



(Photograph from <https://www.facebook.com/Ocasio2018/>)

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Democratic Party

EDUCATION

Q: What is your position on diversity initiatives in historically racially and socioeconomically segregated schools, and if elected, what steps will you take to influence federally funded programs and/or policies?

A: I am not only in support of diversity initiatives, but further believe that all of our schools must be fully funded. We currently have a school system nationwide where one's zip code determines the quality of their public education, and that is simply wrong. I believe it is the responsibility of the federal government to fix the funding gaps. The role of the federal government in our society is to ensure every single person in our country, regardless of their class or race or gender, has the opportunity to live a good life. If elected I will fight to expand Title grants, especially Title I and Title II grants, and fight for comprehensive legislation that guarantees no school lacks resources.

GUN CONTROL

Q: What is your position on gun control and if elected, what specific policies will you advocate for?

A: I believe the second amendment does not give one the right to bear weapons of war. I support an assault weapons ban, a ban on bump stocks, and other common sense gun reform. I also believe taking money from any corporations or lobbyists -- including gun lobbyists or private equity firms that have gun industry ownership stakes -- should disqualify someone from running for public office. I am the only candidate in this race that has sworn to take no corporate PAC or lobbyist money so you can rely on me to fight for the people of my district instead of corporate interests. The gun lobby has twisted our policies and led to the deaths of millions. This must end now.

HEALTHCARE

Q: What steps will you take to ensure that immigrants continue to have access to healthcare in New York in light of recent discussions concerning public charge policies?

A: I am an unapologetic advocate for Expanded and Improved Medicare-for-all. Health care is a human right. It is morally wrong for the wealthiest nation in the history of the world to not provide healthcare to every single resident. This right should be extended to immigrants, and I am fully opposed to Trump's new public charge policies. Trump's public charge policies will be another tool for this administration to terrorize immigrants. We, as a nation, have more than enough wealth to care for our citizens as well as those who come to our borders seeking the American Dream. We should be thinking of ways to make everyone's lives better with this wealth instead of ways to further divide and impoverish our communities.

IMMIGRATION

Q: Given the recent changes and proposed changes to immigration policy, which existing immigration policies would you advocate to protect?

A: I believe the best way to counter the attacks on our immigrant community is to present bigger and bolder legislation. I will fight from day one to abolish ICE, an agency that was created just in 2003 and has had a long history of deaths and sexual harassment in its facilities. I will fight to pass the DREAM Act and pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides a clear pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. I will end Trump's crackdown on the H-1B visa program and reinstate employment permits for spouses of H-1B visa holders. Because of this policy, thousands of spouses have suddenly found themselves unable to work in our country, and the economic consequences of that have been devastating.

CENSUS

Q: What steps have you taken or will you take to ensure accurate representation of underrepresented and vulnerable communities for Census 2020?

A: This district is one of the most diverse districts in the country, and not having accurate data on our community in the census creates a problem for allocation of public resources to our vulnerable communities. As a representative of this district, I intend to fight to make sure the marginalized communities of my district have a voice. In the Bronx and Queens, we see firsthand how incredibly diverse "Asian" is, and yet the census treats Asian as one bloc. This makes absolutely no sense and I will fight to make sure underrepresented communities are represented on the census in 2020.