenlooper
John Delaney
Tulsi Gabbard
Tim Ryan
Eric Swalwell
Jay Inslee
Andrew Yang
Marianne Williamson
Seth Moulton
Michael Bennet
Steve Bullock
Wayne Messam
Bill de Blasio
Joe Sestak
Donald Trump
Bill Weld
## Preliminary 2020 Democratic primary schedule

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Delegates</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 3: IA</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>April 4: AK, HI</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 11: NH</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>April 7: WI</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22: NV</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>April 28: CT, DE, MD, PA, RI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 29: SC</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>May 2: KS</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>March 3: AL, AR, CA, CO, MA, MN, NC, OK, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, Democrats Abroad</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>May 5: IN</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>March 7: LA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>May 12: WV, NE</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8: ME</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>May 19: KY, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10: ID, MI, MS, MO, ND, OH, WA</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>June 2: DC, MT, NJ, NM, SD</td>
<td>183</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17: AZ, FL, IL</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>June 7: Puerto Rico</td>
<td>51</td>
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July 13-16: Democratic National Convention
Milwaukee, WI
Candidate Engagement Process

• Candidate Questionnaire **
• Interview with President Eskelsen García (Summer/Fall) **
• Representative Assembly Forum (July 5)
• Policy and political guidance

Also considering:
• Tele-Townhalls
• School Visit/Walk a Day
• Editorial and Video: "Five Questions with..."
• Field engagement

** Required by NEA Guidelines
YOUR VOICE, THEIR FUTURE

Presidential Forum
Friday, July 5, 2-4 pm CDT
Houston, TX

Hear the candidates answer YOUR questions!

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM  Friday, July 5, Houston, TX  Hear the candidates answer YOUR questions!  Learn more

GET INVOLVED, STARTING TODAY

Right now, candidates are deciding which issues they’ll run on. Let's make sure public education is at the top of their agenda.

www.strongpublicschools.org
• We are encouraging our members to directly engage the candidates with their own questions
• As NEA engages with campaigns these questions are used
• At the July 5 RA forum some of these questions will be used
• Questions will be used during the candidate interviews, tele town halls and social media moving forward.
• This can be found at StrongPublicSchools.org. Submissions are ongoing.
Have you voted yet? Voting ends on July 6th
Find an Event Near You

Local events are a great way to join fellow educators in making your voices heard. This is not an endorsement of any candidate or candidate's campaign. This feed lists candidates who also use the Mobilize platform and will be supplemented by NEA and affiliate-sponsored events. Please visit strongpublicschools.org for more information.

Show me
- any kind of event
- on any day
- anywhere
- from any campaign

HIGHEST PRIORITY OTHER
Democratic Primary Debate Watch Party!!
June 27, 9:00 pm EDT

HIGHEST PRIORITY TRAINING
Join the Yang2020 Fundraising Call Team!
Hosted by Yang2020
July 3, 7:30 pm EDT

HIGHEST PRIORITY HOUSE PARTY
Bettendorf, Iowa: House Party with Marianne Williamson, Private Residence
COMPARE CANDIDATES

The race to the White House is heating up! Here are some of the early candidates and how they stack up in terms of public education.

SELECT CANDIDATES

Sen. Michael Bennett (D)  Joe Biden (D)  Sen. Cory Booker (D)  Gov. Steve Bullock (D)

Pete Buttigieg (D)  Julian Castro (D)  Bill de Blasio (D)  John Delaney (D)
YOU'VE SELECTED 4 CANDIDATES

Joe Biden (D)

About Joe
- Joe Biden served as Vice President of the United States from 2009 to 2017.
- Prior to his election to the Vice Presidency, Biden served as Senator from Delaware from 1973 to 2009.

Sen. Kamala Harris (D)
U.S. Senate, California

About Kamala
- Kamala Harris has represented California in the US Senate since 2017.
- She previously served as San Francisco's District Attorney, and became California's first female, first black, and first Asian American Attorney General when she was elected in 2011.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I)
U.S. Senate, Vermont

About Bernie
- Bernie Sanders has represented Vermont in the US Senate since 2007.
- Prior to his election to the Senate, Sanders served in the US House of Representative and as Mayor of Burlington.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D)
U.S. Senate, Massachusetts

About Elizabeth
- Elizabeth Warren has represented Massachusetts in the US Senate since 2012.
- Prior to her election, she served as Special assistant to President Barack Obama for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

Submit a Question

On the Issues
- Education Policy
- Education Funding
- Workers' Rights
Become a delegate

- You can run for delegate to the DNC or RNC.
- Rules are set by each state and approved by the party committees.
- Delegates set party policy and determine who the nominee will be.
- Stop by the RA Experience to sign up for more information.
What else can you do?

- Tele town Halls with the presidential candidates
- Engage your colleagues
- Make sure you and those at your worksite are registered to vote
- Host a house party to discuss the candidates and issues
- Register to attend events
- Host a debate watch party

Get creative!