

# Candidates for President 2024

## *Fact Sheet*

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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### President Joe Biden (Incumbent)

#### **About**

Joe Biden is the current president of the United States. He earned a law degree from Syracuse University. He was first elected to the Senate (representing Delaware) in 1972 and served as a Democrat from 1973-2009. He was the Vice President for President Barack Obama from 2009-2017. He was elected President in 2020 after defeating incumbent Donald Trump. Major triumphs of his presidency included the [American Rescue Plan Act](#), bipartisan infrastructure and manufacturing bills, the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), the [appointment](#) of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and rejoining the [Paris Accords](#), among other things.

#### **Foreign Policy (Israel/Palestine)**

In the opening days of the conflict, President Biden [sent](#) military support to Israel and pledged to provide the country with whatever it needed to fight Hamas. He also claimed, in a press conference, that Hamas was “beheading babies” and even swore that he had seen photographic evidence of this. This was later proven false. In the following weeks, he carefully avoided taking a strong stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He said in October of 2023 that it’s “vital to American security” for Israel and Ukraine to win their wars, but in November of 2023 [threatened](#) to veto an Israel/Ukraine aid bill that passed in the House but ultimately failed in the Senate. This was for two main reasons. First, Biden [said](#) that he would veto any Israel-only aid bill. Secondly, the bill contained budget cuts to the IRS, a move that would ultimately allow tax breaks for billionaires, decrease the overall tax revenue, and drive the United States deeper into debt. He has frequently stated that Israel has a right to defend

itself but has warned the government “not to be blinded by rage” as America was in the aftermath of 9/11. He’s also [sent](#) 1 billion to Gaza in humanitarian aid. He [pressed](#) for the use of “tactical pauses” in the conflict, which Netanyahu rejected, but had not pushed for a ceasefire. This stance [goes](#) against that of the United Nations.

## Healthcare Reform

As part of his three-step Build Back Better framework, Biden [supports](#) lowering the costs of prescription drugs, punishing companies who increase their drug prices faster than the inflation rate. He also supports capping the cost of certain medicines, such as insulin. Additionally, he plans to structurally fix the Medicare framework so that more people can get coverage.

## Income Tax Reform

Biden [claims](#) he wants to increase taxes for anyone making more than \$400,000 in a single year. He also wants to introduce a new 25% tax on anyone whose wealth exceeds 100 million dollars. Biden also wants to raise corporate taxes, increase capital gains taxes, and end tax breaks for fossil-fuel companies. He simultaneously aims to modestly lower taxes for people of low income. He also wants to directly increase taxes on billionaires by taxing unrealized capital gains. This idea is pretty controversial. On one hand, billionaires often avoid taxes through unrealized capital gains. On the other hand, this policy will drastically expand the power of the IRS, and the organization doesn’t have the most spotless track record.\*

\*We at Better Elections now do not claim to be experts on this complicated topic and would advise readers to do their own research in order to form an opinion.

## Economic Reform Plan and Budget Plan

Biden’s economic plan, [referred to as](#) “Bidenomics” focuses on policies that strengthen the middle class. Biden supports promoting green energy and domestic manufacturing, union participation, and increasing the federal minimum wage to 15 dollars an hour. Biden has realized a few of these goals with his Infrastructure Bill. Unfortunately, the Biden administration hasn’t had a good track record with spending. Many of his critics compare him to Trump and cite the statistic that he’s increased the deficit in three years at the amount that Trump increased the deficit in four years. This isn’t really a fair [comparison](#), as much of the Biden administration's debt comes from the American Rescue Plan, which was needed to recuperate the American people and the economy after the COVID-19 crisis. Overall, the Biden administration faced more problems than the Trump administration, but a fair comparison between the two would conclude that both administrations were equally bad at budgeting. Biden often [boasts](#), misleadingly, that he’s cut the deficit since his first taking

office by taxing corporations. The overall deficit did go down in 2020 and 2021 as he claimed, but because his Covid-19 relief plan had expired, not because of his Inflation Reduction Act. Said tax is expected to help with inflation, but it only went into effect in 2023.

## Term Limits and Age Limits

Biden [opposes](#) term limits and argues that smaller states [benefit](#) from career politicians, as it evens out the playing field and gains smaller states more recognition. He also believes career politicians strengthen Washington and that their experience is valuable to the government. Biden has never spoken on age limits.

## Citizen's United

During the 2020 presidential election, Biden frequently [attacked](#) the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision and voiced his support for a constitutional amendment to overturn it. An amendment was drafted during his presidency. The proposal could not get 60 votes in the Senate, however, so it's been shelved for now.

## Responding to Climate Change

Joe Biden believes in climate change and has a long list of items he wants to achieve during his time in office. The World Resources Institute has an excellent webpage that quantifies the follow-through of the Biden Administration on these policies. You can access it [here](#).

## [Marianne Williamson](#)

### About

Marianne Williamson is an author, half of which has appeared on the New York Times bestselling list. She [was](#) raised Jewish and still considers herself Jewish, but was formally a spiritual leader for the [Church of Today](#). She ran for the U.S. House of Representatives and for President in 2020, both unsuccessfully.

## Foreign Policy (Israel/Palestine)

Although Marianne Williamson [condemns](#) the Israeli government for their brutality in the conflict and claims that she would push for a ceasefire as president, she also refuses to acknowledge that Israel's end goal is to exterminate Palestinians.

## Healthcare Reform

Marianne Williamson supports universal healthcare. Her campaign is focusing on changing human behavior through policy. She believes that her administration would be able to encourage people to live healthier lifestyles, and she believes healthier lifestyles are the key to reducing the need for healthcare. Read more about her approach to health [here](#).

## Income Tax Reform

Williamson supports moving the federal minimum wage up to \$15 an hour. She also supports "fair taxes on billionaires and corporations". For more information, we'd recommend visiting her [webpage](#) on the topic.

## Economic Reform and Budget Plan

Marianne Williamson does not have a specific budgeting plan yet. However, it can be inferred from her other policies the areas in which she would like to increase the budget.

Healthcare- The Whole Health Plan

[African-American Reparations](#)

[Department of Peace and Peace Academy](#)

[Education](#)

Williamson has frequently railed against trickle-down Reaganomics in the past. She's a fan of former President Lyndon Johnson's [Office of Economic Opportunity](#) and would like to [revive](#) it in some form. She also believes that education and healthcare are tools in fighting this battle as well.

## Term and Age Limits

She has no official stance on these issues, but based on past comments it seems that she would be opposed. Watch her answer a question pertaining to this [here](#).

\*(Summary: she sees term limits as treating the symptoms, not the cause of what she calls “bad democracy”. She views gerrymandering and reformed voting laws as better solutions to keeping members of Congress accountable to their constituents. She says that it’s counterintuitive to responsible democratic citizenship, and “lets us off the hook”. She does not comment on age limits.)

## ***Citizen’s United***

Marianne Williamson frequently uses the phrase “get money out of politics” and laments that our current voting system makes politicians accountable to super PACs and corporations, not to their voters. She’s specifically [addressed](#) *Citizens United* in video lectures and on several social media platforms. She’s called Citizens United “one of the worst decisions ever handed down by the US Supreme Court. She is in favor of public funding for federal campaigns. However, this issue will not be on her priority list as President, as she [believes](#) it impossible to overturn the decision with our current Supreme Court.

## **Responding to Climate Change**

Williamson uses rhetoric very similar to the engineers of the Green New Deal architects to describe climate change. On her website, she describes it as a crisis not unlike World War II and claims that as president, she will try to mobilize the economy to combat the crisis. She also [wants](#) to follow the IPCC recommendations on combating climate change. She views the following areas as most important to address: clean energy solutions, reducing food waste, promoting a plant-based diet, protecting tropical forests, proper land management, and regenerative agriculture. Read more about her approach [here](#).

## **[Cenk Uygur](#)**

### **About**

Cenk Uygur [is](#) a Turkish-born American with degrees from Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania. He’s best known for founding The Young Turks, a progressive news outlet, in 2002. The show’s political focus and marketing is based on Uygur’s personal belief that the majority of Americans are progressives. Readers should note that if voted into office, Uygur would most likely have to make a case for his eligibility, having been born in Istanbul.

Better Elections Now candidate research is often guided by what the candidates themselves offer in terms of policy stances or general philosophies. Because of his career in the online

news show The Young Turks, it's well known that Uygur is a progressive and a populist. However, as a presidential candidate, he's [running](#) in a bit of an unorthodox manner. His website [is](#) pretty sparse when compared to his opponents. The nonpartisan group Vote Smart has gathered a comprehensive list of his positions [here](#) (readers should keep in mind that this information is from 2020). Additionally, Uygur's website provides a list of five issues that it can be inferred are the five issues he cares about the most. From first to last, they are as follows: paid family leave, 15\$ minimum wage, affordable health insurance, fighting corruption and ending Gerrymandering, and allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

## Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

As the conflict progresses, Uygur has frequently appeared on various talk shows to condemn the Israeli government and the United States' general pro-Israel position. He believes that the Israeli government is committing genocide and that the Western countries in general are hypocritical for not allowing the Palestinians to have self-government in the first place. Uygur [discussed](#) his position on Piers Morgan Uncensored. In this interview, he also detailed what his short and long-term approaches to the conflict would be\*.

\*Short term, Uygur believes that sending in special forces to find the hostages and stop Hamas is the best solution, as it wouldn't result in a staggering number of civilian casualties like we're currently seeing. Long term, he would like to see a two-state solution.

## Healthcare Reform

Although Uygur seemingly has not made any official comments or policy endorsements on this topic as of late, past comments indicate he would be supportive of any legislation that would increase healthcare access for Americans. On X in 2019, he [described](#) our current healthcare system as "barbaric" and used the hashtag "MedicareForAll". In past years, Uygur has appeared on Ben Shapiro's talk show to defend healthcare as a human right.

## Income Tax Reform

Uygur has made many comments on X condemning the Republican Party for tax cuts on the rich. He sees this as a cause of America's national debt.

## Economic Reform and Budget Plan

Uygur supports Medicare for All.

## Term and Age Limits

We have found no information pertaining to this topic.

## *Citizen's United*

Uygun supports creating a new amendment to overturn the Court's decision and views the decision as legalizing bribery.

## Responding to Climate Change

Uygun supports the Green New Deal, according to his 2020 campaign website (which no longer exists).

## Dean Phillips

### About

Dean Phillips currently represents Minnesota's Third District in the House of Representatives. He [has been](#) the owner and founder of several businesses, including his family's distilling company and Talenti Gelato, and is one of the richest members of Congress in 2023.

### Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

In an interview, Phillips [said](#) that we should "be supportive generally" of Israel, but he feels that because of the number of American hostages, Biden should be doing "everything in his power" to end the conflict. Phillips sees the formation of a multinational task force as the best way forward to eliminate Hamas. Phillips has talked vaguely of the need for the government to act more but doesn't specify what actions need to be done. He also calls on a new generation to focus on peace while ensuring that America has the world's strongest military. Phillips says that he believes in the two-state solution.

## Healthcare Reform

Phillips [supports](#) Medicare for all and lowering prescription drug prices. He's in favor of making available Medicare and employer-provided care so that individuals can make choices about their healthcare.

## Income Tax Reform

Phillips does not mention taxing wealthy individuals on his official platform page. However, he has voted with Democrat majorities in Congress pertaining to issues of this nature.

## Economic Reform and Budget Plan

Phillips has not addressed this in his official campaign platform, but during his time in the Senate has voted with the Democrats on bills pertaining to this.

## Term and Age Limits

As a [response](#) to Mitch McConnell's infamous freezing incidents, Phillips voiced his support for term limits on members of Congress. He also [believes](#) that the Supreme Court should have term limits. This stance is not [included](#) on his official platform, however.

## *Citizen's United*

Phillips believes that special interest money is the heart of corruption in DC and would be his second priority as president. He has not specified a plan of action and Citizens United is not mentioned on his website. He claims to be the only member of the current Congress who has not taken money from special interest groups and the like. However, nine other members of Congress have stated that they do not take money from special interest groups, so this is a false statement. The PAC End Citizens United has [given](#) him an A+ anti-corruption score.

## Responding to Climate Change

Phillips is in favor of cutting greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change. When [speaking](#) about climate change, his solutions are often focused on clean water



and switching to clean energy. Readers can access more [here](#). He hasn't released a specific policy plan, but past statements and endorsements hint he's open to reform, but not at the level of economic transformation that the Green New Deal calls for.