

PETE ON FREEDOM

Freedom doesn't belong to one political party. There is a lot more to freedom than the size of your government.

Healthcare is freedom, because you're not free if you can't start a small business because leaving your job would mean losing your health care.

Consumer protection is freedom, because you're not free if you can't sue your credit card company even after they get caught ripping you off.

Racial justice is freedom, because you're not free if there is a veil of mistrust between a person of color and the officers who are sworn to keep us safe.

Empowering teachers means freedom, because you're not free in your own classroom if your ability to do your job is reduced to a test score.

Women's equality is freedom, because you're not free if your reproductive health choices are dictated by male politicians or bosses.

Organized labor sows freedom, because you're not free if you can't organize for a fair day's pay for a good day's job.

The chance to live a life of your choosing, in keeping with your values: that is freedom in its richest sense.

PETE ON SECURITY

There's a lot more to security than putting up a wall from sea to shining sea.

The greatest nation in the world should have nothing to fear from children fleeing violence. More importantly, children fleeing violence ought to have nothing to fear from the greatest country in the world.

Security means cybersecurity. It means election security.

It means keeping us safe in the face of violent white nationalism rearing its ugly head around our country and the world.

And let's pick our heads up to face what might be the great security issue of our time, climate change and disruption. No region of this country is immune to that threat.

We've seen it in the floods in Nebraska, the tornadoes in Alabama, the Hurricane in Puerto Rico and the fires in California, and in South Bend IN, where, as mayor, I had to fire up the emergency operations center of our city twice in two years for a 1,000-year rainfall and then a 500-year river flood, eighteen months apart.

Our economy is on the line. Our future is on the line. Lives are on the line. So let's call this what it is. Climate security, a life and death issue for our generation.

Drawn from Pete's campaign announcement speech

PETE ON DEMOCRACY

No issue we care about, from gun safety to immigration, from climate to education to paid family leave, will be handled well unless our democracy is in better shape.

Our democratic republic is an elegant system, but lately it hasn't been quite democratic enough.

It's not democratic enough if legitimate voters are denied the opportunity to exercise their rights because one side thinks as a matter of political strategy that they're better off if fewer citizens are able to vote.

It's not much of a republic if our districts are drawn so that politicians choose their voters rather than the other way around.

It's nowhere near the democracy I swore to protect, when US citizens from Washington DC, and Puerto Rico don't have the same political representation as the rest of us.

And we can't say it's much of a democracy when twice in my lifetime, the Electoral College has overruled the American people. Why should our vote count just once or twice in a century?

So let's make it easier to register and to vote; let's make our districts fairer, our courts less political, our structures more inclusive; and let's pick our president by counting up all the ballots and giving it to the woman or man who got the most votes!