

SOCIALIST WATCH 2020

STOPPING
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SOCIALISM

POLICY BRIEF

An Analysis of Candidates Endorsed by Far-Left Organizations

By Justin Haskins and Chris Talgo

The list included below in this *Policy Brief* shows the election victories and losses for socialist and far-left progressive candidates running for office during the 2020 general election. The list was created by a team of researchers at StoppingSocialism.com and The Heartland Institute, a national free-market think tank.

How Did We Define ‘Socialist’ and ‘Progressive’ When Constructing This List?

This list includes candidates for U.S. House, U.S. Senate, and state legislative seats endorsed by Our Revolution, the Democratic Socialists of America, and/or the Progressive Democrats of America.

Our Revolution is a nonprofit organization advocating for the policy agenda of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), a self-described socialist. Our Revolution supports socialist policies such as single-payer

health care and the Green New Deal as core parts of its agenda.¹

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is the largest socialist organization (not a political party) in the United States. According to DSA’s website, “We are socialists because we reject an international economic order sustained by private profit, alienated labor, race and gender discrimination, environmental destruction, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.”²

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The Progressive Democrats of America is a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 “to transform the Democratic Party and our country” by promoting far-left policies within the Democratic Party and across the nation.³ It supports, among other policies, a national government-managed health care system, dramatic tax increases, an expansion of government social programs, and energy policies similar to those proposed in the Green New Deal.

Important Highlights

- The biggest takeaway from our research is that the far-left progressive and socialist wings of the Democratic Party gained significant ground in 2020 compared to previous elections, and that a greater proportion than ever of legislative seats will be filled by far-left progressives or socialists in 2021 and 2022. It appears as though the socialist and progressive wings of the DNC are quickly taking over.
- Our full list includes 266 separate races in 29 states and Washington, DC. We tracked 200 state legislative seats, 60 U.S. House seats, and six U.S. Senate seats.
- We discovered socialist or progressive candidates won 239 of those races and lost just 24 (three races were still undecided when we put our final analysis together). That means socialists or far-left progressives won more than 90 percent of their races.
- If uncontested races are excluded, socialist or far-left progressive candidates won by an average of more than 25 percentage points, indicating clearly socialist and progressive groups targeted during the primaries districts that they knew Democrats would win in the general election.
- In 2018, we conducted a similar analysis and found there were fewer progressive and socialist candidates (we only identified 86 in 2018, based on endorsements from far-left groups), and that those candidates were much less successful.⁴ Fewer than 40 percent won their races, and the margin of victory in contested races was slim.

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Richard	Andrade	AZ	Arizona House	WON
Reginald	Bolding	AZ	Arizona House	WON
Ruben	Gallego	AZ	U.S. House	WON
Raul	Grijalva	AZ	U.S. House	WON
Melody	Hernandez	AZ	Arizona House	WON
Jennifer	Jermain	AZ	Arizona House	WON
Juan	Mendez	AZ	Arizona Senate	WON
Pamela	Powers-Hannley	AZ	Arizona House	WON
Martin	Quezada	AZ	Arizona Senate	WON
Athena	Salman	AZ	Arizona House	WON
Amish	Shah	AZ	Arizona House	WON
Ammar	Campa-Najjar	CA	U.S. House	LOST
Audrey	Denney	CA	U.S. House	LOST
Angelica	Duenas	CA	U.S. House	LOST
Jackie	Fielder	CA	California Senate	LOST
Liam	Omara	CA	U.S. House	LOST

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Nanette	Baraggan	CA	U.S. House	WON
Karen	Bass	CA	U.S. House	WON
Judy	Chu	CA	U.S. House	WON
Mark	Desaulnier	CA	U.S. House	WON
Jimmy	Gomez	CA	U.S. House	WON
Lorena	Gonzalez Fletcher	CA	California State Assembly	WON
Jared	Huffman	CA	U.S. House	WON
Reggie	Jones-Sawyer	CA	California State Assembly	WON
Ash	Kalra	CA	California State Assembly	WON
Ro	Khanna	CA	U.S. House	WON
Barbara	Lee	CA	U.S. House	WON
Alex	Lee	CA	California State Assembly	WON
Ted	Lieu	CA	U.S. House	WON
Grace	Napolitano	CA	U.S. House	WON
Katie	Porter	CA	U.S. House	WON
Lucille	Roybal-Allard	CA	U.S. House	WON
Miguel	Santiago	CA	California State Assembly	WON
Mark	Takano	CA	U.S. House	WON
Maxine	Waters	CA	U.S. House	WON
Monica	Duran	CO	Colorado House	WON
Serena	Gonzalez-Gutierrez	CO	Colorado House	WON
Iman	Jodeh	CO	Colorado House	WON
Joe	Neguse	CO	U.S. House	WON
Emily	Sirota	CO	Colorado House	WON
Mike	Weissman	CO	Colorado House	WON
Steven	Woodrow	CO	Colorado House	WON
Joann	Angelico-Stetson	CT	Connecticut House	LOST
Mary	Abrams	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Saud	Anwar	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Jorge	Cabrera	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Steven	Cassano	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Brandon	Chafee	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Christine	Cohen	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Mike	D'Agostino	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Michael	Dimassa	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Bob	Duff	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Joshua	Elliot	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Mae	Flexer	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Jaime	Foster	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Henry	Genga	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Bob	Godfrey	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Kenneth	Gucker	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Gregory	Haddad	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Josh	Hall	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Anne	Hughes	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Susan	Johnson	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Julie	Kushner	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Matthew	Lesser	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Martin	Looney	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Rick	Lopes	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
David	Michel	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Amy	Morrin Bello	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Norm	Needleman	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Catherine	Osten	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Quentin	Phipps	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Robyn	Porter	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Matt	Ritter	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Kara	Rochelle	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Manny	Sanchez	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Brian	Smith	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Gary	Turco	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Edwin Vargas	Vargas	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Mary	Welander	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Gary	Winfield	CT	Connecticut Senate	WON
Michael	Winkler	CT	Connecticut House	WON
Eleanor	Holmes-Norton	DC	U.S. House	WON
Cindy	Polo	FL	Florida House	LOST
Anna	Eskamani	FL	Florida House	WON
Carlos	Guillermo-Smith	FL	Florida House	WON
Shervin	Jones	FL	Florida Senate	WON
Dotie	Joseph	FL	Florida House	WON
Frederica	Wilson	FL	U.S. House	WON

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Nikema	Williams	GA	U.S. House	WON
J.D.	Scholten	IA	U.S. House	LOST
Carol	Ammons	IL	Illinois House	WON
Dagmara	Avelar	IL	Illinois House	WON
Kelly	Cassidy	IL	Illinois House	WON
John	Connor	IL	Illinois Senate	WON
Danny	Davis	IL	U.S. House	WON
Robyn	Gabel	IL	Illinois House	WON
Chuy	Garcia	IL	U.S. House	WON
Edgar	Gonzalez Jr.	IL	Illinois House	WON
Will	Guzzardi	IL	Illinois House	WON
Greg	Harris	IL	Illinois House	WON
Robin	Kelly	IL	U.S. House	WON
Kimberly	Lightford	IL	Illinois Senate	WON
Theresa	Mah	IL	Illinois House	WON
Joyce	Mason	IL	Illinois House	WON
Marie	Newman	IL	U.S. House	WON
Aaron	Ortiz	IL	Illinois House	WON
Robert	Peters	IL	Illinois Senate	WON
Delia	Ramirez	IL	Illinois House	WON
Jan	Schakowsky	IL	U.S. House	WON
Anne	Stava-Murray	IL	Illinois House	WON
Karina	Villa	IL	Illinois Senate	WON
Celina	Villanueva	IL	Illinois Senate	WON
Maurice	West	IL	Illinois House	WON
Mike	Connolly	MA	Massachusetts House	WON
Nika	Elugardo	MA	Massachusetts House	WON
Edward	Markey	MA	U.S. Senate	WON
Jim	McGovern	MA	U.S. House	WON
Ayanna	Pressley	MA	U.S. House	WON
Lindsay	Sabadosa	MA	Massachusetts House	WON
Jamie	Eldridge	MA	Massachusetts Senate	WON
Kalie	Hess	ME	Maine Senate	LOST
Benjamin	Collings	ME	Maine House	WON
Troy	Jackson	ME	Maine Senate	WON
Grayson	Lookner	ME	Maine House	WON

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Chloe	Maxmin	ME	Maine Senate	WON
Mike	Sylvester	ME	Maine House	WON
Abraham	Aiyash	MI	Michigan House	WON
Debbie	Dingell	MI	U.S. House	WON
Abdullah	Hammoud	MI	Michigan House	WON
Cynthia	Johnson	MI	Michigan House	WON
Andy	Levin	MI	U.S. House	WON
Yousef	Rabhi	MI	Michigan House	WON
Rashida	Tlaib	MI	U.S. House	WON
Jim	Davnie	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Omar	Fateh	MN	Minnesota Senate	WON
Aisha	Gomez	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Emma	Greenman	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Hodan	Hassan	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Frank	Hornstein	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Carlie	Kotzya-Witthuhn	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Tina	Liebling	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Jamie	Long	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Carlos	Mariani	MN	Minnesota House	WON
John	Marty	MN	Minnesota Senate	WON
Jennifer	McEwen	MN	Minnesota Senate	WON
Mohamud	Noor	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Liz	Olson	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Ilhan	Omar	MN	U.S. House	WON
Lindsey	Port	MN	Minnesota Senate	WON
Jennifer	Schultz	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Patricia	Torres Ray	MN	Minnesota Senate	WON
Ryan	Winkler	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Dan	Wolgamott	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Jay	Xiong	MN	Minnesota House	WON
Ashley	Aune	MO	Missouri House	WON
Cori	Bush	MO	U.S. House	WON
Kimberly-Ann	Collins	MO	Missouri House	WON
Patty	Lewis	MO	Missouri House	WON
Emily	Weber	MO	Missouri House	WON
Mary Ann	Dunwell	MT	Montana House	WON

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Andrea	Olsen	MT	Montana House	WON
Sharon	Stewart-Peregoy	MT	Montana House	WON
Danny	Tenenbaum	MT	Montana House	WON
Kara	Eastman	NE	U.S. House	LOST
Deb	Haaland	NM	U.S. House	WON
Teresa	Leger Fernandez	NM	U.S. House	WON
Dana	Balter	NY	U.S. House	LOST
Nathan	McMurray	NY	U.S. House	LOST
Alessandra	Biaggi	NY	New York Senate	WON
Jamaal	Bowman	NY	U.S. House	WON
Jabari	Brisport	NY	New York Senate	WON
Samra	Brouk	NY	New York Senate	WON
Catalina	Cruz	NY	New York House	WON
Michael	Gianaris	NY	New York Senate	WON
Brad	Hoylman	NY	New York Senate	WON
Mondaire	Jones	NY	U.S. House	WON
Mondaire	Jones	NY	U.S. House	WON
Liz	Krueger	NY	New York Senate	WON
John	Liu	NY	New York Senate	WON
Zohran	Mamdani	NY	New York House	WON
Marcela	Mitaynes	NY	New York House	WON
Zellnor	Myrie	NY	New York House	WON
Yuh-Line	Niou	NY	New York House	WON
Alexandria	Occasio-Cortez	NY	U.S. House	WON
Jessica	Ramos	NY	New York Senate	WON
Julia	Salazar	NY	New York Senate	WON
James	Sanders Jr.	NY	New York Senate	WON
Phara	Souffrant Forrest	NY	New York House	WON
Phillip	Steck	NY	New York House	WON
Ron	Kim	NY	New York House	WON
Jon	Rivera	NY	New York House	WON
Michael	Skindell	OH	Ohio House	WON
Jackie	Leung	OR	Oregon House	LOSS
Earl	Blumenaer	OR	U.S. House	WON
Peter	Defazio	OR	U.S. House	WON
Jeff	Merkley	OR	U.S. Senate	WON

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Courtney	Neron	OR	Oregon House	WON
Khanh	Pham	OR	Oregon House	WON
Rachel	Prusak	OR	Oregon House	WON
Jessica	Benham	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Amanda	Cappelletti	PA	Pennsylvania Senate	WON
Matt	Cartwright	PA	U.S. House	WON
Elizabeth	Fielder	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Sara	Innamorato	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Emily	Kinkead	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Rick	Krajewski	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Summer	Lee	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Danielle	Otten	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Chris	Rabb	PA	Pennsylvania House	WON
Nikil	Saval	PA	Pennsylvania Senate	WON
David	Morales	RI	Rhode Island House	WON
Jamie	Harrison	SC	U.S. Senate	LOST
Terry	Alexander	SC	South Carolina House	WON
Justin	Bamberg	SC	South Carolina House	WON
Wendell	Gilliard	SC	South Carolina House	WON
Leon	Howard	SC	South Carolina House	WON
Krystle	Matthews	SC	South Carolina House	WON
Michael	Rivers	SC	South Carolina House	WON
Ivory	Thigpen	SC	South Carolina House	WON
Marquita	Bradshaw	TN	U.S. Senate	LOST
Steven	Cohen	TN	U.S. House	WON
Gloria	Johnson	TN	Tennessee House	WON
Eric	Holguin	TX	Texas House	LOST
Julie	Oliver	TX	U.S. Senate	LOST
Lorenzo	Sanchez	TX	Texas House	LOST
Mike	Siegel	TX	U.S. House	LOST
Jasmine	Crockett	TX	Texas House	WON
Lloyd	Doggett	TX	U.S. House	WON
Veronica	Escobar	TX	U.S. House	WON
Vikki	Goodwin	TX	Texas House	WON
Gina	Hinojosa	TX	Texas House	WON
Sheila	Jackson Lee	TX	U.S. House	WON

Candidate Name (First)	Candidate Name (Last)	State	Office	Win or Loss in 2020
Terry	Meza	TX	Texas House	WON
Penny	Morales Shaw	TX	Texas House	WON
Ana-Maria	Ramos	TX	Texas House	WON
Jon	Rosenthal	TX	Texas House	WON
Erin	Zwiener	TX	Texas House	WON
Qasim	Rashid	VA	U.S. House	LOST
Robin	Chesnut-Tangerman	VT	Vermont House	LOST
Kevin	Christie	VT	Vermont House	WON
Brian	Cina	VT	Vermont House	WON
Marie	Cordes	VT	Vermont House	WON
Cheryl	Hooker	VT	Vermont Senate	WON
Emilie	Kornheiser	VT	Vermont House	WON
Christopher	Pearson	VT	Vermont Senate	WON
Taylor	Small	VT	Vermont House	WON
Tanya	Vyhovsky	VT	Vermont House	WON
Peter	Welch	VT	U.S. House	WON
Beth	Doglio	WA	U.S. House	LOST
Ingrid	Anderson	WA	Washington Senate	WON
April	Berg	WA	Washington House	WON
Liz	Berry	WA	Washington House	WON
Kirsten	Harris-Talley	WA	Washington House	WON
Bob	Hasegawa	WA	Washington Senate	WON
Pramila	Jayapal	WA	U.S. House	WON
Tarra	Simmons	WA	Washington House	WON
Samba	Baldeh	WI	Wisconsin House	WON
Marisabel	Cabrera	WI	Wisconsin House	WON
Mark	Pocan	WI	U.S. House	WON
Sara	Rodriguez	WI	Wisconsin House	WON
Melissa	Sargent	WI	Wisconsin Senate	WON
Cathy	Kunkel	WV	U.S. House	LOST
Paula Jean	Swaerengin	WV	U.S. Senate	LOST

About the Authors

Justin Haskins is a widely published writer and political commentator and the editorial director and research fellow at The Heartland Institute, a national free-market think tank. Haskins is also the editor-in-chief of StoppingSocialism.com, one of the world's largest and most influential publications devoted to challenging socialism.

Haskins writes a column for FoxNews.com, serves as a contributor to *The Hill* and *Townhall*, and has appeared on television and radio more than 180 times, on shows like *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, *Fox & Friends*, and the *Glenn Beck Program*.

Haskins is the author of the Amazon best-selling book *Socialism Is Evil: The Moral Case Against Marx's Radical Dream* (2018), and he served as the first contributor to Glenn Beck's *Arguing with Socialists* (2020), a New York Times best-selling book.

Haskins has been published more than 800 times in major digital and print publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Post*, *Forbes*, *Newsweek*, and *National Review*, among many others. His writing has also been featured or discussed by *The Rush Limbaugh Show*, *Glenn Beck Radio Program*, *The New York Times*, *Drudge Report*, The Heritage Foundation, the White House, and Newsmax, which named Haskins one of "Top 30 Republicans Under 30" in 2017. In 2016, Haskins was named to MediaDC's "30 Under 30" list of young and influential leaders on the right.

Haskins is author or co-author of two Heartland *Policy Briefs*, both of which received significant media attention: "Estimating the Income Tax Hikes Required to Pay for Bernie Sanders' Medicare-for-All Plan" (2019) and "Debunking the Scandinavian Socialism Myth: An Evaluation of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden" (2019).

Haskins has also co-authored several national surveys conducted by Rasmussen Reports, one of America's leading pollsters.

Haskins graduated from the University of Richmond (Richmond, VA) in 2010. In 2011, Justin earned his M.A. in government with specializations in international relations and American government from Regent University (Virginia Beach, VA), and he earned a second M.A., this time in journalism, from Regent in 2015. Haskins was inducted into the Philadelphia Society in 2018.

Chris Talgo is an editor with The Heartland Institute and a research fellow for Heartland's Stopping Socialism Project. Talgo joined Heartland in August 2017. He edits a variety of Heartland publications, including newsletters, op-eds, reports, and *Research & Commentaries*. Talgo also writes op-eds, articles for *Health Care News* and *Environmental and Climate News*, and hosts podcasts.

Prior to working at The Heartland Institute, Talgo taught U.S. history and American government for five years in Bluffton, South Carolina. He served on the Town of Bluffton Accommodations Tax Committee and was elected precinct delegate for his voting district. He is an avid reader of history and social science, and he enjoys watching and playing sports. He regularly competes in 5k and 10k runs.

Endnotes

- ¹ Our Revolution, “Our Issues,” ourrevolution.com, accessed November 15, 2020, <https://ourrevolution.com/services>
- ² Democratic Socialists of America, “About Us,” dsausa.org, accessed November 15, 2020, <https://www.dsausa.org/about-us>
- ³ Progressive Democrats of America, “Our Issues,” pdamerica.org, accessed November 15, 2020, <https://pdamerica.org/our-issues>
- ⁴ Justin Haskins, “How Did Socialists Perform in 2018 Midterm Elections? Better Than You Might Think,” *Stopping Socialism*, December 1, 2018, <https://stoppingsocialism.com/2018/12/how-did-socialists-perform-in-2018-midterm-elections-better-than-you-might-think>

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About The Heartland Institute

Mission: Founded in 1984, **The Heartland Institute** is an independent, national, nonprofit research organization. Our mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems.

Personnel: We have a full-time **staff greater than 25**, including 13 working in our headquarters in Arlington Heights, Illinois. James Taylor is the president, and Jim Lakely is Heartland's vice president. Joesph Morris is our Board chairman. Currently, **500 academics** and professional economists serve as policy advisors and more than **350 elected officials** pay dues to serve on our Legislative Forum.

Publications: Heartland produces books, policy studies, booklets, news and commentary articles, podcasts, and videos. It regularly sends policy analyses to every national and state elected official in the United States and to thousands of civic and business leaders. **Seventy-eight percent of all state legislators** read our policy news coverage, and **45% of them changed their voting behavior** based on Heartland's content. 70% of all policymakers opened our weekly newsletter email, *The Leaflet*, in 2019.

Communications: In 2019, Heartland appeared in **print, online, and on TV or radio 4,849 times**, including 1,173 times in printed publications, reaching a paid circulation of **185 million people**, which is equivalent to **\$90 million worth of advertisements**. We hosted 12 websites generating **2.4 million page views**, our podcasts were **downloaded more than five million times**, and our YouTube videos were **viewed three million times**. We have more than **101,000 Facebook fans** and **59,000 total Twitter followers**.

Government Relations: We **contacted elected officials 949,379 times** in 2019, with 9,091 direct personal contacts with elected officials, including 2,636 face-to-face meetings, 2,204 phone calls, 4,228 personal email contacts, 23 contacts via personal mail, and 34 testimonies.

RECENT POLICY VICTORIES

- Heartland's extensive research and direct advocacy helped lead the state of Florida to repeal certificate of need laws, which prevent the opening of new hospitals and drive up of the cost of health care. Similar successes followed in Georgia and Tennessee.
- Heartland's congressional testimonies and a flurry of phone calls and emails to legislators persuaded multiple states to expand school choice programs. West Virginia passed its first-ever school choice program after our experts delivered legislative testimony, and many other states also expanded educational freedom in 2019.
- Heartland focused all of its communications and government relations weapons against the Green New Deal, changing the public debate with millions of media hits and contributing to its 59-0 failure in the U.S. Senate. State-level Green New Deals were defeated in politically difficult states and municipalities, including Illinois, Oregon, Denver, and elsewhere.
- **There are many** more than what can be listed here. Please contact us (see below) for a complete list.

Contact Information: 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, phone 312/377-4000, email think@heartland.org. For more information, visit our website at www.heartland.org.