

Why IBEW supports Joe Biden

Labor Standards

Vice President Biden has stood with unions and marched in solidarity with striking workers his entire career. Before he left the Senate in 2008 and entered the White House as vice president, he had a 100% voting record on working family issues in 2007 and a lifetime voting rating – over 35 years – of 85 percent.

Joe Biden outlines his labor advocacy in his *Empower Workers Plan*. He explicitly states support for:

- The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which will protect workers' right to organize and bargain collectively and increase penalties on companies that interfere with that basic right
- Encouraging and incentivizing unionization and collective bargaining
- Extending the right to organize and bargain collectively to independent contractors
- Upholding project labor agreements
- Investing in communities by widely applying and strictly enforcing prevailing wages on all federally-supported infrastructure and transportation projects
- Creating a cabinet-level working group that will focus solely on promoting union organizing and collective bargaining in the private and public sectors
- Banning "right-to-work" (state laws prohibiting unions from collecting dues)
- Increasing workplace safety and health by reinstating occupational and safety standards weakened under the current administration

Joe Biden was an original co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act, legislation that would have made it easier for workers to organize through card-check, which is included in the PRO Act.

Joe Biden believes the federal government should not only defend workers' right to organize and bargain collectively but also *encourage* collective bargaining.

Employer Accountability

"My dad used to say, 'The only way to deal with power is to have power.' You think corporate America is going to roll over because all of a sudden they realize what's going on is not fair? We need power. And the only power capable to deal with the corruption in our country, with how people are being treated, is union power."

--Joe Biden, to the IBEW's 2020 Campaign Kick-Off, 7/8/20

Joe Biden has a plan to hold employers, corporations and their executives accountable for their attack on the rights of America's working people.

His plan will unambiguously:

- Enact provisions instituting financial penalties on companies that interfere with workers' organizing efforts, including firing or otherwise retaliating against workers
- Support holding company executives personally liable when they interfere with organizing efforts, including criminally liable when their interference is intentional.

- Advocate banning captive audience meetings, shortening the timeline for union election campaigns and preventing employers from stalling negotiations with newly formed unions
- Pursue employers aggressively who violate labor laws, participate in wage theft or cheat on their taxes by intentionally misclassifying employees as independent contractors

Biden plans call for funding a dramatic increase in the number of investigators in labor and employment enforcement agencies to facilitate a large anti-misclassification effort

They also ensure federal dollars do not flow to employers who engage in union- busting activities, participate in wage theft or violate labor law

- End bad faith bargaining by giving the NLRB the necessary power to force any employer found to be bargaining in bad faith back to the negotiating table, as called for in the PRO Act

Pensions

"It seems to me that when pensions collapse, communities collapse. So it would be in the overwhelming interest of the taxpayer to make sure that pensions are sustained. This is about strengthening communities. We can sustain and maintain communities with pensions."

--Joe Biden, IBEW Political and Legislative Affairs Conference, 11/13/19

Joe Biden supports passage of the Butch Lewis Act, which will help troubled multiemployer pension plans.

Energy

"Vice President Joe Biden's clean energy plan is more than just an ambitious and comprehensive blueprint to combat climate change and put our country on the path to a sustainable future. It is a massive investment in millions of American jobs, doing everything from rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure to retrofitting tens of thousands of homes and offices."

--Lonnie R. Stephenson, IBEW President, 7/14/20

Joe Biden appointed President Stephenson to his Climate Engagement Advisory Council, demonstrating his commitment to ensuring the IBEW has a seat at this table.

Biden's clean energy infrastructure plan creates jobs in nearly every sector of the workforce IBEW represents: construction, utilities, telecommunications, manufacturing and railroad.

The *Clean Energy Infrastructure Plan* highlights include:

- 1 million new jobs created in domestic auto supply chains and infrastructure, including parts, materials and electric vehicle charging stations
- \$2 trillion first-term total infrastructure investment, the plan aims to lay a new foundation for global competition and sustainable growth
- 4 million building efficiency retrofits
- 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations

Construction

1. Joe Biden's Build Back Better plan aims to harness the skills of American workers to build a more resilient, sustainable economy.

His investment actions will include:

- Updating a degraded infrastructure by building electricity grids, water systems, bridges, roads, rail lines and other transportation networks
- Promoting domestic energy security by tapping into America's clean energy sources, including hydro, solar, wind and nuclear, and technologies like battery storage and carbon capture and sequestration
- Creating 1 million new jobs in domestic auto supply chains and infrastructure, including parts, materials and electric vehicle charging stations, and ensures the workforce installing EV infrastructure is properly trained in high quality programs like the *Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP)*
- Commercializing new technologies, including battery storage, negative emissions technologies, next-generation building materials, renewable hydrogen and advanced nuclear, ensuring that they are made in America
- Developing local communities by prioritizing project labor and community workforce agreements, investing in pre-apprenticeship programs, developing diverse local workforces and strengthening communities while building physical infrastructure
- Upgrading 4 million buildings and weatherizing 2 million homes, spurring the building retrofit and efficient-appliance manufacturing supply chain and cutting residential energy costs

Joe Biden and Democrats support the creation of an infrastructure bank, a public bank that will leverage public and private resources to build infrastructure projects of national or regional significance, including rail and transit, clean energy and water infrastructure, broadband, and affordable housing.

- Projects that receive assistance from the bank will be required to follow Buy America and Buy Clean provisions, pay Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, utilize project labor agreements and ensure employers remain neutral in workers' organizing efforts

Additionally, Biden has voiced his support for:

- Federally registered apprenticeships
- The Shell petrochemical cracker plant outside Pittsburgh and fracking for natural gas. "No, I would not shut down [the hydraulic fracturing] industry," Biden said.

Manufacturing + Fair Trade

1. Joe Biden's plan supports American-made products, including electric vehicles, next-generation building materials and clean energy technologies.

Joe Biden will ensure Fair Trade and make sure that labor is at the table to negotiate every trade deal.

Power Generation

Biden's Build Back Better infrastructure plan calls for building the next generation of electric grid transmission and distribution.

He will achieve this goal by:

- Cutting red tape to promote faster and easier permitting by taking advantage of existing rights-of-way along roads and railways
- Doubling down on research investments and tax incentives for technology that captures carbon and then permanently sequesters or utilizes it, which includes lowering the cost of carbon capture retrofits for existing power plants
- Investing in advanced nuclear reactors: smaller, safer, and more efficient at half the construction cost of today's reactors
- Leveraging the recent breakthroughs in energy storage with historic procurement and investments to bring the future within reach for big utilities and rural cooperatives alike
- Ensuring that the market can access green hydrogen at the same cost as conventional hydrogen within a decade – providing a new, clean fuel source for some existing power plants
- Devoting significant resources to research, development and deployment of the next generation of baseload generation

Telecommunications/Broadband

1. *"With investments in research and development to spur advances in... clean energy, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, 5G, and high-speed rail.... A Biden administration will join together with our Democratic allies to develop secure, private sector-led 5G networks, leaving no community—rural or low-income—behind.*

--Democratic Party Platform, 2020

- Biden will invest \$20 billion in rural broadband infrastructure and ensure that the work of installing broadband will provide high-paying jobs with benefits
- Democrats will require that publicly funded broadband infrastructure projects "adhere to policies that support good jobs and include strong protections for workers' right to organize"
- Biden will expand broadband, or wireless broadband via 5G, to every American; universal broadband is long overdue and critical to broadly shared economic success