

A to F+: Grading the Presidential Candidates on Their Labor Plans. Worker rights are shaping up a key issue in 2020. Who has the best ideas?

ever before have I seen Democratic candidates do so much to woo workers and win over union leaders. Elizabeth Warren kicked off her campaign at the site of the famous 1912 Bread and Roses textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Julián Castro marched in Durham, North Carolina, [with fast-food workers demanding a \\$15 wage](#), while Pete Buttigieg spoke outside Uber headquarters in [San Francisco](#) alongside drivers demanding to be considered employees. Joe Biden held his first official campaign event at a [Teamsters union hall in Pittsburgh](#). Kamala Harris has called for a [raise averaging \\$13,500 for the nation's schoolteachers](#), while Bernie Sanders has bolstered labor's cause by using his [email lists to urge supporters to join union picket lines](#).

Why all this sudden attention and affection for workers and unions — far more than I've ever seen during my nearly 25 years of writing about labor? Part of it is that this year's Democratic candidates are doing what any smart politician would do when the field is so large — court one of the party's largest constituencies, i.e., unions and their members...

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