



## WHY THE IBEW SUPPORTS JOE BIDEN

*"We feel that Joe Biden is the best choice for the IBEW because he has taken the time to listen to what our members have to say about the biggest challenges facing our country. And that makes me confident that IBEW members will always have a seat at the table in a Biden administration."*

-- Lonnie R. Stephenson, IBEW President, 2/6/20

*"Lonnie, I can't thank you enough, for you guys all the way back in February endorsing me. I promise you. I promise you. I promise you: I will not let you down," he said. "You've been with me my whole career. You're the folks I grew up with. You're the backbone of the country. You're the people who keep this engine running. Wall Street didn't build America; you built America."<sup>1</sup>*

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

### LABOR STANDARDS

Vice President Biden has stood with unions and marched in solidarity<sup>2</sup> with striking workers<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

Joe Biden outlines his labor advocacy in his *Empower Workers Plan*.<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/20Daily/2007/2020Campaign>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/20/biden-lands-food-workers-endorsement-138727>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/democratic-presidential-candidates-visit-picket-lines-during-united-auto-workers-strike/2019/09/22/a36f2466-dba1-11e9-ac63-3016711543fe\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/democratic-presidential-candidates-visit-picket-lines-during-united-auto-workers-strike/2019/09/22/a36f2466-dba1-11e9-ac63-3016711543fe_story.html)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ibew.org/Journals/scans/IBEW%20Journal/2008-Fall%20IBEW%20Journal.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>



- 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.<sup>6</sup>

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."<sup>7</sup>*

--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.<sup>8</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ibew.org/Journals/scans/IBEW%20Journal/2008-Fall%20IBEW%20Journal.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/20Daily/2007/2020Campaign>

<sup>8</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>



- 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<sup>9</sup>
  - 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<sup>10</sup>
  - They also ensure federal dollars do not flow to employers who engage in union-busting activities, participate in wage theft or violate labor law<sup>11</sup>
- **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<sup>12</sup>

## 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.<sup>13</sup>

## 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

<sup>9</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.epi.org/publication/employers-steal-billions-from-workers-paychecks-each-year/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>



## **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.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>15</sup>
- 4 million building efficiency retrofits
- 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations

## **CONSTRUCTION**

Joe Biden's Build Back Better plan aims to harness the skills of American workers to build a more resilient, sustainable economy.<sup>16</sup>

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)*<sup>17</sup>
- **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

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.nationaljournal.com/md/708430/bidens-clean-energy-infrastructure-plan/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://joebiden.com/build-back-better/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>



- **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.<sup>18</sup>

- 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<sup>19</sup>
- The Shell petrochemical cracker plant outside Pittsburgh and fracking for natural gas. "No, I would not shut down [the hydraulic fracturing] industry," Biden said.<sup>20</sup>

## MANUFACTURING + FAIR TRADE

Joe Biden's plan **supports American-made products**, including electric vehicles, next-generation building materials and clean energy technologies.<sup>21</sup>

Joe Biden will **ensure Fair Trade** and make sure that labor is at the table to negotiate every trade deal.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-21-DRAFT-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>. p.20

<sup>19</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/04/20/joe-biden-talks-fracking-coronavirus-and-president-donald-trump/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://joebiden.com/EmpowerWorkers/>



## POWER GENERATION

Biden's Build Back Better infrastructure plan calls for building the next generation of electric grid transmission and distribution.<sup>23</sup>

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**

## RAILROAD

### Biden: A longtime Amtrak booster

*"We always had someone on our side, keeping an eye on our shops, keeping an eye on our pensions and keeping an eye on good union jobs. Joe Biden is the blue-collar candidate."*

--Sterling Rapposelli, Local 2270 member in Wilmington, Del. and worker at Amtrak's Bear Heavy Maintenance Facility

- Rapposelli said Joe Biden saved his father's repair shop from closing and sponsored a bill that made it possible for widows of deceased Amtrak workers to receive their husband's full pensions

<sup>23</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>



- Joe Biden spent 35 years commuting on Amtrak between his home in Delaware and Washington, D.C. and was one of the passenger rail system’s strongest advocates in Congress.<sup>24</sup> In his honor, the historic Wilmington railroad station was renamed the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Railroad Station in 2011.

Joe Biden’s *Clean Energy Plan* calls for **rebuilding and revitalizing the rail sector** by sparking historical investments that are key to the future of freight and passenger rail.<sup>25</sup>

His rail investments include:

- Ensuring that America has the **cleanest, safest, and fastest rail system in the world** – for both passengers and freight<sup>26</sup>
- Working with Amtrak and private freight rail companies to **further electrify the rail system**, reducing diesel fuel emissions<sup>27</sup>
- Establishing the federal government's role in promoting and facilitating collective bargaining, helping the parties bring their negotiations to a rapid and successful conclusion and committing to a high standard for intervening in strikes,<sup>28</sup> including under **the Railway Labor Act**, which has been used to prevent strikes and impose settlements on workers

Biden further states that his rail investments will include **high-speed rail priorities**.<sup>29</sup>

His *Infrastructure Plan* includes:

- Putting the Northeast Corridor on higher speeds and shrinking the travel time from D.C. to New York by half
- Completing the California High Speed Rail project
- Expanding the Northeast Corridor to the fast-growing South
- Beginning the construction of an end-to-end high-speed rail system that will connect the coasts across the Midwest and the Great West

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.ibew.org/Journals/scans/IBEW%20Journal/2008-Fall%20IBEW%20Journal.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-21-DRAFT-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> <https://joebiden.com/infrastructure/>



## FREIGHT RAIL

Joe Biden will **double funding for key competitive grant programs** from \$1.8 billion to \$3.5 billion a year to increase tunnel sizes to match shipping containers.<sup>30</sup>

He will accomplish this by completing:

- Truck and rail-transit bridge linking Oregon to Washington State
- Chicago's CREATE project, which has the potential to halve transit times for goods moving across the country

## MASS TRANSIT

Vice President Biden has a bold vision that will:

- Provide every American city with 100,000 or more residents with **high-quality, zero-emissions public transportation options** through flexible federal investments with strong labor protections that create good, union jobs and meet the needs of these cities<sup>31</sup>
- **Prioritize transportation funds for public mass transit**, including public transit, light rail, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS/BROADBAND

*"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."<sup>32</sup>*

--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<sup>33</sup>

<sup>30</sup> <https://joebiden.com/infrastructure/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-21-DRAFT-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://joebiden.com/infrastructure>





- 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**”<sup>34</sup>
- Biden will expand broadband, or wireless broadband via 5G, to every American; **universal broadband is long overdue** and critical to broadly shared economic success<sup>35</sup>

## MARITIME

*“China and Russia are aggressively challenging our navy’s ability to project power and to protect American interests. I am committed to continuing to make important investments in our naval fleet with ships like those being built by IBEW members, here in Mississippi and around the country,” Biden said.*<sup>36</sup>

Biden will reverse the anemic U.S. shipbuilding plan of the last few years.<sup>37</sup>

Democrats will upgrade our nation’s ports, lock and dam systems, and freight infrastructure to accommodate 21st century cargo, reduce air and water pollution and create and maintain high-quality, good-paying jobs.<sup>38</sup>

Joe Biden’s *Infrastructure Plan* outlines how he will accomplish this task by:

- Including a plan to **Ship American**. Biden has been a consistent and strong advocate for **the Jones Act** and its mandate that only U.S.-flag vessels carry cargo between U.S. ports. He will take steps to ensure American cargo is carried on U.S.-flag ships, leading to additional demand for American-made ships and U.S. merchant mariners.<sup>39</sup>
- Supporting **American port infrastructure**, ensuring that all fees collected for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used to improve and rebuild American ports of entry. And, he’ll work with U.S. ports and labor unions to ensure that cargo bound for the U.S. is offloaded in the U.S. and not in Canadian ports to avoid harbor taxes.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-21-DRAFT-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/20Daily/2003/200310\\_TrumpSlashes](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/20Daily/2003/200310_TrumpSlashes) ; Pascaguola, Miss., Local 733 members employed by Huntington Ingalls shipbuilding produce Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and America-class amphibious assault ships

<sup>37</sup> [http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/20Daily/2003/200310\\_TrumpSlashes](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/20Daily/2003/200310_TrumpSlashes)

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-21-DRAFT-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> <https://joebiden.com/madeinamerica/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://joebiden.com/infrastructure>



- Pledging investment in clean ports by **upgrading ports to reduce emissions**, while preserving the existing workforce and creating new good paying jobs<sup>41</sup>
- **Increasing funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** by \$2.5 billion per year, supporting infrastructure projects to keep goods moving quickly through our ports and waterways and including increased federal funding for lock modernization projects on inland waterways

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<sup>41</sup> <https://joebiden.com/infrastructure>