

President Donald Trump (R)

President, USA



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About Donald:

Donald Trump is the 45th and current president of the United States, his first political office. He assumed office on January 20, 2017 and filed to run for re-election the same day.

On the Issues:

Supports private school vouchers. His administration proposes \$5 billion in tax credits “that would fund scholarships to private schools.” The president believes that “to help working parents, the time has come to pass school choice for America’s children.” (*The Washington Post*, 2/6/19; *The New York Times*, 2/28/19)

Let them eat cake. After passing a \$1.5 trillion tax cut that benefited corporations and the ultra-wealthy, the president’s budget request for education includes more than \$7 billion in cuts. Although Congress will not support these proposed cuts, the Trump administration does not believe the federal government should support teacher development, public service student loan forgiveness, and higher education research. (*The Atlantic*, 3/19; *Newsweek*, 2/15/19)

Opposes unions and the rights of workers. Publicly the president aligns himself with American workers, but supports “decreasing labor protections, rolled back worker safety and weakened federal unions.” In celebrating the Janus decision, he tweeted “non-union workers are...able to support a candidate of his or her choice without having those who control the Union deciding for them.” (*Newsweek*, 9/2/18; *On Labor*, 6/27/18)

If you support me, I won’t disavow you. The president has an extensive and well-documented history of racial discrimination and racist comments. He has supported housing discrimination; called on the U.S. to ban Muslims; begrudgingly condemns white supremacists; routinely promotes racist stereotypes; and has quietly used his administration to roll back civil and human rights. In doubling down on multiple controversies, the president alarms “that he’s the least racist person.” (*Vox*, 7/25/16; *The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights*, accessed 4/25/19)

Bigger is better. His administration proposed a budget that would cut federal education spending by more than 10 percent. Justifying these cuts before Congress, his hand-picked secretary of education, Betsy DeVos, explained on behalf of the administration, “Students may be better served by being in larger classes, if by hiring fewer teachers, a district or state can better compensate those who have demonstrated high ability and outstanding results.” (*The U.S House of Representatives*, 3/26/19)

Don’t be fooled. Although he called for the “elimination of the Preschool Development Grants program,” the program survived but was altered. Under his administration these funds no longer “help states expand or create preschool programs for 4-year-olds from low income families.” They now are for “building partnerships ... sharing best practices among providers ... and maximizing parent choice knowledge about early-childhood options.” (*Politico*, 7/19/18; *Education Week*, 2/12/19)

Pell in the summertime. After pressure from community college representatives, his administration reinstated summer Pell eligibility. Reports suggest “that the federal government’s reinstatement of year-round Pell eligibility last year may be helping to stem overall enrollment declines.” According to the president, “Low-income students will now have access to these funds over Summer and Winter breaks so they can earn their degrees faster with fewer loans.” (*Inside Higher Ed* 11/14/18; *Promises Kept*, accessed 9/1/19)

Loans for leverage. Suggested that the federal government eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and restrict student loan borrowing “to force colleges and universities to either cap tuition increases, or even lower tuition.” Says the president “student loan debt. I’m going to work to fix it ... I’ve always been very good with loans. I love loans. I love other people’s money.” (*Forbes*, 3/27/19; *CNN*, 3/21/19)

Fair pay is not the American Dream. According to the president, pay disparities between men and women are difficult to address because “it’s very hard to say what is the same job.” He also offered that, “[if] you start to say everybody gets equal pay, you get away from the whole American Dream ... and if everyone gets the same...you’re into a socialistic society.” Meanwhile his administration tried to roll back rules that support pay equity, and has tripled the gender pay gap among White House employees. (*Time*, 4/2/19)

Supports healthcare providers over people who need coverage. Although he promotes that his administration is “providing greater access to more affordable health insurance options,” he has done the opposite. His first term is marked by repeal of the individual mandate, opening more access for insurance agents versus people who need healthcare, and eliminating “federal payments that help reduce deductibles and out-of-pocket costs for low-income participants.” The president views the work of this administration as “promises kept.” (*Promises Kept*, accessed 9/2/19; *CNN*, 1/19/19)

Budget and the beast. The bottom line is that “Social Security and Medicare would be on the chopping block in a second Trump term. In coordination with his Republican congressional colleagues, they are creating new murmurs of “rising deficits.” Proud and committed to their \$1.5 trillion tax cut, the president and congressional Republicans are poised to “gut entitlements” if Trump is reelected. However, before he was elected president, he boasted that “I am going to save Social Security without any cuts. I know where to get the money from. Nobody else does.” (*Forbes*, 8/23/19; *Vox*, 1/25/17)

That was easy! Let’s do it again. Emboldened by the inequitable economy created from his \$1.5 trillion tax cut, the president is exploring executive actions to bypass Congress to deliver another \$200 billion tax cut for wealthy Americans. The White House wants to ensure ... [it] takes effect before ... reelection 2020,” but stands by its ongoing calls for billions of dollars in cuts for public schools. (*Newsweek*, 2/15/19; *The Washington Post*, 6/28/19; *Bloomberg*, 6/27/19; *ABC News*, 3/11/19)

Supports increases in funding for charter schools. The Trump administration proposed a \$60 million increase for federal Charter School Programs. In his commitment to school choice, including vouchers, the president supports using “Title I funding [for] public school choice.” In outlining his achievements, the president references “\$1 billion for school choice and \$250 million to promote private school choice.” He famously quipped that “school choice charter school vouchers even opportunity scholarships “[are] the American Way”. (*The 74 Million*, 3/11/19; *Promises Kept*, accessed 9/2/19; *Education Week*, 7/21/16)

Deal with it. His administration consistently calls for significant cuts to public education, including grants “for teacher salary and training.” The president believes that such programs are “ineffective, duplicative of other activities, or better funded by state and local government.” For a select group of educators, the president has proposed “increased compensation for highly effective teachers, particularly in the STEM fields.” (*The 74 Million*, 3/11/19)

He loves vouchers. Before he took office, the president-elect proposed “a \$20 billion federal voucher program,” setting aside a potentially significant boon to private schools nationwide. Although Congress opposes many of his budget cuts, his administration called for more than \$7 billion in education funding reductions, and continues to propose billions of dollars in new tax credits “that would fund scholarships to private schools.” (*Vox*, 12/2/16; *The New York Times*, 2/28/19)

Guns don’t kill people. After visiting victims of the El Paso mass shooting, the deaths of 22 innocent people did not dissuade President Trump from affirming that “there is no political appetite for a ban on assault rifles.” Indicating an openness to expanded background checks, the president now says, “this is a mental health problem It’s not the gun that pulls the

trigger.” Although his administration banned bump stocks, with the president stating, “I don’t care if Congress does it or not,” he has reversed restrictions on mentally disabled people acquiring guns and opposes gun-free zones. The president also supports arming educators and using federal resources to “to buy guns and train teachers.” (*The 74 Million, 3/11/19; CNN, 8/19/19; Fox News, 3/26/19; Bustle, accessed 9/3/19*)

Congress won’t let him cut 21st Century Community Learning Centers. If the president had his way, he would have denied school programs and summer enrichment programs to almost two million students nationwide. He believes that his administration “Rethink School Tour” was a success, as federal resources were used to “showcase ... innovative solutions ... in expanding school choices. The president did, however, donate \$100,000 of his salary ... [to] be used to help fund a STEM-focused camp at the Education Department.” (*The 74 Million, 3/11/19; Promises Kept Campaign Website, accessed 9/3/19; Center for American Progress, 3/11/19*)



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