

Jessica Cisneros

Democratic Candidate running for Congress, TX-28

Do you support a Green New Deal that ends fossil fuels and provides an immediate and just transition to 100% renewable energy? Explain what that means to you.

We must protect the Earth for the sake of the next generation's future from billionaires and oil executives who want to destroy it for their own monetary gains. All of our plans for the future of our nation depend on having a healthy environment. Everyday Americans deserve breathable air, drinkable water, and that oil and gas executives have put that in danger in order to make themselves more money is unethical. We need to pass the Green New Deal resolution as proposed by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ed Markey. The Green New Deal is the only proposal that deals with climate change at the scope and scale of the problem that faces the planet and the US in an inclusive fashion that also deals with racism, employment, and poverty. Their joint 14-page resolution demands that the US engage in mobilizing towards a zero-emissions economy and that every American who wants a job furthering this goal can have one. The resolution also calls for restorative justice to the geographic, racial, and socioeconomic areas that have been worst ravaged by the extracting and burning of fossil fuels, as well as provisions for universal healthcare coverage, housing, food, and water.

How will you center racial, economic and social justice in your climate policies?

Low-income and minority communities like those in my district are disproportionately exposed to toxic air pollution. I am a strong supporter of both the Clean Air Act as well as the EPA's "Endangerment Finding" establishing the agency's authority to regulate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. Since the Clean Air Act was passed in 1970, its mandated limits on pollution have actually spurred industry innovation (i.e., the Clean Air Act *is* innovation policy).

I pledge to oppose any and all legislative and administrative attacks on the Clean Air Act, the EPA's authority to cut carbon and other pollution fueling climate change.

As a candidate of color, environmental justice is especially important to me. I am a strong supporter of the Green New Deal and believe that we have a responsibility to build sustainable, climate-resilient, and inclusive infrastructure that is responsive to the needs of low-income communities of color. This plan includes a just transition to a renewable economy that will center its jobs program in low-income communities like South Texas and across the county.

Do you support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, including pipelines, fracked gas and oil, compressor stations and coal power plants? Please tell us with specifics what you'd do, if elected to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and keep fossil fuels in the ground?

I am a strong supporter of the "Keep It in the Ground" campaign. I support a complete ban on fracking as well as an immediate moratorium all new leases for fossil fuel development on federal lands, including offshore. I also support ending all existing non-producing leases and restoring the ban on oil exports.

Do you support the investigation of the fossil fuel industry's role in causing climate change, blocking climate action, and misleading the public? If so, do you have plans for a process to hold the industry financially accountable for that role and related harms?

Yes. I will work with members of Congress and seek an immediate end (not a gradual phaseout) to all taxpayer subsidies and other handouts to the fossil fuel industry. Royalty rates and rental rates should be immediately updated in a transparent way that captures the upstream negative externalities associated with pollution and climate change (e.g., a carbon charge).

Do you pledge to reject any contributions from the fossil fuel industry, as defined by the "No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge"?

Yes

Do you support plans to create an immigration policy that allows a path to citizenship for undocumented people?

I support a humane comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship.

What are your specific plans for addressing the refugees and other migrants at the US borders?

We need to create a humane border policy, not separating children and families in for-profit prisons and detention centers. We need to refocus resources in ICE and Border Patrol so they don't violate human and civil rights through proper investigation and accountability.

We can split ICE in half and re-assign enforcement functions within to other agencies, including the Department of Justice.

We can refocus CBP to focus on drug and human trafficking, rather than law enforcement activities in the interior of the United States that should be left to the police. And make sure the DOJ civil rights office is properly making sure we don't violate people's basic rights.

How do you see climate change impacting mass migrations and what are your plans to address the increase in refugees as a result of the climate crisis?

Climate change has already caused massive problems for poor and working people across the planet, impacting populations that had nothing to do with the creation of the issue. Climate refugees have increased significantly and we must be ready by updating our refugee laws to reflect the current climate crisis.

What are your plans for criminal justice reform?

America's criminal justice system is intentionally rigged against racial minorities and poor and working people in the US. We must reform the system to deliver justice equally to all by ending cash bail, reevaluating our penal code, and strengthening our social infrastructure.

Do you support a worker's right to unionize?

Yes. Our country and our economy is stronger when workers have the right to organize and fight for just wages and working conditions.

Do you support a \$15/hour minimum wage?

We need to level the playing field for working families. It's time to raise the minimum wage to \$15 and create millions of jobs by rebuilding our nation's infrastructure and promoting good, fair trade deals...

How do you plan to address the resurgence of white supremacy in the public discourse? Please tell us your plan to respond to white nationalist terrorist acts in this country?

Recently the El Paso shootings that took the lives of Mexican-Americans shook the country but especially hit communities like mine on the border. The El Paso shooter could have easily targeted Laredo or the Rio Grande Valley. Our response to white nationalist acts of violence is to call it out as an "Act of Terrorism" and signal to the country that racists who take violent action will face serious consequences.

What is your plan to reduce gun violence and mass shootings?

Protecting our communities from assault weapons, banning bump stocks and accessories that transform legal guns into deadly automatic weapons, and creating a comprehensive system of background checks.

Do you support the payment of reparations and/or related structural adjustment to remunerate the descendants of enslaved African Americans to addressing America's history of codified and systemic racism?

Yes. The harm caused by slavery and its legacy continues to affect the lives of African-Americans in the present day. Slavery and Jim-Crow laws eliminated the rights of African-Americans from accumulating wealth and passing on assets to future generations.

Do you support the return of unceded lands and territory or related royalties to Indigenous Populations as a form of redress for America's history of codified and systemic racism?

Yes

Do you support Medicare for All?

Yes. It isn't right that in the richest country on Earth, 28 million Americans live without health insurance, we pay more for health care than any other industrialized country, but have worse health outcomes across the board. We can change that. We can pass Medicare-for-All and ensure that every American, no matter how rich or poor, has medical care. Health care must be recognized as a right, not a privilege.

Do you support a woman's right to choose?

Yes

Race:

Latina

Gender:

Female