

# The People's Agenda: A Progressive Roadmap for Congress in 2021

- 1. Provide COVID Relief that Meets the Scale of the Crisis and Addresses the Disproportionate Harm to Black, Indigenous, People of Color and Other Vulnerable Communities** starting with the 140 million poor and low-income people and those left out of previous packages.
  - **Put Money in People's Pockets, without regard to immigration or any other status:**
    - Provide \$2,000 monthly stimulus checks
    - Continue expanded unemployment benefits
    - Provide rent and mortgage assistance to stop evictions and keep people in their home
    - Raise the minimum wage to at least \$15
    - Cancel up to \$50,000 in student debt and freeze payments and cancel medical debt
    - Fully fund and provide universal access to social safety net programs
  - **Protect Essential Workers and Expand the Workforce:**
    - Provide hazard pay, strong workplace health and safety protections, paid leave and necessary equipment to frontline workers, including family physicians and others excluded
    - Provide a roadmap to citizenship for all essential workers
    - Create childcare and 600,000 long-term care jobs to care for seniors, children, and others
  - **Defeat the Virus and Prepare for Universal Vaccination:**
    - Ensure equitable, culturally competent distribution of free vaccines, treatment, and testing for all, regardless of race, geographic, immigration, economic, gender or other status
    - Ensure robust protections for people in congregate settings, such as schools, nursing homes, churches, and prisons, jails, and detention facilities
    - Collect accurate disaggregated data by race, socioeconomic status, occupation, and geography to inform all efforts and reach all communities
    - Create 100,000 new public health jobs to ensure effective contact tracing and response
    - Support domestic manufacturing through the Defense Production Act to replenish supplies
    - Fund global efforts for universal vaccine access
  - **Fund State, Local, and Tribal Governments** to provide critical services, including public health, education, transportation, unemployment, affordable housing, and safety net.
  - **Provide Direct Assistance to Small- and Medium-Sized Businesses**, with a focus on small and minority-owned businesses, and a requirement to keep workers on payroll and in benefits.
- 2. Put People Back to Work, Give Workers More Power, and Transform to a Clean Renewable Energy Economy.**
  - Expand collective bargaining, the right to unionize, and workplace democracy in all policies
  - Invest in a bold green infrastructure package that prioritizes frontline communities, advances clean renewable energy and public transit, fixes roads and bridges, provides job training and re-training and rebuilds communities with new and better schools, water and sanitation systems, and universal broadband
  - Dramatically curtail air, water, land, and climate pollution, and promote a just worker transition
  - Create resilience jobs to help communities prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters
  - Build a strong families infrastructure package by investing in the caregiving economy, public education, paid leave, and universal childcare and providing equal pay, living wages, and benefits to childcare, public education, and domestic workers
  - Renegotiate and negotiate fair trade policies that protect domestic manufacturing and good jobs, and strengthen worker power and environmental protections everywhere
- 3. Ensure Health Care for Everyone** by taking important steps to expand healthcare and make equitable investments into public health infrastructure as we work towards Medicare for All.
  - Automatically enroll anyone who loses their job into Medicare
  - Expand traditional Medicare to lower the eligibility age to 50 and cover all children up to age 25
  - Lower prescription drug prices through direct negotiating drugs across all payers
  - Increase funding for all public health care systems, including community health centers, behavioral health providers, Indian health providers, and rural and veterans' hospitals



- Protect access to all health and reproductive services for women and the trans community, and address the maternal mortality crisis and its disproportionate impact on communities of color
  - Ensure that mental health and substance use treatment is provided at no out of pocket cost
4. **Defend and Expand Voting Rights, Strengthen Democracy and End Corruption** to return the vote and voice back to the people.
    - Protect the right to vote by passing a broad and comprehensive voting rights bill that eliminates barriers to voting, in particular for Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, people with disability, currently and formerly incarcerated people, and others
    - Provide statehood to more than 700,000 people living in the District of Columbia
    - End corruption and the dominance of big money and corporate interests by eliminating secret corporate spending in elections, implementing a public campaign finance system, strengthening Congress, and toughening lobbying and ethics laws for members of Congress and groups
  5. **Dismantle Racism, White Supremacy and Inequality in All Institutions** to create justice, ensure equality and opportunity for all and end the racial wealth gap.
    - Establish a commission on truth, racial healing, and transformation, and a commission to study and develop reparations
    - Ensure non-discrimination protections for BIPOC and LGBTQ people across the board
    - Pass a comprehensive policing reform bill to ensure that policing reflects community values and upholds civil rights, demilitarize the police, and invest more resources in communities
    - Reduce criminalization and incarceration through sentencing reform, legalizing cannabis, expunging records, and providing restorative justice
    - Create a just immigration system by passing a roadmap to freedom that ensures fairness, citizenship, family unity, ends the criminalization of immigrants for profit, creates humane alternatives to detention and deportation, and upholds protections for people seeking safety
    - Fully meet and fund all trust obligations to Tribal Nations and communities
    - Prevent gun violence, including by implementing universal background checks and banning semi-automatic weapons
  6. **End Endless Wars and Invest in Diplomacy and Peace** to stop massively increasing Pentagon budgets that fuel wars and sap communities of vital investments in education, housing and more.
    - Repeal old authorizations for use of military force, require Congressional approval for all wars and acts of war, and end the U.S. wars in Yemen and Afghanistan including air and drone wars
    - Reduce Pentagon spending to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse while maintaining support for personnel and families
    - Invest in diplomacy, development, peace building, and education through grassroots-fueled aid
    - End executive powers to enact unilateral sanctions and end military aid to repressive regimes
  7. **End Corporate Greed and Corporate Monopolies** to end poverty and stop poor and working people from getting poorer while huge corporations and the wealthiest get wealthier.
    - Strengthen and expanding antitrust laws to end monopolistic practices, protect consumers' and workers' interests, and guarantee fair markets to ensure equal footing for small businesses
    - Restructure our tax system to reward labor and support families, and make the wealthy, corporations, and Wall Street pay their fair share
    - Implement standards for large corporations receiving aid, subsidies and government contracts, including maintaining good U.S. jobs with benefits, narrow gaps between CEO and worker pay, and ensuring gender and racial diversity in particular in top management

