

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/policy-2020/climate-change/?utm\\_term=.53020e34dd73](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/policy-2020/climate-change/?utm_term=.53020e34dd73)

# Where 2020 Democrats stand on Climate change

Do you support the Green New Deal resolution?

Hover for more information, click to highlight a candidate

YES

Candidates who co-sponsored or endorsed the Green New Deal resolution.



Biden



Booker



Buttigieg



Castro



de Blasio



Gabbard



Gillibrand



Harris



Inslee



Klobuchar



Moulton



O'Rourke



Sanders



Swalwell



Warren



Williamson



Yang

### PREFERS SOMETHING ELSE

Others preferred a different plan, or cheered the ambition but questioned how realistic it was.



Bennet



Bullock



Delaney



Hickenlooper



Messam



Ryan

By [John Muyskens](#) and [Kevin Uhrmacher](#) [Updated June 5, 2019](#)

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The Democratic takeover of the House refocused the climate conversation in Washington. Freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) along with Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced a nonbinding resolution calling for a Green New Deal, which aims to achieve a “fair and just transition” to net-zero emissions and ties climate action to other

progressive goals such as universal health care and a jobs guarantee. The resolution, which became the subject of GOP mockery, has drawn criticism from labor leaders and some Democratic presidential hopefuls.

Climate change has emerged as a key issue in the race for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. Candidates frequently discuss climate change on the campaign trail and often face questions from the audience on how they will address the issue.

## Where the candidates stand

Here's where 2020 candidates stand on issues related to climate change, based on candidate statements, voting records and answers to a questionnaire we sent every campaign.

Highlight a candidate

QUESTION 2 OF 9

### Should we rejoin the Paris Agreement?

#### YES WITH A SPECIFIC TARGET

Candidates who provided specific U.S. emissions targets.



Biden



Castro



de Blasio



Gabbard



Gillibrand



Inslee



O'Rourke



Williamson

## YES AND STRENGTHEN PLEDGES

Others called for strengthening the U.S. pledge without specifics.



Bennet



Booker



Bullock



Buttigieg



Delaney



Harris



Hickenlooper



Klobuchar



Moulton



Ryan



Sanders



Swallow



Warren



Yang

YES

Others have only committed to rejoining.

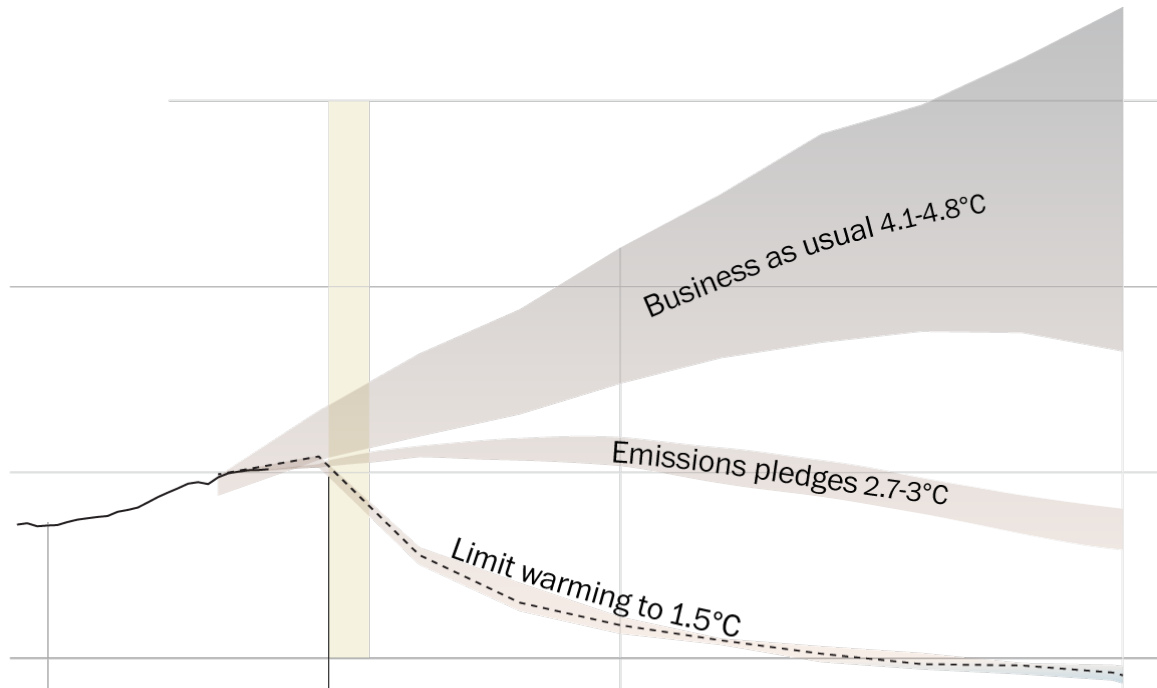


Booker

Hover for more information

BACKGROUND President Trump intends to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, under which the United States had pledged by 2025 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26 percent of its 2005 levels. This will leave the United States [the only country to reject the agreement](#). As the second-largest global emitter of greenhouse gases, the United States would need to do considerably more than President Obama promised in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, experts say.





Global emissions pledges are not on track to limit warming to 1.5°C

CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent greenhouse gas emissions

150 billion tons

Next presidential

term

100  
50  
0

2021  
2100  
2000  
2050

Source: Climate Action Tracker

QUESTION 3 OF 9

Do you support building more nuclear power plants?

YES, EXPAND  
NUCLEAR POWER



Bennet



Booker



Delaney



Hickenlooper



Moulton



Ryan



Yang

NO NEW PLANTS  
AT THIS TIME



Bullock



Buttigieg



Castro



de Blasio



Inslee



Swalwell

NO AND LET'S  
PHASE OUT  
NUCLEAR POWER



Gabbard



Messam



Sanders



Williamson

UNCLEAR/NO RESPONSE



Biden



Gillibrand



Harris



Klobuchar



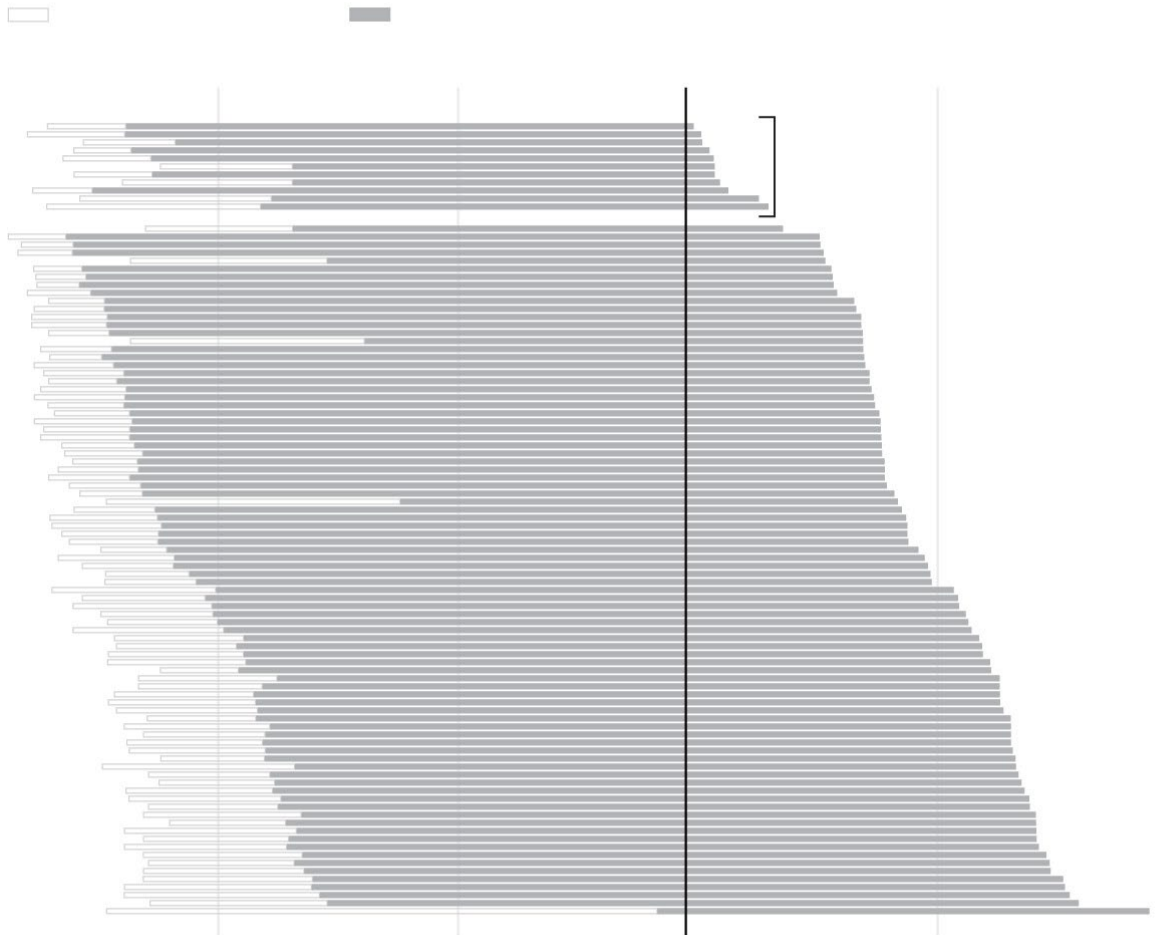
O'Rourke



Warren

Hover for more information

BACKGROUND Nuclear power remains the nation's largest carbon-neutral energy source, but it faces an uncertain future. The accidents at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima have caused concern about the safety of the industry and halted new construction in many countries. Of the 97 currently active U.S. commercial nuclear reactors, 11 are scheduled for retirement by 2025, including Three Mile Island's remaining reactor, which will shut down this year. Only one new reactor, at the Watts Bar plant in Tennessee, began operating in the past 20 years, and two new reactors are under construction at the Vogtle plant in Georgia, with loan guarantees received from both the Obama and Trump administrations. Still unresolved are questions of how and where we can safely store nuclear waste.



### An aging fleet of nuclear reactors

59 out of the 97 currently licensed U.S. reactors would face retirement by 2040 without license renewal.

Licensed to operate

Under construction

1980

2000

2019

2040

2060

11 reactors are scheduled  
to retire before 2025

Sources: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Energy Information Administration

QUESTION 4 OF 9

Would you support setting a price on carbon, such as with a carbon tax or cap-and-trade?

YES



Biden



Booker



Bullock



Buttigieg



Castro



de Blasio



Delaney



Gillibrand



Klobuchar



Moulton



Williamson



Yang

OPEN TO IT



Bennet



Gabbard



Inslee



Messam



Ryan



Sanders



Swalwell

UNCLEAR/NO RESPONSE



Harris



Hickenlooper



O'Rourke



Warren

Hover for more information

BACKGROUND Through a price on carbon, polluters would pay for the carbon emissions released into the air. Policies to price carbon include direct taxes on emissions and cap-and-trade markets, where polluters purchase credits for emissions. Many economists view this strategy as a cost-effective way for countries to reduce emissions, although it would increase energy prices for consumers, with poorer households being disproportionately affected. Only about 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions faced a carbon price in 2017, according to [a study by the World Bank](#).

*[\[Curious about where candidates stand on another policy? Let us know.\]](#)*



Would you ban fracking?

BAN IT



Booker



Buttigieg



de Blasio



Gabbard



Inslee



Messam



Sanders



Swalwell



Warren



Williamson

NO, BUT  
REGULATE IT BETTER



Bennet



Bullock



Delaney



Gillibrand



Klobuchar



Moulton



O'Rourke



Ryan

NO, DON'T BAN IT



Hickenlooper

UNCLEAR/NO RESPONSE



Biden



Castro



Harris



Yang

Hover for more information

**BACKGROUND** The use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has led to a boom in U.S. oil and gas production in the past decade. Fracking can affect the environment through groundwater contamination, air pollution and noise. Other concerns related to fracking are earthquakes induced by wastewater disposal wells and leaks of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Would you ban fossil fuel exports?

YES



Booker



Gabbard



Inslee



Sanders



Warren



Williamson

NO



Bullock



Delaney



Moulton



Ryan



Swalwell

UNCLEAR/NO RESPONSE



Bennet



Biden



Buttigieg



Castro



de Blasio



Gillibrand



Harris



Hickenlooper



Klobuchar



Messam



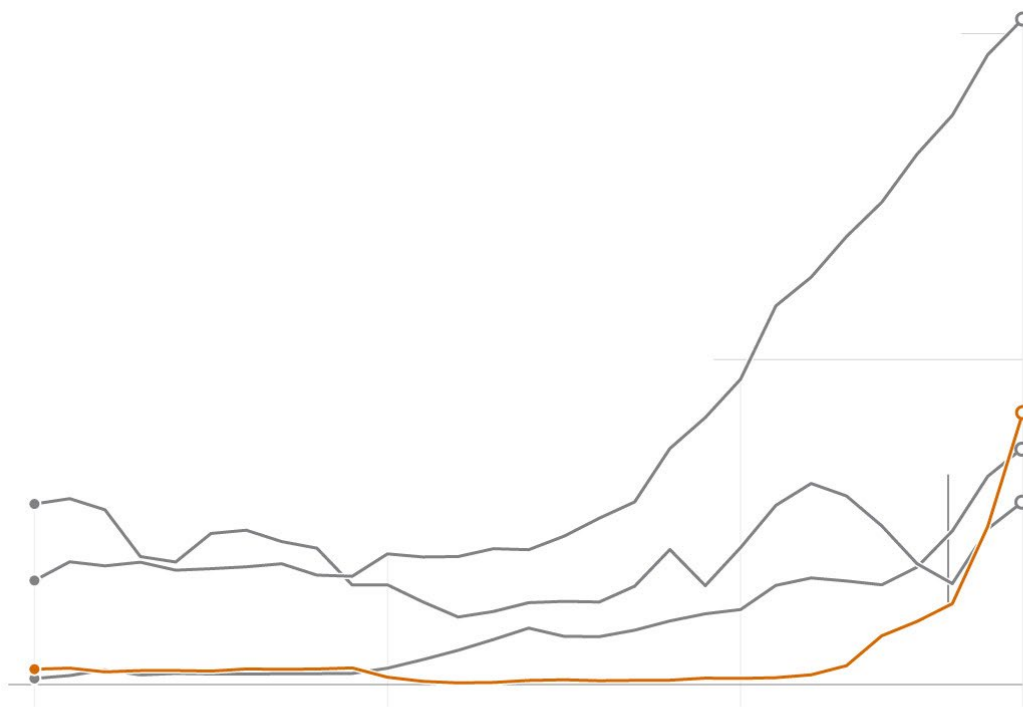
O'Rourke



Yang

Hover for more information

**BACKGROUND** The Energy Information Administration expects the United States to become a net energy exporter by 2020. The United States has long exported more coal than it imports and as of 2017 exported more natural gas. Exports of crude oil have shot up since a four-decade ban was lifted in a 2015 spending bill, passed by a Republican-controlled congress and signed by President Barack Obama.



Petroleum products

10 quadrillion BTU

Crude oil

Natural gas

Coal

U.S. energy exports

5

Crude oil ban lifted

0

1990

2000

2010

2018

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

QUESTION 7 OF 9

Would you end leasing for fossil fuel extraction on federal lands?

YES



Biden



Booker



Buttigieg



de Blasio



Delaney



Gabbard



Gillibrand



Harris



Inslee





Messam



Moulton



O'Rourke



Ryan



Sanders



Swalwell



Warren



Williamson

NO



Bullock

UNCLEAR/NO RESPONSE



Bennet



Castro



Hickenlooper



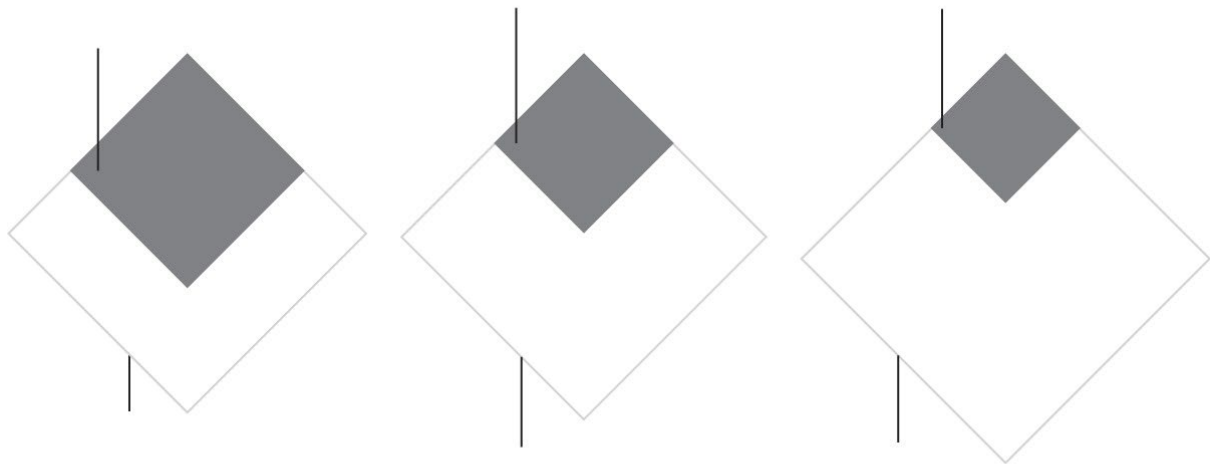
Klobuchar



Yang

Hover for more information

BACKGROUND A significant amount of the nation's fossil fuel production [happens on federal lands and waters](#) — 42 percent of coal, 24 percent of crude oil and 13 percent of natural gas in 2017. The extraction and combustion of these fuels accounted for nearly a quarter of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions between 2005 and 2014, according to a study from the U.S. Geological Survey study. The [Keep It In the Ground Act](#) by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) would end new federal leases for fossil fuel extraction on federal lands and waters. The Obama administration issued a moratorium on coal leasing in 2016, but it was reversed by the Trump administration, an action that has led to an ongoing legal battle.



## U.S. fossil fuel production in 2017

Shown as the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that would be generated by burning the fuel

Coal

Crude oil

Natural gas

595M tons produced on federal land

346M tons

239M tons

1.4B tons

U.S. total

2B tons

1.5B tons

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency

QUESTION 8 OF 9

Would you eliminate fossil fuel subsidies?

YES



Bennet



Biden



Booker



Buttigieg



Castro



de Blasio



Delaney



Gabbard



Gillibrand



Harris



Inslee



Klobuchar



Messam



Moulton



O'Rourke



Ryan



Sanders



Swalwell



Warren



Williamson



Yang

UNCLEAR/NO RESPONSE



Bullock



Hickenlooper

Hover for more information

**BACKGROUND** The federal government subsidizes fossil fuel exploration and production through a number of tax breaks. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that these tax breaks cost \$4.6 billion in 2016. The Trump administration proposed a rule that would prop up coal by crediting power plants that keep a 90-day supply of fuel; it was rejected by regulators.

QUESTION 9 OF 9

Are you doing something about your campaign's carbon footprint?

OFFSETTING  
EMISSIONS



Biden



Sanders



Warren

TAKING STEPS TO  
REDUCE EMISSIONS



Booker



Castro



Delaney



Gabbard



Klobuchar



Messam



Moulton



Swalwell

## LOOKING INTO IT



Bennet



Buttigieg



de Blasio



Inslee



O'Rourke



Ryan





Williamson

UNCLEAR/NO  
RESPONSE



Bullock



Gillibrand



Harris



Hickenlooper



Yang

Hover for more information

BACKGROUND Political campaigns can generate a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions, especially through the use of private jets for air travel. Several campaigns told The Post they operate out of energy- efficient buildings and encourage staffers to use public transit and hybrid cars when traveling. Some campaigns raised the possibility of offsetting their emissions by purchasing credits meant to reduce or capture emissions.

*[Juliet Eilperin](#), [Dino Grandoni](#), [Jeff Stein](#) and [Kevin Schaul](#) contributed to this report.*

*A previous version of this article incorrectly categorized Elizabeth Warren and Julian Castro's responses to the Paris climate agreement question.*

## How we compiled candidate positions

The Washington Post sent a detailed questionnaire to every Democratic campaign asking whether they support various climate change policies. We organized candidates with similar stances into groups using a combination of those answers, legislative records, action taken in an executive role and other public comments, such as policy discussion on campaign websites, social media posts, interviews, town halls and other news reports. See something that we missed? [Let us know](#).

The page will update to reflect candidates' positions as they become more clear. We expect candidates to develop more detailed policy positions throughout the campaign, and this page will update as we learn more about their plans. We will also note if candidates change their position on an issue. At initial publication, this page included major candidates who had [announced a run for president or an exploratory committee](#) by June 1. The Post will reach out to additional candidates as they enter the race and then include them here.

### Recent changes on this page

June 5 Adjusted O'Rourke position on the Green New Deal and added his specific U.S. target in the Paris agreement question, following campaign guidance.

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June 4 Added Biden positions to several questions after he released his climate plan and his campaign confirmed his stances.

June 3 Moved Gabbard position on campaign carbon footprint and Harris stance on Paris agreement following additional campaign guidance.