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4PM OCTOBER 2ND, 2019 - BAYLEY ROOM

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# YOU'VE GOT A BIG STORM COMING

*A Conversation About the Global Climate  
Crisis and the Presidential Election*



**Dr. Sean Kay -**

*Associate Professor of Politics & Government and  
International Studies*

**Dr. Ellen Arnold -**

*Associate Professor of History*

**Dr. John Krygier -**

*Director of Environmental Studies*

**Dr. Nathan Rowley -**

*Assistant Professor of Geology and Geography*

**OWU MOCK CONVENTION 2020  
PLATFORM HEARING #1**

# Ohio Wesleyan University Mock Convention 2020



**The future is ours!**

## **INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN MOCK CONVENTION?**

*Come join the fun and excitement! Help in the planning and promoting of our Mock Convention. There are still positions open. Get informed! Get involved! This year will be your only chance— Mock only happens every four years! Talk with members of the MOCK Executive Committee and Faculty Advisors, check out our socials:*

**Instagram - @owumock2020**

**Facebook - @OWUMock**

## **INTERESTED IN BEING A STATE DELEGATE?**

*Contact Danielle Black (deblack@owu.edu)*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**October 23- Platform Hearing #2**

*Immigration*

*12:00pm – Merrick 301*

**November - Platform Hearing #3**

**Issue TBA**

*Date, Time and Location TBA*

## **WHY A DEMOCRATIC MOCK CONVENTION?**

*To ensure there is lively debate and competition among a number of candidates, Ohio Wesleyan's Mock Convention traditionally represents the party currently not in control of the White House.*



# Cory Booker

*Mayor of Newark, New Jersey (2006 - 2013)*  
*Senator from New Jersey (2013 - Present)*

*"Climate change is not some distant threat — it's happening now: July 2019 was the hottest month on record for the planet, towns are seeing so-called "hundred-years" floods every few years, and millions around the world are fleeing climate change-related drought and famine. Without deliberate and bold action, people risk an incredible human toll from disasters and health impacts, preventable national security threats, and trillions of dollars in economic losses. As the existential threat of climate change is addressed, people must also confront deep and persistent economic inequality: the economy isn't working for millions of Americans, with income and wealth more concentrated among the ultra-wealthy than at any time since before the Great Depression."*

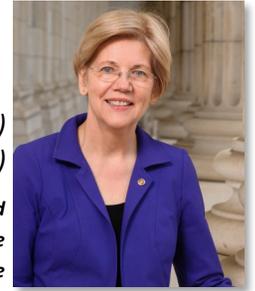
Booker was an original cosponsor of the Green New Deal resolution in the Senate because he believes the American people need to act with urgency and force that meets the scale of the challenge that they face. As president, Booker will unite Americans to heal the atmosphere, the lands, and the communities with a bold vision for achieving a 100% clean energy economy quickly and equitably. Immediate executive actions Booker will take include:

- (1) Drastically increasing EPA enforcement actions against polluting companies.
- (2) Reinstating and strengthening CAFE standards that the Trump administration is rolling back. Establishing a regulatory requirement that all new passenger vehicles after 2030 be zero-emission.
- (3) Sign-ing an executive order to bar all new onshore and offshore fossil fuel leases. Implementing a requirement for fossil fuel companies to stop methane leaks from both new and existing sources.
- (4) Rescinding Trump's executive orders to shrink national monuments and beginning to designate additional lands and waters for protection.
- (5) Revoking Trump executive orders to approve the Keystone Pipeline and the Dakota Access Pipeline, and that streamline approv-als of other fossil fuel projects. Rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and bringing the inter-national community together around more ambitious emission reduction commitments.
- (6) Beginning to negotiate new trade agreements that include progressive environmental and labor standards.

Information from:

<https://corybooker.com/issues/climate-change-environmental-justice/corys-plan-to-address-the-threat-of-climate-change/>

[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)



# Elizabeth Warren

*Professor of Law (1977 - 2013)*  
*Senator from Massachusetts (2013 - Present)*

*"Climate change is an existential threat. It's real, it's man-made, and we're running out of time to address it. Our government needs to take bold action and use all the tools available to combat climate change before it's too late. That's why I'm proud to be an original supporter of the Green New Deal. That's why I've proposed a historic \$2 trillion investment in researching, developing, and manufacturing clean energy technology here in America so that we can lead the global effort to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and beyond. That's why I support returning to the Paris Agreement and restoring Obama-era environmental protections like the Clean Power Plan. And that's why I've proposed a set of executive actions I'll take on day one of the Warren Administration to stop drilling and promote renewables."*

Warren believes publicly traded companies have an obligation to share important information about their business. But right now, these companies don't share much about how climate change might affect their business, their customers, and their investors. That's a problem in two ways. First, there are a lot of companies that could be badly hurt by the likely environmental effects of climate change. Companies could face serious harm from climate change in any number of ways, from flooding that damages their warehouses to massive storms that disrupt their shipping routes. Second, global efforts to combat climate change will have an enormous impact on certain types of companies, particularly those in the energy sector. Warren wished to establish a Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, found that reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increasingly affordable deployment of clean energy technology could have "significant, near-term financial implications" for Big Oil and fossil fuel companies. Experts estimate that if the world makes the changes necessary to meet the emissions goals of the Paris climate accord, at least 82% of global coal reserves, 49% of global gas reserves, and 33% of global oil reserves will have to go unused over the next 30 years. The market is not appropriately pricing in this risk, and it's creating what former Vice President Gore has called a "carbon bubble" — an inflation of the value of fossil fuel companies that could burst and threaten the financial system.

**HOW THEY PLAN TO PAY FOR IT:** Warren will ask the people who have gained the most from our country to pay their fair share by taxing the wealthiest Americans at a higher rate. Warren's plan includes the use of market forces to speed the transition to clean energy as well as holding Big Agriculture accountable — making them pay for the full costs of the environmental damage they cause.

Information from:

<https://elizabethwarren.com/plans/clean-energy>

<https://elizabethwarren.com/plans/climate-change>

[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)



# Joe Biden

*Senator from Delaware (1973-2009)  
Vice President (2009-2017)*

*“From coastal towns to rural farms to urban centers, climate change poses an existential threat – not just to the environment, but to health, communi-ties, national security, and economic well-being. It also damages the commu-nities with storms that wreak havoc on the towns and cities and homes and schools. It puts national security at risk by leading to regional instability that will require U.S military-supported relief activities and could make areas more vulnerable to terrorist activities.”*

Biden believes the Green New Deal is a crucial framework for meeting the climate challenges the American people face. It powerfully captures two basic truths, which are at the core of his plan:

(1) The United States urgently needs to embrace greater ambition on an epic scale to meet the scope of this challenge, and (2) the environment and the economy are completely and totally connected. Getting to a 100% clean energy economy is not only an obligation, it’s an oppor-tunity.

Biden thinks the U.S. should fully adopt a clean energy future, not just for all of us today, but for our children and grandchildren, so their tomorrow is healthier, safer, and more just. As president, Biden plans to lead the world to address the climate emergency and lead through the power of example, by ensuring the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

**HOW THEY PLAN TO PAY FOR IT:** The Biden plan will be paid for by reversing the excesses of the Trump tax cuts for corporations, reducing incentives for tax havens, evasion, and outsourc-ing, ensuring corporations pay their fair share, closing other loopholes in the tax code that rewards wealth not work, and ending subsidies for fossil fuels.

Information from:

<https://joebiden.com/climate/>

[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)

# Andrew Yang

*Entrepreneur  
Philanthropist*



*“Climate change is up there with automation as a society-wide threat. Parts of Florida and Virginia are already experiencing flooding and hurricanes are more powerful and frequent. This is exactly the kind of problem that govern-ment must rise to meet. As much as we must evolve and take responsibility, the U.S. only emits 15% of the world’s greenhouse gases - this is a global prob-lem. We should invest resources in large-scale geo-engineering measures like shoring up glaciers and reducing solar exposure to counteract the effects of climate change even as we reduce our emissions. Waiting around for the oceans to rise is not the American way. If we don’t adopt and lead in geoengi-neering, China will wind up making decisions for us when it decides to modify the climate in about 20 years”*

Yang believes the right time to deal with this crisis was decades ago, and waited too long, so we need to act fast and recognize that all options need to be on the table in order to adapt to the changed world we live in while mitigating behaviors that make it worse and reversing the damage we’ve already done. We can’t dismiss any ideas – especially not those that have sup-port from the scientific community – or rule anything out because it doesn’t fit our ideological framework. The Green New Deal has done a great job in starting a conversation about how we define the scope of the problem and the scope of the solution, and its goals of lowering emis-sions, converting to renewable energy, and creating good paying jobs are commendable.

Yang thinks America needs to strive for these goals and set up a realistic plan utilizing all op-tions in order to get to a fully sustainable economy ahead of 2050.

Information from:

<https://www.yang2020.com/policies/climate-change/>

[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)



# Pete Buttigieg

*Lieutenant, United States Naval Reserve (2009 - 2017)  
Mayor of South Bend, Indiana (2012 - Present)*

*“Fighting climate change means tapping into the potential of rural communities to become part of the solution. It means helping industries that have provided so many families with a livelihood transform into clean energy leaders ready to provide for generations to come. When people tell their children and grandchildren about what they did in this moment, they must tell them that they worked together, took bold action, and met the greatest challenge of their time—for them and for generations to come.”*

Buttigieg believes the U.S. must invest in talent and enterprise here at home to unlock new technology and bring together partners to reduce emissions across the electricity, transportation, industrial, and agricultural sectors. Buttigieg wants to create clean energy jobs, strengthen our rural communities, and protect America’s natural resources. Buttigieg’s intention is to promote a clean and prosperous future for Americans and their children and to prioritize justice and inclusion as they embrace these changes.

(1) Invest in Resilience. Buttigieg is firm that humans are already feeling the effects of climate change, whether it’s farmers affected by floods and shorter planting seasons or communities managing storm surges or devastating forest fires. Buttigieg thinks his plan makes our cities and states more resilient by prioritizing the communities and focusing on infrastructure and disaster preparedness. (2) Demonstrate Leadership. Buttigieg believes combating climate change will require American leadership to bring our nation together and make the fight for a cleaner future a global priority. In doing so, Americans can also restore America’s badly damaged credibility by leading the world in rising to this.

**HOW THEY PLAN TO PAY FOR IT:** To achieve this, Buttigieg will enact a price on carbon and use the revenue to send rebates to Americans. With money returned directly to their pockets, lower- and middle-class households in particular, will experience economic gains. Buttigieg will also quadruple federal clean energy R&D funding to invest more than \$200 billion over 10 years in developing new technologies. Buttigieg will build three investment funds to spur clean technology development, including a \$250 billion American Clean Energy Bank to fund locally-led clean energy projects, particularly in disadvantaged communities; a 10-year, \$250 billion Global Investment Initiative to harness American innovation for clean energy and infrastructure projects around the world and counter China’s Belt and Road initiative; and a \$50 billion American Cleantech Fund to fund demonstration projects.

Information from:  
<https://peteforamerica.com/policies/climate/>  
[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)



# Bernie Sanders

*Member Of Congress from Vermont (1991 - 2007)  
Senator from Vermont (2007 - Present)*

*“Climate change is a global emergency. The Amazon rainforest is burning, Greenland’s ice shelf is melting, and the Arctic is on fire. People across the country and the world are already experiencing the deadly consequences of our climate crisis, as extreme weather events like heat waves, wildfires, droughts, floods, and hurricanes upend entire communities, ecosystems, economies, and ways of life, as well as endanger millions of lives. Communities of color, working class people, and the global poor have borne and will bear this burden disproportionately.”*

Sanders states that the scientific community is telling us in no uncertain terms that we have less than 11 years left to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels to energy efficiency and sustainable energy, if we are going to leave this planet healthy and habitable for ourselves, our children, grandchildren, and future generations. As rising temperatures and extreme weather create health emergencies, drive land loss and displacement, destroy jobs, and threaten livelihoods, we must guarantee health care, housing, and a good-paying job to every American, especially to those who have been historically excluded from economic prosperity. As president, Bernie Sanders will launch the decade of the Green New Deal, a ten-year, nationwide mobilization centered around justice and equity during which climate change will be factored into virtually every area of policy, from immigration to trade to foreign policy and beyond. This plan outlines some of the most significant goals we have set and steps we will take during this mobilization, including:

(1) Reaching 100 percent renewable energy for electricity and transportation by no later than 2030 and complete de-carbonization by 2050 at the latest, (2) Declaring climate change a national emergency, (3) Supporting small family farms by investing in ecologically regenerative and sustainable agriculture, (4) Commit to reducing emissions throughout the world, (5) Meeting and exceeding our fair share of global emissions reductions, (6) Making massive investments in research and development, and (7) Expanding the climate justice movement.

**HOW THEY PLAN TO PAY FOR IT:** Sanders plans to pay for this plan by making the fossil fuel industry pay for their pollution, through litigation, fees, and taxes, and eliminating federal fossil fuel subsidies. Generating revenue from the wholesale of energy produced by the regional Power Marketing Authorities. Revenues will be collected from 2023-2035, and after 2035 electricity will be virtually free, aside from operations and maintenance costs. As well as scaling back military spending on maintaining global oil dependence. Collecting new income tax revenue from the 20 million new jobs created by the plan. Reduced need for federal and state safety net spending due to the creation of millions of good-paying, unionized jobs. Making the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share.

Information from:  
<https://berniesanders.com/issues/green-new-deal/>  
<https://berniesanders.com/issues/green-new-deal/>  
[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)



# Julian Castro

*Mayor of San Antonio, Texas (2009 - 2014)  
Secretary of HUD (2014 - 2017)*

*“Right now, the climate crisis is already devastating our communities, our homes, and our families. Severe storms, deadly hurricanes, massive floods, extreme droughts, and wildfires are now a normal occurrence, destroying homes and businesses, and shrinking our economy. Toxic pollution is poisoning the water we drink and the air we breath. People are being forced to leave their homeland, becoming climate refugees. Carbon emissions are warming our planet and causing sea levels to rise. More than a million species are on the brink of extinction due to human activity.”*

Castro believes that, together, Americans will direct \$10 trillion in federal, state, local, and private investments over the next decade to create ten million good paying jobs, transition away from fossil fuels, build a 100 percent clean-energy economy, and lead the world in the 21st century. That’s why Castro’s first executive action, will be to rejoin the Paris Climate Accords and rally the international community to go further, achieving worldwide net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

To reach that global target, the United States will achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and at least a 50 percent reduction by 2030. Castro will mobilize our entire nation around a mission for all electrical power to be carbon-neutral by 2030 and be entirely clean, renewable, and zero-emission by 2035.

Castro believes the United States must also invest in manufacturing, research and development, raise standards to ensure new light- and medium-duty vehicles and buildings are zero emissions by 2030, and double federal investment in public transportation to electrify buses and expand public transit. These sectors are critical because combined they contribute over 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the next decade, Castro will significantly reduce carbon emissions by transitioning off of fossil fuels to clean energy. Castro will immediately stop the exploration and extraction of fossil fuels on public lands and end all taxpayer subsidies of fossil fuel production. By 2030, as well as replacing all electricity generated by coal to zero-emission sources. Castro supports a new “carbon pollution fee” on up-stream, large-scale polluters for greenhouse gas emissions and investing that revenue in renewable energy, environmental justice, and climate resilience.

Information from:  
<https://issues.juliancastro.com/climate-1/>  
[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)

# Beto O’Rourke

*Councilmen, City of El Paso, Texas (2005 - 2011)  
Member Of Congress from Texas (2013 - 2019)*



*“Climate change is the greatest threat we face — one which will test our country, our democracy, and every single one of us. The stakes are clear: We are living in a transformed reality, where our longstanding inaction has not only impacted our climate but led to a growing emergency that has already started to sap our economic prosperity and public health—worsening ine-quality and threatening our safety and security.”*

The costs of climate change will measure in the tens of trillions of dollars, in lives lost, and livelihoods devastated and destroyed. Young people are the first generation to feel the climate crisis, and the last generation with the ability to avert its worst impacts.

Climate change has a distressingly disproportionate impact on poor and minority communities across the United States and around the world. Race is the number one indicator for where toxic and polluting facilities are today.

Climate change is exacerbating global conflicts, reversing social and economic progress, and driving families to migrate in order to escape disasters. The U.S. military has gone so far as to call climate change a threat multiplier, posing new and severe risks to troops and bases.

**HOW THEY PLAN TO PAY FOR IT:** Out of the top-line \$5 trillion number, roughly \$3.5 trillion in O’Rourke’s climate plan is allocated through tax incentives, loans, and other financing mechanisms for infrastructure, research, resilience, and clean energy. The \$1.5 trillion outlay would be funded by “structural changes to the tax code” that end tax breaks to fossil fuel companies and raise rates on corporations and top earners.

Information from:  
<https://betoorourke.com/#plans?p=climate>  
[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates,_2020)



# Kamala Harris

*Attorney General of California (2011 - 2017)*  
*Senator from California (2017 - Present)*

*"We have always been an aspirational nation. I am reminded of this every time I look into the eyes of our children. With leadership, teamwork, and aspiration, our history tells us that anything is possible. But we must also speak truth about the road ahead. We are living through a worsening climate crisis that is impacting communities across America and the globe every day. From families devastated by hurricanes in the South and the East, to farmers facing flooding in the Midwest, to firefighters battling wildfires in the West, one thing is clear: we need to take bold, direct action. Now."*

Harris believes a Climate Plan For the People is about putting people first, justice for communities that have been harmed, and accountability for those responsible. It provides a pathway to engage all Americans to tackle the climate crisis, build a clean economy that creates millions of family-sustaining jobs, and guarantee every person's right to breathe clean air and drink clean water.

Harris's plan sets out a bold target to exceed the Paris Agreement climate goals and achieve a clean economy by 2045, investing \$10 trillion in public and private funding to meet the initial 10-year mobilization necessary to stave off the worst climate impacts. It modernizes our transportation, energy, and water infrastructure. It accelerates the spread of electric vehicles, solar panels, and wind turbines. And it makes big investments in battery storage, climate-smart agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and the innovative technologies that will build our carbon-free future. By 2030, we will run on 100 percent carbon-neutral electricity, all new buses, heavy-duty vehicles, and vehicle fleets will be zero-emission. All new buildings will be carbon-neutral.

Harris will protect 30 percent of our lands and oceans. Harris will transition our public lands from producing fossil fuels that represent 24 percent of national emissions to carbon sinks. And to power this transformation to a clean economy, we will empower the American workforce and create millions of good jobs.

Information from:

<https://kamalaharris.org/issue/climate/>

[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates_2020)

# Amy Klobuchar

*Court Attorney, Hennepin County, MN (1999 - 2007)*  
*Senator from Minnesota (2007 - Present)*



*"The evidence is clear: the climate crisis isn't happening in 100 years — it's happening now. 2018 was the fourth-hottest year on record globally and it was another near-record year for U.S. weather and climate disasters. The dire warnings in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Climate Assessment make clear that immediate action is needed. The National Climate Assessment lays out how increasing global temperatures are harming our country's food systems and public health by increasing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular disease, while displacement and destruction caused by climate-related natural disasters threaten our economy and national security."*

Klobuchar is deeply committed to tackling the climate crisis and believes that it is an urgent priority for communities, for the economy, and for the planet. She is a co-sponsor of a Green New Deal and has signed the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge. On day one of a Klobuchar presidency, she will get the country back into the International Climate Change Agreement.

On day two and day three, she will bring back the clean power rules and gas mileage standards that the Obama administration put into place. And she will put forward sweeping legislation that provides a landmark investment in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure, provides incentives for tougher building codes, promotes rural renewable energy and development, and promotes "buy clean" policies.

Klobuchar will (1) Restore the Clean Power Plan. To address the climate crisis, Senator Klobuchar will bring back the goals established by the Clean Power Plan, which set emissions standards for states with respect to reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. (2) Set ambitious goals to reduce the carbon footprint of the federal government. The federal government has a significant carbon footprint. As President, Senator Klobuchar will set ambitious goals to increase the efficiency of federal buildings, data centers, and vehicles, reduce water consumption, and increase the use of renewable energy. (3) Reinstate the National Climate Assessment Advisory Committee to immediately start addressing the climate crisis.

Information from:

<https://amyklobuchar.com/issue/climate/>

[https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_candidates\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates_2020)

Candidate Report Card

Candidate	Greenpeace.org <a href="https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/climate2020/">https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/climate2020/</a>	OWU Tree House Tree House Moderator Contact:
Biden	B+	D
Booker	A-	C+
Buttigieg	B	C
Castro	B	B+
Harris	B+	A+
Klobuchar	C+	C+
O'Rourke	B-	C-
Sanders	A	C+
Warren	A-	A+
Yang	C+	D

**Biden : D**

*Has not vocally named it a priority, fundraiser hosted by a natural gas executive and he "didn't know", says climate change (instead of climate crisis). He's pushing public transportation, but a lot of public transportation uses natural gas as fuel, which releases methane which is WORSE for the environment than carbon.*

**Booker : C +**

*Does a good job recognizing environmental racism and injustice, but does not have a clear action plan, has not verbally named it as a priority.*

**Buttigieg : C**

*Has not made it a priority, wants to emphasize the religious aspect/ pro-motes "environmental stewardship"/ conflating Christianity with environmentalism.*

**Castro : B+**

*Has vocally named it as a priority, does a good job of recognizing environmental racism, wants to recognize climate refugees, no fleshed-out plan.*

**Harris : A+**

*Has vocally named it a priority, recognizes environmental racism and injustice, will make day one action, very fleshed out plan.*

**Klobuchar : C+**

*Has not named it a priority, will only phase out industries slowly, will not make large claims (wants to be sure, which I appreciate but it's frustrating when we need bold change).*

**O'Rourke : C-**

*Has named it a priority, also receives funding from fossil fuel industries, may prioritize Texas jobs (oil and gas).*

**Sanders : C+**

*Has named it a priority, but has a major racial blind spot when it comes to environmental racism, backs green new deal.*

**Warren : A+**

*Says "climate crisis", has named it a top priority, will make day one change, will shut down fracking immediately (day one) and drilling soon after, backs green new deal.*

**Yang : D**

*Has not named it an actual priority (he has one talking point), a proponent of geoengineering, specifically shooting mirrors into space to block out the sun, clearly does not understand the crisis at hand.*