

Powering an Economy of Opportunity: Securing Our Future, Together

My fellow citizens, the foundation of lasting prosperity for any society is its stability, its workforce, and the security of its people. We are a nation built on innovation and success, and to continue leading, we must ensure our economic bedrock is as strong as our ambition. That means fostering an environment where growth is dynamic, opportunities abound, and the systems that underpin our success are robust and sustainable. Moreover, this plan benefits those who need us the most: our seniors in the twilight of their days and the young adults just beginning their journeys into the workforce.

Think of our greatest national achievements, like the space race: a bold vision set forth by a Democratic President, John F. Kennedy, to put a man on the moon. It was a Republican President, Richard Nixon, who ultimately implemented and delivered on that vision, achieving one of the greatest feats in human history. That's the power of American ingenuity, transcending partisanship for the good of the nation, securing our collective future. In that same spirit of American unity and ambition, as your representative in Congress, I will champion pragmatic, data-driven policies that fortify our economic landscape, ensuring enduring success and stability for all who contribute to and benefit from our thriving society.

1. **Fortifying Our Foundation:** Strengthening Social Security for Long-Term Stability
Social Security is more than a program; it's a vital compact across generations, ensuring a predictable safety net that has consistently stabilized our communities. For those who have built successful careers and generated significant wealth, understanding its true value goes beyond individual payouts—it lies in the societal stability it underpins.

My Proposal: Modernize Social Security Contributions to Ensure Solvency

The current structure of Social Security contributions, with a cap on taxable earnings, is a relic of an earlier era. It means that a significant portion of high incomes is not taxed for Social Security purposes, creating a systemic imbalance that strains the program's long-term health.

An Investment in Shared Stability: Let's be clear: every American, including our most successful citizens, benefits from the fundamental societal stability Social Security provides. A society where widespread poverty among the elderly and disabled is prevented is inherently more stable, predictable, and secure for business, investment, and wealth creation. This system reduces burdens on families and public services elsewhere, allowing capital and talent to flourish.

Ensuring the System's Durability: By responsibly adjusting how contributions are made, we are not simply adding to a burden; we are ensuring the long-term solvency of a system that protects millions, including potentially our own family members and employees. This is a pragmatic, fiscally responsible step to secure the future of a program that has consistently proven its effectiveness as a cornerstone of our national well-being.

Efficiency for All: A robust Social Security system is an efficient mechanism for maintaining broad societal security, preventing larger, more costly crises down the line that would ultimately

impact our entire economy. It is a shared investment in the societal conditions that enable opportunity and prosperity for every American.

2. Boosting Economic Dynamism: Investing in Our Workforce

The true engine of our economy is the American worker. From the entrepreneurs who innovate to the dedicated individuals who execute those visions, their productivity and purchasing power drive our markets. History has consistently shown that when prosperity is built from the ground up, it creates the most robust and sustainable economic growth.

My Proposal: A Federal Minimum Wage of \$20.00 an Hour to Stimulate Local Economies
It is time to implement a federal minimum wage that reflects the real costs of living and harnesses the full economic potential of our workforce. I will champion raising the federal minimum wage to \$20.00 an hour.

Lessons from American Industry: The Henry Ford Model: This isn't a new, untested theory. Decades ago, American industrialist Henry Ford famously doubled his workers' wages to \$5 a day. He didn't do this out of pure altruism; he did it out of astute business sense. He understood that if his employees could afford to buy the Model T cars they were building, his market would explode. This visionary move ignited a virtuous cycle: higher wages fueled greater consumer demand, which in turn drove mass production, innovation, and unprecedented profits. This is the same model that every U.S. employer should embrace today. When workers earn more, they become stronger consumers, directly powering businesses and the economy.

Fueling Consumer Demand and Local Markets: Workers earning a fair wage are not just consumers; they are the lifeblood of local economies. When they earn more, they spend more on essentials—groceries, local services, family needs. This increased consumer demand directly translates into higher sales, greater revenue, and ultimately, enhanced profitability for businesses large and small within our communities. This isn't charity; it's smart economics.

Enhancing Productivity and Reducing Costs: Businesses often experience hidden costs associated with high employee turnover, such as recruitment and training expenses. A fair wage leads to increased employee loyalty, reduced turnover, and a more motivated and productive workforce. This stability translates into greater efficiency and long-term cost savings for businesses.

The Power of “Trickle-Up” Economics: The notion that economic benefits only flow from the top down has proven inefficient. Instead, we have a long history demonstrating that robust consumer demand, fueled by a thriving middle and working class, is the most effective driver of economic growth. When you empower the broader base of consumers, their spending creates opportunities and profits that cascade upwards, ultimately benefiting entrepreneurs, investors, and every segment of our economy.

This is our path forward: a vision for New York that is both fiscally sound and deeply empathetic, a strategy to secure our future by investing in the very people and principles that make our nation exceptional. We believe in the power of American ingenuity, the strength of our

communities, and the wisdom of pragmatic, bipartisan solutions. It's about achieving unparalleled value for your tax dollars and ensuring New York leads in smart, effective public investment. We will fortify the bedrock of our society by guaranteeing Social Security's enduring stability. This isn't just about promises kept; it's about safeguarding the fundamental stability that underpins all prosperity, benefiting our cherished seniors in the twilight of their days. Social Security stands as the greatest anti-poverty program America has ever created, a profound symbol of American exceptionalism and our nation's unwavering commitment to taking care of its own, a commitment second to no other country in the world.

We'll also reignite our economic dynamism by empowering our workforce. By establishing a federal minimum wage of \$20.00 an hour, strategically supported by tax incentives for businesses in the initial years, we're applying the proven wisdom of American leaders like Henry Ford. He understood that investing in workers creates consumers, driving demand, boosting local economies, and generating profits from the ground up—the true “trickle-up” prosperity that history consistently confirms. This approach offers dignity to our young adults just entering the workforce and ensures every job contributes fully to our shared success. All these efforts will be guided by an unwavering commitment to unparalleled value for your tax dollars. Our vision is to achieve the fiscal prudence and efficiency often lauded in states like Florida, without sacrificing the robust services that make New York uniquely New York. This isn't charity; it's a strategic investment in the very vitality of our nation. When we strengthen the security of our seniors and empower our workers, we cultivate a powerful engine of consumer demand and productivity that fuels every sector of our economy. This ensures robust growth, stability for businesses, and enduring prosperity that benefits everyone. This is our collective endeavor to build an economy where every American, from the entrepreneur to the dedicated worker can thrive. It is a commitment to a future where prosperity is broad, stability is foundational, and New York stands as a shining example of American excellence—strong, secure, and ready to lead.

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