

Just the Facts: A Monthly Report on the 2020 Presidential Candidates

Spotlight on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The global crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic requires our leaders to put people first. Our economy cannot rebound if we do not address the immediate health crisis and prioritize support for families and communities. The \$2 trillion [Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) is a step in the right direction – providing immediate stimulus checks to families, creating a state stabilization fund to help K-12 through higher education, providing student loan relief, expanding unemployment insurance, and allocating resources to expand and secure more voting options. To help households continue to weather the current storm, NEA [supports](#) additional stimulus funding to shore up the nation’s social safety net, including resources to close the digital divide, often referred to as the “homework gap,” expand health and childcare coverage, and ensure the stabilization of state and local government's ability to support public education.

Here’s what Democratic candidate Joe Biden has to say:

According to former Vice President Joe Biden, “the [administration’s failure](#) to plan, to prepare, to honestly assess and communicate the threat to the nation led to catastrophic results.” Even with the availability of new funds connected to the CARES Act, he cautions that “Americans desperate for relief” need this legislation [implemented properly](#) with diligent oversight. Some recommendations from his “Make it Work Checklist” for CARES Act include “making Americans who lose their jobs financially whole by ensuring that they get their unemployment insurance on time and in full; establishing a CARES Act Implementation Office; and ensuring equitable allocation of recovery funds.” In addition, the former vice president believes that the next stimulus package should include an automatic extension that would last “as long as is needed to support families and communities through this crisis.” He also would [repeal](#) the new law’s “high-income excess business losses tax cut” to support student loan forgiveness for students “who attended public colleges and universities, historically black colleges and universities, and private minority-serving institutions (MSIs).” As the country responds to the challenges posed by the pandemic, Biden finds that this “tax cut overwhelmingly benefits the richest Americans and is unnecessary for addressing the current COVID-19 economic relief efforts.”

Here’s what Republican candidate President Donald Trump has to say:

In crafting a national stimulus package that would provide relief for COVID-19, President Donald Trump [described negotiations](#) as “HELL dealing with the Dems, had to give up some stupid things in order to get the big picture done.” While observers will agree that the CARES Act is a start for supporting families and communities nationwide, they also would conclude that “the big picture” [woefully excludes](#) much needed expanded health coverage and an increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. During the CARES Act signing ceremony, Trump offered that the latest stimulus package would “deliver urgently needed relief to our nation’s families, workers and businesses. And that’s what this is all about.” As states face [severe](#) funding challenges in responding to the pandemic, he [defends himself](#) and his administration by asserting that “everything we did was right.” However, Trump [refuses](#) to comply with oversight of a new \$500 billion corporate loan program; and when asked if he would exempt his own businesses from bailout funds, he replied, “let’s just see what happens.”