

Democrat Presidential Candidates: Positions on Issues of Interest to Veterans

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Michael Bennet

www.michaelbennet.com // Sen CO // Non-Veteran

SUPPORTS

Vet employment action
SBA Express loans & fee waivers
Vet Crowdfunding > 1M – no SEC Rdg
Medical cannabis for Vets

ACTIONS

Co-Sponsor-Vet Entrepreneurship Act
Co-Sponsor-DREAM Act -
Opposed military transgender ban

COMMENTS

Legal status for immigrant Vets

Joe Biden Jr.

www.joebiden.com / Former US Senator, Vice President / NonVet - Student & Health (Asthma)

WORTH NOTING: While there is considerable - actually more than any other candidate - evidence of Biden's commitment to Vets issues in the past, it is surprisingly very difficult to find anything at all on his stand on current Vet issues.

SUPPORTS

Main pillar-needs of "service members, vets,
& families
Very strong support of Vets

ACTIONS

Numerous bills sponsored
Walk of America -

COMMENTS

Spousal employment, children, health &
mental health
"Walking with the Wounded

Cory Booker

www.corybooker.com // Former Mayor, Newark, NJ // Non-Veteran

We call ourselves the home of the brave, but we are not doing nearly enough to support and honor our brave veterans. Veterans are disproportionately represented in our criminal justice system and are more likely to experience homelessness. Too often they lack access to the health care services they need and deserve.

As president, Cory will

- fight for veterans' access to health care, education and good-paying jobs
- Strengthen economic opportunities for veterans, including those seeking to start small businesses by directing the Small Business Administration to invest more in veteran-owned businesses and entrepreneurship.
- Ensure world class health care, including mental health services, that is accessible and easy to navigate.
- Pass the Veteran Education and Transfer Extension Act to fill in gaps in veterans' higher education benefits.
- Ensure the Veterans Health Administration provides gender-inclusive and accessible services, including access to gynecologists and obstetricians, sexual counselors, therapists, and other medical personnel.
- End veteran homelessness through major new investment in evidence-based programs to find, keep safe, and move back into housing anyone in need.
- Appoint a White House official solely focused on coordinating across federal agencies to cut the suicide rate among veterans.

On War and Peace

- All options on the table with Iran, including military. (Nov 2013)
- Direct military intervention in Syria only as last resort. (Aug 2013)
- We're spending billions on a war based on unjust pretenses. (Aug 2008)
- Iran must accept long-term intrusive nuke inspection. (Mar 2014)
- Hold Assad accountable for slaughter of civilians. (Feb 2017)
- Legislation:
 - Original cosponsor: Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 – passed 2014
 - Introduced: Strengthening Technical Assistance, Resources, and Training to Unleash the Potential of Veterans Act (STARTUP-Vets) – 2015 (Referred to Committee)

Selected Issues from VoteMatch Responses (<https://www.ontheissues.org>)

Topic

Favors topic 15:

Expand the military

(-3 points on Social scale)

Oppose or Support

- Supports military spending on Foreign Affairs Committee: Opposes topic 15
- No irresponsible spending on weapons military doesn't want: Favors topic 15
- Form National Guard Cyber Protection Team: Favors topic 15
- Maintain the strongest military force in the world: Strongly Favors topic 15

Topic

Opposes topic 17:

Avoid foreign entanglements

(-3 points on Social scale)

Oppose or Support

- Irresponsible to spend on irrelevant weapon systems: Opposes topic 15
- Technology empowers individuals but creates diverse threats: Favors topic 15
- Incentives to train & hire troops returning home: Opposes topic 15
- Exempt Veterans Affairs from federal hiring freeze: Favors topic 15
- Get back into nuclear deal with Iran; negotiate if possible: Opposes topic 17
- Not working with allies on Iran makes us weaker: Opposes topic 17
- Support our allies, not our enemies: Opposes topic 17
- End intervention in Yemen & Iran, but not Israel: Favors topic 17
- Re-examine relationship with Saudi Arabia: Favors topic 17
- All options on the table with Iran, including military: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Direct military intervention in Syria only as last resort: Favors topic 17
- We're spending billions on a war based on unjust pretenses: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Iran must accept long-term intrusive nuke inspection: Opposes topic 17
- Hold Assad accountable for slaughter of civilians: Opposes topic 17

Steve Bullock

www.stevebullock.com // Gov MT

General Campaign Statements:

STEVE'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY RESTS ON FOUR PILLARS:

1. PROTECTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Protecting the United States will be Steve's number one priority as Commander-In-Chief.

Steve will ensure our military has the resources to effectively address the threats faced by the United States and our allies. America needs a military that can deter and defeat current threats, but is flexible enough to address new and emerging challenges like cyber attacks, chemical weapons, drones, and artificial intelligence.

2. STRENGTHENING OUR ALLIANCES

Trump's "America Alone" foreign policy is undermining our alliances, emboldening our adversaries, and abandoning our values, especially support for human rights.

3. DETERRING OUR ADVERSARIES

Steve will re-engage our allies to deter advances from our adversaries. In the absence of strong U.S. leadership, and U.S.-led coalition leadership, China and Russia are making inroads in economies and geography around the world. That's why Steve will re-engage our allies and work with our military and diplomatic corps to deter our adversaries and ensure we contain their aggression.

Further, instead of denigrating our intelligence community, Steve will rely on their counsel and expertise to help guide foreign policy and ensure our nation's security.

4. PROMOTING OUR VALUES

Steve will rejoin the community of nations with international diplomacy based on American values. He will lead our allies in a coalition to promote a rules-based international community that resolves conflicts instead of exacerbating tensions.

Steve will ensure our military is not used for political purposes along our border, and that we only deploy our brave men and women for missions that serve America's foreign policy interests.

Pete Buttigieg

www.peteforamerica.com / US Navy Reserve Officer with Active Duty - Afghanistan

SUPPORTS

Increase veteran engagement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and enhance access to mental health and addiction treatment for veterans.
Speed up Claims processing
invest heavily in treating veteran mental health

ACTIONS

No existing actions as mayor found.

COMMENTS

20 veterans and active service members die by suicide in the United States each day, and we know that 14 of those veterans were not receiving care from the VA.

SUPPORTS

Increase investments in suicide prevention for veteran
 Expand the number of mental health and addiction treatment facilities
 Increase access to telehealth, including teletherapy and telepsychiatry, for veterans through the Connected Care pilot program.
 Increasing access to and quality of care
 Reject privatization of the VA
 Support veterans as they reintegrate back into our communities

ACTIONS**COMMENTS****Julian Castro**

www.julianforthefuture.com // Ex-Mayor San Antonio, TX //

SUPPORTS

Avoid foreign entanglements

Re-examine relationship with Saudi Arabia:

Direct military intervention in Syria only as last resort:
 Iran must accept long-term intrusive nuke inspection

ACTIONS

Original cosponsor: Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 – passed 2014
 Introduced: Strengthening Technical Assistance, Resources, and Training to Unleash the Potential of Veterans Act (STARTUP-Vets) – 2015

COMMENTS

No mention re Vets on current Website

Key Votes

Date	Bill No.	Bill Title	Outcome	Vote
June 13, 2017	S 1094	Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017	Bill Passed - House (368 - 55)	Yea
March 16, 2017	HR 1181	Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act	Bill Passed - House (240 - 175)	Nay
March 16, 2017	HR 1259	VA Accountability First Act of 2017	Bill Passed - House (237 - 178)	Nay
Sept. 14, 2016	HR 5620	VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016	Bill Passed - House (310 - 116)	Yea
June 23, 2016	HR 2577	Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017	Conference Report Adopted - House (239 - 171)	Nay
July 29, 2015	HR 1994	VA Accountability Act of 2015	Bill Passed - House (256 - 170)	Nay

John Delaney

www.johndelaney.com // ex Rep MD // Non-Veteran

Positions

On Foreign Policy

- Don't believe Putin about Russian 2016 election interference. (Mar 2019)
- Condemn China's organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners. (Jul 2014)
- \$500M and 3,000 troops to Africa to fight Ebola. (Aug 2014)
- Two-state solution despite Israeli settlements on West Bank. (Jan 2017)
- On Homeland Security
- Supports reducing defense spending. (Sep 2012)

On war and Peace

- Withdraw military aid from Saudi forces fighting in Yemen. (Feb 2019)

On Immigration

- Ending DACA program was cruel, heartless and mean-spirited. (Feb 2019)
- Enact the DREAM Act's conditional path to citizenship. (Nov 2012)
- Support DREAM Act and more H1B1 visas. (Nov 2012)
- **Opposes** exiting US to apply for citizenship. (Sep 2012)
- Voted to legalize DREAMer immigrants via military service. (Jun 2016)

Key Votes

Date	Bill No.	Bill Title	Outcome	Vote
June 13, 2017	S 1094	Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017	Bill Passed - House (368 - 55)	Yea
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June 23, 2016	HR 2577	Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017	Conference Report Adopted - House (239 - 171)	Nay
July 29, 2015	HR 1994	VA Accountability Act of 2015	Bill Passed - House (256 - 170)	Nay
Oct. 1, 2013	H J Res 72	Veterans Benefits Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014	Joint Resolution Failed - House (264 - 164)	Nay
March 21, 2013	HR 933	Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (318 - 109)	Yea
March 6, 2013	HR 933	Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013	Bill Passed - House (267 - 151)	Nay

Selected Issues from VoteMatch Responses (<https://www.ontheissues.org>)

Topic

Strongly Favors topic 12:

Pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens

(+5 points on Social scale)

Opposes topic 14:

Support American Exceptionalism

(-3 points on Economic scale)

Favors topic 15:

Expand the military

(-3 points on Social scale)

Strongly Favors topic 17:

Avoid foreign entanglements

(+5 points on Social scale)

Oppose or Support

- Ending DACA program was cruel, heartless and mean-spirited: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Enact the DREAM Act's conditional path to citizenship: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Support DREAM Act and more H1B1 visas: Favors topic 12
- Opposes exiting US to apply for citizenship: Favors topic 12
- Rated Voted to legalize DREAMer immigrants via military service: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Condemn China's organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners: Opposes topic 14
- \$500M and 3,000 troops to Africa to fight Ebola: Opposes topic 14
- Two-state solution despite Israeli settlements on West Bank: Favors topic 14
- National service program: military or community service: Favors topic 15
- National AI Strategy focused on security: Favors topic 15
- Voted for 25 out of 28 military spending bills: Strongly Favors topic 15
- National service program, plus community & veterans' service: Favors topic 15
- Supports reducing defense spending: Strongly Opposes topic 15
- Bring the troops home from post-9-11 wars: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Withdraw military aid from Saudi forces fighting in Yemen: Favors topic 17
- Debate new AUMF; eliminate nuclear proliferation: Favors topic 17

Tulsi Gabbard

www.tulsi2020.com // Reb HI-2 // Veteran - National Guard

Positions

On Foreign Policy

- Defends meeting Syria's Assad; supports Trump on North Korea. (Jan 2019)
- Skeptical of Iran nuclear deal. (May 2017)
- Supports Egyptian dictator in fight against terrorism. (May 2017)
- Against criticizing India's treatment of Muslims. (May 2017)
- U.S. should focus on fighting terrorism, not regime change. (Jan 2017)
- \$500M and 3,000 troops to Africa to fight Ebola. (Jul 2014)
- On Homeland Security
- Don't cut military budget; fund weapons systems & ABMs. (Mar 2019)
- End this new cold war and nuclear arms race. (Mar 2019)
- Allow transgender Americans in the military. (Jan 2019)
- Supports reducing defense spending. (Sep 2012)
- Endorsed by VoteVets.org; against wasteful defense spending. (Nov 2012)
- Restrict domestic monitoring of phone calls. (Oct 2013)
- End bulk data collection under USA PATRIOT Act. (Oct 2013)

On immigration

- Voted to legalize DREAMer immigrants via military service. (Jun 2016)

On War and Peace

- No regime change in Iran; no war in Yemen. (Mar 2019)
- No more wars for regime change, like Syria and Afghanistan. (Mar 2019)
- U.S. government lied to American people to launch Iraq War. (Mar 2019)
- End US support for Saudi-led conflict in Yemen. (Jan 2019)

- Use military to fight terrorists, not for regime change. (May 2017)
- Opposes fighting in Afghanistan & Syria; end arms to Saudis. (May 2017)
- Iraq was a war we never should have gotten into. (Nov 2016)
- End our involvement in Afghanistan. (Nov 2012)
- Opposes combat operations in Afghanistan. (Sep 2012)

Selected Issues from VoteMatch Responses (<https://www.ontheissues.org>)

Topic

Favors topic 12:
Pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens
(+2 points on Social scale)

Oppose or Support

- 2015: Favor Christian over Islamic refugees: Opposes topic 12
- Relax onerous visa requirements for Indian & Chinese tourism: Favors topic 12
- Rated Voted to legalize DREAMer immigrants via military service: Strongly Favors topic 12

Favors topic 14:
Support American Exceptionalism
(+2 points on Economic scale)

- Trump's chicken-hawks push Iran war; go back to nuke deal: Opposes topic 14
- We need to engage in diplomacy & deescalate tensions: Favors topic 14
- Met with Syrian president; for "extreme vetting" of Syrians: Favors topic 14
- Skeptical of Iran nuclear deal: Favors topic 14
- \$500M and 3,000 troops to Africa to fight Ebola: Opposes topic 14

Opposes topic 15:
Expand the military
(+2 points on Social scale)

- Ending regime change wars allows investment at home: Strongly Opposes topic 15
- Don't cut military budget; fund weapons systems & ABMs: Strongly Favors topic 15
- End this new cold war and nuclear arms race: Strongly Opposes topic 15
- Must expose and punish sexual assaults in military: Opposes topic 15
- Use military to fight terrorists, not for regime change: Favors topic 15
- Supports reducing defense spending: Strongly Opposes topic 15
- Endorsed by VoteVets.org; against wasteful defense spending: Opposes topic 15

Topic

Strongly Favors topic 17:
 Avoid foreign entanglements
 (+5 points on Social scale)

Oppose or Support

- No war with Iran: it would escalate region-wide: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Troops home from Afghanistan; we're no better off than 2001: Strongly Favors topic 17
- No regime change in Iran; no war in Yemen: Strongly Favors topic 17
- No more wars for regime change, like Syria and Afghanistan: Strongly Favors topic 17
- U.S. government lied to American people to launch Iraq War: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Oppose regime change wars in Syria, Venezuela, Iran: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Defends meeting Syria's Assad; supports Trump on North Korea: Opposes topic 17
- End US support for Saudi-led conflict in Yemen: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Supports Egyptian dictator in fight against terrorism: Opposes topic 17
- Opposes fighting in Afghanistan & Syria; end arms to Saudis: Strongly Favors topic 17
- U.S. should focus on fighting terrorism, not regime change: Opposes topic 17
- Iraq was a war we never should have gotten into: Strongly Favors topic 17
- End our involvement in Afghanistan: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Opposes combat operations in Afghanistan: Strongly Favors topic 17

Kamala Harris

kamelaharris.org // Sen MA // Non-Veteran

SUPPORTS

GI Benefits reform

Urging DoE to work with DoVA

Objects to FCC cutting services to Vets

Objects to restriction of military honors at vet funerals

Advocates support annual Defense bill benefitting Vets and Military Families

ACTIONS

GI Benefits Fairness act 2019

A Mission bill 2018

Vet Community Care & Access Act 2018

Vets Fair Debt Notice Act 2017

Vet Choice Program Improvement Act 2017

COMMENTS

Generally supportive of Vets rights with a few hiccups as Atty General CA

Amy Klobuchar

www.amyklobuchar.com // Sen MN // Non-Veteran

General Campaign Positions / Statements:

On Homeland Security

- Voted for 95% of military spending bills in Congress. (Mar 2019)
- Offer troops care for traumatic brain injury. (Aug 2015)
- I supported the Patriot Act. (Oct 2006)
- Patriot Act provides necessary surveillance tools. (Oct 2006)
- Detainee bill will not meet constitutional muster. (Oct 2006)
- Our troops need the best equipment and intelligence. (Jan 2006)
- More screening at ports and nuclear plants. (Jan 2006)
- Voted YES on extending the PATRIOT Act's roving wiretaps. (Feb 2011)
- Voted NO on cutting \$221M in benefits to Filipinos who served in WWII US Army. (Apr 2008)
- Voted YES on requiring FISA court warrant to monitor US-to-foreign calls. (Feb 2008)
- Voted YES on removing need for FISA warrant for wiretapping abroad. (Aug 2007)
- Voted YES on limiting soldiers' deployment to 12 months. (Jul 2007)
- Voted YES on implementing the 9/11 Commission report. (Mar 2007)
- Study & address suicides among veterans. (Apr 2008)
- Repeal Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell, and reinstate discharged gays. (Mar 2010)
- Restrict domestic monitoring of phone calls. (Jul 2014)
- Exempt Veterans Affairs from federal hiring freeze. (Jan 2017)
- Restore habeas corpus for detainees in the War on Terror. (Jun 2007)

On War and Peace

- Supported regime change in Libya; supports Israeli military. (Mar 2019)
- Keep US military presence in Syria. (Feb 2019)
- 2006: turn over governance of Iraq to the Iraqis. (Aug 2015)

- 2007: Withdraw combat troops from Iraq on sensible timetable. (Aug 2015)
- Work together with other countries to solve Iraq problem. (Oct 2006)
- Iraq has devolved into a civil war; get US troops out. (Oct 2006)
- Solution in Iraq is diplomatic, not just military. (Oct 2006)
- Transition to Iraqi governance; no permanent military bases. (Oct 2006)
- Bring the troops home in a responsible manner. (Oct 2006)
- Iraq war has cost \$300B and fomented more terrorism. (Oct 2006)
- Fight for accountability for the run-up to the Iraq war. (Aug 2006)
- Supported invading Afghanistan, but not Iraq. (Aug 2006)
- Iraq war needed moral compass of int'l cooperation. (Jan 2006)
- Fight for a clear plan to bring our troops home safely. (Jan 2006)
- Fight for accountability for the run-up to the Iraq war. (Jan 2006)
- Voted YES on redeploying non-essential US troops out of Iraq in 9 months. (Dec 2007)
- Voted NO on designating Iran's Revolutionary Guards as terrorists. (Sep 2007)
- Voted YES on redeploying US troops out of Iraq by March 2008. (Mar 2007)
- No troop surge: no military escalation in Iraq. (Jan 2007)
- Iranian nuclear weapons: prevention instead of containment. (May 2012)
- Iran must accept long-term intrusive nuke inspection. (Mar 2014)
- Sanctions on Iran to end nuclear program. (Apr 2009)

Key Votes

Date	Bill No.	Bill Title	Outcome	Vote
20-Mar-13	HR 933	Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013	Bill Passed - Senate (73 - 26)	Yea
Oct. 11, 2011	S 1660	American Jobs Act of 2011	Cloture Not Invoked - Senate (50 - 49)	Yea
Dec. 21, 2010	HR 3082	Continuing Appropriations	Concurrence Vote Passed - Senate (79 - 16)	Yea
27-May-10	HR 4899	Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Supplemental Appropriations	Bill Passed - Senate (67 - 28)	Yea

Date	Bill No.	Bill Title	Outcome	Vote
26-Jul-08	HR 3221	Housing Bill with Energy Tax Credit Extensions	Concurrence Vote Passed - Senate (72 - 13)	Yea
Jan. 22, 2008	HR 4986	Defense Authorizations Bill	Bill Passed - Senate (91 - 3)	Yea
Oct. 1, 2007	HR 1585	National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008	Bill Passed - Senate (92 - 3)	Yea

Selected Issues from VoteMatch Responses (<https://www.ontheissues.org>)

Topic

Favors topic 12:

Pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens
(+2 points on Social scale)

Oppose or Support

- 25% of our Nobel laureates were born in other countries: Favors topic 12
- Immigrants crucial to labor & management: Favors topic 12
- Increase legal immigration but don't abolish ICE: Opposes topic 12
- Path to citizenship for people who have been law abiding: Strongly Opposes topic 12
- No amnesty for companies hiring illegal immigrants: Opposes topic 12
- Opposes Social Security for illegal immigrants: Opposes topic 12
- Opposes more border security, according to CC survey: Strongly Favors topic 12
- YES on continuing federal funds for declared "sanctuary cities": Strongly Favors topic 12
- NO on eliminating the "Y" nonimmigrant guestworker program: Neutral topic 12
- YES on declaring English as the official language of the US government: Strongly Opposes topic 12
- YES on comprehensive immigration reform: Strongly Favors topic 12

Favors topic 15:

Expand the military
(-3 points on Social scale)

- Boost the defense budget: Strongly Favors topic 15
- Ensure vets get equal support for mental health: Favors topic 15
- Voted for 95% of military spending bills in Congress: Favors topic 15
- Offer troops care for traumatic brain injury: Favors topic 15
- Iraq war has cost \$300B and fomented more terrorism: Strongly Opposes topic 15
- Our troops need the best equipment and intelligence: Favors topic 15

Topic

Oppose or Support

- Fight for a clear plan to bring our troops home safely: Strongly Opposes topic 15
- Exempt Veterans Affairs from federal hiring freeze: Favors topic 15
- YES on limiting soldiers' deployment to 12 months: Opposes topic 15

Opposes topic 17:

Avoid foreign entanglements

(-3 points on Social scale)

- Keep the troops deployed abroad: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Talking to North Korea good, working with allies better: Opposes topic 17
- China trade problems are real; use allies, not broad tariffs: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Talking to enemies good if there's results; Trump has none: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Iran nuclear deal was imperfect but made us more safe: Opposes topic 17
- Require that Trump consult Congress before war with Iran: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Supported regime change in Libya; supports Israeli military: Opposes topic 17
- Military an option in Venezuela, but focus on diplomacy: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Stand with our allies, invest in diplomacy: Opposes topic 17
- Keep US military presence in Syria: Opposes topic 17
- Tackle terrorist groups, and stand up for Israel: Opposes topic 17
- 2006: turn over governance of Iraq to the Iraqis: Strongly Favors topic 17
- 2007: Withdraw combat troops from Iraq on sensible timetable: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Work together with other countries to solve Iraq problem: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Iraq has devolved into a civil war; get US troops out: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Fight for accountability for the run-up to the Iraq war: Favors topic 17
- Supported invading Afghanistan, but not Iraq: Strongly Favors topic 17
- No troop surge: no military escalation in Iraq: Strongly Favors topic 17
- Iranian nuclear weapons: prevention instead of containment: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Sponsored funding and supplying the Syrian rebels: Strongly Opposes topic 17
- Iran must accept long-term intrusive nuke inspection: Opposes topic 17
- CC:Keep alliance with Israel: Opposes topic 17
- Sanctions on Iran to end nuclear program: Opposes topic 17
- YES on redeploying US troops out of Iraq by March 2008: Strongly Favors topic 17

Topic**Oppose or Support**

- YES on redeploying non-essential US troops out of Iraq in 9 months: Favors topic 17

Wayne Messam

www.wayneforusa.com // Mayor: Miramar, FL // Non-Veteran

I am proud of our record in Miramar as we've:

- Fought to bring American jobs back from China.
- Passed a living wage for city workers.
- Recruited companies with high-paying jobs to hire Floridians.
- Led the fight against the oil industry's campaign to drill in Big Cypress National Preserve, adjacent to the Everglades and just a few miles from our city.
- Joined mayors across the country to oppose climate denialism and pledge to support the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Taken on the Trump administration to protect immigrants, proposing our city as a safe zone for those who come to this country seeking a better life.
- Sued the state of Florida to protect our residents from gun violence and overturn a law backed by the NRA.
- Proposed and passed relief on water bills for federal workers who were impacted by the shutdown.

Beto O'Rourke

Fmr. Rep TX // www.betoorourke.com // Non-Veteran

General Campaign Positions / Statements:

On Homeland Security

- Supported 11th aircraft carrier; opposed 1% military cut. (Mar 2019)
- Military should welcome transgender recruits. (Mar 2019)

- Supports reducing defense spending. (Sep 2012)
- Restrict domestic monitoring of phone calls. (Oct 2013)
- End bulk data collection under USA PATRIOT Act. (Oct 2013)
- Exempt Veterans Affairs from federal hiring freeze. (Jan 2017)

On War and Peace

- Discuss U.S. policy in Syria in a more meaningful way. (Mar 2019)
- Nuclear treaty was best path to prevent Iranian nukes. (Oct 2018)
- Voted to legalize marijuana. We need to think before acting in Mideast. (Jul 2016)

On immigration

- legalize DREAMer immigrants via military service. (Jun 2016)
- Opposes more border security, according to CC survey. (Jul 2018)
- Platform:
- End the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and reinvest in savings for veterans
- Invest in building a state-of-the-art Veterans Affairs health care system
- Provide all veterans with equal treatment
- Ensure veterans can succeed when they come home.
- For more info: <https://betoorourke.com/veterans/>

Selected Issues from VoteMatch Responses (<https://www.ontheissues.org>)

Topic

Strongly Favors topic 3:

Comfortable with same-sex marriage

(+5 points on Social scale)

Oppose or Support

- Upgrade records of LGBTQ vets who were discharged: Strongly Favors topic 3
- Military should welcome transgender recruits: Strongly Favors topic 3
- Enforce against anti-gay discrimination in public schools: Strongly Favors topic 3
- Let states recognize same sex marriage: Favors topic 3

Strongly Favors topic 12:

Pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens

(+5 points on Social scale)

- Asylum-seekers are fleeing deadliest countries in the world: Favors topic 12
- Military service as pathway to citizenship for immigrants: Strongly Favors topic 12

Topic

Oppose or Support

- Treat asylum seekers with respect; repair home countries: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Immediately undo Trump actions; work with Congress: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Those seeking asylum pose no threat: Favors topic 12
- Against border wall; against criminalizing asylum seekers: Opposes topic 12
- Help refugee asylum seekers at home in Northern Triangle: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Stop refugee issue by dealing with what's driving them here: Favors topic 12
- Condemns President Trump's wall; "Walls end lives": Strongly Favors topic 12
- Path to citizenship for all DREAMers: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Raise cap on work visas; find pathway to citizenship: Strongly Favors topic 12
- End separating kids; make DREAMers citizens: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Opposes "open borders," but new wall unnecessary: Favors topic 12
- DREAMers are as American as my kids: Strongly Favors topic 12
- End the inhumane & un-American practice of family separation: Strongly Favors topic 12
- No 2,000-mile, 30-foot-high, \$30 billion wall: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Support the DREAM Act and comprehensive reform: Favors topic 12
- Opposes exiting US to apply for citizenship: Favors topic 12
- Rated Voted to legalize DREAMer immigrants via military service: Strongly Favors topic 12
- Opposes more border security, according to CC survey: Strongly Favors topic 12

Favors topic 15:

Expand the military

(-3 points on Social scale)

- Boost the defense budget: Strongly Favors topic 15
- Expand health care benefits and support for veterans: Strongly Favors topic 15
- Deal with conflicts diplomatically or fight wars for years: Opposes topic 15
- Supported 11th aircraft carrier; opposed 1% military cut: Favors topic 15
- Supports reducing defense spending: Strongly Opposes topic 15
- Exempt Veterans Affairs from federal hiring freeze: Favors topic 15

Bernie Sanders

www.berniesanders.com // Senator, VT

SUPPORTS

Fully fund and expand the VA so that every veteran gets the care that they have earned and deserve.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

Get veterans compensated faster by improving how compensation claims are processed.

Expand the VA's Caregivers Program

Expand mental health services for veterans.

Make comprehensive dental care available to all veterans at the VA.

Full funding to expand VA

Improve claims processing

Expand mental health

Provide comprehensive dental care

Expand Military Members & Families

ACTIONS

National Military Family Assoc. – in GIO Bill

Benefits transferred to military spouses

Founding member Senate Military Caucus

Chair, Senate Vets Affairs Committee

Vets Access, Choice & Accountability Act

Vet Retraining Assistance Program

Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

Congressional Award from VFW – 2015

More than 25 Vet organizations support

TOO MUCH LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY TO LIST HERE.

FOR INFORMATION ON LEGISLATIVE BILL GO TO

<https://www.congress.gov/member/bernard-sanders/>

COMMENTS

Joe Sestak

www.joesestak.com // Ex: Naval Officer // Veteran

VMF Issues

Priorities: (from website)

- Help veterans find quality jobs upon re-entering civilian life.
- Provide needed job training and educational opportunities for returning veterans.
- Empower veterans to start new businesses.
- Expand benefits and protections for surviving spouses and military families.
- End homelessness among our veterans.
- Address the epidemics of addiction and suicide among our veterans.
- Ensure access to the highest quality medical care for veterans' physical and mental health.
- Hold Veterans Administration (VA) leadership accountable for meeting their responsibilities to all veterans and their families.
- Opportunities in Civilian Life
- Veterans' Health and Well-Being
- Helping Struggling Veterans

Tom Steyer

www.tomsteyer.com // Businessman // Non-Veteran

The Right to Health

- Universal health care must be a right — not a privilege — so everyone has the chance to live a healthy life, and our government needs to act to protect the foundations of our health.

The Right to an Equal Vote

- A healthy democracy depends on the broadest participation possible. Everyone must have an equal voice to demand justice from our government, and everyone must be able to vote with no discrimination and no barriers.

The Right to Clean Air and Clean Water

- Everyone has the right to breathe fresh air and drink clean water, free from industrial poisons. Corporations must not be able to violate this right for the sake of their profits.

The Right to Learn

- Without guaranteed access to a good education, there's no such thing as equal opportunity. Our government must protect the right to a free, quality, public education from preschool through college and on to skills training.

The Right to a Living Wage

- No one should be forced to work more than one full-time job just to survive, and no one should see their raise eaten up by the rising cost of living.

Elizabeth Warren

www.voteforwarren.org // Sen MA // Non-Veteran

SUPPORTS

Voices strong support for Veterans

Exempt Veterans Affairs from federal hiring freeze. (Jan 2017)
Opposes topic 15

ACTIONS

End stranglehold of defense contractors on military policy: Opposes topic 15
Reagan military spending meant more bombs & fewer textbooks: Strongly
Exempt Veterans Affairs from federal hiring freeze: Favors topic 15
CS - Reform procedures for determinations on disposition of charges and the convening of courts-martial for certain offenses under the UCMJ.
CS - bill to add resources to VA for processing
CS Vet Ed Empowerment Act
CS-Voices for Vets Act

COMMENTS

Difficult to find "Issues" related to Vets on website.

SUPPORTS

ACTIONS

COMMENTS

CS-Vets Home Loan Choices Act
CS-Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act
CS-Vet Spouses Equal Treatment Act
CS-Vet Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act
CS-Vet Suicide Prevention Act
CS-Blue Water Navy Vietnam Vets Act

Marianne Williamson

www.marianne2020.com // Author // Non-Veteran

“The Williamson Administration will: (copy from marianne2020.com)

- Provide the VA with a more in-depth understanding of the number of veterans and service members at risk for homelessness. That means understanding who is coming home with PTSD, addiction, and other forms of mental health issues. That means more studies and more research into these topics.
- Provide more veterans with affordable housing. Many veterans come home to a broken family. Veterans end up going from place to place, and many can't find long-term employment. A more manageable system that studies the influences that cause homelessness, and that tracks the needs of veterans, is morally required.
- Create a Universal Basic Income. While this will assist all Americans, it will be especially constructive for veterans transitioning back to life in the States.
- Free community college and student loan amnesty. Many veterans went into the armed forces as a way to pay for their education. Making education more affordable will provide greater options to all Americans. Plus, it will help veterans who want to continue their education.
- Increased mental health services. Again, this is good for the Nation. But particularly useful for veterans.
- Create a US Department of Peace. (See US Dept of Peace section). One of the very best ways to protect veterans is to ensure that there are fewer of them in the future.”

Andrew Yang

www.yang2020.com / Silicon Valley Entrepreneur

Supports:

- Only mention is to “Modernize Military Spending”
- Support for expanded healthcare
- Concerns RE – loose nuclear material, cyberterrorism, misinformation
- Redirect money to “actual threats”
- Invest in, and create, mentorship programs for veterans
- Provide resources to veteran-run businesses in the form of initial investment, low-cost financing options, and preferential treatment.
- Providing all other services to increase the stability veterans feel, and ensuring a successful transition to civilian life
- Destigmatizing veteran treatment.
- Increase the funding and reach of crisis lines
- Provide free gun safes/storage for all veterans, which has been shown to significantly reduce suicide risk
- Establish a census-like team that will research and find all of our homeless veterans and get them and their information into the VA system
- Help veterans afford housing through financial literacy, assistance in saving up for a down payment or security deposit
- Increase the availability of affordable housing options.