



## AFT's Endorsement of Joe Biden

### EARNING THE AFT ENDORSEMENT

After the most extensive, transparent and inclusive presidential endorsement process in AFT history, which included more than 300,000 members engaging, Joe Biden has earned the endorsement of the AFT for the Democratic primary.

The AFT's endorsement is based on three criteria: a candidate who shares our values, who has the support of the members and who can defeat President Trump. Biden has met all three, now having consensus support of the AFT membership by a 2 to 1 margin.

### BIDEN—A LIFETIME OF SHARING OUR VALUES

Biden is a man whose character was forged in Scranton, Pa., where his family faced the economic and social ups and downs faced by so many families. He has been tested by unspeakable loss and grief in his life, and has been nurtured through public service, a love of people and the belief in the dignity of every human being.

It is through these life experiences that Biden has developed an empathy and understanding of what our members, communities and country need. Whether as a U.S. senator, where Biden earned a lifetime AFT voting record of nearly 100 percent, or as vice president, where he provided a voice for the middle class and workers and helped ensure passage of the Affordable Care Act, Biden has a demonstrated commitment of listening to and fighting for working families.

As vice president, he was our "go to" person in the Obama administration, always being willing to listen and to be helpful on the issues we had with policy, like the overemphasis on high-stakes standardized testing, which was ultimately mitigated in the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, passed in 2015.

As president, a Biden administration would continue to put middle-class values front and center. He is with us on investing in public education; making healthcare and college more affordable; knowing that healthcare is a right, not a privilege; and rebuilding an economy that puts the needs of everyday people first. His agenda and proposals reflect these priorities, including:

- Tripling funding for Title I, fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, investing in school infrastructure and expanding community schools;
- Building on the Affordable Care Act and making healthcare more affordable by offering a public option and reducing prescription drug prices;



For more information about the endorsement process, visit [AFTvotes.org](https://www.aftvotes.org).

- Offering free tuition to attend public colleges and universities for families making less than \$125,000, and providing \$10,000 per year of student debt relief for those working in public service;
- Protecting the rights of workers to collectively bargain and making it easier for workers to join a union, including supporting the PRO Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act; and
- Ensuring the United States achieves a 100 percent clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

## **BIDEN—THE RIGHT LEADER AND THE RIGHT TIME**

Over the course of the primary season, Biden was counted out so many times. He has shown fight and resiliency, and an ability to build the necessary coalitions of support to defeat Trump. Those victories came because voters recognize that he is the strong, effective, experienced, compassionate leader that this country needs right now, with an agenda to address the problems facing this country.

The fight for the soul of America is now more important than ever. In this moment of extreme crisis, it is clear that Trump poses an existential threat not just to our democracy but to our health and safety, as well as to our economic well-being and security as a nation. As our country navigates the worst crisis we have had in generations, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, it is more important than ever that we rally around one candidate who can show courage in the face of uncertainty, and leadership that has been so clearly absent from the Trump administration. We need a standard-bearer who is actually looking out for us, and who has a proven track record of steering the country successfully through economic upheaval.

We need decency over cruelty, compassion over fear, effectiveness over bluster, and a proven track record to help save lives and ensure people's economic well-being.



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