



(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.



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

## *Joseph Crowley, 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: We must ensure every child has equal access to quality education, no matter the color of his or her skin or their neighborhood. Nowhere is this more important than in New York City, which is home to the most diverse communities in the country. For decades, the federal government has sought to advance equitable education through landmark laws like the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Title I program. But funding for these programs has fallen short, leaving schools without the resources needed to meet the needs of every child. We should also increase funding for tutoring programs to help underprivileged youth prepare for rigorous testing. I will continue to fight for increased funding for public education and will work to protect the civil rights policies that are the bedrock of our education laws.

### **GUN CONTROL**

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

A: Enacting gun safety legislation is critically important in keeping our families and communities safe. I strongly support reinstating the assault rifle ban, banning bump stocks, closing dangerous loopholes that undermine background checks, and keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals. Far too many families and lives have been shattered because of senseless gun violence - violence that is entirely avoidable. We could pass legislation today if Republican leaders in Congress had the courage to put common sense gun safety legislation on the House floor for a vote. When Democrats retake the House in 2018, this will be a top priority.

### **HEALTHCARE**

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

A: I believe healthcare is right for all, not a privilege for the few. Every person, immigrant or otherwise, should be able to access the health care and social services they need without fear of reprisal. New York has been a leader in ensuring that immigrants can access a number of public health programs, and I will fight for states to continue to be able to protect their populations, even as we fight restrictions at the federal level. I will also oppose efforts at the federal level to create unfair public charge policies that discourage immigrants from accessing needed assistance.

### **IMMIGRATION**

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

A: Our communities are under attack by President Trump's inhumane immigration policies. He is turning his back on every value Americans hold and putting the safety of our communities at risk. This is unacceptable. We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform, secure a pathway to citizenship for the DREAMers, extend Temporary Protected Status for individuals from distressed countries, and reverse the Trump administration's inhumane practice of ripping families apart. Our immigration system has long been based on core tenets like ensuring family unity and offering the hope of an opportunity to millions around the world. I would strongly oppose any efforts to move away from a family-based immigration system or to restrict immigration benefits to skilled immigrants.

### **CENSUS**

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

A: Collecting demographic information gives policymakers the insight needed to better understand communities and to create policies that meet our country's needs. When it comes to the Census, if you're not counted, you essentially do not exist in the eyes of our government. For New York City residents, the 2020 census will be critical. I demanded that the Trump administration allocate more resources to the Census Bureau as the agency is staffing up for 2020. I've also raising alarm bells about recent reports that the Trump Administration will not include data collection on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, a troubling move considering the unique challenges members of those communities face.