

1. What is the number one priority regarding policing that you hope to accomplish?

As noted recently by President Casstevens, a top priority must be to “build trust within communities” for law enforcement. That is clearly our task going forward – to bring everyone together and find consensus through an honest, thoughtful, and determined debate on the role of police in our society. Every American wants the same thing: a safe neighborhood and a fair shot at success for their families. That common ground is obstructed by those, like President Trump, who want to drive a wedge and exploit division, using divisive rhetoric that labels critics of the police as “a symbol of hate,” as President Trump has done. We need to lower the temperature and engage in respectful dialogue.

Throughout my career, I have not just viewed police chiefs and law enforcement officers as partners – I’ve ensured that you are heard every single time our nation considers law enforcement and criminal justice issues. As President, you know that I will make sure you have a seat at the table. Just look at my record. As a Senator, I wrote the legislation that created the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. On multiple occasions, I also personally led the effort to increase and expand the amount paid to families of public safety officers killed and permanently disabled in the line of duty. As Vice President, when I spoke at the memorial service for slain NYPD Officer Rafael Ramos in 2014, I said, “Being a cop was not what they did, it was who they were; like every man and woman in uniform here today. It’s who you are. And they like every one of you in uniform inside this church and outside, you all joined for essentially the same reason. There was something about you that made you think you could help, that you should serve, that you had a duty.”

President Trump says he is a friend of law enforcement, but look at his actions. When it is a choice between the National Rifle Association (NRA) and protecting this country, President Trump chooses the NRA every time – even when it means police are outgunned by criminals. For example, he opposes a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. He opposes requiring background checks on all gun sales. I’ll enact common-sense gun laws that end our gun violence epidemic and respect the Second Amendment, which is limited. I’ll also incentivize more states to implement “red flag” laws, enabling family members or law enforcement officials to temporarily remove an individual’s access to firearms when that individual is in crisis and poses a danger to themselves or others.

When President Trump has put forward his federal budget proposal to make clear his values and priorities, he’s the one defunding the police, proposing to cut more than \$465 million in Justice Department aid to state and local law enforcement. When cities and states are in desperate need of emergency aid to keep law enforcement officers, educators, and firefighters on the job during this economic crisis, President Trump hasn’t done anything to get the House-passed \$1 trillion in state and local aid onto his desk. And let me be clear: you have been failed by this President’s complete mismanagement of COVID-19. By year’s end, coronavirus will be the leading cause of police deaths in America – more than line-of-duty fatalities.

Our nation must reform our policing and criminal justice system – but, I won’t forget that the vast majority of our police officers are driven by an abounding sense of service and duty to their communities. I won’t forget that the overwhelming number of police officers are ethical, brave, and decent men and women who want the same things that all of us – including the protestors – want: a safe community where their families have a fair chance at success. Black mothers and fathers should feel confident that their children are safe walking the streets of America. And, when a police officer pins on that shield and walks out the door, the officer’s family should know they’ll come home at the end of the day.

I know we can change our nation’s policing in smart and sensible ways, as I have detailed in this questionnaire. It is in the public’s interest, and in your interest as officers aiming to serve as guardians of your communities, to get rid of bad officers – to hold all officers to the highest standards and to ensure swift action to address abuses of power. There are so many positive actions we can and should take, and that certainly makes more sense than eliminating police departments or defunding the police.

I began my campaign with the recognition that we’re in a battle for the soul of the nation. Four more years of division and intolerance from our nation’s leadership could forever fracture the important bond between police officers and the communities you serve and protect. The division we see in our country is only going to make life worse for police, not better. It will make it harder to patrol dangerous areas, not easier.

You know me and you know you are always heard, and you always will be. That is the way we strengthen our nation.

2. The federal government is an important partner to state and local law enforcement agencies. How do you plan to continue to strengthen that partnership?

My Administration and I will demonstrate support and commitment to our nation’s law enforcement officers the same way I always have: by ensuring that law enforcement’s views are always solicited and considered. Throughout my career, I have honored the essential role that state and local law enforcement officers play in our society. And, I have not just viewed law enforcement as partners – I’ve ensured that you are heard every single time our nation considers law enforcement and criminal justice issues. As President, you know that I will make sure you have a seat at the table. Just look at my record.

The discord we face today is made so much worse by our current President who leads through division. I will not drive a wedge between the police and communities that you faithfully serve.

As our nation addresses the reforms necessary in our criminal justice system, I won’t forget that the vast majority of our police officers are driven by an astounding sense of service and duty to their communities. I won’t forget that the overwhelming number of police officers are ethical, brave and decent men and women who want the same things that all of us—including the protestors—want: a safe community where their families have a fair chance at success

3. Following the tragic death of Mr. Floyd, there have been many calls for police reform amid unrest throughout the country. What police reform proposals do you plan to make a priority?

As a nation, we must both continuously strive to improve our policing tactics and strategies while maintaining our commitment to keeping our communities safe, enforcing the law, and meeting the needs of victims of crime. Black mothers and fathers should feel confident that their children are safe walking the streets of America. And, when a police officer pins on that shield and walks out the door, the officer's family should know they'll come home at the end of the day.

I know we can change our nation's policing in smart and sensible ways. It is in the public's interest and in your interest as police chiefs leading departments aiming to serve as guardians of your communities to hold all officers to the highest standards and to ensure swift action to address abuses of power. We should give police departments the resources needed to implement meaningful policies – policies we all agree on, like increased body-worn cameras and diversity on the force. And, we need to condition other federal dollars on completing those reforms and others, like adopting a national use of force standard, which some of your departments are already using. I will reinvigorate the COPS program with a \$300 million investment so police departments have enough money to hire a sufficient number of officers so their officers can get out of their cruisers and walk the streets, engaging with and getting to know members of their communities

We need to prevent 911 calls in scenarios where police should not be our first responders. Every time you are called to be a social worker, marriage counselor, or mental health professional is a lost opportunity to further a proactive investigation or address violent crime. This requires making serious investments in mental health services, drug treatment and prevention programs, and services for people experiencing homelessness.

That certainly makes more sense than eliminating police departments or defunding the police. President Trump is the candidate defunding the police. He's proposing to cut more than \$465 million in Justice Department aid to state and local law enforcement.

As President, I will continue to consult with law enforcement – as I always have – as we chart a pathway to improve police/community relations. For my entire career, I have always ensured that police and law enforcement have had a seat at the table, and as President, I will renew that commitment.

4. How do you plan to use your bully pulpit to continue to enhance and mend community-police relations? What measures can and should be taken?

My Administration and I will demonstrate support and commitment to our nation's law enforcement officers the same way I always have: by ensuring that law enforcement's views are always solicited and considered. Throughout my career, I have honored the essential role that law enforcement officers play in our society. The discord we face today is a result of the approach of our current President who leads through division. I will not drive a wedge between the police and communities that you faithfully serve.

When I spoke at the memorial service for slain NYPD Officer Rafael Ramos in 2014, I said, “Being a cop was not what they did, it was who they were; like every man and woman in uniform here today. It’s who you are. And they like every one of you in uniform inside this church and outside, you all joined for essentially the same reason. There was something about you that made you think you could help, that you should serve, that you had a duty.”

As our nation addresses the reforms necessary in our criminal justice system, I won’t forget that the vast majority of our police officers are driven by an astounding sense of service and duty to their communities. As President, I will lead a national conversation -- in partnership with police officers, police chiefs and community leaders -- about how to solve the issues of systemic inequality, keep our communities safe, and reform policing.

As President, I will reinvigorate the COPS program with a \$300 million investment so police departments have enough money to hire a sufficient number of officers so their officers can get out of their cruisers and walk the streets, engaging with and getting to know members of their communities. The program has never been funded to fulfill the original vision for community policing. As President, I will reinvigorate the COPS program with a \$300 million investment and will continue to utilize other federal programs to send funding to qualifying police departments.

5. Are you familiar with the National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper on Use of Force? This framework was developed by the IACP in conjunction with 10 other leading police leadership and labor organizations to provide guidance to the law enforcement profession on de-escalation techniques, less-lethal force, and use of force up to and including deadly force. Do you think this document can and should be used as a model for law enforcement agencies? Would you be willing to suggest this as a direction state, local, and/or federal governments should take as they discuss legislating and implementing use-of-force standards for police departments?

I have seen the National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper and, as President, I would like to sit with you and officers, civil rights leaders, and other policing experts to identify ways to build on it to develop a federal model use of force standard and condition policing funding on its adoption. For example, I am interested in working with you to build upon the duty to intervene discussed in the National Consensus Policy. I will ensure that this use of force standard does not put law enforcement at greater risk by preventing them from using legitimate means of self-defense.

6. Cuts to state and local budgets due to COVID-19 have been dramatic and directly impact law enforcement agencies. Agencies across the country have been forced to lay off officers, halt investments in technology and equipment, cut community programs, and make cuts to training. Policing was facing a recruitment and retention crisis before COVID-19 that will likely be exacerbated by lingering economic impacts of the pandemic. As demands for police services continue to increase, these resource challenges will directly impact community safety and health. What type of additional assistance and resources do you believe the federal government should provide to

ensure that state and local law enforcement is able to maintain the personnel and much-needed equipment and programming to continue to police effectively?

President Trump is not responsible for the coronavirus, but he is responsible for failing to address the virus. His failure has cost lives – including lives of police officers – across the country. And it has worsened our economic recession, straining state and local budgets.

Let me be clear: you have been failed by this President’s mismanagement of COVID. More cases throughout society means more danger for police. Your jobs require interacting with strangers without time for health screens. And the toll on police is already stark. By year’s end, coronavirus will be the leading cause of police deaths in America – more than line-of-duty fatalities. As President, I will enact a whole-of-government plan to defeat this virus, and it will benefit police officers more than perhaps anyone else.

I have released several plans to deal with the ongoing economic and public health fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Months ago, I warned that, as this crisis unfolds, states are going to get crushed under the weight of falling revenues combined with far higher emergency financial burdens. Cops, firefighters, and teachers are going to be at risk of losing pay.

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation – the HEROES Act – that would provide roughly \$1 trillion of state and local emergency funding. President Trump should be demanding that Senator McConnell bring this bill to the Senate floor for a vote, but President Trump is not fighting for this essential funding for our essential state and local workers.

I would make sure the federal government provides the relief that communities on the front lines need to put their full resources behind the public health response without forcing painful and damaging cuts to public services, education, and public safety, and to deal with extraordinary economic circumstances like helping with missed rent and other payments for those facing significant hardship.

Key to ensuring that local and state governments have the resources they need is my proposed State and Local Emergency Fund, which will cushion the economic impacts in local communities. Resources will be allocated according to a formula: 45% to state governments; 45% to local governments; and 10% reserved for special assistance for “hot-spots” of community spread. The relief will be designed to be automatically extended upon certification by the federal government of a continuing health or economic threat, determined by clear health and economic criteria. This is critical to ensure that our political and legislative stalemates do not prevent additional rounds of funding from moving out swiftly when it is needed most.

This fund will provide state and local leaders with resources and flexibility for responding to the immediate health crisis and economic fall-out in ways that best address the needs of their towns, cities, and states. For example, to both deal with additional needs due to COVID-19 or to address resulting declines in employment, the fund will be authorized to finance existing or new local and state jobs initiatives. Funds could also provide help for employers to keep workers on the job

– or to do work-sharing with part-time relief to workers – when they are impacted by falls in economic demand or recession.

I have also called for giving all frontline workers high-quality and appropriate personal protective equipment – and enough of it and appropriate training to use it – so they don't become infected. If our first responders and public safety officers cannot function, we cannot protect and care for the public. My plan calls for issuing guidance to states and localities to ensure first responders and public health officials are prioritized to receive protective personal equipment and launching an education campaign to inform the general public about equipment that should be reserved for professionals.

It is President Trump's responsibility to get workers, including public safety officers, what they need. President Trump should immediately task a Supply Commander to take command of the national supply chain for essential equipment, medications, and protective gear. We can no longer leave this to the private sector. The Supply Commander should work with every governor to determine their needs, and then coordinate production and delivery of those needs in a timely and efficient manner. And, the Supply Commander should direct the distribution of critical equipment as cases peak at different times in different states or territories. That goes for ventilators, masks, gowns, face shields, lab equipment, tests and testing components, medicines, and all other critical materials. The Supply Commander should report directly to President Trump, not get buried in the bureaucracy, and transparently update the public daily on progress.

Where they haven't, states and territories should each appoint their own Supply Leads to coordinate with the federal effort and ensure a special emphasis on communities with traditionally underserved populations. This means requiring uniform data reporting to uncover the true extent of health disparities from COVID-19 and ensuring lifesaving equipment and supplies reaches them. The National Governors Association can assist in this effort by helping aggregate state's demand in a uniform way with common definitions and reporting.

7. What legislative proposals related to policing do you plan to make a priority? How would you encourage Congress to move that legislation forward?

As President, I will propose increased funding to support community policing and policing reform. Federal funds to cities and local police departments will be conditioned on the adoption of a model use of force policy, requirements around the use of body cameras, and training. Police departments who meet these conditions will be permitted to use the federal dollars for the grant's initial purpose. If the conditions are not met, the funds will need to be used to meet the aforementioned conditions before fulfilling the grant's initial purpose.

I will reinvigorate the COPS program with a \$300 million investment so police departments have enough money to hire a sufficient number of officers so their officers can get out of their cruisers and walk the streets, engaging with and getting to know members of their communities.

We need to prevent 911 calls in scenarios where police should not be our first responders. Every time you are called to be a social worker, marriage counselor, or mental health professional is a lost opportunity to further a proactive investigation or address violent crime.

This requires making serious investments in mental health services, drug treatment and prevention programs, and services for people experiencing homelessness.

And, we must extend subpoena power necessary for prosecutors to carry out pattern or practice investigations.

8. The President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, a priority of the IACP for over 30 years, is in the process of concluding its work. How will your administration ensure the funding for and implementation of the Commission’s recommendations?

Throughout my career, I’ve never made a decision on a criminal justice topic without soliciting and considering police input, including from the IACP and the nation’s police chiefs. When making decisions about which policies to champion and implement, as always, I will consider recommendations from prior administrations and from the police on their merits. As President, I will make sure you have a seat at the table. Just look at my record. As a Senator, I wrote the legislation that created the COPS program. On multiple occasions, I also personally led the effort to increase and expand the amount paid to families of public safety officers killed and permanently disabled in the line of duty. As Vice President, when I spoke at the memorial service for slain NYPD Officer Rafael Ramos in 2014, I said, “Being a cop was not what they did, it was who they were; like every man and woman in uniform here today. It’s who you are. And they like every one of you in uniform inside this church and outside, you all joined for essentially the same reason. There was something about you that made you think you could help, that you should serve, that you had a duty.”

9. What are your views on the following issues confronting policing and what solutions do you plan to provide? Please provide a response for each issue listed.

a. Barriers to law enforcement investigations, such as encryption

Law enforcement must have a means to execute lawful court orders and carry out their duties to protect the public. Strong privacy protections are important for citizens, consumers, and businesses. We must be balanced in our approach, and I am confident we can achieve both objectives.

b. Violent crime

We should pursue evidence-based measures to root out persistent violent crime. Violent offenders need to be held accountable, and survivors need to have access to support to deal with the physical, psychological, and financial consequences of violence.

I will also pursue common-sense gun laws that end our gun violence epidemic and respect the Second Amendment, which is limited. When it is a choice between the National Rifle Association (NRA) and protecting this country, President Trump chooses the NRA every time – even when it means police are outgunned by criminals. I’ll ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, require background checks for all gun sales, and invest in a \$900 million,

eight-year initiative to implement evidence-based community intervention strategies for reducing gun violence in the 20 cities with the highest number of homicides, and 20 cities with the highest number of homicides per capita.

c. Opioid and heroin abuse

To deal with the immense scope of the opioid and substance use disorder crisis, I will dramatically scale up the resources available, with an unprecedented investment of \$125 billion over ten years. Funds will be used to pursue comprehensive strategies to expand access to treatment, particularly in rural and urban communities with high rates of substance use disorders and a lack of access to substance use disorder treatment services. I will invest \$75 billion in flexible grants to states and localities for prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. State and local agencies will also be able to use funds to enhance data systems allowing them to better target resources to individuals and communities most in need of support. As a condition for receiving funding, grant recipients will have to provide long-term, comprehensive strategic plans that address the multifaceted nature of the substance use disorder crisis.

Funds may be used to invest in evidence-based, cost-effective prevention programs in schools and communities to reduce the development of substance use disorders, including ones that mitigate harms from opioid and other drug use, including overdoses. Local communities will be able to use the funds to implement evidence-based programs designed to stop the spread of diseases like hepatitis C and HIV, including syringe service programs, or to scale up innovative programs like the safe station initiative started in Manchester, New Hampshire, which allows those seeking help to go to fire stations in order to be connected to treatment and recovery services.

The funds will also help expand access to ongoing treatment and recovery services. Communities will be able to use funds to increase access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment and other services to support long-term recovery, including peer support networks and recovery coaches, and better integrate primary care and behavioral health. Recognizing the strong evidence that social supports, including family support, may have a positive impact on the treatment of HIV, I will support the development of family-centered models for substance use disorder treatment and recovery.

I will make Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) available to all who need it, reaching universal access no later than 2025. MAT (also referred to as MOUD or Medications for Opioid Use Disorder) is regarded as the gold standard of care for individuals with opioid use disorder. Yet, less than 50% of substance use disorder facilities around the country offer even one of the FDA-approved medications. The 21st Century Cures Act, legislation I championed as Vice President, provided resources to states designed to expand access to MAT. I will build on this in order to ensure universal access to MAT for all who need it, including by providing \$20 billion for grants to dramatically expand capacity to administer MAT across the country, especially in underserved areas, including establishing new facilities and developing training programs to increase the number of professionals able to administer MAT.

I will also stop insurance companies from erecting barriers to coverage of MAT. For example, insurers have imposed “fail first” protocols which require prescribers to certify that other therapies were tried before covering MAT. Insurers also may require that physicians obtain “prior authorization” for MAT before prescribing it. I will also remove undue restrictions on prescribing medications for substance use disorder. For example, drugs containing buprenorphine were approved by the FDA in 2002 but a relatively small number of doctors or medical personnel are certified to prescribe them. I will ensure that any undue restrictions on prescribing are lifted and review methadone treatment regulations.

d. Use of technology (facial recognition, license plate readers, drones, etc.)

There are valuable technologies that can significantly increase our ability to target serious threats to public safety and national security. I believe the use of these technologies must be subject to rigorous and meaningful privacy controls and they must not be used against Americans who are exercising their constitutional rights. We must have meaningful safeguards in place to ensure that they are used to protect the public in a manner that is in line with our values.

e. Homegrown violent extremism

Those who serve as America's police face an increasingly complex threat posed by the full spectrum of homegrown violent extremism, from extremists inspired by international terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda to those extremists inspired by white supremacy and white nationalism. Police who confront these threats deserve leadership from the federal government as well as data-driven guidance and advice to protect them and, moreover, to help them in protecting others.

I will deliver that. I recognize that all forms of violent extremism pose a threat to the police and those whom police work to protect. In turn, all forms of violent extremism must be confronted aggressively. My administration will build a data-driven strategy that focuses on the most dangerous threats and that supports the efforts of local law enforcement, civil society, public health and educational professionals, and other key stakeholders for a whole-of-local government approach. This comprehensive approach will involve building robust partnerships and soliciting non-government expertise - which means working closely with IACP and related law enforcement associations. Those on the front lines deserve information on what threats they face, and under my leadership the federal government will become the partner that state and local law enforcement deserves in understanding the scope of today's homegrown violent extremism and how best to combat it.

At the same time, we must be sure that these policies are not being used as an excuse to target Americans who are exercising their Constitutional rights.

f. Recruitment and retention of law enforcement personnel

Policing works best when officers are out of their cruisers and walking the streets, engaging with and getting to know members of their communities. But in order to do that, police departments need resources to hire a sufficient number of officers. I spearheaded the COPS program, which

authorized funding both for the hiring of additional police officers and for training on how to undertake a community policing approach. However, the program has never been funded to fulfill the original vision for community policing. I will reinvigorate the COPS program with a \$300 million investment. As a condition of the grant, hiring of police officers must mirror the racial diversity of the community they serve. Additionally, as president, I will establish a panel to scrutinize what equipment is used by law enforcement in our communities.

g. Violence against women

One of the driving forces throughout my career has been fighting back against abuses of power – whether economic or physical power. That force motivated me to write and champion the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, establish the first-ever White House Advisor on Violence Against Women during the Obama-Biden Administration, and launch a national campaign to change the culture surrounding campus rape and sexual assault.

Last year, a bipartisan coalition in the House of Representatives passed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 (VAWA 2019), which includes significant, forward-looking improvements and innovations proposed by advocates, survivors, lawyers, experts, prosecutors, and law enforcement who are in the trenches protecting and supporting survivors. Every single Senate Democrat signed on to the Senate version of the House-passed bill. But, Leader McConnell is refusing to bring the bill to the floor in the Senate. There’s no reason the Senate shouldn’t pass this reauthorization now and enact it long before my first day in office. But if they don’t, I will make enacting the VAWA reauthorization one of my top first 100 day priorities.

As president, I will strengthen social supports for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, helping victims secure housing, gain economic stability, and recover from the trauma of abuse. My administration will help educate and empower young people with the knowledge and tools they need to prevent sexual violence and dating violence, with a focus on online harassment and enforcing Title IX protections. You can read my full plan to prevent violence against women [here](#).

I will also focus on addressing the deadly nexus of guns and domestic violence. I will work to enact the VAWA reauthorization, which will close the so-called “boyfriend loophole” and “stalking loophole” by prohibiting all individuals convicted of assault, battery, or stalking from purchasing or possessing firearms, regardless of their connection to the victim. I also support enacting the proposal to prohibit anyone under a temporary restraining order from purchasing or possessing a firearm before their hearing. And, I will increase funding for additional jurisdictions to implement evidence-based lethality assessments by law enforcement in cases of domestic violence.

h. Hate crimes

We need a comprehensive approach to battling racism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism that takes seriously both the violence that accompanies it, and the hateful and dangerous lies that undergird it. Sadly, this hate takes many different forms and cuts across

ideology, political party, group, and nation. So we must remain vigilant and speak out every time we see the persistent evil of anti-Semitism rear its ugly head. It's incumbent on all of us to stand against those who traffic in pernicious stereotypes, or who seek to scare and divide us for political gain. Silence is complicity, so we must speak out--every time. We must call hate by its proper name and condemn it.

The number of hate crimes in the United States reached a five-year high in 2016, and then went up another 17% in 2017. I will tackle the rise in hate crimes through moral leadership that makes clear such vitriol has no place in the United States. Over the years, I have championed more than a dozen bills around hate crime prevention efforts, including legislation in 1989 requiring the government to begin collecting data around hate crimes based on sexual orientation, and landmark legislation in 1994 allowing harsher penalties for crimes based on sexual orientation.

In 2009, President Obama and I championed and signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Act into law, which expanded the nation's hate crimes law to include crimes based on one's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. But today there is still so much more work to do. I will strengthen enforcement of the Matthew Shepard Act by increasing funding for anti-bias and hate crimes investigation training. I will work with Congress to pass both the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer No Hate Act, which would require national hate crime reporting and data collection, as well as victim assistance and support, and the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act, which as HRC describes "would prohibit law enforcement from targeting a person based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation." In addition, I will ensure that my administration's Department of Justice makes hate crimes a prosecutorial priority.

Finally, I will close the "hate crime loophole" in our gun laws, enacting legislation prohibiting an individual "who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission" from purchasing or possessing a firearm.

i. Traffic safety

The federal government must lead the way in making our streets and highways safer. Under my Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation will work with cities around the country to build "complete streets," designed to help drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and others safely share the road. I will also work with Congress to increase federal funding for key safety initiatives like the Highway Safety Improvement Program; and to encourage state and local governments to explore new technologies that can reduce accidents, including "smart" pavement, vehicle-to-infrastructure communication, connected intersections, and other infrastructure-related innovations.

10. Lack of adequate mental health services have resulted in a large portion of law enforcement's calls for service involving individuals with mental illness. What steps will you take to alleviate law enforcement's role in mental health intervention?

We need to prevent 911 calls in scenarios where police should not be our first responders. Every time you are called to be a social worker, marriage counselor, or mental health professional is a lost opportunity to further a proactive investigation or address violent crime. This requires making serious investments in mental health services, drug treatment and prevention programs, and services for people experiencing homelessness.

As a society, we need to work together to eliminate the stigma felt by those who are experiencing mental health issues. Mental health should be treated just as physical health by our culture, our laws, and health insurance companies. I have been a longtime advocate for mental health parity – requiring insurance companies that cover mental health services to treat mental health the same as physical health, and as president will make sure parity requirements are strictly enforced.

At this very moment, President Trump is supporting a lawsuit attempting to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act, including its requirement that insurers cover mental health services as an essential health benefit. If he succeeds, insurers will once again be able to get away with refusing to provide any mental health benefits. I will defend the Affordable Care Act and build on it to expand the number of people with health insurance, lower health care costs, and expand access to mental health services. I will also double funding for community health centers that provide critical health care, including mental health care, to underserved populations.

I will get people who should be supported with social services – instead of in our prisons – connected to the help they need. Too often, those in need of mental health care or treatment for a substance use disorder do not get the necessary care. Instead, they end up having interactions with law enforcement that lead to incarceration. To change the nature of these interactions, I will fund initiatives to partner mental health and substance use disorder experts, social workers, and disability advocates with police departments. These service providers will train police officers to better de-escalate interactions with people in severe emotional distress. The service providers also will help police officers learn how to respectfully and appropriately interact with individuals with disabilities, such as those who are autistic or deaf, so these individuals with disabilities are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. These service providers will respond to calls with police officers, so that people with disabilities who should not be in the criminal justice system are actually getting the help they need, such as treatment for their addictions or mental health disabilities, housing, or other social services.

I will also expand access to voluntary, community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment. And, I will call for increased resources for mental health and resilience support for first responders, including police officers and firefighters, that anyone would need after being exposed again and again to trauma.

11. What federal grant programs to law enforcement are a priority to you? Are there programs you would expand or reduce?

I believe policing works best when officers are out of their cruisers and walking the streets, engaging with and getting to know members of their communities. But in order to do that, police departments need resources to hire a sufficient number of officers.

That's why I wrote the legislation that created the COPS program, which authorized funding both for the hiring of additional police officers and for training on how to undertake a community policing approach. However, the program has never been funded to fulfill the original vision for community policing. As President, I will reinvigorate the COPS program with a \$300 million investment and will continue to utilize other federal programs to send funding to qualifying police departments.

The Trump Administration budget proposed more than \$465 million in cuts to Justice Department aid to state and local law enforcement. As President, I will prioritize funding programs that support public safety.

12. What are your foreign policy priorities as they relate to criminal justice or transnational organized crime issues?

I believe transnational organized crime poses a serious threat to the American public. From human trafficking to money laundering to the transport of weapons and drugs across borders, these are issues I take seriously. I will make sure my administration focuses its resources to prioritize our resources accordingly, including by investing in partnering with foreign governments who can help to dismantle the networks that operate globally.

Candidate Name: Joe Biden

Candidate's Party Affiliation: Democrat

Campaign Address:

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY:

I, _____ a candidate for the office of
_____ certify that all the answers in this questionnaire represent my
own views.

Signature: _____ Date: _____