

I'm writing a plan to

rebuild the middle class.

I need your help.

Americans are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis — that's why I've proposed plans to bring down some of the highest costs people face, like [housing](#) and [energy](#). However, an affordability agenda that ignores wage stagnation and unemployment doesn't address a key root cause of Americans' affordability concerns.

In the past, Americans were able to raise a family and live the American dream on a blue-collar wage. In the 1990s and 2000s, as elites and corporations created policies that incentivized companies to ship blue collar jobs overseas, Americans were told that going to college and moving to 'superstar' cities was the best way to get ahead. Today, with more white-collar and service sector work facing automation and offshoring risk, that promise feels broken too. Both blue-collar and white-collar jobs, jobs that require four-year college degrees and jobs that don't, jobs in urban, suburban, and rural America, feel more precarious and less fulfilling than ever.

The federal government has created an unbalanced economic system that incentivizes wage stagnation and corporate concentration. Corporations depress worker wages, cut benefits, and engage in layoffs while it's increasingly difficult for Americans to keep a small business afloat.

Firms continue to ship production and services overseas while investing little in American workers. And, too often, technology doesn't augment worker capacity — it merely replaces them or makes job quality worse.

My vision is for an economy that rebuilds the American middle class — higher wages and more predictable hours for service sector workers, more manufacturing, more housing and energy construction, and less instability for all workers. A middle-class worker should be able to go on vacation, spend time with their family, buy a car ([or a big ass truck](#)), save for retirement, and live the American dream. Our country has veered off course for too long — it's time for an urgent plan to recreate the middle class.

Below, I've outlined my broad approach and key objectives. But for this plan to truly work, for it to address the struggles everyday Americans are facing right now, I need to hear from YOU. Whether you're fresh out of high school, trade school, or college and looking for your first full-time job, nearing retirement age but fear you'll never be able to stop working, or anywhere along your career path — tell me your story. Share how we can help.

To provide input, please fill out [this form](#) by August 7th, 2026.

PILLAR 1: *Raise Wages and Improve Benefits*

Government has failed to ensure wages and benefits for ordinary Americans have kept pace with overall economic productivity. Righting the scales starts with [raising the minimum wage to \\$20 per hour](#), addressing labor market concentration, and creating stronger unions. To do that, I believe that we must set and implement a goal to double private sector union density by 2035, explore sectoral bargaining approaches, reorient the tax code to incentivize work over automation, and empower antitrust agencies to promote labor market competition.

PILLAR 2: *Create and Protect Quality Blue Collar Jobs*

Americans working blue-collar jobs are concerned that the rug will be ripped out from underneath them. We should invest in blue-collar job growth in industries with critical supply chain, national security, and societal objectives, including domestic chipmaking, international tourism and hospitality, and entertainment. At the same time as we encourage

technological development to make workers more productive and create new categories of jobs, we must protect blue-collar workers in the service, transportation, and manufacturing sectors from full automation, AI-driven displacement, and offshoring.

We must double down on goal-driven industrial policy, better balance the tax code to discourage offshoring, automation, and financial engineering, and replace President Trump's grievance fueled trade policy with one that actually holds trade cheating countries like China accountable for undercutting American workers. We must also aggressively strengthen and enforce antitrust laws, knowing that robust competition will create new jobs and prevent excessive concentration of economic and technological power.

PILLAR 3: *Restore Worker Trust in Government*

After decades of offshoring and stagnant wages, government has lost Americans' trust. As technology develops and its impacts are not yet certain, Americans are justifiably anxious about the future of work.

Government must earn back workers' trust by proactively strengthening and expanding the unemployment system, creating New Deal-style jobs programs, and regulating technology-induced worker surveillance. Specifically, jobs programs could focus on supporting service nonprofits,

caring for and supporting our children, public works infrastructure construction, and other community-oriented work that strengthen our country.

PILLAR 4: *Expand Job-Creating Entrepreneurship, Focusing Outside of Superstar Cities*

Large 'superstar' cities have experienced strong growth in the last twenty years, but smaller cities, rural areas, and tribal communities have often been left behind. Proactively fostering strong local economies should be a key government objective, which includes providing federal capacity to help local governments achieve economic development goals, promoting competition in rural food systems, eliminating red-tape for Main Street businesses and small manufacturers, and investing in transportation networks to better connect small and midsize cities to the national economy.

PILLAR 5: *Help Workers Find Jobs Faster*

The job search process has become a nightmare, especially for young workers. We need to regulate fake 'ghost jobs' and expand registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities that connect workers directly to jobs.

