



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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February 6, 2020

VIA EMAIL

To: All IBEW Local Union Business Managers in the United States

Re: Presidential Endorsement

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The leadership of the IBEW, while attending the annual officers meeting, unanimously endorsed Vice President Joe Biden to be the next president of the United States.

Typically, the IBEW does not endorse this early in the primary process, so I wanted to take this moment to explain to you why we decided to support Joe Biden this year.

America is facing an unprecedented crisis. Despite all of President Trump's promises to be the best friend of working people ever elected, his administration has proven to be the most anti-labor one of our lifetimes.

From slashing health and safety protections, to attacking the basic right of federal employees to collectively bargain, to appointing judges committed to overturning every labor protection passed in the last century, Trump has shown again and again that he is no friend of the IBEW or organized labor.

All of the Democratic Party frontrunners have made clear their support for expanding workers' rights, and we appreciate their full support for legislation like the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which makes it easier for workers to exercise their right to collectively bargain.

And that includes Joe Biden, who has been a longtime champion of organized labor since his first days in the U.S. Senate. But what makes Joe Biden unique is his support for IBEW jobs as well.

Climate change remains one of our nation's most pressing challenges, and the Trump administration's refusal to admit it is even an issue is unacceptable.

The IBEW has been meeting the challenge of slashing carbon emissions, from installing solar panels and building wind turbines to pushing for pro-jobs, pro-environment legislation on the local, state, and federal level.

No organization has trained more workers for the green economy than the IBEW.





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Unlike his opponents, Biden has developed a comprehensive energy plan through close consultation with the power professionals of the IBEW. He supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy, including support for nuclear and carbon-capture technology.

His plan is the only realistic one, acknowledging the need to transition to a carbon-free economy while protecting America's energy security and maintaining good jobs.

His ambitious clean-power infrastructure plan would put tens of thousands of IBEW members to work building the energy grid of the future. At the same time, his promise of investment in new clean-energy technology would be a boon for IBEW members in the construction, utility, and manufacturing branches alike.

As a long-time supporter of Project Labor Agreements and the Davis-Bacon Act, Biden would guarantee that all federally funded infrastructure jobs would be good-paying middle-class jobs.

Biden is also one of America's greatest champions of our railroad system, riding Amtrak to work every day when he was a senator.

He will revitalize America's transportation infrastructure, creating good IBEW jobs across the nation. He has also promised an ambitious investment in broadband, which is good news for both rural America and telecommunications workers, including IBEW members.

And for our government members, Biden will end the war on federal workers launched by President Trump. He has made it clear again and again that he values our federal workforce and believes strongly in their right to join the union of their choice and to collectively bargain.

Health care is always a top issue for IBEW members. And Biden has a plan that builds on the strengths of the Affordable Care Act, including a public government option that gives every American the chance to get quality health coverage, while protecting the hard-won benefits we have earned at the bargaining table over the decades.

As always, your vote is your decision. And we understand that not every IBEW member may agree with us.

But we have thought long and hard about this decision. IBEW leaders and members had the opportunity to ask questions of both Vice President Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders at our Political and Legislative Conference last year.





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We also have done surveys, along with other building trades unions, of our members, especially in the so-called battleground states, and have found that Biden's policy positions are more in line with our members than any of the other candidates.

But we feel that Vice President Biden is the best choice for the IBEW because he has taken the time to listen to what our members have to say about the biggest challenges facing our country. And that makes me confident that IBEW members will always have a seat at the table in a Biden administration.

We encourage every business manager to talk to your members about why the IBEW is supporting Joe Biden and encourage them to get out to vote in the primaries and caucuses ahead.

We must make sure the IBEW's voice is heard, and that we support candidates who support us.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:mlm
Attachment

Copy to All International Vice Presidents in the United States and Canada

