

PETE BUTTIGIEG FOR PRESIDENT 2020

DOUGLASS PLAN AREAS OF FOCUS:

FREEDOM —

- Health Equity and Justice
- Schools of the Future
- Promotion of the Education and Celebration of Black History
- Criminal Justice Reform

SECURITY —

- Equal Employment and Business Opportunity
- The Community Homestead Act
- Public Health, Infrastructure, and Environmental Justice

DEMOCRACY —

- Voting Rights and Money in Politics
- Washington DC Statehood and Electoral College
- Fair and Equal Political Representation

WHO IS PETE BUTTIGIEG? [PRONOUNCED "BOOT EDGE EDGE"]

Pete Buttigieg is an American elected public servant who, in April 2019, officially announced he is running for President of the United States in 2020, as a Democratic candidate. Pete lives in South Bend, Indiana, his hometown, where he is currently serving his second term as Mayor.

Interested in politics from a young age, Buttigieg was honored by members of President Kennedy's family during his senior year of high school for a remarkable essay that he wrote for the *Kennedy Profiles in Courage Essay Contest*. Soon, he was selected as an Indiana delegate to the *United States Senate Youth Program*. He then attended *Harvard University*, where he graduated with a BA in Literature and History. Pete was commissioned as a naval intelligence officer in the *United States Navy Reserve*, and is a veteran, having served in Afghanistan as a lieutenant.

After being elected as the Mayor of South Bend in November 2011, he assumed office the next year, thus becoming the youngest Mayor of a U.S. city with at least 100,000 residents. He was so successful in his first term as Mayor, the residents of South Bend re-elected him for a second term, in 2014, with 80% of the vote!

Since announcing his candidacy, Pete has drawn enthusiastic support from American voters of every race, income level and walk of life. People are drawn to him because of his mastery of the issues and his ability to frame them (and his proposed solutions) in a remarkably morally clear and decent way. **We hope you'll take the time to learn more, and join Team Pete! Please explore his website, PeteForAmerica.com, to read more details about The Douglass Plan, his other policies, and to learn how to get involved.**



READ THE PLAN AT:
PeteForAmerica.com/Douglass-Plan

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THE DOUGLASS PLAN

A Comprehensive Investment in the Empowerment of Black America

PETE BUTTIGIEG'S PLAN FOR:

- Black Empowerment
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Racial & Economic Justice
- Equal Employment & Business Opportunity

INTRODUCTION

The decisions we make in the next four years will determine America's path for the next forty. And a great deal of the progress we make—on everything from increasing economic freedom to confronting climate disruption—will depend on whether we tackle racial inequality in our lifetime. For all our country's forward movement, Black people in America are still disproportionately excluded from systems of social protection, economic uplift, and representative democracy while facing shorter lifespans, lower educational attainment, and dramatic overcriminalization and incarceration compared to their white counterparts.

The Douglass Plan, a comprehensive and intentional dismantling of racist structures and systems combined with an equally intentional and affirmative investment of unprecedented scale in the freedom and self-determination of Black Americans. **The plan was inspired by Frederick Douglass (1818 – 1895), American reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman.**

Among the main goals of *The Douglass Plan* is reforming broken criminal justice and health systems, strengthening access to credit and injecting capital into the Black community, and taking bold steps toward fulfilling long-broken promises of true equity.



Frederick Douglass



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FREEDOM

HEALTH EQUITY & JUSTICE — A Buttigieg Administration will center the lives of Black Americans in our nation's health care and public health systems by launching an interagency *National Health Equity Strategy*. This strategy will be based in the belief that quality health outcomes should be the norm for every American. *To achieve this:*

We will designate and fund *Health Equity Zones* to address communities' most pressing health disparities.

We will address the underrepresentation of Black Americans in the health workforce and train our current health workforce to combat bias—especially racial bias—when treating patients.

We will revitalize the *Office of Civil Rights* in the *Department of Health and Human Services*.

SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE — America needs to create an educational system that empowers the next generation of Black Americans. Today, too many children of color are denied educational justice. When the intellectual lives of students of color are diminished, America loses.

The *Schools of the Future Plan* is our commitment to providing the resources needed to ensure every American child gains access to the skills they need to meet the economy of the future.

We will invest in an equitable public education system by massively increasing federal resources for students at *Title I* schools, and will issue new regulations to diversify the teaching profession.

We will invest in high-quality state and local educational programs.

We will invest in students' futures by making public college tuition free for lower-income students and ensuring the lowest-income students can cover living costs without taking on debt through increased investments in *Pell Grants*.

We will cancel the debts of borrowers in low-quality, overwhelmingly for-profit programs.

We will increase dedicated resources by \$25 billion for *Historically Black Colleges and Universities* (HBCUs) and other *Minority-Serving Institutions* (MSIs).

PROMOTION OF THE EDUCATION & CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY

— Freedom is seeing your history accurately taught, reflected, and celebrated. Black history, in general, is poorly taught throughout the US. Promoting the education and celebration of Black history is critical to the maintenance of ongoing dialogue about racism and race relations in the US.

We will increase funding to the *National Endowment for the Arts* and create targeted grant funding aimed at the ongoing promotion of Black history and culture in the US.

We will preserve cultural and historic sites documenting the history of Black people in the US.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM — At every level of the criminal justice system—from over-policing, to over-prosecution, to over-sentencing, to conditions while incarcerated, to reintegration upon release—Black Americans are subject to systemic racism. We must address every stage of the criminal process. Pete Buttigieg has identified an extensive list of key areas of focus, five of which are listed below:

Reduce the number of people incarcerated in the US by 50%.

Federally eliminate incarceration for drug possession, reduce sentences for other drug offenses and apply these reductions retroactively, legalize marijuana and expunge past convictions.

We will reduce the criminalization of poverty and its link to incarceration, and we will appoint people deeply committed to achieving this goal.

Ensure that people with convictions have access to education, jobs, housing, and health care.

Establish comprehensive measures to hold police accountable to their communities.

SECURITY

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY *The Walker-Lewis Initiative* aims to triple the number of entrepreneurs from underrepresented backgrounds within 10 years.

Inspired by Black business pioneers Madam CJ Walker and Reginald Lewis, the goal of this initiative is to create up to 3 million new jobs in minority communities across the country.

The initiative includes creation of a federal fund to invest in entrepreneurs from underrepresented backgrounds, and convene a task force to ensure we reach our entrepreneurship goals.

The plan also introduces the *Debt-for-Jobs Plan* to help students defer/eliminate student debt by starting businesses.

THE COMMUNITY HOMESTEAD ACT — A Buttigieg Administration would launch a public trust that would purchase abandoned properties and provide them to eligible residents in pilot cities while simultaneously investing in the revitalization of surrounding communities.

In addition to helping families across the nation, the *Community Homestead Act's* investment in these communities would provide greater services and infrastructure for new industries and sectors to thrive, creating a multiplier effect of jobs and prosperity for local residents.

PUBLIC HEALTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE — Public health is a fundamental part of our nation's infrastructure. Shortcomings in our current public health systems and infrastructure disproportionately affect communities of color and the poor.

We will expand enforcement of environmental protections and invest in solutions to environmental threats, particularly focusing on communities of color and working families who face disproportionate health effects from pollution, tainted water, and inadequate infrastructure.

We will ensure expanded and equitable disaster preparedness and relief, so that all communities get the resources they need to prepare for and recover and rebuild from disasters.

DEMOCRACY

VOTING RIGHTS & MONEY IN POLITICS — The *Douglass Plan* proposes a *21st Century Voting Rights Act* that will use every resource of the federal government to end all types of voter suppression and expand voting access.

Registration and voting must be made easier. Eligible voters should be automatically registered using information the government already has, allowing online and same-day registration, and making registration portable within states. Voting must be made easier and more accessible by allowing early voting and vote-by-mail.

We will protect the right to vote by using the full power of the federal government to combat voter suppression. We need to create and enforce standards for voter roll maintenance to stop discriminatory voter purges, neutralize the effects of restrictive voter ID bills, and increase and enforce criminal penalties for people who try to interfere with a person's right to vote.

DC STATEHOOD AND ELECTORAL COLLEGE — We will give full political representation to the people of Washington D.C. We need Congress to redefine the *District of Columbia* to include only government buildings in the city center and create a new state, "*New Columbia*," from the remaining territory.

We will replace the *Electoral College* with a *National Popular Vote*. The *Electoral College* artificially dilutes the power of minority communities, especially Black Americans living in Southern states.

FAIR & EQUAL POLITICAL REPRESENTATION — We will reduce the power of big money in politics and elevate ordinary voices. We need to create a strong public financing system that matches small donors so average citizens can run for office funded by their communities, not big donors.

We will fix the harms caused by a politicized and inaccurate Census count. Historically, the Census has undercounted communities of color, undermining their right to equal representation and depriving them of critical resources. We will closely examine the conduct of the *2020 Census* to determine whether Black voters were undercounted, and will work to address the effects of any undercount on federal funding.

We will fight discriminatory gerrymandering. Historically, state legislatures have used the redistricting process to diminish Black America's power and representation. We will address gerrymandering by ensuring that Congressional redistricting is conducted by independent, statewide commissions using fair and non-discriminatory redistricting rules.

CONCLUSION

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."
—Frederick Douglass

Let's demand greater freedom, security, and democracy for communities that need it most. It remains morally and economically incumbent upon America to fix what our policies consciously and deliberately wrought over centuries.

A fully effective program for empowering Black America will require further listening to voices from communities themselves. The deep wounds of centuries will not be healed with a handful of targeted programs. But with the *Douglass Plan*, a Buttigieg Administration will make an unprecedented commitment to listen to and lift up those who have historically faced discrimination.

This amounts to a commitment to replace racist systems with inclusive ones. **It is a down payment on the future we hope to see. Done right, we will enrich not only Black America, but all of America.**

